Examining Realized Eschatology (1)

Jason Longstreth · Series: **Realized Eschatology (70 AD)**

INTRODUCTION

- It is a particular view of interpretation dealing with the second coming of Jesus Christ and the end of the world, ideas like the resurrection and the judgment that we're going to be talking about.
- What I'm hoping that we can do is first to educate, to fairly present what this viewpoint is, and then to raise some questions concerning it.

1 What Eschatology Is: The Last Things

- Simply stated, the International Standard Bible Encyclopedia says it's the doctrine of the last things.
- Eschatology is really a study of the last things, a study of the end and any of those events associated with the end.
- When it comes to biblical eschatology, individual destiny must be understood in connection with the destiny of history as a whole.

2 Futurist, Preterist, and Combined Approaches

2 Peter 3; 1 Corinthians 15

- What's sometimes known as a futurist approach is one in which the text is seen to still have a future fulfillment. In other words, it hasn't come to pass yet.
- A preterist approach is one in which the text is understood to have already been fulfilled.
- Most of us do hold to some kind of a combined approach. Certain passages have already been fulfilled, and a few are yet to be fulfilled, especially those concerning the Lord's return, the resurrection, and a final judgment.

3 Realized Eschatology: Already Come to Pass

- Realized eschatology means eschatology has already been realized. It's already come to pass.
- The Bible teaches that the second coming of Christ, the end of the age, and the resurrection occurred at the time of the destruction of Jerusalem in A.D. 70.
- A belief that every future prophecy and prediction that was in the Bible has already come to pass.

4 How They Interpret These Passages

- The advocates of this position still believe in a soul, and they still believe in an eternal reward in heaven with God, but they do not believe in a physical resurrection.
- To a realized eschatologist, the return of Jesus Christ is seen in the events surrounding the destruction of Jerusalem.
- The resurrection occurred when Jerusalem was destroyed.

- The end of the age. That's not the end of the world, as you might think. That's the end of the Jewish covenant and the end of that particular dispensation.
- The age to come is simply the Christian age.

5 Why: The Time Statements of the New Testament

Matthew 24:34; Luke 21:20–22; James 5:7–8

- They believe it does a better job of explaining the temporal, the time statements of the New Testament.
- The big hang-up with the traditional, what might be considered orthodox interpretation of the eschatological passages is the fact that Jesus has not come back yet.
- Truly I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place.
- Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near.
- It was at this time that God ended his covenant relationship with his people, Israel.

6 Greatest Issues or Problems With This View

1 Corinthians 15

- Connecting all of this to the idea that Jesus would return immediately. I don't know how you can do that.
- What about passages that seem to imply some will think that it's not going to happen?
- Jerusalem's destroyed in 70 A.D. According to history, Paul's dead. James is dead. Peter is dead.
- Judaism went on after Jerusalem was destroyed. And persecution of the church went on after Jerusalem was destroyed.
- I think it changes the very nature and work of the Messiah and his kingdom.

MY NOTES