

## Bible Doctrines: Eschatology

### Introduction

#### 1. Why is this important?

- *Because God has placed in the Scriptures the answer to what will happen in the future.*
- *Because God wants us to know what will happen in the future for those who love and reject God.*
- *Because knowing what happens in the future brings comfort in knowing that God is in absolute and sovereign control.*
- *Because what you have done with Jesus will determine your attitude toward God's revelation of what happens in the future.*
  - If you have trusted Christ, the future brings the hope of eternal life.
  - If you continue to reject, the future brings a terrifying message: eternal judgment.

#### 2. What will happen in the last days?

##### a. Different Views

- i. Who would know better what will happen in the future than the one who knows the end from the beginning (Is. 46:10) and who is the alpha and omega (Rev. 1:8).
- ii. That being said, while everyone can read the various verses from the Bible about what God says will happen in the future, *not everyone agrees on what they mean.*
- iii. There are three main views about understanding future events in light of what the Scriptures say:
  1. Dispensational/Pretribulation/premillennial — Jesus will come again at any moment (i.e. His return is *imminent*), and after He comes to rapture the church, the seven year tribulation period will happen; then, after the tribulation Christ will reign for 1000 years.
  2. Amillennial — There is going to be no millennial literal, physical kingdom; the kingdom is present now.
  3. Postmillennial — The tribulation will happen before Christ comes back to rapture all the redeemed.
- iv. I believe that the Bible teaches that Jesus will return at any moment, that after the church is raptured there will be a great tribulation period such as the world has never seen, and when Christ returns for the second time to defeat the Beast and the False Prophet, He will set up a literal kingdom in which He will reign for 1000 years.

## b. Order of Events

### i. Rapture — 1 Thess. 4:13–18

**1 Thessalonians 4:13–18** <sup>13</sup> But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. <sup>14</sup> For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus. <sup>15</sup> For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive *and* remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. <sup>16</sup> For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. <sup>17</sup> Then we who are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. <sup>18</sup> Therefore comfort one another with these words.

### ii. Bema Seat — 2 Cor. 5:9–11

**2 Corinthians 5:9–11** <sup>9</sup> Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him. <sup>10</sup> For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things *done* in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad. <sup>11</sup> Knowing, therefore, the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are well known to God, and I also trust are well known in your consciences.

### iii. Beginning of Tribulation — Dan. 9:27

**Daniel 9:27** Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week;  
But in the middle of the week  
He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering.  
And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate,  
Even until the consummation, which is determined,  
Is poured out on the desolate.

### iv. Middle of Tribulation — Dan. 9:27

**Daniel 9:27** Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week;  
But in the middle of the week  
He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering.  
And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate,  
Even until the consummation, which is determined,  
Is poured out on the desolate.

v. Second Coming — Rev. 19:11–16

**Revelation 19:11–16** <sup>11</sup> Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him *was* called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. <sup>12</sup> His eyes *were* like a flame of fire, and on His head *were* many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. <sup>13</sup> He *was* clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. <sup>14</sup> And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. <sup>15</sup> Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. <sup>16</sup> And He has on *His* robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

vi. Armageddon — Rev. 19:17–21; see also Rev. 16:13–16

**Revelation 19:17–21** <sup>17</sup> Then I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the birds that fly in the midst of heaven, “Come and gather together for the supper of the great God, <sup>18</sup> that you may eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of captains, the flesh of mighty men, the flesh of horses and of those who sit on them, and the flesh of all *people*, free and slave, both small and great.” <sup>19</sup> And I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army. <sup>20</sup> Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone. <sup>21</sup> And the rest were killed with the sword which proceeded from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse. And all the birds were filled with their flesh.

vii. Judgment of the Nations — Matt. 25:46

**Matthew 25:31–33** <sup>31</sup> “When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. <sup>32</sup> All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides *his* sheep from the goats. <sup>33</sup> And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left.

viii. Binding Satan — Rev. 20:1–3

**Revelation 20:1–3** Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. <sup>2</sup> He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is *the* Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; <sup>3</sup> and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished. But after these things he must be released for a little while.

ix. Millennial Kingdom — Rev. 20:4–6

**Revelation 20:4–6** <sup>4</sup> And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then *I saw* the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received *his* mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. <sup>5</sup> But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This *is* the first resurrection. <sup>6</sup> Blessed and holy *is* he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.

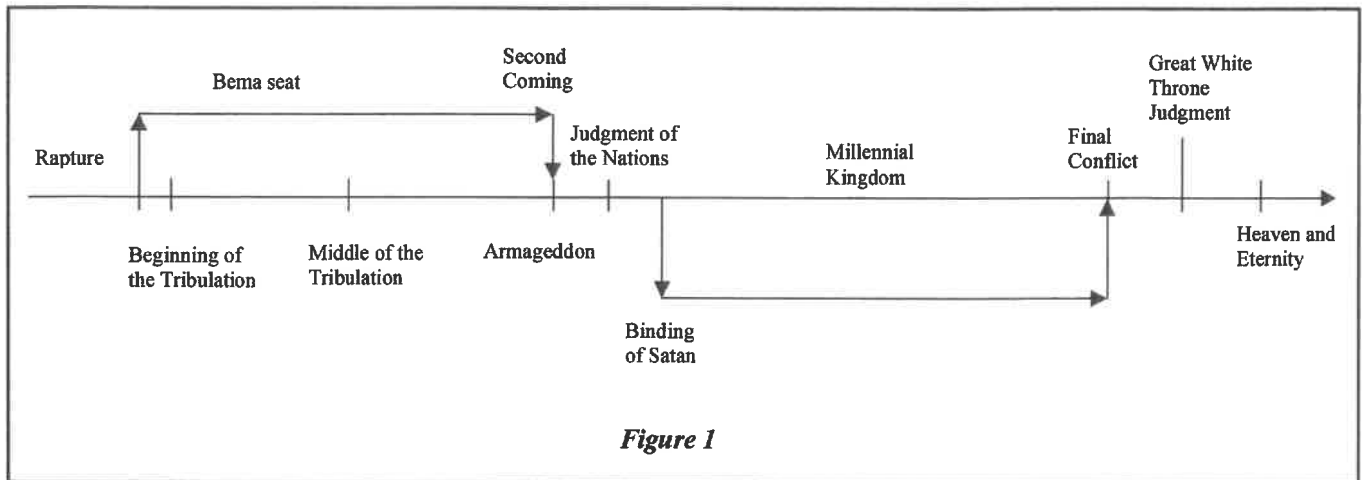
x. Final Conflict — Rev. 20:7–10

**Revelation 20:7–10** <sup>7</sup> Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison <sup>8</sup> and will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle, whose number *is* as the sand of the sea. <sup>9</sup> They went up on the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them. <sup>10</sup> The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet *are*. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

xi. White Throne Judgment — Rev. 20:11–15

**Revelation 20:11–15** <sup>11</sup> Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. <sup>12</sup> And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which *is the Book of Life*. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. <sup>13</sup> The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. <sup>14</sup> Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This *is* the second death. <sup>15</sup> And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.

xii. Heaven and Eternity — Rev. 21–22



### 3. How should I respond?

a. ***Know that God has always fulfilled what He said will come to pass. So believe what God has said.***

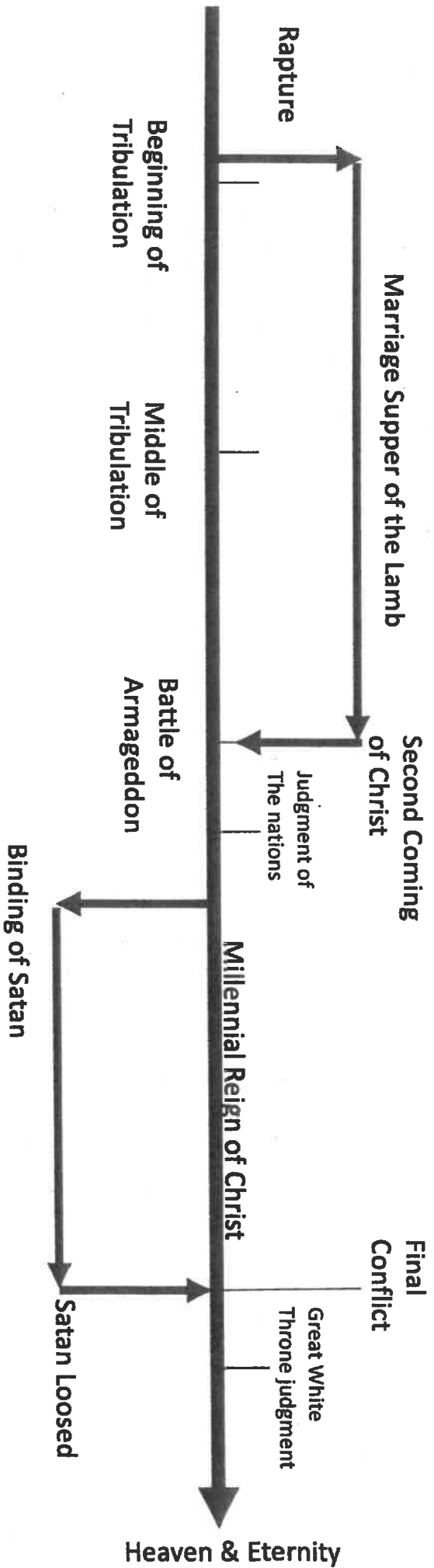
- i. The Bible records over and over again how God sent prophets who told what God would do in the future (Example: all the prophecies concerning Christ's coming).
- ii. Since we can see past prophecies fulfilled, we can have confidence that God will fulfill the prophecies about what has yet to happen today (e.g. Is. 14:24).

b. ***Since there truly is a place of eternal judgment, then place your trust in Jesus Christ for salvation.***

- i. All those who reject Christ will experience eternal torment and righteous judgment from God (Rom. 6:23; Rev. 20:15).
- ii. If you humble yourself and admit your sin (Rom. 3:23; Eph. 2:1ff) and place your faith completely in Jesus Christ (Rom. 6:23; Rom. 10:9).

**Notes / Questions:**





# Timeline of End Time Events

