

Theology 2
The Second Coming, Millennium, and Eternity
Dr. Todd Stinnett
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The Second Coming

- Following the rapture of the church and the Great Tribulation, Christ will **return to earth** with the “armies in heaven” (Rev. 19:14) for the Battle of Armageddon (Rev. 16:16).
- There, the Antichrist and the False Prophet will lead the wicked in battle against Christ and His elect. **Christ will be the victorious King of Kings** (Rev. 19:16).
- Following the battle, the Antichrist and the False Prophet will be cast into hell forever (Rev. 19:20).
- Satan will also be taken captive, and will be confined to “the bottomless pit” (Rev. 20:2) for a period of 1,000 years, though John has told us that Satan will be released from his confinement once the 1,000 years are completed (Rev. 20:3).

The Millennium

- While Satan is bound in hell, **Christ will reign with His saints on earth** for a period of 1,000 years (Rev. 20:4-6). This position is known as Pre-millennialism.
- Other Millennial Views:
 - Postmillennialism – Those who hold this view teach that Christ will return **after** the 1,000 years. They believe we are already living in the millennium. Critics have argued that it’s been longer than 1,000 years since the time of Christ, and what’s happening on earth hardly looks like the reign of Christ and His church.
 - Amillennialism – There is **no literal 1,000 reign of Christ** on the earth. In fact, many amillennials dismiss the idea of the Tribulation as well. Most amillennials believe that everything will be concluded with the rapture of the church/second coming of Christ. Critics say that this position doesn’t seem to deal faithfully with Rev. 20:1-6 and a number of other Bible passages.

Eternity

- The Bible speaks of only **two destinations** following the grave: **heaven or hell** (Matt. 25:31-46). The Bible knows *nothing* of a purgatory or middle-ground.
- The fate of each person rests in the hands of Jesus Christ, who will “judge the living and the dead at His appearing” (2 Tim. 4:1). **No one will escape** God’s judgment (2 Cor. 5:10, Heb. 9:27).
- Those whose names are found written in the Lamb’s Book of Life will enjoy **the New Jerusalem** with God forever (Rev. 21-22). Those whose names are not found in the Lamb’s Book will be bound to hell forever (Rev. 20:11-15).
- What will hell be like? The Bible explains hell as indescribable torment, everlasting darkness, weeping, gnashing of teeth – a place where one will yearn to die but can’t
- What will heaven be like? The best description of heaven is found in Rev. 21-22. All suffering will be over, all things will be made new, and we shall always be with the Lord.