

Sermon Notes

National Presbyterian Church, Washington, DC

David Renwick, November 11, 2012

APOCALYPSE: IS THE END NEAR?

Psalms 31:15 *My times are in your hand*

Matthew 4:17 *From that time Jesus began to proclaim,*

“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”

Matthew 6:10 *Thy kingdom come – on earth as it is in heaven*

The World View of the Bible

1. History is moving toward a climax
2. Evil is real
3. What seems permanent/unconquerable is not
4. We can catch important glimpses of God's work but not the whole
5. We are accountable! Be faithful! Watch! . . .
6. God is in charge and WILL destroy evil and vindicate faithfulness
 - this will begin with the coming of the Messiah
[“*Messiah*” is Hebrew for the Greek, “*Christ*,” and the English “*Anointed*”]
 - Messiah's presence will begin the “*Messianic Age*” = “the *Latter/Last Days*”
 - The phrase “*Last Days*” does not indicate that the period of time is short.
This era may be short or long (*Like the final minutes of a basketball game or over-time in football*)
 - See The Prophets (Isaiah 2:1-4; 11:1-3)
 - See ‘Apocalyptic’ writings in the Bible (like Ezekiel 17 or Daniel 7)
7. Christ/Messiah has come, and not all is well!
He was going to be a *Warrior*
. . . he turns out to be a *Lamb*! (see John the Baptist, Lk.7:19)
8. Messiah's work will not be Complete until there is a second, final “*Coming*”
The Apostles Creed – Christ comes for redemption *and* for judgment

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 vibrantly ‘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.**

2 Peter 3: 8-9

8 . . . ***with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day.*** 9 The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is ***patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance.***

What About the Millennium?

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

1. Post-Millennial NOW 1000 years is figurative
(popular in the 1800's)

Bringing in a golden age: A long period of righteousness and peace; world eventually Christianized = OT Latter days see Is.9:11; Ps 22:27
= Parables leaven Matt 13:33; Christ's eventual return

2. A-Millennial NOW 1000 years is figurative
(Generally the Presbyterian view)

Represents the present reign of Christ through the Church, or the reign of the saints in the church triumphant; Ends with Christ's sudden return

3. Pre-Millennial FUTURE literal 1000 years: A two-phase return
(Popular in the United States since the publication of the Scofield Bible in 1909)

a. The Rapture (only Matt.24:21, Dan.12:1)

Christ comes for the church, his bride, Either pre-tribulation Or post-tribulation

b. The Return (A Revelation seen by all)

Subdues the anti-Christ, Brings in a 1000 year reign of peace, ending with brief, fierce satanic rebellion, and ultimate resurrection.

4. Pan-Millennial ?! In the end, everything will . . .