

End-Time Events

Chi Alpha understands the biblical description of end-time events to be literal, not symbolic (as do some churches). This brief survey of our commonly held views about end-time events will concentrate on the basic essentials.

1. The Rapture.

-The Rapture of the living saints is the first phase of what is commonly called the Second Coming. This event is the blessed hope Paul mentions in Titus 2:13. At this time, Christ comes and snatches away His church without actually setting foot on the earth.

Read: Titus 2:13

1Thes 4:16-18

1 Cor 15:51-52

Questions-

1. Why does Paul call this the "blessed hope?"
2. Should it be a fearful event for a Christian?
3. Believer's bodies will be changed at the rapture. What do you think might be different?

2. The Tribulation.

-With the saints removed from the earth, a time of suffering will come upon the whole world. The Tribulation is a period of 7 years (Daniel 9:27).

-The first half of these 7 years will probably be a time of prosperity and acceptance of the Antichrist as the great deliverer from economic chaos. But the last half of the period will witness the plagues described in Revelation chapter 16. -The last half of the Tribulation period is called the _____

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Read: Mark 13:32-37

Rev 16

Pre-Tribulation ...

Mid-Tribulation ...

Post-Tribulation ...

-The common belief in Chi Alpha is _____.

Questions-

1. Why would the Pre-Tribulation Rapture position be more biblically accurate?
2. What does Jesus mean by "sleeping" in Mark 13:36?
3. What is the purpose of the Tribulation?

3. The Second Coming.

-This event is different from the Rapture. The second coming of Christ is the ...

-After the marriage supper of the raptured saints and the Lamb (Jesus) in heaven (during the Tribulation), Christ, the Groom, goes forth to claim all of His kingdom. He rides on a white horse, followed by the saints, also on white horses.

Read: *Rev 19:11-14*

-It will be a sight of great wonder and majesty as Christ descends with His followers to reclaim that which Satan has temporarily wrested from His hand.

-The ensuing conflict between the world of righteousness and the world of darkness is called the Battle of _____ (Revelation 16).

-At the conclusion of the battle, Satan is _____ (Revelation 20).

4. The Millennium.

-With Satan's influence removed from the earth and Christ's reign of righteousness unopposed, the Millennium will be a time of unsurpassed glory and perfect relationships. (Isa 2, 11-12, 32, 35, 60, 65; Zech 14).

-The Millennium will last _____. Satan will be released for "a little season" to test the love, faith, and loyalty of those individuals born during the Millennium and therefore still untested as to their choice between right and wrong.

-The rebellion of Satan and those who choose to follow him will be short-lived. Fire will come down from heaven and devour the opposition. Satan will then be permanently _____ (Rev. 20).

5. The Great White Throne Judgment.

-After the judgment fire physically destroys those deceived by Satan at the end of the Millennium, all the wicked who have ever lived on the face of the earth will be dead.

-Then will follow the resurrection of the wicked dead to stand before the austere Judge "from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away" (Rev. 20:11). Books are opened and the wicked are judged according to their _____.

-Then, like Satan, they will be consigned to _____ to be tormented day and night forever.

This is the saddest scene in the entire Bible and motivates Chi Alpha to reach the lost of the world and help them escape the end of those who do not submit to the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

6. The Holy City.

Read Rev 21 & 22

-Revelation 21 begins with John's view of new heavens, a new earth, and the holy city (the new Jerusalem that comes down from God out of the new heavens to rest on the new earth).

-This is the Lord God's full victory.

Conclusion

Read 2 Pet 3:8-9

Questions-

1. We believe that Jesus could come at any moment. What two explanations does Peter give to explain the apparent "slowness" of His return?
2. How should this understanding affect our lives? (see 2 Peter 3:11)