

Doctrine of Eschatology

The End of the Age

1. In the Olivet Discourse, Jesus was asked when “*the end of the age*” would come. He was not asked when the end of the world would take place, as is commonly supposed.
2. The “*end of the age*” is a reference to the Jewish age, not the age of the final consummation of the human age, or, world history. This difference can be noted by a corrected translation.
 - *Matthew 24: 3 And as he sat upon the Mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? And what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world? (KJV)*
 - *Matthew 24:3 Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age? (NKJV)*

Special Note.

This distinction between “age” (aion), and “world” (cosmos), is reflected elsewhere in the New King James Version, in contrast to the Authorized Version.

- *Matthew 13:37 He answered and said unto them, He that soweth the good seed is the Son of man; 38 The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked one; 39 The enemy that sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are the angels. 40 As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it be in the end of this world. (KJV)*
 - *Matthew 13:37 He answered and said to them: "He who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. 38 The field is the world, the good seeds are the sons of the kingdom, but the tares are the sons of the wicked one. 39 The enemy who sowed them is the devil, the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are the angels. 40 Therefore as the tares are gathered and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of this age. (NKJV)*
3. A distinct Jewish age is well attested to in Scripture as it is contrasted to “*the times of the Gentiles*”.
 4. Turning to the gospel of Luke, chapter 21, details are given that are not in the record of the Olivet Discourse which are not found in Matthew’s account, or in Mark’s account.
 - *Luke 21:20 And when ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh. 21 Then let them which are in Judaea flee to the mountains; and let them which are in the midst of it depart out; and let not them that are in the countries enter thereinto. 22 For these be the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled.*

23 But woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck, in those days! For there shall be great distress in the land, and wrath upon this people. 24 And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.

5. In Luke's account, the abomination of desolation is identified with the armies that encompass Jerusalem, the destruction of Jerusalem is declared to be days of divine vengeance, and the times of the Gentiles is established as the Jewish age comes to a conclusion.
6. With the fall of Jerusalem in AD 70, "the times of the Gentiles" began, and shall continue until the Second Advent when human history does end, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, and the eternal state begins.
7. The phrase, "*the times of the Gentiles*", is used to differentiate "*the times of the Jews.*" However, "*the times of the Gentiles*" shall not last forever, for the qualifying word, "*until*", is found in the text.
8. The word "*until*", refers to a terminal point. That terminal point refers to the control of Jerusalem by Gentiles.
9. From AD 70 forward, "*the times of the Gentiles*" transpired. This means that the end of the Jewish age ended.

Special Note.

Some Bible teachers believe that in 1967, the Six Day War, returned the control of Jerusalem from the Gentiles to the Jews. But this return of Jerusalem was not total, for portions of the city are still under control by others.

10. There is another reference to "*the times of the Gentiles*" in Scripture.
 - *Romans 11:25 For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles be come in.*
11. If Paul has in mind ethnic Israel, then God is not done with Jewish people. There may be another chapter in Israel's history when God deals with them in grace.
 - *Romans 11:26 And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob: 27 For this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins. 28 As concerning the gospel, they are enemies for your sakes: but as touching the election, they are beloved for the fathers' sakes. 29 For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance.*

12. There are other time frame passages that indicate the nearness of the last days of the Jewish age, according to the Scriptures. Notice the sense of urgency. The world, the age, was going to end in the first century in reference to some type of coming of Christ. This would be the judgment “coming” of Christ on Israel.

- Jesus, speaking to His disciples. *Matthew 10:23 But when they persecute you in this city, flee ye into another: for verily I say unto you, Ye shall not have gone over the cities of Israel, till the Son of man be come.*
- Jesus, speaking to the Sanhedrin. *Matthew 26:63 But Jesus held his peace. And the high priest answered and said unto him, I adjure thee by the living God, that thou tell us whether thou be the Christ, the Son of God. 64 Jesus saith unto him, Thou hast said: nevertheless I say unto you, Hereafter shall ye see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven.*
- Paul, writing to the church in Rome. *Romans 13:12 The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light.*
- Paul, writing to the church in Corinth. *1 Corinthians 10:11 Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world [ages] are come.*
- Paul, writing to the church in Philippi. *Philippians 4:5 Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand.*
- James, writing to the Diaspora. *James 5:8 Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh. 9 Grudge not one against another, brethren, lest ye be condemned: behold, the judge standeth before the door.*
- Peter, writing to the church. *1 Peter 4:7 But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer.*
- John, writing to the church. *1 John 2:18 Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time.*
- John, writing to the Seven Churches of Asia. *Revelation 1:1 The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John:*

Revelation 1:3 Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.

Revelation 3:11 Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.

Revelation 22:6 And he said unto me, These sayings are faithful and true: and the Lord God of the holy prophets sent his angel to shew unto his servants the things which must shortly be done. 7 Behold, I come quickly: blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book.