

Waiting in Hope in the OT

Introduction and Review

- **General eschatology** is the study of last things that will affect the entire universe & all of creation.
- Most religions have some form of eschatology, but only Christianity offers eschatology with genuine hope.
- Christian eschatology gives hope for the present: sin caused futility for the whole creation, but God cares for the whole creation daily (Rom. 8:20; Gen. 8:20-22).
- Christian eschatology gives hope for the future: sin caused corruption for the whole creation, but deliverance will come about at the resurrection (Rom. 8:19-22).

I. Hope Gives Meaning to Life

A. Meaningless life without hope

Solomon & Paul address the meaningless existence of plants, animals & all nature (Eccl. 1:5-7; Rom. 8:20). They also address the meaningless life of people (Eccl. 1:1-4, 8-11; Rom. 1:21; Eph. 4:17). History & the future are meaningless without hope/God of hope.

B. Meaningful life with hope

History & the future are meaningful to the believer. History is God working out His own purpose in the events of life (Is. 46:9b-11). God is the Lord of history (Ps. 103:19; Pr. 21:1; Ac. 17:26; Eph. 1:11). History is moving toward the new heavens & new earth (Rev. 21:1).

In spite of futility in the world, believers can live meaningful lives filled with hope.

II. Christ is the Basis of Genuine Hope

A. Christ is the center of history

History involves all the events & activities in God's creation. However the believer knows that Christ is at the center of true history. Hope in the OT was based on the coming Redeemer & His kingdom (Gen. 3:15; Job 19:25-27; Is. 9:6; Dan. 7:13-14).

B. History is fulfilled in Christ

Christ is the fulfillment of all that was prophesied regarding the Redeemer in the OT (Mt. 5:17; Lk. 4:16-21; 24:27, 44; 2Co. 1:20). Therefore redemptive history is completely fulfilled in Christ.

Christ is the center of all true history & redemptive history is completely fulfilled in Him – ETERNAL HOPE!