

**“Ask me of things to come."**

***Isaiah 45:11***

Lesson 1

THE FUTURE

Everyone wants to know about the future, personal or of this earth. The number of foretellers is constantly increasing. However, the Bible is the only source that can give reliable and accurate information about the things to come because God is the author. The Bible doesn't speak about this topic in one passage. Instead, we must consult many verses to get the whole picture.

Even though we can determine what will happen, we won't know when. The Lord Jesus says that we should not know points in time of the various events (**Acts 1:7**). That's why no one can predict when everything you will learn in this course will begin.

We will consider these events:

* Rapture
* Great Tribulation
* The Lord’s return
* Millennium
* Great White Throne (final judgment)
* Eternal State

THE FUTURE I - Rapture

1. “Rapture” literally means “caught up”. Who will bring whom and where?

**John 14:3**

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1. Thus, Rapture is the fulfillment of the promise of the Lord Jesus to bring every believer home into Heaven. The passage in **1 Thessalonians 4:13-18** elaborately explains this event.
2. According to this passage, how does the Bible call those believers who have died?

**In verse 13:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**In verse 14:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**In verse 15:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**In verse 16:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Describe the chronological order of what will happen when the Lord Jesus returns.

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1. Please read again the first part of **verse 15**. From whom did the apostle Paul receive the revelation about the Rapture (= the coming of the Lord)?

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1. Will the living Christians have an advantage at the coming of the Lord? Will the living believers be with the Lord Jesus before the believers who have died on earth?

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1. Who will come to bring the believers to Heaven? Will the Lord send an angel?

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1. Which three “sounds” do we find in **verse 16**?

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1. What will happen after those sounds? Please read the last part of **verse 16**.

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1. Where shall the believers meet the Lord (**verse 17**)?

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1. How long will the believers be with the Lord (**end of verse 17**)?

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1. Let's turn to **1 Corinthians 15:51-52**. What will happen with the bodies of the believers before the Lord Jesus brings them to Heaven?

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1. How long will the Rapture last?

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1. How is our body, which we have today, described?

**Philippians 3:20-21**

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1. How will our body be transformed at the coming of the Lord?

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1. Which two events concerning the believers will take place after the Rapture?

**2 Corinthians 10:5; Revelation 19:6-9**

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When a believer dies, his body will be buried and eventually decompose. But their soul and spirit will go into paradise to the Lord Jesus right away. The Lord Himself promised this to the crucified man who got saved (**Luke 23:43; also read Luke 16:19-28**).

So, let's summarize what we learned about the Rapture of the believers: Those believers who have died (= "fallen asleep") will be raised from the dead and receive a new incorruptible body. Those still-alive believers will also be transformed into an incorruptible and glorious body. Then, all believers will be caught up and meet the Lord in the clouds to be with Him forever! Thus, the soul and spirit in paradise will eventually unite with the new incorruptible body.

This event is what every believer should be waiting and looking forward to – going home into the House of the Father (**John 14:2+3**)!



Lesson 2

**“Ask me of things to come."**

***Isaiah 45:11***

THE FUTURE II – The (Great) Tribulation

After the Rapture, every believer will be in Heaven. Thus, the Holy Spirit dwelling in them and the Assembly will also be gone. The earth will be left behind without anything that has to do with the Lord Jesus. This is when seven years of the Tribulation will start – a time of a devastating judgment from God against the world that rejected Him (**chapters 6 to 18 from the book of Revelation** speak about this period). In this lesson, we want to outline the main events in an overview.

1. Read **Revelation chapter 6** now. Name some catastrophes, disasters, and calamities that will distress this planet.

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1. Many believers are scared they would also be afflicted by this time (which they believe the Rapture will take place later). Let us consider if that fear is justified.
2. How does the Bible call this awful time?

**Revelation 6:17** 🡪 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. From what will the Lord Jesus deliver us?

**1 Thessalonians 1:10; Revelation 3:10**

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1. We see that the Lord Jesus will deliver us from these judgments, a punishment for the ungodly world. However, they are also a particular chastisement of the people of Israel because of their disbelief and crucifixion of the Lord Jesus. Can this time of Tribulation be compared with any other time before?

**Jeremiah 30:7; Daniel 12:1; Matthew 24:21**

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**Jeremiah 30:7** and **Daniel 12:1** clearly show that this time will be a Great Tribulation, especially for Israel (in the Bible, "Jacob" is often used for the people of Israel). But all three scriptures show that this time will have an end because otherwise, the entire people of Israel would be destroyed. God wants to save His people.

The following will give a quick overview of the events.

Revelation chapter 13 speaks of two so-called "beasts" who are both human beings. The first one resembles the emperor of Europe, who will make a pact with the second beast, the leader of the country of Israel. This man is called the "Antichrist," which implies that he is opposed to the Lord Jesus.

He will put himself in the position of Christ because he wants to be worshipped (**2 Thessalonians 2:3+4; Matthew 24:15; Mark 13:14; Revelation 13:14+15; Daniel 9:27 and 12:1**).

1. Which event will occur after the first half of the seven years of Tribulation?

**Revelation 12:7-12**

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Great wars against Israel will characterize the time afterward. Egypt and later Assyria (the so-called "King of the North"; **Daniel 11:40-45**) want to destroy the Jews. Therefore, the Antichrist will call the European Emperor for help. His armies will march to Armageddon close to Jerusalem (**Revelation 16:14-16**).



Lesson 3

**“Ask me of things to come."**

***Isaiah 45:11***

THE FUTURE III – The coming of Jesus Christ

1. The last event we considered in our previous lesson was the gathering of the armies close to Jerusalem. What will the Lord Jesus do then?

**Matthew 24:30; Zechariah 14:3-5; Revelation 19:17-21**

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1. What will be the purpose of that advent?

**2 Thessalonians 1:8.9 and 2:8**

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1. Which two groups will accompany the Lord Jesus upon His arrival on this earth?

**2 Thessalonians 1:7-10**

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1. What will the Lord Jesus give the believers on His glorious arrival?

**2 Timothy 4:8**

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1. How are the believers characterized in this verse?

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1. What will be the reaction of every intelligent creature?

**Philippians 2:9-11**

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Just when all the enemies of the Lord Jesus are gathered, He will come back from Heaven in glory to destroy His opponents and build up His kingdom, also called the "Millenium." Therefore, He will defeat the Antichrist, the European Emperor and all the armies, a little later also the King of the North and his partners, all of which Israel's archenemies, alongside Russia (**Zechariah 12:9**). Then, those two beasts will be cast into hell (**Revelation 19:17-21; Isaiah 11:4**). In contrast to the Rapture, He will not only come to the clouds, but He will come down to the earth and Everybody will see him.

1. After having defeated His enemies, Jesus Christ will judge all persons living on this earth at that very moment. **Matthew 25:31-46** speaks of this judgment: He will separate those who decided to believe in Him after the Rapture and those who neglected him. What will he do with the second group?

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1. What will result from the arrival or advent of the Lord Jesus?

**Zechariah 14:9**

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1. What will happen to the devil, Satan?

**Revelation 20:1-3**

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Now, after all these devastating judgments against this earth, all the enemies of the Lord Jesus are either dead (human beings), already in hell (the two beasts), or bound (Satan).





Lesson 4

**“Ask me of things to come."**

***Isaiah 45:11***

THE FUTURE IV – The Millenium

Following the events considered in the last lesson, Jesus Christ will establish his kingdom for 1000 years. When He came to this earth for the first time, His people didn't recognize Him as their Messiah and King; they even crucified Him.

1. What will the Jews’ reaction be now?

**Revelation 1:7; Zechariah 12:10**

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The Lord Jesus will create a new covenant with the people of Israel (they had unfaithfully broken the first covenant, which was established at Mount Sinai when they got the Commandments). You can read this, for example, in **Jeremiah 31:31-34**. The temple in Jerusalem will be built again, and the Jews will worship and glorify the Lord Jesus there (together will all the nations).

1. How will this time be characterized?

**Isaiah 65:25; Zechariah 14:16**

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1. **Revelation 20:6** speaks about those who participate in the first resurrection, i.e., the believers. What will they do in the Millennium (see at the end of the verse)?

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1. **Daniel 7:14** is another Scripture that prophecies the kingdom of Jesus Christ. Who will serve Him then?

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1. How long will the dominion of Jesus Christ last?

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1. Will His kingdom be destroyed?

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1. What will the extension of Christ's kingdom be?

**Psalm 72:8**

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1. In **Revelation 20:6**, we learn that the believers will reign with the Lord Jesus. This is also said in Daniel 7:27. How are the believers called in this verse?

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Let's summarize what we have learned in this study: At the end of the seven years of the Great Tribulation, the Lord Jesus will arrive in glory on this earth with all believers and His angels. The world's unbelieversworld's unbelievers will fight against the Lord Jesus, but He will defeat them immediately. Subsequently, Jesus Christ will establish his kingdom of 1000 years (the Millennium), and He will reign as King, and the believers will reign with Him. This time will be a unique time of peace and righteousness on this earth (**Isaiah 9:6**), and the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord (**Isaiah 11:9**).



Lesson 5

**“Ask me of things to come."**

***Isaiah 45:11***

THE FUTURE V – The Great White Throne and Eternity

The kingdom of peace, with Jesus Christ as the King over all, which we have considered in the last lesson, will last for 1000 years because Satan is still bound. But not forever…

1. After that time, Satan will be released. What will be his first action?

**Revelation 20:7-9**

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1. What will be the result of this last rebellion of Satan?

**Revelation 20:9+10; Matthew 25:41**

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1. Following that, we find the second period of judgment before the Great White Throne.
2. Who will be the judge?

**Revelation 20:11** 🡪 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Remember: 1000 years ago, the people alive back then had already been judged. Who will be judged then, before the great white throne?

**Revelation 20:11-13**

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1. What is the name of the book that will be opened after the other books are opened (**verse 12**)? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. According to which standard will the dead be judged?

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1. Do the accused persons have a chance to be justified? What is the inevitable verdict?

**Revelation 20:14.15**

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1. Why don’t they have a chance to come free?

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The judgment at the Great White Throne is not like a trial before court as we know it, where accused persons have a chance to get a pardon. Only those not found in the Book of Life will stand before the judge. This means that they once deliberately and wilfully rejected the Lord Jesus. The consequence of that rejection of salvation will be hell – eternally!

Let us summarize: In these scriptures, we saw that Satan would be released at the end of the Millennium. Then, he will deceive all nations and fight against the believers, but God will kill all the enemies with heavenly fire. Then, all the dead (i.e., the unbelievers) will be judged according to their works and thrown into the lake of fire. After that, there will be a wonderful new beginning for the believers.

1. **Revelation 20:11** says Heaven and Earth will flee from Jesus Christ at the final judgment. How will this happen? Read **2 Peter 3:10** to find the answer.

The heavens will \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and the elements will \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_; both the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ will be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

1. This won’t be the end. What will await the believers after these events?

**Revelation 21:1; 1 Thessalonians 4:17 (last part)**

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1. **Revelation 21:2** speaks about the New Jerusalem, a symbol of the Church consisting of all Christians born again. However, the Church is not compared only to a city. What does the Church look like (look at the end of the verse)?

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1. What will God do with every tear?

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1. What will not exist in Heaven anymore?

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1. Let us repeat what we said earlier: Maybe you are frightened now because you have read about so many judgments and tribulations that will come over this earth. But what does the Lord Jesus say in the first part of **John 14:1**?

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This a wonderful future for everyone who is a Christian and is born again: The Lord Jesus prepared a place for the children of God in the house of His Father because He loves them so much and wants them to be together with Him! It is only by His grace that we can have this tremendous hope! When you are born again, this hope may encourage and delight you day by day!

But on the other side, this is severe for those who did not confess their sins and believe in Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour. These unbelievers will be cast away into the lake of fire (which is hell) and be separated from God eternally. This will be a terrible but – according to their sins and rejection of Jesus’ salvation – righteous judgment for them.

That’s why I sincerely want to appeal to you if you still do not have forgiveness for your sins and a new life with God. Turn to Jesus Christ, confess your sins to Him, and believe that He loves you and that He died at the cross to pay for your guilt – then, your sins will be forgiven, and you will be saved for eternity. You will share tremendous hope with other believers and a wonderful future with Jesus Christ, your Saviour!