

Millennial Rule and the Second Coming

Objectives

To learn about the Millennial Rule and the Second Coming from the Orthodox Perspective

References

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Scriptural Verse

“But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly” (Luke 21: 34-36)

Lesson Outlines

Protestant View

- ❖ Based on Revelation 20:1-6, Psalm 2:8
- ❖ A thousand years where the Lord Jesus Christ will rule over the earth, along with the saints. All will recognize His rule and no one will resist Him.
- ❖ Before this happens, Satan will be captured, in order to prevent him from deceiving the nations till the 1,000 years are over. Not everyone will be a believer but the knowledge of God will be over all. Isaiah 11:9
- ❖ This belief is actually from the early church. It was so believed by a group of Jewish converts to Christianity in the first church.

The Orthodox Belief

- ❖ The Millennial Reign is a spiritual one as He said to Pilate in John 18:36 and Luke 17:21 – the Kingdom of God is in us. So we are currently in the reign of the thousand years since the day He died on the cross.
- ❖ The number 1000 is symbolic.
- ❖ The presence of peace is the presence of Christ Himself for He is our peace. He also destroyed the enmity between the earthly and heavenly and brought about reconciliation and peace.
- ❖ Satan is currently chained in that he doesn't have full authority over the world. He is bound through the cross. John 12:31, Colossians 2:14-15, Luke 10:19.
- ❖ Currently he is playing the role of the tempter and deceiver as a caged lion. 1 Peter 5:8-9.
- ❖ We choose to approach the lion and stick our hands in his cage, and get close that is when he devours us and we fall into sin.

The Second Coming

Is for Judgment John 5:22

Signs Preceding the Second Coming

1. Persecution of the Believers – the first sign Luke 21:12
2. The Appearance of False Prophets and the antichrist – Mark 13:22 and 1 John 2:18-22 and 1 John 4:3. We see that this has already been partially fulfilled – example Bar-Jesus (Acts 13:6-12)
3. Wars, confusion, rebellion and disturbance – Mark 13:7-8, Luke 21:9-8.
4. Natural Disasters – famines, pestilences, earthquakes. Luke 21:11, Mark 13:8, Matthew 24:7

5. The Great Apostasy – Matthew 24:10, 2 Thessalonians 2:3. There are two types of apostasy – the first is when many leave Christianity for other religions and cults. The second kind is when man departs from the spiritual life and is Christian just by name.
6. The Gospel spreads throughout the world. Matthew 24:14. Two schools of thought – the first that everybody will accept the teachings of the Lord Jesus Christ and Christianity will flourish. The entire world will belong to Him. The second is that the acceptance of the faith will only be superficial; this is supported by Luke 18:8
7. Signs in the sun and planets – this is the last sign that precedes the glorious appearance of the Lord. Luke 21:25-26.

Physical Signs

1. The sun will be darkened as well as the moon, and the stars will fall.
2. The Son of Man will appear and the sign of the cross will appear in the sky (Matthew 24:30)
3. Christ will come in the clouds in great glory (Matthew 24:30, Luke 21:27, 1 Thessalonians 4:17)
4. The Lord Jesus Christ will gather everyone for judgment and the dead in the Lord will rise first (the second Resurrection) 1 Thessalonians 4:16. The living who have not yet died, will change and they will meet the Lord in the clouds.
5. The judgment Matthew 25:31-46

Conclusion

Contrary to Protestant belief we are currently living in The Millennial Rule from the Orthodox perspective. Although no one knows when the Second Coming is, the Bible has provided with much information of the signs that are to be expected in order to remind us to be watchful and expectant of that awesome day at all times.

Activities/Discussion Points

1. Discuss the difference between the First and Second Resurrection. The First Resurrection – spiritual resurrection from the spiritual death for we were dead in sin and iniquity. It is acceptance of the Lord Jesus Christ and repentance. Ephesians 2:6, John 11:25-26, John 5:25. The Second Resurrection – resurrection of physical bodies for general judgment. James 5:28-29. The second death is the eternal death, i.e., thrown into hell. Note: The physical death of the body is called the first death, while the second death is the eternal separation from God, after the Day of Judgment, by being thrown into hell. There is another type of spiritual death, that is being away from God while living on earth.
2. Discuss the importance of being watchful and to wait expectantly for the Lord's coming.