

Where Will You Be in Eternity?

As we come to the last section of our Articles of Faith, Section 16, we find the title, *The Eternal State*. Reading this over, you will see that we are attempting to warn people of the eternal consequences of the decisions they make in life.

a. We believe in the bodily resurrection of all men, the saved to eternal life and the unsaved to judgment and everlasting punishment. (Matthew 25:46; John 5:28-29; John 11:25-26; Revelation 20:5-6, 12, 13).

b. We believe that the souls of the redeemed are, at death, absent from the body and present with the Lord, where in conscious bliss they await the first resurrection, when spirit, soul and body are reunited to be glorified forever with the Lord. (Luke 23:43; Revelation 20:4-6; 2 Corinthians 5:8; Philippians 1:23; Philippians 3:21; 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17).

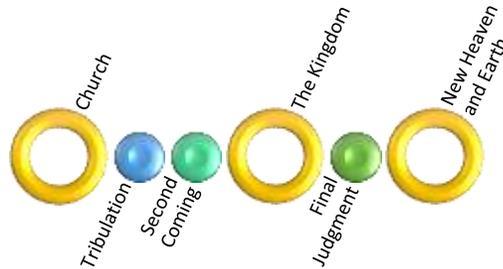
c. We believe that the souls of unbelievers remain after death, in conscious misery until the second resurrection, when with soul and body reunited they shall appear at the Great White Throne Judgment, and shall be cast into the Lake of Fire, not to be annihilated, but to suffer everlasting conscious punishment. (Luke 16:19-26; Matthew 25:41-46; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9; Mark 9:43-48; Revelation 20:11-15).

While this section primarily describes *what will happen to individuals in eternity*, it also deals with things which are future. It might be helpful to you to pull together a rough guide to future events up to the day when “time will be no more.”

A Chronology of Future Events

We can and should all agree upon a general outline of five major events, yet future to us:

1. Tribulation Period,
2. Second Coming of Christ,
3. Millennial (1,000 Years) Kingdom,
4. Final Judgment,
5. New Heaven and Earth.



Within this chronological framework, there are a multitude of things which will take place. A helpful resource for further study on this is *The Bible Knowledge Commentary, vol. 1, pages 1318–1321*, which is an “Outline of End-Time Events Predicted in the Bible.”

In answering the following questions, feel free to use any of the references cited in our statement as well as any other Scriptures that come to mind.

1. *In your opinion, would it be wrong for God to reward the wicked and punish the righteous? Why or why not?*

2. *What does the Bible say will happen to a believer who dies?*

3. *What happens to the unsaved when they die?*

Our statement talks about the “first resurrection” and then a “second resurrection” (Rev 20:5-6).

4. *Is the “first resurrection” the first time someone rose from the dead? Why or why not?*

5. *In what way is the “second resurrection” a real resurrection?*

6. *What will be the basis for the final judgment (Revelation 20:11-15)?*

7. *Is there anything they can do to avoid being cast into the Lake of Fire?*