*The End of this Age*

* **The darkness of this age will be finally ended**
  + “the god of this age” – **2 Corinthians 4:4**
  + We are rescued from this present evil age – **Galatians 1:3-5**
  + At the “harvest”, the angels of God will be sent out to uproot all the wicked and all causes of wickedness –

**Matthew 13:37-43, 47-50**

* + God will ultimately cause all worldly powers to submit to His authority and the authority of His Messiah –

**Revelation 11:15-19**

* **Creation itself will experience a final shaking**
  + Heaven and earth shaken once more to remove created things so that what is lasting remains – **Hebrews 12:26-29,** *see also* **Haggai 2:6-7**
  + In a picture of God’s wrath, the armies of His enemies will be totally destroyed, the stars dissolved, the heavens rolled up like a scroll, and all the starry host fall – **Isaiah 34:1-4**
  + The heavens will vanish like smoke and the earth wear out like clothing – **Isaiah 51:6**
  + The destruction of all created things (the heavens, the elements, the earth and everything in it) by fire –

**2 Peter 3:7-12**

* Compare the above vision of fiery destruction in 2 Peter to Zephaniah’s vision of all things swept away “in the fire of His jealousy” – **Zephaniah 1:2-3,18**
  + Picture of the shaking of permanent created things: sun turned black, moon turned blood red, stars fall to earth, heavens recede like scroll, & every mountain and island removed from its place – **Revelation 6:12-14**

*The Age to Come (or The New Creation)*

* God will be all in all – **1 Corinthians 15:23-28**
* Isaiah’s vision of life in the new heavens and new earth –

**Isaiah 65:17-25**

* + Former things not remembered – **v. 17**
  + Gladness, rejoicing, and delight over Jerusalem and its people – **vv.18-19**
  + No more weeping, crying **– v. 19**
  + Long life for all; no more lives cut short by death – **v. 20**
  + Work will be satisfying and no one will take the fruit of our labors from us (no more invasions or theft) – **vv. 21-22**
  + Work will always bear fruit, never be in vain – **v. 23**
  + Will not have to deal with worry for children or loved ones; God’s blessing will be upon all there – **v. 23**
  + God will be available and immediately responsive – **v. 24**
  + Creation itself will be at peace; predatory animals will eat plants instead of other animals – **v. 25**
  + *Speculation: We will eat in the new creation, but we will not eat flesh which requires the death of a living creature; this would restore us to the original design of humans eating only plants.*
  + No harm or destruction – **v. 25**
  + *A few questions arise in this passage:*
    - *suggestion of death*
    - *suggestion of offspring*
    - *suggestion of presence of serpent*
    - *Are these poetic or literal?*
* John’s vision of life in the new heavens and new earth –

**Revelation 21-22**

* First things passed away; first heaven and first earth passed away, and no longer a sea – **21:1,4**
  + *Does “sea” here mean “ocean” or “cleansing fountain”?* **(see 1 Kings 7:23-36 & Revelation 4:6)**
* The Holy City of God, the new Jerusalem, comes down out of heaven from God so that God dwells with His people on the new earth – **21:2,10**

*The Age to Come (cont.)*

* God will wipe away all tears; no more death, mourning, crying, or pain – **21:4,** *see also* **Isaiah 25:7-8 & Isaiah 65:19**
* God will grant access to drink from the spring of the water of life – **21:6,** *see also* **Revelation 7:17 & 22:1,17**
* Those called children will receive “all this” as inheritance – **21:7**
* God and the Lamb are the temple and the light of the city – **21:22-23 & 22:5**
* Gates of the city never shut, signifying no danger and no enemies – **21:25**
* Nations (ethnic groups) will still exist, and their glory will be brought into God’s capital city – **21:26**
* No impure, shameful, or deceitful influences present in the city – **21:27**
* The tree of life will be available, and its leaves will bring healing to the nations (ethnic groups) – **22:2**
* No more curse– **22:3**
* His people will serve Him, see His face, and wear His name on their foreheads – **22:3-4**
* There will be no night in the city (and perhaps the earth?) – **22:5**
* There will be no need for lamps, candles, or artificial lights because of the greatness of God’s near light – **22:5**
  + *Does this make any suggestion about the sleep cycle?*
* God’s servants will reign for ever and ever – **22:5**
  + *Reign over what? Will people reign over other people?*
* We will receive from Jesus according to what we’ve done – **22:12**
  + *Will we have different measures of reward and honor?*
  + *Will the society be egalitarian, or will there be classes?*
* Those who have washed their robes **(see Revelation 7:14)** will have the right to eat from the tree of life and enter the gates to the city – **22:14,** *see also* **22:19**
* The wicked will not be present, but will be outside – **22:15**

*The Age to Come (cont.)*

* Jesus indicated that our faithfulness and fruitfulness in this present age will be the basis of our future role in the coming age:
  + In one parable, a faithful servant left in charge of his master’s estate was rewarded by being put in charge of all his master’s possessions –

**Matthew 24:46-47 & Luke 12:42-44**

* + In another parable, two faithful servants who fruitfully managed their master’s wealth were put in charge of “many things” and invited to share in their master’s happiness – **Matthew 25:21,23**
* In this same parable, the lazy and unfruitful servant lost what was entrusted to him, and it was given to the most profitable servant – **Matthew 25:28-29**
* In another version of this parable, a returning king rewarded fruitful servants by putting them in charge of some number of cities (ten and five), commensurate with what was originally entrusted to them and how fruitful they were with it – **Luke 19:17,19**
* Jesus suggested that our faithfulness with worldly wealth (measured in generosity to others) would determine whether we’re entrusted with “true riches” and “property of [our] own” – **Luke 16:9-12**
  + Similarly, Paul wrote that when the rich are generous with their wealth, they “lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age” – **1 Timothy 6:19**