

## Sermon Notes

National Presbyterian Church, Washington, DC

David Renwick, February 16, 2020

### “At The Buzzer”

*Luke 17:20-37, 21:1-38; Matthew 25:13; 2 Peter 3:8*

### The “Apocalyptic” World View of Jesus and the Bible

1. History is moving toward a climax (*In the Biblical worldview, time is not meaningless; nor does it go round in repeated circles*)
2. There is another realm of life (*the heavenly, spiritual realm*)
3. Evil is real (*there is a constant battle between good and evil, which often hides, and then reappears dramatically —as in the Holocaust*)
4. What seems permanent/unconquerable is not
5. In our realm, we can catch important glimpses of God=s work B but not the whole
6. We (though seemingly insignificant) are accountable! Be faithful! Watch! . . .
7. God is in charge and WILL one day destroy evil and vindicate faithfulness
  - this destruction of the power of evil will begin with the coming of the Messiah (the “king” of the Kingdom of God)
  - Messiah’s presence will begin the “Messianic Age” = “the Latter or Last Days”
  - The Biblical phrase, “Last Days,” does not indicate that the period of time before the final end is short in human terms. This era may be short or long (*Like the final minutes of a basketball game or overtime in football*)
    - See the Prophets (Isaiah 2:1-4; 11:1-3 with 2 Peter 3:8)
    - See ‘Apocalyptic’ writings in the Bible (like Ezekiel 17 or Dan. 7)
8. The Final destruction of Evil is postponed until a “second coming.”
  - At the first coming, the Messiah King begins the destruction of evil through his miracles, and then – surprisingly -- by suffering and death on the cross.
  - At his second coming, the sacrificial *Lamb* ends evil as the all-powerful Judge (see The Apostles= Creed – “He will come again to judge. .”

### Scriptures on the Second Coming

Personal	[Acts 1:11], John 14:3, 21:20-23
Unexpected	Matt 24:32-52, 25:1-13
No one knows	Mk 13:32, [1 Thess 5:1,2]
Be Prepared	Matt 24:44
Sudden	Matt 24: 27, Luke 17:24
Signs	Luke 21:9 wars, rumors; Matt 24:14, Spread of Gospel; Matt 13:24-30 wheat & tares
bodily, visible	Matt 24:30, [Rev. 1:7, Acts 1:11
glorious	Mark 8:38, Luke 9:26 [Titus 2:11-13]

**Our Call is to live faithfully ‘NOW’ = believing that there is a ‘THEN’ . . .**

### Jesus and The New Testament on the “Timing”

#### Matthew 24:36-44

**36 But about that day and hour no one knows,** neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father . . . 38 For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, 39 and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. 40 Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. 41 Two women will be grinding meat together; one will be taken and one will be left. 42 ***Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming*** . . . 44 Therefore you also must be ready, for ***the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.***

### What About the Millennium and the Rapture?

There is only one passage in one book in the Bible that mentions the millennium: Revelation 20:1-7.

- **The most common millennial view** (made popular by the publication of the Scofield Bible in 1909) is called **“Pre-Millennialism.”** This represents a literal 1000 years in which Christ will reign triumphant on earth, preceded by ***“the rapture”*** – when Christ comes to remove his faithful followers from the earth before a final period of great suffering.

- **The generally held Presbyterian View** is called **“A-Millennialism”**

The “1000 year millennium” is a round number representing the present reign of Christ through the Church, which acts as “salt and light” on the earth until his sudden and triumphant return. This period will have ups and downs. In this view, ***there is no “rapture”*** – the church (along with Jesus himself) faces suffering and difficulty along with everybody else.

The passages used to affirm the rapture are understood to be part of Jesus’ constant warning to his followers “to be on their guard at every moment” – as if Jesus were always present (see above, Matt.24:40, with Luke 17:33-35; 1 Thess. 4:17, Dan.12:1)

### THE DIVINE TIME – LINE: THE OVERLAP OF THE AGES

