

# Haunting Questions Regarding Realized Eschatology and the A. D. 70 Doctrine

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## Introduction

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).

One principle of Biblical interpretation is the law of harmony: Truth is consistent with itself (Ps. 119:160). We should examine all that the Bible says on a given subject, and not interpret one passage so as to contradict another. However, when the artificial grid of the A.D. 70 doctrine is imposed upon Scripture, all manner of problems are created. In this lesson, let us consider some of the haunting questions that arise when the four-square gospel is forced into the circular reasoning of Realized Eschatology.

*Psalm 119:160 ... 160 The sum of Your word is truth, And every one of Your righteous ordinances is everlasting. (NASB95)*

## The End of the Age

The expression “end of the age(s)” occurs 7x in the Bible (Dan. 12:13; Matt. 13:39, 40, 49; 24:3; 28:20; 1 Cor. 10:11). Meaning is determined by context, with certain passages having an application that was near at hand (1 Cor. 10:11; Matt. 24:3), and others referring to the far distant future (Dan. 12:13; Matt. 13:39, 40, 49, 20).

*Daniel 12:13 ... 13 “But as for you, go your way to the end; then you will enter into rest and rise again for your allotted portion at **the end of the age.**” (NASB95)*

*Matthew 13:39 ... 39 and the enemy who sowed them is the devil, and the harvest is **the end of the age**; and the reapers are angels. (NASB95)*

*Matthew 13:40 ... 40 “So just as the tares are gathered up and burned with fire, so shall it be at **the end of the age.** (NASB95)*

*Matthew 13:49 ... 49 “So it will be at **the end of the age**; the angels will come forth and take out the wicked from among the righteous, (NASB95)*

*Matthew 24:3 ... 3 As He was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, “Tell us, when will these things happen, and what will be the sign of Your coming, and of **the end of the age**?” (NASB95)*

*Matthew 28:20 ... 20 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to **the end of the age**.” (NASB95)*

*1 Corinthians 10:11 ... 11 Now these things happened to them as an example, and they were written for our instruction, upon whom **the ends of the ages** have come. (NASB95)*

If the end of the age occurred in 70 A.D., why is Daniel not among us (Dan. 12:13)?

*Daniel 12:13 ... 13 “But as for you, go your way to the end; then you will enter into rest and rise again for your allotted portion at **the end of the age**.” (NASB95)*

If the end of the age occurred 70 A.D, why are the wicked still among us (Matt. 13:36-43)?

*Matthew 13:36-43 ... 36 Then He left the crowds and went into the house. And His disciples came to Him and said, “Explain to us the parable of the tares of the field.” 37 And He said, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man, 38 and the field is the world; and as for the good seed, these are the sons of the kingdom; and the tares are the sons of the evil one; 39 and the enemy who sowed them is the devil, and **the harvest is the end of the age**; and the reapers are angels. 40 “So just as the tares are gathered up and burned with fire, so shall it be at **the end of the age**. 41 “The Son of Man will send forth His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all stumbling blocks, and those who commit lawlessness, 42 and will throw them into the furnace of fire; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. 43 “Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear. (NASB95)*

If the end of the age occurred in 70 A.D., by what authority do we preach the gospel (Matt. 28:18-20)?

*Matthew 28:18-20 ... 18 And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to **the end of the age**.” (NASB95)*

## **The Lord's Coming**

In the Old Testament “the coming of the Lord” was used prophetically of God’s judgment upon the nations, and of the coming of the Messiah. In the New Testament, it has various meanings. **He Came/He Has Come** refers to the physical incarnation of Jesus Christ, His earthly ministry, and the establishment of the church on Pentecost. **He Comes** in judgment upon individuals

(Herod), churches (Ephesus, Pergamum, Philadelphia) and upon cities and nations (Jerusalem and the nation of Israel, Rome and the Roman Empire). **He Will Come/He Is Coming** also refers to the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.

If the Lord's coming occurred in 70 A.D., what is so remarkable about Jesus' statement to Peter (John 21:20-23)?

*John 21:20-23 ... 20 Peter, turning around, saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following them; the one who also had leaned back on His bosom at the supper and said, "Lord, who is the one who betrays You?" 21 So Peter seeing him said to Jesus, "Lord, and what about this man?" 22 Jesus said to him, "If I want him to remain until I come, what is that to you? You follow Me!" 23 Therefore this saying went out among the brethren that that disciple would not die; yet Jesus did not say to him that he would not die, but only, "If I want him to remain until I come, what is that to you?" (NASB95)*

If the Lord's coming occurred in 70 A.D., why can we not judge the hidden things of the heart (1 Cor. 4:1-5)?

*1 Corinthians 4:1-5 ... 1 Let a man regard us in this manner, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. 2 In this case, moreover, it is required of stewards that one be found trustworthy. 3 But to me it is a very small thing that I may be examined by you, or by any human court; in fact, I do not even examine myself. 4 For I am conscious of nothing against myself, yet I am not by this acquitted; but the one who examines me is the Lord. 5 Therefore do not go on passing judgment before the time, but wait until the Lord comes who will both bring to light the things hidden in the darkness and disclose the motives of men's hearts; and then each man's praise will come to him from God. (NASB95)*

If the Lord's coming occurred in 70 A.D., why do we still observe the Lord's Supper (1 Cor. 11:23-26)?

*1 Corinthians 11:23-26 ... 23 For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus in the night in which He was betrayed took bread; 24 and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "This is My body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of Me." 25 In the same way He took the cup also after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." 26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes. (NASB95)*

## **The Resurrection**

The resurrection concept is communicated by the Greek word *anastasis*, derived from *anistēmi* [to raise up, to rise], which identifies "a standing up, i.e. a resurrection, a raising up, rising" [Thomas 386].

BDAG say it can refer to either (1) a change for the better in status, rising up, rise (Luke 2:34); (2) resurrection from the dead, resurrection; (a) in the past: of Jesus' res. (Acts 4:33; etc.); (b) of the future res., linked with Judgment Day (Acts 24:15; etc.).

*Luke 2:34 ... 34 And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary His mother, "Behold, this Child is appointed for the fall and \*rise of many in Israel, and for a sign to be opposed— (NASB95)*

*Acts 4:33 ... 33 And with great power the apostles were giving testimony to the \*resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and abundant grace was upon them all. (NASB95)*

*Acts 24:15 ... 15 having a hope in God, which these men cherish themselves, that there shall certainly be a \*resurrection of both the righteous and the wicked. (NASB95)*

This word is never used symbolically in reference to the resurrection of a cause. Note the popularity of liberal views regarding the resurrection. Max King takes a similar approach in saying that the church arose out of the ruins of Judaism.

If the resurrection occurred in 70 A.D., why is there still marriage (Matt. 22:23-33)?

*Matthew 22:23-33 ... 23 On that day some Sadducees (who say there is no resurrection) came to Jesus and questioned Him, 24 asking, "Teacher, Moses said, 'If a man dies having no children, his brother as next of kin shall marry his wife, and raise up children for his brother.' 25 "Now there were seven brothers with us; and the first married and died, and having no children left his wife to his brother; 26 so also the second, and the third, down to the seventh. 27 "Last of all, the woman died. 28 "In the resurrection, therefore, whose wife of the seven will she be? For they all had married her." 29 **But Jesus answered and said to them, "You are mistaken, not understanding the Scriptures nor the power of God. 30 "For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven. 31 "But regarding the resurrection of the dead, have you not read what was spoken to you by God: 32 'I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob'? He is not the God of the dead but of the living." 33 When the crowds heard this, they were astonished at His teaching. (NASB95)***

If the resurrection occurred in 70 A.D., why is there still death (Luke 20:27-40)?

*Luke 20:27-40 ... 27 Now there came to Him some of the Sadducees (who say that there is no resurrection), 28 and they questioned Him, saying, "Teacher, Moses wrote for us that if a man's brother dies, having a wife, and he is childless, his brother should marry the wife and raise up children to his brother. 29 "Now there were seven brothers; and the first took a wife and died childless; 30 and the second 31 and the third married her; and in the same way all seven died, leaving no children. 32 "Finally the woman died also. 33 "In the resurrection therefore, which one's wife will she be? For all seven had married her." 34 **Jesus said to them, "The sons of this age marry and are given in marriage, 35 but those who are considered worthy to attain to that age and the resurrection from the dead, neither marry nor are given in marriage; 36 for they cannot even die anymore, because they are like angels, and are sons of God, being sons of the resurrection. 37 "But that the dead are raised, even Moses showed, in the passage about the burning***

*bush, where he calls the Lord the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. 38 “Now He is not the God of the dead but of the living; for all live to Him.” 39 Some of the scribes answered and said, “Teacher, You have spoken well.” 40 For they did not have courage to question Him any longer about anything. (NASB95)*

If the resurrection occurred in 70 A.D., when will the righteous be repaid (Luke 14:12-14)?

*Luke 14:12-14 ... 12 And He also went on to say to the one who had invited Him, “When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, otherwise they may also invite you in return and that will be your repayment. 13 **“But when you give a reception, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, 14 and you will be blessed, since they do not have the means to repay you; for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”** (NASB95)*

If the resurrection occurred in 70 A.D., what is the resurrection of the wicked (John 5:28-29; Acts 24:14-15)?

*John 5:28-29 ... 28 **“Do not marvel at this; for an hour is coming, in which all who are in the tombs will hear His voice, 29 and will come forth; those who did the good deeds to a resurrection of life, those who committed the evil deeds to a resurrection of judgment.** (NASB95)*

*Acts 24:14-15 ... 14 **“But this I admit to you, that according to the Way which they call a sect I do serve the God of our fathers, believing everything that is in accordance with the Law and that is written in the Prophets; 15 having a hope in God, which these men cherish themselves, that there shall certainly be a resurrection of both the righteous and the wicked.** (NASB95)*

If the resurrection is merely symbolic, why did the Athenians scoff (Acts 17:16-18, 30-32)?

*Acts 17:16-18 ... 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.** (NASB95)*

*Acts 17:30-32 ... 30 **“Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all people everywhere should repent, 31 because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead.” 32 Now when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some began to sneer, but others said, “We shall hear you again concerning this.”** (NASB95)*

If the resurrection is merely symbolic, why did Paul so closely identify himself with the Pharisees, who believed in a literal resurrection (Acts 23:6-10; 24:20-21)?

*Acts 23:6-10 ... 6 But perceiving that one group were Sadducees and the other Pharisees, Paul began crying out in the Council, "Brethren, I am a Pharisee, a son of Pharisees; I am on trial for the hope and resurrection of the dead!" 7 As he said this, there occurred a dissension between the Pharisees and Sadducees, and the assembly was divided. 8 For the Sadducees say that there is no resurrection, nor an angel, nor a spirit, but the Pharisees acknowledge them all. 9 And there occurred a great uproar; and some of the scribes of the Pharisaic party stood up and began to argue heatedly, saying, "We find nothing wrong with this man; suppose a spirit or an angel has spoken to him?" 10 And as a great dissension was developing, the commander was afraid Paul would be torn to pieces by them and ordered the troops to go down and take him away from them by force, and bring him into the barracks. (NASB95)*

*Acts 24:20-21 ... 20 "Or else let these men themselves tell what misdeed they found when I stood before the Council, 21 other than for this one statement which I shouted out while standing among them, 'For the resurrection of the dead I am on trial before you today.' "* (NASB95)

If the resurrection occurred in 70 A.D., what is there left for us to attain (Phil. 3:7-11)?

*Philippians 3:7-11 ... 7 But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ. 8 More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ, 9 and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith, 10 that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death; 11 in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead. (NASB95)*

If the resurrection is already past, why do we practice baptism (Rom. 6:4-11; 1 Cor. 15:29; 1 Pet. 3:21-22)?

*Romans 6:4-11 ... 4 Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. 5 For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be in [the likeness of] His resurrection, 6 knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin; 7 for he who has died is freed from sin. 8 Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, 9 knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, is never to die again; death no longer is master over Him. 10 For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God. 11 Even so consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus. (NASB95)*

*1 Corinthians 15:29 ... 29 Otherwise, what will those do who are baptized for the dead? If the dead are not raised at all, why then are they baptized for them? (NASB95)*

*1 Peter 3:21-22 ... 21 Corresponding to that, baptism now saves you—not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but an appeal to God for a good conscience—through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, 22 who is at the right hand of God, having gone into heaven, after angels and authorities and powers had been subjected to Him. (NASB95)*

## **Conclusion**

How is the doctrine of Max King substantially different from that of Hymenaeus and Philetus (2 Tim. 2:14-19)?

*2 Timothy 2:14-19 ... 14 Remind them of these things, and solemnly charge them in the presence of God not to wrangle about words, which is useless and leads to the ruin of the hearers. 15 Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth. 16 But avoid worldly and empty chatter, for it will lead to further ungodliness, 17 and their talk will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus, 18 men who have gone astray from the truth saying that the resurrection has already taken place, and they upset the faith of some. 19 Nevertheless, the firm foundation of God stands, having this seal, “The Lord knows those who are His,” and, “Everyone who names the name of the Lord is to abstain from wickedness.” (NASB95)*

Since the gospel is directly tied with the concept of the resurrection, why is the 70 A.D. doctrine not rightly identified as another gospel (Gal. 1:6-9)?

*Galatians 1:6-9 ... 6 I am amazed that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you by the grace of Christ, for a different gospel; 7 which is really not another; only there are some who are disturbing you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. 8 But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to what we have preached to you, he is to be accursed! 9 As we have said before, so I say again now, if any man is preaching to you a gospel contrary to what you received, he is to be accursed! (NASB95)*

Because the proponents of realized eschatology advocate a different hope than the one set forth in Scripture (Acts 23:6; 24:14-15; 1 Cor. 15:12-14; 1 Pet. 1:3-5), we can no more have fellowship with them than with those who preach a different Lord, God, faith, or baptism (Eph 4:1-6).

*Acts 23:6 ... 6 But perceiving that one group were Sadducees and the other Pharisees, Paul began crying out in the Council, “Brethren, I am a Pharisee, a son of Pharisees; I am on trial for the hope and resurrection of the dead!” (NASB95)*

*Acts 24:14-15 ... 14 “But this I admit to you, that according to the Way which they call a sect I do serve the God of our fathers, believing everything that is in accordance with the Law and that is written in the Prophets; 15 having a hope in God, which these men cherish themselves, that there shall certainly be a resurrection of both the righteous and the wicked. (NASB95)*

*1 Corinthians 15:12-14 ... 12 Now if Christ is preached, that He has been raised from the dead, how do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? 13 But if there is no resurrection of the dead, not even Christ has been raised; 14 and if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is vain, your faith also is vain. (NASB95)*

*1 Peter 1:3-5 ... 3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, 5 who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. (NASB95)*

*Ephesians 4:1-6 ... 1 Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, 2 with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love, 3 being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. 4 There is one body and one Spirit, **just as also you were called in one hope of your calling**; 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism, 6 one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all. (NASB95)*