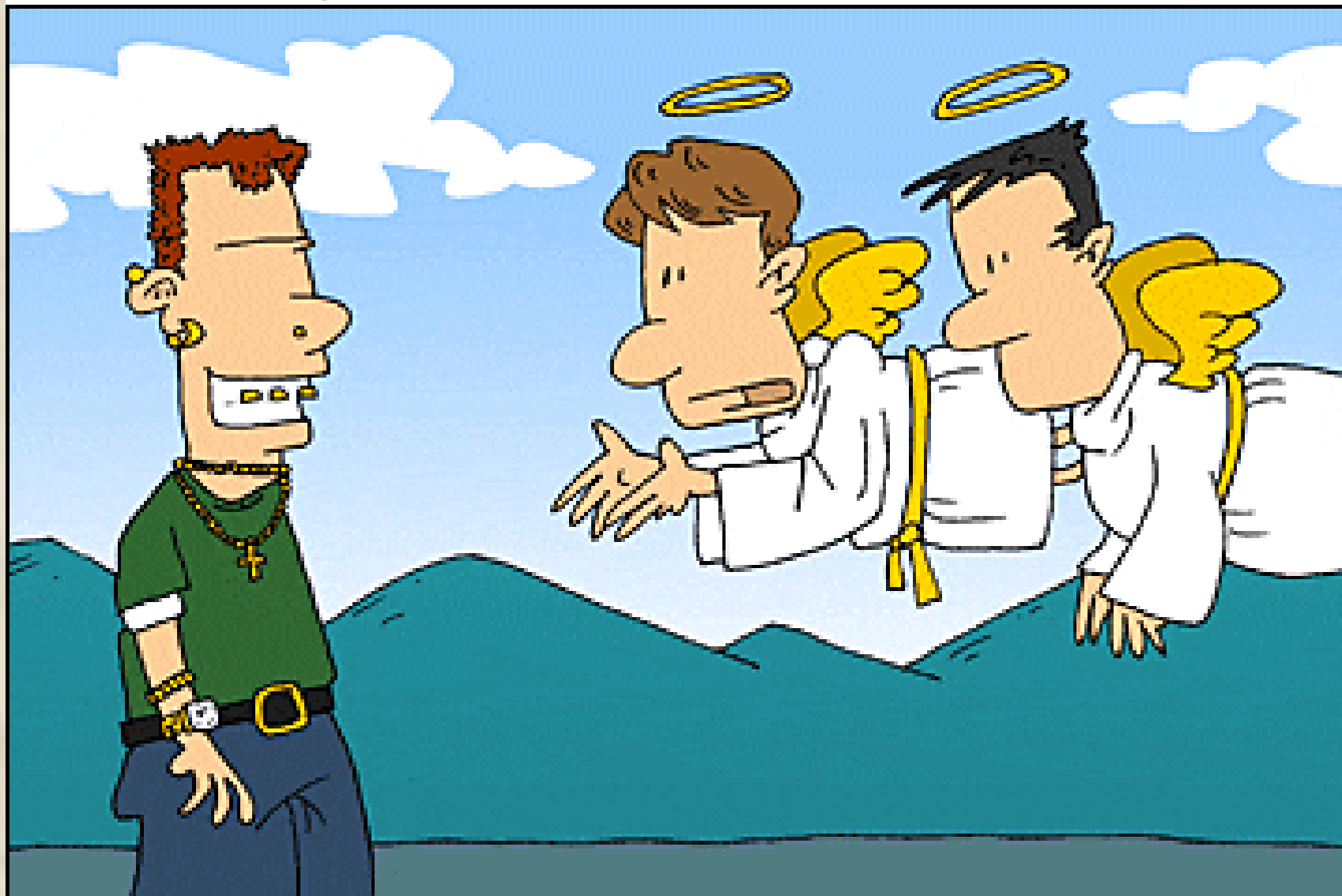


ESCHATOLOGY

GOD'S FINAL CHAPTER

Week 6 & 7 – NT Eschatology – The Return Of The King



Thanks to Richard Germain (See Revelation 21:21)

11-26-2007

I'LL NEVER UNDERSTAND WHY HUMANS THINK
WEARING PAVEMENT IS SO GREAT

THE RETURN OF THE KING

✧ Biblical Truth:

God provides insight into Christ's return so that we will not be fooled and so that we will be able to persevere. The Return of the King will be the culmination of all of creation and all that we yearn for.



THE RETURN OF THE KING

Key Verse(s) – Matthew 24.27- 31 (NIV) :

²⁷ For as lightning that comes from the east is visible even in the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ²⁸ Wherever there is a carcass, there the vultures will gather. ²⁹ "Immediately after the distress of those days" 'the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.' ³⁰ "At that time the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and all the nations of the earth will mourn. They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky, with power and great glory. ³¹ And he will send his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other.



THE RETURN OF THE KING

Context

- ☞ Just as the OT writers consistently referred to the DOTL, The NT writers referred to the Return of the King
- ☞ NT eschatology clearly portrays post-trib rapture and ties the rapture to the ROTK
- ☞ The NT writers referred to the OT prophecies and elucidated on what the OT writers had to say
- ☞ Quite a bit of similar / same language in describing the events of the Return



THE RETURN OF THE KING

1. Matt 24, 25, Mark 13, Luke 2

☞ Matt 24. 1-3, Mark 13.1-3, Luke 21.7 – Theme

- ... Focus of Matt 24 is the second coming and the end of the age – and how you are living – are you living like He could return today
- ... Jesus is telling us to be ready for His return – and asking us to live in anticipation of His return
- ... When is that deliverance – When Christ Returns – Who is delivered the elect who remain faithful



THE RETURN OF THE KING

1. Matt 24, 25, Mark 13, Luke 2

☞ Matt 24.4-8, Mark 13.5-8, Luke 21.8-9 – Warning

... Warning about the deceit

... Beginnings of birth pangs

many will come in my name

Wars and rumors of wars

Famines, earthquakes in diverse places



THE RETURN OF THE KING

1. Matt 24, 25, Mark 13, Luke 2

☞ Matt 24.9-14, Mark 13.9-12, Luke 21.12-19 – Tribulation

... Start of tribulation –

... Great wickedness – many false prophets

... Admonition – stand firm – the gospel will be preached everywhere

... Luke says you will be handed over to synagogues



THE RETURN OF THE KING

1. Matt 24, 25, Mark 13, Luke 2

☞ Matt 24.15-26, Mark 13.14-23, Luke 21.20-24 –
Abomination of Desolation

... As predicted by Daniel

... V. 21 – great distress – unequaled from the beginning of time

... V. 22 - If those days had not been cut short - *Koloboo* –
amputation or beheading - no one would survive – but for the
elect's sake – *eklektos* – *chosen, selected and saved by God* -

... DO NOT GO / DO NOT BELIEVE –



THE RETURN OF THE KING

1. Matt 24, 25, Mark 13, Luke 2

☞ Matt 24.27 -31, Mark 13.24-30, Luke 21.25-28 – Return of Christ / Rapture (Same event)

... Like lightening in the sky

... Immediately after the *distress* of those days – cataclysmic signs – then the Son of Man

... V. 30 that time / that day – OT DOTL

... After the world sees Jesus coming – then the trumpet - then the “in gathering”



THE RETURN OF THE KING

1. Matt 24, 25, Mark 13, Luke 2

☞ Matt 24.36-44, Mark 13.32-37, Luke 21.32-37 – Be prepared

... Days of Noah (flood took them all away – divine judgment) – drinking / eating / giving in marriage – not bad things – just ordinary – life going on as usual – Jesus will return unexpectedly

... 1 taken – 1 left – PICTURE OF JUDGMENT - NOT RAPTURE - one left will enjoy Christ who has just returned – Compares to the biblical flood – many will turn away from the faith – faith in NT refers to faith in Jesus

... V. 42 – keep watch – keep on watching



THE RETURN OF THE KING

1. Matt 24, 25, Mark 13, Luke 2

☞ Matt 45-51 through Ch 25 How to be prepared

... fulfilling master's assignment in Master's absence

... food at proper time - good stewardship – wisdom – prudent decision making

... “I tell you the truth” – Jesus is saying this will be on the final

... it will be good – same term as blessed in beatitudes – fortunate / happy / privileged



THE RETURN OF THE KING

1. Matt 24, 25, Mark 13, Luke 2

☞ Matt 45-51 through Ch 25 How to be prepared (cont.)

... wicked - ignore his master's instruction

... forgets his accountability

... actions expose his heart

... beat - lacks strength of character to handle authority

... NOT SALVATION BY WORKS - judgment but not salvation

... Ch 25 – parable of the 10 virgins / talents and the servants / sheep and goat judgment



THE RETURN OF THE KING

2. II Thess 2

✧ Background

- ... Paul mentions that he had talked to the Thessalonians about 2nd coming of Christ – but they had not retained knowledge
- ... Church at Thessalonica thought that Christ had already come back and that they missed it
- ... They thought the dead were not going to be resurrected
- ... Some were teaching heresy that there would only be a resurrection for the righteous



THE RETURN OF THE KING

2. II Thess 2 (cont.)

☞ V. 2 – **unsettled** – *like a ship that isn't moored - tossed to and fro by the sea* **alarmed** – *literally to cry aloud – continuous state of agitation*

☞ That Day – DOTL will NOT come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness / sin is revealed – the rebellion which is literally the apostasy or the falling away – Future tense not past tense – Not people losing their salvation

☞ Man of lawlessness – a specific man – of destruction – root of apollyon



THE RETURN OF THE KING

2. II Thess 2 (cont.)

☞ Notice sequence of events in Thessalonians

... The rebellion occurs

... The man of lawlessness is revealed

... He will oppose and exalt himself over God

... Sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God

☞ Christ's glory to be revealed in that day

☞ As they await Christ's return, Christians are to live in ways that demonstrate faithfulness to Jesus



THE RETURN OF THE KING

2. II Thess 2 (cont.)

- ☞ The reality of Jesus' return should not cause alarm for His followers
- ☞ Believers should be thankful to God for what He has done in their lives
- ☞ Believers should recommit themselves to faithful Christian living
- ☞ Believers should be encouraged and strengthened knowing that God Loves them



THE RETURN OF THE KING

3. Matt 13.24-30, 36-43 The parable of the weeds

- ☞ Clear parable relating to the end of the age and the DOTL / ROTK
- ☞ Let them grow together until the harvest – i.e. the rapture
- ☞ “Gather” same term as used in rapture – ties to the use of Noah in Matt 24
- ☞ Multiple references in all gospels to winnowing fork and gathering weeds to be burned



THE RETURN OF THE KING

4. Rom 8.17-18, 11.17-32

- ☞ God's entire creation is geared towards our revealing at Christ's return
- ☞ Picture of what will happen during the tribulation – all of the gentiles that are to be saved will be saved
- ☞ Jews alive during the tribulation that are not Christians, but who remain faithful to God (i.e. do not worship the Anti-Christ) will be saved –



THE RETURN OF THE KING

5. I Cor 15.20-26, 50-58

- ☞ Note sequence of resurrection – Christ, then the firstfruits, those who belong to Him
- ☞ Death is conquered
- ☞ Death and sorrow eternally defeated – clearly Paul identifies v. 50-57 as the DOTL – final and ultimate victory over death
- ☞ Last Trumpet - same battle trumpet as Joel 2.1



THE RETURN OF THE KING

6. I Thes 4.13-18, 5.1-11

☞ Paul references Christ's return / coming / gathering in Ch 1, 2, 3

☞ The church and Judah will be ingathered to stand side by side w/ the Lord in the conduct of the final battle – Paul makes it clear that the first rank of the battle is reserved for the saints who have preceded by death the saints who are raptured



THE RETURN OF THE KING

6. I Thes 4.13-18, 5.1-11 (cont.)

Sequence of events

☞ In Greek – Paul uses “en” before each event to signify sequence

... Lord himself descends from Heaven

... Commanding shout – *Keleuma* – *Military word for giving order*

... loud cry

... Call of the archangel

... trumpet blast - Jewish tradition - Michael sounds the trump - God's impending judgment – same battle trumpet as Joel 2.1

... Dead in Christ shall rise first

... those that are alive shall be caught up together – i.e. the rapture



THE RETURN OF THE KING

7. II Thes 1.5-10

☞ The Lord is revealed on the DOTL – On THE DAY – He comes to be glorified by His Holy People

☞ Description of return and those that are alive taken to GWT judgment

8. I Tim 6.14-15, II Tim 1.10-11, 4.1, Titus 2.13

☞ Appear – << *epiphaneia* >> - the brightness of His appearance/ advent



THE RETURN OF THE KING

9. II Pet 3.8-14 – glory to be revealed in that day

☞ The Lord is not slow in returning – waiting until every person who would be saved is saved

☞ The DOTL – cataclysmic events

☞ Admonition to live righteously

☞ His glory will be revealed in that day



THE RETURN OF THE KING

10. Jude v. 14-19 Jesus returns with the saints

☞ Call to persevere

☞ Picture of the DOTL coinciding w/ Jesus' return



THE RETURN OF THE KING

Conclusion

- ☞ The DOTL is the day of The King's Arrival
- ☞ The DOTL and The Arrival of The King are understood to be one event, by every OT eschatological writer and become the base upon which the super structure of all New Testament eschatology is built
- ☞ The ROTK is the theme of the NT eschatological writers
- ☞ The ROTK includes the rapture or gathering in sequence of that day – NO mention of gathering before His return
- ☞ The New Testament eschatological writers knew that The DOTL is neither elongated nor separated - and they systematically cited Old Testament authors to add evidence of their position



THE RETURN OF THE KING

Conclusion

- ☞ Both the OT and NT eschatological writers tell us that the rapture (the only rapture) occurs in The Day of The Lord
- ☞ The DOTL is the day of The King's Arrival
- ☞ The DOTL is the day He delivers and raptures the righteous line
- ☞ It is The Day which immediately follows the tribulation
- ☞ It is The Day of the final revealing



THE RETURN OF THE KING

Conclusion

- ☞ The NT writers continuously warn us not to be deceived and to live accordingly – be watchful
- ☞ How to live in view of the Lord's return
 - ... Serve Him faithfully - Matt 25.14-30
 - ... Encourage one another - 1 Thes 4.18, 5.11
 - ... Be Alert - 1 Thes 5.6
 - ... Practice self control - 1 Thes 5.6
 - ... Build each other up - 1 Thes 5.11
 - ... Don't let anyone deceive you - 2 Thes 2.3
 - ... Live holy and godly lives - 2 Pet 3.11





Thanks to Greg Ballos

02-27-2006

WHY ARE YOU SO SPECIAL THAT YOU AND ONLY YOU KNOW WHEN THE END IS NEAR, HUH?