

Realized Eschatology

(A.D. 70 Doctrine)

Introduction

1. **This morning I want to talk about a doctrine that has had a destructive effect among Christians. This doctrine is referred to as “Realized Eschatology” or informally as the A.D. 70 doctrine.**
2. **This doctrine needs to be exposed for what it is — a perversion of the gospel of Christ (Gal 1:6-9). Scripture mandates that error should be exposed.**

Jude 3-4 Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints. For certain men have crept in unnoticed, who long ago were marked out for this condemnation, ungodly men, who turn the grace of our God into lewdness and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ.

3. **It is always right to expose error, protect the innocent, and to turn away from divisive doctrines**

Romans 16:17-18 Now I urge you, brethren, note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them. For those who are such do not serve our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly, and by smooth words and flattering speech deceive the hearts of the simple.

4. **Our motive must be a love for the truth and the souls of men. We must warn and correct, using God’s word as our standard.**
2 Timothy 2:24-26; 4:1-5

The Basic Position of the A.D. 70 Doctrine

1. That the final coming of Christ and the promised resurrection occurred in A.D. 70. (1 Cor 15)

1 Thessalonians 4:16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

A. This doctrine has far-reaching consequences upon the faith of Christians!

- 1) If true, then all who hope in the actual, bodily, personal return of Jesus are deceived (1 Thes 4:16).**
- 2) If true, then we cannot expect our bodies to be raised to immortality when Jesus comes.
1 Corinthians 15:22-23, 51-54**
- 3) If false, then those holding this doctrine have erred, and are guilty of overthrowing the faith of others as were Hymenaeus and Philetus.
2 Timothy 2:16-18**

What Is Realized Eschatology?

1. **“Eschatology:”** or doctrine of last things, is meant the ideas entertained at any period on the future life, the end of the world (resurrection, judgment) and the eternal destinies of mankind (ISBE, James Orr, II:972).
2. **“Realized:”** signifies accomplishment.
Therefore, Realized Eschatology is a doctrine of completed last things.
 - A. **According to its interpretation of the Bible, the end times were realized and accomplished in A.D. 70 at the destruction of Jerusalem.**
 - B. **Christians are being taught that all prophecy of end-time events was fulfilled in A.D. 70, and to look beyond that date for the personal coming of Christ and the bodily resurrection of mankind followed by a judgment, is without Biblical authority.**
1971 version of Max King’s Book, the following is stated:
 - 1) “There is no scriptural basis for extending the second coming of Christ beyond the fall of Judaism” - p. 105
 - 2) “...the end of the Jewish world was the second coming of Christ.” - p. 81
 - 3) “Prophecy found its complete fulfillment in the second coming of Christ, and now may be regarded as closed and consummated.” - p. 65
 - C. **Therefore, the second coming of Christ is made equal with the “fall of Judaism.”** (the destruction of Jerusalem in A.D. 70)
3. **It must be shown that the personal, bodily return of our Lord is described in terms which cannot apply to the events of A.D. 70. When done, the error of this doctrine will be fully exposed.**

Did Jesus Come in the First Century After His Ascension?

1. Not in bodily form.

A. Jesus taught during that generation (Matt 24:34) “they shall see the Son of man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.”

1) The context of Matthew 24 tells us how they would see Him. The context of the chapter is the destruction of Jerusalem. Jesus did not appear bodily in A.D. 70 when Jerusalem fell.

2) Instead, Matthew 24:30 speaks of His presence in Jerusalem’s judgment. He authorized it, and brought it to pass (Isaiah 19:1)

a. They would see or discern His presence when this destructive judgment occurred. He came in judgment in A.D. 70, but it was not His bodily return!

AD 70 doctrine teaches:

End of Jewish world was the 2nd coming

The coming of Christ was destruction of Jerusalem

2. The A.D. 70 doctrine would make every mention of the “coming of the Lord” or “day of the Lord” mean the same event, regardless of its usage in context.

A. Every New Testament book would have had to be written before A.D. 70

1) Gospel of John - 85-90 A.D. from Ephesus

2) 1,2,3 John, Jude (65-80), Revelation - 90-95 A.D.

3. The following passages show that can't be true:

Acts 1:9-11:

- A. In what manner did Jesus go into heaven?**
- 1) **Personally, in His resurrected body (Luke 24:39).**
- B. The apostles actually saw Jesus' bodily ascension. This is the manner in which He will return**

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.

- C. Jesus did not come in bodily form, nor was He personally seen during the destruction of Jerusalem in A.D. 70 (Matt 24:30).**

2 Peter 3:5-7, 10-11:

- A. The A.D. 70 advocates try to make the heavens and earth (v 7, 10), which shall meet a fiery end, the Jewish economy.**
- B. This simply is not true. Was the world of Noah's time actually flooded? The world which now exists will one day be destroyed by fire.**
- 1) **If this verse (in context) had been fulfilled in A.D. 70, then none of us would be here right now.**

John 5:28-29:

- A. Max King denies that the graves are literal (SOP - 219) "The end of Judaism is the resurrection of John 5:28-29" (SOP - 220)**
- B. The proof of spiritual life is the ability to give physical life.**

John 11:21-25 (Lazarus)

1 Corinthians 15 (vs 50-54)

- A. The A.D. 70 doctrine says that the resurrection is past already (occurring in A.D. 70). But this passage decisively refutes that claim.**
- 1) This passage teaches a future, bodily resurrection from the dead.**
 - 2) The A.D. 70 supporters suggest that it is the resurrection of Christianity out of Judaism, not the resurrection of mankind. This theory is only resurrected in the imagination of the A.D. 70 advocates.**

Problems Concerning Worship

1. Should the Lord's Supper be observed after A.D. 70?

1 Corinthians 11:26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes.

- A. In partaking of the Lord's Supper we "proclaim the Lord's death until He comes."**
- 1) The A.D. 70 doctrine makes every coming of the Lord in the New Testament mean A.D. 70. What will they do about the Lord's Supper?**
 - a. They could conclude that after A.D. 70 the Lord's Supper no longer proclaims Christ's death — but this destroys the central meaning and effect of the Supper!**
 - b. They could conclude that the Lord's Supper is no longer applicable to Christians, and cease partaking of it. Some wrestle with this consequence.**

2. Can songs pertaining to the second coming of Christ be sung after A.D. 70?

A. Most will not sing with their brethren because of this consequence

Ephesians 5:19 speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord,

Colossians 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

1) It makes sense – why sing about something that you believe has already occurred?

The Realized Eschatology doctrine opens a can of worms that some have not realized. Some will try to ignore its consequences, but this will only lead to hardened hearts.

- **Other perversions of the AD 70 Doctrine**

Comforting Christians Concerning Christ's Coming

1. The apostle Paul comforts the saints with assurance that Christians who die before Jesus returns will not miss out on any of the events and blessings of that grand day.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

A. Jesus “himself” will descend from heaven (this did not happen in A. D. 70). Audible and visible events will occur.

B. “We will ever be with the Lord” in a resurrected, changed, caught-up state (this did not happen in A.D. 70).

C. We can “comfort one another with these words,” however there is no comfort in the words and doctrines of Realized Eschatology.

Conclusion

1. The A.D. 70 doctrine provides no final and decisive solution to the sin problem humanity faces.

A. It presents a world in sin which will forever continue

2. The Bible reveals that with the Lord's return:

A. This sin-cursed world will be destroyed (2 Pet 3:5-12).

B. A new order will take place

2 Peter 3:13 Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

3. Christians should be comforted in their hope of the future return of Christ

2 Thessalonians 1:10 when He comes, in that Day, to be glorified in His saints and to be admired among all those who believe, **because our testimony among you was believed.**

Colossians 3:4 When Christ who is our life **appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.**

