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Fundamental Distinctions between Imamiyyah Shi'a and Recent Eschatological Views

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Abstract

Nowadays the world proceeds apace toward the future, and this makes any thinker ponder over the end of the world. The outcome has been the formation of different eschatological views among which some have been proposed by contemporary western thinkers. Of course, some ideas about the end of the world held by theistic and nontheistic religions have a long history. The present study is aimed at conducting a comparative study of the origins of these views. To this end, it first states the major views of contemporary western thinkers including McLuhan (GlobalVillage), Huntington (The Clash of Civilization), Toffler (The Third Wave) and

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Fukuyama (The End of History). Among the religions, the focus of the discussion will be on Islam specifically the eschatological views of Imamiyyah Shi'a. The results of the comparative study show that the views of contemporary western thinkers stands on humanism, liberalism, secularism, and promiscuity; while, the views of Imamiyyah Shi'a are monotheistic and theocentric.

Key Terms: *eschatology, global village, clash of civilization, third wave, end of history, Imamiyyah Shi'a.*