

Realized Eschatology: The A. D. 70 Doctrine

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Introduction

In this introductory lesson on Realized Eschatology/A. D. 70 Doctrine, we will address the following issues:

- What is the doctrine?
- Who are the proponents?
- What is the danger?

The A.D. 70 Doctrine Defined

Realized Eschatology affirms that all prophecies regarding “the end times” were fulfilled in A.D. 70 at the destruction of Jerusalem, including: The Second Coming of Christ, The Resurrection of the Dead, The Day of Judgment, The End of the World, etc.

Furthermore, proponents of this doctrine affirm that Christ’s Kingdom/Church was not fully established on Pentecost. Instead, the kingdom was born in Acts 2, but did not come with “power” and fulness until Jerusalem was destroyed in A. D. 70. “The last days” never apply to the Christian age, but always to the closing period of the Jewish age (A.D. 30- A.D. 70).

Wikipedia Article on Realized eschatology

Realized eschatology is a Christian eschatological theory popularized by C. H. Dodd (1884–1973) that holds that the eschatological passages in the New Testament do not refer to the future, but instead refer to the ministry of Jesus and his lasting legacy. Eschatology is therefore, not the end of the world but its rebirth instituted by Jesus and continued by his disciples, a historical (rather than transhistorical) phenomenon. Those holding this view generally dismiss "end times" theories, believing them to be irrelevant. They hold that what Jesus said and did, and told his disciples to do likewise, are of greater significance than any messianic expectations.

This view is attractive to many people, especially liberal Christians, since it reverses the notion of Jesus' coming as an apocalyptic event, something which they interpret as being hardly in keeping with the overall theme of Jesus' teachings in the canonical gospels, and are troubled by its firm association with evangelicalism and conservative politics. Instead, eschatology should be about being engaged in the process of becoming, rather than waiting for external and unknown forces to bring about destruction.

Source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Realized_eschatology

Wikipedia Article on Max King

Max R. King (born 1930) is the founder of the school of thought known as Transmillennialism. King served as a minister in the Churches of Christ for 40 years prior to developing Transmillennialism.

King created a field of theology that he termed "covenant eschatology." King contended that Biblical eschatology was not related to the end of the space-time universe, but to the transition of the Old Covenant to the New. King offered a unique interpretation concerning the millennium as found in Revelation 20 as pertaining to the forty year period of time from 30-70 AD. He called this time "the transition period" from Old Covenant to New Covenant. In King's view, this transition opened the way for the full presence of God to dwell with all of humanity. To describe this relationship, King coined the phrase "Comprehensive Grace."

King's Transmillennialism emerged in the late 1990s as an alternative to dispensational premillennialism, amillennialism, or postmillennialism. It differentiated itself from Reformed preterism and Christian Reconstructionism in view of postmodern issues facing the Emerging Church and the need to forward its scholarship in the context of historical Jesus studies. In King's view, the covenantal transformation of the first century serves as a model for personal, organizational and societal transformation today. Max King's first major book "The Spirit of Prophecy" was published in 1971. He published a monthly print journal "The Living Presence" for 15 years; it is currently available in electronic format. King's annual "Covenant Eschatology Seminar" spanned the 1990s and continues today as the "Transmillennial" national conference. Some of King's other major works include "Old Covenant Israel and New Covenant Salvation" and "The Cross and The Parousia of Christ."

King resides in Colorado Springs, Colorado, USA. His organization is Presence International.

Source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Max_King

Books by Max King

Title	Description
OT Israel and NT Salvation	“good introductory booklet”
The Spirit of Prophecy	“book that inspired a movement”
The Cross and the Parousia of Christ	“a magnum opus”
McGuiggan - King Debate	“status quo meets reform”

Reveals the Danger of Over-Reaction

Works Only vs Faith Only

In times past, men have gone to extremes in the relationship of faith and works (Eph. 2:8-10; Titus 3:4-7; Heb. 5:8-9; James 2:21-26).

Ephesians 2:8-10 ... 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; 9 not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. 10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them. (NASB95)

Titus 3:4-7 ... 4 But when the kindness of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared, 5 He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, 6 whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7 so that being justified by His grace we would be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life. (NASB95)

Hebrews 5:8-9 ... 8 Although He was a Son, He learned obedience from the things which He suffered. 9 And having been made perfect, He became to all those who obey Him the source of eternal salvation, (NASB95)

James 2:21-26 ... 21 Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up Isaac his son on the altar? 22 You see that faith was working with his works, and as a result of the works, faith was perfected; 23 and the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "And Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness," and he was called the friend of God. 24 You see that a man is justified by works and not by faith alone. 25 In the same way, was not Rahab the harlot also justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out by another way? 26 For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead. (NASB95)

Premillennialism vs Realized Eschatology

Adherents of Realized Eschatology make the same mistake in their over-reaction to the errors of Premillennialism.

Reveals the Danger of Restrictive Definitions

J.W.'s Misuse of "Soul" and "Spirit."

The Jehovah's Witnesses misuse the words "soul" and "spirit," giving one definition to all occurrences of the word.

Soul is translated from the Hebrew **nephesh** and the Greek **psuche**. These words are used of persons (Ezek. 18:20; Acts 2:41-42), physical life (Gen. 1:20, 24; 2:7; Acts 20:9-10), and also of spiritual life (Matt. 10:28; James 1:21).

Used of a Person

*Ezekiel 18:20 ... 20 "The ***person** [Heb: nephesh; soul, KJV] who sins will die. The son will not bear the punishment for the father's iniquity, nor will the father bear the punishment for the son's iniquity; the righteousness of the righteous will be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked will be upon himself. (NASB95)*

*Acts 2:41-42 ... 41 So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand ***souls** [Greek: psuchē]. 42 They were*

continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. (NASB95)

Used of Physical Life

*Genesis 1:20 ... 20 Then God said, "Let the waters teem with swarms of living ***creatures** [Heb: nephesh], and let birds fly above the earth in the open expanse of the heavens." (NASB95)*

*Genesis 1:24 ... 24 Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth living ***creatures** [Heb: nephesh] after their kind: cattle and creeping things and beasts of the earth after their kind"; and it was so. (NASB95)*

*Genesis 2:7 ... 7 Then the Lord God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living ***being** [Heb: nephesh]. (NASB95)*

*Acts 20:9-10 ... 9 And there was a young man named Eutychus sitting on the window sill, sinking into a deep sleep; and as Paul kept on talking, he was overcome by sleep and fell down from the third floor and was picked up dead. 10 But Paul went down and fell upon him, and after embracing him, he said, "Do not be troubled, for his ***life** [Greek: psuchē] is in him." (NASB95)*

Used of Spiritual Life

*Matthew 10:28 ... 28 "Do not fear those who kill the body but are unable to kill the ***soul** [Greek: psuchē]; but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both ***soul** [Greek: psuchē] and body in hell. (NASB95)*

*James 1:21 ... 21 Therefore, putting aside all filthiness and all that remains of wickedness, in humility receive the word implanted, which is able to save your ***souls** [Greek: psuchē]. (NASB95)*

Genesis 1:26 ... 26 Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." (NASB95)

R.E.'s Misuse "the coming of the Lord."

Adherents of Realized Eschatology make the same mistake in their restrictive definition of "the coming of the Lord." He came. He comes. He will come. For more information, see supplement material: "70 AD & RE - The Coming of the Lord."

Reveals the Danger of Presumptive Novelty

Example of New Testament

The Athenians and the strangers visiting there used to spend their time in nothing other than telling or hearing something new (Acts 17:16-21, esp. vs. 21).

Acts 17:16-21 ... 16 Now while Paul was waiting for them at Athens, his spirit was being provoked within him as he was observing the city full of idols. 17 So he was reasoning in the synagogue with the Jews and the God-fearing Gentiles, and in the market place every day with those who happened to be present. 18 And also some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers were conversing with him. Some were saying, "What would this idle babbler wish to say?" Others, "He seems to be a proclaimer of strange deities,"—because he was preaching Jesus and the resurrection. 19 And they took him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, "May we know what this new teaching is which you are proclaiming? 20 "For you are bringing some strange things to our ears; so we want to know what these things mean." 21 (Now all the Athenians and the strangers visiting there used to spend their time in nothing other than telling or hearing something new.) (NASB95)

Examples from Present Era

Proponents of Realized Eschatology demonstrate the same prideful spirit (1 Cor. 1:26-2:5; 1 John 2:15-17). As an illustration, see the description of Max King on the www.presence.tv website. Note also Tim King's tribute to his father, Max King, found in the preface to *Give Me This Mountain* (2003), p. 7-8.

1 Corinthians 1:26-2:5 ... 26 For consider your calling, brethren, that there were not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble; 27 but God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong, 28 and the base things of the world and the despised God has chosen, the things that are not, so that He may nullify the things that are, 29 so that no man may boast before God. 30 But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption, 31 so that, just as it is written, "Let him who boasts, boast in the Lord." 1 And when I came to you, brethren, I did not come with superiority of speech or of wisdom, proclaiming to you the testimony of God. 2 For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified. 3 I was with you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling, 4 and my message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, 5 so that your faith would not rest on the wisdom of men, but on the power of God. (NASB95)

1 John 2:15-17 ... 15 Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but

is from the world. 17 The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever. (NASB95)

Conclusion

Herein a sad truth is demonstrated: the more outlandish the message, the more widespread its appeal (2 Cor. 11:1-6; Col. 2:1-4).

*2 Corinthians 11:1-6 ... 1 I wish that you would bear with me in a little foolishness; but indeed you are bearing with me. 2 For I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy; for I betrothed you to one husband, so that to Christ I might present you as a pure virgin. 3 But I am afraid that, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds will be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ. 4 **For if one comes and preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted, you bear this beautifully.** 5 For I consider myself not in the least inferior to the most eminent apostles. 6 But even if I am unskilled in speech, yet I am not so in knowledge; in fact, in every way we have made this evident to you in all things. (NASB95)*

Colossians 2:1-4 ... 1 For I want you to know how great a struggle I have on your behalf and for those who are at Laodicea, and for all those who have not personally seen my face, 2 that their hearts may be encouraged, having been knit together in love, and attaining to all the wealth that comes from the full assurance of understanding, resulting in a true knowledge of God's mystery, that is, Christ Himself, 3 in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. 4 I say this so that no one will delude you with persuasive argument. (NASB95)

Recognizing and rejecting the false doctrines of men, let us faithfully adhere to the faithful word (1 Tim. 1:3-7; 6:3-5).

1 Timothy 1:3-7 ... 3 As I urged you upon my departure for Macedonia, remain on at Ephesus so that you may instruct certain men not to teach strange doctrines, 4 nor to pay attention to myths and endless genealogies, which give rise to mere speculation rather than furthering the administration of God which is by faith. 5 But the goal of our instruction is love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith. 6 For some men, straying from these things, have turned aside to fruitless discussion, 7 wanting to be teachers of the Law, even though they do not understand either what they are saying or the matters about which they make confident assertions. (NASB95)

1 Timothy 6:3-5 ... 3 If anyone advocates a different doctrine and does not agree with sound words, those of our Lord Jesus Christ, and with the doctrine conforming to godliness, 4 he is conceited and understands nothing; but he has a morbid interest in controversial questions and disputes about words, out of which arise envy, strife, abusive language, evil suspicions, 5 and constant friction between men of depraved mind and deprived of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a means of gain. (NASB95)

Let us appreciate godly elders as they exercise oversight of local congregations, guarding against danger, and keeping watch over the souls of those entrusted to their charge (Acts 20:17-32; Eph. 4:11-16; Heb. 13:17).

Acts 20:17-32 ... 17 From Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called to him the elders of the church. 18 And when they had come to him, he said to them, "You yourselves know, from the first day that I set foot in Asia, how I was with you the whole time, 19 serving the Lord with all humility and with tears and with trials which came upon me through the plots of the Jews; 20 how I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you publicly and from house to house, 21 solemnly testifying to both Jews and Greeks of repentance toward God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. 22 "And now, behold, bound by the Spirit, I am on my way to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there, 23 except that the Holy Spirit solemnly testifies to me in every city, saying that bonds and afflictions await me. 24 "But I do not consider my life of any account as dear to myself, so that I may finish my course and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify solemnly of the gospel of the grace of God. 25 "And now, behold, I know that all of you, among whom I went about preaching the kingdom, will no longer see my face. 26 "Therefore, I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all men. 27 "For I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole purpose of God. 28 "Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. 29 "I know that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; 30 and from among your own selves men will arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them. 31 "Therefore be on the alert, remembering that night and day for a period of three years I did not cease to admonish each one with tears. 32 "And now I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified. (NASB95)

Ephesians 4:11-16 ... 11 And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; 13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ. 14 As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; 15 but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ, 16 from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love. (NASB95)

Hebrews 13:17 ... 17 Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with grief, for this would be unprofitable for you. (NASB95)

Let us also respect the legacy of faithful evangelists, such as brother W. R. Jones, who opposed errors that have troubled the Lord's church, including the A.D. 70 doctrine. For more information, see "Email Correspondence Regarding W.R. Jones & A.D. 70 Doctrine."