

New Testament Theology

(NT2)

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Eschatology

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New Testament Theology (NT2)

1. Introduction to New Testament Theology
2. Christology & Incarnation
3. Trinity (adding Doctrines of Father & Holy Spirit)
4. Ecclesiology (The Church)
5. Christian Anthropology (Being Human before God)
6. Hamartiology/Soteriology (Sin & Salvation)
7. Eschatology (Last Things) & Final Exam

Doctrine of “Last Things” – Eschatology

Eschatology: from Greek *eschaton*, “the last;” and *logia*, “the study of.”

Christian eschatology is concerned with the study of the end of things – including the end of life, the end of the age, or the end of the world.

Critical aspects of Christian eschatology include the nature of death, the intermediate state, heaven, hell, the return of Jesus, the resurrection of the dead, the Rapture, the Great Tribulation, the Millenium, the end of the world, the last judgment, the new heaven and the new earth (The “World to Come”).

Four interpretive approaches to Revelation and all End-Time Prophecies:

Historicist – sees a broad view of history reflected in Revelation and other biblical prophecies.

Preterist – sees Revelation as referring mostly to events in the past, especially in the 1st Century.

Futurist – believes Revelation describes future events that have not yet been fulfilled.

Idealist, or **Symbolic** – holds that Revelation does not refer to actual people or events, but is an allegory of the spiritual path & ongoing struggle between good and evil.

What we believe about the Future

- **Jesus is coming again** (Mark 13:32-34; Acts 1:10-11; 1 Thess. 4:16-18; Matt. 24:42-44; Rev. 1:7; Heb. 9:27-28)
- **Resurrection of the saved** (2 Cor. 4:13-15, 5:1-5; Rev. 21:3-4; 1 Cor. 15:42-44; 1 John 3:2-3)
- **Resurrection of the unsaved** (2 Thess. 1:6-10; John 5:28-30)
- **Judgment** (Acts 17:31; 2 Cor. 5:9-10)
- **Hell** (Luke 16:31; Matt. 25:41; 2 Peter 2:4-10; Rev. 20:10-15)
- **Heaven** (Rev. 21:1-4; 1 Cor. 2:9)

What we believe about the Future

● Jesus is coming again

They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. ¹¹ “Men of Galilee,” they said, “why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.”

Acts 1:10-11

For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17

Just as people are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment, ²⁸ so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him. Hebrews 9:27-28

What we believe about the Future

● Resurrection of the Saved

Since we have that same spirit of faith, we also believe and therefore speak, ¹⁴ because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus from the dead will also raise us with Jesus and present us with you to himself.

2 Corinthians 4:13-14

So will it be with the resurrection of the dead. The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable; ⁴³ it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; ⁴⁴ it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body.

1 Corinthians 15:42-44

And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. ⁴ ‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death’ or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”

Revelation 21:3-4

What we believe about the Future

● Resurrection of the Unsaved

Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice ²⁹ and come out—those who have done what is good will rise to live, and those who have done what is evil will rise to be condemned.

John 5:28-29

God is just: He will pay back trouble to those who trouble you ⁷ and give relief to you who are troubled, and to us as well. This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels. ⁸ He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. ⁹ They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might ¹⁰ on the day he comes to be glorified in his holy people and to be marveled at among all those who have believed.

2 Thessalonians 1:6-10

What we believe about the Future

● Coming judgment

For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead. Acts 17:31

So we make it our goal to please him, whether we are at home in the body or away from it. ¹⁰ For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad. 2 Corinthians 5:9-10

● Heaven

Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,” for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. ² I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. ⁴ ‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death’ or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.” Revelation 21:1-4

What we believe about the Future

● Hell

Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.

Matthew 25:41

For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but sent them to hell, putting them in chains of darkness to be held for judgment; ⁵ if he did not spare the ancient world when he brought the flood on its ungodly people, but protected Noah, a preacher of righteousness, and seven others; ... ⁹ if this is so, then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials and to hold the unrighteous for punishment on the day of judgment.

2 Peter 2:4-5, 9

And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

Revelation 20:10

Interpretation of End Times

- **Premillennialism** – the belief that Jesus will return and will be physically on the earth for a 1000 year millennial reign, in literal interpretation of Revelation 20:1-6. (May be pre- or post-tribulation premillennialism.)
- **Amillennialism** – the belief that the 1000 years referred to in Revelation is a *symbolic* number, and that the millennium has already begun as the current Church Age.
- **Postmillennialism** – the belief that Jesus will return after a 1000 year Golden Age, during which Christian ethics prosper. (There are different opinions about whether the 1000 years is literal or figurative.)

Comparison of Christian millennial teachings

