**LOGOS BIBLE STUDY**

**LESSON 116: ESCHATOLOGY – END TIME EVENTS**

The study of the prophetic end of the age and the events leading up to and dealing with the return of Christ and the establishment of His Kingdom on earth will not be covered in this curriculum. The reason is that this curriculum deals with Biblical facts and not theory or conjecture. Facts regarding eschatology cannot be presented until after the prophesied events have occurred and are then able to be understood. All contemporary teachings on eschatology are speculations based on the varied interpretations of Bible prophecies, and the variations of these prophesies are as numerous as those that teach them.

Variations on the numerous theories of end-time events are based on which principle of interpretation or view of eschatology is being considered. There is the historist view and the preterist view. Historisim (or the historical principle) of interpretation holds that biblical references need to be interpreted based on the customs, culture and historical context of the people and the times in which they were given. Preterism, (from the Latin p*raeter* meaning *past*), is the view that most predicted events have already been fulfilled, and IN particular deals with events referred to in Matthew 24 surrounding the destruction of Jerusalem by Titus in 70 A.D.

In addition there are the various end-time views regarding the “rapture” or catching away of the saints as mentioned in 1 Thessalonians 5:16-17. These views are known in the “premillennial” view and describe the “catching away” as pre-tribulation, mid-tribulation and post-tribulation “rapture”. Also a part of these views is the presence of a person referred to as the “anti-christ”. Each view is dealing with, and at what point with respect to the “seven year tribulation”, that the rapture occurs prior to the return of Christ.

Much of the conjecture regarding end-time events is based on references from the Book of Daniel and combining them with the Book of Revelation. The topic of the “seven year tribulation” and a person referred to as “the anti-christ” is speculation or theory based on references made in the Book of Daniel. “Antichrist” is never actually mentioned in the Book of Daniel. It is important to recognize that the Book Daniel is written to the nation of Israel and its descendants (Daniel 10:14); while the Book of Revelation was written the Church (Revelation 1:11).

It is important to recognize that these two books were written to two different groups of people at two different times in history. The one thing they have in common is they both refer to events at the end of this age. Note also that antichrist is only mentioned in the New Testament, not in the Old Testament, in particular, the Book of Daniel. In the New Testament “antichrist” is not mentioned as a person but as a “spirit” in 1 John 4:3, and was declared to be already present in the world. In 1 John 2:18-19 we read that there are “many” antichrists and that they were operating in and among the saints (church). So it appears that much current teaching about “the” antichrist is not in harmony with scripture.

Many errors and false theories surrounding eschatology have been generated by merging both of these books together and supposing that the events described in each book all refer to one people at one point in time.

One thing that we can be sure of is what the angel of the Lord said specifically about Jesus Christ in Acts 1:11, that he would return to earth the same way he left, and according the apostle Paul He was returning for those who believe in Him – 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 and 2 Thessalonians 2:1. Even that event has been presented in various theories called “premillennialism”, “postmillennialism” and “amillennialism”. The “millennium” refers to the one thousand year reign of Christ on earth, as listed in Revelation Chapter 20. “Premillennial” refers to Christ returning before that thousand years; postmillennial refers to Christ’s return after that thousand years; “amillennial” refers to Christ not returning literally but only symbolically in the hearts of His people who reign on earth in His stead.

Even within each of the above mentioned views and theories there are multiple variations being taught. Therefore it is this authors’ intention to leave theory and speculation in favor of fact, and fact cannot be presented until all is fulfilled and made known to our understanding.

CONCLUSION: hold fast to God’s Word and His promises, knowing that He is ultimately in control of all future events. Trust God and obey His commands and do not be fearful of what lay ahead – Proverbs 3:5-6.

Ecclesiastes 12:13 – *Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear* (revere) *God, and keep His commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.*