



RESILIENT

“Escha... *WHAT?*”

(Part 1)



“Eschatology” is a branch of theology that studies the final events in the history of the world.



We are in the “End Times”

Acts 2:16-17

Hebrews 1:1-2, 9:26

1 Peter 1:20, 4:7 James 5:3, 8

2 Timothy 4:1

1 John 2:18

1 Thess. 1:3-9

Matthew 24:31-34



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2. Since so many scholars can't agree on what the Bible says about the future they lose interest, assuming that such things are unknowable.
3. Many Christians don't see any practical relevance in studying the end times.



Practical Benefits of Studying the Lord's Return:

- It increases our love for other Christians (2 Thess. 1:3-12).
- It increases our urgency for sharing the gospel with the lost (John 9:4, 2 Peter 3:15).
- It increases our incentive to be growing in personal purity and holiness (2 Peter 3:11, 14).
- It helps to give us a right perspective in the midst of our trials in this life (2 Corinthians 4:16-18).



“The book of Revelation was given to God’s people to make a critical point: Jesus Christ will destroy Satan and all his minions. Jesus will establish a new heaven and earth, and the Lamb and His people will reign forever.

Kim Riddlebarger



Knowing the final outcome of redemptive history is intended to give God's people great comfort in times of trial, as well as to motivate us to take the gospel of Jesus Christ to the ends of the earth.

Kim Riddlebarger



But we will secure these blessings only if we read this book in the right way and for the right reasons. We must keep Jesus Christ—not speculation about current events—as its central focus.”

Kim Riddlebarger



Revelation 1:1

The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show to his servants the things that must soon take place.

It's all about Him!



1 Peter 1:13

Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.



Doctrinal Difference of Importance

1st Tier Doctrines are non-negotiable.

They would include things like the Trinity, the virgin birth, salvation by grace alone through faith alone, and Christ's resurrection.



Doctrinal Difference of Importance

2nd tier doctrines are things that are non-essential for salvation, but important enough that churches still often separate over them by denomination.

These would include churches' differing views on baptism, communion, and church government.



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... AND ESCHATOLOGY!



5 Interpretive Approaches to the book of Revelation

1. Partial Preterist

They believe that Revelation was written before 70 A.D. and mostly fulfilled by 70 A.D.

The Bible's references to "the last days" are speaking of the last days of the Old Jewish Covenant – not the last days of the earth itself.



5 Interpretive Approaches to the book of Revelation

2. Full Preterist

The extreme view that all prophecy in the Bible has been fulfilled in one way or another. All of Revelation (as well as Matthew 24) was fulfilled by 70 A.D. – including the 2nd Coming.



5 Interpretive Approaches to the book of Revelation

3. Futurist

Most of Revelation is yet to occur in the future in a literal, physical, apocalyptic, global manner. This is by far, the dominant view in the Church today.



5 Interpretive Approaches to the book of Revelation

4. Historist

Most of Revelation (through symbolic language) has already occurred, and can be chronologically correlated to church history from 70 A.D. to the present.



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5 Interpretive Approaches to the book of Revelation

5. Idealist

All the major themes in Revelation are symbolic and recur throughout church history, though none of its symbols are tied to any historical events. It describes the timeless conflict between good and evil.



Revelation 9's Army of Locusts

- Some Christians interpret this to mean literal insects.
- Others think that it's describing a demonic army.
- Others believe that the author is using the appearance of common locusts to describe modern-day, Apache attack helicopters.
- Still others, point to a past, historic fulfilment.



The Use of “1,000” in Scripture

Deut. 1:11 – figurative

Deut. 7:9 – figurative

Deut. 32:30 – figurative

Josh. 23:10 – figurative

1 Chron. 16:15 – figurative

Job 9:3 – figurative

Job 33:23 – figurative

Ps. 50:10 – figurative

Ps. 84:10 – figurative

Ps. 90:4 – figurative

Ps. 91:7 – figurative

Ps. 105:8 – figurative

Eccl. 77:28 – figurative

S.O.S 4:4 – figurative

Is. 60:22 – figurative

Dan. 7:10 – figurative

Amos 5:3 – figurative

2 Pet. 3:8 – figurative



Revelation 1:3

Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear, and who keep what is written in it, for the time is near.



Eschatology Pitfalls

1. We should never place extra-biblical sources of information on the same level as Scripture.
2. We should not read the morning headlines and then try to force-fit them into Bible prophecy.
3. We should not have an over-preoccupation with Bible prophecy, to the neglect our mission.
4. We should not take anyone's interpretation of prophecy so seriously, we allow it to divide us.



Eschatology Pitfalls

5. We should avoid date-setting, because not even Jesus himself knows the day of his return.
6. We should avoid imbalance in our interpretation.
7. We should not base any major life decisions on our view of the nearness of his coming.
8. We should not let the diversity of opinions of this subject discourage us from teaching on it.



Why Our View of the Future Matters

- Where are we on the timeline of redemptive history?
- How prepared we are to suffer?
- How should Christians allocate their limited time, energy, and resources?
- What is the nature of this “Kingdom” that God is building?
- What should be the source of our Christian hope and optimism?



The Source of Our Christian Hope

- The prospect of decreasing persecution over time
- The eventual Christianization of the world
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OR...

Living out the paradigm of the Cross, which is:

VICTORY... THROUGH... EARTHLY, MATERIAL... DEFEAT



Revelation 12:11

And they have conquered him (the devil) by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death.



Romans 8:35-37

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all the day long;
we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.”

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.



Our Ideas → Opinions → Beliefs → Convictions →
Worldview → Passions → Identity



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“When I criticize a system, they think I criticize them, and that is of course because they fully accept the system and identify themselves with it.”

Thomas Merton

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1 Corinthians 2:2

For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.



“Men separate from each other about matters of that nature, where there is no certainty, and where there can be no certainty, though the return of the Lord is certain.

Dr. Martin Lloyd-Jones



Who can decide who is right, whether those who hold the pre-millennial, or those who hold the post-millennial view? I could mention great names on both sides, equally expert theologians. Surely these are matters where there can be a legitimate difference of opinion.

Dr. Martin Lloyd-Jones



Let us bear in mind the adage:

**‘In essentials, unity;
in non-essentials, liberty;
in all things, charity.’**

Stand fast in the faith. Yes,
but in a spirit of love.”

Dr. Martin Lloyd-Jones



Question of the Week

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What are the first 5 words in the book of Revelation,
AND... what is Revelation about, in one word?



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3. Do you know how much the national debt currently is in our country? (\$35 trillion)
4. What is the debt that every person owes, due to their sin?



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(infinite)



1 Peter 1:17-21

And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile, **knowing** that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you who through him are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.



6 Things God Wants Us To Know

1. God is a just Judge who impartially judges, so we should fear him.
2. God refers to this life as “the time of our exile.” This is not our home.
3. We’ve been ransomed from our futile (and doomed) way of life.



6 Things God Wants Us To Know

4. We were ransomed, not with precious metals, but precious blood.
5. Jesus was sinless, without blemish or spot, wholly undeserving of death.
6. God raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that we might believe.



“We are saved from
God... to God... by God...
through God... [and] for God.

Thomas Goodwin