

1 The Coming Apocalypse

2 Introduction

- No generation has more reasons to believe that they are the last generation before the coming of Christ than this one we live in today.
- With this in mind, I'm not advocating we sell our possessions and run for the hills.
- Nor am I wanting to make everyone so anxious that they put their heads in the sand and not do anything to make their light shine.

3 Introduction

- What I'm wanting to do is encourage everyone . . .
 - To become a student of Bible prophecy.
 - To pay attention to what is going on in the world—especially the Middle East.
 - Understand that no matter what happens, nothing can separate us from the love of Christ.

4 Theological Position

- To help everyone comprehend what I'm about to share tonight, I first want to outline my position and understanding on End-time events.
 - I'm a premillennialist and understand according to the scriptures Jesus will return before the Millennium—a 1,000 year period of peace and prosperity.
 - I believe the armies of the Antichrist will belong to a 10 Nation Confederation that will be Islamic, which will be defeated at the battle of Armageddon by the Second Coming of Christ.
 - While I believe the influence of the Antichrist will be global, his absolute control and power will be limited to the Middle East. He will use his position and power to persecute many Jews and Christians who live in that region of the world.

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- When God brings the Great Tribulation period to a close, it will be marked by the appearance of an astrological sign where the sun, moon, and stars become particularly obscured by the debris of a huge meteor strike.
 - At this time, [God] will send his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other. (Matt 24:31 NIV). This will be the rapture.
 - When the meteor strikes the earth, $\frac{1}{3}$ of all people, animals, and fish will be destroyed—the name of this meteor will be Wormwood.
 - This will mark the beginning of The Day of the Lord when God will pour out his wrath upon the earth—especially those who have taken the mark of the Beast.

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- Once the Day of the Lord is over . . .

- The Antichrist & False Prophet will be thrown into the Lake of Burning Fire.
- Satan will be chained and thrown into the Abyss.
- We Christians (having glorified bodies) will rule and reign with Christ on the earth for a 1,000 years.
- Then after the 1,000 years is over, Satan will once again be set free.
 - He will deceive the nations to rebel, but his rebellion will be quickly put down.
 - Satan will be thrown into the Lake of Burning Fire and will never be released again.
 - A new Heaven & Earth will be created and never again will there be a reason to rebel against God.
 - God the Father will make His throne on the New Earth—no more tears or sorrows.

7 Daniel's 70 Weeks

- “Seventy ‘sevens’ are decreed for your people and your holy city to 1) finish transgression, 2) to put an end to sin, 3) to atone for wickedness, 4) to bring in everlasting righteousness, 5) to seal up vision and prophecy and 6) to anoint the most holy.
- “Know and understand this: From the issuing of the decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until the Anointed One, the ruler, comes, there will be seven ‘sevens,’ and sixty-two ‘sevens.’
- It will be rebuilt with streets and a trench, but in times of trouble. After the sixty-two ‘sevens,’ the Anointed One will be cut off and will have nothing.
- The people of the ruler (Roman Middle Eastern Auxiliaries) who will come will destroy the city and the sanctuary.
- The end will come like a flood: War will continue until the end, and desolations have been decreed. He (Antichrist) will confirm a covenant with many for one ‘seven.’ In the middle of the ‘seven’ he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on a wing [of the temple] he will set up an abomination that causes desolation, until the end that is decreed is poured out on him.” (Dan 9:24–27 NIV)

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11 Summary of Position

- So then I'm a premillennialist, who believes that the events of Jesus' Second Coming are futuristic and will be primarily centered in the Middle East with the rapture of the Saints occurring before the Day of the Lord.
- However, I know that not everyone believes the way I do.

- In fact, many churches have a totally different perspective and some don't even believe Jesus will return to the earth.
- So to understand what other churches believe and why, let us look at how they interpret Revelation 20:4–6.

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13 Comparison of Views

14 Millennialism

- Almost every religion has something in their belief system where a golden age of peace and prosperity will come to the earth—usually after some cataclysmic event(s).
- In fact, Nazism had a millennial period in their ideology—it was called the Third Reich where the German people (Arians) would rule the world for a 1,000 years.
- For most of Christian history, the church has been either Premillennial or Amillennial. However, during the 19th Century a minority opinion took shape called Postmillennialism.
- This optimistic point-of-view promotes the idea that Satan will gradually be defeated by the expansion of the Kingdom of God through evangelism and/or social reform.
- Churches connected to the 19th Century Postmillennialism (bottom up) are the Salvation Army, some Methodists, and some Reformed Churches.
- Postmillennialists are either Preterists or Historicists.

15 Dominion Theology

- While Postmillennialism died out in the first half of the 20th Century, it has now taken on a new form called “top down” or Dominion Theology.
- The main point of Dominion Theology is the belief that society should be governed exclusively by the law of God, as codified in the Bible.
- Among Christian charismatics, this movement is known as the Kingdom Now movement that promotes the idea that God is looking for people who will take back from Satan the dominion originally given to Adam and Eve.
- According to this movement, strongholds (political opposition) are in reality held together by demonic forces and can be overcome through spiritual warfare.
- This Kingdom Now movement is also heavily influenced by the “Latter Rain” teachings and is almost fully supported by what is called the New Apostolic Reformation led by C. Peter Wagner.

16 Latter Day Rain

- The “Latter Day Rain” theology is based on the idea that in the last days, God will send a great revival to the earth. Its chief reference is found in Joel 2:23.

- Be glad then, ye children of Zion, and rejoice in the LORD your God: for he hath given you the former rain moderately, and he will cause to come down for you the rain, the former rain, and the latter rain in the first month. (Joel 2:23 KJV)
- So, many in the Apostolic Reformation movement believe that in the book of Joel there is a direct promise of a huge revival that will come in the last days and majorly transform everyone who seeks God for this blessing.
- According to this movement, those who experience this promise will become members of Joel’s Army and be the fulfillment of what the Apostle Paul calls as the “manifest sons of God,” who will liberate and transform society—where the rule of God is observed.
- Then Jesus will come back and give everyone a big “pat” on the back.

17 My Humble Opinion

- I don’t know about you, but up until recently, I had no idea that this Postmillennial and Latter Rain theology was the driving force behind the Apostolic and Prophetic movement.
- I figured they were just revivalistic because they wanted to see signs, wonders, and miracles.
- Little did I know that they expected to take over key elements of society through a huge revival.
- Why would they not mention this up front?

18 Conclusion

- As I have said from the outset of tonight’s sermon, I hope to encourage everyone that the time is short and we need to prepare ourselves now so that when trouble comes, we’ll be fully clothed with the full armor of God.
- Just look at what is going on in the Middle East.
- It doesn’t take a Rocket Scientist or Prophet to see that things are coming to a climax.
- My guess is that in the next few months or couple of years a new Islamic Caliphate (Empire) will emerge and threaten Israel in particular and the whole earth in general.
- Today, even in our own country, “good is being called evil and evil is being called good.”
- If revival comes great, but if it doesn’t let us be found faithful in fighting the good fight of faith—pursuing righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness. (1 Tim 6:11 NIV)