

(Part 1)

STUDY OF THINGS TO COME

The study of last things is not by any means restricted to Christian circles. Wherever there are people that think about meaning, purpose, the origins of man, etc., there are people that think about last things. Today, people everywhere want to know what the future bring and what will happen when we die. It is only fitting that if Christianity be true, it would address these issues.

I. HOW CAN WE KNOW ABOUT SUCH THINGS?

- A. Through the foretelling of the future.
 - 1. The Bible is largely a book of prophecy.
 - 2. Deut. 18:20-22 and 13:14 warn that prophecy must be true.
 - a) Jesus warned about false prophets.
 - b) Bible 100% accurate; Jeanne Dixon 20%-30% accurate.

- B. Through personal experience.
 - 1. Nobody has been to the future.
 - 2. Nobody has died and come back, or have they?
 - a) Jesus was resurrected from the dead.
 - b) Lazarus was resurrected from the dead. (Jn 11:1)
 - c) Jarius' daughter was raised from the dead. (Matt. 9:18, Lk. 8:41)
 - d) The widow's son raised from the dead. (Lk. 7:11)
 - e) Dorcas was raised from the dead. (Acts 9:36)
 - f) Other accounts are recorded. (Matt. 27:52-53)

- C. Has anyone been to the future?
 - 1. Timelessness, eternity, and Einstein's Theory of Relativity
 - 2. Jesus said He came from heaven.
 - 3. Mount of Transfiguration (Matt. 17:1-9)
 - 4. In the book of Revelation, Jesus appears in the future.
 - 5. In the book of Revelation, John appears in the future.
 - 6. The Old Testament prophets

At this point, we will break our study into two categories:

- 1) personal eschatology
- 2) general eschatology

Personal eschatology deals with death, resurrection and judgment of the unsaved and the reward of the righteous.

II. DEATH

A. The Scriptural concept of death goes beyond the physical to the spiritual and eternal.

1. Both physical and spiritual death are a result of the fall (one can be avoided, the other cannot unless you've raptured).
2. Christ came to restore our positions and to give us life.
3. We do not yet "see" all things subject to Him.
 - a) I Cor. 15:26-28
 - b) Physical death will be eliminated in the future.

B. Resurrection from the dead

1. Is taught both in the Old and the New Testaments
2. References in the Old Testament
 - a) Job 19:25-27; Ps. 16:9,15,17; Dan. 12:1-3

3. References in the New Testament

- a) Jn. 5:28-29; Lk. 14:13-14, 20:35-36; Acts 24:15; I Cor. 15; I Thes. 4:14-16; Rev. 20:4-6,13

C. Nature of the resurrection

1. Bodily resurrection
 - a) Jn. 5:28; I Cor. 15:22; Rev. 20:12; I Cor. 5:10
2. The resurrection of the body of Jesus was physical yet without limitations.
3. A new heaven and earth

D. Redemption of the body included "total redemption."

1. Rom. 8:11-23; I Cor. 6:13-20; Jn. 6:39; Job 19:25-27; II Cor. 5:4

E. Nature of the resurrection body

1. I Cor. 15:36-37
2. Not necessarily like the grave body
3. Possibly some organic connection (Matt. 27 saints came out of the grave)
4. Vast improvements over this present body
5. Phil. 3:21
 - a) Christ's Resurrection body
 - 1) Read (Lk. 24:39)
 - 2) Recognizable (Lk. 24:31; Jn. 20:16)
 - 3) Powerful (Jn 20:19)
 - 4) Not flesh and blood, but flesh and bone, not pure spirit
 - 5) Incorruptible (I Cor. 15:42)
 - 6) Glorious, heavenly, powerful (I Cor. 15:43-49)

