

END TIMES LESSON 1 | Introduction¹

1. Definition.

- a. Eschatology is the study of the interesting and exciting way God will end the _____ between good and evil. It answers the questions: what is our ultimate destiny and the ultimate destiny of the universe? What will happen in the future? Where is history headed?

2. Outline.²

- a. Introduction.
- b. The interpretation of prophecy.
- c. The biblical covenants and eschatology.
- d. Prophecies of the present age.
- e. Prophecies of the tribulation period.
- f. Prophecies related to Jesus' second coming.
- g. Prophecies of the millennium.
- h. Prophecies of the eternal state.

3. Introduction.

- a. Everyone has a _____, and every worldview has an eschatology, a view of the end times. We all ask the questions, "Where are we going?" and "Where is the universe going?" (Ec 3:11). Everyone has some sort of eschatology.
 - (1) Foreign Affairs: <https://www.foreignaffairs.com/anthologies/2018-07-12/which-world-are-we-living>.
 - (2) ISIS: <http://www.theatlantic.com/features/archive/2015/02/what-isis-really-wants/384980/>.
- b. The Bible provides clear and detailed teaching concerning the future. We may know with certainty the general contours of what lies ahead.
- c. What the Bible teaches about the end times is essential to the Christian _____. God expects us to know, understand, and believe what he says about the future (Re 1:3). It is wrong to give lesser importance to eschatology simply because there is disagreement among Christians.
 - (1) "From first to last, and not merely in the epilogue, Christianity is eschatology...."³ Eschatology is a spirit, an outlook, a framework within which all of theology is to be conducted. The eschatological so interpenetrates the rest of Christianity's themes that one cannot extricate, eliminate or ignore it without ruining the whole.⁴
- d. The end times was a focus of the _____ church.
- e. Church _____ need to have answers on questions related to the end times.⁵
- f. Knowing, understanding, and believing biblical eschatology:
 - a. Keeps our focus on _____ things (2 Co 4:17-18).
 - b. Encourages _____ living (1 Jn 3:2-3).

¹ Or "Eschatology."

² See Dwight J. Pentecost, *Things to Come*, 6-7.

³ Jurgen Moltmann (b. 1926), *Theology of Hope* (Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress, 1993), 16.

⁴ Jurgen Moltmann (b. 1926), *Theology of Hope* (Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress, 1993) [].

⁵ Dr. Michael Svigel, Dallas Theological Seminary.

- (3) Inspires _____ (2 Co 5:8).
- (4) Draws our hearts in _____ of God (Re 4).
- g. Emotionally, eschatology invokes:
 - (1) Hope and perseverance (Ro 8:18-19, 24-25).
 - (2) Longing (Re 22:20).
 - (a) “In all its forms and individual themes biblical eschatology has to do with the overcoming of wickedness and evil.... The society of the kingdom of God rests on the defeat of the injustice that is the root of the lack of peace in human relations and in those between states and peoples.”⁶
- h. Seven eschatological dangers to avoid are:⁷
 - (1) Heinous _____.

Heretical or Heterodox Views of the End Times

FALSE	TRUE
Jesus returned in a spiritual sense with the coming of the Spirit on Pentecost.	Jesus’ return is bodily, future and literal.
Jesus returns only in a personal sense to each individual who believes (Ac 9:3-5; Col 1:27).	
Jesus comes to take each believer to heaven when he dies (Jn 14:3).	
Man’s resurrection is only spiritual. There is no bodily resurrection (Gnosticism).	Our resurrection is bodily, future, and literal.
Purgatory. After death, baptized Christians undergo a further purging of sins that were not satisfied in this life.	Purgatory is a late development that neither Eastern Orthodoxy nor Protestantism accepts.
Soul sleep. Human souls are mortal, so there’s no conscious existence beyond physical death. Only at the resurrection will people again experience conscious existence. The dead rest in an unconscious state until the day of judgment.	At death, believers will be face to face with Jesus.
Annihilationism. The fires of hell symbolize the utter destruction (not eternal suffering) of the wicked (Jehovah’s Witnesses, Seventh-Day Adventists).	Unbelievers will experience conscious suffering in the lake of fire forever.
Universalism. All people will ultimately be saved. No one will face eternity without God.	

- (2) My way or the _____.
- (3) End times agnosticism.
- (4) This-is-that syndrome.
- (5) The _____ game.
- (6) End times obsession.
- (7) _____ fretting.
- i. Five crucial end times questions, asked in the correct order, are:
 - (1) Is the return of Jesus literal?
 - (2) Is the return of Jesus future?
 - (3) Is the return of Jesus premillennial?
 - (4) Is the tribulation period future?
 - (5) Is the _____ before the tribulation?

⁶ Wolfhart Pannenberg (1928-2014), *Systematic Theology* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1993), 3:637.

⁷ Dr. Michael Svigel, Dallas Theological Seminary.