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Eschatology is the study of the last things: death, judgment, the afterlife, and the end of the world. Through centuries of Christian thought from the early Church fathers through the Middle Ages and the Reformation these issues were of the utmost importance. In other religions, too, eschatological concerns were central. After the Enlightenment, though, many religious thinkers began to downplay the importance of eschatology which, in light of rationalism, came to be seen as something of an embarrassment. The twentieth century, however, saw the rise of phenomena that placed eschatology back at the forefront of religious thought. From the rapid expansion of fundamentalist forms of Christianity, with their focus on the end times; to the proliferation of apocalyptic new religious movements; to the recent (and very public) debates about suicide, martyrdom, and paradise in Islam, interest in eschatology is once again on the rise. In addition to its popular resurgence, in recent years some of the world's most important theologians have returned eschatology to its former position of prominence. *The Oxford Handbook of Eschatology* will provide an important critical survey of this diverse body of thought and practice from a variety of perspectives: biblical, historical, theological, philosophical, and cultural. This volume will be the primary resource for students, scholars, and others interested in questions of our ultimate existence.

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Review

"The book is comprehensive and thorough. It serves as both a useful reference work and as an opportunity to engage, in a deep way, with an idea that has long played such a significant role in the various religious traditions and in the lives of the faithful...it will be richly rewarding and consistently useful."--*Journal of Ecumenical Studies*

About the Author

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