

Introduction

- Many believe that this world will trundle on and on forever.
- Many have lived in fear of wipe out in war or nuclear disaster.
- The Bible says that God Himself will bring the world as we know it to an end at the time of His appointing.
- In answer to the question - will this world go on forever - NO not as we know it.

1. Jesus Christ will Return

- Jesus Christ spoke of His return John 14:3 p1082
- Angels pointed to His return Acts 1:11 p1092
- The apostles spoke of His return Acts 3:20 p1095
- The return of the Lord spoken of in different ways in the Bible - an unveiling, an appearing and the presence.
- No secret rapture.
- Date and timing of His coming known only to God Matthew 24:36 p 994
- He will return at the end of the world
- *How would we prepare for His return - see II Peter 3:11 p 1224*

2. Events before He Returns

- The Bible speaks of certain events which must come to pass before Christ returns.
- If there are events that must happen how could the Lord say Revelation 22:20 p 1250?
- All nations reached Mark 13:10 p 1019
- Turning away and Trouble I Timothy 4:1 p1192
- Rise of Antichrist I John 2:18&19 p 1226
- Signs & wonders Matt. 24:9,21,29 p 993
- *Does Christ's coming mean that we should never plan anything? II Thessalonians 3:6 p 1138*

3. What Will his Return Be Like

- Though we don't know when it will be exactly we do know what it will be like.
- Personal Acts 1:11 p 1092
- Physical Acts 3:20&21 p1095
- Visible Matthew 26:64 p 998
- Sudden Mark 13:33-37 p 1019
- Glorious II Thessalonians 1:7 p 1189

- *How does Titus 2:12&13 say we should be living? Do you think this is how we live?*

4. The Purpose of His Second Coming

- When Christ returns there will be great changes.
- His coming will involve two events - the resurrection and judgement.
- He will raise the dead I Corinthians 15:52 p 1157
- All will be raised. John 5:28&29 p 1069
- Believers will have wonderful new bodies the same but different I Corinthians 15:42-44 p 1165
- The judgement will be a single event
- All will appear at the judgement Matthew 25:31-33 p 995
- Believers will suffer no condemnation; unbelievers will be punished soul and body for ever in hell.
- The judgement will display how holy, righteous and merciful God is.
- The universe will also be transformed Matthew 19:28 p 9987 Psalm 96 p 602
- Every trace of sin removed II Peter 3:7

- Heaven and earth will be of one wonderful unity, no longer separated.

Conclusion

- What was the early Christians view of the end and why? I Corinthians 16:22 p 1157
- Write out Hebrews 9:28 p1207 What will this mean for you personally?

Questions

1. If you knew that Christ was going to return in 24 hours what impact would this make on your life?
2. What impact does the Bible's teaching about the final judgement have on you?
3. Read Matthew 6:19-21 and note what you are going to do about this?
4. How would you help someone who says heaven is just a wild dream.

Three Main Views

- The word millennium means 1000 years
- The term comes from Revelation 20:4&5
- Throughout church history there have been three main views on the millennium.

Amillennialism

This view says that the millennium is not literally 1000 years and that we are now in it.

It is the gospel age which will continue until Christ's return. When Christ returns there will be the resurrection, judgement and new heavens and earth all at once.

Postmillennialism

According to this view Christ will return after the millennium. The progress of the gospel will gradually advance so that many will be converted and that there will be a long period of time when peace and righteousness will occur on earth. After this golden time the end will come.

Premillennialism

This view says that Christ will come back before the millennium. This involves Christ setting up a millennial kingdom on earth when Christ will be physically present on earth reigning with believers who have been raised from the dead. This view says that unbelievers get a second chance after Christ comes. At the end of 1000 years Satan is loosed. This view entails several resurrections.

Reformed Christians through the ages have held to an Amillennial or Postmillennial view.

Life's Big Questions Answered



Study 5

Will this world go on forever?