

What Every Christian Should Know



Core Beliefs to Help You
Stand Strong in a Shifting World

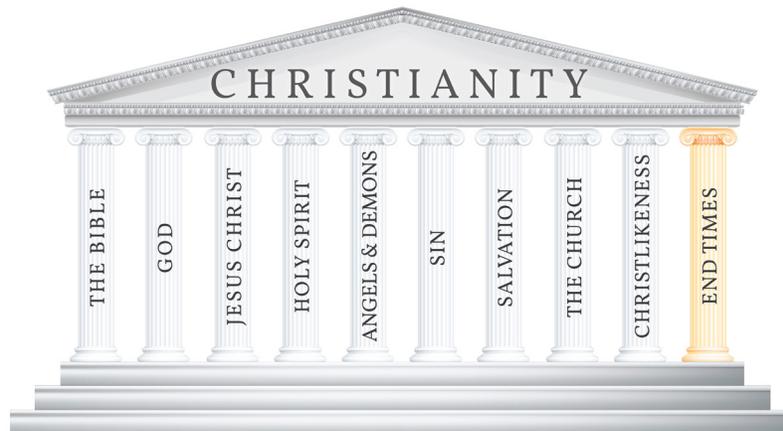
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“What Every Christian Should Know About The End Times”

2 PETER 3:9-13

Introduction: Many Christians wrongly believe that Bible prophecy is too difficult to understand or too irrelevant to everyday life to matter. However, as we will discover today, neither claim is true. As we come to the end of our series today, it seems appropriate to address “What every Christian should know about the end times.”

10 PILLARS OF HISTORIC CHRISTIANITY



I. The Benefits Of Understanding The End Times

A. The End Times Are a **Major** Theme of the Bible

B. Understanding the End Times Helps Us **Interpret** and **Apply** the Bible

Isaiah 65:20 “No longer will there be in it an infant who lives but a few days, or an old man who does not live out his days; for the youth will die at the age of one hundred and the one who does not reach the age of one hundred will be thought accursed.”

Matthew 25:40 “The King will answer and say to them, ‘Truly I say to you to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me.’”

C. Anticipating the End Times Motivates Us to Live in a **God-Honoring** Way

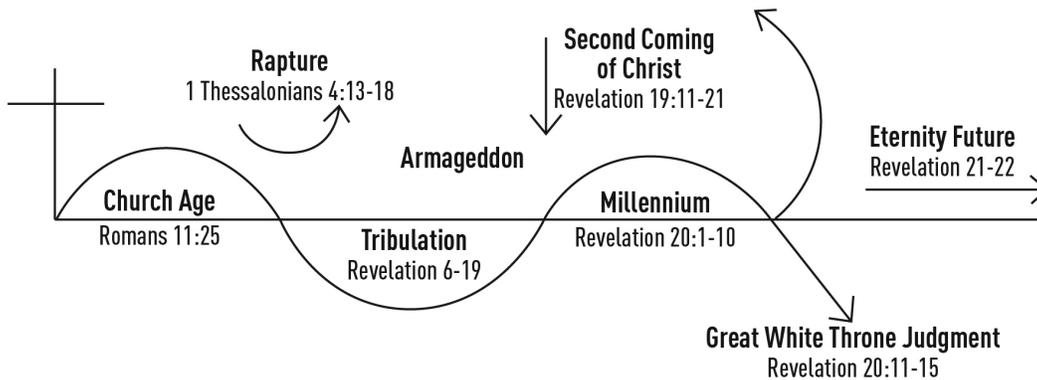


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2 Peter 3:11-12 ¹¹ “Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, ¹² looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the elements will melt with intense heat!”

II. The Key Events Of The End Times



A. The Church Age (Romans 11:25)

Definition: The Church Age is that period of time from Pentecost until the Rapture during which Gentiles are invited to participate in the **blessings** of the **Abrahamic Covenant** .

Romans 11:1, 25 ¹ “I say then, God has not rejected His people, has He? May it never be! For I too am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin. ²⁵ For I do not want you, brethren, to be uninformed of this mystery, lest you be wise in your own estimation, that a partial hardening has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.”

B. The Rapture of the Church (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18)

Definition: The Rapture is the **snatching away** to heaven of all Christians **before** the beginning of the Tribulation.

1 Thessalonians 4:16-18 ¹⁶ “For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet of God; and the dead in Christ shall rise first. ¹⁷ 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. ¹⁸ Therefore comfort one another with these words.”



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Different Views of the Rapture

1. **Pre-Tribulation Rapture** - Occurs **before** the Great Tribulation.
2. **Post-Tribulation Rapture** - Occurs **at the end** of the Tribulation and almost **concurrent** with the Second Coming of Christ.
3. **Mid-Tribulation Rapture** - Occurs **after** the first three and one-half years of the Tribulation.

C. **The Tribulation** (Revelation 6-19)

Definition: The Tribulation is the seven-year period that **begins** when the Antichrist signs a peace covenant with Israel and **ends** with Armageddon and the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.

The Purpose of the Tribulation is Two-Fold

1. **The salvation of both Jews and Gentiles.**
2. **The condemnation of unbelievers.**

D. **The Second Coming of Christ** (Revelation 19:11-16)

Definition: The Second Coming of Christ is the **visible** return of Jesus Christ to establish His kingdom on **earth**.

Revelation 19:11, 14-16 ¹¹ “And I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and He who sat upon it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and wages war. ¹⁴ And the armies which are in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, were following Him on white horses. ¹⁵ And from His mouth comes a sharp sword, so that with it He may smite the nations, and He will rule them with a rod of iron, and He treads the wine press of the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty. ¹⁶ And on His robe and on His thigh He has a name written, ‘KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.’”



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E. The Millennium (Revelation 20:1-3; Isaiah 11:4, 6, 9)

Definition: The Millennium is the thousand-year period of time during which Christ will reign on the earth, **fulfilling** God’s **promises** to Abraham and his believing descendants.

Revelation 20:1-3 ¹ “Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding the key of the abyss and a great chain in his hand. ² And he laid hold of the dragon, the serpent of old, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; ³ and he threw him into the abyss, and shut it and sealed it over him, so that he would not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were completed; after these things he must be released for a short time.”

Isaiah 11:4, 6, 9 ⁴ “But with righteousness He will judge the poor, and decide with fairness for the afflicted of the earth; and He will strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, and with the breath of His lips He will slay the wicked. ⁶ And the wolf will dwell with the lamb, and the leopard will lie down with the kid, and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little boy will lead them. ⁹ They will not hurt or destroy in all My holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.”

F. The Great White Throne Judgment (Revelation 20:11-15)

Definition: The Great White Throne Judgment is God’s **final** judgment against all **unbelievers** who have ever lived.

Revelation 20:11-13, 15 ¹¹ “And I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them. ¹² And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and the 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. ¹³ And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them; and they were judged, every one of them according to their deeds. ¹⁵ And if anyone’s name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.”

Important Characteristics of the Great White Throne Judgment

1. The subjects of the Judgment: **Unbelievers** (Revelation 20:13a)

Revelation 20:13a “And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them;”



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2. The basis for the Judgment: **Works** (Revelation 20:13b)

Revelation 20:13b “...and they were judged, every one of them according to their deeds.”

3. The result of the Judgment: **Eternal Condemnation** (Revelation 20:14-15)

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

G. Eternity Future (Revelation 21-22)

Definition: The **permanent** state of **believers** inhabiting the new heaven and earth and **unbelievers** inhabiting the lake of fire.

2 Peter 3:7, 10 ⁷ “But the present heavens and earth by His word are being reserved for fire, kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men. ¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up.”

Revelation 21:1-4 ¹ “And I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer any sea. ² And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, ‘Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He shall dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself shall be among them, ⁴ and He shall wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there shall no longer be any death; there shall no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away.’”

Revelation 20:15 “And if anyone’s name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.”

III. How We Should Respond To The End Times

A. **Stay Alert** (1 Corinthians 15:52)

1 Corinthians 15:52 “In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.”



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B. **Stay Focused** (1 Corinthians 15:58)

1 Corinthians 15:58 “Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord.”

2 Peter 3:9 “The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.”

C. **Stay Encouraged** (John 16:33)

John 16:33 “These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world.”

Conclusion