

1  **The Victorious kingdom**

A hope-filled, biblical view of the end times.

2  **What does the Bible *clearly* say?**

*The visions and apocalyptic writings make perfect sense in light of history and other scriptures...*

3 

*What happens on the “Last Day”*

- These are the clearest, *doctrinal* descriptions of what happens when Jesus returns.

- All visions/ interpretations of obscure passages and prophecies must align with the truths taught here:

1 Thessalonians 4:13-2:6

1 Corinthians 15:12—58

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4 

*The Return of the King:*

- The bible is clear about several things concerning the Last Day:

1. Jesus will return *bodily* to the earth:

Acts 1:11 *Jesus...will come in just the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven.“*

1Th 4:16 *For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout...with the trumpet of God...*

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*The Return of the King:*

2. All of the dead will be raised (resurrected):

John 5:28-29 *...an hour is coming, in which all who are in the tombs...will come forth;*

Rev 20:12-13 *I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne...the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and*

*death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them...*

*1 Cor 15:20-26 For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive...Christ the first fruits, after that those who are Christ's at His coming,*

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3. All of the living will be "caught up"

1 Thes 4:17 *Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the [clouds] to meet the Lord in the air...*

► *Air = the atmosphere around the earth*

NOTE: "Clouds" in the scriptures by default refer to supernatural manifestations of God:

Matt 17:5 *While he was still speaking, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and behold, a voice out of the cloud said...*

7

Some notes about the "rapture:"

- "Rapture" does not appear in the bible.
- "Caught up" [*harpazo*] is the biblical term
- Futurist View (Left Behind):
  - Jesus comes in secret to take away His bride
  - 7 year wedding supper in Heaven while tribulation (Rev 4-18) occurs back on earth
  - Jesus return with saints for millennial rule
  - (popularized by Scofield reference bible)

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Some notes about the "rapture:"

- We are "caught up" to meet the Lord in the air on the Last Day – simultaneous with the resurrection of the dead!

John 6:44 *No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day.*

- There are NO scriptures which *directly* teach that saints will be *caught up / taken away* into heaven for any period of time!

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4. All will stand before God's judgment seat:

John 5:28-29...*those who did the good deeds to a resurrection of life, those who committed the evil deeds to a resurrection of judgment.*

Rev 20:12-13...*and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds...and they were judged, every one of them according to their deeds.*

10 5. All evil (and its fruit) is destroyed:

Revelation 20:14-15 ...*death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death...if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.*

Matthew 25:41 ...*'Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels...*

1Cor 15:24-26 *then comes the end...He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet. The last enemy that will be abolished is death.*

11 6. The saints receive their rewards:

Rev 22:12 *"And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me...*

Matt 16:27 *the Son of Man will come...and then He will reward each according to his works.*

Luke 14:12-14 *when you give a feast, invite the poor... you shall be repaid at the resurrection of the just.*

1 Cor 3:8 ...*and each one will receive his own reward according to his own labor.*

12 6. The saints receive their rewards:

■ Based on all the "treasures laid up in heaven" (things done in/ with Christ)

1 Cor 3:12-15 *Now if any man builds on the foundation with gold.*

silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw...If any man's work which he has built on it remains, he will receive a reward. If any man's work is burned up, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.

► Like the parable of the talents/ minas

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7. The saints receive glorified bodies:

► Permanent, physical bodies (which make *manifest* the life which has been on the inside since we were born again)

Phil 3:20-21 ...we also eagerly wait for the Savior...who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body...

1 Cor 15:50-54 We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed; in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet...and the dead will be raised incorruptible

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8. Life in the New (re-newed) earth begins:

► An earth which has been being renewed by Christ through His Church now becomes Paradise – since evil has been removed

2 Pet 3:13 according to His promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells.

Note: this is also a progressive work – Isaiah prophesied this about the church age:

Isaiah 65:17-25 For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth...

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*A few things which do not appear in any clear revelation of the scriptures:*

1. A rising world order/ empire, which subdues the Kingdom of God, ruled by a satanically empowered antichrist.
2. A removal of all living saints from the earth before the Lord's return (*leaving the world without a witness?!?*)
3. A time of tribulation for the whole world, ending with the final & eternal punishment of those who live through it.



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*The already, but not yet, Kingdom*

- ▶ The Kingdom in the earth is a progressive work, which has been entrusted to the Church:

Eph 1:22 *And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church...*

- ▶ Our commission is to make disciples of all nations, *bringing* the Kingdom
- ▶ *Apostles*: “sent ones” – sent to enculturate conquered nations to Roman ways

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*The already, but not yet, Kingdom*

Heb 9:28 *so Christ also, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time for salvation without reference to sin, to those who eagerly await Him.*

- ▶ The completion of the work of *salvation* comes at the end of the last age, *when the apostolic mission has been successful.*
- ▶ Jesus returns when the culture of the nations closely resembles the culture of heaven

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*What is Jesus waiting for?*

- ▶ The bible gives several indicators of when Jesus will return (hint: *none of them gives a code for figuring out a specific date!*)

*The Church will mature and be a bride ready for her bridegroom:*

Eph 4:13 *...until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.*

19

*What is Jesus waiting for?*

Ephesians 5:27 *...that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she*

would be holy and blameless.

Rev 19:7...the marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride has made herself ready.

► i.e. -- When we finish getting ready for Him, the wedding's on!

20

*What is Jesus waiting for?*

*The full harvest of the ages to come in:*

2Pe 3:9 [He] is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.

► Explosive church growth: Worldwide: 600million in 1910; 2.3 billion in 2011

► On the day of Pentecost 3000 were saved. Today, it's 3000 per hour!

► More Islamic converts to Christianity in the last decade than in all history combined!

These are the REAL "signs of the times:"

►

21

*What is Jesus waiting for?*

*The enemies of The Kingdom of Light (NOT PEOPLE, -- demons) to be under the dominion of Jesus:*

Heb 10:12-13 He [is] waiting from that time onward until his enemies be made a footstool for his feet.

Maybe the issue of eschatology is not *us waiting for the Lord*, but Him waiting for us!

Matt 16:18...I will build my church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it...

22  **Jesus prophesies the Last Days**

*Matthew 24 and Luke 21 contain the prophecy of Jesus of the "end of the age," and is the most often misinterpreted passage in the NT*

23

*Jesus prophesies His "coming" and the "end of the age"*

► As a response to the disciples' question:

Matt 24:3 *Tell us, when will these things happen, and what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?*

- Jesus' reply gives specific "signs," instructions, and even a timeframe, meant to be understood by those who believed – like the parables.

24 

*The time frame, and the historic event*

34 "Truly I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place.

- This prophecy must be about events which would happen within 40 years. (a biblical generation)

30AD – prophecy → 70AD Temple destroyed

- *Every detail* Jesus prophesied happened during the next 40 years!

25 

*The time frame, and the historic event*

- Jesus' coming is not the same as his return.

► Matt 10:23 ...truly I say to you, you will not finish going through the cities of Israel until the Son of Man comes.

- NT writings of Jesus' "coming" all indicate "soon." We need not change the meaning of that word to see His word fulfilled!

Rev 1:1...things which must soon take place.

Rev 22:7 "And behold, I am coming quickly..

26 

*What does Jesus' Coming refer to?*

Matt 16:28 "Truly I say to you, there are some of those who are standing here who will not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in His kingdom."

Rev 1:7 BEHOLD, HE IS COMING WITH THE CLOUDS, and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him; and all the tribes of the earth will mourn over Him.

- It must refer to an event happening during the lifespan of the hearer!

27 

*What "things" were the disciples asking about?*

(2) ...not one stone here will be left upon another, which will not be

*torn down."*

- Ch. 24 follows three chapters prophesying judgment upon Jerusalem, its leaders, and all those who associate with them.
- *Curses fig tree → Parable of tenants → Parable of Wedding Feast → "seven woes"*
- Harrowing judgment: 23:32-36  
*Truly I say to you, all these things will come upon this generation...*

28

*When are the "Last Days" → "end of the age"*

- All of the apostles believed/ wrote that they were living in the Last Days/ end of the age

*Now these things...were written for our instruction, upon whom the ends of the ages have come. (1 Corinthians 10:11)*

*Children, it is the last hour; and just as you heard that antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have appeared; from this we know that it is the last hour. (1 John 2:18)*

*Q: The last hour of what?*

29

*When(what) WAS the end of the age?"*

- *The last hour of the Old Covenant system, which ended fully when the Temple was destroyed in 70AD:*

*Heb 9:26 ...but now once at the consum-mation of the ages He has been manifested to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.*

- The cataclysmic shift of the NT period was the change from *Old* to *New* Covenant.
- Jews were given one generation to enter

30

*The end of an age → the beginning of a new*

- After the Old Covenant was replaced, a permanent one was established:

*Heb 8:13 When He said, "A new covenant," He has made the first obsolete. But whatever is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to disappear.*

- Speaking of the Temple – the centerpiece of the Old Covenant system.



- Not speaking of the end of the world. (as it is sometimes translated)
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31 

*Joel Speaks of the "Day of the Lord"*

- It's *not* the return of the Lord/ Last Day

Joel 2:28-32 *It will come about after this...*

- After *what*? Joel prophesied pre-Exile, and about the return of Israel to their land.
- Peter: *this is what was spoken of through the prophet Joel* (Acts 2:16)
- *Following* the outpouring of Pentecost:  
*...the great and awesome day of the LORD comes*

32 

*The day of the Lord comes to Israel (again):*

- The next "Day of the Lord" was Roman war/ fall of Jerusalem. This one was avoidable (*if you believed Jesus*):  
(32) *"And it will come about that whoever calls on the name of the LORD Will be delivered; For on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem There will be those who escape, As the LORD has said, Even among the survivors whom the LORD calls.*
- *Deliverance* = from the siege of Jerusalem

33 

The signs: False Christs/ messiahs

(5) *...many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will mislead many.*

- Many claimed to be zealot Messiahs, who finally provoked Rome to a full on invasion.
- War against Rome lasted from 66-74AD
- Unbelieving, deceived Jews fell prey – tens of thousands died fighting against Rome
- Jesus revisited this one (vv.23-26) indicating its severity

34 

*So, who is the antichrist?*

- Jesus never once makes mention of this character (not even in

revelation!)

■ 3 occurrences of this term:

1 John 2:18-19, 22-23

1 John 4:2-3

2 John 1:7

35

*So, who is the antichrist?*

■ There is more than one:

*even now many antichrists have appeared;*

■ Part of the visible church community:

*They went out from us, but they were not really of us;*

■ They do not believe Jesus is the Son of God (in the way we understand it)

*The one who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist...*

36

*So, who is the antichrist?*

■ There is more than one:

*even now many antichrists have appeared;*

■ Part of the visible church community:

*They went out from us, but they were not really of us;*

■ Were in the time of John and the apostles:

*of which you have heard that it is coming, and now it is already in the world.*

37

*So, who is the antichrist?*

■ They do not believe Jesus is the Son of God (in the way we understand it)

*The one who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist...*

■ Denied that Jesus was in a human body:

*those who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh. his is the deceiver and the antichrist.*

38

*So, who is the antichrist?*

- *Antichrist*: Ante-Christos – a replacement/ substitute Christ/ means of salvation
- False teachers, leading God’s people astray into a pagan, unbiblical philosophy:
- Gnosticism: *Flesh is evil, so Christ must have been a “phantom” but not a real man.*
- Gospel of Judas/ Thomas were written based on this worldview.
- No clear biblical connection to any of the characters in Revelation.