

**Our readings today speak of the end times**

**The events threatened are promised**

**They will occur at some point in history**

**Many people want to jump the gun**

**They interpret these to mean we are very close to the end today**

**And events like Friday night in Paris add fuel to that fire**

**But that is heretical thought**

***We do not know the time or day***

***That is for God to know***

**To spend time entrenched in these prophecies is foolish**

**Because this can tempt us to live in fear**

**And not living in trust that God is in control**

**To quote Fr Joe Walijewski**

**(Priest, Bolivia and Peru)**

**When things look bleak and overwhelming, he would say**

**‘Don’t worry, nothing will be all right’**

**But at the end of his earthly battle, he changed this just a bit**

**He told those gathered around his deathbed**

**Don’t worry, everything will be all right**

**That is what our readings are telling us today**

**The first reading is from the last chapter of the Book of Daniel**

**A book many think of as an apocalyptic book**

**One that deals with the end times**

**Similar to the Book of Revelation in the New Testament**

**Yes, these books are similar**

**But these are more than writings and warnings of the end times**

**Rather they are revealing the meaning of life**

**Daniel sees a time of trial and tribulation**

**But he also sees hope**

**He sees Michael, the patron of Israel, rising up as a guardian**

**Everyone whose name is found written in the book of life**

**Will escape under his protection**

**And the wise shall be like the stars forever**

**The world has always been a place of sorrows**

**Trials and troubles**

**In the midst of these we need to see the whole picture**

**In the words of Christ in John 16**

***In the world you will have tribulation***

***But be of good cheer***

***I have overcome the world***

**The Israelite community again and again was captured and  
exiled from their homeland**

**Again and again God brings them home**

**The first disciples experienced the passion of Christ**

**They also experienced his resurrection**

**But that did not end the strife**

**They experienced the destruction of the temple**

**The one thing that gave meaning to the Israelite nation**

**It was where man came face to face with God**

**Where they offered sacrifices to God**

**But the blood of animals can never take away sin**

**As our reading from Hebrews states**

**Jesus made one sacrifice for sins**

**Now he is at God's right hand**

**He waits until his enemies are made his footstool**

**This will be accomplished at some time**

**There will be a Second Coming of Christ**

**These cataclysmic events will occur**

**And there will be a transformation of the world**

**He will establish a new heaven and a new earth**

**But it does not profit us to spend time worrying about this**

**The Book of Daniel was written to a people in exile**

**In danger of losing hope**

**The Letter to the Hebrews and the Gospel of Mark were written  
to a similar people**

**They had experienced the death and resurrection of Christ**

**But now things don't seem any better**

**They witnessed the destruction of the Temple**

**They are being persecuted and forced from Jerusalem**

**They were in danger of losing hope**

**Today it doesn't seem much better**

**In the past century**

**We have experienced 2 world wars**

**The rise of fascism, communism and now radical Islamism and ISIS**

**We can be in danger of losing hope**

**In our Gospel, Christ uses O.T. words and warnings**

**And these are relevant for us today**

**There will be tribulation**

**The sun and moon darkened**

**Stars falling from the sky**

**These cataclysmic events will transform the world**

**Just as the resurrection transformed Christ**

**After he was raised, even his closest friends didn't recognize him**

**We have no idea what the new heaven and new earth will be like**

**Only that it will be**

**And we do not know if we will meet Christ at the end of time**

**Or at the end of our time**

**We only know that we will meet him face to face**

***Now when these things begin to take place***

***Look up and raise your heads***

***Because your redemption is at hand***

**It is easy to get distracted into thinking of the last battle**

**And not pay attention to the current battle**

**But it is the current battle that we can do something about**

**We pray for the glorious return of Christ**

**For his deliverance from all the evils and wrongs we experience**

**But as we wait**

**We engage in the battle**

**Full of hope**

**Full of confidence**

**When Christ rose from the dead, he ushered in the end times**

**This is a time of conflict between good and evil**

**In these times, God's grace is present**

**The Archangel Michael will arise**

**Not as an avenger, but as a protector**

**While one or the other may seem to have the upper hand at any given moment**

**We are called to see these things in proper perspective**

**The perspective our readings offer today**

**The war has been won, and this brings hope and trust**

**While we wait for the final battle**

**We fight the battle in front of us**

**And don't worry**

**Nothing will be all right**

**Until the day**

**When everything will be all right**