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TITLE: 'I Want the Apocalypse to Happen and Just Wipe this all Clean': The use of Apocalyptic Narratives by Religious and Non-religious Youth

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Although the ways in which young adults plan for and relate to their own futures has been studied at length, the question of how they perceive the long-term future has received comparatively less scholarly attention. This paper focuses on how young adults relate to the long-term, societal future with reference to the concept of apocalypse. It draws on an analysis of 28 in-depth interviews, in which both religious and non-religious young adults (aged 18-34) were asked to discuss their perceptions of the long-term future. By comparing the eschatological depictions cited by religious respondents from a number of denominations of Christianity to the wider sample's views of the future, the findings of this study highlight the development of a secular apocalyptic narrative. This narrative is used to discuss how the findings of this study map onto existing theoretical accounts of secularization and desecularization. Moreover, this narrative is found to provide insight into both the respondents' understandings of the distant future, and their views of present-day society and the immediate future.