Christian Doctrine The End Times (Intro)

The Intrigue of the Future

What does the future hold? Is there an end to the world as we know it, or will it just go on as it always has indefinitely? Questions concerning the future have always occupied the thoughts of mankind. The importance of accurately understanding the future is <u>essential</u> for anyone to find true <u>hope</u> for today. Our Christian faith is full of hope, and a primary reason for that is found in the detailed answers God has revealed to us about the future.

The Bible and the End Times

In order to understand what the future holds, one must understand what God has said about this topic. Apart from His <u>revelation</u>, the future becomes mere speculation. But God has not left us to speculate. Prophecy concerning what will happen in the future is part of what God has revealed to us in <u>His Word</u>. In fact, <u>one fourth</u> of the Bible, at the time it was written, was prophetic concerning future events. Many of those prophecies have already been fulfilled, but the others will come to pass at a future date. As we look at the course of history, from the past and on into the future, we can know that <u>history</u> is unfolding by God's <u>direction</u> and for His <u>purposes</u>. And for that, the answers we seek concerning the future must be found in Him (Is. 46:9-11).

Looking Ahead

This study will attempt to give us a better understanding of God's Word in relation to:

- Relevant Old and New Testament prophetic <u>passages</u>
- Future events such as Christ's Return, the Battle of Armageddon, and the Millennial Reign of Christ
- <u>Issues</u> surrounding the rapture and the tribulation
- Different popular <u>views</u> of the end times

May this study bring about excitement as we anticipate the day when we see our Lord Jesus Christ face to face and begin enjoying eternity with Him forever (Titus 2:11-14)!

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