

Eschatology - Part 1

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I. Introduction.

A. Eschatology means things to come.

B. The hope of the Lord's coming should be a motivational force. (Matthew 25:41; II Peter 2:4; Jude 6)

II. The first side of eschatology. (Genesis 3:15)

A. After Adam had an unsuccessful encounter with Satan, God laid out his plan for all time.

B. The outline included redemption through Jesus Christ - biologically a seed could only come through a man and the only possible exception stated here is Jesus Christ.

1. Satan will bruise the heel of Christ, and Christ will crush Satan's head.

2. The only important decision we make is who is going to be our Lord and master; this is the history of time. (Luke 15:10)

3. We are in the arena of time and spectators are watching the salvation drama take place. It is possible for hundreds of thousands of worlds to exist without colliding. The Christian is in heavenly places right now. (Ephesians)

a. The angel of the Lord delivers a man. (Psalm 34)

b. A young man's eyes were opened up before Elijah to see the spiritual realm full of an army to protect them. (II Kings 6)

c. God is at hand and not far off. Christ is in you. Stephen saw God. (Jeremiah; Colossians 1:27; Acts 7)

d. So why does not God show Himself? God operates on a frequency of holiness, but we operate in a realm that is in friction with God. It is an act of mercy that we are kept in separate dimensions. (Hebrews 12:21)

III. The second side of eschatology. (Revelation 20:10)

A. The defeat of Satan.

B. A period of a thousand years is mentioned six times. The pre-millennial view is that the last period of time is the period where Christ will set up his kingdom for this period of time. Those who believe this are Pre-millennialists. Those who don't believe this are called Amillennialists. Those who believe it is not that complicated believe in the Post-millennial view. Those who believe that it will just pan out are "Pan-millennialists." The Pre-millennial view will be taken here.

C. Jesus' negative prophecy concerning the temple complex. (Matthew 24)

1. The temple would be destroyed.
2. Jesus did not hedge on this topic - he gave specific clues.
 - a. Jesus told them that He would be coming soon when the abomination of desolation would stand in the holy place. (Daniel 9:29)
 - b. When one sees a man go into the temple and claim deity and demand worship, this will be the sign of Jesus' coming. (II Thessalonians 2)

D. The abomination of desolation.

1. Satan's plan is to produce one of the greatest people that ever existed - a counterfeit Christ that will usher in a false millennium.
2. The Jews, the Gentiles, and the church will be infiltrated. (I Corinthians 10:32)
3. Background. (Daniel 2)
 - a. Nebuchadnezzar was ruling and had sent an army down to Jerusalem taking captive the leaders. This was the fulfillment of the prophecy of Jeremiah. Daniel was among those captured.
 - b. Nebuchadnezzar had a dream and Daniel revealed to him the interpretation of the dream. It predicted the course of world empires.
 - 1) Some have called this the most amazing document in history.
 - 2) Historians have questioned its validity because of the accuracy of the prophecy.
 - 3) God said there would be no other world empire from the Romans until Christ.
 - c. A confederacy will be formed and will come under the power of one man. (Daniel 4; Revelation 13:7)

E. While no specific event may be the fulfillment of specific prophecy, what is happening today may give point to end time events as described in the Bible.

1. Europeans moving towards unity marking a world common market.
2. When the antichrist comes, Jesus will be along shortly. (John 5:43)

IV. Conclusion.

- A. Look for the signs to be ready. (Luke 21:28)
- B. Nobody knows the date of His coming, so all have to be ready. (Matthew 24:46)

Application questions.

1. The speaker outlined two basic parts to human history. What does history revolve around? In summary, what direction is it going?

2. The end time view presented here was Pre-millennial. What view do you take towards the end times if you hold to one? How has the message helped you resolve some of your questions?

3. The speaker emphasizes that we do not know the time of Jesus' return but that we are to be watchful of the signs. Are you prepared for Jesus' return? Have you placed your trust in Him? Are there any loose ends in your relationship with God? Take an opportunity to trust in Him either for the first time or again.
