

# Christian Doctrine

## The End Times (Part 4)

### The Prophetic Future

#### Looking to the Future

Scripture reveals specific signs that will come to pass indicating that we are close to the end of this age, as well as events that are to unfold in the future. Here is an overview:

##### ➤ Signs of the End Times

- Signs involving the world overall:
  - > Wars and rumors of wars, as well as famines, pestilence and earthquakes (Matt. 24:6-7)
  - > Increased wickedness, moral decline (II Tim. 3:1-5)
- Signs involving the world's spiritual condition:
  - > Many false Christs and false prophets (Matt. 24:5, 11); an increase in false teaching (II Pet. 2:1-3)
  - > Persecution toward Christians (Matt. 24:9)
- A bright spot can be seen in the furtherance of the gospel, as it will be preached to all nations (Matt. 24:14).

##### ➤ Events of the Future

- The Tribulation Period
  - > Jesus said it will be unlike anything ever seen before (Matt. 24:21; note Rev. 6:16-17).
  - > Revelation describes specific judgments that will affect the entire world (Rev. 3:10; Rev. 6, 8, 9, & 16).
  - > A focus turns to Jews as 144,000 from the 12 tribes of Israel will be sealed and spared by God (Rev. 7:1-8).
- The Work of the Antichrist
  - > He will rise in power, having a worldwide influence (Dan. 7:23-25).
  - > He will make a peace treaty with Israel, but then break it in the middle of the tribulation (Dan. 9:27).
  - > He will kill two witnesses sent by God, be worshiped, and control buying and selling (Rev. 11 & 13).
- The Return of Christ
  - > Christ will return and defeat the antichrist and his armies in battle (Rev. 17:14; 19:11-21).
  - > Satan will be bound while Christ reigns for 1,000 years (Rev. 20:1-6).
  - > After one last rebellion and final judgment, a new heaven and earth will be established (Rev. 20:7-22:5).

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