

1 ☐ Zion Seminar Series 1/17/07

The End Times

- ✓ Eschatology - comes from 2 Greek words
 - ✓ Eschatos - meaning "last"
 - ✓ Logos - meaning "word"
- ✓ Eschatology: words about the last events

2 ☐ The End Times

There are 3 basic eschatological views:

1. Premillennialism - Christ returns to earth to usher in a physical millennium
2. Postmillennialism - Christ returns to the earth after a physical millennium
3. Amillennialism - Christ returns after a spiritual millennium

3 ☐ Premillennialism

Premillennialism, which was first introduced in 1830, appears in several different forms.

The most widely followed form is called Premillennial Dispensationalism

- ✓ Scofield Reference Bible
- ✓ Left Behind Series of books and movies

4 ☐ Premillennial Dispensationalism

Bible History is divided into seven dispensations or time periods:

1. Innocence - Creation - Fall
2. Conscience - Fall - Flood
3. Human Government. - Flood - Abraham
4. Promise - Abraham - Moses
5. Law - Moses - Christ
6. Gospel - Christ - Millennium
7. Kingdom - Millennium - End of World

5 ☐ Premillennial Dispensationalism

Timeline

- ✓ The present time is part of the Gospel Dispensation
- ✓ Christ returns for His saints - The rapture & first judgment (only of the saints)
- ✓ Saints will live with Christ for seven years and the earth will experience the great tribulation during that time
- ✓ Christ will return with His saints and begin the His Millennial reign on the Earth in Israel. This begins the Kingdom Dispensation. During this time Satan is bound and there is peace
- ✓ After 1,000 years Satan is loosed for a season

6 ☐ Premillennial Dispensationalism

Timeline (continued)

- ✓ Satan is then defeated in the battle of Armageddon
- ✓ The second resurrection and judgment occur (Judgment Day or "The Great White Throne Judgment")
- ✓ Eternity - End of the God's Dispensations

7 ☐ Postmillennialism

Postmillennialism also got its start in 1830 with the teachings/vision of Margaret McDonald.

Timeline:

- ✓ The entire world will gradually be won for Christ through the work of the Church
- ✓ During this time, sin and conflict will gradually be defeated and righteousness and peace will come to reign the world.
- ✓ Towards the end of this time, there will be a great tribulation that will be limited in time.

8 ☐ Postmillennialism

Timeline (continued):

- ✓ This is the millennium and Christ will return at its peak, when all the world is serving Him.
- ✓ With his return the resurrection will occur and the church will then be taken to be with Him in heaven. Unbelievers will be judged and eternity begins.

9 ☐ Amillennialism

Amillennialism is the historical church's view of eschatology. Amillennialists believe that the millennium is spiritual and figurative in nature. The 1,000 years mentioned in Revelation 20 represents God's time $10 \times 10 \times 10 = 1,000$. Christ presently reigns in Heaven and is preparing a place (John 14:2) for the Saints.

Timeline:

- ✓ The present age, which is the millennium, will continue, with increasing tribulation, until the Gospel is preached throughout the world (Matthew 24:14). This completes the time that God has ordained.

10 ☐ Amillennialism

Amillennialism Timeline (continued):

- ✓ Christ will return and all will be raised, the body and soul will be reunited and the final judgment will occur.
- ✓ Eternity begins

11 ☐ Eschatology 101

◇ The three basic elements of New Testament Eschatology

1. The Old Testament promise of a coming Redeemer was realized in Jesus Christ.
2. What the O.T. writers thought was one golden messianic age has unfolded in two ages: "This age" and "The age to come."
3. Christ's first advent guarantees His second coming.

12 ☐ Eschatology 101

◇ The Old Testament promise of a coming Redeemer was realized in Jesus Christ.

1. 1 Peter 3:18 - *"For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God."*
2. John 1:29 - *"The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"*

13 ☐ Eschatology 101

◇ The Old Testament promise of a coming Redeemer was realized in Jesus Christ.

- ✓ Hebrews 9:11-12 - *"When Christ came as high priest of the good things that are already here, he went through the greater and more perfect tabernacle that is not man-made, that is to say, not a part of this creation. He did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves; but he entered*

the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood, having obtained eternal redemption."

14 ☐ Eschatology 101

- ◇ The Old Testament promise of a coming Redeemer was realized in Jesus Christ.
 - ✓ Hebrews 10:10-12 - "we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. Day after day every priest stands and performs his religious duties; again and again he offers the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. But when this priest had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God."

15 ☐ Eschatology 101

- ◇ The Old Testament promise of a coming Redeemer was realized in Jesus Christ.
 - ✓ 1 Cor. 15:3-4 - "*Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures.*"
- ✓ The advent of Jesus also ushered in the "Kingdom of God."
- ✓ Matt 3:2 - "*Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near.*"

16 ☐ Eschatology 101

- ◇ The Old Testament promise of a coming Redeemer was realized in Jesus Christ & the advent of Jesus also ushered in the "Kingdom of God."
 - ✓ Matthew 12:28 - "*But if I drive out demons by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.*"
- ✓ *The advent of Jesus also ushered in the "last days."*
 - ✓ Acts 2:16-17 - "*No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: 'In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams.*"

17 ☐ Eschatology 101

- ◇ The Old Testament promise of a coming Redeemer was realized in Jesus Christ & the advent of Jesus also ushered in the "Kingdom of God" and "the last days."
 - ✓ 1 Cor. 10:11 - "*These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the fulfillment of the ages has come.*"

18 ☐ Eschatology 101

- ◇ What the O.T. writers thought was one golden messianic age has unfolded in two ages: "This age" and "The age to come."
 - ✓ Matthew 12:32 - "Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but anyone who speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come."

19 ☐ Eschatology 101

- ◇ What the O.T. writers thought was one golden messianic age has unfolded in two ages: "This age" and "The age to come."
 - ✓ Ephesians 1:21 - (*Jesus is*) "*far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come.*"

20 ☐ Eschatology 101

- ◇ What is the difference between "this age" and "the age to come?"
 - ✓ Luke 18:29 - 30 - "*I tell you the truth,*" *Jesus said to them, "no one who has left home or wife or brothers or parents or children for the sake of the kingdom of God will fail to receive many times as much in this age and, in the age to come, eternal*

life.”

✓ **This age is temporal , the age to come is eternal**

21 ☐ Eschatology 101

◇ What is the difference between “this age” and “the age to come?”

✓ Luke 20:34-35 - *“Jesus replied, ‘The people of this age marry and are given in marriage. But those who are considered worthy of taking part in that age and in the resurrection from the dead will neither marry nor be given in marriage.’”*

✓ **This age is temporal , the age to come is eternal**

22 ☐ Eschatology 101

◇ The dilemma:

✓ If “this age” is temporal and “the age to come” is eternal,” then “the age to come” must be ushered in by Christ’s second coming(the last day) and the general resurrection.

✓ John 6:39-40 - *“And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all that he has given me, but raise them up at the last day. For my Father’s will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day.”*

23 ☐ Eschatology 101

◇ The dilemma:

✓ If “this age” is temporal and “the age to come” is eternal,” then “the age to come” must be ushered in by Christ’s second coming (the last day) and the general resurrection.

✓ John 6:44 - *“No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him, and I will raise him up at the last day.”*

24 ☐ Eschatology 101

◇ The dilemma:

✓ If “this age” is temporal and “the age to come” is eternal,” then “the age to come” must be ushered in by Christ’s second coming (the last day) and the general resurrection.

✓ John 6:54 - *“Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day.”*

25 ☐ Eschatology 101

◇ The dilemma:

✓ If “this age” is temporal and “the age to come” is eternal,” then “the age to come” must be ushered in by Christ’s second coming (the last day) and the general resurrection. Therefore we must ask:

✓ If the “age to come” is the age of resurrection in which there are no marriages or sexual relationships, how can people escape this universal event and repopulate the earth after Christ returns? This poses a difficult problem.

26 ☐ Eschatology 101

◇ The dilemma:

✓ This is often met with a statement such as, “but Christ must establish His kingdom - the Bible speaks of His reign.”

✓ Ephesians 1:21 - *(Jesus is) “far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, **not only in the present age but also in the one to come**.”*

27 ☐ Eschatology 101

◇ The dilemma:

- ✓ This is often met with a statement such as, "but Christ must establish His kingdom - the Bible speaks of His reign."
- ✓ Hebrews 10:10-12 - "we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. Day after day every priest stands and performs his religious duties; again and again he offers the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. **But when this priest had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God.**"

28 ☐ Eschatology 101

◇ What does scripture teach?

- ◇ We are living in the last days which is the temporal "This age." The things of "this age" will pass away and it is characterized as unethical and immoral. (Matt 24:3, Luke 18:30, Luke 20:34, Mark 10:30, Romans 12;2, Gal. 1;4, 1 Cor 1;20, 1 Cor. 2:6-8, 2 Cor. 4:4, Eph. 2:2, 1 Tim 6:17, Titus 2:12-13)

29 ☐ Eschatology 101

◇ What does scripture teach?

- ◇ The "age to come" is characterized by eternal life which is the consummation of Christ's victory over death. It is the time that we realize the blessings of all that He has done for us. It is also an age that is not inherited by those who do not believe. (1 Cor. 6:9-10, Gal. 5;21, Eph; 5:5)

30 ☐ Eschatology 101

◇ What does scripture teach?

- ◇ Christ already reigns! Isn't that comforting?!?

31 ☐ Eschatology 101

◇ What does scripture teach?

- ◇ The line of demarcation between "this age" and "the age to come" is Christ's return. (Matthew 13:39 - 50)
- ◇ Yet - premillennialism teaches that the judgment at the end of the millennial age, occurs one thousand years after our Lord's return. This separation of the two bodily resurrections by the millennium is the "linchpin of premillennialism." This arrived at by a hermeneutic based on a literal interpretation of scripture.

32 ☐ Eschatology 101

◇ A literal approach?

- ✓ All the passages quoted so far have been taken literally.
- ✓ There is no gap, millennium, between the resurrection (1 Cor. 15:35 - 57, 1 Thess. 4:13 - 5:11, 2 Thess. 1:5-10), the restoration of all things (2 Peter 3:3-15) and the judgment (Matthew 25).

33 ☐ **Eschatology 101**

- ◇ A literal approach?
 - ✓ So where does this come from?
 - ✓ Revelations 20:1-6

34 ☐ **Revelations**

- To understand the book of Revelations we must understand that:
 - It is written in an apocalyptic manner with symbolic language
 - Numbers take on special meanings
 - 3 number of God / 6 number of man
 - 7 God's perfection / 10 completion
 - 12 number of God's people

35 ☐ **Revelations**

- Numbers can also be added, multiplied or put together to enhance their meaning:
 - 12+12 (God's people of the Old and New Testament)= 24 elders
 - 10x10x10 - 3 (God) 10's (completion) = 1,000
 - 12x12x10x10x10 = 144,000 (God's complete people)
 - 666 - 3(God) 6's(man) - the number of those who put man (the antichrist) before God.

36 ☐ **Revelations**

- Objects have special symbolic meanings;
 - Locust - judgment (think Egypt)
 - Serpent - evil (think Garden of Eden)
 - Lamb - Jesus (the Passover - John's words)
 - Stars - angels (defined in chapter #1)
 - Lampstands - churches (defined in chapter #1)
- In other words, the book itself claims to be symbolic

37 ☐ **Revelations**

- The book tells of the end time, but it does so in the form of recapitulation / it tells the same story over from a different point of view or with a different emphasis.
 - Example - Revelations 13-14 , 16 & 19 - all speak of the final judgment/ judgment day
 - Revelations 19:19 - 21 & 20:7-10 - Speak of the final battle
 - If God's wrath is poured out in 19:19 -21, is it to be poured out again at the end of the millennium? Again, the Bible speaks of the last day, not days

38 ☐ **Revelations**

- Another Example: Revelations 12:7-11 & 20:1-6
 - Heavenly scene (12:7 & 20:1)
 - Angel battles/restrains Satan (12:7-8 & 20:2)

- Satan cast out (12:9 & 20:3)
- Satan leads nations astray (12:9 & 20:3)
- Satan's fall results in kingdom of God (12:10 & 20:4)
- Saints because of faithfulness (12:11 & 20:4)

39 ☐ *Revelations*

- Rev. 20:4 - "I saw thrones on which were seated those who had been given authority to judge. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony for Jesus and because of the word of God. They had not worshiped the beast or his image and had not received his mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ a thousand years."

40 ☐ *Revelations*

- Rev. 20:5- (*The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended.*) *This is the first resurrection.*

41 ☐ *Revelations*

- Rev. 20:6 - "*Blessed and holy are those who have part in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him for a thousand years.*"

42 ☐ *Revelations*

- *Vss. 1- 3 show Satan being cast out heaven & bound. He was bound when Christ died and rose. This is why Jesus descended into Hell. Jesus laid the ground rules down. Christ's death and resurrection defeated Satan's greatest power - sin & the death that comes from it. This is no longer a threat to those who believe, Satan has no power over them.*
- *Vss. 4-6 depict a Heavenly Scene*
 - *The throne of Christ is in Heaven (Rev. 1:4,3:21, 4:2)*
 - *Those who the beast put to death will truly live - they are in heaven with Jesus*

43 ☐ *Revelations*

- This is the result of the first resurrection!
- *"I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life. I tell you the truth, a time is coming and has now come when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God and those who hear will live." - John 4:24 - 25*
- The first resurrection is when we come to faith - death no longer has any power over us.
- We have life and life more abundant!
- We will reign with Christ for God's time of completion.

44 ☐ *Revelations*

- What is the second death?
- Rev. 20:14 - "*Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death.*"
- What happens next?

45 ☐ *Revelations*

- Rev. 20: 7-8 - "When the thousand years are over, Satan will be released from his prison and will go out to deceive the nations in the four corners of the earth - Gog and Magog - to gather them for battle. In number they are like the sand on the seashore."

46 ☐ *Revelations*

- Rev. 20:9-10 - *They marched across the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of God's people, the city he loves. But fire came down from heaven and devoured them. And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever.*

47 **Revelations**

- *When God's word has been spread throughout the world, He will release Satan, preparing him for the final judgment.*
- *Satan will immediately try to attack God's people - the Church. He will entice the nations of the world (Gog and Magog) to do this.*
- *This must be a difficult time - tribulation, but...*
- *Notice, there is no war, God comes and ends it all - they are swept away by His judgment.*

48 **Revelations**

- *Which also fulfills prophecy:*
- *Matthew 24:22 - "If those days had not been cut short, no one would survive, but for the sake of the elect those days will be shortened."*

49 **Victory**

- ◆ There is great joy in knowing what the Bible says and it really is quite simple:
- ◆ God created a perfect world & through Adam's sin death came into it.
- ◆ God sent His son to pay the price of sin - death.
- ◆ God's Son rose from the dead and brought life to all who believe.
- ◆ God's Son is coming back to claim those whom He has won.

50 **Victory**

- ◆ We live in this age, but there is an age to come - eternity.
- ◆ That age will come at judgment day.
- ◆ Revelations 20:11 - 15
- ◆ The escalator
- ◆ Go and make disciples

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- ◆ Partial list of Sources:
- ◆ The Bible NIV, ESV & KJV (Scofield)
- ◆ A Case for Amillennialism, Kim Riddlebarger
- ◆ Bible Doctrine, James W. Beeke
- ◆ The Incredible Scofield and His Book, Joseph m. Canfield
- ◆ Bible Commentaries:
 - ◆ N.T. Commentary, Simon J. Kistemaker
 - ◆ Tyndale N.T. Commentaries, Leon Morris
 - ◆ Layman's Bible Commentary, John Knox Press
 - ◆ Zondervan illustrated Bible Commentary
 - ◆ The Pulpit Commentary, Eerdmans
 - ◆ Multiple articles from magazines, journals, etc.

52 **Zion Seminar Series**

- ◆ Thank you for joining us!

- ♦ The Zion Seminar Series seeks to bring the truth of God's Word to His people.
- ♦ If there is a topic that you would like studied, please contact Pastor Matt
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