



The Importance of Eschatology

The Study of the “End”

The Doctrine of Last Things

- * Two distinct but inseparable questions:
 - * The destiny of the individual
 - * The destiny of history
- * “In biblical eschatology, individual destiny must be understood in connection with the destiny of history as a whole.”

- International Standard Bible Encyclopedia

The End Times

- * Exciting passages!
- * Easily misunderstood!
- * Do we need this?
 - * Avoid the subject or abandon it
 - * Just live a good moral life & everything else will take care of itself
- * The Bible is thoroughly eschatological!

O.T. Eschatology

- * They looked forward:
 - * The seed of woman (Genesis 3:15)
 - * The seed of Abraham (Genesis 22:18)
 - * The tribe of Judah (Genesis 49:10)
 - * Descendant of David (2 Samuel 7:12-13)
- * Three “offices” to represent God:
 - * Prophet, Priest and King
 - * The Redeemer would fulfill all three

O.T. Eschatology

- * The Davidic Promise of 2 Samuel 7
 - * Sit on David's throne forever
- * The Redeemer-King will be Deity
 - * "Immanuel" & "Mighty God"
- * Kingdom, the new covenant, restoration, judgment, new heaven/earth
- * Developed over the centuries

O.T. Eschatology

- * This sustained the OT believer!
 - * In His darkest hours, he turned here
 - * In the “last days” God would accomplish what He had promised
 - * This was forward-looking faith
- * Hebrews 11 makes this point
- * They believed!

N.T. Eschatology

- * There are some differences
 - * We enjoy deeper blessings & understanding of God's redemptive plan
 - * Many promises have come to fruition, including the coming of Christ
- * There are events still to come
 - * "Now, but not yet"
 - * We look forward!

2 Timothy 1:12

“For this reason I also suffer these things, but I am not ashamed; for I know whom I have believed and I am convinced that He is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him until that day.”

Titus 2:11-14

“For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus, who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.”

N.T. Eschatology

“From first to last, and not merely in the epilogue, Christianity is eschatology, is hope, forward looking... The eschatological is not one element of Christianity, but it is the medium of the Christian faith as such, the key in which everything is set... the eschatological outlook is characteristic of all Christian proclamation...”

- Jurgen Moltmann, Theology of Hope. p 16

But Why Eschatology?

- * Why all the prophecies?
 - * They have an apologetic value
 - * But they are not necessary in that sense
- * They motivated and encouraged!
 - * Even 400 years (or 2000) in advance
- * The same is true today!
 - * The promise of Christ's return
 - * The promise of earth's destruction

What Eschatology Does

- * Teaches us there is an “end”
- * Reminds us that God has ALL power & authority
- * Encourages us to prepare
- * Focuses on the spiritual struggle
- * Gives us a sense of urgency

What If We Don't Teach It?

The Return of Jesus

- * If Jesus does not return, **NOTHING** else matters!
- * Our hope is in the resurrection
 - * Not in some “afterlife” of spirits
- * This is when Satan is finally defeated
- * We look forward!

Lord, Come Quickly!

