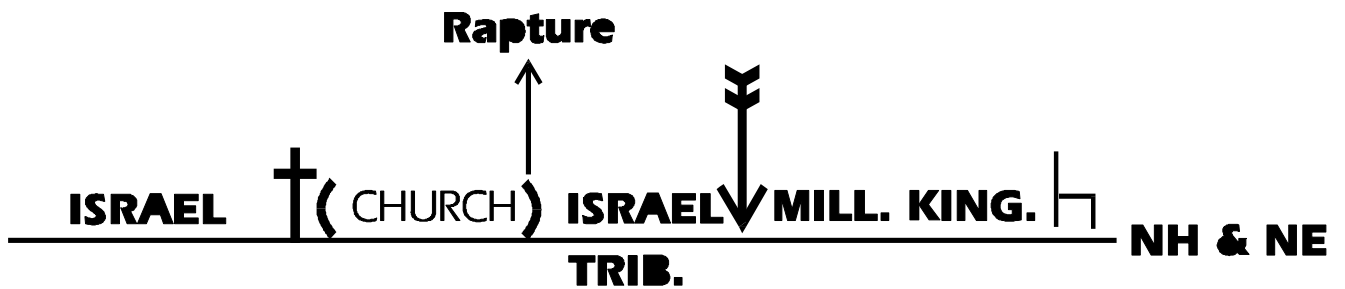


**Xenos Christian Fellowship  
Christian Principles: Unit 1  
Foundations of Spiritual Growth**

**Week 9: Eschatology 3- End-times Events**

**Introduction**



**The Church Age**

**The Church Age as a “mystery” - Rom. 11:25**

**The Matt. 13 parables contrast the Church Age (the "mysteries of the kingdom") to the Millennial Kingdom.**

PARABLE	MESSIANIC KINGDOM	"MYSTERY" PHASE OF KINGDOM
<b>Soils</b> 13:3-9,18-23	The kingdom will come with irresistible force.	The kingdom is spread by communicating the gospel, and people respond to this message in various ways.
<b>Wheat &amp; Tares</b> 13:24-30,36-43	God will separate the righteous from the unrighteous.	The righteous and the unrighteous live together in the same world.
<b>Dragnet</b> 13:47-50	God will separate all false members from the righteous.	False members will be swept into its sphere of influence.
<b>Mustard Seed &amp; Leaven</b> 13:31-33	God's kingdom dramatically covers the whole world.	God's kingdom starts small and grows gradually to become large.
<b>Pearl &amp; Treasure</b> 13:44-46	The surpassing value of God's kingdom will be apparent to everyone.	God's kingdom is inconspicuous, yet of inestimable value.

**Matt. 24:4-14 provides a brief description of the Church Age**  
**Vs. 4-8**

**Vs. 9-13**

**Vs. 14**

**2 Tim. 3:1-9**

## **The Rapture**

**What is it?**

**(1 Thess. 4:16,17)** For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. (17) After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.

**(1 Cor. 15:50-53)** I declare to you, brothers, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. (51) Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed--(52) in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will

sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. (53) For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality.

## Why is it called the “Rapture?”

### When will it occur?

**Covenantalists:** Because Covenantalists see the Church replacing Israel, they see the Rapture as the first event of the Second Coming (POST-TRIBULATIONAL VIEW).

#### *parousia:*

**Dispensationalist:** Because Dispensationalists see the Church as a parenthesis in God's working through Israel, they see the Rapture as a distinct event separated by a period of time (PRE- or MID-TRIBULATIONAL VIEWS). If the Dispensational hermeneutic is accepted, there is ample additional support for the Rapture as an event which precedes the Second Coming by a significant period of time.

#### 1. Contrasts between the Second Advent and the Rapture:

- a. **Rapture** - Believers meet Christ in the air (1 Thess. 4:17)  
**Second Advent** - Believers meet Christ on the ground (Zech. 14:4,5).
- b. **Rapture** - Believers involved become immortal (1 Cor. 15:51-53).  
**Second Advent** - Believers involved remain mortal (Is. 65:20; Rev. 19:18).
- c. **Rapture** - Believers involved go immediately to heaven (1 Thess. 4:17).  
**Second Advent** - Believers involved stay on earth to populate the Millennial Kingdom (Mt. 25:31-34; Zech. 14:9ff).

#### 2. Intervening events between the Rapture and Second Advent require enough time that they are best explained as two separate events.

- a. There must be enough time for people to get saved, because mortal believers inhabit the Millennial Kingdom (Is. 65:20).
- b. Rev. 20:4 implies that there must be enough time for some of the above believers to die.

#### 3. The contrast between the "day of Christ" and the "day of the Lord" suggests two different comings.

- a. The "day of Christ" is for the church and is looked forward to (1 Cor. 1:8; 1 Cor. 5:5; 2 Cor. 1:14; Phil. 1:6).
- b. The "day of the Lord" is for Israel and unbelievers and is feared as a time of God's judgment (Is. 13:6,9 Is. 34:8; Ezek. 30:3; Amos 5:18; Zeph. 1:7-13;

1 Thess. 5:2; 1 Thess. 3:2; 2 Thess. 2:2).

4. God usually removes believers before he judges catastrophically (e.g., Noah; Lot). Several New Testament passages suggest that he will remove Christians before the Tribulation (2 Pet. 2:5-9; 1 Thess. 1:10; 5:9).

**Note:**

**Application:**

**(1 Thess. 4:13,18)** But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve, as do the rest who have no hope . . . (18) Therefore comfort one another with these words.

**(1 Cor. 15:58)** Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord.

## **The Judgment-Seat of Christ**

**(1 Cor. 3:10-15\*\*)** According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building upon it. But let each man be careful how he builds upon it. (11) For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. (12) Now if any man builds upon the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, (13) each man's work will become evident; for the day will show it, because it is to be revealed with fire; and the fire itself will test the quality of each man's work. (14) If any man's work which he has built upon it remains, he shall receive a reward. (15) If any man's work is burned up, he shall suffer loss; but he himself shall be saved, yet so as through fire.

### **What is the purpose of this judgment?**

### **When will it occur?**

### **What is the reward?**

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**(1 Cor. 3:13)** . . . each man's work will become evident; for the day will show it, because it is to be revealed with fire; and the fire itself will test the quality of each man's work.

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**(1 Cor. 4:5)** Therefore do not go on passing judgment before the time, but wait until the Lord comes who will both bring to light the things hidden in the darkness and disclose the motives of men's hearts; and then each man's praise will come to him from God.

**(Matt. 25:20-23)** "And the one who had received the five talents came up and brought five more talents, saying, 'Master, you entrusted five talents to me; see, I have gained five more talents.' (21) "His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful slave; you were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things, enter into the joy of your master.' (22) "The one also who had received the two talents came up and said, 'Master, you entrusted to me two talents; see, I have gained two more talents.' (23) "His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful slave; you were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.'

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**(Luke 19:17-19)** "And he said to him, 'Well done, good slave, because you have been faithful in a very little thing, be in authority over ten cities.' (18) "And the second came, saying, 'Your mina, master, has made five minas.' (19) "And he said to him also, 'And you are to be over five cities.'

## CONCLUSION

**(2 Cor. 4:17)** For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison,<sup>18</sup> while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

## How can we accumulate this reward?

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**(Daniel 12:3)** "And those who have insight will shine brightly like the brightness of the expanse of heaven, and those who lead the many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever.

**(1 Thes. 2:19,20)** For who is our hope or joy or *crown* of exultation? Is it not even you, in the presence of our Lord Jesus at His coming? (20) For you are our glory and joy.

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**(1 Pet. 5:2-4)** . . . shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to the will of God; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness; (3) nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge, but proving to be examples to the flock. (4) And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading *crown* of glory.

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**(1 Cor. 9:24-27)** Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win. (25) And everyone who competes in the games exercises self-control in all things. They then do it to receive a perishable *wreath*, but we an imperishable. (26) Therefore I run in such a

way, as not without aim; I box in such a way, as not beating the air; (27) but I buffet my body and make it my slave, lest possibly, after I have preached to others, I myself should be disqualified.

**(2 Peter 1:5-7,11)** Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in your moral excellence, knowledge; (6) and in your knowledge, self-control, and in your self-control, perseverance, and in your perseverance, godliness; (7) and in your godliness, brotherly kindness, and in your brotherly kindness, love...(11) for in this way the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be abundantly supplied to you.

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**(Jas. 1:12)** Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved, he will receive the *crown* of life, which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.

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**(Luke 14:12-14)** And He also went on to say to the one who had invited Him, "When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, lest they also invite you in return, and repayment come to you. (13) "But when you give a reception, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, (14) and you will be blessed, since they do not have the means to repay you; for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

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**(1 Tim 6:18,19)** Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, (19) storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is life indeed."

### **How should hoping for this judgment affect us?**

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**(2 Tim. 4:1, 5, 8)** I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom . . . *fulfill your ministry* . . . (8) in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing.

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**(1 Cor. 4:3-5)** But to me it is a very small thing that I should be examined by you, or by any human court; in fact, I do not even examine myself. (4) For I am conscious of nothing against myself, yet I am not by this acquitted; but the one who examines me is the Lord. (5) Therefore do not go on passing judgment before the time, but wait until the Lord comes who will both bring to light the things hidden in the darkness and disclose the motives of men's hearts; and then each man's praise will come to him from God.

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**(1 Cor. 3:10b,15)** According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building upon it. But let each man be careful how he builds upon it . . . (15) If any man's work is burned up, he shall suffer loss; but he himself shall be saved, yet so as through fire.

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**(Rom. 14:10-12)** But you, why do you judge your brother? Or you again, why do you regard your brother with contempt? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of God. (11) For it is written, "AS I LIVE, SAYS THE LORD, EVERY KNEE SHALL BOW TO ME, AND EVERY TONGUE SHALL GIVE PRAISE TO GOD." (12) So then each one of us shall give account of himself to God.

## The Regathering of Israel & Jewish Revival

1. Israel will be dispersed and then regathered as a nation as a precursor to the end of the age and the Messianic kingdom (Deut. 28:58-68; 30:1-6; Ezek. 38:8).

**(Luke 21:24)** They will fall by the sword and will be taken as prisoners to all the nations. Jerusalem will be trampled on by the Gentiles *until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled*.

### **Fulfillment:**

2. Jerusalem will be back in the hands of the Jews. (Zech. 12,14; Lk. 21:24)

### **Fulfillment:**

3. The Jewish temple will be rebuilt and sacrifices resumed by the mid-point of the Tribulation. (Dan. 9:27\*; Matt. 24:15)

**(2 Thess. 2:4)** He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God.

### **Fulfillment:**

4. The Jews will be regathered while still in an unregenerate state (Ezek. 36, 37). There are evidently two great movements of the Jews to Christ.

- **Rev. 7:3-9**
- **Zech. 12:10-13:9**

### **Fulfillment:**

## The Tribulation, Antichrist, & Abomination of Desolation

**The Tribulation is a time when God's focus returns to the nation of Israel.**

**(Dan. 9:27\*)** "And he will make a firm covenant with the many for one week, but in the middle of the week he will put a stop to sacrifice and grain offering; and on the wing of abominations will come one who makes desolate, even until a complete destruction, one that is decreed, is poured out on the one who makes desolate."

**The Tribulation is approximately 7 years long--the 70th "week" of Dan. 9:27. This period consists of two 3.5 year periods divided by a mid-point event:**

- **Beginning event**
  
- **First 3.5 years**
  
- **Mid-point event**
  
- **Final 3.5 years**
  
- **Ending event**

**The central figure of the Tribulation is the "Antichrist."** He is also known as the "little horn" (Dan. 7:8), the "man of sin" (2 Thes. 2:3), and "the one who makes desolate" (Dan. 9:27), and "the beast" (Rev. 13:4). Among his important features:

- He is a Gentile. (Dan. 2:41,42; 7:7-10)
 

(Rev. 13:1,2) And the dragon stood on the shore of the sea. And I saw a beast coming out of the sea. He had ten horns and seven heads, with ten crowns on his horns, and on each head a blasphemous name. (2) The beast I saw resembled a leopard, but had feet like those of a bear and a mouth like that of a lion. The dragon gave the beast his power and his throne and great authority.
- He achieves worldwide power for a brief period of time. (Dan. 7:23-25)
 

(Rev. 13:8) All inhabitants of the earth will worship the beast--all whose names have not been written in the book of life belonging to the Lamb that was slain from the creation of the world.
- He sets himself up as an object of worship. (Dan 11:36,37)
 

(Rev. 13:4) Men worshiped the dragon because he had given authority to the beast, and they also worshiped the beast and asked, "Who is like the beast? Who can make war against him?"
- He is energized by Satan. (Rev. 13:4)
 

(2 Thess. 2:9) The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with the work of Satan displayed in all kinds of counterfeit miracles, signs and wonders,

- He is a great adversary of believers. (**Dan 7: 25**)

(**Rev. 13:7**) He was given power to make war against the saints and to conquer them. And he was given authority over every tribe, people, language and nation.

- He hates Jesus Christ.

(**Rev. 17:14**) They will make war against the Lamb, but the Lamb will overcome them because he is Lord of lords and King of kings--and with him will be his called, chosen and faithful followers."

- He is accompanied by "the false prophet," a Jewish(?) leader who helps his rise to power by using miraculous powers to persuade people to follow him.

(**Rev. 13:11-14**) Then I saw another beast, coming out of the earth. He had two horns like a lamb, but he spoke like a dragon. (12) He exercised all the authority of the first beast on his behalf, and made the earth and its inhabitants worship the first beast, whose fatal wound had been healed. (13) And he performed great and miraculous signs, even causing fire to come down from heaven to earth in full view of men. (14) Because of the signs he was given power to do on behalf of the first beast, he deceived the inhabitants of the earth. He ordered them to set up an image in honor of the beast who was wounded by the sword and yet lived.

## The Second Coming of Christ

(**Matt. 24:26-31**) "If therefore they say to you, 'Behold, He is in the wilderness,' do not go forth, or, 'Behold, He is in the inner rooms,' do not believe them. (27) "For just as the lightning comes from the east, and flashes even to the west, so shall the coming of the Son of Man be. (28) "Wherever the corpse is, there the vultures will gather. (29) "But immediately after the tribulation of those days **THE SUN WILL BE DARKENED, AND THE MOON WILL NOT GIVE ITS LIGHT, AND THE STARS WILL FALL** from the sky, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken, (30) and then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the **SON OF MAN COMING ON THE CLOUDS OF THE SKY** with power and great glory. (31) "And He will send forth His angels with **A GREAT TRUMPET** and **THEY WILL GATHER TOGETHER** His elect from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other.

### His return will be:

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### What will happen when he returns:

(**Rev. 19:18-21**) . . . in order that you may eat the flesh of kings and the flesh of commanders and the flesh of mighty men and the flesh of horses and of those who sit on them and the flesh of all men, both free men and slaves, and small and great." (19) And I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies, assembled to make war against Him who sat upon the horse, and against His army. (20) And the beast was seized, and with him the false prophet who performed the signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image; these two were thrown alive into the lake of fire which burns with brimstone. (21) And the rest were killed with the sword which came from the mouth of Him who sat upon the horse, and all the birds were filled with their flesh.

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## **The Millennial Kingdom**

**Who will enter it?**

**Satan's binding**

**Satan released**

**Jesus' rule from Jerusalem**

## **The Great White Throne Judgment**

**(Rev. 20:11-15)** And I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them. (12) And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds. (13) And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them; and they were judged, every one of them according to their deeds. (14) And death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. (15) And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

**Who is judged at this judgment?**

**Why are people condemned?**

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**What is their fate?**

**(2 Thess. 1:9)** And these will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power . . .

## **The New Heavens & New Earth**

**(Rev. 21:1-4)** And I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer any sea. (2) And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband. (3) And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He shall dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself shall be among them, (4) and He shall wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there shall no longer be any death; there shall no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away."

## The Intermediate States

**Definition: Where people go after they die, but before their eternal state.**

**Believers are divided into two groups:**

- **Those who died before Jesus' death for their sins**

(**Luke 16:22**) "The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried."

- **Those who die after Jesus' death for their sins**

(**Luke 23:43**) Jesus answered him, "I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise."

(**2 Cor. 5:8**) " . . . we are of good courage, I say, and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord."

(**Phil. 1:23**) "But I am hard-pressed from both directions, having the desire to depart and be with Christ, for that is very much better . . ."

**Non-believers:**

(**Luke 16:23**) "And in Hades he lifted up his eyes, being in torment, and saw Abraham far away, and Lazarus in his bosom.

(**Rev. 20:13,14**) 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 he had done. (14) Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death.

- **There is no second chance for people to repent after they die.**

(**Luke 16:26**) And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who want to go from here to you cannot, nor can anyone cross over from there to us.'

(**Heb. 9:27**) Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment . . .

## Memory Verses

**Matt. 24:1-31\*\*** - The Olivet Discourse—Jesus' description of the signs of the end of the age, including the Church Age, Tribulation, and Second Coming.

**1 Cor. 3:10-15\*\*** - Christ's judgment and reward of Christians.

**Rev. 19:11-21:8\*\*** - the chronology of events from the second coming to the new heavens and new earth

**Assignment**

**Answer the following questions concerning Christology.**

1. Could Jesus fall to temptation or not? See Lk. 4:1-12 and Jas. 1:13. Use scripture to support your answer.
2. What limitations did Jesus take on by becoming a human being? See Jn. 5:19,30; 8:28; 12:49; 14:10; Acts 2:22; 10:38; Phil. 2:6,7. What application does this have for the Christian life?
3. Where did Jesus go between his death and resurrection? See 1 Pet. 3:19; 4:6; Eph. 4:9.
4. Why is the resurrection of Jesus important? See Mt. 12:39,40; Jn. 2:19; Rom. 4:25; 6:4,5; 1 Cor. 15:14,17,18-23; Eph. 1:19,20; 2:6; 1 Pet. 1:3.
5. What is Jesus doing now? See Eph. 1:20-23; Heb. 7:25; Rom. 8:34; 1 Jn. 2:1,2.
6. Which of these issues are essential? Which are not? Why?