

Doctrine for Dummies

Lesson 9

Eschatology – The End Times

The Old Testament prophets all spoke of a future day of reckoning in which this world would be judged, evil ended, and God's Anointed One would rule with righteousness and justice. Daniel foresaw that after all the selfishly ambitious rulers had been judged by God, "the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which will never be destroyed" (Dan 2:44). The New Testament authors also predicted "the day of the Lord" (2 Peter 3:10) would be a time of judgment and cleansing of evil. Jesus promised to return for the church before the world is destroyed, and His disciples have always anticipated Him setting up the Kingdom of God in which He would rule (Acts 1:6).

1. What was the major theme of the prophet Joel (Joel 1:15; 2:1, 11; 2:31)? Did Isaiah speak of the future day of judgment (Isa 2:12; 13:6-9)?
2. During the Passion Week of Christ, the disciples of Jesus stopped on the Mount of Olives one evening to ask Jesus what questions in Matt 24:3? What will the signs of the end not be (Matt 24:4-8)?
3. Did Jesus predict a time just before His second coming of intense persecution (Matt 24:9, 21)?
4. How sure, how apparent, how obvious will the return of the real Christ be in Matt 24:27-31? Does it sound like the second coming of Christ can be counterfeited?
5. The Son of Man is the prophetic, apocalyptic name for the Messiah which Jesus uses here for Himself at the second coming. Will anyone be able to doubt Him after this awesome event (Matt 24:30, Philippians 2:10-11)? Who will all the heavenly angels gather together to be judged at that time (Matt 13:41-43; 16:27; 24:31; 25:31-32)?

6. What analogy did Jesus use to describe the condition of the world and general attitude of people just prior to His coming (Matt 24:37-39)? Based on the parables Jesus told after the prophecy, what was His main purpose in revealing the future (Matt 24:42-44; 25:13)?

7. According to 2 Peter 3:3-7, what is the attitude of the world about the prospect of the second coming and judgment? Why is there a delay in the second coming (2 Peter 3:9)?

8. What is the predicted fate of this fallen world in 2 Peter 3:10? What are believers looking forward to in 2 Peter 3:13? What will eternal life be like then (Rev 21:4)?

9. Ultimately, what have all the believers in the Bible been looking forward to in faith (Hebrews 11:10, 16; 2 Timothy 4:18)? What did John see in his final prophecy in Rev 21:1-2?

10. Who will live in the new heaven according to Rev 21:6? What do they thirst for (Matt 5:6, John 4:13-14; 7:37-39)? In Rev 21:7 who “overcomes” (1 Jn 5:4-5)?