2016 Fall Semester

Foundations

# Consummation

## Introductory Matters

### Redemptive History

### Despite all the mystery surrounding the end-times, one thing is for certain: Christ will be seen to be the risen, reigning, glorious King that He is. That’s the point of all of this.

## Return of Christ

### The Definiteness of the Event

#### In regards to eschatology, the doctrine of the second coming of Christ is the most widely taught doctrine in all the New Testament. There are numerous references to this and we will look at a few.

#### In Matthew 24 and 25, Jesus provides an extended discourse on the end times and his second coming. The disciples ask Jesus in 24:3 “what will be the sign of your coming at the end of the age?” And Jesus responds in many ways throughout the rest of the chapter in several parables and several plain statements of what’s to come.

##### Matthew 24:30 – “Then will appear the sign of the Son of Man in heaven. And then all the peoples of the earth will mourn when they see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven, with power and great glory.”

##### Matthew 26:64 – “But I say to all of you: From now on you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and then coming on the clouds of heaven.”

##### John 14:3 – “I will come again and will take you to be with me so that where I am you will be also.”

#### Other than Jesus’ words, the rest of the New Testament authors testify to His coming again:

##### Acts 1:11 – “Men of Galilee…why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back again in the same way that you have seen him go into heaven.”

##### Hebrews 9:28 – “Christ will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.”

##### Revelation 22:20 – “Surely I am coming soon,” and John’s response, “Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!”

### The Nature of His Coming

#### Personal

##### Christ’s return will not be a spiritual coming or a symbolic gesture. He will personally return.

###### 1 Thessalonians 4:16 – “the Lord Himself will come down from heaven.”

#### Bodily

##### In connection to his personal coming is the fact that it will be bodily. The same body that he had on this earth is the same body that he has now at this moment and will be the same body that he will return in.

###### Acts 1:11 – “Men of Galilee…why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back again in the same way that you have seen him go into heaven.”

##### The coming of Christ will not be invisible, like the Jehovah’s witnesses believe, but will be seen by all. This will be a global event, witnessed by the entire world.

#### Unexpected

##### Matthew 24:44 – “The Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

##### Matthew 25:13 – “Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.”

##### Mark 13:32-33 – “But of that day or that hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Take heed, watch; for you do not know when the time will come.”

##### Because of these passages, efforts to predict the day of Christ’s coming are pointless, fruitless, and shouldn’t occupy any of our time. Anybody who claims to know such should automatically de facto be considered wrong.

#### Triumphant and Glorious

##### Remember the work of Christ was divided into his humiliation and his exaltation. This characteristic of His return shows most clearly why his second coming is part of His exaltation.

###### Matthew 24:30 - “Then will appear the sign of the Son of Man in heaven. And then all the peoples of the earth will mourn when they see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven, with power and great glory.”

##### In great pomp and circumstance, He will be accompanied by his angels and will be heralded by the archangel

###### 1 Thessalonians 4:16 – “For the Lord Himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God…”

#### What this creates for us now is a sense of urgency. This life is extremely short and upon the second coming of Christ, which could be anytime, we will all enter the next life, which is eternal.

##### Parable of the Rich Fool

##### 1 Thessalonians 2:19-20 – “For who is our hope or joy or crown of exultation? Is it not even you, in the presence of our Lord Jesus at His coming? For you are our glory and joy.”

## Judgment

### The final judgment is portrayed vividly by John

#### Revelation 20:11-15 – “Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. The earth and the heavens fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what they had done. Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. Anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire.”

### The final judgment is rendered to every single person that has ever lived.

#### Revelation 20:13 - “The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what they had done.”

##### These are the “holding tanks” for those that perished without Christ.

#### Romans 14:10, 12 – “We will all stand before the judgment seat of God…each of us shall give account of himself to God.”

#### We all, believer and unbeliever alike, will be raised into imperishable bodies before we are brought before the Lord to be judged.

##### John 5:28-29 – “…a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice and come out—those who have done what is good will rise to live, and those who have done what is evil will rise to be condemned.”

##### Acts 24:15 – “I have the same hope in God as these men themselves have, that there will be a resurrection of both the righteous and the wicked.”

### The final judgment is rendered to each person based upon what they have done.

#### Revelation 20:12-13 - “The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books…and each person was judged according to what they had done.”

#### Remember for those who are in Christ, the record of wrongs levied against you has been taken away

##### Colossians 2:14 - “Having canceled the record of debt, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross.”

#### And now you have been given the righteousness of Christ. Because of Him, the law has been fulfilled in you.

##### Romans 8:3-4 – “For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us.”

##### 2 Corinthians 5:21 – “He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”

##### The record attributed to you will be everything that Christ did in His life. You will be considered as having:

###### Served God perfectly and without faltering

###### As having fulfilled the whole law of God

###### As having cleansed the lepers

###### As having given sight to the blind and hearing to the deaf

###### As having cast out demons

###### As having fed the poor and clothed the naked

###### As having perfectly testified to the goodness, holiness, and worthiness of God despite all opposition

###### As having resisted your sin to the point of shedding your blood

###### As having refused service for yourself but instead submitted yourself to be the servant of all, washing the feet of those who desert you and bearing the cross of those who crucify you.

### This judgment will be carried out by Christ Himself

#### John 5:22, 27 – “Moreover, the Father judges no one, but has entrusted all judgment to the Son…And He has given Him authority to judge because he is the Son of Man.”

#### 2 Timothy 4:1 – “Jesus Christ is to judge the living and the dead.”

#### For those who have rejected Him, Christ will administer perfect justice. He will declare them guilty and before the entire created order they will be made known as they truly are, wicked and unjustifiable.

#### For those who have accepted Him, Christ will look upon them and declare them righteous. He will look upon your record and will say to you who are neither good nor faithful “well done my good and faithful servant.” Before the entirety of creation your name will echo throughout heaven, hell, and earth: “Redeemed!” All the toil, all the struggling, all your labor and pain and sacrifice will be put on display as worth it. It is mocked now, but it won’t be then.

## Hell

### Hell is the final destination for the wicked.

#### Matthew 25:41 – “Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.”

#### Revelation 20:10 – “The devil who had deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and Sulphur where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night for ever and ever.”

### Hell is conscious torment. Everybody in hell is aware of the pain they are experiencing.

#### Luke 16:22-24 – “The rich man also died and was buried; and in Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes, and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus in his bosom, and he called out, “Father Abraham, have mercy upon me, and send Lazarus to dip the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am in anguish in this flame.”

#### Luke 16:28 – “for I have five brothers, so that he may warn them, lest they also come into this place of torment.”

### Hell is eternal torment. It never ends.

#### Matthew 25:46 – “Then they will go away into eternal punishment, and the righteous into eternal life.”

#### Isaiah 66:24 – “Then they will go forth and look on the corpses of the men who have transgressed against Me. For their worm will not die and their fire will not be quenched; and they will be an abhorrence to all mankind."

### Hell is separation from the presence of God and His restraining grace.

#### 2 Thessalonians 1:8-9 – “He will inflict vengeance on those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. [They](http://biblehub.com/greek/3748.htm) [will suffer](http://biblehub.com/greek/5099.htm) [the penalty](http://biblehub.com/greek/1349.htm) [of eternal](http://biblehub.com/greek/166.htm) [destruction,](http://biblehub.com/greek/3639.htm) [separated from](http://biblehub.com/greek/575.htm) [the presence](http://biblehub.com/greek/4383.htm) [of the](http://biblehub.com/greek/3588.htm) [Lord](http://biblehub.com/greek/2962.htm) [and](http://biblehub.com/greek/2532.htm) [the](http://biblehub.com/greek/3588.htm) [glory](http://biblehub.com/greek/1391.htm) [of](http://biblehub.com/greek/3588.htm) [His](http://biblehub.com/greek/846.htm) might.”

#### This is the true wrath of God.

#### “Look at the cross, therefore, and you see what form God’s judicial reaction to human sin will finally take. What form is that? In a word, withdrawal and deprivation of good. On the cross Jesus lost all the good that he had before: all sense of his Father’s presence and love, all sense of physical, mental, and spiritual well-being, all enjoyment of God and of created things, all ease and solace of friendship, were taken from him, and in their place was nothing but loneliness, pain, a killing sense of human malice and callousness, and a horror of great spiritual darkness.” – J.I. Packer

### When all of this is understood rightly, it is easy to see why hell is called the second death.

## Heaven

### Heaven is the final destination for those who have been redeemed by Christ. Put simply, it is the dwelling place of God in the sense that it is in heaven that He is able to make His presence most fully known to us.

#### Ezekiel 48:35 – “And the name of the city from that time on will be: the Lord is there."

#### Our father who art in heaven

### Heaven is a real place, not just a state of mind. Heaven is just as much a place in space and time as earth is now.

#### Jesus says that it is a place

##### John 14:2 – “I go to prepare a place for you.”

##### Acts 1:11 – “This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

#### Heaven will in some ways resemble the world that we live in now

##### We shall eat and drink at the marriage supper of the Lamb (Revelation 19:9).

###### Matthew 26:29 – “I tell you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until the day I drink it anew with you in my Father’s Kingdom.”

##### Revelation 22:1 – “The river of the water of life will flow from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city.”

##### Revelation 22:2 – “The tree of life will bear twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month.”

###### This shows that there will be passing of time.

### There is no sin in heaven.

#### Revelation 21:27 – “But nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false.”

#### And if there is no sin, then there is also no pain, no death, or any suffering.

##### Revelation 21:3-4 - “And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, ‘Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.’”

### The righteous will be glorified and will serve the Lord for eternity

#### Matthew 13:43 – “Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father.”

##### We will have glorified bodies that accurately reflect the glory of God. We will finally be able to fulfill our purpose.

#### Revelation 22:3 – “No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him.”

##### The curse will be removed, but we will still serve him.

### But all of this is nothing compared to the true glory of heaven. What makes heaven “heaven” is the fact that Christ is there. Our fellowship with Him, beholding His glory.

#### Romans 8:20-21 – “For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.”

#### Revelation 21:23 – “The city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb.”

#### God, who dwells in light unapproachable (1 Timothy 6:16), will dwell with man. The inhabitants of this city, the righteous, will shine like the sun (Matthew 13:43). The stars in the sky will glow a million times brighter than time has ever known, but even in all of this, Christ will shine brighter still.