

## Video Transcript: Future Events

1.

The Bible contains important information about events in the future which cannot be predicted from human knowledge. On a personal level, we learn about death, resurrection, and judgement. On a more general level, we learn about the return of Christ at the end of the current age, the subsequent thousand-years reign of Christ and his saints on earth, and the eventual re-creation of the universe.

In this video, I present a brief overview of these key future events.

2.

There can be no doubt that the resurrection of Christ is the cornerstone of the Christian faith. The apostle Paul wrote:

*If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. ... If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men (1 Corinthians 15:17, 19).*

But Christ did rise from the dead, and the hope of Christians is founded on strong, rational evidence, as discussed in another video in the series *Ultimate Questions*.

The hope of the Christians is in the promise of Christ:

*I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me will live, even though he dies (John 11:25).*

3.

Even before Christ came, some of the Old Testament prophets had foreseen the resurrection of the dead. For example, Job proclaimed:

*I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand upon the earth. And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God (Job 19:25-26).*

Isaiah prophesied in regard to the Jews:

*But your dead will live; their bodies will rise. You who dwell in the dust, wake up and shout for joy. Your dew is like a dew of the morning; the earth will give birth to her dead (Isaiah 26:19).*

Similarly, God proclaimed to the House of Israel:

*O my people, I am going to open your graves and bring you up from them; I will bring you back to the land of Israel (Ezekiel 37:12).*

4.

The New Testament confirms, in many places, the reality of the resurrection of the dead. For example, Christ said:

*... a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear [my] voice and come out – those who have done good will rise to life, and those who have done evil will rise to be condemned (John 5:28-29).*

He also taught:

*For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I shall raise him up at the last day (John 6:40).*

5.

In regard to the believers, Paul explains that their bodies will be transformed from mortal to immortal:

*The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable; it is sown in dishonour, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body (1 Corinthians 15:42-44).*

However, in Paul's letters he never uses the word "spiritual" to mean "nonphysical"; rather, he means "consistent with the character and activity of the Holy Spirit".

Thus, Paul concludes:

*... just as we have borne the likeness of the earthly man, so shall we bear the likeness of the man from heaven (v. 49).*

6.

Paul taught that the resurrection of God's faithful servants will occur at the end of the current age when Christ returns to gather up his remaining servants:

*For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord for ever (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17).*

In the book of Revelation, we are told that this is the first of two resurrection events (Revelation 20:1-6).

7.

Shortly after the first resurrection, Christ and his saints will defeat the kings of the earth, the Antichrist and the False Prophet (Revelation 19:19-21).

The Antichrist and the False Prophet will then be "thrown alive into the fiery lake of burning sulphur" (Revelation 19:20).

After this great battle, Christ and the saints will rule the earth for a thousand years:

*Blessed and holy are those who have part in the first resurrection. ... they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him a thousand years (Revelation 20:6).*

8.

It is at the second resurrection that the unrighteous, along with death and Hades (the abode of the dead), will be condemned (Revelation 20:11-15):

*Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire (Revelation 20:14-15).*

Finally, it will be Satan himself who is destroyed:

*And the devil, who deceived [the nations], was thrown into the lake of burning sulphur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever (Revelation 20:7-10).*

9.

The thousand years reign of Christ is also alluded to in the Old Testament. For example, in Psalm 22 we read:

*All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the Lord, and all the families of the nations will bow down before him, for dominion belongs to the Lord and he rules over the nations (Psalm 22:27-28).*

Again, in Psalm 37 we read:

*For evil men will be cut off, but those who hope in the Lord will inherit the land. A little while, and the wicked will be no more; for though you look for them, they will not be found. But the meek will inherit the land and enjoy great peace (Psalm 37:9-11).*

The peaceful rule of Christ in the coming age is also described in several passages in Isaiah (see 11:1-10; 35:1-10; 65:17-25).

10.

After the final judgment, God will destroy the present universe and create a new one.

Speaking through the prophet Isaiah, God promised:

*Behold, I will create new heavens and a new earth. The former things will not be remembered, nor will they come to mind (Isaiah 65:17; cf. 66:22).*

In regard to this time, Peter said:

*That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and new earth, the home of the righteousness (2 Peter 3:12-13).*

11.

Now, at last, God's great plan of redemption will be completed:

*And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, 'Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.' (Revelation 21:1-4).*

12.

It is clear from Scripture that just as Jesus was raised from the dead by the power of God, so also will those who believe in Jesus be likewise raised at the end of this current age.

Those who participate in this blessed resurrection of the saints will rule with Christ over the earth for a thousand years.

After that, God will create a new heaven and a new earth in which the redeemed will live in eternal peace with their Creator God.

It is fitting to conclude this study with the words of Jesus:

*Behold, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to everyone according to what he has done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End (Revelation 22:12-13).*