

Why Believe in Christianity! Part 8:
How Does It All End? The Fullness of the New Creation in Christ

Basic Belief #7: Eschatology

The Kingdom of God *inaugurated* by Christ (Mark 1:14-15; Luke 11:20; 17:20-21; 2 Corinthians 5:17) at His first Advent, will be *consummated* (fully realized visibly and physically) at **His Second Coming**. Christ will appear in glory to end human suffering, to resurrect the dead, to receive all those who are His; and to destroy those who refuse His salvation.

“Do not fear, I AM the first [protos] and I AM the last [eschatos]...” Revelation 1:17
The Second Coming of Jesus Christ is the Blessed Hope and glorious return:

He has appeared **once for all at the culmination of the ages to do away with sin by the sacrifice of Himself**. Just as people are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment, so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many;
 and **He will appear a second time**, not to bear sin,
 but to **bring salvation to those who are eagerly waiting for Him**.
Hebrews 9:26-28

The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels.
 As the weeds are pulled up and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of the age.
The Son of Man will send out His angels, and they will weed out of His kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil. They will throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Whoever has ears, let them hear.
Matthew 13:39-43

Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold,
 but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved. And this **Gospel of the Kingdom will be preached in the whole world** as a testimony to all nations,
 and **then the end will come**.
Matthew 24:12-14

For as lightning that comes from the east is visible even in the west, **so will be the coming of the Son of Man**...And then all the peoples of the earth will mourn when they see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven, with power and great glory.
 And **He will send His angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather His elect** from the four winds,
 from one end of the heavens to the other.
Matthew 24:27-31

When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him,
 He will sit on His glorious throne. **All the nations will be gathered before Him**,
 and **He will separate the people** one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on His right and the goats on His left.
 Then the King will say to those on His right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by My Father;
take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you
since the creation of the world...’

Then He will say to those on His left:
 ‘Depart from Me, you who are cursed, into **the eternal fire**
prepared for the devil and his angels...

Then they will depart to the eternal punishment,
 but the righteous to eternal life.”

Matthew 25:31-34, 41, 46

Jesus comes to renew and restore all creation:

Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, **at the renewal of all things** [palingenesis]
 when the Son of Man sits on His glorious throne, you who have followed Me
 will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

Matthew 19:28

Heaven must receive Him **until the time comes for God to restore everything**,
 as He promised long ago through His holy prophets.

Acts 3:21

For this world, **IN ITS PRESENT FORM**, is passing away.

1 Corinthians 7:31

And they sang a new song, saying:

“You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals,
 because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased for God men and woman
 from every tribe and language and people and nation. You have made them to be
a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and **they will reign on the earth.**”

Revelation 5:9-10

I instructed you before to slander heaven, but now that he’s a Christian it’s even more important
 to keep him from thinking of Charis (the renewed earth) as a real and tangible place.

Portray ‘heaven’ as the nightmare of angels sitting on clouds strumming harps and singing verse
 5,689 of some deadly dull hymn. Nothing to do and all eternity to do it. You must not let him
 see Charis as a place of learning, exploration, duties, travel, companionship, banquets,
 celebrations, and productive work. A low view of heaven is our ace in the hole.

Randy Alcorn, [a new] *Screwtape Letters*

Jesus comes to resurrect the dead and deliver final judgment:

“Very truly I tell you, whoever hears My word and believes Him who sent Me
 has eternal life and will not be judged but has **crossed over from death to life**.
 Very truly I tell you, a time is coming and has now come when the dead will hear
 the voice of the Son of God and those who hear will live.

For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son also
 to have life in Himself. And He has given Him authority to judge
 because He is the Son of Man. “Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming
 when all who are in their graves will hear His voice and come out—
 those who have done what is good will **rise to live**,
 and those who have done what is evil will **rise to be condemned**.

John 5:24-29

And this is the will of Him who sent Me,
 that I shall lose none of all those He has given Me,
 and **I will raise them up on the last day.**
 For My Father's will is that *everyone who looks to the Son*
 and believes in Him *shall have eternal life,*
 and **I will raise them up on the last day."**
John 6:39-40

But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the first-fruits of those
 who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead
 comes also through a Man. For as in Adam all die, so **in Christ all will be made alive.**
 But each in turn: Christ, the first-fruits; **then,**
when He comes, those who belong to Him.
1 Corinthians 15:20-23

Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed—
 in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, **at the last trumpet.**
 For the trumpet will sound, **the dead will be raised imperishable,** and we will be changed.
 For this perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and this mortal with immortality.
When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and **the mortal with immortality,**
then the saying that is written will come true: "**Death has been swallowed up in victory.**"
 "Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?"
1 Corinthians 15:51-55

Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about **those who sleep in death,**
 so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope.
 For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that **God will bring**
with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in Him. According to the LORD's word, we tell you
 that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the LORD,
 will certainly not precede **those who have fallen asleep.**

For the **LORD Himself will come down from heaven,** with a loud command,
 with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God,
 and **the dead in Christ will rise first.** After that, we who are still alive and are left
 will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air.
 And so we will be with the LORD forever. Therefore,
 encourage one another with these words.
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation
 through our LORD Jesus Christ. He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep,
 we may live together with him. Therefore encourage one another and build each other up,
 just as in fact you are doing. *1 Thessalonians 5:9-11*
 ...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 glory of His might on the day He comes to be glorified in His holy people and to be marveled at among all those who have believed. This includes you, because you believed our testimony to you.

2 Thessalonians 1:6-10

Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs, and the man of sin is revealed, the man doomed to destruction. He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God...

...whom the LORD Jesus will overthrow with the breath of his mouth and **destroy by the splendor of his coming**. The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with how Satan works. He will use all sorts of displays of power through signs and wonders that serve the lie, and all the ways that wickedness deceives those who are perishing. **They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved.**

For this reason God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie and so that **all will be condemned who have not believed the truth but have delighted in wickedness.**

2 Thessalonians 2:3-4, 8-12

He condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah by burning them to ashes, and made them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly.

2 Peter 2:6

In a similar way, Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding towns gave themselves up to sexual immorality and perversion. They serve as an example of those who suffer the punishment of eternal fire.

Jude 7

“Surely **the day is coming**; it will burn like a furnace. All the arrogant and every evildoer will be stubble, and the day that is coming will set them on fire,” says the LORD Almighty.

“**Not a root or a branch will be left to them.** But for you who revere My name, the Sun of righteousness will rise with healing in His rays. And you will go out and frolic like well-fed calves. Then you will trample on the wicked; **they will be ashes under the soles of your feet on the day when I act,**” says the LORD Almighty.

Malachi 4:1-3

Who is brought from death into eternal life—and why?

And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. **Whoever has the Son has life**; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

I write these things to you who trust [pisteo] in the name of the Son of God, **so that you may know that you have eternal life.**

1 John 5:11-13

After this I looked, and there before me was a **great multitude that no one could count**, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb.

They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands.

And they cried out in a loud voice: “**Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.**”

Revelation 7:9-10

Then one of the elders asked me:

“These in white robes—who are they, and where did they come from?”

I answered, “Sir, you know.” And he said, “These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; **they have washed their robes** and made them white **in the blood of the Lamb.**”

Therefore, “they are before the throne of God and serve Him day and night in His temple; and He who sits on the throne will shelter them with His presence.

‘Never again will they hunger; never again will they thirst.

The sun will not beat down on them,’ nor any scorching heat.

For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their Shepherd; ‘**He will lead them to springs of living water.**’ And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.’

Revelation 7:13-17

All inhabitants of the earth will worship the beast—
**all whose names have not been written
in the Lamb’s book of life, the Lamb who was slain
from the creation of the world.**

Revelation 13:8

And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and **books were opened.**

Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books.

Revelation 20:12

Anyone whose name was **not found written in the book of life** was thrown into the lake of fire.

Revelation 20:15

Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but **only those whose names are written in the Lamb’s book of life.**

Revelation 21:27

Scripture is a golden ring of redemption from Eden lost to Eden restored:

Then I saw “*a new heaven and a new earth,*” for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the **new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven** from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.

And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! **God’s dwelling place is now among the people**, and He will dwell with them. They will be His people, and God Himself will be with them and be their God. ‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death’ or mourning or crying or pain, for **the old order of things has passed away.**”

He who was seated on the throne said, “**I am making everything new!**” Then He said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.” He said to me: “It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. **To the thirsty I will give water without cost from the Spring of the water of life.**

Revelation 21:1-6

I know that my Redeemer lives, and that **in the end He will stand on the earth.**
And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God;
I myself will see Him with my own eyes—I, and not another.
How my heart yearns within me!

Job 19:25-27

“I, Jesus, have sent My angel to give you this testimony for the churches.
I am the Root and the Offspring of David, and the bright Morning Star.”
The Spirit and the bride say, “**Come!**” And let the one who hears say, “**Come!**”
Let the one who is thirsty come; and **let anyone who wishes take the free gift of the water of life.**

Revelation 22:16-17

He who testifies to these things says: “Yes, I am coming soon.”
Amen, come LORD Jesus. The grace of the LORD Jesus
be with God’s people. Amen!

Revelation 22:20-21