

# The Effect of Futurist Eschatology on a Nation

“Strewth<sup>1</sup>. We’ll all be rooned<sup>2,3</sup>”, is an Aussie expression of doom and gloom from our outback folklore.

Today there’s a more serious term that is used, ‘apocalyptic’, which refers to widespread destruction and annihilation. However, ‘apocalypse’ from which it’s derived, never meant what it means today in its modern use.

‘Apocalypse’ comes from the Greek word used in the first verse of the Book of Revelation in the NT. In fact, the book gets it’s title from the same word. In the first verse is the Greek word *apokalupsis* (ἀποκάλυψις) from which we get ‘apocalypse’. The word means: ‘to unveil’, ‘to lay bare’, ‘to disclose’, ‘to reveal’, ‘to bring to the light’, ‘to uncover’, ‘to appear from being hidden’, etc.<sup>4</sup>

The intent of *apokalupsis* in Revelation is to declare that John was given a revelation from Jesus the King, which came from Father, which intended to show (uncover) what was about to quickly take place in the known world.<sup>5</sup> As this is the meaning, why does ‘apocalypse’ now mean ‘a very serious event resulting in great destruction and change’<sup>6</sup>?

The answer comes from Evangelical Christianity, especially that found in the USA. A foundational belief of this religious group is Futurist Eschatology which believes in a future cataclysmic event which sees the destruction of the Earth, known as ‘the End of the World’. This is easily seen in the rest of the dictionary definition of ‘apocalypse’ which states: “In the Bible, the total destruction and end of the world. The book offers a vision of the future in which there is a great nuclear apocalypse.”

No where does Revelation refer to a nuclear catastrophe which wipes out all life on Earth. However, that doesn’t stop evangelicals from believing what their Bible prophecy teachers teach them from the pulpit and in books.<sup>7</sup> Of course, this all fuels their acceptance of Earth-destroying Anthropogenic Climate Change.

My series ‘Re-evaluating the Book of Revelation’<sup>8</sup> shows that there are quite a number of other interpretations of Revelation which are devoid of any Last Days’ catastrophe. Suffice to say, there’s the Preterist view, the unveiling of Jesus view, and the glorious eschatology view, just to name some more logical understandings. (**NOTE:** *These views all come from the same scriptures.*)

The Futurist Eschatology has marked negative effects on those who subscribe to it. The most important being FEAR. Fear, of course, has no place in the Kingdom, so the source of this fear is not Heaven. Another effect is the desire to die and go to Heaven rather than to fulfil our destiny for the Kingdom while we’re here on Earth in our physical bodies.

One hidden effect of Futurist Eschatology is it’s impact on nations. Most notably, US Evangelical Futurist Eschatology has manipulated government policy there, depending on who was the President. Michael Northcott in his 2004 book, “An Angel Directs the Storm: Apocalyptic Religion and American Empire”<sup>9</sup> analyses America’s reaction to the 9/11 attack and subsequent invasion of Iraq, and shows that the response came from the conservative Christian values and beliefs of President George Bush. He actually ascribes the description, “apocalyptic vision”, to George Bush’s ‘war on terror’.

Here is a taste of what’s in Northcott’s book. Quotes are taken from his Introduction:

*“Before winning the White House in a disputed election in which his brother, Jeb Bush, had played a*

1 – Australian slang term expressing an exclamation or a mild oath. [outbackdictionary.com/strewth-struth](http://outbackdictionary.com/strewth-struth)

2 – ‘ruined’

3 – John O’Brien poem (1921) “Said Hanrahan” [www.australianculture.org/said-hanrahan-john-obrien](http://www.australianculture.org/said-hanrahan-john-obrien)

4 – Strong #G602 [www.bibletools.org/index.cfm/fuseaction/Lexicon.show/ID/G602/apokalupsis.htm](http://www.bibletools.org/index.cfm/fuseaction/Lexicon.show/ID/G602/apokalupsis.htm)

5 – Revelation 1:1 (NIV) “The revelation from Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants what must soon take place.”

6 – [dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/apocalypse](http://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/apocalypse)

7 – VIZ. ‘Left behind’ by Tim LaHaye & ‘Late Great Planet Earth’ by Hal Lindsey.

8 – [canberraforerunners.org/?page\\_id=6853#revelation](http://canberraforerunners.org/?page_id=6853#revelation)

9 – Michael Northcott (2004) “An Angel Directs the Storm: Apocalyptic Religion and American Empire”

[www.academia.edu/457755/An\\_Angel\\_Directs\\_the\\_Storm\\_Apocalyptic\\_Religion\\_and\\_American\\_Empire](http://www.academia.edu/457755/An_Angel_Directs_the_Storm_Apocalyptic_Religion_and_American_Empire) [FREE copy]

*notable role in suppressing the black vote as Governor of Florida, Bush confessed that he believed he had been divinely called to serve his country at some great moment of crisis: 'I feel like God wants me to run for president. I can't explain it, but I sense my country is going to need me. Something is going to happen. And at that time my country will need me'.*

*In his Inaugural Address in January 2001, George W. Bush clearly articulated his belief in his own and America's divine calling to lead the world in an apocalyptic struggle between the forces of good and evil, and to shape the world after the American values of liberty, democracy and the free market. The use of religious discourse in inaugural addresses is by no means unique to Bush. Clinton, Reagan and Carter had all used this kind of language. Bush, however, went beyond the usual civil religion of such occasions by inviting Franklin Graham to give a Trinitarian blessing and prayer at the inaugural ceremony. Bush commenced his address with a near-Messianic account of the American story as the pursuit of liberty and of America as the liberator of humanity...*

*For Bush, America is not only divinely chosen to be a place of safety for the persecuted from other lands, but also to be the instrument that God will use to bring liberty and democracy to the nations of the world. Instead of a refuge from the storm, America becomes the storm, threatening to visit its military might, and its unchallenged supremacy as the sole remaining superpower, on those who would resist its influence: the 'enemies of freedom'. From a liberated people America has become in Bush's mind the liberator...*

*The battle for 'free markets' and for liberty is with America's enemies who hate the idea that 'in this great country, we can worship the Almighty God the way we see fit. Liberty is God's gift to every human being in the world'. Consequently America is in an apocalyptic struggle between the forces of good – America and those who ally themselves with her – and her enemies, described in a now infamous phrase as an 'axis of evil'...*

*Why are Americans so drawn to the apocalyptic? There are a number of possible answers to this question. One is that the American Revolution and the terrible Civil War that followed represented a unique combination of apocalyptic violence and religious fervour. Ministers in the Civil War believed that its extreme violence presaged the end of the world, and as the blood of thousands stained the land, soldiers sang the apocalyptic anthem 'mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord' who was 'trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored' with its implicit sacrificial theme."<sup>10</sup>*

**Check out his book and decide for yourself whether Northcott's claim is justifiable.** [Get the free copy.](#)

In light of allotriepiskopos,<sup>11</sup> you might also like to check out these articles as well:

- Chip Berlet "The United States: Messianism, Apocalypticism, and Political Religion" (FREE)  
[www.academia.edu/25706207/The\\_United\\_States\\_Messianism\\_Apocalypticism\\_and\\_Political\\_Religion](http://www.academia.edu/25706207/The_United_States_Messianism_Apocalypticism_and_Political_Religion)
- Tristan Sturm "Imagining Apocalyptic Geopolitics: American Evangelical Citationality of Evil Others" (FREE)  
[www.academia.edu/10943295/Imagining\\_Apocalyptic\\_Geopolitics\\_American\\_Evangelical\\_Citationality\\_of\\_Evil\\_Others](http://www.academia.edu/10943295/Imagining_Apocalyptic_Geopolitics_American_Evangelical_Citationality_of_Evil_Others)

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8-8-2021 (updated 4-10-2021)

[Published 30-12-2021]

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(Readers will need to look up for themselves any scriptures alluded to in this document)

10 – Michael Northcott (2004) "An Angel Directs the Storm: Apocalyptic Religion and American Empire" Introduction

[www.academia.edu/457755/An\\_Angel\\_Directs\\_the\\_Storm\\_Apocalyptic\\_Religion\\_and\\_American\\_Empire](http://www.academia.edu/457755/An_Angel_Directs_the_Storm_Apocalyptic_Religion_and_American_Empire) [FREE copy]

11 – "Mind Your Own Business" [canberraforerunners.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Mind-Your-Own-Business.pdf](http://canberraforerunners.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Mind-Your-Own-Business.pdf)