

Combined Fellowship: Eschatology

BPCWA COMBINED FELLOWSHIP (21st Mar 2014)

THE GREAT TRIBULATION

Great Tribulation Period lasting 7 years (Daniel's 70th week)

Second 3½ years

12) Antichrist Worshipped (Rev 13:3 - 13:6)

- a. Antichrist's deadly wound sustained at the end of the first 3.5 years will be "miraculously" healed (Rev 13:3, 14)
- b. The entire world would look with great wonder at Antichrist as a result of his "resurrection"
- c. As a result the world will worship Satan who gave such incredible power to Antichrist
- d. The world will also worship Antichrist - acknowledging him to be all powerful world leader (Rev 13:4)
- e. Is it surprising there is so much emphasis and focus on "miraculous healing" today?

13) Unholy Trinity (Rev 13:4-18)

- a. Rev 13 reveals the imitation of the Godhead :
- b. Satan the Devil (13:4), Antichrist (13:3), and the beast with horns like lamb and spoke as a dragon (Rev 13:11-15)
- c. This third person, the beast with lamb horns, is also known as the false prophet (Rev 19:20). He will :
 - i. Have equal power as Antichrist (12)
 - ii. Make the world worship Antichrist (12)
 - iii. Perform great but deceptive miracles (13, 14)
 - iv. Force the world to make and worship the image of Antichrist which he will give make it come to "life" (15) by deceptive miracles
 - v. Force all on earth to worship Antichrist or be killed (15)
- d. Horns like lamb would indicate this beast appears deceptively meek
- e. But spoke as dragon indicates that he can also be very fierce

14) Antichrist's Global Rule

- a. With both global economic (Rev 17:13) and religious (Rev 13:4) power now in Antichrist's hands, Antichrist will for this time be the world dictator, dominating ruler of mankind's final empire
- b. All will be forced to obey him - but how will he control lives globally?
- c. His global reach will be enabled by the beast who will make all humans to bear a controlling mark on right hand, or in their foreheads (Rev 13:16)
- d. This mark is a number of Antichrist the beast - six hundred threescore and six i.e. 666 (Rev 13:18)
- e. Without exception, those who do not bear the name of the beast or this mark will not be able to buy or sell – i.e. cannot make a living, buy food or drink, cannot survive (Rev 13:17)
- f. Is it hard to imagine such global tracking and control in even today's technology and electronic implants?

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15) Antichrist Breaks Peace

- a. Antichrist will now begin to devour the earth (Dan 7:23)
- b. With full authority and control unanimously ascribed by the world powers to the Antichrist, he will speak proudly against God (Dan 7:25, Rev 13:6)
- c. Antichrist will at this point break the peace treaty with Israel (Dan 9:27, Rev 13: 6,7)
- d. After defending Israel in the mid tribulation Gog-Magog battle, fighting off the other nations, Antichrist will turn against Israel
- e. The Jews who were allowed to worship God in "peace" during the first 3.5 years will be forced to stop worship God (Dan 9:27)
- f. Antichrist will exalt himself above God

16) Great Persecution of Believers

- a. The woman in Rev 12:1, 6, 13-17 refers to literal Israel whom Satan will persecute greatly at this time
- b. Israel will come under unprecedented persecution (Rev 12:13-17) but will be helped by God when at the utmost testing (Is 43:2, Dan 11:41)
- c. This second 3.5 years will be time of greatest tribulation for believers who will be severely persecuted (Rev 13:7)
- d. With a limited final 3.5 years left, Satan will go all out in full wrath, unleashing his fury against those the remnant who believe in God at this time (Rev 12: 12)
- e. Many believers will have to die for the Word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ during the 7 year tribulation (Rev 6:9)
- f. The attack on God's Word is no surprise and in fact will intensify. But many are ready to die to keep it pure. Are you?
- g. The Jews will have to flee and hide in the Judean wilderness (Rev 12:14) from Satan's wrath
- h. Believers who die during the Great Tribulation will receive their glorified bodies as soon as they die
- i. There will even be great war in the heavenly spheres between Michael the Archangel and his angels versus Satan and his demons (Rev 12:7-8)
- j. We must see beyond the physical and realize there is a great spiritual battle in life's persecutions
- k. Right from the beginning, Satan has tried to thwart God's plan of salvation (Matt 2:13, Rev 12:4)
- l. Seven Vials poured out (Rev 15:1- Rev 16:21)
- m. Sinners will hate God even with greater hatred, blaspheme Him, reject the Lord Jesus, and will be unrepentant regardless of the terrible judgment God will pour out on earth for their sin (Rev 16:1-11)
- n. Do we not already see such men and women today already - but they will wax worse
- o. But in the Tribulation period, "there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation" (Dan 12:1)
- p. A terrifying time to be a Christian. Believers will be hated and hunted, have to live under the radar, no social security, access to medical help, food, home, etc will be under Satan's scrutiny
- q. Don't delay, believe in the Lord Jesus now. No difficulties today can compare with the tribulation then.
- r. The 2 Prophets are sent by God in the second 3.5 years. They return to bear testimony and preach (may likely be Moses and Elijah based upon description of Rev 11:3-13).
- s. 2 Prophets killed, their dead bodies broadcast around the world, world celebrates the "good riddance", but God resurrects them and calls them to heaven, great earthquake and many dies, fear comes over the world, remnant glorifies God (Rev 11:8-13).
- t. Gentiles who come to believe in the witness of the Jews and the 2 Prophets can be saved. God is merciful.
- u. But it is the most difficult and terrifying time to be a Christian - come and believe now!

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17) At the end of 2nd 3½ years

- a. By this time, the nations east of Israel gathers to turn against Antichrist's iron rule (Rev 16:12)
- b. These eastern nations include all the Arab and Muslim countries (Syria, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan, extending to China)¹, with northern nation such as Russia joining forces with them
- c. The sixth angel pours out his vial onto the great Euphrates river which dries us (Rev 16:12)
- d. This allows the eastern nations to march across it to do battle against Antichrist

18) Christ's Second Coming at the Battle of Armageddon

- a. This showdown will occur in Har Megiddo (hill of slaughter) ie 18) Christ's Second Coming at the Battle of Armageddon (Rev 16:12-16)
- b. This is at the end of the second 3.5 years and will usher in Christ's second return
- c. Jesus Christ's Second Coming - His Return to Earth riding on a white horse (Rev 19:11) as the KING OF KINGS, LORD OF LORDS (Rev 19:16)
- d. The Lord Jesus returns not as the humble and meek Lamb anymore, but as the Lion of Judah to wage war
- e. Jesus is referred to as the Word of God (Rev 19:13) and He will destroy His enemies with the sword that proceeded from His mouth (Rev 19:21)
- f. Christ returns with His saints (1 Thess 3:13) at this "battle of that great day of God Almighty" (Rev 16:14)

19) Fate of the Unholy Trinity and unbelievers

- a. At this point, Antichrist, the kings of this earth, and their armies will join to fight against the Lord and his heavenly army (Rev 19:19)
- b. The Lord Jesus is infinitely more powerful than Satan, Antichrist, and the false prophet, easily defeating them
- c. Antichrist and the false prophet was captured, and cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone (Rev 19:20)
- d. These 2 would be the first to inhabit the lake of fire which was empty until this point
- e. Those who bore the mark of the beast and worshipped him were also killed (Rev 19:21)
- f. But Satan, the old serpent, will be chained and bound for 1000 years in the bottomless pit reserved just for him (Rev 20:1-3)
- g. This passage in Rev 20 informs us that Amillennialism² cannot be feasible as Satan is certainly not bound today but walks about as a roaring lion still

20) Summary of 7 Trumpets and Seven Vials

- a. First trumpet (Rev 8:7) : Great famine, crops destroyed, drought, poisonous air pollution
- b. Second trumpet (Rev 8:8-9) : A third of sea, its creatures, ships destroyed which heightens famine
- c. Third trumpet (Rev 8:10-11) : A third of global water supply poisonous bringing death
- d. Fourth trumpet (Rev 8:12) : A third of heavenly bodies darkened (sun, moon, stars) likely causing unprecedented global calamities like tsunamis, typhoons etc.
- e. Fifth trumpet (Rev 9:4-6) : First Woe. Gruesome locust insects from bottomless pit attack humans who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads. Unbearable pain yet cannot die.

¹ Timothy Tow and Jeffrey Khoo, *Theology for Every Christian* (Singapore: Far Eastern Bible College Press, 2007), 425.

² Amillennialists teach that Satan is already bound in the bottomless pit today and Christ is ruling the earth already. They believe that the 1000 years in Rev 20 is a figurative number. But 1 Peter 5:8, Rev 5:10, Rev 20:1-15 proves the Amillennialism cannot be right because these events mentioned in these verses are not occurring today.

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- f. Sixth trumpet (Rev 9:13-19) : Second Woe. A third of mankind dies by fire, smoke, brimstone coming from heaven's 200 million horsemen.
- g. Seventh trumpet (Rev 11:15) : The end of this present world. Voices in heaven declare the end of all man-made kingdoms, ushering in Christ's Kingdom.
- h. First vial (Rev 16:2) : Horribly and dreadfully painful and smelly sores come upon all who bear the mark of the beast and who worship his image
- i. Second vial (Rev 16:3) : All sea dwelling creatures dies, causing great foulsome stench world wide,
- j. Third vial (Rev 16:4) : All consumable water turns to blood and undrinkable
- k. Fourth vial (Rev 16:8-9) : Sun will burn man on earth
- l. Fifth vial (Rev 16:10-11) : The beast's kingdom is plagued with dark and incurable diseases which brings excruciating pain upon his worshippers
- m. Sixth vial (Rev 16:12-14) : The Euphrates river dries up paving the way for kings of the East to march across it to Israel for battle of Armageddon (Rev 16:16).
- n. Seventh vial (Rev 16:17-21) : It is done - announcement of the final pouring of wrath on sinners. Thunder and lightning from heaven and the earthquake of earthquakes, huge hailstones rain down, nowhere to hide because mountains and islands disappear. Yet sinners continue to hate and blaspheme God for his judgments.
- o. Kingdoms of this earth come to an end.
- p. Everything on earth will be destroyed - What are you living for? Why are you accumulating?

THE MILLENNIUM

1000 Years of Christ's Reign on Earth

21) First New Heaven, New Earth

- a. The aftermath of devastation of the Great Tribulation and the battle of Armageddon renders the earth unlivable
- b. Isaiah 65:17 tells of a "facelift" renovation that will occur
- c. The stone that will crush the ten toes (Dan 2:31-35) of the statue in Nebuchadnezzar's dream is the Millennial Kingdom coming to end all human rule and human kingdoms
- d. The curse upon this physical earth (Rom 8:20-22) will be lifted.
- e. Do not mix up this new heaven and new earth with that in Rev 21:1
- f. The central city of the Millennium will be Jerusalem (Eze 5:5)

22) Life During the Millennium

- a. Christ and believers will reign (Rev 5:10, Rev 20:6)
- b. For believers - peace, rejoicing, enjoy labor without trouble (Is 65:18-24)
- c. Nations will worship God in peace (Zech 8:20-22, Zech 14:16-20)
- d. Animals and man live together (Is 11:6-9, 65:25)
- e. People will live for hundreds of years, 100 years old is considered a child (Is 65:20) in this new environment recreated by God
- f. Three kinds of people live during this time:
 - i. Believers with glorified bodies (who died or raptured before during the Great Tribulation, who died during the Great Tribulation, and who died during the Millennium) i.e. will not sin anymore
 - ii. Surviving believers of the Tribulation enters Millennium with mortal bodies ie still can sin

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- iii. Unbelievers born of natural birth during this period
- g. There will still be sinners but God's mercy continues, salvation still available, people still seek God (Zech 8:20-22)
- h. God will still continue to punish sinners who reject Him while believers are blessed (Is 65:20, Zech 14:18,19)
- i. There will still be sin and death during the Millennium
- j. Satan is bound, Jesus Christ is seen by the living eyes on earth, glorified bodies abound, yet there will be rejecters of God
- k. Have you not heard so often "If you show me a miracle, if Jesus appear to me, then I will believe"
- l. Importantly, the Millennium proves that even without Satan, the presence of miracles, even the continuous appearance of God, man's heart can still remain hateful of God

23) At the End of the Millennium

- a. Satan will be loosed from the bottomless pit (Rev 20:7)
- b. He will go around the earth to deceive and round up his supporters (Rev 20:8-9)
- c. Many, like sands of the sea, will join Satan to attack believers and Jerusalem (Rev 20:9)
- d. But God simply sends fire³ from heaven and devoured them
- e. This is the second and final God and Magog battle which ends all battles in mankind's history
- f. The Lord will burn up the Millennial earth (2 Peter 3:10)
- g. Satan will be cast into the lake of fire to join the Antichrist and the false prophet eternally

24) Great White Throne Judgement

- a. This judgment is for unbelievers (Rev 20:11-15) whose names are not in the book of life
- b. Unbelievers resurrected from hell for final judgment at GWT judgement⁴ (Rev 20:11-15)
- c. Great and small i.e. no matter what position or person you were, you will be judged for the sins you committed if you were an unbeliever
- d. There is no place to hide from God (Rev 20:11)
- e. Those whose names were not found in the book of life, death, and hell were all cast into the lake of fire eternally (Rev 20:15)
- f. This is called the second death (Rev 20:14, 21:19) of the unbelievers
- g. It is not soul annihilation which is taught by the Seventh Day Adventists. The Antichrist and the beast are still in the lake of fire after 1000 years (Rev 20:10), not annihilated
- h. i.e. the soul is not destroyed to the point of non existence. Instead it continuous to suffer torment consciously in the eternal lake of fire

³ Thus far in our study, one can note that fire typically a sign of God's judgment. Hence burial (and not cremation) is for the believer. The Bible teaches burial of believers e.g. Moses (Deut 34:6), Abraham and Sarah (Gen 49:31), Joseph (Gen 50:13), etc. Buddhists, Hindus would practice cremation.

⁴ Unbelievers judged at the Great White Throne judgement and sent to the lake of fire eternally, while believers' works are judged at the Bema Seat judgement for rewards.

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THE ETERNITY FUTURE

25) The Final and Eternal New Heaven, New Earth

- a. The Lord will burn up the Millennial earth (2 Peter 3:10)
- b. All things will be new (2 Peter 3:13, Rev 21:5)
 - i. New Heaven (Rev 21:1)
 - ii. New Earth (Rev 21:1)
 - iii. New Jerusalem (Rev 21:10-27)
- b. New Jerusalem built with precious gemstones, has streets of pure gold, 12 gates of pearl (Rev 21:18-21)
- c. The only remembrance of the old earth is name of the city Jerusalem
- d. No more sea, no sun, no moon (Rev 21:1,23-24) because the glory of God is shining (Rev 22:5)
- e. Only believers with immortal bodies will enter this final eternal world
- f. Eternity without sin
- g. Eternal worship of God

And he said unto me, These sayings *are* faithful and true: and the Lord God of the holy prophets sent his angel to shew unto his servants the things which must shortly be done. Behold, I come quickly: blessed *is* he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book. (Rev 22:6-7)

He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus. (Rev 22:20)

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