

Doctrine



*Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path...
The entrance of Your words gives light;
it gives understanding to the simple. Psalm 119:105,130*

Eschatology

Our Final Destination

Thus says the Lord: "Stand in the ways and see, and ask for the old paths, where the good way is, and walk in it; then you will find rest for your souls." Jeremiah 6:16

THEOLOGY

Calvary Old Path believes that God has consistently foretold of important events before they happen. Given that truth, we naturally believe our final destination is recorded in scripture.

DOCTRINE

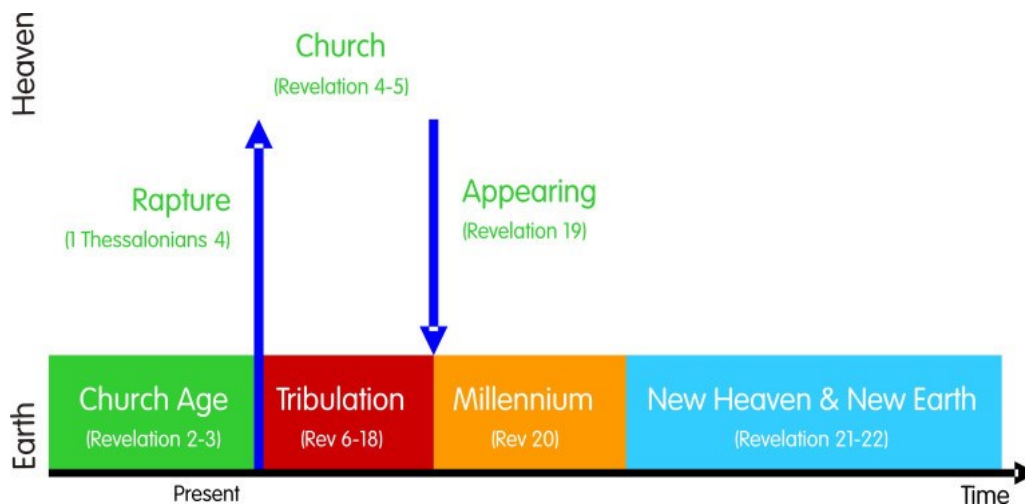
Calvary Old Path believes that our final destination is a new heaven and a new earth preceded by the millennial kingdom and the great white throne judgment.

These are the areas we will cover to help you understand our beliefs regarding our final destination.

1. Brief Background
2. The Millennial Kingdom
3. The Great White Throne
4. A New Heaven and a New Earth
5. Differing Views

Brief Background

To better understand God's plan for us it is important to start at the beginning of creation, found in *Genesis chapters 1-3*. The first verse in the Bible, *Genesis 1:1* states, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." In *Genesis 1:27* we read "So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them."



They lived in the Garden of Eden which is described in *Genesis 2:8-10*.

Genesis 3:17-19 tells us that through man's disobedience, sin entered the world. The ground was cursed and man was banished from the Garden of Eden. The direct relationship between God and man was destroyed.

However, God made a way for man to be reconciled back to Him through His Son's sacrifice on the cross. "*If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.*" (*Romans 10:9*) Fast forward to the present time. We can see that mankind continues in their sin and rebellion against God.

As believers, we look forward to the rapture of the church. The rapture of the church occurs when God takes all believers from the earth to be with Him before His judgment is poured out during the period the bible calls the tribulation. This will include those believers alive at that time and also those that have died in faith during the church age (from Pentecost to the rapture). Those who have died in faith will be resurrected, and those raptured will join them and be taken directly to what we know as heaven. (*1 Thessalonians 4:16-17, 1 Corinthians 15:51-52*). They will return with Him at His second coming. (*Revelation 19:11-14*)

After His return, Satan is locked away. Then Jesus Christ, along with the resurrected and raptured believers, will inhabit the earth. (*Revelation 2:26-27 20:4-6*)

The Millennial Kingdom (Jesus reigns on earth for a thousand years)

The ones reigning with Christ will have glorified (transformed) immortal bodies. The millennial kingdom will be populated by Christians who were transformed at the rapture. They are joined by those who died in faith before the rapture and those who are martyred during the tribulation. (*1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, 1 Corinthians 15:21-23, 51-53 Revelation 6:9-11*) Additionally, some will undoubtedly come to faith and survive through the tribulation. Those believers will also be judged worthy to enter the kingdom. All believers have their faith in Jesus as a means of salvation in common.

Children will be born and each of them will need to make a personal decision toward Christ. It should be noted that those with glorified bodies will not reproduce, as there is no need, they are perfected. (*Matthew 22:30*)

Isaiah 65:20-25 paints a beautiful picture of the earth during this time and describes the ideal living conditions that can be imagined. Satan will be locked away and not be able to tempt anyone. This will be a time of world peace, for the Prince of Peace will be ruling the world. (*Isaiah 9:6, Luke 1:32, Isaiah 2:2-4*) There will still be some led away by Satan into rebellion against God at the end of the millennial kingdom. (*Revelation 20:3*)

This is important to notice. Mankind will repopulate the earth and enjoy a perfect existence, yet will ultimately rebel when exposed to the influence of rebellion. Such is the nature of the human soul. Many in our world blame human evil on the lack of opportunity, societal influence, the environment in which they live, or any number of reasons are given. None of those factors are present in the thousand year kingdom.

We read in *Revelation 20:7-8*, “*Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison and will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle, whose number is as the sand of the sea.*”

After a short period of time Satan will be thrown into the lake of fire, along with those not written in The Book Of Life. This will mark the end of death, the influence of sin and anything which causes corruption of any kind. (*Revelation 20:10-15*) This event is known as the Great White Throne judgment. In contrast to those who are not written in The Book of Life, Christians are held accountable for their actions. However they are however forgiven through the sacrifice of Jesus, in whom they trust. (*John 5:22, John 5:28-29, Revelation 20:15*)

The Great White Throne of God (The Final Judgment)

Everything is set in place now for the events recorded in *Revelation 21*. All of the ages have come and gone. The temporary cycle of life and death have passed and all rebellion against God has been removed. Jesus has gathered His church in the Rapture. The Tribulation has passed. The battle of Armageddon has been fought and won by

won by our Lord Jesus Christ. Satan has been chained for the 1,000 year reign of Christ on earth. The final rebellion against God has been put to an end, and Satan has received his just punishment, an eternity in the lake of fire. The Great White Throne Judgment has taken place, and mankind has been judged. Man's relationship with God that was destroyed in Genesis has been restored. The "Restitution of all things" has now taken place in complete fulfillment. (*Acts 3:21*)

A New Heaven and a New Earth (Our Final Destination)

God has a plan to recreate heaven and earth. This will take place after the millennium and the final judgment. After heaven and earth are dissolved, a new heaven and new earth will be created.

(*Revelation 21 and 22, Isaiah 65:17-19, Isaiah 66:22, 2 Peter 3:7-13*)

Revelation 21:1: "And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea."

In *2 Peter* we are told that the new heaven and earth will be eternal "...an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."

What Does the Bible Tell Us About This New Heaven and Earth?

The wall of the city has twelve foundations with the names of the apostles written on them. There will be a river of the water of life flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb (Jesus) through the city. The tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit will be on the sides of the river. Its leaves will be for the healing of the nations. There is no temple in the city. The Lord God, God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. There is no night, nor sun or moon, for the Glory of God and the Lord are the light of the city and the nations will walk in this light. The gates will never be shut. Only those that are written in the Lambs Book of Life can enter the city.

(*Hebrews 13:14, Revelation 21, Isaiah 54:10-13, Revelation 22: 1-5, John 14:1-4*)

The New Jerusalem will be the residence of all the believers of the Old Testament along with the believers of the church age. It is implied that they will be able to travel elsewhere on the earth.

(Revelation 21:24-26)

Like the Apostle Peter, believers look forward to the promise of a new heaven and earth. *“Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.” 2 Peter 3:13*

(Conclusion)

No, we do not know every detail about our final destination, but we do know that God loves us and has given us enough information to know that it will be beyond what we can imagine. The paradise lost in Genesis will be regained.

1 Corinthians 2:9 tells us that *“Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him.”*

Revelation 21:3-4 *“And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, “Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.”*

These ideas are so beyond comprehension, because they deal with the unseen and the eternal.

Differing Views

This topic is not without controversy, so we will briefly define the basis for the disagreement.

The dispute concerns taking a literal view of all relevant passages, or seeing them as allegorical or symbolic. In the latter views, the events are not seen as literal. Central to those views is that the thousand year kingdom is not literal, but symbolic. It is not future, but it speaks of the current world. This is known as the amillennial view, meaning no millennial period of time. A large portion of the modern church holds to this view of the texts we have included for our position.

What we have put forward is our final destination, but what occurs between now and then looks entirely different, depending on who you hear present their case. Those who hold the amillennial view have a much different view of the church's roll as they do not see a literal tribulation or thousand year kingdom. Rather, they see the church's role more in the "missionary" role of world evangelism. This is done primarily through work projects, clean water, housing and helping impoverished nations with basic needs. These are all noble causes, but they are not the gospel. The gospel is a message that it is written. This belief stems primarily from verses such as *Matthew 24:14*, "*And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.*"

The belief is that the gospel can be preached through actions and showing the love of God wherever there is an opportunity. Many are not familiar with why they are sent by their churches, but this is the methodology behind the work. Often times a clear presentation of the gospel of salvation is not actually part of the work, as testimonies of those who participate make clearly evident.

Old Path believes mission work is critical, and should be pursued vigorously. We also believe it is a perfect way to come with provisions, give the message of eternal life in Jesus Christ and take nothing from those you serve. This is the essence of the Great Commission Jesus gave to the disciples and was exemplified in the life of the Apostle Paul.

There are still others who see so much symbolism that they conclude there is no real judgment coming to mankind, and if there is we can change the outcome and avoid any such future.

For these reasons, and many more, we believe a literal reading of all such passages is the best way to fully understand the concept of warning and consequence shown throughout the bible.



On the Path Discernment Ministry

Discernment is always mentioned in scripture in a favorable light. Discernment was promoted as a way to avoid error and cause the believer to continually be seeking and watching with vigilance. Accordingly, these materials are provided for you in order to assist you in growing in your knowledge and understanding of God's Word. We have taken great care to give a thorough and expansive explanation of the positions of the church.

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These booklets are provided to explain Old Path's teachings on topics of theology and doctrine. Should you have questions on doctrinal matters or would like further clarity on these positions, you can email us and we will assist you by researching the needed matters. However, we do not provide these booklets with the intention of debating.