

Jesus is coming again

Is the church prepared?

2 Peter 3

Seal the Deal!

Seal the Deal! – Question 1

What is **Eschatology**?

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- b.) The study of *last* things
- c.) The analysis of the nature of Christ's second *coming*
- d.) A simple doctrine that is easy to understand and is mutually agreed upon by all Christians

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b.) The study of *last* things

c.) The analysis of the nature of Christ's *second coming = Parousia*

d.) A simple doctrine that is easy to understand and is mutually agreed upon by all Christians

Primary Importance

- There will be a personal, visible, bodily return of Christ
- We should long for and be prepared for Christ's return
- Results of Parousia will include judgement, reward, NHNE, EUWC

Secondary Importance

- Could Christ come back at *any* time?
- What eschatological framework is best supported by scripture?
- What is the right hermeneutic for apocalyptic prophecies?

Seal the Deal – Question 2

The phrase “maranatha” is...

- a.) A Greek term meaning *Glory to God*
- b.) A Hebrew phrase meaning *Christ has risen!*
- c.) An Aramaic phrase meaning *Our Lord, come*
- d.) A Jewish greeting often used by NT writers

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Seal the Deal – Question 3

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- a.) **Christ will return after a long period of worldwide gospel success, peace, and righteousness**
- b) Christ will return before a literal 1,000-year reign, following a rapture of the church and a 7-year tribulation → **dispensational premillennialism**
- c) Christ will return before the millennium, but the church will go through the tribulation; the millennium is Christ's reign on earth with resurrected believers → **classical premillennialism**
- d) The “millennium” is symbolic, describing the current spiritual reign of Christ and the church age, ending with Christ's return and the final judgment → **amillennialism**

Seal the Deal – Question 4

Which word is best defined as “unveiling of hidden things”?

- a.) Parable
- b.) Apocalypse
- c.) Prophecy
- d.) Typology

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Which word is best defined as “unveiling of hidden things”?

a.) Parable

b.) **Apocalypse** = ἀποκάλυψις (*apokalypsis*) = “Revelation”

c.) Prophecy

d.) Typology

Seal the Deal – Question 5

Which approach to interpreting prophetic Scripture teaches that most of the events described were fulfilled in the past, particularly around the first century?

- a.) Idealism
- b.) Preterism
- c.) Futurism
- d.) Historicism

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Seal the Deal – Question 5

Which approach to interpreting prophetic Scripture teaches that most of the events described were fulfilled in the past, particularly around the first century?

- a.) Idealism → interprets prophecy as symbolic of the ongoing struggle between good and evil
- b.) **Preterism**
- c.) Futurism → views most prophecies as yet to be fulfilled in the future
- d.) Historicism → interprets prophecy as unfolding throughout history

3 This is now the second letter that I am writing to you, beloved. In both of them I am stirring up your sincere mind by way of reminder, ² that you should remember the predictions of the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior through your apostles, ³ knowing this first of all, that scoffers will come in the last days with scoffing, following their own sinful desires. ⁴ They will say, "Where is the promise of his coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all things are continuing as they were from the beginning of creation." ⁵ For they deliberately overlook this fact, that the heavens existed long ago, and the earth was formed out of water and through water by the word of God, ⁶ and that by means of these the world that then existed was deluged with water and perished. ⁷ But by the same word the heavens and earth that now exist are stored up for fire, being kept until the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly.

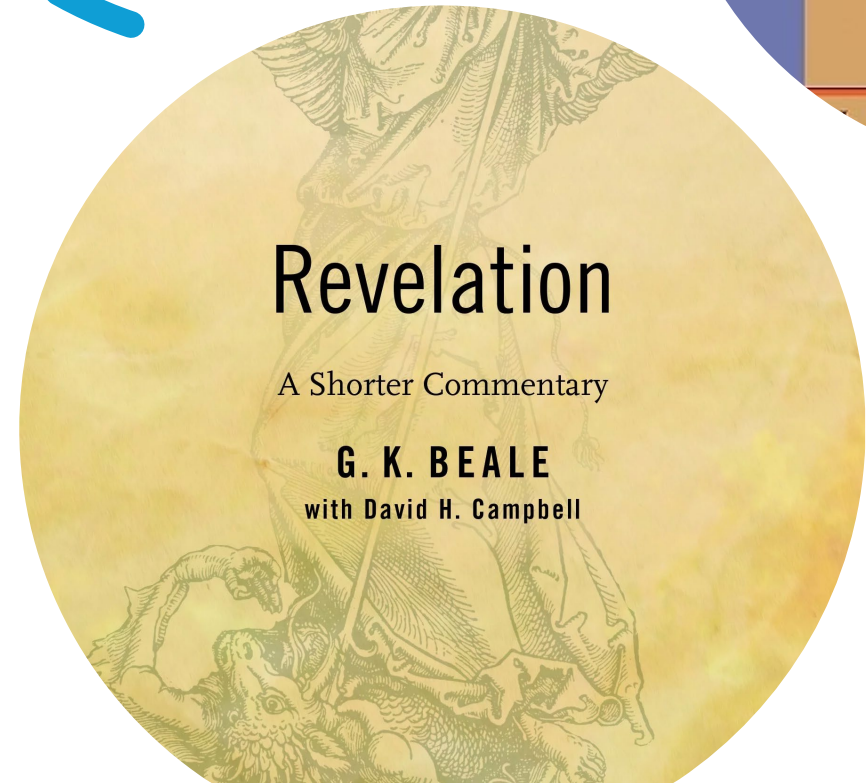
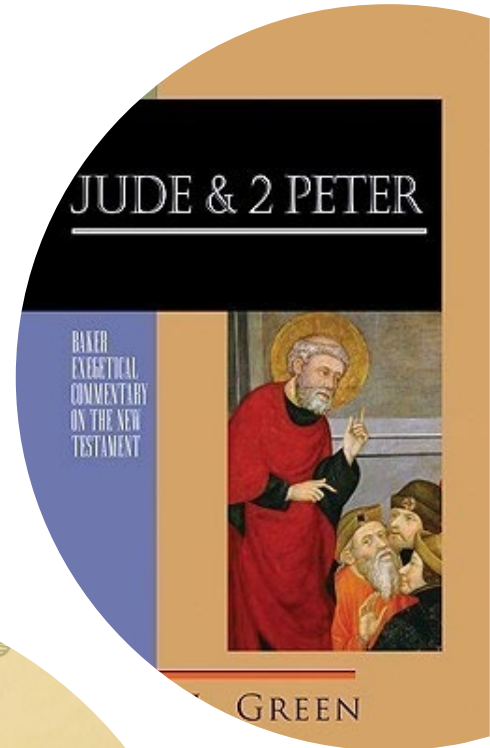
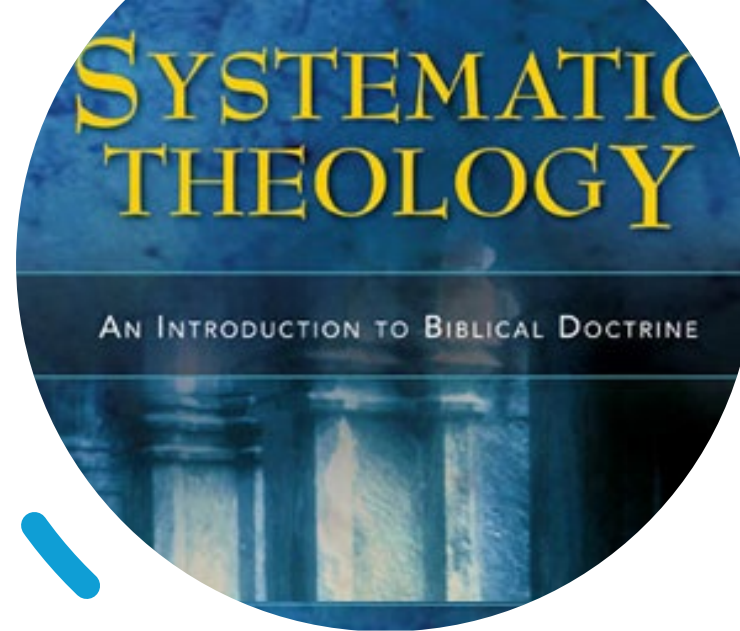
⁸ But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. ⁹ The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. ¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.

¹¹ Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, ¹² waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! ¹³ But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

¹⁴ Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace. ¹⁵ And count the patience of our Lord as salvation, just as our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you according to the wisdom given him, ¹⁶ as he does in all his letters when he speaks in them of these matters. There are some things in them that are hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other Scriptures. ¹⁷ You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, take care that you are not carried away with the error of lawless people and lose your own stability. ¹⁸ But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.

Sources

- Wayne Grudem
- Gene L. Green
- Greg Beale



Background & Problem

- Apostle Peter writing from Rome to churches in Asia Minor
- Problem:
 - “False teachers” teaching “heresies of destruction” (2:1)
 - Members of the communities where they promote error (2:1, 13)
 - Use deceptive means (2:3)
 - Support their arguments by twisting Paul’s letters (3:15-16)
 - Promote **parousial skepticism** regarding the coming of the Lord and the divine judgement on the day of the Lord (3:3-10)
 - Argument based on the apparent delay (3:4, 9; cf. 2:3)
 - Doctrinal error → moral error (promote libertine lifestyle)
 - ID: ?Essenes, Stoics, Epicureans, Gnostics?

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- **Sincere mind**

1P 1:13 Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

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- **Prophets & Apostles**

- Prophets → coming judgement

- Apostles → Jesus will be the judge

- Both build up church

- Eph 2:20 *the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone*

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- **Last days** = church age = Pentecost to Parousia
- **Scoffers** = mockers
 - Shame is their primary tool
 - Around since the OT
 - Continue now in church age
 - Now directed at Jesus

Argument of the FTs

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- “**Where is?**” – demand for evidence
 - Ps 42:3 3 My tears have been my food day and night, while they say to me all the day long, “Where is your God?”
 - Visible proof

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- **The promise of his coming**
 - John 14:3 ³ *And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.*
 - Signs that his words were true

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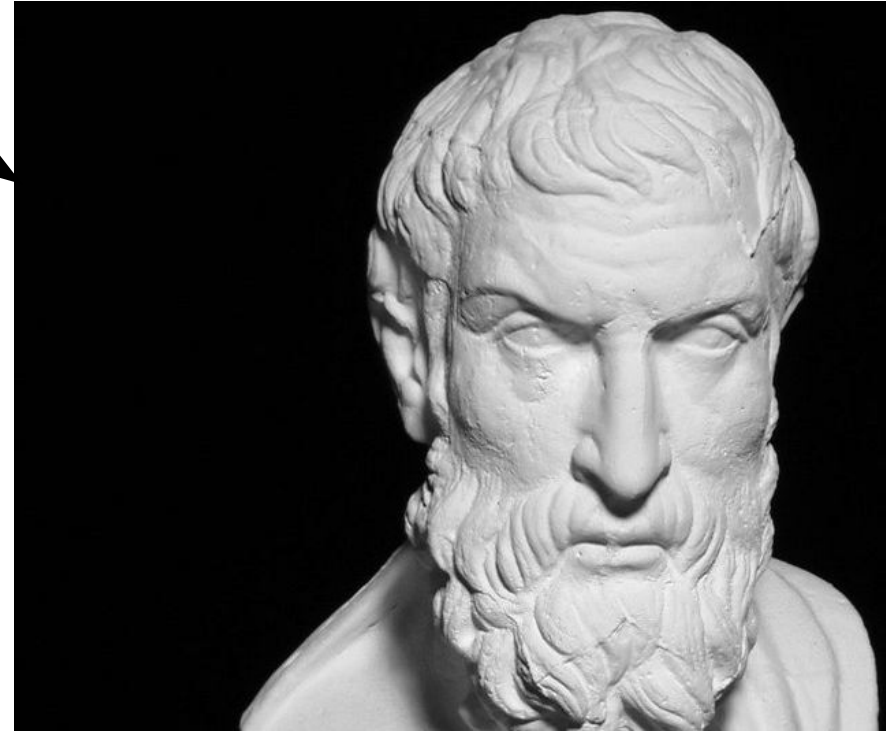
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 - Signs that his words were true
- **All things continuing... since creation**
 - No intervention in the past, so why would there be any in the future?

Nothing changes

*“But, in truth, the universal whole
always was such as it now is, and
always will be such. For there is
nothing into which it can change; for
there is nothing beyond this
universal whole which can penetrate
into it, and produce any change in it.”*

-Epicurus c. 307 BC



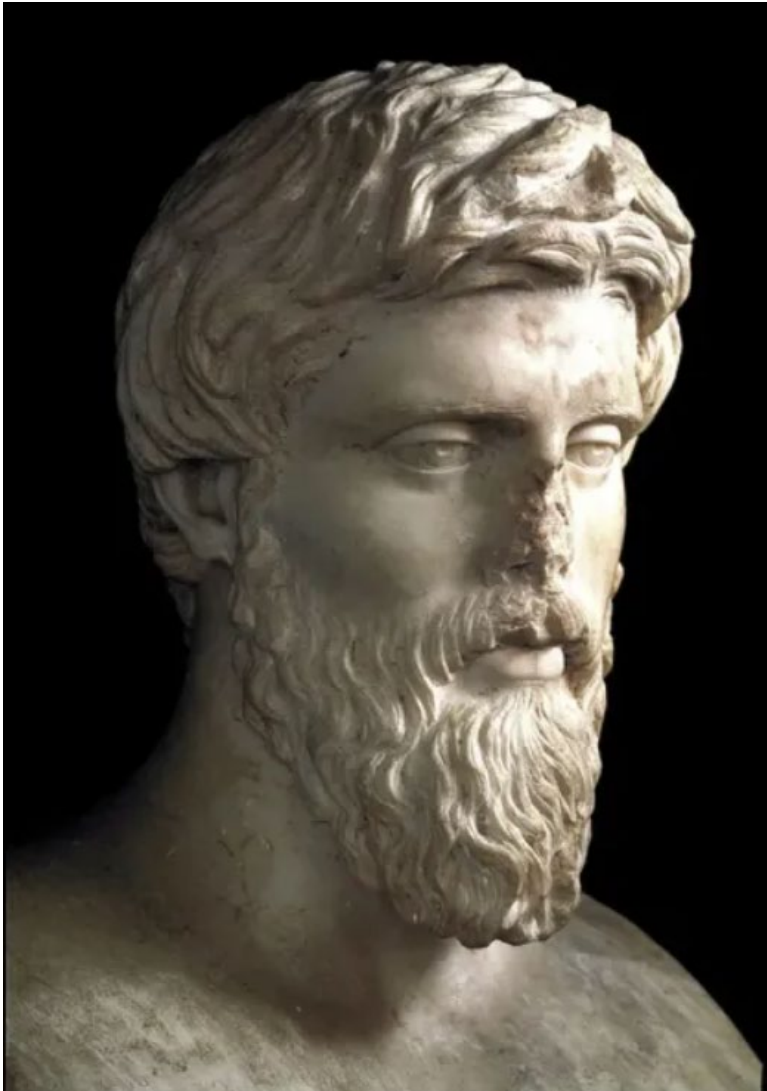
No change in past, why expect any in future?

“The laws of nature are constant; there’s no evidence of divine intervention. The universe just keeps running on its own.”

“Human progress keeps advancing — medicine, technology, space travel. We don’t need to worry about some supernatural ‘end.’”

“People have been saying Jesus is coming back for 2,000 years. Nothing’s changed. Why believe it now?”

“Life is about building wealth, success, and enjoying the present. Talk of Christ’s return is just a distraction — clearly the world keeps going as usual.”



No judgment...

*“The delay and procrastination
of the Deity in punishing the
wicked appears to me the most
telling argument by far....”*

-Plutarch c. 100 A.D.

No judgement = No God?

“If God is all-powerful He cannot be good; if God is good He cannot be all-powerful”

Peter's Rebuttal:

⁵ For they deliberately overlook this fact, that the heavens existed long ago, and the earth was formed out of water and through water by the word of God, ⁶ and that by means of these the world that then existed was deluged with water and perished.

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- **Heavens came into being** long ago

- Initiation of history is divine intervention
- CAG:
 - Whatever begins to exist has a cause of its existence
 - The universe began to exist
 - The universe, therefore, has a cause of its existence

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 - Maintenance of history is divine intervention
 - cf. Col 1:17 And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together (*synestōsa*)

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- Earth was *sustained (synestōsa)*
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- **Deluged with water and perished**
 - Reference to Noah / flood
 - E.g. of God acting in *judgement*

Peter's Rebuttal:

1.) Initiation of Creation

2.) Maintenance of History

3.) Past acts of Judgement

⁷ But by the same word the
heavens and earth that now
exist are stored up for fire,
being kept until the day of
judgment and destruction of
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- Fire = judgement
- Day of the Lord
- Reiterates the promise

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- Acknowledges the difficulty of waiting
- Alludes to Ps 90:4
 - *4 For a thousand years in your sight are but as yesterday when it is past, or as a watch in the night*
- Reminds of God's transcendence
- God's perspective of "soon"
 - Rev 22:20 He who testifies to these things says, 'Surely I am coming soon.' Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!"

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- The delay is not evidence against God, but *for* Him!
- Jon 4:2 *2 And he prayed to the Lord and said, “O Lord, is not this what I said when I was yet in my country? That is why I made haste to flee to Tarshish; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from disaster.*

¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will
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Mk 24:43-44

⁴³ But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴ Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

Isa 51:6

*Lift up your eyes to the heavens,
and look at the earth beneath;
for the heavens vanish like smoke,
the earth will wear out like a garment,
and they who dwell in it will die in like manner;
but my salvation will be forever,
and my righteousness will never be dismayed.*

The implied takeaway

Parousial skepticism → immorality

Parousial expectation → pursuing holiness

¹¹ Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, ¹² waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn!

¹¹ Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of **holiness and godliness**, ¹² waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn!

Holiness = set apart from corruption

- Think opposite or the immorality promoted by the FTs
- External lifestyle

Godliness = reverent devotion

- State of the heart
- Internal orientation

¹¹ Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, ¹² waiting for and **hastening** the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will **be set on fire** and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn!

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Hastening... fire?

- Think rescue! (previous types → flood, S&G)

¹³ But according to his promise we
are waiting for new heavens and a
new earth in which righteousness
dwells.

¹⁴ Therefore, beloved, since you are
waiting for these, be diligent to
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or blemish, and at peace.

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Without spot = (moral) purity

How is this possible?

¹⁴ Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, **be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish**, and at peace.

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¹⁴ Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace.

- Not expecting that Christians live utterly sin free lives
- Alluding to the fact that Christ is the means by which they are justified and by which they are empowered to strive after his example

1 Peter 1:17-19

*And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile, knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, **like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.***

Jude 24

*Now to him who is able to **keep you from stumbling** and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy*

¹⁵ And count the patience of our Lord
as salvation, just as our beloved
brother Paul also wrote to
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	Peter	FTs
Theology	¹⁵ And count the patience of our Lord as salvation, just as our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you according to the wisdom given him,	⁹ The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness , but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.
Lifestyle	1:13 I think it right, as long as I am in this body, to stir you up by way of reminder,	2:13 suffering wrong as the wage for their wrongdoing. They count it pleasure to revel in the daytime. They are blots and blemishes, reveling in their deceptions, while they feast with you.

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- **Paul** → Galatians, ?Eph ?Col
- **Hard to understand** → twist for their ends
- The **other** Scriptures

¹⁷ You therefore,
beloved, knowing this
beforehand, take care that you
are not carried away with the
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- Warning to the AM churches and a warning for us

¹⁸ But grow in the grace and
knowledge of our Lord and
Savior Jesus Christ. To him be
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day of eternity. Amen.

- Grow!

Application: How to be ready

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Test
Wedding
Parousia

What are your thoughts?

What are your actions?

Application: How to be ready

Expectation

Preparation

Application: How to be ready

Expectation

- Sincere mind
- Counting... to God
- Vigilance (thief in night)
- Eager anticipation (hasten)
- Growth godliness

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Application: How to be ready

Expectation

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Preparation

- Diligence to be spotless
- Guard against being carried away
- Growth in holiness

Application: How to be ready

Expectation

- Sincere mind
- Counting... to God
- Vigilance (thief in night)
- Eager anticipation (hasten)
- Growth godliness
- Bible reading
- Prayer
- Other disciplines

Preparation

- Diligence to be spotless
- Guard against being carried away
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Application: How to be ready

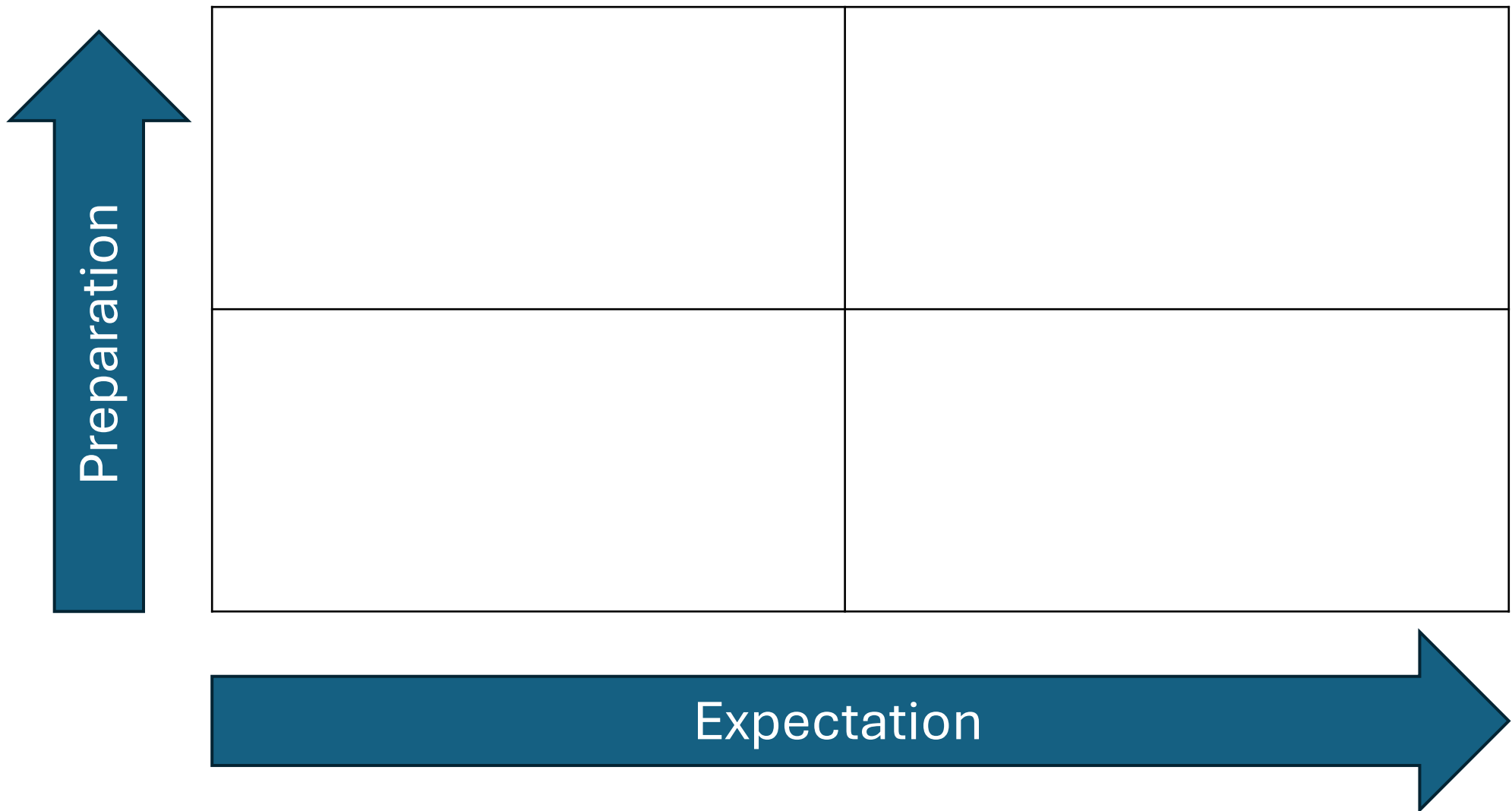
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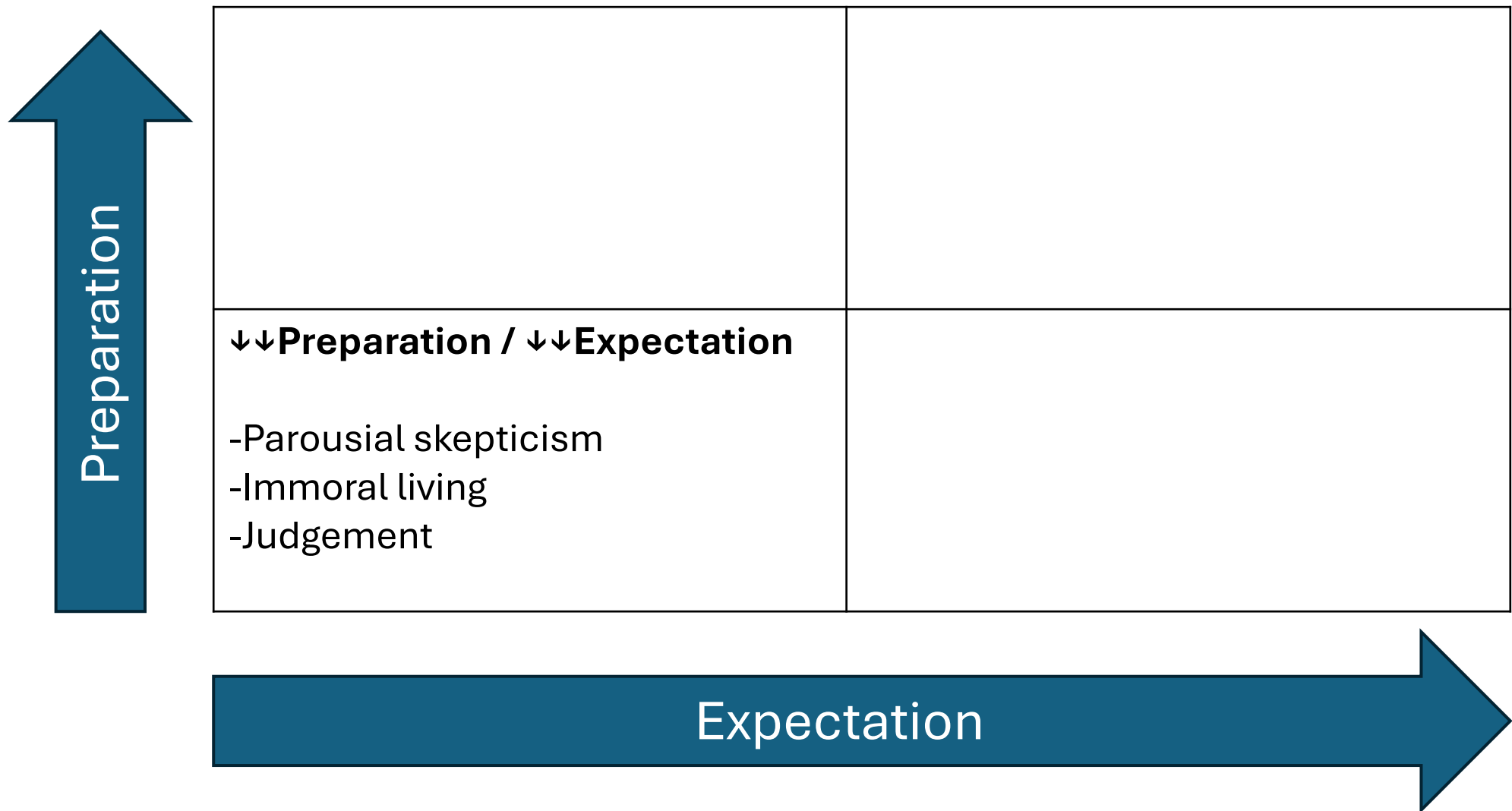
Preparation

- Diligence to be spotless
- Guard against being carried away
- Growth in holiness
- Christian community
- Accountability
- Obedience in commandments
- Work heartily... in whatever you do (Col 3:23)

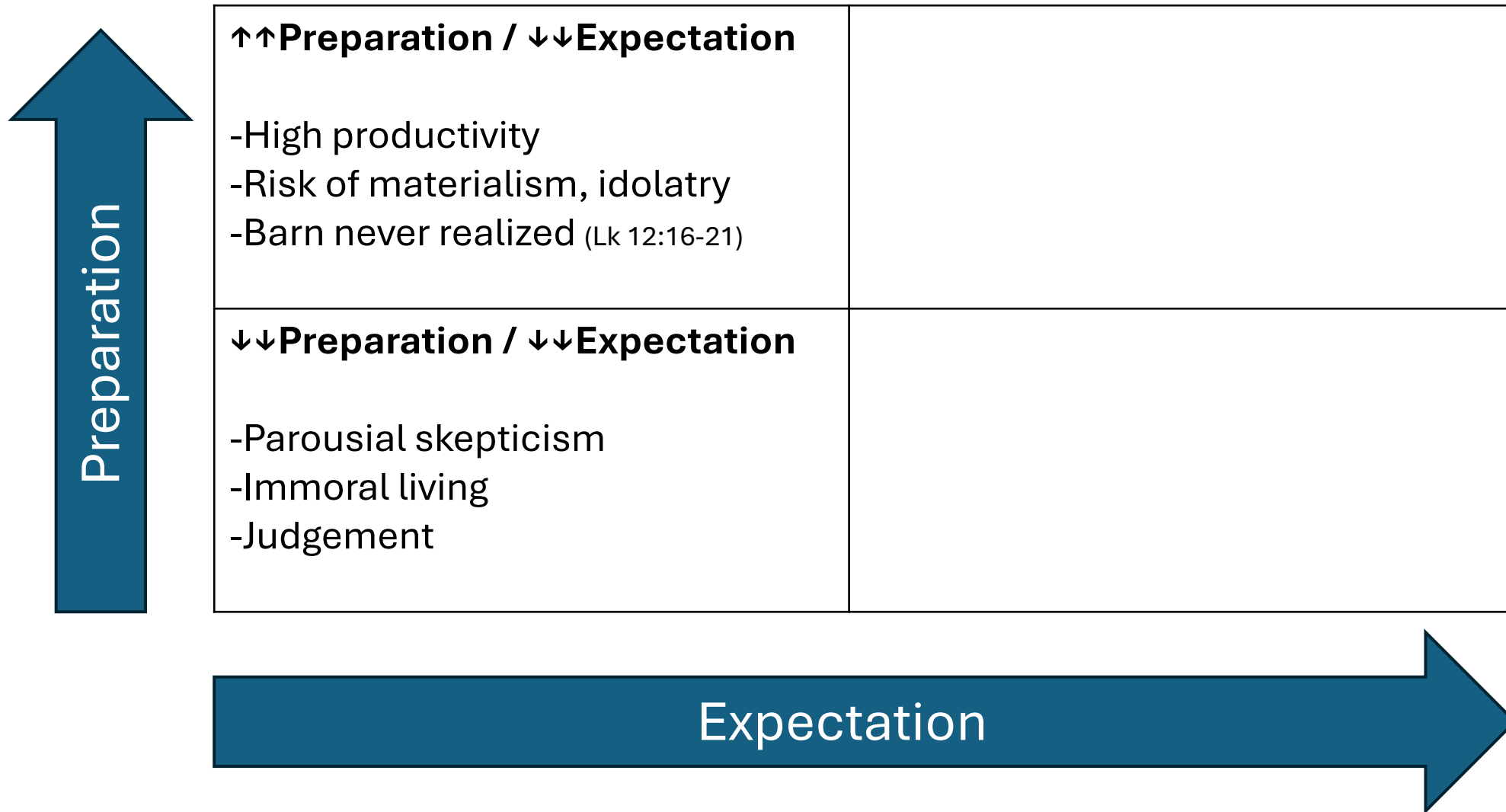
Application Matrix



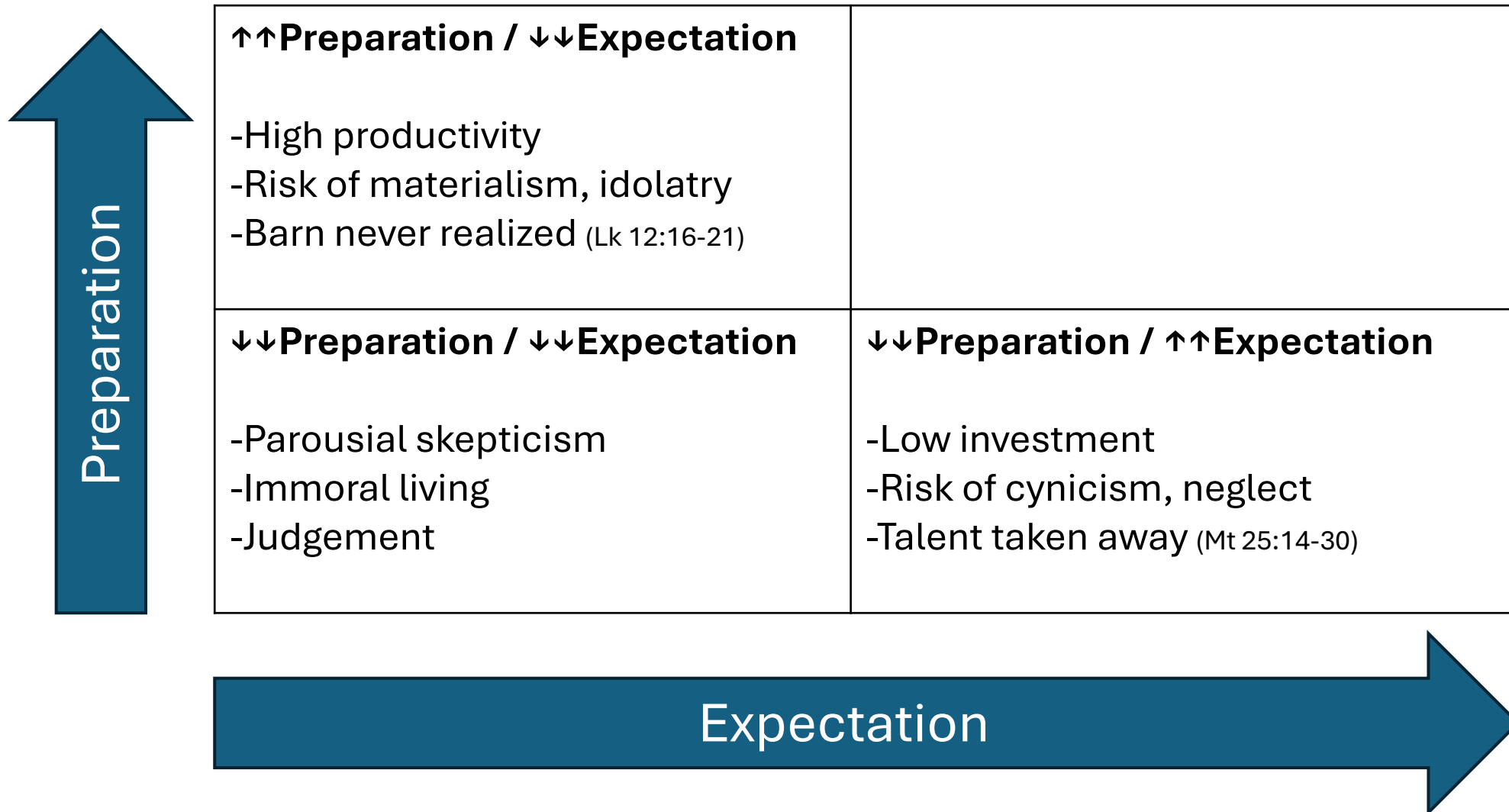
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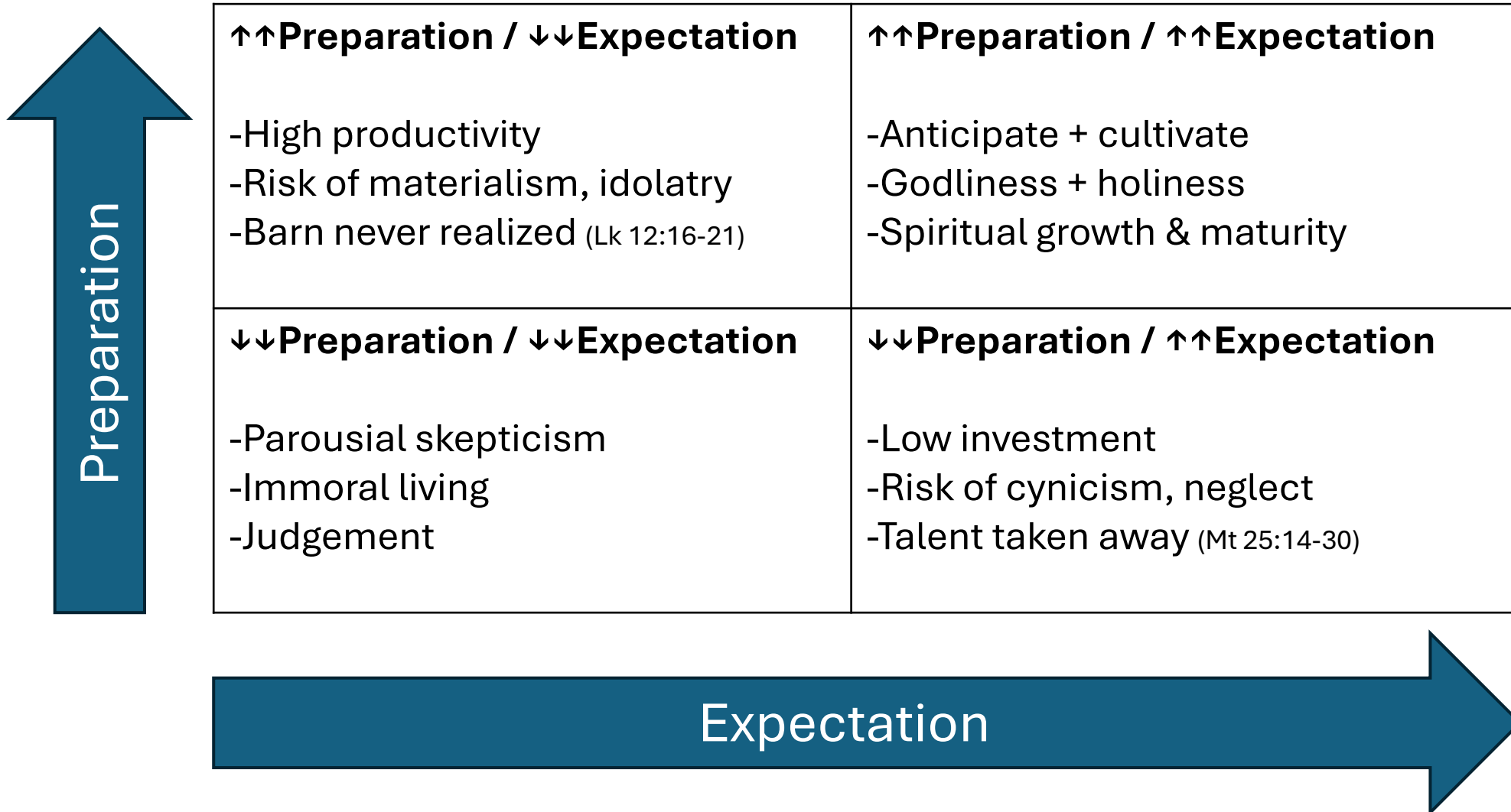
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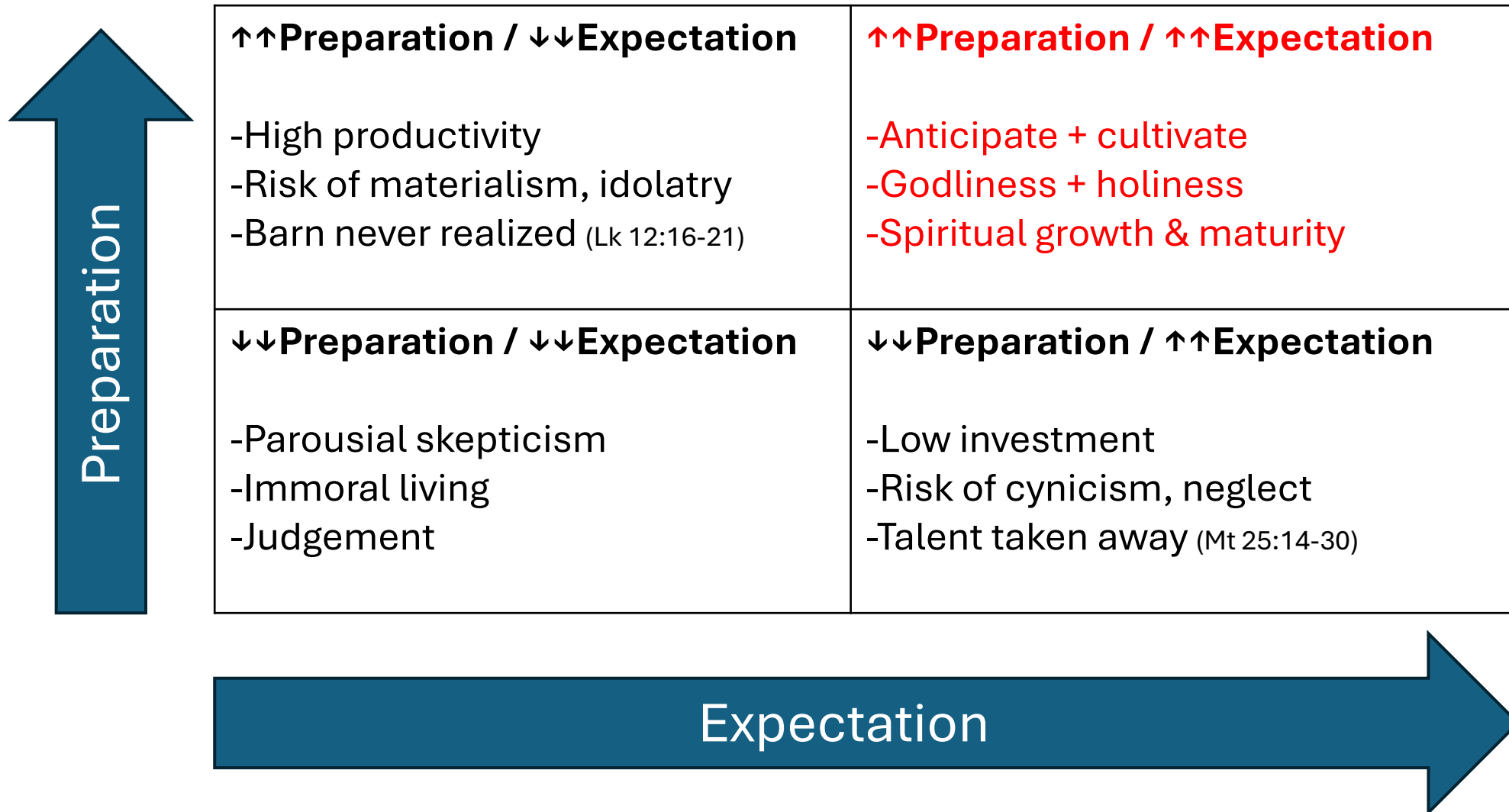
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Application Matrix



Application Matrix



Questions?

88 REASONS Why The Rapture Will Be In 1988

- Edgar Wisenant
- NASA engineer
- When prediction failed, revised calculations to say it would be on Sept 1 1989, or if not then in 1990, 1991, 1992, or 1993 at the latest
- Many Christians pulled their children out of school

The Feast of Trumpets (Rosh-Hash-Ana)

September 11-12-13

Edgar C. Whisenant

New Expanded Edition

The SC cannot be predicted, but can be anticipated based on certain preceding signs

- Preaching of gospel to all nations (Mk 13:10)
- Great tribulation (Mk 13:7-8)
- False prophets working signs & wonders (Mark 13:22)
- Signs in the heavens (Mk 13:24-25)
- Others: Coming of the man of lawlessness (2 Thess 2:1-10), full inclusion of Israel (Rom 11:12)

The SC will be sudden and unexpected

- Matthew 24:50 “the master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he does not know.”
- Mark 13:32–33
“32 But concerning that day or that hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.
33 Be on guard, keep awake. For you do not know when the time will come.”

Ways to reconcile

1.) Christ could not come at *any* time

- Length of time of minimum time is based on estimated time of how long signs would take to occur

2.) Christ could come at *any* time

- i.) 2 returns (one secret, one visible)

- ii.) Signs all fulfilled already –therefore sudden / unexpected return is possible

3.) Christ could come at any time

- It is unlikely but possible that preceding signs have all been fulfilled

- with exception of signs in the heavens (but this could

- ALL nations → hyperbole

- Great trib → hx? Roman siege of Jerusalem AD 66-70

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Moral will vs. Sovereign will

God desires that all sinners be saved (1 Timothy 2:4; 2 Peter 3:9; Ezekiel 18:23; Matthew 23:37)

God chose some people from eternity past (the elect), to be saved unconditionally, and only those elect will genuinely respond to the gospel and be saved (Matthew 22:14; John 6:37, 44, 65; 8:47; 10:26–29; Romans 8:29–30; 9:6–23; 11:5–10; 1 Corinthians 1:26–30; Ephesians 1:4–5; 1 Thessalonians 1:4; 2 Thessalonians 2:13; James 2:5)