

General Eschatology (utilizing the *Westminster Shorter Catechism as a guide*)

I. Individual/Personal Eschatology

- A. The Nature of Death
- B. The Intermediate State
 - 1. That there is one for those who die before Christ returns.
 - 2. For unbelievers at death
 - a. A state of provisional torment for their souls.
 - b. A state of imprisonment for their bodies awaiting the resurrection unto the lake of fire.
 - 3. For believers at death
 - a. A state of provisional glory for their souls.
 - b. A state of "sleep" for their bodies as they await the resurrection unto glory.
- C. Contemporary Issues Surrounding Death for Believers
 - 1. Burial and Cremation
 - 2. Death and dying - suicide, euthanasia, palliative care, advanced directives, etc.

II. General/Cosmic Eschatology

- A. Christ's Return and the Last Day
- B. Christ's Return in Relation to the 1,000 Years of Revelation 20
 - 1. Historic Pre-millennialism - support for and biblical critique of
 - 2. Dispensational Pre-Millennialism - support for and biblical critique of
 - 3. The Structure of Revelation
 - 4. Revelation 20 Understood within the Context of Revelation and the Rest of the NT
 - 5. Christ's Return Will be after the 1,000 Years
 - 6. The Binding of Satan for 1,000 Years
 - 7. The Reigning of the Saints for 1,000 Years
 - 8. Historic Post-millennialism - support for and biblical critique of
 - 9. A-millennialism - support for and setting forth as the most consistent biblical position
- C. The Accompanying Events of Christ's Return
 - 1. The great tribulation (Satan's little season, the man of sin)
 - 2. Christ's return/descent from heaven to the earth
 - a. With all the holy angels
 - b. With the souls of the departed saints following
 - c. Accompanied by great cosmic disturbances and upheaval
 - d. The great shout & the last trumpet
 - 3. The general resurrection of the dead - both the just and unjust
 - a. The bodies of the righteous dead are raised/glorified and reunited with their souls as they descend with Christ.
 - b. The bodies/souls of the righteous living are translated/glorified and "caught up" to be with the Lord in the air as He descends.
 - c. The bodies of the unjust dead are raised unto dishonor and reunited with their souls to stand on earth and behold Christ descending.
 - d. The bodies/souls of the unjust living are transformed unto dishonor as they stand on earth and behold Christ descending.
 - 4. The General Judgment: The Righteous Judged (Matthew 25:31-46, 2 Corinthians 5:10)
 - 5. The General Judgment: The Unrighteous Judged
 - a. The believer assisting in the judging of the unrighteous (1 Cor. 6:1-3)
 - b. The fallen angels judged & sentenced to everlasting miseries (Jude 6, Rev. 20:10)
 - c. The unbeliever judged (Matthew 25:31-33, 41-46; Rev. 20:11-15)
 - 6. The Final State and Abode of the Unrighteous - the Lake of Fire
 - a. A punishment of loss - a dreadful separation from all that is good
 - b. A punishment of pain - an unspeakable suffering of all that is bad
 - c. Hell is Eternal: Biblical Teaching on the Duration of Punishment for the Wicked

The Final Abode and State of the Righteous

I. The Abode of the Righteous:

The destruction/purification/regeneration/re-birth of the heavens and earth

Cosmic Theme

Isaiah 65:17-19 (cf. 66:22)

2Peter3:1-15a

Romans 8:17-25

Revelation 6:12-17

Revelation 21:1-8

Garden Theme

Isaiah 11:6-9

Revelation 22:1-3

Temple Theme

Ezekiel 37:24-28

Revelation 21:3

City Theme

Psalms 46 & 48

Hebrews 11:10, 16, 12:22, 13:14

Revelation 21:2

Beyond Mere Restoration

Revelation 22:1-3

II. The Offering up of Christ's Finished Mediatorial Work to the Father

1 Corinthians 15:20-28

III. The State of the Righteous - Glorious!

IV. The Employments of the Righteous - Noble Service!