

Luke 21:25-28

²⁵There will be signs in the sun and moon and stars, and on the earth dismay among the nations, bewildered by the roaring of the sea and the surging of the waves. ²⁶Men will faint from fear and anxiety over what is coming upon the earth, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. ²⁸When these things begin to happen, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

Berean Standard Bible

1

When the clocks stop, Luke 21:25-28

The time for the world to end. 21:25-26

The universe will be disassembled. 25 “sun and moon and stars” 2 Peter 3:10-11

The nations will be disempowered. 25 “earth dismay among the nations”

The time for the Lord to come. 21:27

Jesus’ coming will be witnessed. 27 “will see the Son of Man coming” John 14:1-3

Jesus’ cloud of witnesses. 27 “in a cloud with power and great glory”

The time for glory to begin. 21:28

Celebration will be complete. 28 “stand up and lift up your heads”

Salvation will be complete. 28 “your redemption is drawing near”

2

The King is coming. Luke 21:25-28

Creation will kneel before its Creator. 21:25

That day will surely come. 1 Thessalonians 5:1-6, 1 Timothy 6:13-15

Creation will dissolve. 2 Peter 3:9-13

Sinners will kneel before their Judge. 21:26

Sinners are the first to be removed. Matthew 13:30, Luke 17:30-37

Jesus is the Judge and jury. John 5:22, 5:27, Acts 10:42, 17:31

Everyone will kneel before the King. 21:27

Every knee... every tongue. Romans 14:11-12, Philippians 2:9-11

God’s plan is fulfilled.

Saints will kneel before our Saviour. 21:28
We will meet our Lord. 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
We will be like our Lord. 1 John 3:2

3

Signs of the Second Coming. Luke 21:25-28

Signs across the cosmos. 21:25

Celestial signs. 25 “sun and moon and stars” 2 Peter 3:10-11

Terrestrial signs. 25 “roaring of the sea and the surging” 2 Peter 3:5-7

Signs within people. 21:25-26

Intellectual turmoil. 25 “dismay... bewildered”

Emotional turmoil. 26 “fear and anxiety”

Signs with the King. 21:27

Coming with His citizens. 27 “coming in a cloud” Hebrews 12:1. 1 Thessalonians 4:14

Coming for His citizens. 27 “power and great glory” John 14:1-3

Signs for the saints. 21:28

It was not easy, but it was worth it. 28 “stand up and lift up”

It all works out well in the end. 28 “your redemption is drawing near”

4

Jesus will return. Here is how. Luke 21:24-28

Jesus will return as Creator of the universe. 21:25

He dismantles distant galaxies. 25 “sun and moon and stars” 2 Peter 3:10

He dissolves our own planet. 25 “and on the earth” 2 Peter 3:10-12

Jesus will return as Lord of all humanity. 21:26

He is Lord of each person. 26 “faint from fear and anxiety” Romans 2:16

He is Lord of every person. 26 “what is coming upon the earth” Acts 17:31

Jesus will return as God in all His glory. 21:27

He is coming to take ownership. 27 “in a cloud with power” Revelation 19:13, 16

He is coming to show ownership. 27 “and great glory” Philippians 2:9-11

Jesus will return as Saviour of His saints. 21:28

He celebrates our past. 28 “stand up and lift up your heads” 1 Thessalonians 5:4-6

He inaugurates our future. 28 “your redemption is drawing near” 1 John 3:2

The end of the beginning. Luke 21:25-28

The end is nigh. 21:25-26

- Obedient nature will be in chaos. 25

 - Astronomical chaos. 25 "sun and moon and stars"

 - Terrestrial chaos. 25 "roaring of the sea... and waves"

- Disobedient people will be in fear. 25-26

 - Politicians are powerless. 25 "dismay among the nations"

 - People are powerless. 26 "faint from fear and anxiety"

The beginning is nigh. 21:27-28

- The King is coming. 27

 - Heaven's promise is fulfilled. 27 "see the Son of Man coming" Acts 1:11

 - Heaven's power is revealed. 27 "with power and great glory"

- The Kingdom is coming. 28

 - Jesus' Kingdom is worth standing for. 28 "stand up and lift up your heads"

 - Jesus' Kingdom changes everything. 28 "your redemption is drawing near"

A

Second Coming Summary, Luke 21:25-28+

Return

- "The Lord Himself will come down from Heaven" 1 Thessalonians 4:16

- "I will come back and take you to be with Me" John 14:2-3

Removal

- "First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles to be burned" Matthew 13:30

- "throw them into the fiery furnace" Matthew 13:41-42

Resurrection

- "The dead in Christ will rise first." 1 Thessalonians 4:16

- We living Christians witness it all.

Rapture

- "caught up together with them in the" 1 Thessalonians 4:17

- In the air because there will be no earth (next below)

Renewal

- "pass away with a roar... burned up and dissolved" 2 Peter 3:10

- "a new heaven and a new earth" Revelation 21:1-3

Reward

"Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven..." Matthew 5:12

"he will receive a reward" 1 Corinthians 3:13-14

Rejoice

"Therefore encourage each other with these words" 1 Thessalonians 4:18

Other possible titles

The greatest show on earth

The end is nigh – and it will be amazing!

Ready or not, here I come. Jesus

When the Creator comes

Seeing the Second Coming

When the world stops spinning

Jesus is coming again

When the Judge's hammer strikes

Get yourself ready for Jesus' return

No exit. No escape.

At last, we come to the last.

The last day could be today

The final curtain goes up

Maranatha! Come Lord Jesus!

Too late

Skyfall (James Bond movie)

What you see is what you get

The inevitable end

Commentary

Parallelism

This prophecy is an example of wave parallelism

- A1 Cosmic signs, 25 "signs in the sun and moon and stars"
- B1 Human response, 25 "bewildered by the roaring"
- B2 Human response, 26 "faint from fear and anxiety"
- A2 Cosmic signs, 26 "powers of the heavens will be shaken"
- A3 Cosmic signs, 27 "in a cloud with power and great glory"
- B3 Human response, 28 "lift up your heads"

Parallel accounts

Matthew 24:26–31	Mark 13:24–27	Luke 21:25-28
<p>²⁶So if they tell you, ‘There He is in the wilderness,’ do not go out; or, ‘Here He is in the inner rooms,’ do not believe it.</p> <p>²⁷For just as the lightning comes from the east and flashes as far as the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.</p> <p>²⁸Wherever there is a carcass, there the vultures will gather.</p> <p>²⁹Immediately after the tribulation of those days:</p> <p>‘The sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from the sky,</p> <p>and the powers of the heavens will be shaken.’</p> <p>³⁰At that time the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and all the tribes of the earth will mourn.</p>	<p>²⁴But in those days, after that tribulation</p> <p>‘The sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; ²⁵the stars will fall from the sky,</p> <p>and the powers of the heavens will be shaken.’</p> <p>²⁶At that time</p>	<p>²⁵There will be signs in the sun and moon and stars,</p> <p>and on the earth dismay among the nations, bewildered by the roaring of the sea and the surging of the waves.</p> <p>²⁶Men will faint from fear and anxiety over what is coming upon the earth, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken.</p> <p>²⁷At that time</p>

<p>They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven, with power and great glory.</p> <p>³¹And He will send out His angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather His elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other.</p>	<p>they will see the Son of Man coming in the clouds with great power and glory.</p> <p>²⁷And He will send out the angels to gather His elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.</p>	<p>they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.</p> <p>²⁸When these things begin to happen, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”</p>
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Most Bible publishers make the mistake of acting as editors. One of their obvious mistakes is to present Matthew 24:29, and Mark 13:24-25, in the form of poetry, instead of its actual form which is narrative. By laying it out as if it was poetry, it conveys the mistaken perception that these verses are quotes from the Old Testament. But they are not quotes. Indeed, there are passages in the Old Testament that have some similar wording, but there is no parallel passage in the Old Testament. These Old Testament passages show that God’s judgments that fell in the past are explained in poetic language. Consider, God’s judgment against Babylon as one example of the Day of the Lord. The Day of the Lord is any, and every, decisive act of vengeance and/or judgment.

¹This is the burden against Babylon that Isaiah son of Amoz received:

⁹Behold, the Day of the LORD is coming—
cruel, with fury and burning anger—
to make the earth a desolation
and to destroy the sinners within it.

¹⁰For the stars of heaven and their constellations
will not give their light.
The rising sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light.

¹¹I will punish the world for its evil
and the wicked for their iniquity.
I will end the haughtiness of the arrogant
and lay low the pride of the ruthless.

Isaiah 13:1, 9-11, BSB

The impending destruction of Edom is also presented in poetic, apocalyptic language. This cannot refer to the future, because the nation, and people, of Edom no longer exist.

¹Come near, O nations, to listen;

pay attention, O peoples.
Let the earth hear, and all that fills it,
the world and all that springs from it.
²The LORD is angry with all the nations
and furious with all their armies.
He will devote them to destruction;
He will give them over to slaughter.
³Their slain will be left unburied,
and the stench of their corpses will rise;
the mountains will flow with their blood.
⁴All the stars of heaven will be dissolved.
The skies will be rolled up like a scroll,
and all their stars will fall
like withered leaves from the vine,
like foliage from the fig tree. Isaiah 34:1-4, BSB

¹⁰Before them the earth quakes;
the heavens tremble.
The sun and moon grow dark,
and the stars lose their brightness.
¹¹The LORD raises His voice
in the presence of His army.
Indeed, His camp is very large,
for mighty are those who obey His command.
For the Day of the LORD is great and very dreadful.
Who can endure it? Joel 2:10-11, BSB

The return of Jesus to Heaven, in 30 AD, after His earthly ministry should not be confused with His return to the physical universe. Here is an Old Testament description of His ascension and reception into Heaven, for His present reign in Glory.

¹³In my vision in the night I continued to watch,
and I saw One like the Son of Man
coming with the clouds of heaven.
He approached the Ancient of Days
and was led into His presence.
¹⁴And He was given dominion,
glory, and kingship,
that the people of every nation and language
should serve Him.
His dominion is an everlasting dominion

that will not pass away,
and His kingdom is one
that will never be destroyed. Daniel 7:13-14, BSB

Signs preceding Jesus' return

²⁰When asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, Jesus replied, "The kingdom of God will not come with observable **signs**. ²¹Nor will people say, 'Look, here it is,' or 'There it is.' For you see, the kingdom of God is in your midst." Luke 17:20-21

²⁶Just as it was in the days of Noah, so also will it be **in the days of the Son of Man**: ²⁷People were eating and drinking, marrying and being given in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark. Then the flood came and destroyed them all.

²⁸It was **the same in the days** of Lot: People were eating and drinking, buying and selling, planting and building. ²⁹But on the day Lot left Sodom, fire and sulfur rained down from heaven and destroyed them all.

³⁰It will be **just like that** on the day the Son of Man is revealed. Luke 17:26-30

Signs that we are in the last days

¹ Now the Spirit expressly says that **in later times** some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons, ² through the insincerity of liars whose consciences are seared, ³ who forbid marriage and require abstinence from foods that God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth. 1 Timothy 4:1-3, ESV

¹ But understand this: **In the last days** terrible times will come. ² For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, ³ unloving, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, without love of good, ⁴ traitorous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, ⁵ having a form of godliness but denying its power. Turn away from such as these! 2 Timothy 3:1-5, BSB

¹ On many past occasions and in many different ways, God spoke to our fathers through the prophets. ² But **in these last days** He has spoken to us by His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, and through whom He made the universe. ³ The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of His nature, upholding all things by His powerful word. After He had provided purification for sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high. Hebrews 12:1-3, BSB

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By His great mercy He has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, reserved in heaven for you, ⁵ who through faith are shielded by God's power for the salvation that is ready to be revealed **in the last time**. 1 Peter 1:3-5, BSB

¹⁸ knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, ¹⁹ but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ. ²⁰ For He was foreknown before the foundation of the world, but has appeared **in these last times** for the sake of you. 1 Peter 1:18-20, NASB

³ Above all, you must understand that **in the last days** scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires. ⁴ They will say, 'Where is this "coming" he promised? Ever since our ancestors died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation.' ⁵ But they deliberately forget that long ago by God's word the heavens came into being and the earth was formed out of water and by water. ⁶ By these waters also the world of that time was deluged and destroyed. ⁷ By the same word the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly. 2 Peter 3:3-7, NIV-UK

¹⁷ The world is passing away, along with its desires; but whoever does the will of God remains forever. ¹⁸ Children, **it is the last hour**; and just as you have heard that antichrist is coming, so now many antichrists have appeared. This is how **we know it is the last hour**. ¹⁹ They went out from us, but they did not belong to us. For if they had belonged to us, they would have remained with us. But their departure made it clear that none of them belonged to us. 1 John 2:17-19

¹⁷ But you must remember, beloved, the predictions of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ They said to you, "**In the last time** there will be scoffers, following their own ungodly passions." ¹⁹ It is these who cause divisions, worldly people, devoid of the Spirit. Jude 1:17-19, ESV

¹² Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, ¹³ but, the one who stands firm to **the end** will be saved. Matthew 24:12-13

Man of lawlessness, son of destruction

¹ Now concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to Him, we ask you, brothers, ² not to be easily disconcerted or alarmed by any spirit or message or letter seeming to be from us, alleging that the Day of the Lord has already come. ³ Let no one deceive you in any way, for it will not come until the rebellion occurs and **the**

man of lawlessness—the son of destruction—is revealed. ⁴He will oppose and exalt himself above every so-called god or object of worship. So he will seat himself in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God.

⁵Do you not remember that I told you these things while I was still with you? ⁶And you know what is now restraining him, so that he may be revealed at the proper time. ⁷For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work, but the one who now restrains it will continue until he is taken out of the way. ⁸And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will slay with the breath of His mouth and annihilate by the majesty of His arrival.

⁹The coming of the lawless one will be accompanied by the working of Satan, with every kind of power, sign, and false wonder, ¹⁰and with every wicked deception directed against those who are perishing, because they refused the love of the truth that would have saved them. ¹¹For this reason God will send them a powerful delusion so that they believe the lie, ¹²in order that judgment may come upon all who have disbelieved the truth and delighted in wickedness. 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12

Anti-Christ

¹⁸Children, it is the last hour; and just as you have heard that **an antichrist** is coming, so now **many antichrists** have appeared. This is how we know it is the last hour. ¹⁹They went out from us, but they did not belong to us. For if they had belonged to us, they would have remained with us. But their departure made it clear that none of them belonged to us. ²⁰You, however, have an anointing from the Holy One, and all of you know the truth. ²¹I have not written to you because you lack knowledge of the truth, but because you have it, and because no lie comes from the truth. ²²Who is the liar, if it is not the one who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is **the antichrist**, who denies the Father and the Son. ²³Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father, but whoever confesses the Son has the Father as well. 1 John 2:18-23

¹Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God. For many false prophets have gone out into the world. ²By this you will know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, ³and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of **the antichrist**, which you have heard is coming and which is already in the world at this time.

⁴You, little children, are from God and have overcome them, because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world. ⁵They are of the world. That is why they speak from the world's perspective, and the world listens to them. ⁶We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. That is how we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of deception. 1 John 4:1-6, BSB

For many deceivers have gone out into the world, refusing to confess the coming of Jesus Christ in the flesh. Any such person is the deceiver and **the antichrist**. 2 John 1:7, BSB

What happens when Jesus returns

⁵¹Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed— ⁵²in an instant, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. ⁵³For the perishable must be clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. 1 Corinthians 15:51-53, BSB

¹³Brothers, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you will not grieve like the rest, who are without hope. ¹⁴For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, we also believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in Him.

¹⁵By the word of the Lord, we declare to you that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁶For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a loud command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will be the first to rise. ¹⁷After that, we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will always be with the Lord.

¹⁸Therefore encourage one another with these words. 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

⁹The Lord is not slow in keeping His promise as some understand slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish but everyone to come to repentance.

¹⁰But the Day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar, the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and its works will be laid bare. ¹¹Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to conduct yourselves in holiness and godliness. ¹²as you anticipate and hasten the coming of the day of God, when the heavens will be destroyed by fire and the elements will melt in the heat. ¹³But in keeping with God's promise, we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells. 2 Peter 3:9-13, BSB

Jesus returns as Judge

Furthermore, the Father judges no one, but has assigned all judgment to the Son, John 5:22, BSB

And He has given Him authority to execute judgment, because He is the Son of Man. John 5:27, BSB

And He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that He is the One appointed by God to judge the living and the dead. Acts 10:42, BSB

For He has set a day when He will judge the world with justice by the Man He has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising Him from the dead. Acts 17:31, BSB

...on the day when God will judge men's secrets through Christ Jesus, as proclaimed by my gospel. Romans 2:16, BSB

Therefore judge nothing before the appointed time; wait until the Lord comes. He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of men's hearts. At that time each will receive his praise from God. 1 Corinthians 4:5, BSB

Jesus returns as King

Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world." John 18:36

He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God. . . . On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords. Revelation 19:13, 16

...that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. Ephesians 1:20-21

⁹ Therefore God exalted him to the highest place
and gave him the name that is above every name,
¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
¹¹ and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father. Philippians 2:9-11

Time of the Second Coming

Concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only. Matthew 24:36, ESV

Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect. Matthew 24:44, ESV

He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. Acts 1:7, ESV

¹Now about the times and seasons, brothers, we do not need to write to you. ²For you are fully aware that the Day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³While people are saying, "Peace and security," destruction will come upon them suddenly, like labour pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. ⁴But you, brothers, are not in the darkness so that this day should overtake you like a thief. ⁵For you are all sons of the light and sons of the day; we do not belong to the night or to the

darkness. ⁶So then, let us not sleep as the others do, but let us remain awake and sober. 1 Thessalonians 5:1-6, BSB

I charge you in the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, to keep the commandment unstained and free from reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, which he will display at the proper time—he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords. 1 Timothy 6:13–15

About us, when Jesus returns

Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. 1 John 3:2, ESV

¹¹It is written: “‘As surely as I live,’ says the Lord, ‘every knee will bow before me; every tongue will acknowledge God.’” ¹²So then, each of us will give an account of ourselves to God. Romans 14:11-12, NIV

Theology of prophecy

This foundation of theology applies, not only to prophecy, but to every area of theology, doctrine, and Bible study.

Step 1. Begin with Jesus. After all, He is the Word of God. He is the world’s greatest teacher. Whatever doctrine we wish to understand, we first go to the Gospels and listen to Jesus.

Step 2. Then go to the New Testament letters. From these, we expand our knowledge built on the information already provided by Jesus.

Step 3. Turn to the books of Bible history; Acts in the New Testament, but mostly in the Old Testament. These do not give us doctrine because this has already been established in the Gospels and Letters. History gives us illustrations and examples, but not doctrinal foundations.

Step 4. Look at the Poetic and Prophetic books. These cannot be used for doctrine because of their extensive use of symbolic language, but these add colour and light to illuminate the teachings of Jesus. These books must be left until last.

What this four-step principle looks like in practice can be demonstrated with two doctrines. The doctrine of First Things, or Creation. Do not begin with Genesis 1:1 because that is history. Instead, begin with Step 1, Jesus and the Gospels. “In the beginning was the Word...” (John 1:1) This is better than history because the Gospel account of Creation takes us back before Creation began. Then go to Step 2, in the New Testament letters. Colossians 1:16 explains not only What was made, but also Why it was made. This follows our four-step principle and builds on the Gospel. Then, Step 3, examine the History books, and Genesis 1

and 2 will lay out the process of Creation. Finally, Step 4 takes us to Poetry and Prophecy. These give us an overview. “The Heavens declare the glory of God” (Psalm 19:1)

Now, let’s turn from First Things to Last Things and apply this principle to an example of modern eschatological interpretation – the millennium. We follow the four-step process for sound doctrine by beginning with Step 1, in the Gospels, and listening to Jesus. All we have is a deafening silence. Jesus does not say even one single word about the millennium. If we do hear anything, it should be alarm bells that we hear, warning us against any millennium-based system of eschatology: Premillennial, Postmillennial, or Amillennial. So, with Jesus giving us absolutely nothing on which to build a millennial-based eschatology, it will come as no surprise that when we turn to Step 2, the New Testament Letters, they are also silent, and there is no hint of the millennium anywhere in any of the Letters. Step 3. History, is likewise silent. That only leaves us with Step 4, Poetry and Prophecy; the last place; the wrong place on which to build any doctrine. A “thousand years” is found only in Revelation 20:1-10, where the term occurs six times.

Contrary to sound doctrine and healthy hermeneutics, almost all doctrines of the proposed Millennium are based in Old Testament prophecies, then forward projected out of their original, and only, context into the distant future. Other Scriptures, also not related to the proposed Millennium are then projected into a prefabricated millennial model. Dear reader, you can do better than that. You must do better than that if you want sound doctrine.

Cross-references to Luke 21:25-28

²⁵There will be signs in the sun and moon and stars, and on the earth dismay among the nations, bewildered by the roaring of the sea and the surging of the waves.

¹⁰But the Day of the Lord will come like a thief. The **heavens** will disappear with a roar, the **elements** will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and its works will be laid bare. ¹¹Since **everything** will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to conduct yourselves in holiness and godliness, 2 Peter 3:10-11

¹Now about the times and seasons, brothers, we do not need to write to you. ²For you are fully aware that the Day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³While people are saying, “Peace and security,” destruction will come upon them suddenly, like labour pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. ⁴But you, brothers, are not in the darkness so that this day should overtake you like a thief.

1 Thessalonians 5:1-4

²⁶Men will faint from fear and anxiety over what is coming upon the **earth**, for the powers of the **heavens** will be shaken.

⁵But they deliberately overlook the fact that long ago by God’s word the **heavens** existed and the **earth** was formed out of water and by water, ⁶through which the world of that time perished in the flood. ⁷And by that same word, the present

heavens and **earth** are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men. 2 Peter 3:5-7

²⁷At that time they will see the Son of Man coming...

¹“Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe in Me as well. ²In My Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and welcome you into My presence, so that you also may be where I am. John 14:1-3

¹³Brothers, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you will not grieve like the rest, who are without hope. ¹⁴For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, we also believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in Him. ¹⁵By the word of the Lord, we declare to you that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁶For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a loud command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will be the first to rise. ¹⁷After that, we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will always be with the Lord. ¹⁸Therefore encourage one another with these words. 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

...coming in a **cloud** with power and great glory.

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 because of Him. So shall it be! Amen. Revelation 1:7

¹⁴And I looked and saw a white **cloud**, and seated on the cloud was One like the Son of Man, with a golden crown on His head and a sharp sickle in His hand. ¹⁵Then another angel came out of the temple, crying out in a loud voice to the One seated on the **cloud**, “Swing Your sickle and reap, because the time has come to harvest; for the crop of the earth is ripe.” ¹⁶So the One seated on the **cloud** swung His sickle over the earth, and the earth was harvested. Revelation 14:14-16

²⁸When these things begin to happen, stand up and lift up your heads...

Blessed are those servants whom the master finds on watch when he returns. Truly I tell you, he will dress himself to serve and will have them recline at the table, and he himself will come and wait on them. Luke 12:37

²⁵Whoever loves his life will lose it, but whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶If anyone serves Me, he must follow Me; and where I am, My servant will be as well. If anyone serves Me, the Father will honour him. John 12:25-26

Father, those whom You have given Me, I desire that they also may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory that You gave Me because You loved Me before the foundation of the world. John 17:24

⁹For God has not appointed us to suffer wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. ¹⁰He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with Him. ¹¹Therefore encourage and build one another up, just as you are already doing. 1 Thessalonians 5:9-11

¹²as you anticipate and hasten the coming of the day of God, when the heavens will be destroyed by fire and the elements will melt in the heat. ¹³But in keeping with God's promise, we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells. 2 Peter 3:12-13

...your redemption is drawing near.

²²We know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until the present time. ²³Not only that, but we ourselves, who have the first-fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the **redemption** of our bodies. ²⁴For in this hope we were saved Romans 8:22-24a

¹³And in Him, having heard and believed the word of truth—the gospel of your salvation—you were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴who is the pledge of our inheritance until the **redemption** of those who are God's possession, to the praise of His glory. Ephesians 1:13-14

And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, in whom you were sealed for the day of **redemption**. Ephesians 4:30

Music and songs

Songs based on this text

25 “on the earth dismay among the nations”

There's gonna be a better day (Gaither + Duncan alterations)
Troublesome times are here... Jesus is coming soon.

27 “see the Son of Man coming”

Jesus is coming (Somebody's coming, Gaither + Duncan alterations)
Jesus is coming again, CWH 91
Jesus is coming soon, CWH 71
Jesus is coming soon, (Winsett)

27 “coming in a cloud with power and great glory”

Glory and power to the One Who loves us... See Him coming, Ot 5
Lo, He comes with clouds descending, H 200
Marvellous message we bring... Jesus is coming again, CWH 91

See Him coming, Ot 5
Sing we the King who is coming to reign, H 204
The King is coming (Newsboys), Ot 40

28 “stand up, and lift up your head”
I keep looking up (Brian Free)
When I lift up my head

Other songs about the Second Coming

All hail King Jesus, 237 / SiS 219
All Heaven declares the glory (Fettke)
At the name of Jesus every knee will bow, H 191
Battle belongs to the Lord
Gloria (David Meece)
He is Lord. He is Lord... Every knee shall bow
Highest place... Therefore God exalted Him to the highest place, Ot 20
Jesus shall reign where're the sun
King of Kings and Lord of lords, SiS 409
Looking for the city, Ot 106
Mansion over the hilltop, CWH 107
The Lord reigns
There's a land that is fairer... In the sweet by and by, H 698
There's a light upon the mountains, H 199
Watch ye therefore... I shall wear a crown
When the saints go marching in
When the trumpet of the Lord... When the roll is called up yonder, H 708

Thought starters for personal reflection or group discussion

1. Read John 14:1-3. Why do you think a statement about the Second Coming is 'bookended' by these opening and closing statements?
 2. Jesus' return will be accompanied by cosmic signs (Luke 21:25-26). What does that tell you about Jesus Himself?
 3. Jesus' return will be met with "fear and anxiety" (v26). How can that be an appropriate human response? What is the alternative?
 4. Other people will "stand up and lift up" (v28) What makes that an appropriate response?
 5. What do you think you will experience when we see v27 come into effect?
 6. Why could Christians be sad at the Second Coming? Suggest some things we could do to minimise that sadness.
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