

Where is the Church Headed “Eschatologically”--
“Eschatology” in the New Testament
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Eschatology (literally “the study or belief about the last things”) is a slippery word and is often narrowly defined to refer to those events immediately preceding, accompanying, and following the final return of Jesus. Too often the subject is discussed in the final chapters of a theology book when it really embraces the entire Bible. When I use the word in relation to the New Testament, I refer to the entire history of Jesus Christ as the content of eschatology, not simply his resurrection and return in glory. Hence, the subject has to do not with “the last things” but with the person of Christ, who is the first and the last One. In particular, the “End” began in Jesus Christ and yet we await the “End.” What is specifically characterized as New Testament eschatology includes both an “inaugurated” (the present fulfillment of the kingdom and the blessings we enjoy as followers of Jesus) and a “future” eschatology (events that are still future—the final coming, the final judgment, the new heavens and new earth, etc.).

Some helpful resources are:

Conyers, A. J. *The Eclipse of Heaven: Rediscovering the Hope of a World Beyond*. Downers Grove: Inter-Varsity Press, 1992.

Hoekema, Anthony A. *The Bible and the Future*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1979.

Lewis, Daniel J. *3 Crucial Questions about the Last Days*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1998.

Riddlebarger, Kim. *A Case for Amillennialism: Undertanding the End Times*. Downers Grove: Inter-Varsity Press, 2003.

Travis, Stephen H. *I Believe in the Second Coming of Jesus*. London: Hodder and Stoughton, 1982.

_____. *The Jesus Hope*. Waco: Word, 1974.

Venema, Cornelis P. *The Promise of the Future*. Edinburgh: The Banner of Truth Trust, 2000.

Zorn, Raymond F. *Christ Triumphant: Biblical Perspectives on His Church and Kingdom*. Edinburgh: The Banner of Truth Trust, 1997.