

THE END OF THE WORLD OR HEAVEN ON EARTH?

GLOSSARY

Part 1: Are We There Yet?

Christ the King Sunday

Instituted by Pope Pius XI in 1925, Christ the King Sunday celebrates the all-embracing authority of Christ as King and Lord of all things. It is celebrated on the final Sunday of Ordinary Time, the Sunday before the start of Advent.

apocalyptic discourse

Written or spoken communication or debate describing or prophesying the complete destruction of the world.

Advent

A season encompassing four Sundays before Christmas, observed in many Christian churches as a time of expectant waiting and preparation for the celebration of the Nativity of Jesus at Christmas.

The Great Judgment of Matthew 25

A judgment which, from the scriptural text, appears to be based on how much care was given and attention paid to the neediest people.

Game of Thrones

A fantasy drama television series created by David Benioff and D. B. Weiss. It is an adaptation of *A Song of Ice and Fire*, George R. R. Martin's series of fantasy novels.

epiphanies

Refers to the sudden manifestations or perceptions of the essential nature or meaning of something.

mainline churches

A group of protestant denominations in the United States that contrast in history and practice with evangelical, fundamentalist, and charismatic protestant denominations.

Asia Minor

A peninsula also called Anatolia, which comprises most of the Asian part of modern Turkey and the Armenian highland.

ethnon (Greek)

A nation, a people, as in 'the healing of the nations' (Revelation 22:2).

potentate

A monarch or ruler, especially an autocratic one.

John of Patmos

The name given to the presumed author of the Book of Revelation, living on the Greek island of Patmos, where he is considered by some to be in exile as a result of anti-Christian persecution under the Roman emperor Domitian.

Michael the Archangel

An archangel in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam; is mentioned three times in the Book of Daniel and leads God's armies against Satan's forces in the Book of Revelation, where, during the war in heaven, he defeats Satan.

Alpha and Omega

The first and last letters of the Greek alphabet, and a title of Christ and God in the Book of Revelation.

Part 2: Nightmares

psalmist

The author or composer of a psalm, especially of any of the biblical psalms.

Desert Fathers and Mothers

Ordinary Christians living in solitude in the deserts of Egypt, Palestine and Syria who chose to renounce the world in order to deliberately and individually follow God's call. They embraced lives of celibacy, labor, fasting, prayer, and poverty.

purgation

The purification or cleansing of someone or something.

Isaiah

A prophet and descendant of the royal house of Judah and Tamar (Sotah 10b) and the son of Amoz; the name of a book of the Bible.

Julian of Norwich

An English anchoress and an important Christian mystic and theologian.

post-truth

A political culture in which debate is framed largely by appeals to emotion disconnected from the details of policy, and by the repeated assertion of talking points to which factual rebuttals are ignored.

Dylann Storm Roof

An American white supremacist and mass murderer convicted in December 2016 of perpetrating the Charleston church shooting on June 17, 2015.

liminal space

The time between the 'what was' and the 'next.' It is a place of transition, waiting, and not knowing.

Part 3: Staying Awake

John the Baptist

A Jewish itinerant preacher in the early first century CE, revered as a major religious figure in Christianity and Islam, called a prophet by all of these traditions, and honored as a saint in many Christian traditions.

Greco-Roman

Refers to those geographical regions and countries that culturally (and so historically) were directly, long-term, and intimately influenced by the language, culture, government and religion of the ancient Greeks and Romans.

Buddhists

The world's fourth largest religion, a path of practice and spiritual development leading to insight into the true nature of reality.

raptured

According to some millenarian teaching, the transporting of a believer from earth to heaven at the Second Coming of Christ.

The Three Stooges

An American vaudeville and comedy team active from 1922 until 1970, whose hallmark was physical farce and slapstick.

Simone Weil

A French philosopher, mystic, and political activist.

Truth and Reconciliation Commission

A court-like body assembled in South Africa after the abolition of apartheid in 1994, in which victims of gross human rights violations were invited to give statements about their experiences, and perpetrators of violence could also give testimony and request amnesty from both civil and criminal prosecution.

Rite of Reconciliation

In the Episcopal Church, the sacramental rite of Reconciliation of a Penitent in which those who repent may confess their sins to God in the presence of a priest and receive the assurance of pardon and the grace of absolution. Penance is a task assigned by the priest to the person who has confessed his or her sins. It is something to be said or done as a sign of penitence and an act of thanksgiving for God's forgiveness.

Part 4: Good Dreams

contrition

The state of feeling remorseful and penitent.

confession

Formal statement admitting that one is guilty.

forgiveness

Intentional and voluntary process by which a victim undergoes a change in feelings and attitude regarding an offense, and lets go of negative emotions such as vengefulness, with an increased ability to wish the offender well.

repentance

The action of expressing sincere regret or remorse.

reunion

The act or process of being brought together again as a unified whole.

prodigal

Spending resources freely and recklessly; wastefully extravagant.

Parable of the Prodigal Son

One of the parables of Jesus, that appears in Luke 15:11–32.

parable

A simple story used to illustrate a moral or spiritual lesson, as told by Jesus in the Gospels.

lateral brain

The tendency for some neural functions or cognitive processes to be more dominant in one hemisphere than the other.

Far Side cartoon

A single-panel comic created by Gary Larson which ran from January 1, 1980 to January 1, 1995 and whose surrealistic humor is often based on uncomfortable social situations, improbable events, logical fallacies, impending bizarre disasters, references (often twisted) to proverbs, or the search for meaning in life.

European Enlightenment

Also known as the Age of Reason, a philosophical movement that took place during the late 17th and early 18th centuries.

Kierkegaardian

Referring to the works of Søren Aabye Kierkegaard, a Danish philosopher, theologian, poet, and social critic.

empathy

The ability to understand and share the feelings of another.

sympathy

Feelings of pity and sorrow for someone else's misfortune.

retributive justice

A system of criminal justice that is based on the punishment of offenders rather than on rehabilitation.

restorative justice

An approach to justice that personalizes the crime. Victims and offenders mediate a restitution agreement to the satisfaction of each and involve the community.

Part 5: Healing of the Nations

late baby boomer

Generally speaking, persons born in the United States between 1959 and 1964.

Chris Hani

The leader of the South African Communist Party and chief of staff of Umkhonto we Sizwe, the armed wing of the African National Congress (ANC), who was a fierce opponent of the apartheid government, and was assassinated on 10 April 1993.

ubuntu

A Nguni Bantu term meaning "humanity" that's often translated as "humanity towards others" but is frequently used in a more philosophical sense to mean "the belief in a universal bond of sharing that connects all humanity."



beloved community

As envisioned by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., a society based on justice, equal opportunity, and love of one's fellow human beings.

Cappadocians

An order of priests who advanced the development of early Christian theology; for example, the doctrine of the Trinity, and are highly respected as saints in both Western and Eastern churches.

Gregory of Nyssa

Bishop of Nyssa from 372 to 376 and from 378 until his death, in the area that is modern-day Turkey, who is venerated as a saint in Roman Catholicism, Eastern Orthodoxy, Oriental Orthodoxy, Lutheranism, and Anglicanism.

Berlin wall

Guarded concrete barrier that physically and ideologically divided Berlin from 1961 to 1989.

free markets

In economics, a system in which the prices for goods and services are determined by the open market and by consumers, in which the laws and forces of supply and demand are free from any intervention by a government, price-setting monopoly, or other authority.

secularism

A system whose foundation is the separation of religion and state.

chronos

Greek word signifying linear, chronological time.

kairos

An Ancient Greek word meaning the right, critical, or opportune moment, signifying a qualitative, permanent nature.

eschatological

Referring to the part of theology concerned with death, judgment, and the final destiny of the soul and of humankind.

redemption

The action of saving or being saved from sin, error, or evil.

incarnation

The embodiment in the flesh of a deity, spirit, or abstract quality.