



Statement of Faith – Man’s Eternal Future

Man's Eternal Future - The Lord Jesus Christ will one day return visibly and bodily to the earth with His powerful angels and all mankind will be resurrected and face God's judgment. The present heaven and earth will be destroyed and a new heaven and earth created. Those who have not been saved will be eternally damned for their sins in the lake of fire, the penalty demanded by divine justice for sin. Those who have been saved will live eternally in the presence of God, worshipping and enjoying Him. (Matthew 24:29-31, 25:31-46, John 5:28-29, Rom 6:23, 2 Thes 1:7-10, Heb 9:27, 2 Pet 3:10-13, Rev 20:12-15)

The Lord Jesus Christ will one day return visibly and bodily to the earth with His powerful angels and all mankind will be resurrected and face God's judgment. – It is clear from scripture that Jesus Christ will one day return again to the earth. When or what day this happens, as the scripture says, no one knows. Jesus Himself often spoke of His own *personal* return....

John 14:3 - 3 "And if I go and prepare a place for you, **I will come again, and receive you to Myself**; that where I am, there you may be also NASB

Matthew 24:44 - 44 "For this reason you be ready too; for **the Son of Man is coming** at an hour when you do not think He will. NASB

Matthew 24:36-37 - 36 "But **of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone.** 37 "For the coming of the Son of Man will be just like the days of Noah. NASB

Luke 12:40 - 40 "You too, be ready; for **the Son of Man is coming** at an hour that you do not expect." NASB

As well as Paul.....

1 Thessalonians 4:15-18 - 15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, and remain **until the coming of the Lord**, shall not precede those who have fallen asleep. 16 **For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout**, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet of God; and the dead in Christ shall rise first. 17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and thus we shall always be with the Lord. NASB

2 Thessalonians 1:7-11 - 7 and to give relief to you who are afflicted and to us as well when the **Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire,**

And so did John and Peter, as well as the writer to the Hebrews.....

1 John 3:2- 2 Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we shall be. We know that, **when He appears, we shall be like Him, because we shall see Him** just as He is. NASB

2 Peter 3:10-13 - 10 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which **the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up.**

Hebrews 9:27-28 - 27 And inasmuch as it is **appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment,** 28 so Christ also, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, **shall appear a second time for salvation** without reference to sin, to those who eagerly await Him. NASB

It is clear from scripture that this return of Christ will be both *bodily and visible*. In Acts, when Jesus ascended into heaven two angels spoke to the disciples and said,

Acts 1:11 - 11 and they also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in just the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven." NASB

And when speaking of His return the scripture says, "every eye will see Him."

Revelation 1:7 - 7 Behold, **He is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see Him**, even those who pierced Him; and all the tribes of the earth will mourn over Him. Even so. Amen NASB

Luke 21:25-27 - 25 "And there will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and upon the earth dismay among nations, in perplexity at the roaring of the sea and the waves, 26 men fainting from fear and the expectation of the things which are coming upon the world; for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. 27 "**And then they will see the Son of Man coming** in a cloud with power and great glory. NASB

Matthew 24:29-31 - 29 "But immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from the sky, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken, 30 and then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and **they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky with power and great glory.** 31 "**And He will send forth His angels** with a great trumpet and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other. NASB

It is also clear from scripture that Christ will resurrect all who are in the graves and that they will face Him in judgment. This judgment will result either positively or negatively for the one judged. It is clear that all mankind will face God in judgment.

John 5:22-29 - 22 "For not even the Father judges anyone, but **He has given all judgment to the Son**, 23 in order that all may honor the Son, even as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him. 24 "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life. 25 "Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God; and those who hear shall live. 26 "For just as the Father has life in Himself, even so He gave to the Son also to have life in Himself; 27 and **He gave Him authority to execute judgment, because He is the Son of Man.** 28 "Do not marvel at this; for an hour is coming, in which **all who are in the tombs** shall hear His voice, 29 and shall come forth; **those who did the good deeds to a resurrection of life, those who committed the evil deeds to a resurrection of judgment.** NASB

Romans 14:10-12 - 10 But you, why do you judge your brother? Or you again, why do you regard your brother with contempt? For **we shall all stand before the judgment seat of God.** 11 For it is written," As I live, says the Lord, **every knee shall bow to Me, And every tongue shall give praise to God."** 12 **So then each one of us shall give account of himself to God.** NASB

Daniel 12:2 - 2 "And many of those who sleep in the dust of the ground will awake, **these to everlasting life, but the others to disgrace and everlasting contempt.** NASB

The present heaven and earth will be destroyed and a new heaven and earth created.

– It is clear from scripture that heaven and earth will be destroyed by fire and that God Himself will remove all the inhabitants of the earth at some point in the future.

2 Peter 3:10-13 - 10 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which **the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up.** 11 **Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way,** what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, 12 looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, on account of which **the heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the elements will melt with intense heat!** 13 But according to His promise we are looking **for new heavens and a new earth,** in which righteousness dwells. NASB

Zephaniah 1:2-3 - 2 "**I will completely remove all things From the face of the earth," declares the LORD.** 3 "I will remove man and beast; I will remove the birds of the sky And the fish of the

sea, And the ruins along with the wicked; And I will cut off man from the face of the earth," declares the LORD. NASB

Zephaniah 1:18 - 18 Neither their silver nor their gold Will be able to deliver them On the day of the LORD'S wrath; **And all the earth will be devoured In the fire of His jealousy**, For He will make a complete end, Indeed a terrifying one, Of all the inhabitants of the earth. NASB

Matthew 24:35 - 35 "**Heaven and earth will pass away**, but My words shall not pass away. NASB

It is also clear from scripture that God will create a New Heavens and a New Earth and that it will be a delight and joy to exist in that place for death and dying and suffering will not exist there.

Isaiah 65:17-19 - 17 "For **behold, I create new heavens and a new earth**; And the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind. 18 "But be glad **and rejoice forever in what I create**; For behold, I create Jerusalem for rejoicing, And her people for gladness. 19 "I will also rejoice in Jerusalem, and be glad in My people; And there **will no longer be heard in her The voice of weeping and the sound of crying**. NASB

Isaiah 66:22 - 22 "For just **as the new heavens and the new earth Which I make will endure before Me**," declares the LORD, "So your offspring and your name will endure. NASB

Revelation 21:1-7 - 21:1 And **I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer any sea**. 2 And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He shall dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself shall be among them, 4 and He shall wipe away every tear from their eyes; and **there shall no longer be any death; there shall no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away**." 5 And He who sits on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." And He said, "Write, for these words are faithful and true." 6 And He said to me, "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give to the one who thirsts from the spring of the water of life without cost. 7 "He who overcomes shall inherit these things, and I will be his God and he will be My son. NASB

Those who have not been saved will be eternally damned for their sins in the lake of fire, the penalty demanded by divine justice for sin. – It is clear from scripture that at

the judgment mankind will either reap eternal life or shame and everlasting contempt.

Daniel 12:2 - 2 "And many of those who sleep in the dust of the ground will awake, **these to everlasting life, but the others to disgrace and everlasting contempt**. NASB

John 5:28-29 - 28 "Do not marvel at this; for an hour is coming, in which **all who are in the tombs** shall hear His voice, 29 and shall come forth; **those who did the good deeds to a resurrection of life, those who committed the evil deeds to a resurrection of judgment**. NASB

Without a mediator for his/her sins, mankind will die, which is to be eternally separated from God in a terrible state of eternal punishment.

Romans 6:23 - 23 **For the wages of sin is death**, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. NASB

2 Thessalonians 1:7-11 - 7 and to give relief to you who are afflicted and to us as well when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire, 8 **dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus**. 9 **And these will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power**, 10 when He comes to be glorified in His saints on that day, and to be marveled at among all who have believed — for our testimony to you was believed. NASB

Matthew 25:46 - 46 "And these will go away into **eternal punishment**, but the righteous into eternal life." NASB

This state of eternal punishment is said to be in the lake which burns with fire.

Matthew 25:41-46 - 41 "Then He will also say to those on His left, 'Depart from Me, accursed ones, **into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels**'; 42 for I was

hungry, and you gave Me nothing to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me nothing to drink; 43 I was a stranger, and you did not invite Me in; naked, and you did not clothe Me; sick, and in prison, and you did not visit Me.' 44 "Then they themselves also will answer, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry, or thirsty, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not take care of You?' 45 "Then He will answer them, saying, "Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.' 46 "And **these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.**" NASB

Revelation 21:8 - 8 "But for the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, **their part will be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.**" NASB

Revelation 20:12-15 - 12 And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and **the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds.** 13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them; and **they were judged, every one of them according to their deeds.** 14 And death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. 15 And **if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.** NASB

This fire of hell is said to be where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, where the worm never dies and the fire is never quenched.

Matthew 13:41-43 - 41 "The Son of Man will send forth His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all stumbling blocks, and those who commit lawlessness, 42 and **will cast them into the furnace of fire; in that place there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.** NASB

Mark 9:43-44 - 43 "And if your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life crippled, than having your two hands, **to go into hell, into the unquenchable fire, 44[where their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched.]** NASB

Those who have been saved will live eternally in the presence of God, worshipping and enjoying Him.

– It is clear from scripture that those who have believed upon the Lord Jesus Christ and responded in repentance and faith, will have eternal life. They will either be resurrected from death to live, or be raptured and be with Christ forever. They will live forever and never die.

John 6:39-40 - 39 "And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that of all that He has given Me I lose nothing, but raise it up on the last day. 40 "For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him, **may have eternal life; and I Myself will raise him up on the last day.**" NASB

2 Corinthians 4:14 - 14 knowing that He who raised the Lord Jesus **will raise us also with Jesus and will present us with you.** NASB

John 11:25-27 - 25 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me shall live even if he dies, 26 and **everyone who lives and believes in Me shall never die.** Do you believe this?" NASB

1 Thessalonians 4:15-18 - 15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, and remain **until the coming of the Lord,** shall not precede those who have fallen asleep. 16 **For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout,** with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet of God; and the dead in Christ shall rise first. 17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and **thus we shall always be with the Lord.** NASB

This eternal life is said to be in the presence of God in the enjoyment of God Himself in His eternal kingdom forever.

Psalms 65:4 - 4 How blessed is the one whom Thou dost choose, and bring near to Thee, **To dwell in Thy courts. We will be satisfied with the goodness of Thy house, Thy holy temple.** NASB

Revelation 21:3-6 - 3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, "Behold, **the tabernacle of God is among men, and He shall dwell among them,** and they shall be His people, and God

Himself shall be among them, 4 and He shall wipe away every tear from their eyes; and **there shall no longer be any death; there shall no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away.** " 5 And He who sits on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." And He said, "Write, for these words are faithful and true." 6 And He said to me, "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give to the one who thirsts from the spring of the water of life without cost. NASB

This also is an eternal state, but one of everlasting joy.

Isaiah 51:11 - 11 So the ransomed of the LORD will return, And **come with joyful shouting to Zion; And everlasting joy will be on their heads. They will obtain gladness and joy,** And sorrow and sighing will flee away. NASB

2 Thessalonians 2:16-17 - 16 Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself and God our Father, **who has loved us and given us eternal comfort and good hope by grace,** 17 comfort and strengthen your hearts in every good work and word. NASB

Jude 24-25 - 24 Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and **to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy,** 25 to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen. NASB

Isaiah 55:12 - 12 "For **you will go out with joy, And be led forth with peace; The mountains and the hills will break forth into shouts of joy before you,** And all the trees of the field will clap their hands. NASB