

# ESCHATOLOGY

GOD'S FINAL CHAPTER

Week 2 – Alternative Views Millennium and Rapture

# ESCHATOLOGY

## ☞ Biblical Truth:

*Regardless of our position on the Millennium and the Rapture, we need to be aware, awake, and alert. God expects us as His children to be prepared no matter what our position is.*

*We can love each other in Christian unity, even when we differ in our understanding of the end.*

*(...The Bible clearly teaches that Christians will go through the Tribulation.)*



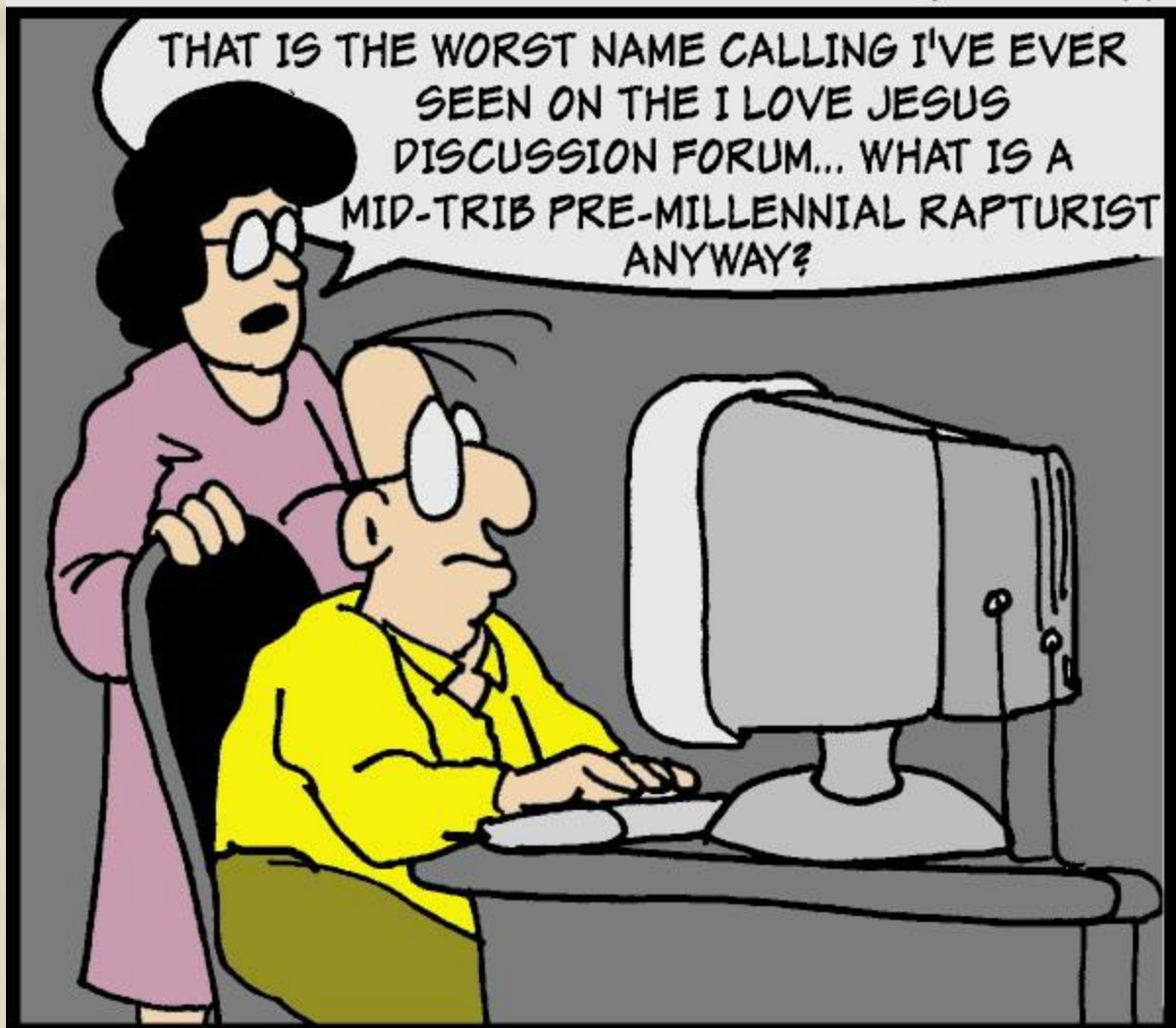
# MILLENNIUM AND RAPTURE VIEWS

☞ Key Verse – I Thes 4.17:

*<sup>17</sup>After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. <sup>18</sup>Therefore encourage each other with these words*



# CHURCH OF THE COVERED DISH by Thom Tapp



When pastors get down and dirty...

# KEY TERMS

- ☞ Eschatology – << *eskhatos* >> last / final – knowledge or study of the last things
- ☞ Millennium – Refers to Christ's 1000 year reign on earth – term is not in bible but comes from << *mille* >> thousand and << *annus* >> – a year
- ☞ Rapture – Refers to the description of believers being caught up and meeting Christ in the air – comes from *Rapere* – caught up, plucked up, taken by force (see I Thes 4.17)



# KEY TERMS (CONT.)

☞ Apocalypse - << *apokolipse* >> - unveiling

☞ Tribulation – Generally refers to the 7 years of terrible events described in Revelation and Daniel



# BASIC BIBLICAL INTERPRETATION

*The Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired and is God's revelation of Himself to man. It is a perfect treasure of divine instruction. It has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth, without any mixture of error, for its matter. Therefore, all Scripture is totally true and trustworthy. It reveals the principles by which God judges us, and therefore is, and will remain to the end of the world, the true center of Christian union, and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and religious opinions should be tried. All Scripture is a testimony to Christ, who is Himself the focus of divine revelation.*

*(Baptist Faith and Message – 2008, SBC)*

☞ Spiritual

☞ Allegorical

☞ “Literal”



# VIEWS ON THE MILLENNIUM

*Rev 20.1-6*

## 1. Post Millennial

☞ 1000 years Not literal

☞ First taught by Unitarian minister Daniel Whitby

☞ Return Of Christ occurs at end of the Millennium

☞ the church has “Christianized” the world

☞ Very popular in 1800’s



# VIEWS ON THE MILLENNIUM

*Rev 20.1-6*

## 2. A-Millennial

☞ 1000 years in Rev 20.1-6 Not literal but allegorical

☞ Big name proponents – RC Sproul



# VIEWS ON THE MILLENNIUM

*Rev 20.1-6*

## 2. A-Millennial

∞ History –

- ... Traced back to Augustine ~ 400 AD and Origen ~250 AD –
- ... Origen – deeper spiritual meaning
- ... By middle ages most churches were amillennialists
- ... Montanists / ebionites – major heresies



# VIEWS ON THE MILLENNIUM

*Rev 20.1-6*

## 2. A-Millennial

⌘ History –

... Influence of Gnosticism

... AD 307 – conversion of emperor Constantine

⌘ State subsidies and tax breaks

⌘ Exemption of clergy from public duty and military service

⌘ Legalization of setting aside Sunday as day of rest



# VIEWS ON THE MILLENNIUM

*Rev 20.1-6*

## 2. A-Millennial

### ☞ Primary Beliefs / Key Teaching

- ... Preterists – latin *praeteritus* – gone by
- ... Teaches that the Kingdom is not physical but spiritual
- ... Millennium began with Christ's first coming and continues until His 2<sup>nd</sup> coming
- ... The current church age is the “millennium”



# VIEWS ON THE MILLENNIUM

*Rev 20.1-6*

## 2. A-Millennial

### ☞ Primary Beliefs / Key Teaching

- ... Rev 20.1-6 – refers to Christ’s first coming
- ... Matt 24.14 – “Then the Kingdom will come” –
- ... We the church are living in the kingdom of God
- ... Catholic Church and traditional reformed churches



# VIEWS ON THE MILLENNIUM

*Rev 20.1-6*

## 3. Pre-Millennial

- ☞ 1000 years mentioned in Rev 20.1-6 is literal and occurs after tribulation
- ☞ Big name proponents – John Wesley, Charles Wesley, Charles Spurgeon, Matthew Henry, John Knox, John Calvin, Isaac Newton, George Whitfield, John Wycliff, Early Baptist Church



# VIEWS ON THE MILLENNIUM

*Rev 20.1-6*

## 3. Pre-Millennial

☞ History –

- ... Held by nearly all early church fathers
- ... Begins to get lost in reformation
- ... Reaction to early Baptist church



# VIEWS ON THE MILLENNIUM

*Rev 20.1-6*

## 3. Pre-Millennial

### ☞ Primary Beliefs / Key Teaching

- ... 1000 years mentioned in Rev 20.1-6 is literal and occurs after tribulation
- ... 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming occurs at the end of this age
- ... Earthly Kingdom
- ... Current Christians rule with Christ for 1000 years



# VIEWS ON THE MILLENNIUM

*Rev 20.1-6*

## 3. Pre-Millennial

### ☞ Primary Beliefs / Key Teaching

- ... No difference between Rapture and glorious appearing / 2<sup>nd</sup> coming
- ... Matt 24 addresses the church
- ... Wrath of Lord occurs at end of tribulation
- ... Tribulation saints must include church



# VIEWS ON THE RAPTURE

*I Thes 4.13-18*

## 1. Common Aspects

- ☞ All Pre-Mil
- ☞ Literal return of Jesus Christ
- ☞ Literal 1000 year reign on earth
- ☞ Bodily resurrection
- ☞ Saints will be raptured
- ☞ Church does not go through the “Wrath of God”



# VIEWS ON THE RAPTURE

*1 Thes 4.13-18*

## 2. Mid-Trib

### ☞ History

... Developed in early 1900's as scriptural backlash to pre-trib

### ☞ Primary Teaching / Key Belief

... Wrath of the Lord starts at the midpoint of the tribulation -



# VIEWS ON THE RAPTURE

*I Thes 4.13-18*

## 2. Pre-Trib

☞ Big name proponents – William Scofield, John Darby, Charles Feinberg, John Walvoord, Charles Ryrie, Grant Jeffries, Tim LaHaye, Hal Lindsey

### ☞ History

... First articulated by John Nelson Darby – 1830 who meets DL Moody – St Louis lawyer – Scofield in Moody revival

... Identification of early Anabaptists in 1740

... Scofield Reference Bible - 1909 – DTS

... WEB



# VIEWS ON THE RAPTURE

*I Thes 4.13-18*

## 2. Pre-Trib

### ☞ Primary Beliefs / Key Teaching

- ... Dispensations -
- ... Doctrine of imminence – Christ could return at any moment without any warning or prophesied event occurring first
- ... Difference between Rapture and Glorious appearance (2nd coming)
- ... Matthew 24 – addressing Jews



# VIEWS ON THE RAPTURE

*I Thes 4.13-18*

## 2. Pre-Trib

### ☞ Primary Beliefs / Key Teaching

- ... Wrath of Lord – all 7 years of Tribulation
- ... Started by treaty between Anti-Christ and Israel
- ... Tribulation saints – all converted Jews
- ... Rev 4.1 – describes rapture
- ... Great Multitude – Rev 7.9 – Martyred Saints



# VIEWS ON THE RAPTURE

*1 Thes 4.13-18*

## 3. Post-Trib (and pre-wrath)

⌘ Big Name Proponents - John Wesley, Charles Wesley, Charles Spurgeon, Matthew Henry, John Knox, John Calvin, Isaac Newton, George Whitfield, John Wycliff, Early Baptist Church

⌘ History

... Readily identifiable to early church fathers

... Long seen as the traditional belief of the church

... Lost in reformation due to rise of amill position



# VIEWS ON THE RAPTURE

*I Thes 4.13-18*

## 3. Post-Trib (and pre-wrath)

### ☞ Primary Beliefs / Key Teaching

- ... No Difference between Rapture and Glorious appearance (2nd coming)
- ... Matthew 24 – addressing Church
- ... Wrath of Lord – Occurs at end of tribulation
- ... Could be started at any time
- ... Tribulation saints – must include church
- ... DOTL and Great Tribulation cannot be the same event

