

WORDS AND IDEAS IN LAST THINGS

Eschatology- from two Greek words "eschatos" and "logos". Eschatos means "last" and logos means "study of". It is the study of last things and the title of our course.

Millennium- from two latin words "mille" means one thousand and "annum" means year. Found in Rev. 20:4 and 12:5 and refers to the 1000 year rule of Christ.

Premillennium- simply means Christ will return before the 1000 year reign. He will come personally and visibly Matt. 25:21-34 compares to Rev. 19:11-20:6 to describe this event.

Postmillennium- means Christ will come back after a 1000 years of peace on the earth. This was popular in the 19th and early 20th century. History would evolve to heaven on earth idea in this.

Amillennium- the Greek letter "a" means that everything is negated and means "no". So, it means there will be no millennium. Prophecy of the event is symbolic and Satan is bound by the church age we live in as mentioned in Rev. 20:3.

Mystery- this word in Greek comes in the New Testament as a word that means something that is known by the initiated members of an exclusive group. So, in the NT it is the plan of God that has been kept hidden through the prior ages being revealed. To the disciples and apostles these truths were known Rom. 11:25, ICor.4:1, Col 1:26.

Pre-Mid-Post Tribulation- these are the theories that surround the rapture of the church(I Thess 4:13-18). Will the rapture occur before, in the middle of, or after the tribulation period is what this deals with. Tribulation is the final seven year period when the "man of sin" arises and reigns(Matt 24:15&21, Dan.9:27). Pre-tribulationist believe IThess.1:9-10;5:9 Rom 5:9 point to the rapture of the church prior to tribulation. Rev. 6:17 is often used in this theory.

Rapture- this deals with the resurrected saints being carried into heaven at Christ's return. It is not in the Bible, it comes from a Latin word that means to "transport".

Dispensation- this is another term used to describe a period of time in scripture. History is divided in to dispensations, or ages, with each one carrying a significant place in the plan of God. Even the seven churches in Rev. 1-3 are interpreted as ages of the church, with each church representing a different "dispensational period."

Day of the Lord- used throughout the scripture to describe the end of time for the Jews. God will be supreme, He will judge and destroy the wicked, He will judge and bless the faithful and He will bring salvation to the Jews. This idea is incorporated into apocalyptic writings throughout the Old and New Testament.

COMMON THEMES IN APOCALYPTIC LITERATURE

Apocalyptic means a disclosure, unveiling or revelation. It was a common form of literature in ancient times and has basic ideas throughout it. Comes from "apo" meaning "from" and "kalipsis" meaning "that which is hidden". Rev.1:1

1. Dualism- good and evil, light and darkness are fighting on a cosmic and personal scale.
2. Eschatology- all look toward an end time when good wins out over evil. Rev.21-22
3. Vision(s)- can be a dream or trance or be in the spirit. It is a way the material human can get outside of time and space Rev1:10.
4. Messiah- an "elect one" comes to win and lead his armies to victory, then reward the righteous for their service. Rev19:11-21.
5. Angels and Demons- each are on opposing sides. They usually have ranks, authority and ultimate purposes.Rev 20:1-2
6. Animal Symbolism- their appearance, shapes, color and so forth all have specific meanings to the text.Rev.12:3
7. Numerology- numbers have more meaning than just keeping count. They have specific symbolism and meanings. Sevens repeat in Revelation.
8. Predicted Woes- heavenly and earthly disasters take place.
9. Colors- each color represents a meaning or event.
- 10.Pessimistic View- that the world can't be saved except through divine intervention. Optimistic only in ultimate rebuilding of the world without evil.
- 11.Explain Evil- Satan causes it and hope comes from it that leads to faith in a better life. Evil is passing good is forever.
- 12.Determinism- all things have purpose and meaning Rom 8:28
- 13.Victory- victory is always won by the good, the light and the divine forces of each.

CHURCH DISPENSATIONS IN REVELATION

This is a theory that each of the seven churches represents a different period (dispensation) of church history. It states that Ephesus is the end of the Apostolic Age and Laodicea, the last church, is our present age. This is a simplified overview of this theory that has quite a bit more detail with each age.

EPHESUS – This dispensation is a period of the cooling off of love and devotion for Christ. It is considered the end of the Apostolic Age and the start of second generation believers.

SMYRNA – This dispensation is the period of church martyrs and Christ never condemns it. This church receives a letter of comfort and encouragement. Some say there were 10 Roman persecutions of the church in this period, and it corresponds to the “10 days of tribulation.”

PERGAMOS – This period is where the church and the Roman state marry. Emperor Constantine declares himself a Christian in this time and exalts the Christian church as the state church. “Where Satan’s seat is” is thought to be Rome and the Nicolaitan doctrine is the elevation of the clergy and Pope.

THYATIRA – Considered the age where the church is an adulterous woman or Jezebel with the nations. It is the age of the Crusades, Inquisitions and holy wars where an estimated 50 million people die as a result of the church intervention into the nation’s affairs.

SARDIS – This is the Reformation Period of church history starting @1517 with Martin Luther. Those “names” that have not defiled their garments are the Reformers such as Calvin, Zwingli, Mantz, Luther and Wesley.

PHILADEPHIA – This age would be an age of “brotherly love” from the name of the church. It would be the start of missions with William Carey @1792. Later Judson, Luther Rice and others follow. “I have set before thee and open door.”

LAODICEA – This dispensation would be the contemporary period of the church where she is neither hot, nor cold, but blind and at ease with her riches. “I am rich and increased with goods and have need of nothing.”