

What will my future hold?

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Introduction: We learn at an early age that we should plan for our future.

A. How many times have parents talked to their children about an unfortunate event and used that as an example to how *to avoid this event happening to you*.

1. Those who do not discern how actions affect the future are called fools.

(Ecc 7:4-6)

2. By our wisdom alone we are greatly limited. **(Ecc 8:6-7 NIV)**

B. When we recognize that we do not know then *the normal response is fear*.

1. Life is a terror to the atheist and has no purpose. Ingersoll said this:

"Life is a narrow vale between the cold and barren peaks of two eternities. We strive in vain to look beyond the height. We cry aloud, and the only answer is the echo of our wailing cry. From the voiceless lips of the unreplying dead there comes no word."

2. How often did Jesus comfort His followers! **(Lk 12:6-7)**

3. What can we know with God's wisdom about my personal future?

I. Our God holds the future in His hand

A. The creator of the Universe has an infinite wisdom. **(Isa 46:9-12)**

1. God does not predetermine all things but He does have a will He will enforce.

2. There is a difference between the *foreknowledge* and *foreordination* of God.

B. Without God's help we have no reason to expect a good future.

1. God wanted all nations to consider what their future would be if they rejected God's ways. **(Deut 32:28-29 NASV)**

2. Why is this so difficult? Because a nation would have to humble itself and then walk in the ways of God. Men prefer blindness. **(Jn 3:19)**

3. God in His mercy *brings calamity* to nations so that they might open their eyes.

C. We serve a God who wants to be very involved with our future.

1. Consider these beautiful words He spoke to Israel. **(Jer 29:10-14)**

2. God's love tells us He is interested in what happens to us! He knows the numbers of hairs on our head and the thoughts and desires of our hearts.

3. He cares for us! **(1 Pt 5:7)**

II. How a living faith provides for our future

A. Our God wants us to trust Him with our future. **(Ps 27:13-14; 37:9, 34)**

1. Here is where we must win the battle with fear.

2. It is in this uncertainty God will mold our faith. Consider Abraham and Jacob.

B. God has revealed some things which we can be certain concerning the future.

1. God revealed to David the Messiah would come through his descendants.

(2 Sam 7:19-21)

2. What things has God assured us concerning future specific events?

(Jn 11:25-26)

3. How many of you know the outcome of a game before it begins? God wants us to know *some things*. **(Rom 8:24-25; 8:18)**
- C. The application of God's word in wisdom and discernment will determine the future.
 1. God will provide our real needs as we put Him first. **(Mt 6:33-34)**
 2. There is an observable difference between the lives of the righteous and the wicked. **(Prov 23:15-18; 24:19-20 NASV; Ps 37:23-25)**
 3. The worthy woman will not fear the future! **(Prov 31:25-27 NASV)**
 4. We still must struggle to find wisdom and correctly apply it. God knows us!

III. Who will I marry?

- A. We are right to be thoughtful about this most important decision.
 1. Abraham made great effort to find a wife for Isaac. **(Gen 24:2-4)**
 2. Abraham prayed to God and diligently sought His council.
- B. Build your faith in God first and then make decisions about dating.
 1. Dating is designed to lead to marriage and should always be seen with that end in mind. Dating is a process of learning about yourself and others. It is a testing ground for the relationship of marriage.
 2. One may choose not to date or marry. There is nothing wrong or weak about choosing the single life. **(1 Cor 7:32-33)**
- C. We must be determined to marry a faithful Christian. Consider these questions.
 1. Is this person eligible to marry? **(Mt 19:9)**
 2. Is this person a Christian? **(1 Cor 9:5; 1 Pt 3:7)**
 3. Does this person have proper ambition? **(Eph 4:28)**
 4. Is this person dependable? **(Eph 4:25; 1 Cor 13:4-6)**
- D. You must learn wisdom at a young age.
 1. What would motivate a young person to seek wisdom? How do we learn?
 2. You will learn about ever changing social norms and about differences between the thinking and desires of the opposite sex!
 3. You should seek help from godly married couples and others!

IV. What will happen to my children?

- A. We should be thinking about this as soon as we learn we are expecting a child.
 1. Manoah wanted instructions concerning the raising of her child. **(Judges 13:8)**
 2. Every Christian wants their child to go to heaven. **(Prov 22:6; Eph 6:4)**
- B. Our faith must be real and we must never stop teaching. **(Deut 6:6-9)**
 1. How do we protect our heart? If we are unforgiving and unmerciful to others our children will be affected.
 2. The greatest gift we can give our children is a great marriage between two faithful Christians. **(Lk 1:6; 1 Pt 3:7)**
 3. What do you really show what is most important to your children? Job? School?

Conclusion: What's in your future? **(Isa 40:28-31)**