

Finish Faithful – Notes on Episode 9 – Different Ages in Prophecy

We are not quite half-way through this course that will give you a basic understanding of what the Bible says concerning end times prophecy. This will be a responsible approach that will help you understand about where we are on the timeline of events that lead up to the return of Jesus Christ, without crazy speculation on current events.

I generally believe in Dispensationalism. You probably do too. In this episode we will take an introductory look at its history and its major teachings related to the Return. There are two of its main tenets that I will call into question. I do so in all humility, because I am giving you a review and some observations about theologians, scholars and scholarly institutions whose credentials are way beyond mine. They are scholars I am student of the Bible.

1 Pet 1:10-12 Sufferings and glory. How are they different? Angels didn't know. OT talks more about the glory of Messiah than the sufferings. Sometimes describes glory and not sufferings.

1 Cor 2:7-8. If the devil had fully understood the plan, he would have rather had Jesus Christ alive disrupting his world than to crucify him and so bring the plan to pass. When you read the gospels, it's very interesting to try to put out of your mind that you know how the story ends and try to understand what they are trying to understand. They were pretty sure Jesus was Messiah. Even the devil couldn't completely understand from what he said that he was going to die for their sins, be raised, ascend into heaven and come back in judgement to rule many years later. When Jesus explained parts of this explicitly, they couldn't grasp it. Just like the devil thought he had won when he got worldly men to crucify Jesus, so the disciples thought Jesus had lost and they had lost everything.

Act 2:38-39. This is clearly a new age where everyone to believes and is baptized receives the Holy Spirit.

Eph 3:2-5. Mystery that the Gentiles fellow heirs and of the same body. Oikonomia. Economy.

The economy of China is different than the US. Economy of Iran different than the US. In the same way God's economy for his people was different under Moses than how God directs the church to live today. Different oikonomias are called administrations or dispensations. Administrations is a good translation for oikonomia, because it is how God is administering his household. In our society today, we can see the administration and policies of governing of one president as different than another president. Now Jesus Christ is at the right hand of God and we, the church, are his body. He is our Lord, directing us to do his work here on earth.

The mystery is specifically stated here that Jews and Gentiles, who accept Christ as savior, now make up the body of Christ. Not true before— it is true now. A new era or administration.

Some say the mystery is much broader than that— that everything that constitutes this time period, between the 69th and 70th is the mystery. Then they go further to say that anything written before couldn't refer to this time period because it was a mystery. What about John 3:16? What about John 4 worshipping in spirit and in truth. What about John 14-17 when Jesus is telling them the comforter would come?

Rev. 20:2-4. It's pretty obvious that will be a different economy or administrations when the devil is bound and Christ reigns on earth for 1,000 years. This is called the Millennial Kingdom, because he is king on earth for 1,000 years.

Slide of "Dispensational Premillennial".

The church age. Mountain range analogy. When you are driving toward it in the distance you cannot tell that there may be a valley between the mountains you see or how wide the valley is.

Before he reigns on earth is his 2nd coming. How does that work? Christ comes for the church and, later, Christ comes with his saints. 1 Thess 4:16-17, Rev 19:11-16. These two are not the same but both are part of the Parousia. What is in between the rapture and him coming on a white horse? From the time of the 1st Century until the 19th Century, this was not as important an issue for scholars and theologian addressed as it has been in the last 150 years.

Conclusions on Dispensationalism and the Church Age

- We are in the church age, between the sufferings and the glory, and between the 69th week and the 70th week. It began on Pentecost and ends at the Rapture
- The hidden mystery that was revealed to Paul is that Gentiles are welcomed equally with Jews in the body of Christ
- The church is a separate oikonomia, dispensation or administration from Israel
- FF is teaching the Futurist view that prophecies in Daniel and the Olivet Discourse will be fulfilled in the future (not Preterism)

FF will cover mainly the pre-trib and pre-wrath view of the rapture