

## End Times

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Eschatology is the study of the end times. Everyone wants to know what the future holds and how the world will end. God has revealed some of this information to us in His Word, so that we will be motivated to serve Him.

*"We believe in the personal, bodily and premillennial return of our Lord Jesus Christ. The coming of Christ, at a time known only to God, demands constant expectancy and, as our blessed hope, motivates the believer to godly living, sacrificial service, and energetic mission."*

Article 9, EFCA Statement of Faith

- I. Personal
- II. Premillennial
- III. Constant Expectancy
- IV. Blessed Hope
- V. Motivation

### 1. Personal

- a. Jesus will literally and personally return at a specific time and location in a physical body.
  - i. Acts 1:11 – *"...This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."*
  - ii. John 14:2-3 – *"...I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am."*
  - iii. Zechariah 14:4 – *"On that day his feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, east of Jerusalem, and the Mount of Olives will be split in two from east to west, forming a great valley, with half of the mountain moving north and half moving south."*
  - iv. Hebrews 9:28 – *"...he will appear a second time..."*

### 2. Premillennial

- a. The Millennium is a one-thousand year period of time when Jesus Christ will reign on earth with His saints, as described in Revelation 20:1-10. It will be a time of peace and justice, and all people will know and obey the Lord.

i. Historically, there have been 3 views of the millennium in Christian theology:

1. **Premillennialism:** Jesus returns before the millennium. This is based on a literal interpretation of Revelation 20. Jesus will return, then there will be a 1000 year reign of righteousness, during which Satan is bound.
2. **Postmillennialism:** Jesus returns after the millennium. This view believes that the millennium will begin unnoticed by us, and the kingdom of God will spread gradually through the preaching of the gospel. The postmillennialist believes that eventually the world will be Christianized and then Christ will come again.
3. **Amillennialism:** There is no literal millennium. This view believes that the millennial reign of Jesus is a figurative and spiritual rather than earthly or literal. Amillennialists believe that we are now living the millennium, between Christ's first and second comings. Christ is reigning in the hearts of his followers.

b. Reasons for the Pre-millennial view:

- i. There is no reason in the text to not take Revelation 20 literally
- ii. Satan is roaming the earth today; he is not bound as described in Revelation 20:2-3.
- iii. The "first resurrection" of believers (described in Revelation 20:4-5) has not yet occurred.

### 3. Constant Expectancy

- a. Though the time of Christ's Second Coming is known only to God Christians are called to eagerly await and continually anticipate his return.
  - i. 1 Thess. 5:1-2 – "Now, brothers, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night."
  - ii. Matthew 24:36 – "No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father."

*The Second Coming of Jesus Christ seems to be in two parts:*

**The Rapture**

Believers are caught up to meet Jesus in the air

Invisible

Coming *for* the saints

**The Revelation**

Jesus is revealed to the whole world

Visible

Coming *with* the saints

- b. Within the premillennial view there is some debate over the timing of the rapture.
  - i. *Pre-Tribulation*: The Church will be caught up before \_\_\_\_\_ the tribulation.
  - ii. *Mid-Tribulation*: The church will be caught up during \_\_\_\_\_ the tribulation.
  - iii. *Post-Tribulation*: The Church will be caught up after \_\_\_\_\_ the tribulation.

**4. Blessed Hope & Motivation**

- a. The return of Jesus has a crucial impact on the daily personal life and service of the Lord.
- b. Every time the end times are mentioned in the Bible, the practical application \_\_\_\_\_ is stressed.
- c. God's Word makes clear that knowing about the future motivates us to live a holy life \_\_\_\_\_, share the gospel with others \_\_\_\_\_, and trust in the God's victory despite our earthly trials \_\_\_\_\_.
  - i. Titus 2:12-13
  - ii. Matthew 24:42
  - iii. 2 Peter 3:8-15
  - iv. 1 John 3:3
  - v. 1 John 2:28
  - vi. Romans 8:18-39
  - vii. 2 Corinthians 4:1-6:10.

*“We believe that God commands everyone everywhere to believe the gospel by turning to Him in repentance and receiving the Lord Jesus Christ. We believe that God will raise the dead bodily and judge the world, assigning the unbeliever to condemnation and eternal conscious punishment and the believer to eternal blessedness and joy with the Lord in the new heaven and the new earth, to the praise of His glorious grace. Amen.”*

*Article 10. EFCA Statement of Faith*

- I. Receive the Lord Jesus Christ
- II. Raise the dead bodily
- III. Unbeliever (Judge the world)
- IV. Believer (Judge the world)
- V. New heaven and New earth

### **1. Receive the Lord Jesus Christ**

a. Every \_\_\_\_\_ person from every \_\_\_\_\_ place is invited to receive Jesus.

- i. Acts 17:30
- ii. Revelation 22:17

b. To receive Jesus means to trust him personally as Savior \_\_\_\_\_ and Lord \_\_\_\_\_ and turn \_\_\_\_\_ from our sin to him.

- i. Isaiah 55:6-7
- ii. John 1:12
- iii. John 3:18
- iv. Romans 10:9
- v. Acts 20:21

### **2. Raise the dead bodily and judge the world**

a. When we die, our physical bodies \_\_\_\_\_ go into the grave and the spirit goes into an afterlife to face judgment.

- i. John 5:28-29
- ii. Acts 17:30-31; 24:15
- iii. Psalm 146:4
- iv. Ecclesiastes 12:7
- v. Hebrews 9:27
- vi. Daniel 12:2
- vii. Isaiah 26:19

b. At the end of the Millennium, Jesus will sit on his throne to judge all people according to our deeds \_\_\_\_\_.

- i. Romans 2:5-6
- ii. Galatians 6:7-8

2 Thessalonians 1:7-10 – “This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels. He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our lord Jesus. They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the majesty of his

power on the day he comes to be glorified in his holy people and to be marveled at among all those who have believed.”

### 3. Unbeliever

- a. At the end of the millennium, unbelievers will be raised from the dead and immediately judged by Jesus who will condemn them to eternal separation from God and conscious torment in hell at the Great White Throne of Judgment.

- i. Matt 25:31-46
- ii. Luke 16:26
- iii. Revelation 14:11; 20:11-15; 21:6-22; 22:14-15

#### ***Hell***

- Jesus said more about hell than any other topic.
- 13% of Jesus’ sayings are about hell and judgment.
- More than half of Jesus’ parables relate to the eternal judgment of sinners.

#### *Biblical descriptions of Hell:*

- Fire (Matthew 13:42, 50)
- Darkness (Jude 13)
- Punishment (Revelation 14:10-11)
- Separated from God’s presence (Matthew 7:23)
- Restlessness (Revelation 14:11)
- Second death (Revelation 2:11)
- Weeping & gnashing of teeth (Matthew 13:42, 50)

- b. How can a loving God allow anyone to go to hell?

- i. Those in hell have rejected God’s revelation and chosen to suppress the truth he made plain to them. (Romans 1:21-25)

1. An unbeliever rejects:

- a. God’s goodness (Acts 14:17)
- b. God’s love (John 3:16; Acts 17:25)
- c. The Holy Spirit’s conviction (John 16:8)
- d. Jesus’ death for their sin (John 12:32)

- ii. God is loving, just, and holy. Sin must be punished, one may by faith receive the punishment of sin graciously offered in salvation through Jesus Christ or they must pay the eternal penalty themselves.

1. God is love so we must define and describe love based on who he is and what he has done for us not according to our own imperfect and sinful experiences of love. (1 John 4:8-10; Romans 5:8; John 3:16)
2. God has done everything necessary for the salvation of humanity. (2 Peter 3:9)

#### 4. Believers

- a. When a believer dies, His spirit goes immediately to be with Jesus.
  - i. 2 Corinthians 5:8
  - ii. Philippians 1:21 & 23
  - iii. John 14:2
- b. Upon Jesus' return, all believers' bodies who have died will be resurrected and reunited with their spirits while the bodies of all believers who remain alive will also be changed, thus giving all believers at the same time perfect resurrection bodies like Jesus' own.
  - i. 1 Corinthians 15:51-54
  - ii. 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17
- c. Jesus will judge believers according to their deeds. They will receive rewards based on their stewardship of the time, talent, and treasure God has entrusted to them.
 

i. 2 Corinthians 5:10	iii. Hebrews 9:27-28
ii. 1 Corinthians 3:12-14	iv. Matthew 16:27; 25:31-46

“Christians believe our eternal status depends on our relationship with Jesus...When the Son of Man comes to sit on his throne, all will stand before him for judgment. From the beginning of creation to the end, the Bible makes it clear that the basis of God's judgment is our deeds. Jesus made this very clear, saying in John 3:36, 'Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on him.' Jesus' death propitiated God's wrath against sin. Those who refuse this gift have the double penalty of wrath for their sins and for rejecting God's Son. Jesus himself taught this in John 3:18, saying, 'Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.'”

– Mark Driscoll, *Doctrine*

#### 1. New Heaven & New Earth

- a. After the final judgment everyone whose name is written in the book of life will be saved by the blood of Jesus and will enter into the full enjoyment of life in the presence of God forever.
  - i. Matthew 25:34
  - ii. Revelation 20:11-15

b. The Bible teaches that these believers will live forever with God in a new heaven and new earth.

1. Revelation 21-22
2. Isaiah 65:17; 66:22
3. 2 Peter 3:8-15

ii. This place will be an entirely renewed \_\_\_\_\_ creation.

1. Revelation 21:1

iii. This place will be an entirely perfect union \_\_\_\_\_ between heaven and earth.

1. God will dwell where people dwell.

a. Revelation 21:1-3

***New Heaven New Earth***

- The place where God most fully makes known his blessed presence.
- Where God makes his glory known and experienced.
- Where angels, other heavenly creatures, and redeemed saints worship God.

*Some biblical descriptions of the New Heaven and New Earth:*

- Joy & eternal pleasures in God's presence (Psalm 16:11)
- Not subject to corrosion, theft, corruption, or decay (Matthew 6:20)
- Eternal (2 Corinthians 5:1)
- Imperishable, undefiled, and unfading inheritance (1 Peter 1:4)
- A great, high mountain, the holy city, new Jerusalem (Revelation 21:2, 10)
- Dwelling place of God is with man (Revelation 21:3)
- God will wipe away every tear from their eyes (Revelation 21:4)
- Death shall be no more, neither mourning, nor crying, nor pain (Revelation 21:4)
- All things new [renewed] (Revelation 21:5)
- Heritage for the sons of God (Revelation 21:7)
- Divinely glorious (Revelation 21:11)
- Radiant like a most rare jewel (Revelation 21:11)
- Not subject to the physical limitations of this age (Revelation 21:15-17)
- Beautiful and splendid (Revelation 21:18-21)
- Perfect Union with God in worship (Revelation 21:22)
- There is no temple, The Lord is the temple (Revelation 21:22)
- There is no sun or night, Jesus Christ is the light (Revelation 21:23; 22:5)
- There is nothing unclean, Jesus is the protector (Revelation 21:27)
- God is the source of life and death will have no place (Revelation 22:1; Psalm 46:4; John 4:10, 13; Ezekiel 47:1-12; Zechariah 14:8)
- The absolute triumph of life over death and life-bearing life (Revelation 22:2-3)
- Believers will see Jesus' face and his name will be on our foreheads (Revelation 22:4)
- Jesus is coming soon (Revelation 22:12-20)