

X. ESCHATOLOGY

A. The Rapture and Tribulation

1. *Imminent* - We are instructed to live expectantly, watching for the return of the Lord Jesus Christ who could come any day, and who will come very soon ^{Titus 2:11-13}.
2. *Resurrection and Rapture* - When the trump of God sounds, the Lord will raise the dead in Christ and rapture (catch up) them, along with all those saints who remain alive, to meet Him in the air ^{I Thes 4:16-17}.
3. *New Life* - At the last trump, believers shall be changed from corruptible to incorruptible, and from mortal to immortal for all eternity ^{I Cor 15:51-53}.
4. *Pre-Tribulation* - No born again believer saved prior to the sounding of the last trumpet will face the wrath of God that will be poured out upon the earth during the "tribulation" era ^{I Thes 1:10}.
5. *No More Restraint* - When the last trumpet sounds, the Holy Spirit will be taken from the earth which will allow the revelation of the anti-christ ^{II Thes 2:7-8}.
6. *Seven Years of Tribulation* - Prior to the day when the Lord physically sets foot on earth, there shall be seven years of tribulation ^{Dan 9:27} where God will pour out His wrath upon Israel ^{Jer 30:7}.
7. *Deception* - Those who rejected Christ prior to the tribulation will have tremendous delusion imposed upon them ^{II Thes 2:11-12}.
8. *Anti-christ* - during the "tribulation" Israel will mistake anti-christ for the Messiah. At the end, the Lord will return to defeat him ^{Rev 19:11}, and cast him into a bottomless pit for a thousand years ^{Rev 20:2-3}.

B. The Millennial Reign of Christ and the Final Judgment

1. *Return* - After the rapture and tribulation, the Lord Jesus Christ will literally and visibly return ^{Rev 1:7} to the earth to establish His kingdom for one thousand years ^{Rev 20:6-7}.
2. *Release of Satan* - At the end of the thousand years, Satan will be loosed to deceive the nations one last time ^{Rev 20:7-8}.
3. *Deception* - Even though they have been ruled by the Lord Jesus Christ for one thousand years, many of the inhabitants of the earth will rebel against Him and be deceived by Satan at the end of this Godly reign ^{Rev 20:8-9}.
4. *Final Battle* - At the end of the thousand years Satan will gather an army to fight against the saints. Fire will come down from heaven and devour that army ^{Rev 20:9}. The devil will be case into the lake of fire and be tormented for ever and ever ^{Rev 20:10}.
5. *Judgment* - After the destruction of Satan, the unsaved will be judged by God according to their works and all cast into the lake of fire ^{Rev 20:12-14}.
6. *Second Death* - The second death is an eternal death which includes separation from God, eternal torment in the lake of fire and brimstone, and no hope of ever being delivered from this judgment ^{Rev 20:14-15}.

Titus 2:11 For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, **12** Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; **13** Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;

I Thes 4:16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: **17** Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

I Cor 15:51 Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, **52** In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. **53** For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.

I Thes 1:10 And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come.

II Thes 2:7 For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way. **8** And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming

Dan 9:27 And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease

Jer 30:7 Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob's trouble; but he shall be saved out of it.

II Thes 2:11 And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: **12** That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

Rev 19:11 And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.

Rev 20:2 And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, **3** And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.

Rev 1:7 Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him

Rev 20:6 Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years. **7** And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, **8** And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea. **9** And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them. **10** And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

Rev 20:12 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. **13** And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. **14** And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. **15** And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

C. Eternity

1. *New Heaven and Earth* - The heaven and earth will be replaced ^{Rev 21:1}.
2. *Cohabitation* - God will dwell with men for all eternity in this new creation ^{Rev 21:3}.
3. *Perfection* - There will be no more sadness, death, pain, or sin for ever and ever ^{Rev 21:3-4}.

Rev 21:1 ¶ And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. **2** And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. **3** And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. **4** And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.