

**General Eschatology:  
What Happens When Jesus Returns?**

**1. The Christian Confession of Faith**

- a. Return: “our Lord Jesus Christ will come from heaven, corporally and visibly, as He ascended”
  - i. Acts 1:9
  - ii. Revelation 22:20
- b. Resurrection and Final Judgment: “to declare Himself Judge of the living and the dead”
  - i. 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17; 1 Corinthians 15:23
  - ii. Revelation 20:12-13
- c. New Creation: “burning this old world with fire and flame to *cleanse* it”
  - i. 2 Peter 3:5-7
  - ii. Romans 8:19-22 (cf. Psalm 96, 98)
- d. Optimism: In the mean time, we serve a kingdom that is growing, a gospel that is spreading, a church that will prevail.
  - i. Daniel 2:44-45 (cf. v. 35)
  - ii. Acts 1:6-8
  - iii. Matthew 16:18, Revelation (all of it!)

**2. Common Questions: What About...**

- a. The Book of Revelation? Revelation describes the life of the church during the “last days” or the “end times” - that is, between the first and second advents of Christ.
  - i. Revelation 1:1
  - ii. Cf. Acts 2:17, Hebrews 1:2, 1 Peter 4:7
- b. Antichrist? The church always faces counterfeiting opposition to Christ.
  - i. Revelation 13:1 (cf. “man of sin” in 2 Thessalonians 2:7-8)
  - ii. 1 John 2:18
- c. Tribulation? God’s people share in the suffering of Christ for the entire time between the advents.
  - i. Matthew 24:29
  - ii. Revelation 1:9, 1 Peter 4:12-13
- d. Rapture? The popular doctrine is based on a combined misuse of two key passages.
  - i. 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
  - ii. Matthew 24:36-42

**3. Why Does This Matter? (Or does it?)**

- a. In sum: We are looking forward, not only to the resurrection of our bodies, but to the resurrection of all of creation (Romans 8:18-25). In the mean time, God’s kingdom will prevail (in a paradoxical, Christ-shaped manner), and his gospel will accomplish all that he sends it to do.
- b. What story are you living in? The way you answer this question shapes the way you live. (Optimism or pessimism? Disembodied spirits or resurrection bodies? Escape from creation, or the restoration of creation?)