

Beginning Apologetics – The End Times

The Second Coming II

September 27, 2009

“Learn to explain our faith *clearly*, to defend it *charitably*, and to share it *confidently*.”

I. The Second Coming II – Review

A. Can we predict the date of the Second Coming?

B. EVEN SO...there have *always* been those who tried to predict the Second Coming

1. And the list goes on...see chart at this [link](#)
2. Three of note: Mormons, Seventh Day Adventists, Jack Van Impe

C. Why didn't Christ just *give us an appointment*?

D. How will Christ come back?

1. Matthew 24:26 – “So if they say to you, 'He is in the desert,' do not go out there; if they say, 'He is in the inner rooms,' do not believe it.”
2. There are many incorrect teachings out there about how Christ will return.
3. What does the Bible teach about the manner of Christ's return? (Rev 1:7, Matthew 24:30-31, Matthew 24:27, Matthew 25:31-32, Acts 1:9-11)

E. What happens at The Second Coming?

1. The end of the world
2. The end of time (only eternity remains after the Second Coming)
3. The end of Purgatory (all who are still in Purgatory will enter heaven)
4. The end of death (those who are alive will not experience death (1 Cor 15:51-52, 1 Thess 4:17)
5. The General Resurrection
6. The General Judgment ([Matt 25:31-46](#) , and [Rev 20:1-15](#))

7. The Universal Restoration

II. The Rapture – Introduction

A. What is the “Rapture”?

1. The Rapture is a term taken from 1 Thessalonians 4:17:
 - a) *“Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Thus we shall always be with the Lord.”*
 - b) *From the Latin verb here used, rapiemur, has come the idea of “the rapture,”*
 - c) *This construction combines this verse with Matthew 24:40-41 (see the note there) // Luke 17:34-35 and passages from Revelation in a scheme of millennial dispensationalism.*
2. The “Left Behind” series has done much to advance this view
3. Even Catholics get caught up into this error, which is a MISTAKE. The Dispensationalist view of Christ’s return is just plain WRONG.

B. Eschatological Formulations and their problems(?)

1. There are four main approaches to eschatology prominent among Christian denominations today:
 - a) *Post-tribulation Premillennialism*
 - b) *Pre-tribulation (or Dispensational) Premillennialism*
 - c) *Post-millennialism*
 - d) *Amillennialism*

C. The Catholic View of the Rapture

1. As stated above, the term comes from the Latin.
2. St. Paul was teaching that those alive at the time of the Second Coming would not experience death, but would be “caught up” with the saints already with Christ.
3. This interpretation (“amillennialism”) is shared by Orthodox Christians, most Protestants, and even many Fundamentalists.

D. The “Fundamentalist View of the Rapture

1. Really should be termed the “Dispensationalist” view of the Rapture (not all Fundamentalists buy into it)
2. This interpretation of 1 Thess 4:17 was popularized by John Nelson Darby, a former Anglican priest, in the 1830’s. (picture [here](#))
3. Divides history into seven distinct “Dispensations”, periods of time with their own role and purpose in God’s plan (see chart [here](#))
4. WE will focus on two specific aspects of Dispensationalism and their problems:
 - a) *The view of Christ’s coming;*
 - b) *The view of The Church*

E. Darby’s Teachings

1. At Christ’s first coming, Israel rejected Him, so Christ turned to the Gentiles
 2. He temporarily turned away from the Jews to punish them for rejecting Christ (Israel’s prophetic clock stops ticking).
 3. When the Dispensation of the Church/Gentiles is fulfilled, Christ returns IN SECRET to get his people and return to Heaven.
 4. A seven-year period of Tribulation and destruction on Earth will follow; the Anti-Christ reigns
 5. After the Tribulation, Christ returns *publicly* and defeats the Anti-Christ
 6. The Jews will then accept Jesus as their Messiah (cf. Rom 11:25-26) and will become the kingdom people
 7. Christ reigns on Earth for a thousand years (cf. Rev 20:4)
 8. All Old Testament prophecies about Israel will be fulfilled during this time
- After the thousand-year reign, Satan will be unleashed and quickly conquered, And THEN the world will end.
9. THIS is why Dispensationalists focus on the State of Israel’s creation in 1948 (Israel’s prophetic clock restarted!)

III. Problems with the Dispensationalist View of the Rapture

A. A Faulty View of the Church

1. The view that the Church is a make-shift measure benefiting the Gentiles is *unbiblical*.

- a) *The Church is the Body of Christ ([Eph 5:23](#); [Col 1:24](#))*
- b) *The Church is the New Jerusalem (Rev 21:2; Rev 21:14 and Eph 2:19-22)*
- c) *The Church is the Kingdom of Heaven*
- d) *The Church is the Bride of Christ the Jesus marries at the end of time*
- e) *Jesus promised to be with His Church until the end of time*

2. This view that the Church is just a passing phase until the Kingdom of Israel is restored

- a) *is found nowhere in Scripture.*
- b) *Contradicts clear Biblical evidence that the Kingdom of God is the Church*
- c) *Prominent Dispensationalists teach that the Church is the false religion that will align itself with the Anti-Christ (the Whore of Babylon of Rev 18)!*