EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Session 12: Judgment Coming
Suggested Week of Use: February 22, 2026
Core Passage: Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

News Story Summary

In late January, two devastating winter storms hit the eastern United States. First, "Winter Storm Fern" brought snow, sleet, and freezing rain. The storm, which was described as historic, catastrophic, and massive, affected at least two dozen states and at least 200 million people. Power outages were widespread, and many airport flights were cancelled.

A few days later, before some areas could recover from Fern's damage, a "bomb cyclone" struck the region. More snowfall and blizzard conditions resulted in more traffic problems and power outages. Officials estimated that 150 people died in the two storms.

For more on this story, search: "Impact of massive winter storms" and "Bomb cyclone 2026."

Engage

To supplement the Engage activities, ask: *How did you prepare for January's winter storms?* (Note: If your area was not affected, ask: *How do you prepare when you hear storm warnings?)* Share information from the news summary related to Winter Storm Fern and the recent "bomb cyclone" in the eastern United States. Highlight the importance of preparation when dangerous weather is forecast. Encourage adults to suggest other times when preparation is a key to safety or success. Say: *We rely on weather services to warn us and to help us prepare for coming storms, which are only temporary. In today's session, we'll see that Jesus's parable offers a warning about coming judgment, which is eternal—yet avoidable if we are prepared.*

Challenge

To supplement the Challenge activities, remind learners of the news story summary related to the recent winter storms. Ask: *How seriously do we take weather warnings? Why?* Review the main points of Jesus's parable in today's session. Ask: *How seriously do we take the warnings in this parable? Why?* Discuss their responses. Encourage adults to suggest practical ways believers can prepare for Jesus's return. Record their responses on the board or a large sheet of paper. Read verse 43b and challenge the group to have ears to hear. Close the session in prayer, asking God to help each adult take the steps needed to be alert and to be prepared for His return.

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