

**#7 Searching for God at the End of the Universe****A. 4 Scientific Reasons Why The Future of the Universe is Bleak**

1. Environmental Problems - limited resources; pollution; destruction of the environment
2. Potential to be hit by a comet, significant meteor, or asteroid
3. The Sun will eventually burn out
4. The universe itself will one day run out of energy & fizzle out

- Without religion, science itself is nothing more than a practice in futility because of where science says we are all ultimately headed

NOTES:

B. Christians claim that we are not headed for futility at all, rather we are headed for life

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**C. 2 (of many) Christian positions on "the End"****1. Fundamentalism**

- a) Fundamentalism was started by RA Torrey & the Moody Bible Institute (from 1909)
- b) To be an "authentic" Christian, you have to agree with their self-proclaimed 5 Fundamentals of the Christian Faith (with a 6th fundamental tenet later being accepted by many)
  - 1) Inerrancy of Scripture;
  - 2) Virgin Birth;
  - 3) Substitutionary Atonement;
  - 4) Bodily Resurrection;
  - 5) The Authenticity of Miracles;
  - (6) Premillennialism – many fund. take this approach)

NOTES:

D. Countless millions of very good Christians *disagree* with R A Torrey & his concept of inerrancy, believing that, although the Bible is indeed inspired, it also was written by human beings who were not able to escape their culture when trying to relay the truths of God in what they wrote.

- Examples of *why* they would disagree with Torrey

- (1) Discrepancies between the temptation accounts of Mt 4 & Lk 4
- (2) Questions with the order of Creation in Gen 1 vs. Gen 2
- (3) Women are told to not have authority over a man in 1 Tim 2, but then you have women with authority as far back as Deborah in Judges 4, not to mention the New Testament women who had authority such as Phoebe the deacon, Lydia the church leader, and others.
- (4) 1 Tim 2:15 clearly says that "women are saved in child-bearing," which contradicts the idea that Jesus is our salvation

NOTES:

E. Many strong, mature Christians disagree with the fundamentalist doctrine of Premillennialism (or other related doctrines)

1. Ex.- "The Left Behind Series"
2. Even though we humans are uniquely loved by God, all of the creation is still good and special in God's sight. This implies that God does not want to annihilate the physical universe or the earth.
  - a. God doesn't want the earth or universe destroyed, in fact, He wants to save, redeem, reconcile, and transform it.
2. Whenever & however God does decide to act at the "End," we are talking about both judgment and redemption, refining, transforming, and re-creating, such that all the impurities of the current universe will be removed & all the good will be enhanced & the end result is a place of inexpressible joy, happiness & perfection.
  - a. Illustration – CS Lewis, "The Last Battle"
  - b. "All that was meaningful & good in the old universe has been drawn into the new, transformed, newly created universe"
  - c. The reason I loved the old universe was because it sometimes looked like this. But now that I am here, it all makes sense. This is what I loved, even though I never knew it until now. This is what I was longing for all along, this is where I belong. This is my true home"

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