



NOTES

Surveying the Biblical Landscape Rob Emmons

The study of future events or “**last things**” is called “*eschatology*,” from the Greek word *eschatos* which means “last.” God in Scripture tells us about some of the major events yet to come in the history of creation.

- Worldview Issues: Personal: What happens when we die?
Ultimate: Does the universe have a purpose?
- Creation has a purpose, a goal and it is found in Christ: Ephesians 1:7-10
- Creation – Fall – Redemption – New Creation: Storyline of the Bible demands a resolution. Themes found in Genesis 1-3 are fulfilled in Revelation 19-22

Why are the End Times Important?

- It helps to know how God’s story ends and how you fit into it.
- It emphasizes the wrath of God for sinners and salvation for saints.
- Realistic about this Present Age with hope for the Age to Come
- Motivation to serve Christ, sacrifice for Christ and to bear fruit whether in persecution or prosperity. (see the Parable of the Sower: Matthew 13, Mark 4, Luke 8)

Creation: Genesis 1:27 – 31. Good creation / Role of Image bearers.

Curses with Promise: Genesis 3:15

In the future:

Enmity:	The serpent and its followers will hate God’s people.
Offspring (seed):	God will raise up an individual / hero.
Bruise Head:	The hero will crush the serpent’s head.
Bruise Heel:	The hero will pay a price for his victory.

Bible Storyline: Kill the Dragon, get the Girl.

Flood: Genesis 6 – 9

First judgment of a sinful population – foreshadows judgment by fire – 2 Peter 3:5

Sodom & Gomorrah: Genesis 19:24 - Sulfur and Fire from the LORD out of heaven.
See 2 Peter 2:6, Jude 7, Revelation 11:8

Ten Plagues of Egypt: Exodus 7 – 11. Imagery found in Revelation 8-9 and 16.

Davidic Son Eternal Throne: 2 Samuel 7:11-16 / Psalm 2 – Kiss the Son

Son the Priest King: Psalm 110 – LORD (Yahweh) says to my Lord (Adonai): Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies your footstool.

Mountain of the LORD: Isaiah 2 / Micah 4
Mt Zion – Jerusalem – New Jerusalem (see Psalm 68)

Day of the LORD: Isaiah 2 / Isaiah 13:6-9 /
Joel 2:1-30 - Partially fulfilled at Pentecost – Acts 2

Messiah's Reign: Isaiah 11:1-9 - His Rule restores the good created order.

Little Apocalypse: Isaiah 24 – 25. Destruction of earth and Mountain Feast
Death swallowed up forever – see 1 Corinthians 15:54

Spirit Anointed Servant: Year of the LORD's favor / Day of vengeance of our God
Compare Isaiah 61:1-2 with Luke 4:18-19

God's Bloody Garments: Isaiah 63:1-6 – see Revelation 19:13-16.

New Heavens/New Earth: Isaiah 65:17-19; 66:22. See 2 Peter 3:13, Revelation 21:1

Final Battle: Gog /Magog - Ezekiel 38 -39

Stylized Temple: Ezekiel 40-48 - Imagery fulfilled in Revelation 21-22.

Nebuchadnezzar's Dream: Daniel 2 – God's kingdom will destroy the rebel kingdoms.

Daniel's Vision: Daniel 7 – World Beasts and the Dominion of the Son of Man
Important theme: Jesus is the Son of Man – 82X in Gospels; 1X in Acts.

Daniel's 70 Weeks: Daniel 9 - Difficult to interpret
Abomination of Desolation imagery – Matthew 24:15, Mark 13:24; Luke 21:20

Battle for Jerusalem: Zechariah 12

Mourning the one they had pierced – in the plain of Megiddo(n)
Armageddon – controversial imagery
Josiah's defeat or pagan ritual (Haddah-Rimmon)
Revelation 16:16 – Mountain of Assembly – Isaiah 14:13 ie. Jerusalem

Final Battle: Zechariah 14: LORD fights nations attacking Jerusalem.
God stands on the Mount of Olives - split in two.
LORD will be king over all the earth.

Elijah Precedes the Day of the LORD: Malachi 4 – Day burning like an oven
but Sun of Righteousness heals.

New Testament: When the Fullness of time had come– Galatians 4:4

Kingdom of God: Jesus announces the nearness of the Kingdom – Mark 1:14
Erroneous Jewish expectations about the Kingdom of God

Parables: Jesus uses Kingdom parables to instruct his disciples on the nature of God's Kingdom
and Jesus' ministry. See Matthew 13, 20, 22.

Olivet Discourse: Matthew 24 - Jesus answers his disciples' questions about the coming of God's
kingdom. Imagery found in Revelation 6 – First Six Seals.
Last Judgment: Matthew 25 – Gathered nations separated like sheep and goats

Ascension: Acts 1:6 – On the Mount of Olives, Jesus is still instructing disciples on the coming of
God's kingdom in fullness. His ascension becomes the imagery of his return with allusions to
Daniel 7 and the coming of the Son of Man.

Paul & the Second Coming: 1 Thessalonians 4:13 – 5:11 - Paul explains the nature of the Second
Coming and the Rapture: Day of the LORD will come like a thief in the night.

Fire imagery of Jesus' return: 2 Thessalonians 1:5-10

Instructions on the Day of the LORD: 2 Thessalonians 2:1-11
Coming of the Lawless One
Nature of the Temple – Literal rebuilt Temple in Israel or symbolic of the church?
Counterfeit Signs and wonders

Last Enemy Destroyed / nature of the Resurrection body: 1 Corinthians 15:22 – 52

Creation groaning for Redemption: Romans 8:18-23

Future of Israel: Romans 11:25 -28

Heavenly Jerusalem / New Jerusalem: Hebrew 12:18 – 29

Shaking motif of many OT prophecies.

God is a consuming fire.

Living in the Last Days: 1 Peter 4:7 – 11

Day of the LORD: 2 Peter 3:7-13 Fire instead of flood will destroy the present order –
heaven/earth will be renewed.

Revelation: Entire book is a culmination of the wrath of God against the rebel planet and salvation
of his own people with all the imagery of previous Scripture.

Asking the Right Questions
Will Jackson

1. **What** is “the end?”
 - a. **Matthew 24:14.** ¹⁴ *And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.*
 - b. At “the end” the following will take place:
 - i. The _____ Coming of Christ (“*Parousia*”- lit. Return of Christ)
 - ii. The Resurrection of the Dead
 1. Believers and non-believers
 - iii. The Final Judgment
 - iv. The Final _____
 - v. The Establishment of the New Heavens and New Earth
 - vi. The _____ of the Effects of the Fall
2. **What** are the End Times?
3. **When** are the End Times?
 - a. **Matthew 24:1-3.** *Jesus left the temple and was going away, when his disciples came to point out to him the buildings of the temple. ²But he answered them, “You see all these, do you not? Truly, I say to you, there will not be left here one stone upon another that will not be thrown down.” ³As he sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately, saying, “Tell us, when will these things be, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?”*
 - i. How will we know the time is near?
 1. The end will come after a time of tribulation against _____
_____.

- a. There will be a period of general tribulation.
(Matthew 24:9-10; Matthew 5:10-12; John 16:33; 2 Corinthians 4:8-9)
 - b. But also, there will be a time of _____ tribulation.
(Matthew 24:21-22; 29-31)

- 2. The end will come after a time of _____ to God.
 - a. Opposition will come in the form of apostasy. (Matthew 24:10-12; Hebrews 6:4-6; 1 Timothy 4:1)
 - b. Opposition will come in the form of _____ representatives.
 - i. There will be a period of mini-antichrists.
(Matthew 24:24; 1 John 2:18)
 - c. But also, there will be a time when the final Antichrist will rise to _____ and _____ and abuse God's name. (2 Thessalonians 2:3-4, 9-10)

- 3. The end will come when all _____ have been reached. (Matthew 24:14)
 - ii. While Jesus provided certain hints for discerning the coming of the end, its arrival will ultimately be _____. (Matthew 24:6-8, 36-44; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-3)

- 4. Will there be a significant one-thousand-year period as the end draws near? Doesn't Revelation 20 mention a thousand-year reign?
 - a. (Historic) Premillennialism – Christ will return _____ (pre) the millennium.
 - i. Timeline:
 - 1. After a time of great tribulation, Jesus will return to establish a millennial kingdom on earth.
 - 2. Jesus will rule on earth.
 - 3. Satan will be _____ in hell.

4. Christians will reign with Christ as Satan and his followers (unbelievers) are held in restriction. As such, this will be an era of worldwide _____ and prosperity.
 5. At the end of the millennium, Satan will be released.
 6. Rebels will _____ against Christ.
 7. Rebels will be defeated by Christ.
 8. All unbelievers who have died will be _____ to judgment.
 9. The eternal state will begin.
- ii. Revelation 13, 19, and 20 are seen as chronologically in sequence. Persecution under the Beast will increase (Rev. 13) until the Reign of Christ is begun (Rev. 19) in which those who had resisted the Beast will reign with Christ (Rev. 20:4)
1. Seen chronologically, then, there awaits an intermediate period of _____ (the millennium) in which Christ's followers will be rewarded that is distinct from the final eternal state of ultimate blessing.
 2. Strengths of Premillennialism:
 - a. Premillennialism allows for the most straightforward rendering of the Old Testament anticipation of God's future kingdom as established on the _____.
 - b. Premillennialism allows for the cleanest and most "natural" way of interpreting Revelation 20—specifically its mention of the two resurrections.
 - c. Premillennialism showcases the social and political aspects of Christ's rule—aspects that are weakened or ignored in other views.
 - d. Premillennialism most naturally addresses passages that seem to speak to the worldly _____ for Christ's servants and martyrs.

b. Amillennialism – Christ's return occurs at the end of the _____ New Testament age (which symbolically represents the millennium).

i. Revelation 20 and the 1,000 years should be considered symbolically. As such, the time between the New Testament and Christ's return will be marked by "growth and decline, suffering and success, [and] witness and apostasy." (Michael Horton)

ii. Timeline:

1. As a result of the death and resurrection of Christ, Satan is limited/restricted in the present New Testament age.

a. The gospel is going forward to the _____ through missions, evangelism, and church planting.

But also,

b. The church is experiencing persecution by the nations as they follow the leadership of the prince of the power of the air (Ephesians 2:1-2).

2. During the New Testament age, Christians reign with Christ as part of their _____ with him . . .

a. While they are alive on earth.

b. When they die and go to the intermediate state.

3. At the end of the church age, Jesus will return to usher in the eternal state.

iii. Strengths of Amillennialism:

1. Amillennialism, as a symbolic interpretation of Revelation 20, best fits its apocalyptic genre.

2. Amillennialism best captures the already/not yet of Christ's reign.

3. Amillennialism most logically fits the _____ to reach the nations with the gospel—that winning souls to Christ is primarily spiritual, not socio-political, and the future hope is intrinsically others-focused.

c. Alternative views: Postmillennialism and Dispensational Premillennialism.

i. Postmillennialism

1. In a nutshell: At some point after the New Testament era the 1,000 years will begin, and this world will increase in moral quality until Christ's return when he will commence the everlasting state. For many postmillennialists, the 1,000 years should be taken as figurative.

ii. Dispensational Premillennialism

1. In a nutshell: In line with two of the main principles of dispensational theology—_____ interpretation of prophecy and an eternal distinction between Israel and the church—dispensational premillennialism teaches that the church will be raptured to heaven prior to a seven-year period of tribulation in which many Jews will be saved. Following this period Jesus will return to reign with these newly saved Jews for one thousand years. At the end of this millennium Jesus and Israel will join the church awaiting in heaven for eternity.

5. So what?

5 Imperatives from Eschatology.

- a. _____ and Believe (Mark 1:15; 1 Corinthians 15:1-4)
- b. Hope in _____ (1 Corinthians 15, Philippians 3:20-21; Revelation 21:1-4)
- c. Walk in _____ of life. (Romans 6:1-14; 1 Corinthians 5-6; Colossians 3:1-17; 2 Peter 3:10-13; Revelation 18:4)
- d. Participate in the shaping of _____ (Genesis 2:15; Matthew 6:10)
- e. _____ the gospel to the nations (Matthew 24:14; Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8)

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

Anthony A. Hoekema, *The Bible and the Future* (Grand Rapids, MI; Cambridge, U.K.: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1994)

George E. Ladd, *The Blessed Hope* (Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1956)

James M. Hamilton, *What is Biblical Theology? A Guide to the Bible's Stories, Symbolism and Patterns* (Wheaton, IL; Crossway, 2014)

Paul R. Williamson, *Death and the Afterlife: Biblical Perspectives on Ultimate Questions* (Downers Grove, IL; InterVarsity Press, 2017)

Randy Alcorn, *Heaven* (Carol Stream, IL; Tyndale House Publishers, 2004)

T. Desmond Alexander, *From Eden to the New Jerusalem: An Introduction to Biblical Theology* (Grand Rapids, MI; Kregel, 2008)

Wayne Grudem, *Bible Doctrine: Essential Teachings of the Christian Faith* (Grand Rapids, MI; Zondervan, 1999)

FALL EQUIP HIGHLIGHT

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