

Theology and Doctrines Eschatology 1

1. God has **planned** out the **future**, and He has communicated some of those **plans** to us in the Bible. About one **third** of the Bible is information about the **future** called prophecy.

Psalms 33:11 The counsel of the Lord stands forever, The plans of His heart from generation to generation.

Isaiah 25:1 O Lord, You are my God; I will exalt You, I will give thanks to Your name; For You have worked wonders, Plans *formed* long ago, with perfect faithfulness.

Jeremiah 29:11 'For I know the plans that I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope.'

2. The **study** of the information in the Bible about the **future** is called **eschatology**.

3. The goal of the study is to determine **what** happens, and **when** it happens, to put every event on a **timeline**.

4. The goal of studying eschatology is so that we have a sense of **peace** and **security** knowing that God has everything under **control**.

Isaiah 45:4–7 "I am the Lord, and there is no other; besides Me there is no God. I will gird you, though you have not known Me; that men may know from the rising to the setting of the sun that there is no one besides Me. I am the Lord, and there is no other, the One forming light and creating darkness, causing well-being and creating calamity; I am the Lord who does all these.

Isaiah 46:9–11 "Remember the former things long past, For I am God, and there is no other; *I am* God, and there is no one like Me, Declaring the end from the beginning, And from ancient times things which have not been done, Saying, 'My purpose will be established, And I will accomplish all My good pleasure'; Calling a bird of prey from the east, The man of My

purpose from a far country. Truly I have spoken; truly I will bring it to pass. I have planned *it, surely* I will do it.

5. The goal of studying eschatology is to give us a sense of **urgency** as a **witness** for Jesus and as an **influencer** of others.

John 17:4 “I glorified You on the earth, having accomplished the work which You have given Me to do.

Philippians 1:21–25 For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. But if *I am* to live *on* in the flesh, this *will mean* fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which to choose. But I am hard-pressed from both *directions*, having the desire to depart and be with Christ, for *that* is very much better; yet to remain on in the flesh is more necessary for your sake. Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all for your progress and joy in the faith,

6. The goal of studying eschatology is to give us a sense of urgency and **fear** about what we will experience at the “**Judgment Seat of Christ**”.

Luke 12:35–40 “Be dressed in readiness, and *keep* your lamps lit. “Be like men who are waiting for their master when he returns from the wedding feast, so that they may immediately open *the door* to him when he comes and knocks. “Blessed are those slaves whom the master will find on the alert when he comes; truly I say to you, that he will gird himself *to serve*, and have them recline *at the table*, and will come up and wait on them. “Whether he comes in the second watch, or even in the third, and finds *them* so, blessed are those *slaves*. “But be sure of this, that if the head of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have allowed his house to be broken into. “You too, be ready; for the Son of Man is coming at an hour that you do not expect.”

Matthew 25:1–13 “Then the kingdom of heaven will be comparable to ten virgins, who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. “Five of them were foolish, and five were prudent. “For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, but the prudent took oil in flasks along with their lamps. “Now while the bridegroom was delaying, they all got drowsy and *began* to sleep. “But at midnight there was a shout, ‘Behold, the bridegroom! Come out to meet *him*.’ “Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps. “The foolish said to the prudent, ‘Give us some of your

oil, for our lamps are going out.’ “But the prudent answered, ‘No, there will not be enough for us and you *too*; go instead to the dealers and buy *some* for yourselves.’ “And while they were going away to make the purchase, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding feast; and the door was shut. “Later the other virgins also came, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open up for us.’ “But he answered, ‘Truly I say to you, I do not know you.’ “Be on the alert then, for you do not know the day nor the hour.

Matthew 25:14–30 “For *it is* just like a man *about* to go on a journey, who called his own slaves and entrusted his possessions to them. “To one he gave five talents, to another, two, and to another, one, each according to his own ability; and he went on his journey. “Immediately the one who had received the five talents went and traded with them, and gained five more talents. “In the same manner the one who *had received* the two *talents* gained two more. “But he who received the one *talent* went away, and dug *a hole* in the ground and hid his master’s money. “Now after a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. “The one who had received the five talents came up and brought five more talents, saying, ‘Master, you entrusted five talents to me. See, I have gained five more talents.’ “His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful slave. You were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ “Also the one who *had received* the two talents came up and said, ‘Master, you entrusted two talents to me. See, I have gained two more talents.’ “His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful slave. You were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ “And the one also who had received the one talent came up and said, ‘Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow and gathering where you scattered no *seed*. ‘And I was afraid, and went away and hid your talent in the ground. See, you have what is yours.’ “But his master answered and said to him, ‘You wicked, lazy slave, you knew that I reap where I did not sow and gather where I scattered no *seed*. ‘Then you ought to have put my money in the bank, and on my arrival I would have received my *money* back with interest. ‘Therefore take away the talent from him, and give it to the one who has the ten talents.’ “For to everyone who has, *more* shall be given, and he will have an abundance; but from the one who does not have, even what he does have shall be taken away. “Throw out the worthless slave into the outer darkness; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

1 Peter 1:13–17 Therefore, prepare your minds for action, keep sober *in spirit*, fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts *which were yours* in your ignorance, but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all *your* behavior; because it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.” If you address as Father the One who impartially judges according to each one’s work, conduct yourselves in fear during the time of your stay *on earth*;

2 Corinthians 7:1 Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

Matthew 16:27 “For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and will then repay every man according to his deeds.

2 Corinthians 5:6–11 Therefore, being always of good courage, and knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord— for we walk by faith, not by sight— we are of good courage, I say, and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord. Therefore we also have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad. Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade men, but we are made manifest to God; and I hope that we are made manifest also in your consciences.

1 Corinthians 3:12–15 Now if any man builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each man’s work will become evident; for the day will show it because it is *to be* revealed with fire, and the fire itself will test the quality of each man’s work. If any man’s work which he has built on it remains, he will receive a reward. If any man’s work is burned up, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.

1 John 2:28 Now, little children, abide in Him, so that when He appears, we may have confidence and not shrink away from Him in shame at His coming.

7. Our goal in studying Eschatology is to **motivate** us to **press** on to **maturity** in the time that we have left.

8. Genesis **1:26** Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness. **Why?** What was God’s **motive?**

9. Who we are in **character** the day we die or the day Jesus takes us to heaven is who we are in **character** forever.

Hebrews 6:1 Therefore leaving the elementary teaching about the Christ, let us press on to maturity.

James 1:2–4 Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have *its* perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

Matthew 5:48 “Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Colossians 4:12 Epaphras, who is one of your number, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, sends you his greetings, always laboring earnestly for you in his prayers, that you may stand perfect and fully assured in all the will of God.

Psalms 90:12 So teach us to number our days, That we may present to You a heart of wisdom.

10. The **purpose** of life for us as believers is to make us as much like Jesus as possible. The more like Him we are the more we will **enjoy** Him and the more He will **enjoy** us.

Philippians 3:7–11 But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ. More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but

rubbish so that I may gain Christ, and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from *the* Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which *comes* from God on the basis of faith, that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death; in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained it or have already become perfect, but I press on so that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus. Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing *I do*: forgetting what *lies* behind and reaching forward to what *lies* ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

11. The Greek word for “**resurrection**” is different than the normal word. It literally means “extra” **resurrection**, “above” **resurrection**, or “super” **resurrection**.

12. The **Greek** word for “the **prize**” is used twice in the New Testament, here and in 1 Corinthians 9:24-27

1 Corinthians 9:24–27 Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but *only* one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win. Everyone who competes in the games exercises self-control in all things. They then *do it* to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. Therefore I run in such a way, as not without aim; I box in such a way, as not beating the air; but I discipline my body and make it my slave, so that, after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified.

13. There are many **rewards** at the Judgment Seat of Christ, but the one that **motivated** Paul the most was being at the **right hand** of Jesus for all eternity.

Revelation 3:20–22 ‘Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and will dine with him, and he with Me. ‘He who overcomes, I will grant to him to sit down with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne. ‘He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.’ ”

14. **Most** followers of Jesus are not very **motivated** by the “Judgment Seat of Christ”. We tend to think of **this** life only and not set our minds on the **next** life.

Colossians 3:2 Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth.

15. Our **presence** in heaven, our salvation from hell, is by **grace** alone. By faith we believe the **gospel** to be true, and follow Jesus and our saved.

Ephesians 2:8–10 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, *it is* the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

John 3:16 “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

The gospel:

(1) Jesus is **God**, equal with the Father, **one** with the Father.

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

John 10:30–33 “I and the Father are one.” The Jews picked up stones again to stone Him. Jesus answered them, “I showed you many good works from the Father; for which of them are you stoning Me?” The Jews answered Him, “For a good work we do not stone You, but for blasphemy; and because You, being a man, make Yourself out *to be* God.”

(2) Jesus left **heaven**, **emptied** Himself of all that He was as God, and became **flesh** just like us.

John 1:14 And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Gal 4:4-5 But when the fulness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, in order that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.

Phil 2:6-7 who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men.

Heb 2:14,17 Since then the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil; Therefore, He had to be made like His brethren in all things, that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.

1 John 4:2-3 By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God; and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God; and this is the spirit of the antichrist, of which you have heard that it is coming, and now it is already in the world.

(3) As a man, Jesus lived a **perfect** life, never **sinning**, not even a **little** sin of thought or attitude.

1 John 3:5 And you know that He appeared in order to take away sins; and in Him there is no sin.

Heb 4:15 For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin.

2 Cor 5:21 He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

(4) Jesus was nailed to a cross and while there God the Father put our **sins** on Jesus, He became our **sin**, God the Father then **punished** Jesus for our **sins**.

Rom 5:6-8 For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will hardly die for a righteous man; though perhaps

for the good man someone would dare even to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

2 Cor 5:21 He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

(5) Jesus was buried and three days later He **rose** from the **dead** and He is **alive** today.

1 Cor 15:1-4 Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,

16. Our **rank** in the Kingdom of God, our glory, our responsibility, and our **rewards** are determined by our **works**, our fruit.

Matthew 19:27–30 Then Peter said to Him, “Behold, we have left everything and followed You; what then will there be for us?” And Jesus said to them, “Truly I say to you, that you who have followed Me, in the regeneration when the Son of Man will sit on His glorious throne, you also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. “And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or farms for My name’s sake, will receive many times as much, and will inherit eternal life. “But many *who are* first will be last; and *the* last, first.

1 Corinthians 15:41–42 There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for star differs from star in glory. So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown a perishable *body*, it is raised an imperishable body.

17. Let’s get **motivated** to bear much fruit, let’s get **motivated** to do as much as possible with our life for the Lord, and let’s get **motivated** to press on to maturity and become as much like Jesus as possible, let’s get **motivated** by studying eschatology.

Theology and Doctrines Eschatology 2, cont., pts. 18-50

18. There are many differences of **interpretation** in the area of **eschatology**, and most of them are because of the differences in **hermeneutics**.

19. The Bible is the **inspired**, **inerrant**, **infallible**, and all sufficient Word of God.

2 Timothy 3:16–17 All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

20. The Holy Spirit **illuminates**, guides, and helps us understand the Bible, but we are **responsible** as well to study diligently and accurately in order to **understand** the full and precise meaning of what we read.

Ezra 7:10 For Ezra had set his heart to study the law of the Lord and to practice *it*, and to teach *His* statutes and ordinances in Israel.

2 Timothy 2:15 Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.

1 Timothy 4:15–16 Take pains with these things; be *absorbed* in them, so that your progress will be evident to all. Pay close attention to yourself and to your teaching; persevere in these things, for as you do this you will ensure salvation both for yourself and for those who hear you.

21. **Hermeneutics** is the science of **interpreting** the Bible.

Hebrews 7:2 to whom also Abraham apportioned a tenth part of all *the spoils*, was first of all, by the translation *of his name*, king of righteousness, and then also king of Salem, which is king of peace.

Luke 24:27–32 Then beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, He **explained** to them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures. And they approached the village where they were going, and He acted as

though He were going farther. But they urged Him, saying, “Stay with us, for it is *getting* toward evening, and the day is now nearly over.” So He went in to stay with them. When He had reclined *at the table* with them, He took the bread and blessed *it*, and breaking *it*, He *began* giving *it* to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognized Him; and He vanished from their sight. They said to one another, “Were not our hearts burning within us while He was speaking to us on the road, while He was **explaining** the Scriptures to us?”

22. As a science or system there are **rules** that are understood and followed for **accuracy** and **consistency**.

23. Many will say that the **rules** of **hermeneutics** quench the **illuminating** work of the Holy Spirit who is leading us into all truth.

24. The rules of hermeneutics have been established over many years by Bible believing **scholars** and reduce greatly the number of **doctrines** that come out that are **weird**.

1 Timothy 4:1 But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons,

Ephesians 4:14 As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming;

1 Timothy 1:3 As I urged you upon my departure for Macedonia, remain on at Ephesus so that you may instruct certain men not to teach strange doctrines,

25. There are a number of different systems of interpreting the Bible, but the one that is right and true is the **literal**, **historical**, and **grammatical** method.

26. The literal, historical, and grammatical method looks for the **plain** and **obvious** meaning, not some **obscure** or **hidden** meaning, it is the **normal**

way of understanding communication from others as you listen to them or read what they have written.

27. There are over 1,000 prophecies made about Jesus **birth**, his **life**, and His **death** that were fulfilled literally.

Zechariah 9:9 Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout *in triumph*, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; He is just and endowed with salvation, Humble, and mounted on a donkey, Even on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

Matthew 21:2 saying to them, “Go into the village opposite you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied *there* and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to Me.

Micah 5:2 “But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, *Too little to be among the clans of Judah, From you One will go forth for Me to be ruler in Israel. His goings forth are from long ago, From the days of eternity.*”

Matthew 2:1 Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying,

Psalms 22:14–18 I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint; My heart is like wax; It is melted within me. My strength is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue cleaves to my jaws; and You lay me in the dust of death. For dogs have surrounded me; a band of evildoers has encompassed me; they pierced my hands and my feet. I can count all my bones. They look, they stare at me; They divide my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots.

Luke 23:34 But Jesus was saying, “Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.” And they cast lots, dividing up His garments among themselves.

28. As we study prophecies that have **already** been fulfilled we can establish **rules** on how to interpret prophecies **yet** to be fulfilled.

29. As we grow up and learn to **talk** and **listen** we **automatically** learn the rules of hermeneutics as we communicate to others.

30. These rules that we learn are for the **normal** and **literal** way of communicating information.
31. A beginning step in **understanding** a given passage of scripture is to determine the **context** of the passage.
32. One of the most often committed **mistakes** in interpreting the Bible is asking and answering the question, “**who** was a given passage **written** to?”
33. Every passage is part of not only its immediate **context**, but also a broader **context** which would include **history**, both secular and Biblical, and culture.
34. There is the context of the **verse**, there is the context of the **chapter**, there is the context of the **book**, and there is the context of the whole **Bible**.
35. We automatically apply the rule of context in day to day conversation, but because the Bible was written many years ago **study** is required to learn the context in terms of **culture** and **history**.
36. Bible **commentaries**, **dictionaries**, and **atlases** are a big help in understanding the background, history, culture, and context of a particular passage of scripture.
37. There are **good** commentaries and dictionaries and there are **bad** ones, get **advice** and counsel on choosing the ones to use.
38. The best tool for determining context is the **Bible**, those who read it the **most** will understand it the **best**.
39. Those who read the Bible a **lot** will develop a Bible **mind**, they see and understand the **big** picture of what God is doing and why.
40. There are **themes** in the Bible, that run from Genesis to Revelation and passages connected to any of those **themes** are understood in the context of that **theme**.

41. Those who **read** the Bible **faithfully** will recognize the various **themes** in the Bible.

42. Another important and basic rule of hermeneutics is to interpret the Bible **progressively**.

Genesis 26:4–5 “I will multiply your descendants as the stars of heaven, and will give your descendants all these lands; and by your descendants all the nations of the earth shall be blessed; because Abraham obeyed Me and kept My charge, My commandments, My statutes and My laws.”

Matthew 4:23 Jesus was going throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness among the people.

Matthew 9:35 Jesus was going through all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness.

Mark 1:14–15 Now after John had been taken into custody, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of God, and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.”

Matthew 5:3–12 “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. “Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. “Blessed are the gentle, for they shall inherit the earth. “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. “Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. “Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. “Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me. “Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great; for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

43. The Bible was written by many **authors** beginning with **Moses** and ending with **John** over a thousand year period.

44. The various **themes** unfold like a **novel** progressively.
45. The **doctrines** that are in the Bible are expanded and revealed to us **progressively**.
46. Every writer of Scripture was on a **timeline** or at a place in **history** with all the other **writers** of Scripture.
47. Each individual writer **knew** what those who were before them wrote, they **accepted** it, believed it, and often **included** it in their own writings.
48. They also **assumed** that everyone who would read what they had **written** would be familiar with the message of **previous** writers of Scripture.
49. When **John** wrote the book of **Revelation** he did so with a good understanding of the book of **Daniel**, Isaiah, and the rest of the Old Testament prophetic books, and he assumed that all who read what he wrote would have a good understanding of those books as well.
50. Each writer had no **clue** about information that had **not yet** been revealed by God and written about, but **modern** readers of the Bible often forget that.