

## **A Study of Eschatology**

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Eschatology / Eschatology / Revelation 1:1-3

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*These are a few definitions we cover in the first lesson. As we go along in this series, we will go more in depth in each of these and (Lord willing) we will add more to this sheet.*

**Eschatology** - “Eschatology is the study of last things in relationship to the second coming of Jesus Christ. It is the science of prophetic study drawn from the Holy Scriptures.” -Tom Ross, *Elementary Eschatology* page 1.

**Rapture** - The word itself does not appear in the Bible but comes from the Latin. It means to catch away or to be caught up. This has to do with the saints being caught up by the Lord when He comes in the air. The word may not be there, but the teaching sure is:

[1 Thessalonians 4:14-18](#)

**Millennium** - From two Latin words, mille; meaning a thousand, and annus; meaning year. You’ll not find this word in the Bible but you will find it taught in the Bible. The Holy Spirit uses the words “thousand years” six times in six verses to describe the exact period of time the Lord Jesus Christ will reign upon the earth:

[Revelation 20:1-7](#)

**PreTrib and Premill Return of the Lord** - This is the position that the rapture is going to take place BEFORE a LITERAL 7 year tribulation period and a LITERAL 1000 year earthly reign of Christ.

There are other belief systems out there, and we may mention some of those in our studies but I am only defining for now what I believe to be the true Scriptural view.

**Revelation** - The word Revelation is *apokalupsis* in the Greek, which means “to unveil or reveal.” Beware of men who try to make it into something hidden or secret.

THE GOLDEN RULE OF BIBLE INTERPRETATION: “When the plain sense of Scripture makes common sense, seek no other sense; therefore, take every word at its primary, ordinary, usual, literal meaning unless the facts of the immediate context studied in the light of related passages and axiomatic and fundamental truths, indicate clearly otherwise.” - J. E. Cobb

The title is the Revelation of Jesus Christ, NOT the Revelations of Jesus Christ or the Revelation of St John. “Things that must come to pass..” Our future is not up to fate, chance or luck, but it is predestinated.

**Dispensationalism**- I believe in dispensations, but not what some teach as dispensationalism. Some use it as a system to deny much of the the Bible today. The men of the Old Testament were saved the same way as the men of the New Testament. The difference is they were saved looking forward to what Jesus would do....we are saved looking back at what He did. But we all been saved by grace through faith. Nobody has ever been saved through any work.

I reject Hyper-Dispensationalism, which is what Scofield taught in his Scofield Reference Bible. Scofield defined “dispensation” as follows: “A period of time during which man is tested in respect to obedience in some respect to some specific revelation to the will of God.”

I agree with the editor of the Baptist Examiner dated 09/07/1963 (who happened to be John R Gilpin) when he wrote:

“Now where does Scofield get that definition? Certainly, he does not get it from the Bible, for the Bible nowhere comes close to such an idea. Furthermore, the source of Scofield's notion is the Arminian idea relative to man's "ability" to obey. The hyper-dispensational notion is that God tried to save men one way, then another way, then another, and finally came up with grace.”

He goes on to write, “No one who has read the Bible with any attention denies that God has dispensed His grace in different forms in various ages, but this is quite a different matter, than the "testing" theory hyper-dispensationalists advocate. God's Law, which requires righteousness and condemns for lack of it, and the Gospel, which proclaims righteousness in Christ and brings it to our knowledge, have always been in effect, even though dispensed in different ways. The periods of time when these were dispensed in different ways might truly be called "dispensations." But where Scofield and other hyper-dispensationalists get their definitions and theories is yet to be revealed.”

**Israel and the Church** - This has only gotten complex because men have made it so. Some want to take all the Old Testament blessings for Israel and pass them on to the Gentile church while leaving Israel all the curses of the Old Testament. This clearly has some specific physical promises to physical Israel. They are distinct even into this present age, and going on into the Tribulation Period and Millennium.

[Hosea 3:4-5](#)

**Baptist Bride** -. The Bible teaches that the Lord will have a special people who will make up His bride. This will be a Baptist bride. Not every Baptist will be in the bride, but the bride will be made up of what we know today as Baptists.

[2 Corinthians 11:1-2](#)

[Revelation 21:9-14](#)

Note: I reject the idea that she will be Queen of Heaven or that others will bow down to her. This kind of thinking is not Biblical, nor is it historic Baptist doctrine.

The central figure in heaven will be Jesus. ALL will worship Him!

GOD'S PROPHETIC TIMELINE (very briefly):

1. The Last Days
2. The Lord's Return in the Air For His People
3. Seven Year Tribulation Period on the Earth
4. The Lord's Return to the Earth
5. Battle Of Armageddon
6. 1000 Year Reign Of Christ
7. Eternity