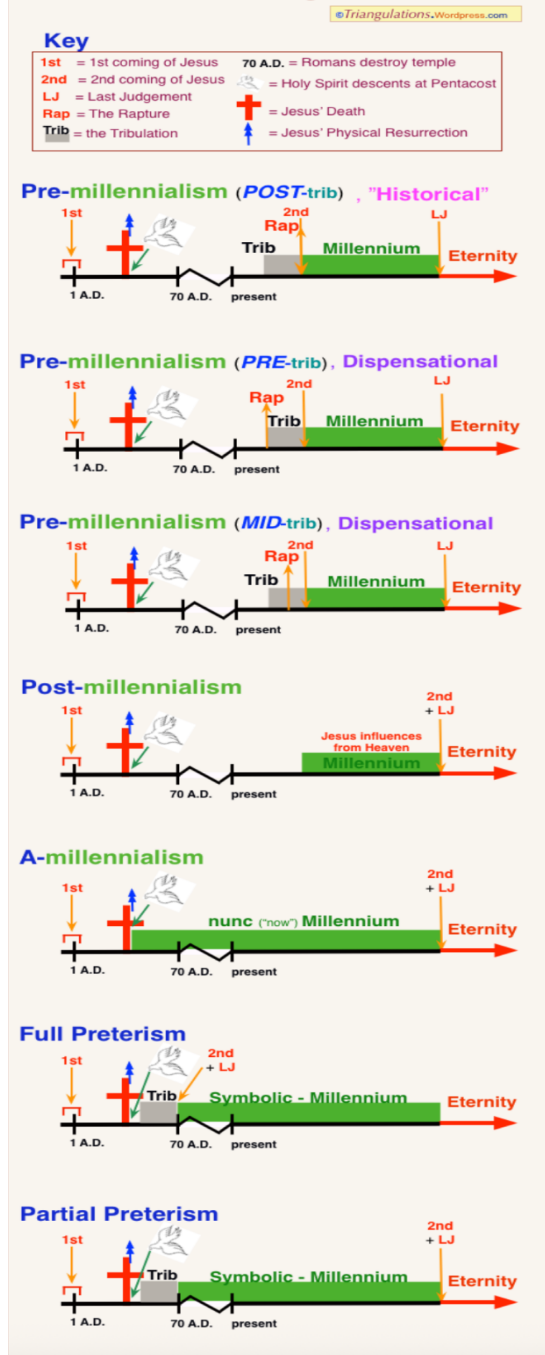


WEEK #6 - ESCHATOLOGY / FOLLOW-UP

Eschatology - what is it? Study of “Last Things” that is vague... it encapsulates our beliefs of everything AFTER the time the Bible was written, but more specifically concerning the **Rapture** of the Church, the **Tribulation**, **intermediate state**, the **resurrections** (plural), the **second advent of Christ**, **Millennium** and the **Eschaton** (Eternal State).

Christian Eschatologies



Different Views:

Historical Pre-millennialism - Not as concerned about the divisions of time. Rapture Post Trib - (Irenaeus, Papias, Justin Martyr)

Dispensational Millennialism - two different takes, Pre-tribulation and Mid-Tribulation raptures. John Nelson Darby systematized the view (1800-1882)

These TWO are futurist views of Eschatology: believing in a future return of Christ and 1000 year Millennium after a tribulation.

Post-Millennialism - the Church, through its efforts to reach the world for Christ will bring in a golden age “millennium” at a future point.

A-millennialism - After Christ’s death and resurrection, he has set up a spiritual kingdom in which we are all in the Millennium now, yet we do anticipate Christ’s 2nd Coming to Judge the world and set up the eternal state.

Partial Preterism: Events in Revelation Fulfilled by 70AD at the destruction of the Temple. Except for Christ Physical return in the future. In a symbolic millennium

Full Preterism: ALL events including Christ’s return, fulfilled symbolically before 70AD. We are in a symbolic millennium. **VERY PROBLEMATIC!** (Acts 1:11 said he would return in like manner that he left) Denies physical 2nd coming, judgement, resurrection. I consider this as departing from true biblical doctrine. Heresy.

Our Church's position: Dispensational Pre Trib Millennialism.

Concerning the Last Things:

We believe in the personal, premillennial and imminent return of Jesus Christ to rapture the Church. We believe in the second Advent of Christ, at which time He will return with His saints to establish His Kingdom and reign in power and glory. We believe in the bodily resurrection of the just and the unjust; the everlasting blessedness of the saved and the final judgment and endless conscious suffering of the lost. (I Thess. 4:16-17; II Thess. 2:7-12; I Cor. 15:50-58; John 5:28-29; Rev. 20:1-15; Rev. 19:11-16; Zech. 14:4-11)

The hermeneutics of dispensational-premillennialism is literal/plain - it is normal, non-allegorical - so when we see a prophecy, we expect a literal fulfillment of prophecy.

Genesis 15 - There is importance in understanding that the **Abrahamic covenant** was **unconditional** - this is great support to the premillennial position as it has never been fully fulfilled, while it may have been claimed briefly during Joshua's conquest, it had never been fully realized nor had it been kept.

2 Sam 7:12-16 lays out the unconditional covenant with David; very important for understanding the millennium. He would have a descendant who would establish his kingdom and it would be established forever, it was interrupted by the babylonian captivity, but there has always been a right to rule with the davidic dynasty.

Related to Solomon: he would build the temple v13, the throne of his kingdom would be **established forever** (v13) punished but not deposed (v14-15)

Gabriel announced to Mary that God would give to her Child the throne of His father David forever (Luke 1:31-33) and When the disciples asked Jesus when he'd establish the kingdom after his resurrection, he did not alter, he only said **he could not reveal** the time when the kingdom would come. (Acts 1:6-8) ***"Then they gathered around him and asked him, 'Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' 7 He said to them: 'It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. 8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.'"***

FUTURE EVENTS:

Events that will surround the the end of the church age:

-**increased Apostasy.** “Last days” is the term surrounding this entire period between Christ's first and second coming (Heb 1:2) and 2 Timothy 3:1 indicates that **apostasy** (leaving the faith) will characterize the entire period, BUT there will be a **noticeable increase** at the end of it. It is the first noticeable sign of the end of the age - 2 Thess 2:3 - the **apostasy** comes first (aka the falling away) the markers for apostasy are the **denial of the doctrine of the trinity** (1 John 2:22-23) *“Who is the liar but the one who denies that Jesus is the [a]Christ? This is the antichrist, the one who denies the Father and the Son. 23 Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father; the one who confesses the Son has the Father also.”* the denial of the **incarnation**, (same verses) and the denial of the **return of Christ** (2 Pet 3:3-4) *“3 Know this first of all, that in the last days mockers will come with their mocking, following after their own lusts, 4 and saying, “Where is the promise of His coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all continues just as it was from the beginning of creation.”*

- **Wars and Natural Disasters: Matthew 24:7** *“7 For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and in various places there will be famines and earthquakes.”*

- **A lawless and loveless society Matthew 24:7** *“Because lawlessness is increased, [f]most people’s love will grow cold.”*

- a preparation for an **Ecumenical Church** - and not the good kind. Rev 17 describes a harlot with blasphemous names that the people who “drink her wine” are multitudes and nations and tongues - it will be a widespread and unified.

THE RAPTURE:

What is it? Its a biblical term - Rapió/rapturo - latin of “Harpazo” which is greek for “caught up” Its the same word described of **taking Philip away from the Ethiopian Eunich** - Acts 8:39 or how **Paul was “caught up” to the third heaven** in 2 Cor 12:2-4. And where we get the rapture doctrine (1 thess 4:17) has no shadow of a doubt that it means the same thing - being snatched up, a removal of people from the earth to heaven (Matthew 24:36-44) *“36 “But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son,[f] but only the Father. 37 As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. 38 For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; 39 and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. 40 Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left. 41 Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left. 42 “Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come. 43 But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into.*

44 So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.

This passage shows us that the rapture is unknown and imminent.

Evidences for Pre-Tribulational Rapture View:

Church is also not mentioned in Revelation 4-19, which is odd - only Israel. **"Time of Jacob's trouble"** Jeremiah 30:7. Also Revelation 3:10 **"10 Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come on the whole world to test the inhabitants of the earth."** Also 1 Thessalonians 5:9 **"For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ."**

Components of the rapture:

1 Thess 4:13-18 lays it out well.

Christ will return **"for the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a shout"** 16

A resurrection for the dead **"the dead in Christ will rise first"** 16

A rapture of living believers **"caught up with them in the clouds.."** 17

A reunion of believers and the Lord **"and so we shall always be with the Lord"**

Note on MIDTRIB:

Rev 12:6 and 14 indicate Israel fleeing to a wilderness place of refuge at the midpoint to avoid the wrath of the Dragon. Also equating the "last trumpet" in 1 Cor 15:52 to be the same as the 7th trumpet which corresponds to the midpoint of the tribulation

TRIBULATION PERIOD:

It is unique - **"such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor never shall"** (Matt 24:21) while believers are promised to have "tribulation" (John 16:33) this specific tribulation is a unique time in history that will be the **most tumultuous time in all of human history.**

Two main characteristics is that it will be worldwide - Rev 3:10 **indicates that this church will be spared from the trial over the whole world.** Most of the horrible trials, even among the church have been isolated or regionally located, this will be something massive.

Other characteristic is **how men will act, they will act as if it is the end of the world** - Rev 6:16 shows that they will want to be buried alive to hide from the wrath of God. They will desire death rather than to preserve life. There will be even a period of the tribulation **where people wont be able to die.**

The program of the antichrist -

He'll kill the two witnesses in Rev 11:3-13 it could be that at this same time, the antichrist may also **kill the 144,000 as well as destroy the false universal church.** He'll then **demand worship**, how will he accomplish this? With the help of Satan who is cast down to earth for a short time (rev 12) another reason why people will worship the beast is because of his **deadly wound that will be healed** - imitating Christ's death and resurrection out of mockery and

deception. There will also be a “second beast” almost acting as the first beast’s priest, to get the world to worship him. He will be able to work other signs to try to sway the world. (all in rev 13)

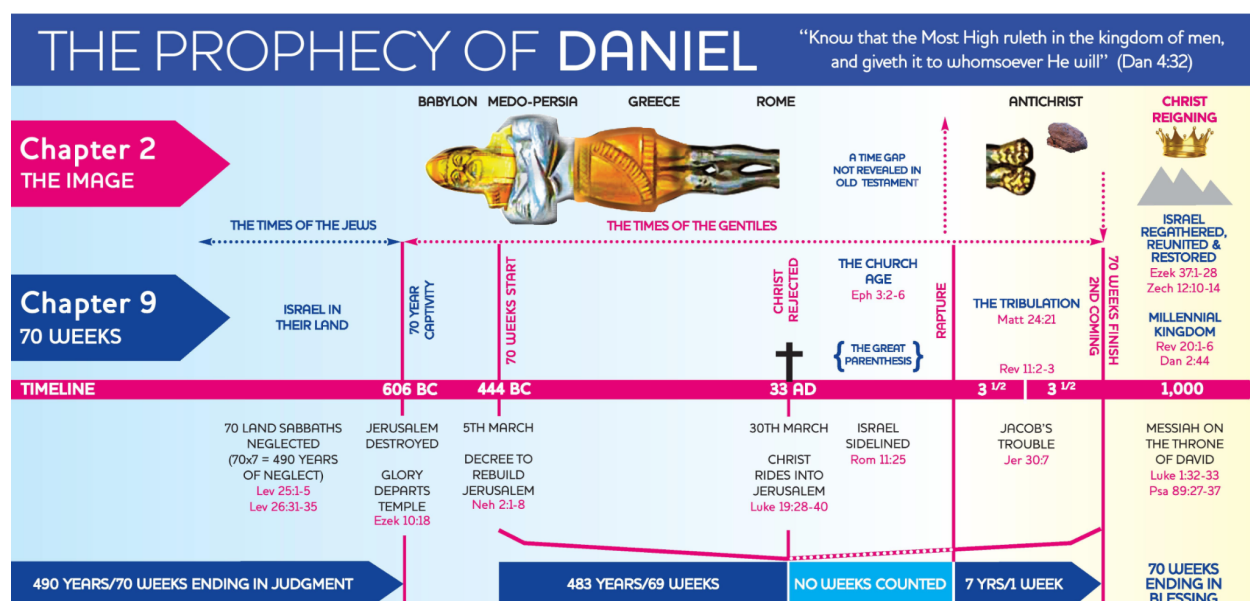
The UNHOLY Trinity - Satan, the antichrist and the false prophet. Imitation out of mockery

Beginning of the tribulation? *It may not be directly after the rapture of the church*, but the church is not present in the accounts of the tribulation so it is best believed that the church is not present in the Tribulation. It makes sense, Daniel’s 70 week prophecy is solely focused on the Jewish people, Daniel 9:24-27

24 “Seventy ‘sevens’[c] are decreed for your people and your holy city to finish[d] transgression, to put an end to sin, to atone for wickedness, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the Most Holy Place.[e]

25 “Know and understand this: From the time the word goes out to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until the Anointed One,[f]the ruler, comes, there will be seven ‘sevens,’ and sixty-two ‘sevens.’ It will be rebuilt with streets and a trench, but in times of trouble. 26 After the sixty-two ‘sevens,’ the Anointed One will be put to death and will have nothing.[g] The people of the ruler who will come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end will come like a flood: War will continue until the end, and desolations have been decreed. 27 He will confirm a covenant with many for one ‘seven.’[h] In the middle of the ‘seven’[i] he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And at the temple[j] he will set up an abomination that causes desolation, until the end that is decreed is poured out on him.

while the interval we are in “the mystery” is the time in-between where Christ shows grace to the gentiles. Daniel 9:27 says that this last “week” will start with the “abomination of desolation” the antichrist figure, will make a firm covenant with many for one week - but then in the middle he’ll stop the sacrifice in the temple. This little horn in Daniel 7:8 is one who will “speak great boasts” he will head the coalition of nations in the tribulation days - he is also called the “**man of lawlessness**” in 2 Thessalonians 2:3. So this man will first make a covenant, then break it and be worshipped in the temple half way through the tribulation. In Revelation he is known as the “beast of the sea”



Dive Deeper: NOT SURE WHERE IT FITS: Gog and Magog

Another side note- egypt and Gog/Magog have parts to play in the end-time period although it is not clear how that will look exactly or where it will land in the timeline.

Daniel 11:40-43, Ezekiel 38-39 indicate it as well. Different views see this as happening, before the tribulation, during the tribulation and even after the millennium during Satan's last attack on God's Kingdom.

SEALS, TRUMPETS and BOWLS:

Revelation 6-19 is a sequence describing in great detail what will happen during the tribulation time. 3 series of judgements, seals, trumpets and bowls. Are these judgements repeated with greater intensity or are they the same judgements spoken differently? I would lean towards they are chronological, because that is the most logical without other information. But it doesn't matter much one way or another.

Seals: (Revelation 6)

1 - a rider on a **white horse who went forth conquering**. Some believe that this man is the same as the man of lawlessness, it may not be a legitimate way of conquering, it could be extremely diplomatic - aka more of growing popularity. it could be marked by the same idea as 1 thess 5:3 where there is relative "peace and safety" because...

2 - a **red horse with a rider who "takes peace" from the earth** - aka war! Men will slay one another.

3 - a **black horse with a rider with scales**. Seems to be marked with famine, yet luxuries will be abundant.

4 - an **ashen horse - or a sickly horse** - this is **death**, given authority to kill a 4th of the world.

5 - **martyrs in heaven** will be asking "how long Lord till you avenge us" and he responds with wait till the number of their fellow servants who will be martyred are completed.

6 - **a total cataclysmic event!** an earthquake, the sun is blacked out and the moon becomes blood. A lot of seismic and maybe even volcanic activity - that would explain the blacking out the sun. also stars fall - probably indicating meteors, then people will hide in terror.

Interlude between 6 -7th seal - Chapter 7 - 144,000 sealed and praise in heaven "Side note - there are believers that will be martyred during the tribulation as indicated in the 5th seal as well as when mentioning the harlot in 17, that this ecumenical church will be **"drunk with the blood of the saints"** how does that work if the church is raptured? Well the sealing of the 144,000 mentioned in Revelation 7 may indeed be what is talked about when we are referring to the saints that are martyred."

7 - (not till Revelation 8) interestly, there is **silence**, and this seventh seal introduces the 7 trumpets (women in heaven joke haha)

TRUMPETS: (Rev 8, 9 and 11)

1 - **hail and fire mingled with blood - 3rd of the earth will be burned up.**

2 - **something like a great mountain burning with fire going into the sea** - perhaps a rather large meteor that causes massive disruption in the sea, a third of the sea turns to blood and a 3rd of the ships destroyed.

3 - **a star falling from heaven that fell on the rivers making a 3rd of them bitter** - poisonous, undrinkable water

4- **a third of the moon and the 3rd of the stars were struck**, so less light, maybe affecting the days.

5- **bottomless pit is opened and scary locusts with scorpion stingers come out and torture humans**, but they dont kill them, these are led by Abaddon - the angel of the bottomless pit.

6- **4 angels in the Euphrates are released to kill a 3rd of mankind.** Fire, smoke and brimstone proceed from their mouths

INTERLUDE in chapter 10 and 11 little scroll, sweet in the mouth, bitter going down. 11 is about the two witnesses

7- announcement that the end is foreseen, that Christ reigns!

BOWLS: (Rev 16) seem to be echoing "Moses" plagues

1. **Sores - loathsome and malignant** - could be something cancerous - these only came upon those who worshiped the beast.
2. **Sea Waters turned into blood** - every living thing in the sea died.
3. **Fresh water now turned into blood**, people have to drink blood as a judgement on their murders of believers.
4. **Sun is intense as to scorch men with fire.**
5. **The kingdom of the beast will be darkened**, but they do not repent.
6. **The euphrates river is dried up to prepare for an army to cross.**

7. **Cataclysm!** Loud voice from the temple “it is done” flashes of lightning peals of thunder, great earthquake greater than all that had ever come before, the great city was split into three parts, the cities of nations fell, every island fled away, mountains were not found, huge hailstones 100 pounds each!

Armageddon:

Armies of the whole world gather at Megiddo for a great battle. In the Midst of the Battle, **the Lord Jesus Christ will return and the armies of heaven will conquer the armies of earth** (Rev 19:11-21)

POPULATING THE MILLENIAL KINGDOM:

Problem - there has to be people who can procreate, resurrected saints “are like the angels” neither marrying or given into marriage - aka no babies. So how does repopulating the world happen? There must be **people who make it through the tribulation and enter the millennium in unresurrected bodies to become the parents of the millennial population.** While **many believers will be martyred** (Rev 6:11, 13:15) **some will survive** (Matt 25:34; Zech 14:11) Tribulation purges the unbelievers, and **leaves a remnant** (Ezekiel 20:38) which is a prominent theme throughout the Bible.

MILLENNIUM:

This is the **1000 year reign of the messiah on earth as promised ot David** (2 Sam 7:12-16) it is the consummation of the jewish story. **Land promises to Abraham will be fulfilled** (Gen 15:18)

How long is the Millennium? Well, 6 times it is stated as 1000 years in Revelation 20:2-7.

Christ will reign as a **perfectly benevolent despot** (Rev 19:15) and that means perfect and **complete justice for all** - (Isaiah 11:4; 65:20) ***“but with righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth.”***

Jerusalem will be the center of government (Isaiah 2:3) ***“The law will go out from Zion, the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.”***

OT peeps will make a comeback too - **significantly David** who will be a **regent in the millennial kingdom.** (Ezekiel 37:24-25) or could this be referring to Jesus?

12 apostles will be ruling the 12 tribes (Matt 19:28) believers too have a part to play in the new kingdom administration - Rev 5:10. ***“You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth.”*** Maybe 1 Cor 6:2-3 could also be evidence for that.

Sacrifice will be back in action in the temple - (Ezekiel 40-48 seem to indicate that) almost as a memorializing the death of Christ. And there will be religious holidays. (Zech 14:16) ***“Then the survivors from all the nations that have attacked Jerusalem will go up year after year to worship the King, the LORD Almighty, and to celebrate the Festival of Tabernacles.”***

FUTURE JUDGEMENTS:

Judgement on believers works:

Primary texts are 1 Cor 3:10-15 and 2 Cor 5:10 ***“10 By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as a wise builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should build with care. 11 For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. 12 If anyone builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, 13 their work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each person’s work. 14 If what has been built survives, the builder will receive a reward. 15 If it is burned up, the builder will suffer loss but yet will be saved—even though only as one escaping through the flames.”*** - we, although saved, will be judged according to what we have done - site of judgement is at the bema seat. Everything will be exposed, good and bad deeds as well as motives. Some will be saved only at the **loss of everything** they built with - **seems to show God’s faithfulness even though believers may be unfaithful** (for he cannot deny himself 2 Tim 2:13)

I believe that this judgement will happen at the first resurrection (Revelation 20:4-6) ***“4 I saw thrones on which were seated those who had been given authority to judge. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony about Jesus and because of the word of God. They had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ a thousand years. 5 (The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended.) This is the first resurrection. 6 Blessed and holy are those who share in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him for a thousand years.”***

There is a Judgment of Jews who make it through the Tribulation: Ezekiel 20:34-38 and this could be illustrated in Matthew 25:1-30 ***“34 I will bring you from the nations and gather you from the countries where you have been scattered—with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm and with outpoured wrath. 35 I will bring you into the wilderness of the nations and there, face to face, I will execute judgment upon you. 36 As I judged your ancestors in the wilderness of the land of Egypt, so I will judge you, declares the Sovereign LORD. 37 I will take note of you as you pass under my rod, and I will bring you into the bond of the covenant. 38 I will purge you of those who revolt and rebel against me. Although I will bring them out of the land where they are living, yet they will not enter the land of Israel. Then you will know that I am the LORD.”***

There will be a judgement of Gentile survivors as well (Joel 3:2) in the Kidron Valley. Matthew 25:31-46 seems to also indicate this judgement. ***“I will gather all nations and bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat. There I will put them on trial for what they did to my inheritance, my people Israel, because they scattered my people among the nations and divided up my land.”***

There is a judgement on the Unholy Trinity (Devil, antichrist, false prophet) and the Fallen Angels, Rev 20:10. ***“10 And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever.” (or Matthew 25:41) ““Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. “***

There is a judgement of the unsaved Dead after the millennium. Unbelievers will be judged by what is in the books at the Great White Throne Judgement. (Rev 20:11-15) ***“11 Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. The earth and the heavens fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. 12 And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. 13 The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what they had done. 14 Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. 15 Anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire.”***

Some believe these judgements overlap or subsequent. But this is the expanded look of each aspect of judgment.

Intermediate state:

Abraham's bosom? - Luke 16:22, seems to indicate a separation even in the grave between people of faith and those of perdition. Ephesians 4:9 speaks of Christ's descent into the grave, 1 Peter 3:18 also mentions this descent. ***“9 (What does “he ascended” mean except that he also descended to the lower, earthly regions[a]?”***

After Christ, Souls are with Christ in Heaven, as indicated already in Revelation 6:9 (2 Corinthians 5:8) ***“We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord.”*** BUT they do not have resurrected bodies - thats why they say “how long O lord?” because their story is not completed.

Resurrection:

OT has some flavor of it - Job 19:26 where Job said that he would see God in the flesh.

Jesus used Exodus 3:6 as evidence of the resurrection: God is not the God of the dead but of the living. (Luke 20:38)

Psalms 16:8-11 - David writes of his own future resurrection.

Psalms 49:14 -indicates that righteousness will one day triumph over the wicked - implying after this life.

Isaiah 26:19 - explicitly teaches the bodily resurrection of the dead. ***“But your dead will live, LORD; their bodies will rise—let those who dwell in the dust wake up and shout for joy—your dew is like the dew of the morning; the earth will give birth to her dead.”***

Daniel 12:2 - describes **two resurrections**, one to life and one to everlasting contempt - which is later affirmed in John 5:28-29 and Revelation 20:4-5 ***“Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake:some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt.”***

Thoughts on Universalism:

Its appealing of course, of course ***we all should “desire all men to be saved”*** Just like our lord (1 tim 2:4) but we have plenty of evidence that there will be people who will be damned for eternity. 1 Cor 15:22 states **that all who are IN CHRIST will be raised, not that everyone will.** The **“wrath of God remains” on those who do not believe in Christ** (John 3:36) Matthew 25:46 also shows that some go to life, others to eternal death.

Thoughts on Conditionalism (Annihilationism):

Very little to no evidence for this. I guess 2 Thess 1:9 could read “eternal destruction” but that is vague. But if we correlate when the devil and the beasts were in the Lake of fire in Rev 20:10, we could also see in v15 that people not found written in the book of life would be thrown into that same lake of fire.

Eternal State: Eschaton (Revelation 21-22)

What do we know about believers who are resurrected in the Eschaton? It is essentially a reverse of the curse, and a new picture of the Garden of Eden.

We will be a participant of the new heavens and new earth (rev 21:1)

There will no longer be death, mourning, pain, sadness (rev 21:4)

There will be a New Jerusalem - a new city (Rev 21:10-27)

There will be a new tree of Life (Rev 22:1-2)

We will walk by the Light of Jesus, and we'll be with him forever (Rev 22:3-5)