

The Future

I. The Future and Us

A. Only Partially Under our Control (Eccl. 11:6)

B. It is affected by our actions – We plant seed because we expect it to grow.

C. But also depends on so many other things – Marrying and giving in marriage at the time of the flood (Matt. 24:37-39)

D. Do not boast about the future (Jms 4:13-16)

II. The Future and God

A. Known by God

- 1. Abraham (Genesis 13:14-17; Genesis 15:12-21) Over 400 years before the fulfillment!**
- 2. Coming of the Son of Man Matt. 24:36**

B. Controlled by God

- 1. King Cyrus named by God (Isaiah 44:24-45:13); Called by name nearly 200 years before he was born.**
- 2. Josephus: “Now Cyrus learned this (as to building the temple) by reading the book that Isaiah had left of his own prophecies 210 years before... These things Isaiah foretold 140 years before the Temple was destroyed. When Cyrus, therefore, had read them, and had admired their divine character, and impulse and emulation seized him to do what was written” Antiquities xi:2**
- 3. Fulfilled (Ezra 1:1-3);**

C. Revealed by God

- 1. Isaiah 46:8-11 - I declare the end from the beginning!**
- 2. Daniel 8:19-21 About 530 BC, about 200 years before the decisive battle between the Greeks and the Persians took place**

III. Can Be Known by Us

A. Because it has been revealed by God

1. Deut. 29:29
2. John 14:1-3 – In my Father's house are many mansions
3. Matthew 25:31-46 – There is a day of judgment

B. Because we can choose our own destiny

1. Rom. 8:28-30 - Predestined
2. Rom. 2:5-16 – Sure reward, sure punishment
3. Revelation 22:17 – Whoever desires

C. Any adjustments to our future must happen in the present

1. 2 Cor. 5:20-6:2