

Part 4 | Christ's Crown

Introduction: Most Frequently Asked Questions About the Last Days

- Prophecy is always intriguing, and a complete worldview requires some prophetic understanding.
 - Some avoid it because they don't know how to distinguish between people who treat the text with integrity and those who are just as adamant that Gorbachev's birthmark is the mark of the beast.
 - Others prefer to stay on the very surface of prophecy. To them it seems that for every two Christians there are three positions on the same prophetic issue. Despairing that anything can be known for sure, they dismiss prophecy, saying, "The big idea is that God wins. The rest is detail."
- This session sets forth the major differences among evangelicals in their interpretation of unfulfilled prophecy.
- It may be hard for some to admit, but it is still true: no particular scheme of end-time events is without its problems

Frequently Asked Questions about the End Times

- Are there any indications that Christ may return soon?
 - Events taking place today can be seen as setting the stage for what will happen after the rapture.
 - Two significant events:
 - The reconstitution of the nation of Israel – it is clear that the Tribulation is God dealing with the nation of Israel, yet this nation did not exist from 70 AD to 1948.
 - The rise of computer technology – this enables one person to someday control the economic, religious, and social affairs of all the world.
- Is the U.S.A. mentioned in prophecy?
 - The U.S.A. is not directly mentioned, and any indirect mention would be pure speculation.
 - Many believe the U.S.A. is not directly mentioned because:
 - She will no longer exist as a nation, either through war or plague or some other calamity.
 - She will be swallowed into the confederation of the Antichrist and the revived Roman empire.
- What kingdom did Jesus say was "at hand"?
 - The Kingdom offer included a contingency: that the nation needed to repent for the kingdom to be established. They did not repent. The kingdom "at hand" in Jesus' day is not now a reality in any sense, but it will be when He sits on David's throne in Jerusalem and rules the world with a rod of iron at His second advent.
- Is Christ on the throne of David now?
 - No. He is at the right hand of His Father's throne.
 - David's throne is never pictured as being in heaven but always on earth as a physical, literal, earthly throne. David ruled over an actual geographical area, and so will David's son and the focal point of David's dynasty, the Lord Jesus.
- How is Jesus going to return?
 - First, He will come to gather those who have believed in Him since the day of Pentecost. This is the rapture.
 - After the rapture is the Tribulation. It is followed by the Second Coming, in which Christ will come to reign on the throne of David, in Jerusalem.
 - Some reasons why you should not lump the rapture and the Second Coming together:
 - The rapture is to be anticipated with joy and hope, the Second Coming is preceded by Tribulation and should be seen with fear, as the Day of the Lord.
 - In the rapture, Christ comes in the air. In the Second Coming, He comes to the earth.
 - In the rapture, the believers experience judgment and are with Him forever. In the Second Coming, Christ judges the nations, and reigns over them on earth.
- What is meant by the coming Great Tribulation?
 - This is a future seven-year period when God's wrath will be poured out on the earth as never before. It is the seventieth week of Daniel 9:24-27.

- The Tribulation will begin when Israel signs a treaty with the Antichrist, who undertakes to guarantee Israel's peace. Thereafter, the devastating seal judgments are visited upon the earth.
- Will anyone who has *rejected* Christ before the Rapture be saved during the Tribulation?
 - It appears that God will allow them to be supernaturally blinded by Satan - 2 Thessalonians 2:9-12.
- Who will be the Antichrist?
 - The Antichrist, whose signing of a covenant with Israel will commence the Tribulation, is *the* major human character of that time.
 - The general course of his quest runs like this: the revived Roman Empire will become the strongest power in the world, and the Antichrist will become the ruler of this empire. He will set himself against God and will persecute the Jewish people and those who refuse to receive "the mark of the beast" (Rev. 13). Jesus and His legions will defeat the Antichrist in the final battle of the war of Armageddon (Rev. 19:11-19). The Antichrist and the false prophet will be captured alive after this battle and thrown into the lake of fire (Rev. 19:20).
- Is the Antichrist alive now?
 - He certainly could be, but we do not know for sure. The first event which will conclusively reveal the identity of the Antichrist is described in Daniel 9:26-27.
 - The person who signs the covenant with Israel guaranteeing her peace will be none other than the Antichrist.
- Is there going to be a one-world government?
 - It's not as if the Antichrist is going to rule over every single square foot of territory on earth. It is probably more accurate to say that the government headed by the Antichrist will be the one superpower in existence during the Tribulation.
- Is there going to be a one-world church?
 - All who do not worship the Antichrist will not be able to survive. Revelation 17 describes this false religious system.
- What is the battle of Armageddon?
 - This is the last world war. It will be the final conflict in a series of battles between world powers over the city of Jerusalem and the land of Israel. It is therefore more of a campaign that rages through most of the last half of the Tribulation rather than one single battle.
- Is there a future Millennium?
 - Yes. The Millennium will be a thousand-year period in which Christ will set up a kingdom and rule over the entire earth (Rev. 20:4). It will begin about seventy-five days after the end of the Tribulation (Dan. 12:12). This thousand-year period is explicitly mentioned six times in six verses (Rev. 20:2-7).
- What is the Great White Throne Judgment?
 - It is the final, dreaded judgment. All the unsaved of all ages will appear at this judgment. It is described in Revelation 20:11-15. Jesus sits upon this throne. And His presence is fearsome—so much so that heaven and earth flee from His presence. And with good reason, for all who appear before this throne will be condemned to spend eternity in conscious suffering in the lake of fire.
- Will the unsaved suffer eternally?
 - Yes. They will suffer in what the Bible calls "the lake of fire." Conscious, eternal torment awaits those who have not trusted Christ as their Savior. He Himself said those not rightly related to Him would "go away into everlasting punishment" (Matt. 25:46).
- What is Preterism?
 - There are three varieties of Preterism:
 - The mild view is the earliest form and holds that the book of Revelation, with the exception of the Second Coming, was all fulfilled in the first three hundred years of the Christian church.
 - Moderate preterists believe chapters 4 through 19 of Revelation refer to the destruction of Jerusalem in A.D. 70. They hold, for example, in the future there will still be a second coming of Christ and bodily resurrection of saved and unsaved.
 - Extreme preterists believe that we are already living in the New Heavens and the New Earth,
 - All varieties of Preterism stand in stark contrast with what might be called "futurism." Futurism is the view held by premillennialists and dispensationalists who hold that everything from Revelation