

Contents

1. Christian Futures: An Introduction	1
For Further Reading	19
Part I. Origins	
2. Prophecies and Riddles: Jewish Prophetic and Apocalyptic Traditions	23
3. Parables and Resurrection: Already and Not Yet in the Jesus Tradition	37
4. Seeds and Sheafs: The Eschatology of the Apostle Paul	55
5. Alpha and Omega: The Book of Revelation	67
Part II. Historical Developments	
6. Martyrs: Early Christianity	83
7. Time: Origen	103
8. Patriae: Augustine of Hippo	111

9. Legends: Pseudo-Methodius and the Antichrist	125
10. Sketches: Gregory the Great	137
11. Songs: Celtic Sources	145
12. Polemics: Bernard and Hildegard	155
13. Patterns: Joachim of Fiore	169
14. Circles: Dante Alighieri	181
15. Visions: Julian of Norwich and the Black Plague	193
16. Maps: Christopher Columbus	203
17. Urgency: Martin Luther	213
18. Taxonomies: Isaac Newton and John Donne	223
19. Anxieties: John Calvin, Increase Mather, and Second Advent Theologians	233
20. Images: Virgins of the Apocalypse	243
21. Liberation: Eschatology and Enslaved Africans in North America	251
22. Jeremiads: Jonathan Edwards and the American Republic	259
23. Utopias: Postmillennial America	267
24. Charts: Prophecy Belief 1850-1950	277
For Further Reading	289

Part III. Contemporary Challenges

25. Theories: From Albert Schweitzer to Karl Rahner	295
26. Protests: From Martin Luther King Jr. to Leymah Gbowee	309
27. Clocks: The Atomic Age	319
28. Failures: The Limits of Christian Futures	325
29. Questions: Science and Christian Eschatology	337
30. Towardness	343
For Further Reading	349
Glossary of Terms	351