

Why Is a Biblically Sound View of Eternity so Essential?

By Jonathan Brentner, October 1, 2021,

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In his devotional, *New Morning Mercies*, Paul David wrote this, “*You see, a sound biblical doctrine of the future is the only way to arrive at a sound biblical understanding of the present. If there is a final glorious destination for all God’s children, then this time is not a destination, but a preparation for a final destination.*”

In other words, we need a true Bible-based perspective of our future beyond this life in order to understand our journey through it. Without such a Scripture-based forward look to the paradise that awaits us, we often err by making this life our destination and eternity but an afterthought...

We all struggle with this at times, do we not? It’s so easy to value what we see above our future destination, that of imperishable bodies, reigning with Jesus, and a spectacular eternal state. When we lose sight of these things, we also lose a biblical understanding of our lives this side of eternity. So, why is a biblically sound doctrine of eternity so essential for our everyday lives?

1. IT FOCUSES OUR HOPE EXCLUSIVELY ON JESUS’ APPEARING. The Rapture has become a source of much mocking today and unfortunately such ridicule often comes from those within the church. However, the New Testament teaches that Jesus is coming for His church before the Second Coming and before the start of the Tribulation period.

As such, Jesus’ appearing is our imminent expectation as it was for the early believers. Paul summed up this eager anticipation in [Philippians 3:20-21](#), “But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.” The word for “await” depicts a heightened eagerness and attentiveness for a future event. Our hope rests totally in Jesus’ appearing to take us to the place He’s preparing for us ([John 14:1-3](#); [Colossians 3:4](#)). We live in biblical times; this is the season of His return for us.

Yet, the most popular teachings of our day deny this biblically sound understanding of our imminent hope in one of two ways. First, many pastors tell us that life will return to normal; the world has seen times like this before in its history and recovered. “Today is no different than previous periods of chaos and evil,” they say.

A second popular misconception unduly exalts the church making it the shelter for the current storm rather than the Lord Jesus. Most in this camp make the unbiblical claim that the church itself will bring in the millennium with Jesus returning at its conclusion. Some teach a more subtle form of dominion theology, yet equally errant, by directing the hopes of believers to eventual triumph of the church before the eternal state. The church thus triumphs even though there is not millennium.

Please know that in such a time as this, our hope must rest in Christ alone. All the teachings that deny the imminent appearing of Jesus for His church exalt what we can see above what’s invisible and in so doing take our focus away from Jesus.

2. IT ASSURES US THAT THE LORD WILL PUNISH THE WICKEDNESS WE SEE. Perhaps the biggest frustration of our day is that evil, vile people appear to enjoy much success while those who hope in the Savior face increasing persecution and opposition. Those who kill Christians, or those that enable them to do so, seem to have all the power at the moment.

The Bible tells us not to fret over the success of wicked people because in the end God will judge them ([Psalm 37:7-15](#)). The Old Testament depicts the horrors of the day of the Lord in which the entire earth will feel the impact of God’s wrath ([Isaiah 13:9-13](#); [Zephaniah 1:14-19](#)). The book of Revelation adds details to this coming time of judgment upon the earth in chapters [6-18](#). “If hell is real, and it is,” one might ask, “why is it necessary for the Lord to deal with sinners in this life? Why is the seven-year Tribulation a necessity if God will

surely deal with sinners at the White Throne judgement?" I believe the Lord will display His wrath in such a way for the following reasons:

First, the Tribulation will give God an opportunity to display His glory. After He destroys the powers in the Gog-Magog alliance, He will declare, "And I will set my glory among the nations, and all the nations shall see my judgment that I have executed, and my hand that I have laid on them" ([Ezekiel 39:21](#)). Those now seeking to destroy our way of life will see a full demonstration of His power and sovereignty ahead of their ultimate destruction. They will witness the Lord's glory firsthand.

Second, His judgments during this time will give sinners one last chance to call upon the Lord ([Revelation 9:20-21](#)). Though most people will continue in their rejection of the Savior, the Bible tells us that a great multitude will turn to Him and find eternal life ([Revelation 6:9-11](#); [7:9-17](#)).

Third, the wrath of the day of the Lord will give the world a visual representation of His justice. The Lord's direct and unmistakable intervention in human history during the Tribulation will demonstrate His intent to judge all those who reject the Savior and His provision of eternal life.

3. IT ADDS CONTEXT TO OUR LIVES VIA OUR FUTURE REIGN WITH JESUS. For those of us securely in Christ, our future millennial reign with Him provides a context into which we can place personal tragedies and other experiences during our short-lived journey this side of eternity.

Much like it might have been for Joseph, bound in chains headed for a life of slavery in Egypt, it's difficult to see beyond the trials and many disappointments in our lives. However, just as the Lord used hardship and injustice to prepare Joseph for his rule alongside Pharaoh and preserve His chosen people, so the Lord blends together our struggles, talents, gifts, hardships, and experiences to prepare us to reign with Him during the thousand-year period we refer to as the Millennium. Yes, trials come to test us, enable spiritual growth, and provide us with opportunities to serve others in the body of Christ. However, I believe the Lord is also preparing us for our future role in His glorious kingdom.

At this point you might also ask, "Why is the millennium necessary? Could He not accomplish the exact same purposes in the eternal state?" These are good questions; however, I believe Millennium is a biblical necessity because...

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