

Convent Avenue Baptist Church  
Wednesday Bible Study 7/7/10  
Pastor Jesse Williams

*The Articles of Faith; What we believe...*

**Article XVIII. The World to Come**

Matthew 24:3-14; 1 Corinthians 15:50-58; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Revelation 21:1-6

In this article of faith we see that God has a divine plan for humanity and all of creation that will culminate in accordance with God's will. Creation and this world is not just a project that God started without knowing where and how it will end. On the contrary, God has a time and a way for this world as we know it to come to an end and give way to God's new creation, which we refer to as *the world to come*. In the language of the church, we refer to this subject as *eschatology*, which means the study of the last things, the end of the age and the culmination of human history as we know it.

For years we have been having conversations in the church about how we are living in the "latter days" or the "last days" because the signs that we see in our daily culture seem to be fulfilling a lot of the prophecy that the bible talks about when the last days are described. Generally, when we talk about the last days, we are referring to the time leading up to that day when Jesus Christ comes back into the world to judge the world and bring it to its' culmination before God creates a new heaven and earth. Yes, we believe that God will create another world to come in which Satan and all of his influence has been defeated and the Lord will reign forever.

We have also heard many rumors and predictions about when the world is going to end, and when Jesus is coming back. False prophets have risen up and made bold statements claiming to know the time when the end of the world is coming. There were even those who believed that the Y2K issue was a signal of the end of the world! Jesus talked about these false predictors and warned us not to believe them. The point is that no one but God knows the day or time when Jesus is coming back, or when the world is coming to an end. It is our responsibility to make sure that we live each day for Christ so that we are ready whenever the day comes! The point is not to predict the time, but to live every moment in accordance with God's will so that we are always prepared for His coming.

While there are many who are still making predictions by trying to interpret the meaning of the prophecy in the bible, the best thing for us to do is to live by our faith in God. We don't know *when* Jesus is coming back, but the important thing is that we believe that He *is* coming back. Therefore, we live each day in expectation; looking for our savior and ready to receive His coming with joy. We should always remember that:

**1) Jesus is coming back again!**

**2) When Jesus comes back, He will judge the world.**

**3) God is going to create a new heaven and earth where God reigns forever!**