Great Expectations

An Introduction to a Study of the End Times

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Biblical Interpretation in Prophecy (Terry)

Bible Interpretation in General

Exegesis: Find out what the text (including names, symbols, and places) originally meant.

Hermeneutics: Apply what the text means to ourselves and our situations.

Straight forward utterance

Example: Jesus' death and resurrection, Mark 9:31

Types

"The preordained <u>representative</u> relation which certain persons, events, and institutions of the O.T. bear to <u>corresponding persons</u>, events and <u>institutions</u> in the New" (Milton R. Terry, *Biblical Hermeneutics*).

Example: Brass serpent (Numbers 21:9) and Jesus (John 3:14,15)

Symbols

Milton R. Terry: "we accept the following as three fundamental principles of symbolism:

- 1. The names of the symbols are to be <u>understood literally</u>
- 2. The symbols always denote something essentially different from themselves
- 3. Some resemblance, more or less minute, <u>is traceable</u> between the symbol and the thing symbolized

Example: Fiery red dragon (Revelation 12:3) and Satan, the Devil (Revelation 12:9)

Parables

A narrative constructed for the sake of conveying important truth

Example: Wheat and Tares (Matthew 13:24-30)

Dreams and Ecstasies

Milton Terry: "Dreams, night visions, and states of spiritual ecstasy are mentioned as <u>forms and conditions under which men receive such revelations</u>. In Numbers 12:6 it is written: 'And he said, hear now my words: if there be a prophet among you, I the Lord will make myself known to him in a vision, and will speak unto him in a dream."

Example: Nebuchadnezzar's Dream in Daniel 2

End Time Definitions (Keith)

The Resurrected

Believers who have died before the Rapture will be resurrected with incorruptible bodies at the Rapture.

1 Corinthians 15:52

Rapture, Second Coming

It is the sudden removal of the church.

Titus 2:13; 1 Thessalonians 4:16,17, and 1 Corinthians 15:51,52.

Tribulation

With the saints removed from the earth, a time of suffering will come upon the whole world.

The Tribulation is a period of 7 years, the "70th week" of Daniel (Daniel 9:27).

The last half of the Tribulation period is called the Great Tribulation.

Revelation 15:1-16:21.

The Antichrist

1 John 2:18-22

Armageddon

Rev. 16:16 (R.V., "Har-Magedon"), as symbolically designating the place where the "battle of that great day of God Almighty" (ver. 14) shall be fought.

Second Coming

This event is different from the Rapture. The second coming of Christ is the visible, bodily appearance of Christ as He returns to the Mount of Olives from which He ascended back to heaven after His resurrection. After the marriage between the raptured saints and the Lamb in heaven (during the Tribulation), Christ, the Groom, goes forth to claim all of His kingdom.

He rides on a white horse, followed by the saints, also on white horses (Revelation 19:11,14).

Judgment (and rewards) for the Righteous

Rev. 20:4-6; Dan. 7:9 first resurrection is for the righteous only.

1 Cor. 3:12-15. Works are tested and rewarded. Salvation, however, is not in doubt for saints.

Millennium

The Millennium will last 1,000 years.

Revelation 20

Great White Throne Judgment for the wicked

Revelation 20:11

Revelation 21:8; Matthew 25:46; Mark 9:43-48; Revelation 19:20; 20:11-15

The Holy City

Revelation 21

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