

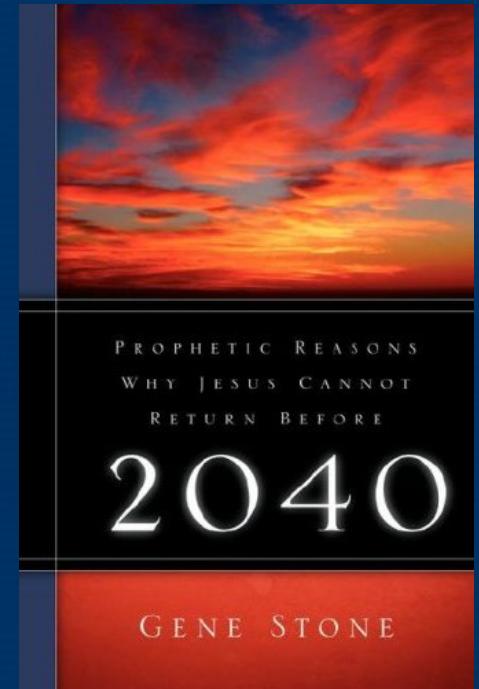
Eschatology

The Study of End Times



Strange Voices

- *88 Reasons Why The Rapture Will Be in 1988 –The Feast of the Trumpets* – Ed Whisenant
- *Prophetic Reasons Why Jesus Cannot Return Before 2040* – Gene Stone
- *When Will Jesus Come?: Compelling Evidence for the Soon Return of Christ* – David Hunt
 - Hunt uses specific verses from the Bible, that **COULD NOT** have been fulfilled in **ANY** other time than the one we live in now, to show the time is very short for the "end times" events to begin.
- *Left Behind* – LaHaye and Jenkins
 - Sixteen book series; 65 million total copies sold, multiple movies and video games
- Rapture Prediction of May 21, 2011 - Harold Camping of Family Life Radio
 - "I don't know where we went wrong other than that we obviously don't understand the Scriptures in the way that we should."



Lakewood Lessons – How should we respond?

Mentally:

- “But I don’t want you to be uninformed brothers” (1 Thes 4)
- “The revelation of Jesus Christ which God gave to show his servants the things that must take place” (Rev 1)
- “It is not for you to know the times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority.” (Acts 1)

Emotionally:

- “And I fell at his feet to worship him. . . Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.” (Rev 19)

The Purpose of Prophecy

1. Prophecy Comforts – 1 Thessalonians 4:18, John 14:1
2. Prophecy Calms – 2 Timothy 3:1-5, Titus 2:13
3. Prophecy Converts – Acts 3:12-26, 17:31-34, 28:30-31
4. Prophecy Cleanses – Titus 2:14, Ephesians 5:26-27, 2 Peter 3:14, 1 John 3:2-3
5. Prophecy Compels – 1 Corinthians 15:52-58, 2 Corinthians 5:10-14
6. Prophecy Confirms – Revelation 22:18-19
7. Prophecy Centers on Jesus Christ - Revelation 1, 4, 5, 19
8. Prophecy is NOT for Curiosity, it is for worship.

General Guidelines for Reading Prophecy

- Always follow the normal principles of interpretation. Apply the basic historical, grammatical, literary interpretation.
- Recognize that the symbolism is not to be dissected for purposes of application.
- Recognize the principle of “foreshortening.”
- View prophecy as primarily focusing on the Messiah and His eventual reign on earth.

LBC Statement of Faith

We believe in the coming of Christ: that His return will be personal, visible, pretribulational, premillennial, and glorious – a blessed hope, the time being presently unrevealed, yet always imminent; that when He comes, He will first remove His church from the earth by resurrection and translation, then pour out God's righteous judgments on the unbelieving world during the tribulation period, afterward descend with His church and establish His glorious Kingdom over all nations for a thousand years, at the close of which He will raise the unrighteous for their final judgment.

God's Prophetic Timeline

1. The Rapture of the Church – 1 Thes 4
2. The Judgment Seat of Christ – 1 Cor 3, 2 Cor 5, Rom 14
3. The Marriage Supper of the Lamb – Rev 19
4. The Beginning of the Tribulation – Dan 9
5. The Second Coming of Jesus Christ – Rev 19



God's Prophetic Timeline

6. The Millennial Reign of Jesus Christ – Rev 20
7. The Great White Throne Judgment – Rev 20
8. The New Heaven, New Earth, and New Jerusalem – Rev 21-22



The Purpose of the Revelation

- Rev 1 – Revelation of Jesus Christ in his relationship to the Church
- Rev 5 – Revelation of Jesus Christ in his relationship to the redemption of all nature
- Rev 19 – Revelation of Jesus Christ in his relationship to the nations.



The Revelation of Christ to the Nations

I. Person of Jesus Christ as described by His names

- Faithful and true – Revelation of His Character
- Unknown Name – Revelation of His Deity
- Word of God – Revelation of His Humanity
- King of Kings and Lord of Lord – Revelation of His Sovereignty

The Revelation of Christ to the Nations

II. Purpose of Jesus Christ at His Coming as demonstrated by his appearance

- Fiery eyes: The possibility for righteous judgment – He has seen all!
- Diadems: The position of his righteous judgment – He is the King of all!
- Robe: The purpose of His righteous judgment – He will destroy all!
 - Rod of Iron: The symbol of Sovereignty
 - Sword from His mouth: The tool of slaughter

The Revelation of Christ to the Nations

- I. Person of Jesus Christ as described by His names
- II. Purpose of Jesus Christ at His Coming as demonstrated by his appearance
- III. People that accompanying Jesus Christ
 - Angelic host – 2 Thessalonians 1:7
 - Saints – Rev 17:14



Lessons for the Marketplace

1. Jesus Christ is the center of world history, thus should be the center of our lives.
2. Jesus Christ has an intense hatred for sin, thus we must not coddle it.
3. The material aspect of this world is sure to pass away, thus we must not treasure it.
4. The sorrow of this life will come to an end, thus we must endure it.
5. Those without Christ are sure to be judged, thus we must warn them today.
6. The final victory is secure, thus we should rejoice.

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Eternal Judgment

Belief in hell, where people who have led bad lives and die without repenting are eternally punished, is less common than is belief in life after death or heaven, with about six-in-ten Americans (59%) expressing belief in hell. In every religious tradition, including all the Christian traditions, belief in hell is at least slightly less prevalent than belief in heaven. Belief in hell tends to be most common among members of the various Christian traditions, with relatively few Hindus (35%), Buddhists (26%), unaffiliated (30%) and Jews (22%) saying they believe in hell.

Pew Foundation

Theologians

I was led to question the traditional belief in everlasting conscious torment because of moral revulsion and broader theological considerations, not first of all on scriptural grounds. It just does not make any sense to say that a God of love will torture people forever for sins done in the context of a finite life.

- Clark Pinnock

Emotionally, I find the concept of eternal conscious torment intolerable and do not understand how people can live with it without either cauterizing their feelings or cracking under the strain.

- John Stott

Is Hell Disappearing?

"In a pluralistic, post-modern world, students are having a more difficult time with the idea of people going to hell forever because they didn't believe the right thing. In today's global village, many live next to good, non-Christian neighbors and wonder why an all-powerful, loving God wouldn't eventually empty out hell. They believe everyone has an equal chance, at this life and the next. So hell is disappearing, absolutely."

- Mike Witmer



What is the Nature of Eternal Judgment?

1. It is eternal separation from God. - 2 Thess 1:9

Hell is not filled with people with people who want to get out. It is filled with people who are so self-focused and rebellious. The rich man was still demeaning to Lazarus and trying to correct Abraham. Men are crying out to God in the Revelation to battle with God. Men's rebellion to God never stops.



What is the Nature of Eternal Judgment?

1. It is eternal separation from God. - 2 Thess 1:9
2. It is real and literal. – Revelation 20

