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Teachings in Eschatology

(A brief Overview of Key Principles Of the End-Times)

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“...this know, that in the last days, perilous times shall come...”

(II Timothy 3:1)

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Teachings in Eschatology



In theological and biblical academic settings, the study of last-days prophetic events is commonly called "Eschatology." The Word of God contains many scriptures that direct us to the end-times of the Gentiles Age and which give us information about God's will with respect to prophetic events that are about to occur. These brief notes will refresh your understanding of the end-time prophetic scenario.

In St. Matthew 24 the disciples asked Jesus, "What will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the world?" (i.e. "*end of the Age*" is a better translation.) Listed below are several scriptures taken from among many hundreds of scriptures that point us to the end of this present age. Please consider each of them in their entirety.

I Peter 4:7 - "The end of all things is at hand, be ye sober and watch unto prayer."

I Peter 3:9-11 - "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise as men count slackness, but is longsuffering to us ward..."

St. Matthew 24:4-8 - "All these things are the beginning of sorrows..."

St. Matthew 24:44 "Be ye also ready, for in such an hour as ye think not..."

What are various developments that indicate that we are in the last days?

1. "Perilous times shall come..." II Timothy 3:1 The perilous times are here, manifesting themselves through -
 - wars and rumors of wars (Middle East tensions, Korea, Iran, terrorism, etc.)
 - homosexual marriages are a reality in the United States
 - homosexuality within "Christian" churches (not true churches)
 - widespread immorality (spread of pornographic behavior)
 - lukewarm and worldly "Christianity" (Laodicean attitudes, see Rev. 3:14-22, plus "seducing spirits and devilish doctrines" emerging, I Timothy 4:1)
2. Preparation for the ONE WORLD GOVERNMENT (Revelation 13:1-9)
 - Potency and increasing power of the United Nations
 - The emergence of the European Union as a manifestation of the "Revived Roman Empire" which will grow into a one-world political system with one ruler
3. Technological and emotional Preparation for ONE WORLD CURRENCY implemented through "The Mark of the Beast" (Revelation 13:16-18)
 - chip implants for "security" and identification are a lead in to the mark of the beast

Emergence of the "Euro" as a new currency designed to marginalize the US

Dominance by Multi-national Corporations and Multinational Banks who are creating a One World Economy which will control all business activity.

4. Preparations are in place for the ONE WORLD RELIGION (Revelation 13:11-15)

Ever-increasing power of the papacy (Pope Benedict XVI)
Ecumenicalism and the Unity Movement within Christianity
Acceptance of non-Christian religions within the United States
The World Parliament of Religions and other such movements



5. Preparations are in place for a COMPLETE POLICE STATE (Daniel 7:7-8, :23-25)

Americans have traded their privacy for security against Al-Queida terrorism. There will never be privacy again in our nation until the Millennium arrives.

The ever-presence of security cameras, everywhere

Intrusiveness of airport screenings as an expression of the loss of privacy

The Biblical Pre-Tribulation Sequence of the End-Times Events

Scripture tells us the sequence of events that will soon occur leading us to the conclusion of God's work in the Age of the Gentiles. They include the following developments

1. The Beginning of Sorrows
2. The Rapture*
3. The Seven-year Tribulation
4. The Battle of Armageddon
5. The Kingdom Age, Millennial Reign of Christ
6. The Last Battle
7. The Great White Throne Judgment
8. The New Heavens and the New Earth
9. THE ETERNAL FUTURE

“What the Bible Teaches About The Rapture”

A. Definition

The word “**rapture**” itself is derived from the Latin word *apio*. It means “to snatch away,” or to “remove from one place to another by forcible means.” It is not a biblical word (as in fact “*trinity*” is not to be found in scripture), and therefore perhaps ought technically not to be used. The concept refers to **the return of Jesus Christ to take his people**, both the living and the dead, out of this world to be with Him in their eternal home. The correct biblical language would be phrases like “*the glorious appearing of the great God*” (see Titus

2:13) or more simply Jesus' "appearing" as the word occurs in II Timothy 4:8, II Timothy 4:1, I Timothy 6:14, II Timothy 1:10 and I Peter 1:7.

The Bible Teaches a Pre-Tribulation Rapture!

It is important to note that the bible unquestionably indicates a "pre-tribulation rapture," and that the saints of God will not be present upon the earth to go through the terrible time of judgment that will come upon the world. Many who seem to be undisciplined bible scholars indicate that the Church will go through part or all of the Great Tribulation, but the Word of God is clear in this matter. Consider the following scriptures:



Revelation 3:11 "Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them That dwell upon the earth."

Isaiah 26:20 – "Come my people, enter thou into thy chambers, and shut the doors about thee: hide thyself as it were for a little moment, until the indignation be overpast."

I Thessalonians 5:9 "For God hath not appointed us unto wrath but to obtain Salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ."

Revelation 4:1 – Lastly, it is to be noted that the Church is seen as symbolically represented in the experience of John the Revelator who is *caught up into heaven in Revelation chapter 4*. In this passage, John himself is a type and *shadow* of The Church, conspicuously *absent* from the earth during all the judgments and catastrophes of the Book of Revelation (i.e. from chapter 4:2, *immediately I was in the spirit...* until chapter 19), and is only seen returning to earth again *with Jesus* at the Battle of Armageddon in Revelation 19:11 ("...and I saw heaven opened..."). There *is* in fact a tormented "Tribulation Church" of post-Rapture believers who come to faith and are compelled to suffer and die for their faith in Jesus Christ, but this is not the precious, redeemed Bride of Christ who was caught away in the Rapture. That Bride spends the seven years of the Tribulation at peace with Jesus in the heavenly city, safely hidden from all the tragedies and judgments of the Tribulation. The Bridegroom does *not* subject His Bride to the horrors of the Tribulation!

B. Statements

1. The rapture will include both those who have been saved in the church age and also the dead saints who died in faith before Calvary. They also will go up with the New Testament Church at the coming of Jesus.
2. The key scriptures are I Thess. 4:16-17, I Corinthians 15:51-52, Philippians 3:20-21

3. The saints are promised that they will be "caught up" (Greek *harpagesometha*). It is the same word used concerning Philip in Acts 8, and again of St. Paul being caught up into paradise in II Corinthians 12:2-4)
4. Sinners and skeptics will not believe in the event when they are told about it (II Peter 3:3-11)
5. Jesus warned that many will be unprepared and left behind
6. The angels in Acts 1 promised that the "same Jesus" would come again in the same manner as that by which He went away. (Acts 1:11)
7. It is immediately after the Rapture that the seven-year Tribulation will begin
8. As long as the Holy Ghost is here in the hearts of the saints, the Antichrist cannot begin to do his work in earnest. (II Thessalonians 2:7-12)
9. Those who have failed to prepare will want to join the saints that have gone up in the rapture but will not be able (St. Matthew 25:10-13)
10. The raptured saints will stay in heaven with Jesus at their "wedding reception" and "honeymoon" for seven years before joining Jesus to return to earth for the judgment of Antichrist and the receiving of physical authority over all the kingdoms of the world.

C. Application to Your Life

1. Above any other concern, it is most important that each of us make specific preparations so as to be ready for the coming of the Lord.
2. We must not only receive salvation by rebirth of the water and spirit (John 3:3-8, Acts 2:38), but we must also live a life of self-examination and genuine holiness (I Corinthians 9:27, II Corinthians 7:1, Hebrews 12:14, I Peter 1:15-16, Galatians 5:21)



"What is the Tribulation?"

A. Definition –



measure.

The Tribulation is a horrific time of seven years following the Rapture when the Church of Jesus Christ will be gone, and The Antichrist will rule the earth. Mankind will be in complete and open rebellion against God: It will be the most immoral time that the world has ever seen. God will rise up in fury and will punish men for their wickedness by pouring his wrath and anger upon the world in great

B. Statements –

1. It is called "Daniel's seventieth week," the time when God will finally turn Israel's heart to him through their suffering. It is also called "the time of Jacob's trouble," because two-thirds of all Jews in the world will be killed by the Antichrist.
2. Satan will begin the seven-year period by acting like the Jewish Messiah, offering them peace: But in the middle of the seven years he will break the covenant by declaring himself to be God and demanding to be worshipped. When Israel refuses to worship him, he will begin to horribly persecute and kill the Jews (worse than Adolph Hitler) and God will be forced to begin His horrifying judgments of the demonic tribulation society.
3. Because of the 144,000 Jewish evangelists there will be many people saved; but they must pay the terrible price of being tortured and beheaded by the Beast

because of their faith in the gospel. It will be much harder to be saved then than it is now.

4. There will be a great harlot church filled with demonic lies and deception. It will be powerful, wealthy and politically connected. It will join all "religions" together and lead them under the power of satan.
5. There will be enormous, unimaginable loss of life, with billions of people dying at various times. If God did not keep this time period short, all life would be destroyed off the planet.
6. There will be 21 specific judgments poured out on the world – seven seals, seven trumpets and seven vials of judgment.
7. There will be "four horsemen of the apocalypse" who will represent the death, destruction, famine and war of this horrible time period. (Revelation 6)
- 8. The world will finally see what it means to fully reject Jesus and be rid of Him. They will get what they want - all the sin imaginable, and a world without God. There will be virtually no rules of righteousness, no lawfulness: It will be something beyond horrible!**
9. There will be nuclear wars, earthquakes of unimaginable intensity and magnitude, comets that will ruin life on the earth, terrible plagues and insect invasions. In these terrible times men will seek to die, but will find that they are unable to die – "death will flee from them."
10. There will be two spectacularly powerful and anointed witnesses who will be killed and publicly resurrected, to the glory of God.
11. The Tribulation will end with the battle of Armageddon, in Revelation 20.

The Twenty-One Judgments of the Tribulation

Scripture prophesies that literally billions of people will be killed during the time when God will pour out his judgment and anger upon the world in twenty-one specific and distinct judgments. The orderliness of the world that we now know will be completely eliminated, and men will be reduced to living in caves and holes of the earth. (Isaiah 2). Police protection will break down, governmental systems will be impossible and meaningless. Grocery stores, gas stations, plane travel, highway systems and all the things we take for granted will be disrupted. Men will be reduced to living almost like animals in that time of God's judgment. Scripture says that if the days were not shortened not one single human being would survive this time of wickedness.

Listed below are the twenty-one judgments that the book of Revelation describes to us.

A. The Seven Seals

1. Seal One - The Rider on the White Horse (Antichrist)
2. Seal Two - The Rider on the Red Horse (War)
3. Seal Three - The Rider on the Black Horse (Famine)
4. Seal Four - The Rider on the Pale Horse (Death)
5. Seal Five - Martyrdom for many believers
6. Seal Six - The earth's weather and climate goes berserk
7. Seal Seven - "Silence in heaven for the space of half an hour," then the Trumpets Judgments begin

B. The Seven Trumpets

1. First Trumpet – Fire burns up one-third of the earth
2. Second Trumpet – A meteor (“burning mountain”) destroys one-third of the sea life and ships at sea
3. Third Trumpet – A star falls from heaven poisoning one-third of all drinking water
4. Fourth Trumpet – The earth loses one-third of its light from the sun and moon
5. Fifth Trumpet – Every unsealed person will suffer five months of terrible torture from scorpion stings
6. Sixth Trumpet – 200,000,000 soldiers are released to begin a world war
7. Seventh Trumpet – Causes the greatest earthquake ever known to man

C. The Seven Vials (or “bowls”)

1. The First Vial – Boils infect everyone who took the mark of the beast
2. The Second Vial – The sea turns to blood and everything left in it dies
3. The Third Vial – The rivers also turn to blood
4. The Fourth Vial – Temperatures go off the thermometer and torments everyone
5. The Fifth Vial – Extreme darkness covers the entire earth
6. The Sixth Vial – River Euphrates dries up and a massive army attacks Israel, leading towards Armageddon
7. The Seventh Vial – Giant hail stones fall, causing the cities to be destroyed

“What About The One World Government and the One World Church?”

Definition – *The One World Government* will be just as its name implies – a political system in which all the nations of the world are joined together under one authority: At the top of the power structure will be the Antichrist himself ruling ruthlessly and mercilessly, both politically and economically. The often used phrase, “new world order” is a precursor to the dictatorial one world government that is shaping up before our eyes. Treaties will be signed until finally there is one all-inclusive treaty that will bind the world together in false peace under the control of satan’s messiah, the Beast.



The One World Church will be the religious equivalent of the One World Government. It will be a blending of all the false religions on the planet – Catholics, Buddhists, Witches, New Age Gurus, false “Christians,” pagans and anything and everything that calls itself spiritual will be a part of the One World Church, known in scripture as The Great Whore, in Revelation 17. At the top of the religious structure will be The False Prophet, probably the Pope of Rome. He will force every person on the earth to take the mark of the beast and participate in the One World Economy. (Revelation 18.)



Statements

1. The One World Government will reflect Satan's desire for control and worship. The leader will emerge as a "peacemaker" only later to reveal himself as the most murderous and evil dictator in human history.
2. Nations will lose their sovereignty, will be swallowed up by the One World Government, an entity that will no doubt emerge from some form of the United Nations. Already there exists a **World Parliament** (in Brussels, Belgium), a **World Court** (in The Hague, Netherlands) and even a **World Police Force**, operating under the name of the United Nations Peace Keeping Force. All that remains to be created is a "**World Currency**" (which will be the mark of the beast) and a "**World President**," which will surely be the Antichrist.
3. The One World Government will be headquartered in the city of Rome, Italy, the city set upon seven mountains. Together the Beast and the False Prophet will dominate the world through religion, economics and politics.
4. The rule of the One World Government will be short and hideous – a brief seven years, and then it will be destroyed forever, replaced by the perfect Kingdom of God, with Jesus Christ enthroned as King of Kings and Lord of Lords, and headquartered from the Temple in Jerusalem.
5. The One World Economy will be thoroughly judged and will fall apart, causing unimaginable economic depression and financial hardship for the entire planet. (Revelation 18).
6. At some point in the tribulation, the Beast will turn his hatred against the Great Whore whom he has used and will begin to persecute her and seek to completely destroy her.

Application to Your Life

Be aware of the constant mergers and consolidations that are going on around you – corporate economic mergers, ecclesiastical mergers and political transitions. They are signs that show you how close the coming of the Lord is.

Be strongly committed to doctrinal truth, since the One World Church will be made up of spiritual lies and doctrinal deceptions. DOCTRINE MATTERS MORE THAN IT EVER HAS BEFORE. ONLY A STRONG COMMITMENT TO DOCTRINAL TRUTH WILL PREVENT AN INDIVIDUAL OR CHURCH FROM BEING INFLUENCED BY THE EMERGING HARLOT CHURCH!