

Eschatology Series

Session 5

Review:

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

At the Parousia and the close of the Age the Lord descends; the Christian dead are resurrected in bodies like His glorious body.

Those believers who have been left on earth are then caught up (raptured) to meet the Lord and join in the glorious procession.

For Pre millennialists a curious situation surely arises when Christ and the resurrected saints return to earth to set up a millennial Kingdom in association with the men still in the flesh. That condition semi-heavenly and semi-earthly, with Christ reigning in Jerusalem ... for one thousand years strikes me as so unreal and impossible that I wonder how anyone could take it seriously.

Lorraine Boettner a Reformed, cessationist theologian.

You hold one of 3 positions on the Millennium:

- A
- Post
- Pre

1 Corinthians 15:51-53

Believers are not only resurrected but changed into immortal, glorified bodies. Messiah was the firstfruits. The Resurrection is the key doctrine of faith.

What did the early church believe?

I and others who are right minded Christians at all points, are assured that there will be a resurrection of the dead, and a thousand years in Jerusalem, which will be built, adorned and enlarged as the prophets Ezekiel and Isaiah and others declare

Justin Martyr: Dialogue with Trypho – 80

N.B. Justin was a former Platonist

Irenaeus (died 202 AD) was a follower of Polycarp who was a disciple of St John. Irenaeus firmly believed in a Millennium on earth, the resurrection of the Just at the start. Following the Millennial reign of the Righteous, the general resurrection and judgment follow the descent of the New Jerusalem (Ireneus: Against Heresies)

What does liberal Christianity believe?

A God without wrath brought men without sin, into a kingdom without judgment through the ministrations of a Christ without a cross

H. Richard Niebuhr on liberal Christianity 1937

2 Corinthians 5:10

Believers appear before the Judgment Seat of Christ to account for their lives and receive their reward.

1 Corinthians 3:9-15

The main reward is to rule and reign with the Messiah over the nations.

Revelation 11:18, Revelation 22:12

With what kind of bodies do we come?

Immortal, glorified and like His

Micah 4:7

Luke 1:33

2 Timothy 2:12

Revelation 5:10

Revelation 20:6

Revelation 22:5

On the road to Emmaus and at the sea of Tiberias (John 21:1, 4-7)

Jesus was not recognised in His resurrected body.

Acts 1:3

Acts 1:10 – 11,

At the Palingenesis the Bride is married and the Marriage Supper takes place.

Matthew 8:11

Revelation 19:7-9

Addendum:

Paradise (Paradeisos – peri = around, teichos = wall)

the abode of the righteous dead.

Luke 23:43 the repentant thief

Revelation 2:7 the place of the Tree of Life

Stage 1:

Job 27:5 Rephaim -
 departed spirits the SHADES or shadows

Jewish belief is that people survive death as rephaim. The rephaim is a pale replica of the person. The person needs to be clothed with their body (at the resurrection).

Psalm 88:10 In Sheol the rephaim (shadows) have lost
Isaiah 14:9 contact with God

Stage 2:

Progressive revelation shows that the righteous do find the presence of God

Psalm 16:10 – 11

Psalm 49:15

Psalm 73:4

Stage 3:

Jesus teaches about the division of Sheol (Hades) into two parts:

Hades and Abrahams bosom = PARADISE