**The End is Nigh!**

*Learning about Catholic (Universal) Eschatology*

Sunday, June 2nd, 2019

**Getting Started (101):** How should Christians think or feel about the topic of the end of the world?

Two Errors:

* *Eschatophobia*: The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of learning or thinking about the end times.
* *Eschatomania*: The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of learning or thinking about the end times.

***Main Idea:*** As Christians,the study of Eschatology (The doctrine of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_) is important because it engenders [creates] in us knowledge that leads to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and also yields \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in our souls.

**Discussion Question:** Where in the Bible do we learn about the “Apocalypse?” (Apocalypse from apokalypsis 🡪 “revealing” or “unveiling”)

**Interpretive Methodology (201):** How do we read and interpret (method) texts in Scripture that are apocalyptic in genre?

1. *Preterism*: Some (~~or all~~) of the events described in apocalyptic Scripture have \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. (example: the destruction of the temple in 70 AD)
2. *Historicism*: Events described in apocalyptic Scripture happen \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ history. (example: Babylon/Beast in Revelation = rise of the Roman Papacy)
3. *Futurism*: Events described in apocalyptic Scripture happen in the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. (Revelation 4 and on has yet to happen and will happen during the last days)
4. *Idealism*: Events described in apocalyptic Scripture are not to be understood in terms of time sequence, but are simple \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ that the church will experience until the return of Christ. (Tribulation = persecution throughout history)
5. Eclecticism: There is no method that is universal in interpreting apocalyptic Scripture.

**Text Example:** Matthew 24:9-21 (Which method do we use?)

**The Millennium (301)**:

* How one chooses to read apocalyptic Scripture will directly influence what “camp” one ends up in, especially regarding Revelation 20 and the *Millennium.*
* Read Revelation 20:1-3
* *Millennium*: A specific period of time where Jesus Christ reigns, ultimately connected to the coming end of time (Final Judgement + Eternal State).

**The Millennium in Church History (\*Simplification\*)**

* The Church Fathers adopted a rudimentary form of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* Pre-Medieval Theologians through the Reformation (300 – 1600 A.D.) were primarily convinced of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* Post-Reformation Enlightenment Puritans (late 1600’s) endorsed \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, which was the primarily belief up until the World Wars.
* Post-World War America, especially Post-1948, saw a sharp increase in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, especially a specific branch called \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**What do the prefixes mean?!**

1. Premillennialism: Jesus Christ will physically reign on the Earth for 1,000 years (or a long time).
2. Postmillennialism: The spread of the Gospel will be so successful as to lead to a “golden age” thus ushering in the return of Jesus.
3. Amillennialism: no literal physical reign of Christ on Earth – for the Millennium refers to the current Church Age (Inaugurated Eschatology: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_)

**Mapping the Specific Eschatology “Camps” (401):**

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|  | **Key Scriptures** | **Strengths** | **Weaknesses** |
| **Postmillennialism** | Psalms 47; 72; 97, Matthew 13:31-32; 28:18-20 | Confidence in mission Argument from History  Hopeful Optimism | Dating of Revelation  Too optimistic?  Scripture support |
| **Amillennialism** | Isaiah 65:17-25  Matthew 24 | Already/Not Yet  Reality of Persecution  Genre of Revelation | 1,000 years?  Spiritualizing vs. Literal (When and How?)  Romans 11? |
| **Premillennialism** | Revelation 20:1-6  Romans 11 | Chronological Structure of Revelation  Literal View of OT Prophecy and Fulfillment | Christ Reigns Today  Israel = Church? |
| **Pre-Tribulation Premillennialism** | 1 Thess. 4:13-18  1 Corinthians 15:51-58 | Biblical Sense of Urgency | Too literal?  Escapism  1 passage dominated |