



“E – END TIMES (Eschatology)”

A person can get through anything with hope. What is it that a Christian should put their hope in? It is the second coming of Christ! Whether we are struggling with suffering or are being tempted to compromise our faith in this world, it is the doctrine of the second coming of Christ that will rekindle our passion to persevere. The return of our King and how we are to live in light of it is one of the most important and practical doctrines we have as Christians.

As we look forward together to His coming...

I. WE ARE FLEXIBLE:

The Revelation: 4 views of interpretation:

1. **Partial Preterist** - The book is prophetic, chronological and symbolic. This church history symbolically and chronologically happened between the time of Christ and 90AD.

2. **Historicist** - The book is prophetic, chronological, and symbolic. It symbolically and chronologically plays out church history from the 1st century to the 2nd coming.

3. **Futurist** - The book is prophetic, chronological, and literal. Chapters 4-22 are seen as still to happen in the future.

4. **Idealist** - The book is prophetic, reciprocal, and symbolic. It symbolically expresses eternal spiritual truths in a reciprocal way.

4 Views Of The Millennium Kingdom: (Jesus' 1,000 year kingdom reign on Earth. Rev. 20:2-7)

1. **Amillennialism** - (figurative 1,000 yrs.) This describes the current church age where the inaugurated kingdom (good times) and tribulation (bad times) are both happening simultaneously. After this symbolic 1,000 years, Christ the King returns bringing the final eternal order. (From the 300-400s)

2. **Postmillennialism** - (figurative 1,000 yrs.) This describes the current church age where the world becomes more “Christianized” by the kingdom/gospel (good) message while bad times progressively fade away. This means things will get progressively better until he comes. After which Christ the King comes finally. (From the 300-400s)

3. **Historic Premillennialism** - (Can be a figurative or literal 1,000 years.) The current church age will be met with a still future great tribulation (bad). After this, Christ will return. This means things will get progressively worse until He comes. When He comes, Christ and his followers will reign (good) in mortal bodies for the 1,000 years. After the 1,000 years, Christ the King comes finally. (From the 300-400s)

4. **Dispensational Premillennialism** - (Literal 1,000 years.) Christ returns the first of two times, either before or during the future great tribulation (bad) to rapture the church. Christ will then come back later a second time, where He and His followers will reign in the kingdom (good) with mortal bodies for the 1,000 years headquartered in Jerusalem. He will bind Satan, the temple will be rebuilt, and the sacrificial system of the Old Testament will be reinstated. After the 1,000 years, Christ brings the final eternal order. (From the 1800's)

II. WE ARE FIRM:

“He will come again to judge the living and the dead.” - Apostles Creed 390 AD

S – Second Coming (Acts 1:9-11; 1 Thess. 4:16)

U – Ultimate Judgment (Acts 17:31, Heb 10:27, Rev 20:4-15; Jn 5:22; Acts 10:42; 2 Tim. 4:1).

R – Resurrection (1 Thess. 4:13-18; Luke 14:14; 20:34-38; Matt. 22:29-32; Mark 12:24-27; 1 Cor. 15:25-26; Ps. 110:1).

E – Eternal State (Rev. 20:11-15; 21:1-5; 1 Cor. 15:35-58; Luke 16:26; Matt. 25:41-46; Rom. 2:5-11; Lk. 12:47-48; 19:11-27; Col. 3:4; Matt. 16:27)

III. WE ARE FORTIFIED:

- The purpose of Eschatology is to become more pure like Christ.
- What He began He will bring to completion.

GROWING NOTES:

- The second coming of the King is very important. It is so important that it is the theme of the last book in the Bible and is mentioned in every book of the New Testament. Why do you think it is such an important doctrine and reality?
- How important is the doctrine of End Times for you and why?
- Of the different views of interpretation (Partial Preterist, Historicist, futurist, and Idealist) and the Millennium (Amill, Postmill, Historic Premill, and Dispensational Premill) which view would be most applicable to the first century people it was written to, the people today, and the next generation?
- How may Christ's Second coming, Ultimate judgment, Resurrection of the dead, and the Eternal state (S.U.R.E) make you more sure in your walk? Is this the case with you?