

The Forgotten Fundamentals: The Future

Selected Scriptures

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1. The future has already been determined and revealed.

"I am God, and there is no one like Me, declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things which have not been done, saying, 'My purpose will be established, and I will accomplish all My good pleasure' " (Isaiah 46:9-10)

"The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show to His bond-servants, the things which must soon take place" (Revelation 1:1)

"I will show you what must take place..." (Revelation 4:1)

2. The Church will flourish until the Rapture.

"I will build My church and the gates of Hades will not overpower it" (Matthew 16:18)

"we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven...and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up [snatched, raptured] together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord" (1 Thessalonians 4:15-17)

3. Christians will be rewarded for their works.

"Behold, the LORD has proclaimed to the end of the earth... 'Lo, your salvation comes; behold His reward is with Him, and His recompense before Him' " (Isaiah 62:11)

"I, the LORD search the heart, I test the mind, even to give to each man according to his ways, according to the results of his deeds" (Jeremiah 17:10)

"great is your reward in heaven" (Matthew 5:12)

"your Father who sees in secret will repay you" (Matthew 6:4)

"For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any man builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each man's work will become evident; for the day will show it because it is to be revealed with fire, and the fire itself will test the quality of each man's work. If any man's work which he has built on it remains, he will receive a reward. If any man's work is burned up, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire" (1 Corinthians 3:11-15)

"we...prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord. Therefore we also have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad [worthless, fruitless]" (2 Corinthians 5:8-10)

4. Society will continue to degenerate.

"The Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons" (1 Timothy 4:1)

"But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come. For men will be lovers of self..." (2 Timothy 3:1-2)

"evil men and imposters will proceed from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived" (2 Timothy 3:13; cf. Revelation 6-18)

5. The Antichrist will dominate the world for seven years.

"there will be a time of distress such as never occurred since there was a nation until that time" (Daniel 12:1)

"there will be a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever shall be" (Matthew 24:21; cf. Revelation 7:14)

"the hour of trial, that hour which is about to come upon the whole world, to try earth-dwellers" (Revelation 3:10)

"A king will arise insolent and skilled in intrigue, and his power will be mighty, but not by his own power, and he will destroy to an extraordinary degree" (Daniel 8:23-24)

- "The prince who is to come will destroy the city and the sanctuary...and he will make a firm covenant with the many for seven, but in the middle of the seven he will put a stop to the sacrifice and the grain offering" (Daniel 9:26-27; cf. Revelation 6-18)*
6. Israel will be regathered and restored.
"God has not rejected His people whom He foreknew...God is able to graft them in again...a partial hardening has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in, and thus all Israel will be saved" (Romans 11:2, 23, 25-26; cf. Revelation 7; Zechariah 12-13)
7. Christ will return to earth with His saints to reign for 1,000 years.
"I am coming" (Revelation 22:20)
- "Then the sovereignty, the dominion, and the greatness of all the kingdoms under the whole heaven will be given to the people of the saints of the Highest One" (Daniel 7:27)*
- "When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory" (Colossians 3:4)*
- "And You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign upon the earth" (Revelation 5:10)*
- "And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given to them. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of the testimony of Jesus and because of the Word of God, and those who had not worshipped the beast or his image...and they came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years...they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years" (Revelation 20:4, 6)*
8. God will destroy the heavens and the earth with fire.
"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...the coming of the day of God, on account of which the heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the elements will melt with intense heat." (2 Peter 3:10, 12)

9. God will cast Satan and the wicked into the lake of fire.
"And when the thousand years are completed, Satan will be released from his prison...and the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are also; and they will be tormented day and night for ever and ever....And death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire" (Revelation 20:7, 10, 14-15)
10. God will create a new eternal heaven and earth.
"For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth, and the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind" (Isaiah 65:17)
- "the new heavens and the new earth which I make will endure before Me" (Isaiah 66:22)*
- "But according to His promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells" (2 Peter 3:13)*
- "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" (Revelation 21:1)*

Recommended Reading

Heaven, W. A. Criswell and Paige Patterson
 The Glory of Heaven, John MacArthur
 Things to Come, J. Dwight Pentecost
 The Coming Last Days Temple, Randall Price
 Understanding End Times Prophecy, Paul Benware