

Realized Eschatology

The Day of Judgment and the End of the World

Introduction

- 1. Before we begin tonight's lesson of "The Day of Judgment and the End of the World," as I did last night, I want to review briefly what Realized Eschatology or the 70 AD doctrine involves.**
 - A. It begins by taking the approach that ALL prophecy has been fulfilled, including those pertaining to the second coming of Christ, the resurrection of the dead, the judgment, and the end of the world.**
 - B. Furthermore, this doctrine revises the prophecies about Christ establishing his kingdom to say that the kingdom of Old Testament prophecy was fully established at the Lord's second coming, when the dead were raised, when the world ended, and when the judgment occurred — ALL of which occurred in 70 AD at the destruction of Jerusalem.**
- 2. Last night our lesson pertained to the resurrection of the dead. The Realized Eschatologist believes that Judaism suppressed the church until 70 AD when the Romans destroyed the temple. Then the church was released from that Jewish suppression and therefore in a figurative sense was raised from the dead.**
 - A. I believe that we showed last night that when the New Testament discusses a resurrection, it is discussing the resurrection of the body from the grave. Both JESUS and the apostles taught this.**
- 3. Tonight we are continuing our series of lessons on Realized Eschatology with this lesson on "The Day of Judgment and The End of the World."**

The Day of Judgment

1. **The Bible teaches that the Judgment of Christ will occur when Jesus comes back again.**

Matthew 25:31-32 When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. **All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats.**

John 5:28-29 Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which **all who are in the graves will hear His voice and come forth** — those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.

- A. **However, the 70 AD doctrine makes the judgment refer to the Lord's judgment on the nation of Israel when He destroyed Jerusalem in 70 AD.**

- 1) **Although that was a judgment, it was not the final judgment at the end of the world.**

- B. **"A future judgment day...is no more needed than a future cross" (SOP P. 180). That false statement expresses the conviction of the Realized Eschatologist.**

2. **The phrase “judgment” appears many times in scripture. Some have a judgment upon a nation (Jeremiah 48:47), others may refer to a judgment passed by a man or group of men in view (1 Kings 3:28).**
 - A. **But there are verses, which reveal a judgment where all appear before God.**

Matthew 12:41 The men of Nineveh will rise up in the judgment with this generation and condemn it, because they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and indeed a greater than Jonah is here.

- 1) **Note here that both the men of Nineveh (long dead physically) and those of Jesus day would be at the same judgment (“THE JUDGEMENT”), not plural.**

Luke 10:14 But it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon at the judgment than for you.

Luke 11:31 The queen of the South will rise up in the judgment with the men of this generation and condemn them, for she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and indeed a greater than Solomon is here.

- 1) **Note here that the queen of Sheba (1 Kings 10:1), would be “with” the men of that generation “in the judgment.”**
 - a) **Can all these references be dismissed, or applied to some symbolic judgment late in the first century?**

3. Paul's preaching:

A. Paul preached of "righteousness, and self-control, and the judgment to come..." before Felix

Acts 24:25 Now as he reasoned about righteousness, self-control, and the judgment to come, Felix was afraid and answered, "Go away for now; when I have a convenient time I will call for you."

1) Notice that this preaching made Felix "afraid" (terrified – ASV). Does it seem likely that Felix, a Roman governor, would be troubled to learn of a coming judgment upon Jews and that the Romans would be the victors?

a) No – because he heard of no such thing. He was being taught of his own accountability before God.

B. Paul's earlier sermon in the city of Athens included information about this appointed day of judgment.

Acts 17:30 Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent,

1) Why did Paul command all men, to include those in Athens to repent?

Acts 17:31 because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead."

2) There is no way that word of a future (about 15 years) Jewish calamity hundreds of miles away, would spur these Athenians to repent.

4. **Everyone** will stand before God at the Day of Judgment.

Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, For this is man's all. For God will bring every work into judgment, Including every secret thing, Whether good or evil.

Matthew 12:36 But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment.

Romans 14:10 But why do you judge your brother? Or why do you show contempt for your brother? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.

2 Corinthians 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

Hebrews 9:27-28 And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment, so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation.

John 5:28-29 Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice and come forth — those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.

A. **ALL the righteous as well as those who have rejected the Lord's Word will be present at the judgment day of Christ.**

1) **Did this happen in 70 AD?**

- a) **Did all that were in the graves hear his voice and come forth?**
- b) **Did those who have done good, go unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation?**

- B. When we read about the Day of Judgment, we learn from the Bible that ALL nations shall be present at the judgment seat of Christ.**
- C. If the final judgment already took place back in 70 AD, isn't it a fact that such statements as these would make no sense?**
 - 1) Because ONLY the Jews were involved in God's judgment when the Roman army came in and destroyed Jerusalem.**
 - 2) But Jesus said ALL nations would be present on this great and awesome day.**

The End of the World

- 1. Those who support the doctrine of Realized Eschatology claim that the end of the world occurred in 70 AD at the destruction of Jerusalem.**
 - A. The end of the world to them, was the complete destruction of the old system of Judaism.**
 - B. However, if this day was already fulfilled in 70 AD, then the entire universe is no longer in existence. Are we really here?**
- 2. The Realized Eschatologist has all references in the New Testament to "world" as meaning Judaism.**
 - A. They believe that what Peter taught in 2 Peter 3 means the end of the world of Judaism and not the end of the literal world as we know it.**

**3. Let's take a moment and read 2 Peter 3 and make some observations.
2 Peter 3:1-18**

- A. He begins by saying that “scoffers will come in the last days ... saying “Where is the promise of His coming?... all these continue as they were from the beginning of creation.”**
 - 1) Some would question whether Christ was really going to come because everything is still the same since the days of their fathers and from the beginning of creation.**
 - a) They understood that the earth has not changed – it is still in tact from the time that God made it.**
- B. He says they forgot that the “world” that existed during the days of Noah was flooded by water.**
 - 1) I wonder, was this the literal world and a literal water?**
- C. He then points out that this same heavens and earth which are now in existence are reserved for fire.**
- D. God is not willing for any to perish but that ALL should come to repentance.**
- E. He then explains how the End of the World will come.**
 - 1) As a thief in the night**
 - 2) With a great noise**
 - 3) All the elements will melt with fervent heat**
 - 4) The earth and the works in it will be burned up**
 - a) Peter is talking about the same literal world that we live in today as the same literal world that Noah lived in years ago.**
 - 1. The literal earth was once destroyed by literal water and there will come a day when this literal world will be destroyed by literal fire.**

At the End of the World, The Saints Will Forever Be With the Lord

- 1. Faithful Christians have great comfort in the words of the apostle Paul**
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
 - A. We shall meet the Lord in the air, and so shall we ever be with the Lord!**
 - 1) Those who believe in the 70 AD theory make this passage of scripture apply to the destruction of Jerusalem.**
 - a) They make much of the New Testament null and void!**
 - B. Although they claim they believe in a future life, what passage can they point to that teaches such?**
 - 1) It seems to me that this would be an impossible task since all these things have already been fulfilled in 70 AD.**

Conclusion

- 1. The destruction of Jerusalem did indeed occur in 70 AD, as was predicted by Jesus in Matthew 24. This we do acknowledge.**
 - A. However, can we conclude that this is the end of the world as this doctrine teaches — certainly NOT!**
 - B. Realized Eschatologists try to force every passage of scripture into a mold that just doesn't fit.**
 - C. Unfortunately, there are whole congregations of the Lord's people being swayed to this view, and other congregations are being torn apart over it.**
 - 1) To be forewarned is to be forearmed.**
- 2. Tomorrow night we will conclude our series of lessons on Realized Eschatology as we examine the consequences of the 70 AD doctrine.**

