

Eschatology - Part 2

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I. Introduction.

A. Review:

1. The 490-year period is broken into three periods.
2. The period will end when Messiah comes, however there was a parenthesis in the program before the last seven years because Messiah was rejected by the Jews.
3. The missing seven-year period is the key to prophecy. This is explained in Daniel with the coming of the “abomination of desolations.”
4. God raised up the Jews to evangelize the world and to be the lineage of Christ.

B. The age of the Gentiles and the Church age will end simultaneously. The “end of the age” refers to the end of the age of the Gentiles.

II. The time of the Gentiles.

A. Nebuchadnezzar and the vision of empires. (Daniel 2)

1. He conquered Jerusalem and took them into captivity.
2. He started having dreams and when his dreams could not be interpreted by his men, Daniel stood up promising to interpret and tell him the dream so that his companions would not be executed.
3. Daniel interpreted his dream and told him that it was illustrating the nations that would come to rule the world. To illustrate, the dream used a human body made of different materials depicting the four world empires that would come to power successively. True to the dream, the Medo-Persians would take over the Babylonians when the Euphrates River had dropped.
4. The empires were the Babylonians, the Medo-Persians, the Macedonians and lastly the Romans. The fourth empire would ultimately be revived. (Revelation 13:3)
5. History happened just as Daniel described. His book is the most attacked book in the Bible because of the historicity of the prophecies.

B. The break in history.

1. The Roman Empire existed as a single entity and will be reunited again. No world empire will exist in between these two events. There is a separation between the day that Jesus will come as a Lamb and a Lion - hence, Jesus quoting Isaiah in Luke stops before discussing the day of vengeance. (Isaiah 61:1-2; Luke 4:18)
2. Paul said that this “parenthetical” period was not known to the Old Testament prophets. (Ephesians 2-5)
3. The evidence that we know about the end is biblical (Daniel 2:44). Christ will set up His kingdom in the time of the kings mentioned here.

C. The final government. (Daniel 10:44)

1. An outsider will subdue three of the ten kingdom confederacies.
2. The outsider will extend his power over the world. Satan will use this man to deceive the world. He will be a counterfeit Christ having a counterfeit kingdom.
3. The Anti-Christ will be worshipped as God.

D. The timing of Christ’s return. (Matthew 24:15)

1. When the “Abomination of Desolations” is standing in the Temple, then Christ will return. Paul explains this one as the Anti-Christ who will declare himself as God in the Temple. (II Thessalonians 2)
2. God forever isolates this man, the Devil and the false prophet.

III. Review.

- A. Four world empires existed and the last will be revived as a ten-confederacy state.
- B. A man will take control of it and he will proclaim to the world that he is God.
- C. Three and a half years will pass and Christ will return.

IV. Discussion.

- A. The time of the Gentiles is a biblical term designating the domination of the Gentiles. God’s purpose during this age is to take out the people from the Gentiles, a people for His name - the church. (Acts 15:14)

B. In the end apostasy will happen in the Church and the Temple will be in existence.

C. Some have said the European economic union is a forerunner to this new empire, but one has to be careful about being dogmatic about current events.

D. It is possible that the Anti-Christ is alive today.

E. Do not be discouraged at not having all the answers to end-time events immediately.

Application questions.

1. Summarize the past history and the future events of the Gentile kingdoms. What past kingdom will be revived and ruled by the “Abomination of Desolations?” Who is this person?

2. What is the purpose of the period of the Gentiles? Why do you see God pausing His program with the Jews temporarily?

3. What relevance do you find to this information in your life? What does this teach you about God? What does this teach you about the world? Explain your ideas.
