

**“The End Times” ...  
“What It Is and How It Effects our view on Life”**

**By  
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**The Bible and the Future**

**I. The Bible's View Of History**

**A. The Important Divisions of Time**

1. **This Age** - The Present Time Between Christ's First and Second Coming.
2. **The Former Age** - Creation Through The Old Testament
3. **The Age To Come** - Eternal Life and Death After This Worlds End.

**B. History Is "Telic" - Greek For "Having A Purpose and Conclusion."**

1. **God** Stands At The Beginning Of History As Creator
2. **God** Undergirds and Rules History, and Appears In The Midst Of History As Savior
3. **God** Stands At The End Of History As Judge and Ruler Of Its Outcomes

**C. Man Lives Within History As God's Steward Of Creation**

1. Man Is To Rule The Other Creatures - Genesis 1
2. This Stewardship Is Personal - Each Is Held Responsible For What God Has Given Him, And We Need To Keep Our Hands And Minds Off Of Our Neighbor's Chickens.
3. Stewardship Is: 1) Responsible - We Must Do It God's Way, 2) Temporary, And 3) To Be Rewarded Whether We Are Good Or Evil.

**II. God Reveals A "Thousand Year" Reign Of Christ Over the World - This Has Been Taken Various Ways By Various Parts Of The Church.**

**D. A-Millennialism - The Idea That There Is No Future Millennium Because The Millennium Is Now.**

4. Revelation 20 Speaks Of This Millennium and Uses The Time Period Of 1000 Years.
5. When We Examine The First Verses Of Revelation 20 It Becomes Clear That The Millennium Is Now, Between The First And Second Comings Of Christ.
6. We Need Not Think That The "1000 Years" Are Necessarily Literal Since In The Book Of Revelation Numbers Are Often Used With Non-Literal Meanings. Nevertheless, Most Christians In The Early Church Believed That Christ Would Return In 1000 A.D.
7. This View Has Been Dominant In The Reformed Churches Since The Reformation.

**E. Pre-Millennialism - The Idea That Christ Will Come Again Twice, Once To Establish An Earthly Kingdom Over Which He Will Reign From Jerusalem And Another Coming At The End Of A 1000 Year Reign.**

1. It Usually Includes The Idea That Christ Will Restore The Old Testament Kingdom Of David With Himself As King And That People Will Be Saved By Works, Which Is How These Folks Think People Were Saved In The Ot, Contrary To Biblical Teaching.
2. These Folks Insist That The 1000 Years Must Be Literal, Even Though They "Spiritualize" Virtually Everything Else In Revelation, For Example, The "Seven Churches Of Asia."
3. Pre-Millennialists Often Insist On The "Soon Return" Of Christ And Attempt To Stir Up Excitement and Support For Themselves With This Teaching.

F. **Post-Millennialism** - Comes In Two Shades. The Classic Version Is That Christians Will Successfully Change The World Until It Is Good Enough For Christ To Return, When They See A 1000 Year Golden Age Before The End Of The World. They Give Little Detail About The "Golden Age" But See It As A Great Christian World.

1. There Is Another Form Of Post-Millennialism Held By Some Reformed Conservatives That Holds To A Present Millennium But One That Will End With Great Success For Christianity, Thus Avoiding Two Returns Of Christ. It Also Recognizes That There Will Be Enemies Of Christ Throughout This Millennium.
2. This Latter Post-Millennium Viewpoint Often Goes Hand In Hand With "Reconstructionism," The Idea That Christians Are To Take Over The Government And Leadership Of The World And Apply Christian Principles To Make The World A Better Place To Live. Reconstructionists Sometimes Think There Will Be A World Crisis In Which Mankind Recognizes Its Bankruptcy Of Ideas, And Nations Will Then Turn To Christians To Rule Them.

### III. The Second Coming Of Christ - How Do We Look At It?

#### A. The Second Coming Is The Next Great Event In History!

1. Christ Will "Come Again" To Judge The Living And The Dead, Is The Heart Of This Teaching.
2. He Will Divide The "Sheep From The Goats," See Matthew 25, And Send The Sheep To Heaven And The Goats To Hell. See Also Rev. 20:14ff
3. This Second Coming Of Christ Will Be 1) Sudden, 2) Known To All Men, And 3) To Late To Change Anything For Anybody.

B. **At Christ's Second Coming** - This World Will Be Destroyed And A "New Heaven And Earth" Will Be Created By God As Our Eternal Home.

1. 2 Peter 3 Gives Us The Details And Warns That The End Of The World Will Most Certainly Come.
2. Revelation 21 Describes The New Heaven And Earth And The Fulfillment Of God's Covenant Promises To His People, See Rev. 21:3 Especially.
3. God And Christ Will Be Personally Present and Provide Light. There Will Be No Sun, Moon Or Stars, And No Night. In addition, There Will Be No Temple For God Will Live Personally With And In His People.

#### C. The Precursors Of Christ's Second Coming

1. These Are Detailed In Matthew 24, Which Also Answers A Question About The Destruction Of Jerusalem, Something That Happened In 70 A.D. But "Of That Day And Hour Knows No Man, Nor The Angels In Heaven, But My Father Only," Says Jesus. So Predicting A Date Is Simply A Sin.
2. There Will Be Wars, Rumors Of Wars, Famines, Pestilences and Earthquakes, But The "End Is Not Yet." These Are The "Beginnings Of Sorrows."
3. The Gospel Will Be Preached To All Nations. When This Has Happened Is Not Up To Us To Decide, But To God (Cf Wycliffe Society Telling Us How Many Languages Are Left).
4. Very Important: We Are Ready By Faithfully Fulfilling The Calling God Has Given Us Here On Earth, Not By Some Special Procedure: See Matthew And Christ.