

REALIZED ESCHATOLOGY

Text: 2 Timothy 2:16-18

INTRO: Jesus had to deal with the Sadducees who did not believe there would be a resurrection of the dead. Later, Paul had to deal with some who likewise did not believe there would be a resurrection, and even with some who taught that the resurrection had already occurred.

A similar theory is making in-roads in the Lord's church known by its adherents as "Realized Eschatology." It is better known as A.D. 70 theory, or the Max King doctrine. Tho so far, it has had little impact on non-institutional congregations, it has split several more liberal congregations, and has disturbed many others. OH, IL, IN

This theory was introduced among churches of Christ in Ohio in 1971 by C.D. Beagle. It has since been popularized in some circles by his son-in-law, Max King. The theory asserts that all Bible prophecy of both testaments was fulfilled by or before 70 A.D. The 2nd coming of Christ occurred in 70 A.D. The resurrection occurred in 70 A.D. The Day of Judgment and the End of the World occurred in 70 A.D.

Tho time does not permit us to examine Max King's entire theory, we will show that his doctrine clearly contradicts the teachings of the Scriptures.

I. THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST.

A. King is correct in recognizing that several passages that have frequently been applied to the 2nd coming of Jesus were indeed foretelling the destruction

of Jerusalem, which occurred in 70 A.D.
Matt. 24:34.

B. But the careful Bible should be able to recognize that Jesus spoke of several figurative or spiritual comings.

1. His coming in His kingdom, Matt. 16:28.

2. His coming in the H.S., John 14:18.

3. He & His Father's coming to dwell in the hearts of those who obey His commands, JN 14:23.

4. His coming into the life of the one who will open when Christ knocks, Rev. 3:20.

5. His coming in the destruction of Jerusalem,

READ LUKE 20:14-19; MT 24:30

6. His coming in various other judgments, Rev. 2:5.

C. But in addition to all these figurative or spiritual comings, the Bible clearly teaches a literal, personal, 2nd coming of Christ. John 14:3 AGAIN

READ ACTS 1:9-11

Heb 9:28, So Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many [at His first literal coming]. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a 2nd time, apart from sin, for salvation.

II. THE RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD.

A. Max King & his followers teach that the resurrection occurred in connection with the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 A.D. When asked if they believe in a bodily resurrection, they answer "yes," but their answer is deceptive. What they mean is that the church or body of Christ was buried under a cloud of Jewish persecution until the destruction of Jerusalem. When the Jewish economy was destroyed (the Day of Judgment & End of the World), the "body" arose. This is not a 42nd cousin of what the Bible teaches!

B. What Jesus, Paul, and John taught.

John 5:28-29, Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice & come forth--those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.

Acts 24:15, I have hope in God, which they themselves also accept, that there will be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and the unjust.

READ I CORINTHIANS 15:21-22, 42-44

Phil 3:20-21, For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.

1 JN 3:2, Beloved, now we are children of God; & it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.

Susquehanna, Marietta, PA, April 16, 2000
Northside, Greenwood, AR, November 12, 2000 (meeting)
Piscataway, NJ, May 22, 2005 (meeting)