

Eschatology the study of last things

Eschatology began when Jesus came

Eschatology goes too far when it takes away from our love/attention and focus on who Jesus really is

Eschatology goes too far when it takes away from obeying Jesus in the present

1. Recap and Big Picture Perspective

1. The Revelation of Jesus Christ
 1. Unveiling/Uncover/Revealing who Jesus is
 2. Things which must shortly take place - The Future
2. The outline of the book
 1. *Revelation 1:19 Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this.*
 2. **Things which you have seen** was the vision of the glorified Jesus in chapter 1
 3. **Things which are** we understand that to mean the church age
 1. the word for church, *ecclesia*, is mentioned 18 times in the first three chapters, and then is not mentioned again until the closing remarks of the final chapter.
 4. **The things which will take place after this** is the time after the church age
 1. The Greek phrase *Meta Houtos* occurs ZERO other times in the first three chapters. But as soon as the word *ecclesia* stops, it starts, and is repeated eight times through the remainder of the book:
 1. 4:1
 2. 7:1
 3. 7:9
 4. 9:12
 5. 15:5
 6. 18:1
 7. 19:1
 8. 20:3
 2. This is surely a strong clue and indicator to us that the remainder of the book is the AFTER THESE THINGS portion of the book. Things which must shortly take place. Future Things
3. Chapters 4-5.
 1. John is taken up to a heavenly scene of worship around the Throne of God in chapter 4
 1. Although this doesn't explicitly teach the rapture of the church, it is a picture of it. And for more on the rapture of the church make sure you listen to last week's study, Pastor Jim went in-depth.
 2. Also this will continue to occur throughout the remainder of the book we will bounce back and forth between seeing things happening on earth, but we will also see the great spiritual forces at

work behind the scenes. We are given a very privileged view of the future.

2. In chapter 5 our attention is focused on a scroll with seven seals **Jesus is WORTHY to Judge this world**
 1. John's sorrow that no one could open it
 2. The celebration that Jesus could
 1. *John 5:21-23 For as the Father raises the dead and gives life to them, even so the Son gives life to whom He will. For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son, that all should honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him.*
 3. Jesus is the only one Worthy to Bring Judgment
3. Now why should we care what happens in the following chapters if we are not going to be here
 1. We are learning about who Jesus is
 1. *Hebrews 13:8 Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.*
 2. We gain a sense of compassion
 3. We gain a sense of perspective
 4. We gain a sense of hope as we see God's hand on the future

2. Chapter 6 "Six of the Seven Seals" **Jesus WILL Judge this world**

1. READ IT
2. Matthew 24
 1. Parallels to each of these Seals
 1. Wars (6,7)
 2. Famine and Scarcity (8)
 3. Pestilence (8)
 4. The removal of peace (10,12)
 5. Martyrdom (9)
 6. Heavenly and earthly catastrophe (7, 29)
 7. False Christs (6,11, 23-27)
 2. The Great Tribulation (21)
 1. "For then there will be great tribulation such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be."
 2. There has never been and never will be after a time as bad as this.
 3. The Beginning of Sorrows (8)
3. The first four - The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse
 1. White Horse
 1. Christ or Anti-Christ
 2. First of four horsemen who, judgment follows him not peace
 3. A powerful conquering world ruler
 4. Stephanos, not diadem
 5. Identity of Antichrist gets Far too much attention
 1. Nero
 2. Napoleon

3. Hitler
 4. Many American Presidents
 5. Many Russian/Soviet Leaders
 2. Red Horse
 1. Take peace
 2. Men will butcher/slaughter
 3. Sword, symbol of war and division
 3. Black Horse
 1. Scarcity and Economic Collapse
 2. Famine
 4. Pale/Greenish Horse
 1. Death of various sorts
 2. 1/4 of Earth's population
 4. The Fifth Seal
 1. The Cry of the Martyrs
 2. Not Why but When
 3. The guilty sentence, the impending certain judgment, and the fact that God has not forgotten the suffering of His people is every bit as severe as the coming of the antichrist, men slaughtering one another like animals, peace removed from the earth, economic scarcity, and heavenly and earthly natural disasters and cataclysm.
 5. The Sixth Seal
 1. Natural disasters of various sorts
 6. Observations
 1. Echoes from the Future
 1. It would...seem to be the case that the symbolic mode of Revelation means that God wants his revelation of future and end-times events to be sufficiently universal and open-ended that every generation of Christians lives aware that the end of history *could* happen in their lifetime. - Leland Ryken
 2. Each of them are a terrible judgment on this world, the earth dwellers, those whose permanent allegiance is to this world system, set in opposition to the King of Heaven.
 3. They are **not** the most severe judgments of the tribulation
 4. Intended by God to waken men
- 3. Chapter 7 "A Pause, The Sealed of Israel, and those who come out of the Great Tribulation" Jesus SAVES from Judgment**
1. A Pause
 1. What about the seventh seal?
 1. We pause here and see that God does not immediately jump into the seventh seal but stops.
 2. Angels restrain terrible winds. Unless those days were shortened.
 3. *Joel 2:12-13*

*"Now, therefore," says the LORD,
 "Turn to Me with all your heart,*

*With fasting, with weeping, and with mourning."
So, rend your heart, and not your garments;
Return to the LORD your God,
For He is gracious and merciful,
Slow to anger, and of great kindness;
And He relents from doing harm.*

1. The Sealed of Israel
 1. The tribes are clearly Israelites, and stand distinct from the next group which is clearly Gentiles
 2. replacement theology
 1. Suggests that The Church replaced Israel after the rejection of Jesus as their King.
 2. Certainly, God's main focus NOW is working in and through His church to bring the gospel to the whole world.
 3. We do not believe that after the national rejection of Jesus by the leaders of Israel, that God PERMANENTLY cut them off. He is STILL working in a special way on their behalf and He does have FUTURE plans for Israel as a favored nation and as a light to the Gentiles.
 3. After He seals these people we see a tremendous salvation worked in the Gentile world
2. The Redeemed of the Tribulation
 1. Tribulation saints
 2. the contrast between this group of people and those at the end of chapter 6
 1. The group in chapter 6 hides from God, the throne and the Lamb
 2. The group in chapter 7 worships God the throne and the Lamb and receives salvation from Him.
 3. Don't hide from the only one who can save
3. God's way of Salvation is always the same, in any era. Calling on the Lord, trusting in His Son
4. *"And I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth:*

Blood and fire and pillars of smoke.

The sun shall be turned into darkness,

And the moon into blood,

Before the coming of the great and awesome day of the LORD.

And it shall come to pass

That whoever calls on the name of the LORD

Shall be saved.

For in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be deliverance,

As the LORD has said,

Among the remnant whom the LORD calls. - Joel 2:30-32

5. *Romans 10:9-13 "that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the Scripture says, "Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame." For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. For **"whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved."***