

The End of All Things *is near*

1 PETER 4:7

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CHRISTIES BEACH BAPTIST CHURCH

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1 Peter 4:7

(a) The end of all things is near;

(b) therefore, be serious and discipline yourselves for the sake of your prayers.

Peter is interested in what happens AT the end NOT what happens BEFORE the end.

Study of the End Times is always about living more faithfully in the present

All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that the person of God may be proficient, equipped for every good work. [2 Timothy 3:16-17](#)

The goal of Revelation is not so much to predict what will happen but to motivate Christians to take part, as followers of the crucified, in God's present defeat of evil and to engender hope in the good that comes from God to a world whose present form is twisted. Correspondingly, when readers of Revelation speak about the last things, they can do so not because they know what will happen but because, informed by the story of Christ and the eschatological visions of its New Testament interpreters, they are called to dream and act in hope. Volf and McAnnaly-Linz, *The Home of God* (2022)

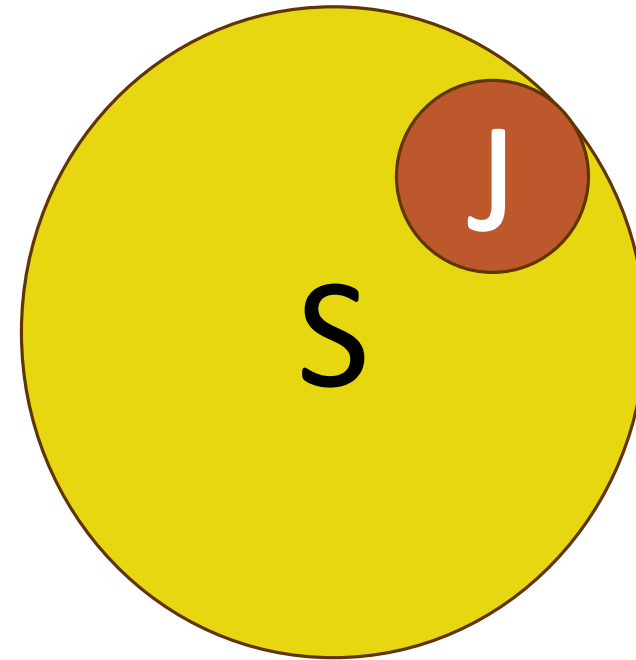
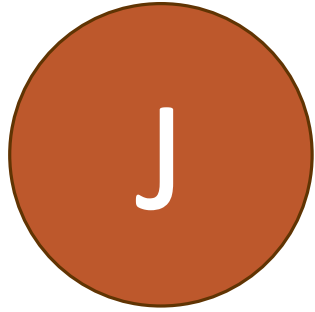
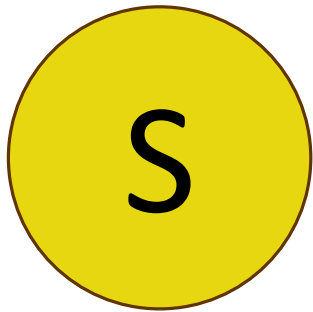
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The end of all things: salvation + judgement

(1:3-5) our **imperishable inheritance [salvation]** is kept in heaven for you ready to be revealed **in the last time**. (1:13) **the grace that** Jesus Christ will bring you **when he is revealed**. (1:20) He was revealed **at the end of the ages for your sake**. (2:12) **when God comes to judge**. (4:5) **they will** have to give an accounting to him who stands ready to **judge** the living and the dead (4:13) **when his glory is revealed** (5:4) **when the chief shepherd appears**, you will win **the crown of glory** that never fades away

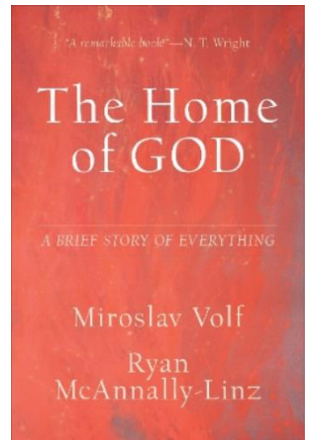
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The end of all things: salvation + judgement



God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him.

John 3:17, see also 12:27



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God the Creator, Saviour, and Judge of All

“The most important duty of any Hebrew judge was to **restore the peaceful situation [shalom] that existed prior to the conflict** (Gen 16:5; 19:9; Ex 2:14); hence their basic function was that of arbitrators.” (*DOTP*, s.v. Judge.)

This is God’s world, and he will not allow it to be consumed by Sin and Death. God will renew it better than original. “The creation itself will be set free from its enslavement to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.” [Romans 8:21](#)

This is why, “Love covers a multitude of sin.” [1 Peter 4:8](#) Not “covers up,” but overcomes brokenness and restores relationships.

God is JUDGE because he is CREATOR, not because he is HOLY or ALL-POWERFUL

“Fearing” the God who is Judge

Fear God. 1 Peter 2:17

Anxious 1 Peter 1:17	Self-Satisfied 1 John 4:17-19
If you invoke as Father the one who judges impartially according to each person’s work , live in fear during the time of your exile.	Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment , because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love , but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us.

The meaning of the Greek word ***phobos*** can range from sheer terror and fright to reverence and respect. When it comes to human attitudes toward God, the New Testament focuses on those latter aspects and could be **appropriately translated as “reverent fear” or “awe”**.

Do we hide from God , treat him with indifference, or seek his forgiveness and strength?

God is already Saving (and Judging)

you are receiving...the salvation of your souls. [1 Peter 1:9](#)

For the time has come for judgment to begin with the household of God
[1 Peter 4:17](#)

Conduct yourselves honourably among the gentiles, so that, though they malign you as evildoers, they may see your honourable deeds and **glorify God when he comes to judge.** [1 Peter 2:12](#)

The gentiles [who reject God when they see your salvation] will have to give an accounting to **him who stands ready to judge the living and the dead** [1 Peter 4:5](#)

God is Saving (and Judging) NOW; it is brought to its rightful end at the end

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The End of All This is Near

The time of salvation and judgment is already upon us.

The END gives meaning to the journey – either salvation leading to holiness and love or the judgment of our self-centred nihilism.

God is already at work in and through the church to “judge” – to save and restore to wholeness

The So What – living in light of the END

- for the sake of your prayers.

To live our lives in alignment with God – embracing his salvation (and accepting his judgment)

- (RSV) keep sane and sober (NRSV) be serious and discipline yourselves

Peter exhorts God's people to be alert (*sōphroneō*) and sober minded (*nēphō*)... Peter refers to something deeper than simply not being intoxicated; he speaks of a spiritual alertness where attention is given to God's promise of the END OF ALL THINGS. Correspondingly, *sōphroneō* "describes the ability to see things clearly for what they are, and hence to act in a way appropriate to the prevailing circumstances."

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