

The End of Redemptive History

1 Corinthians 15:54

Read 1 Corinthians 15:50-54

Rapture: the belief that the church will be taken away in a moment, in the future, just before a time of great tribulation

Pre-Millennial View of the Return of Christ

- 1.) Christ comes to Gather his church
- 2.) Christ comes after a period of tribulation where he defeats his enemy and rules for a thousand years here on the earth

Main Idea: When Christ Returns, That Will Be the End of Redemptive History.

1.) The Transformation of Those Who Belong to Christ Will Fulfill This Prophecy in Isaiah 25.

And in this mountain The LORD of hosts will make for all people A feast of choice pieces, A feast of wines on the lees, Of fat things full of marrow, Of well-refined wines on the lees. 7 And He will destroy on this mountain The surface of the covering cast over all people, And the veil that is spread over all nations. 8 He will swallow up death forever, And the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from all faces; The rebuke of His people He will take away from all the earth; For the LORD has spoken.

Isaiah 25:6-8 NKJV

23 But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those [who are] Christ's at His coming. 24 Then [comes] the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power. 25 For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet.

1 Corinthians 15:23-25 NKJV

Two Events Proclaimed in 1 Corinthians 15:

1.) The death and resurrection of Christ

2.) Christ's return, the resurrection of the dead, the transformation of believers, and the end of redemptive history.

The Breakdown:

- Death is the last enemy.
- Death is defeated, no more enemies.
- Death will be swallowed up when the corruptible puts on the incorruptible.
- The corruptible will put on the incorruptible when Christ returns.
- When Christ returns, death will be defeated and the end will come.

2.) Does This Fit With 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18?

But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus. 15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive [and] remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive [and] remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 NKJV

apantēsis- This Greek term is often used if an important dignitary's reception by the inhabitants of a city, who come out to greet and welcome their honored guest with fanfare and celebration, then accompany him into the city.

-ESV Study Bible

"And at midnight a cry was [heard]: 'Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him!'"

Matthew 25:6 NKJV

3.) Does This Fit With Revelation 20?

Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. 2 He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is [the] Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; 3 and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished. But after these things he must be released for a little while. 4 And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then [I saw] the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received [his] mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. 5 But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This [is] the first resurrection. 6 Blessed and holy [is] he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years. 7 Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison 8 and will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle, whose number [is] as the sand of the sea. 9 They went up on the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them. 10 The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet [are]. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

Revelation 20:1-10 NKJV

A.) Apocalyptic Literature- Expect to See Symbolism

B.) Numbers are Symbolic in Apocalyptic Literature

C.) Death is Still the Last Enemy

4.) The Words of Isaiah 25:8 Are Echoed in Revelation 21.

Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. 2 Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God [is] with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them [and be] their God. 4 "And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away."

Revelation 21:1-4 NKJV

Why Should We Live as an A-Millennialist?

- 1.) It Clarifies our Hope
- 2.) It Puts An Urgency to Our Evangelism
- 3.) It Allows for Unrestraint in Christian Labor.