Biblical Eschatology

**The Second Coming of Christ**

The Bible clearly teaches a visible, bodily, glorious return of Jesus Christ to earth.

**Acts 1:11**

**11**Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.

**Revelation 1:7**

**7**Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.

(Hebrews 9:28; Matthew 24:27,30,36,42-44; 25:1-13; 25:31-46; John 14:3; Luke 21:24-36; Titus 2:13; Colossians 3:4)

**The Millennium (Revelation 20:1-10)**

Premillennialism – Christ returns before a literal 1,000-year millennium in which Satan is bound.

Dispensational Premillennialism – teaches the Rapture of the church prior to a seven year tribulation period that culminates in Christ’s millennial reign for 1,000 years. Usually differs from historic premillennialism in regards to the separation of the church and Israel.

Postmillennialism – Christ returns after a long period of time (1,000 years is symbolic) after the church has brought the gospel to bear on the world.

Amillennialism – The millennium is now. Satan is limited by Christ’s victory over death and sin on the cross and is ruling and reigning in the hearts of His people (the church). The 1,000 years is symbolic.

Issue of Satan (2 Corinthians 12:7-10; 1 John 5:19; Ephesians 6:11-13)

Issue of unfulfilled prophecies

Christ Sitting on the Throne of David (Isaiah 9:6-7; Luke 1:32-33; Jeremiah 30:9; Revelation 20:6)

God’s Literal Rule from Jerusalem and Peace (Isaiah 2:2-4; Zechariah 14:9-11)

Prosperity (Amos 9:13)

Long Life Spans (Isaiah 65:19-20)

Fourth Temple (Ezekiel 40-48)

Life to the Dead Sea (Zechariah 14:8)

There is no Scriptural reason not to take the 1,000 years literally unless one moves from an interpretation that will not work with the 1,000-year period.

**4 Views of Interpretation of Revelation 4-22**

**View Millennial View Interpretation of Events**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Preterist | Postmillennial (mostly) | Regards most events as occurring in the first century under the reigns of Emperors Nero (54-68 AD) and Domitian (81-96 AD) |
| Historicist | Postmillennial | Regards most events as occurring throughout history. |
| Idealist | Amillennial | Regards most events as symbolic/spiritual |
| Futurist | Premillennial | Regards most events as future and literal. |

Revelation 1:19 tells us the timing of the events to John’s time.

“Write the things which thou hast seen (ch. 1), and the things which are (chs. 2-3), and the things which shall be hereafter (chs. 4-22).”

**The Rapture**

**1 Thessalonians 4:16-17** (also 1 Corinthians 15:35-57)

**16**For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

**17**Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

The “trump of God” is called “the last trump” in 1 Corinthians 15:52.

Timing?

Pre-tribulation – The Rapture takes place before a literal seven-year tribulation period.

Mid-tribulation – The Rapture takes place at the 3-1/2 year or midpoint of the tribulation period. This is also called pre-wrath because proponents hold that God’s wrath is poured out in the last half.

Post-tribulation – The Rapture takes place at the end of the tribulation period, at or just prior to the Second Coming of Christ.

**Why Pre-tribulation Rapture?**

-The New Testament indicates that the Church is delivered from wrath: (Romans 5:9-10; 1 Thessalonians 1:10; 5:1-3, 9-11)

-No clear mention of the Church in the events of the Tribulation period.

-The Tribulation period serves two purposes:

Fulfillment of God’s dealings and plan with Israel (Daniel 9:24-27)

Judgment of the lost world and world system (Revelation 6-19)

-Immanency – means the Day of the Lord could come at any time now (Matthew 24:43; 1 Thessalonians 5:2)

**Revelation Outline**

Revelation 1-3 – The vision of Christ and the letters to the seven churches of Asia Minor

Revelation 4-5 – The vision of heaven, the throne of God, the Lamb, and the seven-sealed scroll

Revelation 6-19 – The Tribulation Period (Daniel 9:24-27; Jeremiah 30:7; Daniel 12)

Revelation 6 – The first six seals are broken. Seals 1-4: Four horsemen (1/4 of population killed from famine, disease, and war), Fifth Seal: martyrs cries are heard; Sixth Seal: earth is shaken and men are unrepentant.

Revelation 7 – 144,000 Jewish Evangelists are set apart and sealed, vast multitude clothed in white saved during the Tribulation period

Revelation 8 – Seventh Seal is broken, seven trumpets begin to blow; Trumpet 1: 1/3 of plants burned up; Trumpet 2: 1/3 of sea turned to blood with 1/3 of sea creatures killed and ships destroyed; Trumpet 3: star wormwood falls and 1/3 of fresh waters are poisoned; Trumpet 4: 1/3 of sun, moon, and stars are dimmed; 3 woes announced

Revelation 9 – Trumpet 5 (1st woe): Demon Locusts from the pit torment for 5 months; Trumpet 6 (2nd woe): 200 million army killing 1/3 of mankind with fire, smoke, and brimstone; Mankind remains unrepentant

Revelation 10 – Seven thunders sealed up; John eats the little scroll

Revelation 11 – Temple measured, Jerusalem given to Gentiles; Two Witnesses; Seventh Trumpet blown

Revelation 12 – Sign in the stars of Israel, Christ, and the Devil; Devil cast out of heaven; Israel persecuted

Revelation 13 – The Beast from the Sea (Antichrist); The Beast from the Earth (False Prophet)

Revelation 14 – The 144,000 are seen with the Lamb on Mt. Zion; 1st Angel proclaims the gospel; 2nd Angel proclaims the fall of Babylon; 3rd Angel proclaims warning of taking the mark of the beast; The reaping of the earth; the Grapes of Wrath

Revelation 15 – Seven Bowl Judgments Prepared and Announced

Revelation 16 – Bowl 1: Boils; Bowl 2: Sea turned to blood; Bowl 3: Fresh water turned to blood; Bowl 4: Sun scorches men; Bowl 5: Darkness and intense pain; Bowl 6: Euphrates River dried up and 3 unclean spirits go out to draw the world to Armageddon; Bowl 7: Great earthquake and great hail

Revelation 17 – The Woman and the Scarlet Beast (The One World Religion)

Revelation 18 – The Fall of Babylon (The World Economic System)

Revelation 19 – Praise for God’s vengeance; the marriage supper of the Lamb; the Second Coming; the Battle of Armageddon (Christ’s victory)

Revelation 20 – The Millennial Kingdom, the First Resurrection, the binding of Satan; the loosing of Satan and the final deception; the Great White Throne and the Lake of Fire

Revelation 21 – The New Jerusalem

Revelation 22 – The River of Life; the Final Warnings

**Events Surrounding the Tribulation and Chronology**

Why Seven Years? **Daniel 9:24-27**

The Tribulation period is a time of judgment. It is called the “time of Jacob’s trouble” (Jeremiah 30:7); “the Day of the Lord” (Isaiah 2:12; 13:6-9; Joel 1:15; 2:1-31; 3:14; 1 Thessalonians 5:2); or “the Day (or Time) of Trouble” (Daniel 12:1; Zephaniah 1:15)

The Rapture of the Church

First Half of the Tribulation Period

-Coalition of nations comes against Israel (Ezekiel 38-39; Daniel 11:15-35).

-This takes place between Israel’s national rebirth (Ezekiel 37) and its spiritual rebirth (Ezekiel 40-48).

-The Antichrist has already brokered a peace treaty with Israel on behalf of the ten kingdom group of the revived Roman Empire. This is quite possibly how he is a “rider on white horse” (Revelation 6:2; Daniel 9:27). The second rider is on a red horse and brings war (Revelation 6:3-4). This is perhaps the war that this refers to.

-The armies will gather against Israel and will be supernaturally defeated by God perhaps closer to the midpoint of the Tribulation period when the Antichrist violates his treaty.

-The armies consist of Russia, Eastern European nations, Turkey, Muslim nations, and North African nations.

-Four of Seven Seals are broken (Matthew 24:3-14; Revelation 6:1-17; 8:1)

-Four horsemen: White Horse (false peace); Red Horse (War); Black Horse (Famine); Pale Horse (Disease) – (First Four Seals)

-1/4 of the Earth’s population is killed.

-144,000 Jewish Evangelists are sealed and will begin to minister during this time.

Events at the end of the first half of the tribulation period or beginning of second half:

-Two Witnesses minister for 42 months (3-1/2 years)

-Martyrs cry out for justice. – (Fifth Seal)

-Earthquake, darkness, fear – (Sixth Seal)

-Great earthquake hits Jerusalem and kills 7,000 people

Second Half of the Tribulation Period (The Great Tribulation) (Daniel 12:6-7,11-13; Matthew 24:15-28)

-Satan and his angels fight with Michael and the elect angels and Satan is cast out of heaven (permanently).

-The Antichrist and False Prophet (Daniel 9:27; Revelation 13)

-The Antichrist suffers a fatal wound and is healed (Revelation 13:3; Daniel 7:

-The Abomination of Desolation (Daniel 9:27; Matthew 24:15; Revelation 13:8,14-18)

-Persecution of Jewish people begins (Daniel 9:27; Mattew 24:15-28; Revelation 12:13-17; 13:7)

-There is the possibility that 2/3 of the Jewish people are killed. The remaining 1/3 (remnant) will call out to God for deliverance (Zechariah 13:7-9).

-Trumpet Judgments (Revelation 8-9)

-1/3 of the Earth’s population is killed.

-Bowl Judgments (Revelation 16)

-Campaign of Armageddon

-Judgment of World Religion in the Harlot on the beast (Revelation 17)

-Judgment of Babylon the World System (Economy/Materialism) (Revelation 18)

-The Second Coming (Revelation 19:11-21; Matthew 24:29-31)

Also During the Tribulation Period

-the Gospel is taken to the whole world (Mathew 24:14; Revelation 14:6)

-Judgment (*bema*) seat of Christ for the Church (2 Corinthians 5:10; 1 Corinthians 3:11-15)

-Marriage Supper of the Lamb (Revelation 19:7-9)

75-Day Interregnum

-Daniel 12:11-13 mention 1290 plus 45 additional days. Subtracting the 1260-day period that leaves 75 days in addition to the 3-1/2 years

-The Judgment of the Sheep and Goats (Matthew 25:31-46)

-Resurrection of Old Testament and Tribulation saints (Revelation 20:4-6)

-Removal of the Abomination of Desolation

-Cleansing of the land from the Battle of Armageddon

-Construction of the 4th Temple

Millennium

-Satan bound for 1,000 years to deceive no more (presumably, all fallen angels are bound) (Revelation 20:1-3)

-Christ and saints reign for 1,000 years (Revelation 20:4-6)

-Satan released at the end of the millennium to lead one final rebellion (Revelation 20:7-9)

-Satan cast into the Lake of Fire

Great White Throne Judgment (Revelation 20:11-15)

-All of the lost are judged and condemned eternally to the Lake of Fire.

Consummation of the New Heaven and New Earth with New Jerusalem (Revelation 21:1-22:5)