

Sunday, January 1, 2023—Thoughts on the Rapture

Review

- John 9:4-5—as long as Christ was in the world, he was the light of the world. When Christ was out of the world “night” would ensue.
- Acts 1:9-11—Jesus Christ is currently not in the world. He is seated at the right hand of God.
 - Ephesians 1:20-23
- Romans 13:12—Paul writing to the Romans before the close of the Acts period speaks of the “night” as already being “far spent.” The entire dispensation of grace has transpired under the cover of darkness.
- Colossians 1:13—in the absence of Jesus Christ this world is run by the “power of darkness.” As believers we know in our hearts and can feel in our souls that all is not right with this world. When we look around us the darkness seems to be deepening, quickening, and expanding its reach. Fundamental truths and things once taken for granted are being thrown down and trampled underfoot. Many are struggling to keep going.

Introduction

- The doctrine of the pretribulation “rapture” is being mocked and scoffed at in our day.
- On Tuesday, September 27, 2022, CNN published a story titled “[For some Christians, ‘rapture anxiety’ can take a lifetime to heal.](#)”
 - II Peter 3:3-4
- Pastor’s who one taught this doctrine has abandoned it.
- Date stating has always been a problem.

The “Two Days” of Hosea Six

- Hosea 6:1-2—“two days”
- II Peter 3:8—“one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.”
 - Adam to Abraham—2,000 years
 - Abraham to Christ—2,000 years
 - Dispensation of Grace—2,000 years

- Millennium—1,000 years
- Luke 13:8—Christ adds one year to Israel’s prophetic time scheduled thereby giving the nation an extension of mercy and opportunity to repent.
 - Crucifixion, Resurrection, and Ascension—33 AD
 - Stoning of Stephan/Conversion of Saul—34 AD
- Hosea 6:2—the “two days” or 2,000 years will have expired at some point during the next decade i.e., in the middle of the 2030s.

Latter Times

- I Timothy 4:1-4—the Spirit of God through Paul is warning the nature/characteristics of these times.
 - Forbidding to marry
 - Commanding to abstain from meats

The Last Days

- II Timothy 3:1-9—set forth the characteristics of the last days of the dispensation of grace.
 - II Tim. 3:6—Creep into houses
 - II Tim. 3:13—Evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse
- Ephesians 2:1-3 & II Thessalonians 2:7—the mystery of iniquity doth already work and will culminate in the manifestation of the man of sin/son of perdition.
 - Struggle between Nationalism & Globalism
- Romans 5:20—God always have more grace than humans have sin. It is not simply a matter of the times being evil or bad it a matter of sort and degree.
- 2 Thessalonians 2:3—the falling away is exactly what is described in Romans 11.
 - Romans 11:11-12—Israel falls, i.e., diminishes, in the book of Acts.
 - Romans 11:13—“I speak to you Gentiles.” Romans 11 addresses Gentiles as a group, not the body of Christ.
 - Romans 11:20—Israel was broken off because of unbelief.

- Romans 11:20-22—warns Gentiles to continue to stand by faith or else they face being cut off. This is not God dealing harshly with the body of Christ but God cutting off the direct Gentile access to Christ that exists during the dispensation of grace.
 - Romans 11:25—the dispensation of grace concludes when the fullness of the Gentiles be come in.
 - In other words, the dispensation of grace ends when Gentiles refuse to continue in God's goodness, i.e., they fall away. Since at that point the fullness of Gentiles has come in, it is appropriate for God to conclude the dispensation of grace.
 - Romans 11:26—after the Gentiles are cut off and the dispensation of grace ends, God will resume his dealing with Israel as a nation.
- Hosea 6:2—could it be that this is what Hosea is speaking about?