

# Officer Training



Emmanuel Presbyterian Church



# Eschatology

The Doctrine of  
The End Times



# What is Eschatology?

- The study of "Last Things"
- Resurrection of the Dead
- Antichrist
- Return of Christ
- Judgment Day
- Heaven & Hell











# Hermeneutical Approaches

to John's Apocalypse  
(Revelation)



# Genre

the form or mode of  
communication



# Apocalyptic Literature

• is the product of a religious community that feels threatened by a larger outside culture. In response to this threat of annihilation the community produces symbolic literature that connects its own perspective of the eschaton (the end of the world) with the reality of its present physical tribulation. The community then processes its suffering through the lens of a spiritual reality from which they expect deliverance. In other words, this literature gives the community hope & perspective in the midst of trial. Apocalyptic Literature is simultaneously grounded in past & present physical realities and in future anticipated realities all at the same time, because it is all connected to a spiritual realm that transcends this one.



# Literary Forms in Revelation

- Epistolary
- Predictive Ritual descriptions of objects & performances
- Allegorical Narrative
- Narrative Interjections



# Hermeneutical Approaches

• Futurist

• Preterist

• Historicist

• Eclectic

• Symbolic



# Futurist Approach

- The futurist approach understands everything from Rev. 4:1 forward to be a prophecy of things that are to occur just before the Second Coming of Christ. In other words, all of these prophesied events are still in the future from the perspective of the twenty-first century.



# Historicist Approach

- The historicist approach understands Revelation to be a prophecy of church history from the first advent until the 2nd Coming of Christ.



# Symbolic Approach

- The symbolic approach maintains that Revelation does not contain prophecies of specific historical events. Instead, it uses symbols to express timeless principles concerning the conflict between good and evil.



# Preterist Approach

- The preterist approach to Revelation maintains that most (or all) of the prophecies in the book of Revelation were fulfilled not long after John wrote. In other words, their fulfillment is past from the perspective of the twenty-first century.



# Eclectic Approach

- The eclectic approach utilizes the preterist, symbolic, and futurist methods in such a way that the strengths of each are maximized and the weaknesses minimized.



# Millennialism

in John's Apocalypse  
(Revelation)



# Millennial Views

- Dispensational Premillennialism
- Historic Premillennialism
- Amillennialism
- Postmillennialism
- Preterism



# Dispensational Premillennialism

- Dispensational Premillennialism is the belief that Christ will literally reign on the earth for 1,000 years at his 2nd coming. The doctrine is called premillennialism because it views the current age as prior to Christ's kingdom. Premillennialism is largely based upon a literal interpretation of Rev. 20 which describes Christ's coming to the earth and subsequent reign at the end of an apocalyptic period of tribulation.



# Dispensational Premillennialism

- Premillennialism maintains there are 3 comings of Christ with the 2nd being the rapture (1Thess. 4:16-17) before, or during, the 7 year tribulation and a 3rd coming at the beginning of the millennium. It views the millennium as a time of fulfillment for the prophetic hope of Israel based on a particular interpretation of Rom. 9-11.



# Historic Premillennialism

- Historic premillennialism (post-tribulation premillennialism) teaches that the second coming of Jesus Christ will occur prior to a thousand-year reign of the saints, but subsequent to the tribulation.



# Amillennialism

- Amillennialism is named for its denial of a future, thousand-year, physical reign of Jesus Christ on the earth. The amillennial view holds that the number of years in Rev. 20 is symbolic, not a literal description; that the millennium has already begun and is identical with the church age; and that while Christ's reign is spiritual in nature during the millennium, at the end of the church age, Christ will return in final judgment and establish permanent physical reign.



# Postmillennialism

- Postmillennialism is an interpretation of Rev. 20 which sees Christ's 2nd coming as occurring after the Millennium, a Golden Age or era of Christian prosperity and dominance.



# Preterism

- Preterism maintains that most (or all) of the prophecies in Revelation were fulfilled at or around the destruction of the temple in 70 AD. Radical Preterism maintains all prophecies including Christ's 2nd coming have been fulfilled. Partial Preterism still looks forward to a 2nd coming.



# Reading

- Frame, chs. 22-23
- Sprout, Sec. X
- See Handout