

# ESCHATOLOGY AND REVELATION

## REVIEW OF BASIC TERMS AND CONCEPTS

Charles Pinkney, 2012

**ESCHATOLOGY:** The study of end times or last things. Eschatology addresses the fulfillment of prophecy and prophetic events. Islamic, Christian and other religious sects have their own eschatology.

**REVELATION OF JOHN:** The “unveiling” (*apocalupso*) of Jesus Christ (*Hebrew: Jeshua ha Messiach*) John in his vision describes “The things he has seen; the things that are; and those things that shall be hereafter.” Chapter 1 describes the things he saw in heaven; chapters 2 and 3, the epistles to 7 churches, are the things that are; chapter 4 through 19 describe the things that shall be hereafter.

**AMILLENIAL (PRETERIST) VIEW OF REVELATION:** An interpretation of scripture that presumes an earlier fulfillment of the prophetic events of the Revelation. From Augustine's time the church was believed to represent the “Kingdom of God.” Those with this view calculate the 70 week prophecy of Daniel to have run its course without interruption. A future physical reign of Christ will not occur. This view also places the writing of Revelation to have been in the 60s a.d. and not later in the 80s a.d.

**REPLACEMENT THEOLOGY:** The theology that church replaced Israel. It often accompanies amillennial eschatology. Since Israel rejected the Messiah the church replaces Israel in prophetic passages and becomes the active agency for God's dealing with humanity. Replacement views often coincide with amillennialism. This is the view held by the Roman church and the main stream denominations which followed in the reformation.

**DISPENSATIONALISM:** The notion that God deals with humanity in particular ways at different times. For example, the period of the Judges; Moses and the law; The dispensation of the Ecclesia (church-age). The PREMILLENIAL view of Revelation as “dispensational premillennialism” holds that the church age of grace will end with the event called the “harpazo” (rapture) and Israel will continue in God's timetable spoken of in the seventy weeks prophecy.

**DANIEL'S SEVENTY WEEK PROPHECY:** (Daniel 24-27) The prophecy given to Daniel by Gabriel outlines in particular the events given for *God's people Israel*. It will end all evil; finish - fulfil all prophecy and to anoint the Messiah the King to reign. Measured in weeks of 360 day years, *septads*, an exact number of years could be counted starting with Artaxerxes decree to rebuild Jerusalem. (Month of Nisan, 445 b.c.) The Messiah was welcomed as King to the very day of the 69<sup>th</sup> week but was then 'cut off' as indicated in the prophecy. This prophecy along with Daniel 2, Nebuchanezzar's dream, are the major indicators of prophetic world destiny for humanity.

**DAY OF THE LORD:** A time of judgment described as the day of wrath of the Almighty. It is described in Revelation 18 and 19 through the final bowls of judgment that culminate with Armeggedon. With supernatural devastation the King of Kings destroys all remaining evil rebellion against Messiah the King. Expressed in various terms throughout the OT prophets. It is described hundreds of times. Zephaniah Chapter 2 and Isaiah Chapter 2 are good examples of the great and terrible day.

**SPIRIT OF PROPHECY:** (Revelation 19:10) The testimony of Jesus is the “Spirit of Prophecy.” This is a simple but profoundly revealing phrase. Applications: All Old Testament prophecy directs us to the Messiah and to matters that surround his being born, being glorified, serving as God of judgment and his coming as King of Kings. Any prophetic words in the church- age will reflect his nature and glorify him and will agree to matters spoken of in the Law and the Prophets.

**THE GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM:** The Kingdom of God was the message preached and taught by Jesus. The Kingdom comes in two stages, first in Spirit inwardly and finally fully manifested as the kingdom on earth. The authority of the Kingdom was demonstrated by the apostles when sent two by two. After the resurrection the power of the Spirit created beings who received the down payment of the Kingdom in bodies that were not yet glorified. Important insights into the kingdom are taught in the parables of Jesus; the Kingdom of God is like - - . Jesus told Pilate, Yes I was called to be a king but - - “but Now my kingdom is not of this world.

**FALSE SIGNS, LYING WONDERS:** The way the Man of Sin will convince the world he is the messiah and peacemaker. No despot or devil presents himself as anything other than a saint and wise man. Lucifer has powers that are supernatural and replicate almost everything that Jesus Christ and Moses did. Only those who have the regenerated spirit, mind and knowledge of the Bible will be able to discern that evil is not good and visa versa. Jesus declares, don't be deceived!

**THE CHURCH AGE:** This current dispensation has not ended. Revelation Chapters 2 and 3 record the varieties of faith and devotion that churches (individuals in the body) may express. 1. Ephesus, losing first love; 2. Smyrna, poor and persecuted; 3. Pergamum, the worldly church; 4. Thiatira, deluded by false prophet and doctrines; 5. Sardis, the dead church, Christian in name only; 6. Philadelphia, remained pure and commendable; 7. Laodicea, luke warm and in danger of loss.

144,000 OF ISRAEL: Chosen and elected by God from the 12 tribes. Evangelize with exceeding power and persuasion. These bring multitudes to faith in the time of the tribulation and the great tribulation. Evidence seems to indicate they will prevail until the end as they are still mentioned after the bowl judgments.

THE TWO WITNESSES: Two olive trees, two lamp stands? Who are they? Everyone wonders. What is the time span of their ministry? There seems to be endless arguments about their identity. Some propose, the church and Israel; Some propose Moses and Elijah; or Enoch and Elijah; They must be men. They can't be killed until God's time is completed (3 ½ years or 1260 days). They provoke the anti-Christ and attest to the Gospel of Christ. Finally are killed then resurrected. I personally think John himself is one, Elijah the other.

SECOND COMING: The second coming is the return to earth of the Messiah Jesus to rule and reign. It is the fulfillment and culmination of prophecy. To rule as a king is on David's throne is the purpose to which Jesus was born as he explained to Pilate. The kingdoms of this world will then become the Kingdom of God and of his Messiah (Christ). Paul tells us that at his coming the nations will be subdued and the anti-Christ will be destroyed. Many confuse the appearing of Christ with the second coming. Every eye will behold him at the second coming; but at Christ's appearing only those who are believers will see him as he receives us unto himself in this 'resurrection.'

PAROUSIA: This is a term associated with the Second Coming. Its meaning from the Greek means literally to have the *Presence* of the Lord among us, near and tangible.

THE KINGDOM AGE: The millenium is a period of a thousand years of peace in the world. It will be free of the normal perils and harrassment which resulted from Satan's continuous interference. It is called the age to come. Overcoming believers are promised a place in governing in the world during this age. Believers who are part of the 'first resurrection' will at this time will have a perfected (glorified) bodies. There must be living men and women alive to populate the Kingdom, therefore the notion of a post tribulation rapture makes no sense if mortals would be transformed at that time.

NEW AGE AND OCCULTISM: These are not Christian believers but individuals who seek secret Spiritual knowledge that is hidden (occult) to the masses. Reincarnation is a doctrine to the New Age. Souls are perfected through many lives and trials. Today the New Age is filled with self styled gurus who promise higher teachings to their disciples. Among these we find those who claim contact with extra terrestrial intelligences with supernatural insight. New Agers seek for truth from the god that is who dwells within every human soul. Reincarnation is refuted by Scripture. It is given unto us one life to live and then judgment. The New Age belief is that Jesus was one of many who achieved cosmic consciousness or "Christ Consciousness."

NEAR AND FUTURE PROPHETIC FULFILLMENT: It is important to be reminded that the Word of the Lord abides forever, eternally as Truth. Therefore, it must be relevant in every age and at any moment that it is examined. There are events that are promised to occur in God's perfect time, the times (*kairos*) of God. We can say that there are applications to the prophetic word. For example, Jesus said, "Thy house has been left desolate unto you." (Matt: 23:38) This prophetic word was spoken to Israel who rejected the Messiah. It would have a near fulfillment in 70 ad and a future fulfillment in the days of end times tribulation. It has a spiritual fulfillment in a time when anyone casts aside the gift of salvation in unbelief.

THE ECCLESSIA (The called out ones) THE MYSTERY CHURCH: The church per se was unknown to the Old Testament prophets. The church was still unknown when the disciples walked with Jesus. During this the church-age the nations (Gentiles) are afforded a chance to be grafted in to the Olive Tree of Israel. The age of Grace is an identifier of the Church-age which remains a time when anyone who believes and confesses Christ can become a son or daughter of God. The church may meet in a building but is not a building. It is comprised of living stones. Each of these living stones are individuals that God has called to be a necessary part of the Body of Christ. Members are supernaturally born into this body. The mystery as Paul described it, was that, through the power of God by the Holy Spirit, God would regenerate and dwell in those who would believe in him. The regeneration Jesus called being 'born again.' It is not joining a church that makes one a Christian.

THE GOSPEL OF GRACE: We are not good because of anything we have done. "The human heart is desperately wicked (who can know it?" Jer. 17:9) The best of us would not seek God unless the Lord calls us to him. We can do no acts of righteousness to earn God's favor, rather it is the free gift of God that 'he that had no sin was made sin that we might become the righteousness of God in him.' During the age of Grace, (this time closely coincides with the times of the gentiles) judgment and wrath are withheld. It is the acceptable year of the Lord. (Isaiah 61:2)