

## ***Future Things***

I believe . . .

- God's purpose in history is to reign over his creation as he first intended. The goal is to see Christ ruling in his Kingdom on earth. Therefore, the future provides the outworking of God's plan (Ps 22:27-28; Dan 2:44; 1 Cor 15:24-28).
- Jesus' return, his second coming, looms as the next great future event when believers who have died and who are living will meet him in the air (1 Thess 4:13-18) to return with him (Acts 1:11-12; Matt 24:30-31) to put down evil and to rule on earth with him.
- Jesus will prove victorious over Satan, the beast, the false prophet, and those who sided with them against God. They will be assigned to eternal punishment (Rev 19:19-21).
- God's purpose in history will unfold with a Millennium of peace on earth (Rev 20:1-6). Those alive after the Great Tribulation who did not carry the mark of the beast will enjoy a flourishing life (Isa 65:20) for a long time. At the end of that period, Satan will be set free, but he will prove evil again and will be judged and sent to eternal punishment (Rev 20:7-10).
- Jesus will judge the righteous and the unrighteous (Matt 25:31-46; Rev 20:11-15). God will make a new heavens and a new earth and will dwell with the righteous on earth forever (Rev 21; cf. Isa 65:17-25). Redemption of the whole creation, including believers, will transform what we know into perfection for eternity. We will worship our God and his son forever.
- God will rule sovereignly over all (Rev 22:5).
- That the promises found in God's plan for the future provide our hope of full salvation, but the details blur in various interpretations (see Bible 101, "The Apocalypse" introduction).