

# END TIMES

End Times and Revelation

Sunday, November 21, 2010

# Eschatology

- The segment of theology that deals with ‘the end times.’
- *Eschatos* means ‘last’
- Discusses all of end times, including death, resurrection, judgments
- We will focus on ‘the return of Christ’
- Essential part of Christian Orthodox Beliefs

# Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
the Maker of heaven and earth,  
and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord:

Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, dead, and buried;

He descended into hell.

The third day He arose again from the dead;

He ascended into heaven,  
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;

**from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

I believe in the Holy Ghost;  
the holy catholic church;  
the communion of saints;  
the forgiveness of sins;  
the resurrection of the body;  
and the life everlasting.

Amen.

# The Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds; God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God; begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made.

Who, for us men and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried; and the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of the Father; **and He shall come again, with glory, to judge the quick and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.**

And I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Lord and Giver of Life; who proceeds from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets.

And I believe one holy catholic and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

# Return of Christ

Fact of:

All evangelical churches believe that Christ will return in some manner.....

But there is no consensus as to the details of His return.....

Any problem with the “FACT” of His return?

# BRBC

**SECOND COMING:** We believe in the literal return of Jesus Christ to the earth as He promised. We believe that this will occur prior to the millennium. We also believe that the church universal will be raptured, that is to be caught up together and meet the Lord in the air, and that this may happen at any moment. We believe in the bodily resurrection of believers who have died to join with those who are alive to meet Christ. We believe that subsequent to the rapture the earth will be gripped in seven years of intense tribulation after which Christ and his forces will return to earth, take dominion, and rule on earth for a thousand years. The Eternal Kingdom will be established in heaven subsequent to the Great White Throne judgment in which all unbelievers will be judged. Satan and all his forces will be defeated and cast into the Lake of Fire.

# BRBC

- Pre tribulation
  - Referring to the timing of the RAPTURE
- Pre Millennial
  - Referring to the timing of His 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming
- We will discuss various points, but the general outline is based on this understanding.

# Intro - Prophecy

- OT Prophets foretold of the coming Messiah
- Hundreds of prophecies told of His coming
- Many have been fulfilled in His first coming

# Intro - Prophecy

- FIRST COMING
- Born in Bethlehem
  - "But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you One will go forth for Me to be ruler in Israel. His goings forth are from long ago, from the days of eternity." (*Micah 5:2*)
  - And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, in order to register, along with Mary, who was engaged to him, and was with child.... And she gave birth to her first-born son; and she wrapped Him in cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. (*Luke 2:4-5, 7*)

# Intro - Prophecy

- FIRST COMING
- Born of a Virgin
  - "Therefore the LORD Himself will give you a sign: Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel. (*Isaiah 7:14*)
  - Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city in Galilee, called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the descendants of David; and the virgin's name was Mary.... And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb, and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus." (*Luke 1:26-27, 30-31*)

# Intro - Prophecy

- But many are still to be fulfilled in His second coming
- Prophets did NOT know about two comings
- Prophets did NOT know about the church age
- They saw His first and second coming as the same
- Mountain peaks of Prophecy





# Intro - Prophecy

- But the NT reveals the program of God, called the church. It was a mystery.
- Ephesians 3:1 – 6
- Christ – “I will build my church”
- We now know that there is a gap that separates His two comings.
- We call that gap the church age, of which the OT did not speak of...it was a mystery

# Intro - Interpretation

- How do we interpret Scriptures?
  - Literal – grammatical-historical method
  - NOT allegorical
  - ALL evangelical bodies use the grammatical-historical method in general
  - BUT the majority change the rules when it comes to prophecies about the second coming

# Intro - Interpretation

- How were the prophecies of His first coming fulfilled?
  - Allegorical
    - Bethlehem refers to the place in our hearts where he comes, not the real town
    - Virgin means that Mary in her heart loved God and that she was pure, not a virgin
  - They were fulfilled in a LITERAL way
    - We understand the promises of His second coming in a literal way

# Intro - Interpretation

- If we apply the literal approach we will come to the understanding that our doctrinal states:
- We believe in a Pre – Millennial return of Christ – that is He will return to the earth before (hence ‘pre’) the Millennium as stated in Revelation 20.
- Which brings us to the three basic understandings of the church today:

# Intro - Interpretation

- Pre –Millennial
  - Return before the Millennium
- Post – Millennial
  - Return after the Millennium
- A – Millennial
  - There is No Millennium
- We will look at these in more detail later.

# Intro - Interpretation

Amillennialists believe that the "thousand years" of Revelation 20 is a figurative number indicating the whole period between Jesus' resurrection and his return (i.e. the current church age). In this view Christ now reigns and rules from heaven in and through the church bringing people into the kingdom of God through the preaching of the gospel.

# Intro - Interpretation

- A – Millennial
  - ‘a’ mean No...no earthly Millennium
  - States Christ will return and bring eternal state, no earthly rule
  - Majority of the church hold this view
  - Roman Catholic, Most Reformed
  - Allegorical

# Intro - Interpretation

Postmillennialists generally see the millennial kingdom as a "golden age" ushered in by the church through the triumph of the gospel, not only in bringing individuals to salvation, but also in dominating culture. In this view, Christ's return is at the culmination (conclusion) of this millennial age, hence the name post-millennial.

# Intro - Interpretation

- Post – Millennial
  - States church will bring about righteousness after which Christ will return
  - Heavy following in 19<sup>th</sup> Century, but after WW I and WW II, lost its following
  - Reconstructions, American Vision
  - allegorical

# Intro - Interpretation

Dispensational premillennialists propose that Christ's return will precede the millennium but will be in two stages: First, to rapture his saints, leaving all others behind, and then after seven years of tribulation, to publicly institute his visible millennial reign. Dispensationalism also has a uniquely Jewish view of the millennium in which God will literally fulfill his OT promises to ethnic Israel, promises not given to Gentile believers.

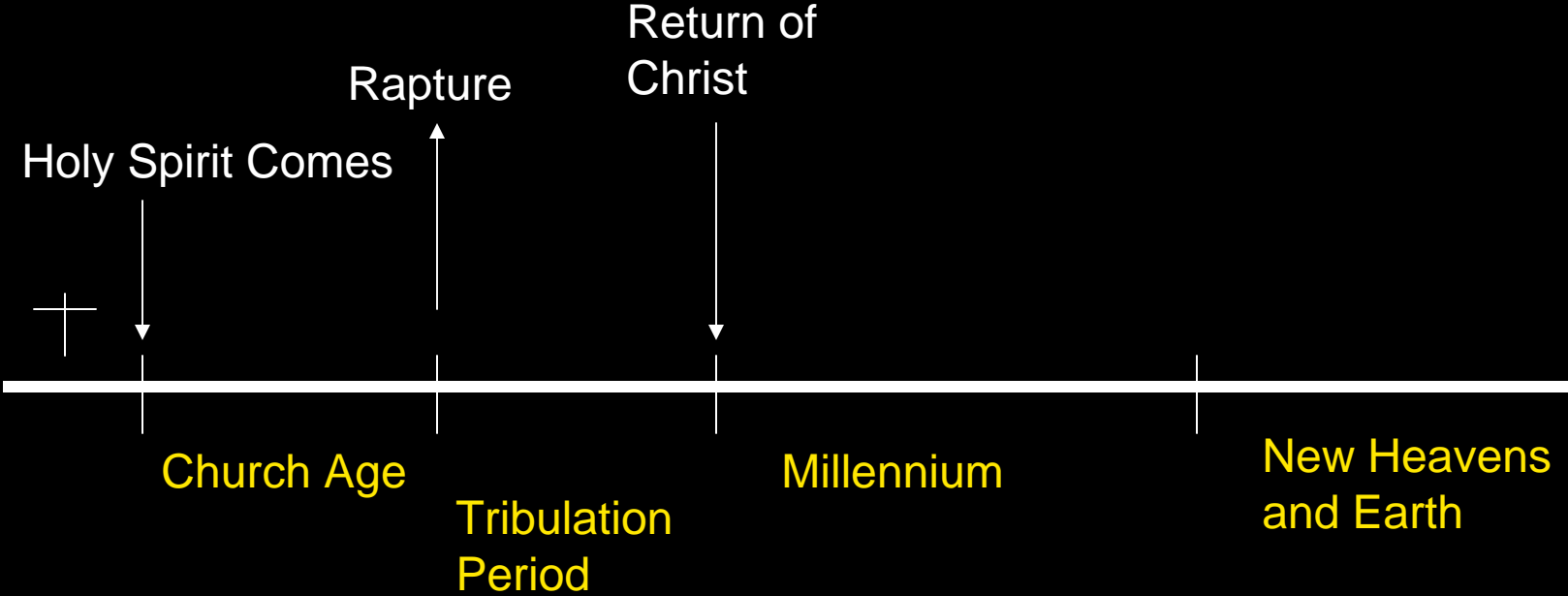
# Intro - Interpretation

- Pre – Millennial
  - Christ will return to earth and set up His 1000 year kingdom in which all of the promises will be fulfilled
  - Popular
    - *Left Behind and Late Great Planet Earth*
  - Minority view in the evangelical world
  - Consistent literal approach

# Intro - Interpretation

- Understands Covenants in OT
  - Abraham – Gen 12:1-4
  - Palestinian – Deut 30:1-10 (Ezk:16:60)
  - Davidic – 2 Sam 7:12-16
  - New - Jer 31:31-34
- Distinguishes between Israel and the Church
- Understand the three types?

# Outline of End Time Events



# Outline of End Time Events

- Church Age
- Rapture
- Tribulation
- Second Coming
- Millennium
- New Heavens and New Earth

# Outline of End Time Events

- Church Age
  - Mystery, not in OT
    - Ephesians 3
    - Acts 1:6
  - Begins with coming Holy Spirit
    - Acts 2
  - Concludes with leaving of Holy Spirit
    - 2 Thessalonians 2:5-7
    - Removal of Church/Holy Spirit
    - End of Church age will have Increasing Apostasy

# Outline of End Time Events

- Rapture
  - Term
    - 1 Thessalonians 4:17 ‘caught up’
    - From Latin *rapio* – ‘to seize or snatch’
  - Fact of
    - 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
    - 1 Corinthians 15:51-58
    - John 14:1-3

# Outline of End Time Events

- Rapture
  - Timing of
    - The pre-mill camp is the only one who understands the rapture as being a future event in which believers are taken out of this world.
    - In the pre-mill camp there are different teachings as to the timing of the rapture in regard to the Tribulation Period.
      - Pre-trib
      - Mid-trib
      - Pos-trib
      - Partial

# Outline of End Time Events

- Rapture
  - Timing of
    - Each of the views differs due to various points, primarily the time frame of the events of the Tribulation Period. Each view states 'when' the rapture takes place:
      - Pre-trib: before the Trib
      - Mid-trib: middle of the Trib
      - Pos-trib: after the Trib
      - Partial: throughout the Trib
    - These will be discussed in minor detail when we look at Revelation.

# Outline of End Time Events

- Tribulation Period
  - What is it?
    - The prophecy of the “70 weeks” of Daniel 9:24-27 are significant because it can explain the existence of the church age as a “parenthesis” between the two parts of God’s plan for Israel. Sixty-nine weeks of Daniel’s prophecy were fulfilled literally. The 70th week will be also but it hasn’t been fulfilled yet. So we live in the gap between those fulfillments. The prophecy of the “70 weeks” also lays an Old Testament foundation for the major emphasis in Revelation on the 7-year Tribulation.

# Outline of End Time Events

- Tribulation Period
  - Character of Period
    - First 3 ½ Years
      - Matthew 24:4-14
    - Middle
      - Matthew 24:15-20
    - Second 3 ½ Years
      - Matthew 24:21-28

# Outline of End Time Events

- Second Coming
- Millennium
- New Heavens and New Earth

# THEOLOGY 102 – NEW TESTAMENT JOURNEY

Matthew	Mark	Luke	John	Acts 1-12		Acts 13-28 “utter most parts of the earth”					Release from Prison	Paul’s 2 <sup>nd</sup> Imprisonment	Church Expands	Revelation				
				Jerusalem Judea	Samaria	1 <sup>st</sup> Journey	Jerusalem Council	2 <sup>nd</sup> Journey	3 <sup>rd</sup> Journey	Paul’s Imprisonment					1 Tim 62	2 Tim 67	1-2-3 John 85-95	
				James 44-47	Galatians 49	1 <sup>st</sup> Thess 51	2 <sup>nd</sup> Thess 51	1 <sup>st</sup> Cor 56	2 <sup>nd</sup> Cor 56	Rom 57	Eph 60	Col 61	Plm 61	Phil 62	Titus 66	1/2 Pete 62-64	Jude 75	Hebrews 67-69
Gospels				Acts														