

Eschatology: Last Things
Week 8

I. Hope

- A. Hope is faith in the future. It is knowledge, not merely a wish (Heb. 11:1)
- B. The end gives meaning (Rev. 6:9-11; Eccl. 12:13-14) and confidence (1 Cor. 15:58)

II. Christians Hope for the Three R's

- A. **Return** of Christ (2 Pet. 3:3-9)
- B. **Resurrection** of the body (1 Cor. 15:1-58): Death is our last enemy (1 Cor. 15:26)
- C. **Restoration** of all things
 - 1. New Heaven and New Earth (Isa. 65:17-25; Rev. 21:3; 2 Pet. 3:10-13)
 - a) 2 Peter 3:10-13—purging rather than annihilating fire.
 - b) New—discontinuity, Earth—continuity.
 - 1) Luke 24:36-43—the resurrected Christ is our point of comparison
 - 2) Things—same; Actions—different (2 Pet. 3:13; Rev. 21:5)
 - 3) Rule of thumb: if it belongs to creation it remains, if it belongs to the fall it will be removed.
 - a. Example: cultural activities (Rev. 21:24-26, Is. 60:3-11; 65:21)
 - b. Exception with creation: marriage (Matt. 22:30)
 - c. Exception with the fall: the serpent is still cursed (Isa. 65:25) and Jesus still bears his scars (John 20:27)

2. Consummation

a) The extra or more of redemption. Redemption not only restores creation, but also consummates it—takes it to a higher place.

b) Examples: higher development of culture, Emmanuel—God permanently with us, spiritual bodies (1 Cor. 15:42-54), inability to sin, better appreciation of God/grace (1 Pet. 1:12).

III. Hell

A. Significant passages: Matt. 25:31-46 (sheep and the goats); Mark 9:42-49 (avoid hell/Gehenna at all costs); Luke 16:19-31 (rich man and Lazarus); Rev. 20:11-15 (lake of fire).

B. Terms:

1. Sheol—OT term for the subterranean abode of the dead, especially the wicked.

2. Hades—common Greek term used to translate Sheol. It is used 11 times in the NT, sometimes to imply a place of punishment. Luke 16:23—rich man in Hades; Matt. 16:18—gates of Hades will not overcome Christ's church; Matt. 11:23, Luke 10:15—unbelieving Capernaum will be brought down to Hades; Rev. 20:13-14—Hades is thrown into the lake of fire.

3. Gehenna—the Hebrew Valley of Hinnom (*ge'hinnom*) just south of Jerusalem which was used as a place of child sacrifice to Molech during the reigns of King Ahaz and Manasseh (2 Chr. 28:3; 33:6; 2 Ki. 16:3). It may also have been a garbage dump that continually burned, which Jesus used to illustrate the impending fate of the wicked.

4. Lake of Fire (Rev. 20:13-15)

C. Is hell real?

1. Physical or spiritual pain?

2. Degrees of punishment? (Matt. 11:21-24; Luke 12:47-48)

3. Is hell penal or merely the effect of natural consequences?

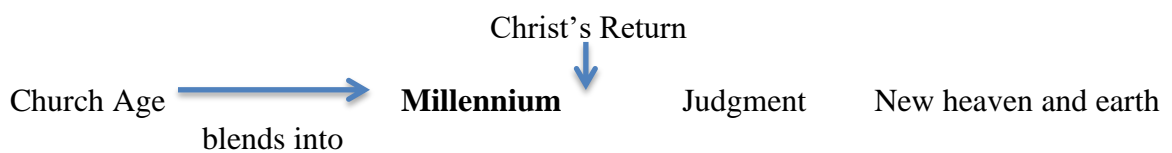
D. Is hell forever?

1. Annihilationism/conditionalism: Death means destruction, the end of existence. Finite creatures cannot merit everlasting torment. Scripture says that the flames, smoke, and worms last forever, not necessarily the sinners who are sent there (Isa. 66:24; Matt. 3:12; 25:41; Rev. 14:11).

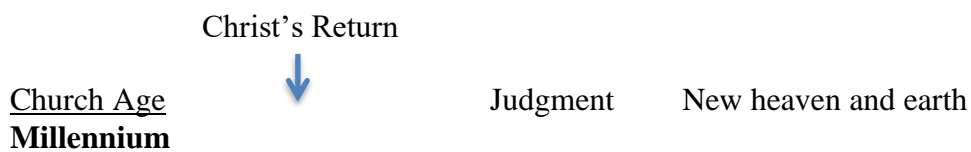
2. Everlasting conscious torment: Revelation 20:10 and 14:11 explicitly say that the subjects in hell suffer forever. Sins against an infinite God deserve everlasting suffering. We cannot atone for our own sin.

IV. Millennium Views

A. Postmillennialism: *Jesus spiritually reigns over the earth through the church—some now and a lot more in the future.*



B. Amillennialism: *Jesus spiritually reigns over the church now.*



C. Premillennialism: *Jesus will physically reign on earth in the future (and before the new earth)*

1. Historic and Dispensational Premillennialism

2. Views on the Tribulation: Pre-, Mid-, or Posttribulational Rapture

