

## Lesson 1

### ESSENTIAL TERMINOLOGY FOR ESCHATOLOGY

**T**hese are some of the words we'll be discussing in upcoming lessons. Don't get lost in the jargon. If necessary, let's expand our vocabulary like a good student of Eschatology and you'll see how easy it is "talk the talk."

#### **Abomination of Desolation**

This is the event at the midpoint of the Tribulation, when the Antichrist will break his covenant of peace with the Jewish people. At that time he will invade Jerusalem to desecrate and set up the abomination of desolation in the Temple in Jerusalem, Israel.

*(Mat 24:15 KJV) When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:)*

#### **Antichrist**

The Antichrist, also known as the "man of sin" is a man of lawlessness. This "false Christ" will appear at the beginning of the Tribulation period and continue his world-wide dictatorship long enough to set himself up against God as well as every object of worship.

*(2 Th 2:7, 8 KJV) For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way. And then shall that Wicked be*

*revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:*

### **Armageddon**

It's probably the best known word in all of Bible prophecy. It's the word everyone uses to refer to the end of the world. The word is found only one time in the Bible. It's a place in Israel, about twenty miles southeast of Haifa, Israel, that will be the rendezvous point for the armies gathering to descend upon Israel (Zech. 14:1-2). I think we're safe to say it'll be the mother of all wars.

*(Rev 16:16 KJV) And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon.*

### **Church Age**

This is the period of time we're now living in, a time of "whosoever will." It's also the time between the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost and the Rapture of the Church. The Church Age is synonymous with the present Dispensation of Grace or the Age of Grace.

### **Date Setting**

Bible prophecy has often suffered as much at the hands of its friends as it has at the hands of its foes. Date setting and attempting to identify the antichrist has turned many people off to Bible prophecy. Usually date

setting has to do with calculating the exact time of the Rapture of the Church.

### **Day of the Lord**

The term, *Day of the Lord* or *That Day* is not a term which applies to a twenty-four hour period, but rather the whole program of events beginning with the Rapture of the Church and the entire Millennial age. It's used especially at a time in which judgments will fall. The term is used 25 times in the KJV. Each listing is connected with judgment, vengeance, darkness, and gloom.

*(1 Th 5:2 KJV) For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.*

### **Double Reference**

Some prophecies have in mind more than one fulfillment. Two events, widely separated as to the time of their fulfillment, may be brought together into the scope of one prophecy. This was done because the prophet had a message for his own day as well as for a future time. It may be that the fulfillment of the one should be the assurance of the fulfillment of the other. (The Olivet discourse in Matthew 24 is a good example.)

## **Dispensationalism**

This is the teaching that history is divided into various time periods during which God moved in the world in certain distinctive ways. Hence the terms dispensation of: innocence, human government, conscience, law, grace, kingdom economy, etc. The Greek word from “dispensation” means “economy” or “administration.” Several different schools of Dispensationalism exist.

## **Elect**

The word “elect” actually means to be *chosen*. An individual or group of individuals who have been chosen by God would be God’s *elect*. The word itself doesn’t specify which elect is referred to in any particular scripture. That must be determined by each passage where the word is found. In the Bible the word “elect” is ascribed to: The Messiah, Israel, the Church, and Angels. Understanding this word is **absolutely critical** to proper Eschatology.

## **Eschatology**

This is the study of the body of knowledge of last things or end-time events. In our study of Eschatology we’ll cover the basic Biblical doctrines of the Second Coming of Christ, the Resurrection, the Tribulation, the Judgments, the Millennium, and the final State. I will be learning right

along beside you. While preparing for these studies, I have answered several questions I wondered about for many years.

### **The First Resurrection**

This resurrection might also be called *the resurrection unto life* (Jn. 5:29).

Inasmuch as this resurrection is made up of a number of component parts or groups of people, the *first resurrection* is that part of the resurrection program in which the individuals are raised to eternal life. It includes within it all, who, at any time, are raised to eternal life. **A Critical Point to Remember:** the *destiny*, not the *time*, determines to which part of the resurrection program any event is to be assigned. The “first resurrection” is also called the “better” resurrection (Heb. 11:35) and the “resurrection of the righteous” (Luke 14:14).

*(Rev 20:5, 6 KJV) But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.*

The order of events in the First Resurrection would be: 1.) The Resurrection of Christ as the “first fruits” beginning of the resurrection program (1 Cor. 15:20); 2.) The resurrection of the Church-age saints at the Rapture (1 Thes. 4:17); 3.) The resurrection of the two witnesses (Rev. 11:11-12); 4.) The resurrection of the Tribulation period saints, together with the Old Testament Saints complete the “First Resurrection.” I believe these

groups, together, comprise the First Resurrection. Everyone else belongs to the Second Resurrection or a resurrection unto judgment and damnation.

### **Fullness of the Gentiles**

Please don't confuse this with "the times of the Gentiles" (Luke 21:4). The fullness of the gentiles refers to the Church. It speaks of the completion of the Mystical Body of Christ made up of both Jew and Gentile, who have been saved from the Day of Pentecost to the coming Rapture of the Church. At some day soon the last sinner will come to salvation completing this Age of Grace, therefore completing the Body of Christ.

*(Rom 11:25 KJV) For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles be come in.*

### **Glorious Appearing of Christ**

This is the physical, literal, appearing of Jesus Christ to the world at large. This is when Christ returns to establish His kingdom at the end of the Tribulation.

*(Mat 24:30 KJV) And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.*

### **Great Tribulation**

That's the seven-year period of time between Christ's coming in the air for His Bride and his coming back to the earth. In other words the time beginning with the Rapture of the Church and ending with Christ's ascension to the earth.

*(Mat 24:21 KJV) For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.*

### **Great White Throne Judgment**

This is the great final judgment of the unsaved which takes place after the Millennium. People judged here will be judged from the "books." No doubt these include the books of the Bible and especially the Words of Christ. There is no salvation at this point, all are lost.

### **Imminent Return of Christ**

This means Christ's return is likely to occur at any moment. Clearly, The Bible teaches us to expect Him at any moment. This is called the Doctrine of Immanency; the return of Christ is next on the program and may take place at any moment. If you're expecting to go through the Great Tribulation, then you're not looking for the imminent return of our Lord.

## **Judgment Seat of Christ**

The Judgment Seat of Christ is one of two events portrayed in Scripture into which the Church will be brought. I believe it will happen immediately following the Rapture of the Church. At the judgment Seat of Christ believers from the Church Age will appear individually before Christ to receive rewards or loss of reward based on their lives, service, and ministry for the Lord, including the use we have made of our talents.

*(2 Cor 5:10 KJV) For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.*

## **Last Days**

We live in the last days. They began at the Day of Pentecost as a fulfillment of Joel's prophecy and reaffirmed by Peter.

*(Acts 2:17 KJV) And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams:*

## **Mark of the Beast**

This is a "mark" required by all to receive, either on the right hand or forehead, who wish to buy or sell anything during the Tribulation. The exact nature of the mark is not described, whether a tattoo, implant,

invisible ink, etc. It probably cannot be removed, providing a permanent identification as a follower of the beast and his system.

*(Rev 13:16 KJV) And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads:*

### **Marriage Supper of the Lamb**

This event will be the greatest, most pleasing wedding of all time. The Bible calls it the marriage of the Lamb, when the Lord Jesus Christ is joined to His bride, the Church, in Heaven.

*(Rev 19:9 KJV) And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb.*

### **Millennium**

In the Bible the millennial kingdom is that phase of God's kingdom when Jesus Christ rules and reigns. The word itself, taken from a Latin word meaning "thousand years" never appears in the Bible. Revelation specifically states six times that the duration of this kingdom is one thousand years or a millennial.

*(Rev 20:6 KJV) Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.*

## **Rapture of the Church**

The Rapture is that future event when Jesus Christ will descend from heaven to resurrect the bodies of departed believers and transform the bodies of living believers into His glorious presence in an instant and then escort them to heaven to live with Him forever. **The Rapture is distinct and separate from the second coming or advent of Christ.** The Rapture is the blessed hope of the church. While the word “Rapture” never occurs in the Bible, the concept of the event is clearly present.

*(1 Th 4:17 KJV) Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.*

## **Regathering of Israel**

This is a frequently mentioned promise in the Old Testament that God will regather and restore the nation of Israel. The regathering of Israel began in 1948 with the creation of its modern state and will continue until the Second Coming of Christ. I believe this to be a “super-sign” of the end-times.

*(Isa 43:5, 6 KJV) Fear not: for I am with thee: I will bring thy seed from the east, and gather thee from the west; I will say to the north, Give up; and to the south, Keep not back: bring my sons from far, and my daughters from the ends of the earth;*

## **Second Coming or Glorious Appearing**

This is when Jesus Christ returns to this earth as King of kings and Lord of lords. The second coming of Christ to this earth—visible, literal, physical, glorious return—is explicitly referred to 1,845 times in the Bible.

*(Rev 1:7 KJV) Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him.*

*Even so, Amen.*

## **Seventy Weeks or Daniel's Seventieth Week**

This is a very important time in the prophecy calendar. Most Bible scholars have converted these “prophetic weeks” to 490 human years. The divine prophetic clock began ticking on March 5, 444 B.C., when the Persian king Artaxerxes issued a decree allowing the Jews to return under Nehemiah's leadership to rebuild the city of Jerusalem and kept on ticking until March 30, A.D. 33, the day that Jesus rode into Jerusalem for the Triumphal Entry.

When Israel rejected Jesus Christ as her messiah, God temporarily suspended His plan for Israel. Therefore, there is a gap of unspecified duration between the sixty-ninth and seventieth sets of seven. During this gap two specific events are prophesied: (1) Messiah will be killed (this was fulfilled in A.D. 33); and (2) Jerusalem and the Temple will be destroyed (this was fulfilled in A.D. 70).

Following the Rapture of the Church, God's prophetic clock for Israel will begin to run again. It will be the final set of seven “prophetic weeks” or

seven human years—otherwise known as Daniel’s Seventieth Week. Read Daniel chapter 9 for the complete text.

### **The Times of the Gentiles**

The “times of the Gentiles” has been defined by the Lord as that period of time in which Jerusalem was under the dominion of Gentile authority. It has continued unto the present time and will continue through the tribulation period. The dominion of the Gentiles ends at Christ’s glorious appearing.

*(Luke 21:24 KJV) And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.*

Whew! I’m out of room. Next time we’ll start the discussion on this great subject. We may disagree on certain points and that’s okay. We’ll just see what the Bible says about the end time events and I’m sure we all agree that this is the most exciting time in history to be alive—alive in Christ!