

Eschatology - Part 2

Jim Downing

I. Introduction. (Review)

A. God sees three entities in the human race: Jews, Gentiles, and the Church. (I Corinthians 10:32).

B. The Jews are the natural descendants of Abraham.

C. These are the three principle streams of truth and they all come together with a superhuman personality that leads them to disaster.

D. At the end of the seven-year period Christ will come and set up his kingdom on earth.

II. The Jews.

A. While it seemed odd for God to choose the Jew, the Jew's remarkability demonstrates God.

1. God would bless the whole world through the singular seed that was to come through Abraham - the Messiah.

2. God intended to make Himself known through the Jews. This is clear through Moses, Joshua, David, Solomon, Hezekiah, and Jeremiah. (Deuteronomy 24:32; Joshua 4:24; I Samuel 17:46; II Kings 19:19; Jeremiah 22:9)

a. However, the Jews failed in this mission.

b. God allowed them to go into captivity because of it.

B. History beginning with the expiration of the captivity. (Daniel 9)

1. There would be a period of 490 years that the Jews would be in exile. The "weeks" in the text are more than normal "weeks."

2. There would be an interruption, however.

3. The 49-year period historically took place under Nehemiah and Ezra.

4. There would be a time of 483 years between the time of the decree to rebuild Jerusalem until the coming of Messiah. A scholar has calculated that the time period between Jesus' triumphal entry and the decree as being exact. It is no wonder that Anna and Simeon were excited.

5. After the 483 years Messiah would be cut off. It was less than a week between the triumphal entry (Palm Sunday) and the crucifixion. This is the first undated event.

6. The second undated event was described as the destruction of the temple. In 70 under Titus, Jerusalem and the temple were destroyed as prophesied by Christ.

7. When the Jews crucified Christ, God stopped the clock of Jewish prophetic truth. All are waiting until when the clock starts.

8. Three other undated prophecies concerning the Jews.

a. A worldwide dispersion of the Jews. (Deuteronomy 28:25)

b. There would be a period in which the Jews would not be counted as a nation and would not be absorbed into countries in which they moved. (Numbers 23:9)

c. The Jews will only come back to the land a second time it appears. (Isaiah 11:11)

9. The return to Palestine.

a. The British were given responsibility of Palestine until 1948 and they were going to move out, so the world assumed that Jordan would subsume the land. But a bunch of Jews decided to declare their independence. They realized that their declaration of independence would never stand unless the world recognized it. They sought the help of the United States.

b. Through vicarious help, President Truman was convinced to support the Jewish declaration of a state. It took only 32 minutes to restore a nation that had been in submission to others for 1800 years.

c. One must be careful not to be too dogmatic about fulfilled prophesy today, however.

III. The Gentiles.

A. The abomination of desolation will declare himself as God in the temple in Jerusalem. (II Thessalonians 2)

B. The resumption of the story of the Jews: they enter into a covenant with this man. The countdown restarts when the Jews make a covenant with this man.

1. In the middle of this period He breaks the covenant.
2. He then says that they have been worshipping the wrong God and declares himself to be so.
3. At least a part of the Jews are a party to the proclamation of the Anti-Christ. At this point God looses the Great Tribulation.

C. The temple.

1. Students of the Bible are disagreed as to whether this will be a literal or spiritual temple.
2. Many rumors and claims have arisen about an effort to rebuild the temple in Jerusalem.
3. On the temple mount stands a mosque though currently. How will this be taken care of? Scripture teaches that Jesus will return on the Mount of Olives and the mount will split. Geologists have confirmed that the same fault line that goes under Mount of Olives goes under the temple mount. (Zechariah 14:4)

D. The Anti-Christ will fulfill all the requirements of the Jewish leader and many will be fooled.

IV. The Church.

A. This is a parenthetical period of history that overlaps. This is the period between the 69th and 70th week.

B. The Scripture indicates that throughout the Church Age the constituency will be made up of both the regenerate and unregenerate. (Matthew 13:30)

1. The influence of Jesus Christ's Person and work will be more and more crowded out. (Revelation 3:20)
2. The unregenerate Church will deny the deity of Christ. There must be a great apostasy that comes in the Church. (II Thessalonians 2)
3. All organized religion will fall under the power of the False Prophet - the deputy of the Anti-Christ. (Revelation 13:18)
4. There will be great worldwide deception to be united. Evidence of this exists today.

C. The key to the future is the restarting of the clock of prophetic truth with the beginning of the final seven-year period. This period is called Daniel's missing week. The last half

is referred to as the Great Tribulation. The first half is called the “Little Tribulation” by some.

D. Some believe that Christians will be raptured in the middle of the Tribulation period (mid-Tribulation view) and others believe that they will be raptured afterwards (post-Tribulation view).

E. Three and a half years after the Middle of the Tribulation, Christ will return.

V. Review and conclusion.

Application questions.

1. Summarize the primary observations of the message.

2. In the end, mass deception will take place across the three different people groups. What form will this deception take place? What comfort does the Christian have in all of this?

3. What are some of your questions left over concerning the end times? Write them down and explain. Read through the books of Daniel and Revelation to see if any of your questions might be answered more directly in the text.
