

MAGA or MAGOG: Looking ahead to 2025

2 Tim. 3.1-5; 1 Thess. 4.13-18; 5.1-11; 2 Cor. 4.4-6; Matt. 5.16

The division and craziness of the 2024 election season is over, and a new year looms. What will it bring? There's a promise of peace and prosperity, but we've heard that before. Prophecy pundits portend the coming of Gog and Magog. What's a Christian to do? Keep looking up, and speaking up!

Disaster or Delight? Prognosticators are Divided on 2025

Perilous Peace? The Bible Paints a Dire Picture

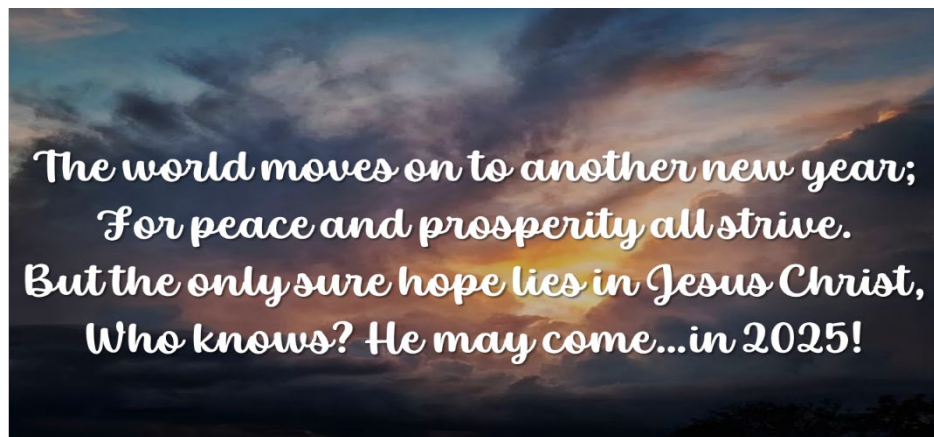
2 Timothy 3.1-5 – ...*perilous times will come.*

1 Thessalonians 5.1-3 – ...*while they are saying "Peace and safety!"*

Sons of Light...Let your light shine!

1 Thessalonians 5.4-11 – ...*encourage and build up one another.*

2 Corinthians 4.4-6; Matthew 5.16 – ...*we preach Christ Jesus...*



1. People around the world, including Christians, have very different views of where the world is going. Lay aside your political or ethical or social positions for a few minutes, and consider why you are pessimistic or optimistic about 2025. What do you think is going to get better? Why? What could hinder it? What do you think is going to get worse? Why? What could help make it better?
2. Christians often wonder about 'the day of the Lord' when the 'end times' prophesied in the Bible will commence. As you look at world events, what makes you think Christ's coming may be soon? How is your anticipation informed by Scripture? What do 2 Tim. 3.1-5 and 1 Thess. 5.1-3 suggest? Are these passages contradictory?
3. There are wildly different views about what the biblical 'end times' are going to be like. Postmillennialism says that the world will be converted to Christ, and only then will Jesus return to reign. How is this unbiblical? Amillennialism teaches that we are living in Christ's kingdom *now*. What kingdom prophecies refute this? Some say that there is no Rapture or time of Great Tribulation. What do you think? Why? What time of wrath are Christians spared from (1 Thess. 5.9)?
4. Although Scripture suggests that before Christ's return, there will be perilous times when people falsely *think* there is peace, it's clear that Christians should not be anxious or despairing, but comforting and encouraging each other (1 Thess. 4.18; 5.11). Why is this so? What is our sure hope? What is the source of our assurance?
5. In 2 Cor. 4.1-6, Paul writes that despite the trials and persecution he faced, he did not lose heart. Instead, he recognized that while most of those to whom he preached would reject Christ, this was because Satan, the 'god of this world,' blinded their minds – they could not see the light! But what does light do to darkness? God has 'shone in our hearts' for us to come to know Christ, so what should we do in 2025 to help others know Him? What did Jesus exhort His disciples to do in Matt. 5.14-16? Ask God to help you know how and when to share your light with others in 2025. (And read 1 Peter 3.15!)