

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER	PAGE
SECTION ONE: THE INTERPRETATION OF PROPHECY	
I. THE METHODS OF INTERPRETATION	1
Introduction	1
A. The problem	3
B. The importance of the study	3
I. The allegorical method	4
A. The definition of the allegorical method	4
B. The dangers of the allegorical method	5
C. The New Testament use of allegory	6
II. The literal method	9
A. The definition of the literal method	9
B. The evidence for the literal method	9
C. The advantages of the literal method	11
D. The literal method and figurative language	12
E. Some objections to the literal method	14
II. THE HISTORY OF INTERPRETATION	16
I. The beginning of interpretation	16
II. Old Testament Jewish interpretation	16
III. Literalism in the time of Christ	17
A. Literalism among the Jews	17
B. Literalism among the apostles	19
IV. The rise of allegorism	20
V. The dark ages	25
VI. The Reformation period	26
VII. The post-Reformation period	30

Table of Contents

CHAPTER	PAGE
III. GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS IN INTERPRETATION	34
I. The interpretation of words	34
II. The interpretation of the context	36
III. The historical interpretation	36
IV. The grammatical interpretation	38
V. The interpretation of figurative language	39
A. The use of figurative language	39
B. When is language literal or figurative?	39
C. The interpretation of figurative language	42
IV. THE INTERPRETATION OF PROPHECY	45
I. General observations concerning prophecy	45
A. The characteristics of prophecy	45
B. The time element in prophecy	46
C. The law of double reference	46
D. Conditional prophecies	47
II. Methods of prophetic revelation	50
A. Prophetic revelation through types	50
B. Prophetic revelation through symbols	53
C. Prophetic revelation through parables	55
D. Prophetic revelation through dreams and ecstasies	58
III. Rules for the interpretation of prophecy	59
A. Interpret literally	60
B. Interpret according to the harmony of prophecy	61
C. Observe the perspective of prophecy	62
D. Observe the time relationships	62
E. Interpret prophecy Christologically	63
F. Interpret historically	63
G. Interpret grammatically	63

Table of Contents

CHAPTER	PAGE
H. Interpret according to the law of double reference	63
I. Interpret consistently	64
SECTION TWO: THE BIBLICAL COVENANTS AND ESCHATOLOGY	
V. THE ABRAHAMIC COVENANT	65
Introduction	65
A. The Scriptural use of the word <i>covenant</i>	66
B. The definition of a covenant	67
C. The kinds of covenants	68
D. The nature of the covenants	68
I. The importance of the Abrahamic covenant	70
II. The provisions of the Abrahamic covenant	72
III. The character of the Abrahamic covenant	73
A. The conditional element in the covenant program with Abraham	74
B. Arguments to support the unconditional character of the covenant	75
C. The amillennial argument against the unconditional character of the covenant	78
D. The partial fulfillment of the covenants supports the premillennial view	82
IV. The eschatological implications of the Abrahamic covenant	84
A. Who is the seed of Abraham?	85
B. The amillennial view of the seed of Abraham	86
C. The kinds of seed mentioned in Scripture	87
D. The church is not Israel	88
E. The relation of the church to the covenant	89
F. Will the seed possess the land?	90
G. Has the Abrahamic covenant been fulfilled	91

Table of Contents

CHAPTER	PAGE
VI. THE PALESTINIAN COVENANT	95
I. The importance of the Palestinian covenant	96
II. The provisions of the Palestinian covenant	96
III. The character of the Palestinian covenant	98
IV. The eschatological implications of the Palestinian covenant	98
VII. THE DAVIDIC COVENANT	100
I. The importance of the Davidic covenant	100
II. The provisions of the Davidic covenant	101
III. The character of the Davidic covenant	103
A. The Davidic covenant is unconditional in its character	103
B. The Davidic covenant is to be interpreted literally	104
C. The problems of literal fulfillment	111
D. Has this covenant been fulfilled historically?	113
IV. The eschatological implications of the Davidic covenant	114
VIII. THE NEW COVENANT	116
I. The importance of the new covenant	116
II. The provisions of the new covenant	116
III. The character of the new covenant	118
IV. The fulfillment of the new covenant	119
A. The nation with whom the covenant is made	119
B. The time of the fulfillment of the new covenant	120
C. The relation of the church to the new covenant	121
V. The eschatological implications of the new covenant	128
Conclusion	128
SECTION THREE: PROPHECIES OF THE PRESENT AGE	
IX. THE COURSE OF THE PRESENT AGE	129
I. The divine program of the ages	129

Table of Contents

CHAPTER	PAGE
A. The relation of Christ to the ages	130
B. The use of <i>age</i> in the New Testament	130
C. The distinction between this present age and the preceding ages	132
II. The divine purpose in the present age	133
III. The character of this present age	134
IV. The course of this present age	138
A. Matthew thirteen	138
1. The use of the parabolic method	139
2. The setting of the chapter in the Gospel	140
3. The use of the term <i>kingdom of heaven</i>	142
4. The time element in Matthew thirteen	144
5. The interpretation of the chapter	144
6. The interpretation of the parables	146
B. The letters to the seven churches in Revelation two and three	149
1. The time period of Revelation two and three	150
2. The purpose of the seven letters	150
3. The parallelism between Matthew thirteen and Revelation two and three	153
C. The close of the present age	154
X. THE PARTIAL RAPTURE POSITION	156
I. Definition of terms	156
II. The partial rapture theory	158
A. The doctrinal difficulties of the partial rapture theory	158
B. Problem passages	161
XI. THE POSTTRIBULATION RAPTURE THEORY	164
I. The essential bases of posttribulation rapturism	164
II. The essential arguments of the posttribulation rapturist	165
A. The historical argument	165

Table of Contents

CHAPTER	PAGE
B. The argument against imminency	168
C. The promise of tribulation	169
D. The historical fulfillment of Daniel 9:24-27	170
E. The argument from resurrection	173
F. The argument from the wheat and tares	176
XII. THE MIDTRIBULATION RAPTURE POSITION	179
I. The essential bases of midtribulation rapturism	179
II. The essential arguments of the midtribulation rapturist	180
A. The denial of imminence	180
B. The promise of tribulation	181
C. The denial of the church as a mystery	182
D. The nature of the seals and trumpets	182
E. The duration of the tribulation period	184
F. The argument from Revelation 11	186
G. The chronology of the book of Revelation	187
H. The identity of the last trump	188
XIII. THE PRETRIBULATION RAPTURE THEORY	193
I. The essential basis of the pretribulation rapture position	193
II. The essential arguments of the pretribulation rapturist	193
A. The literal method of interpretation	193
B. The nature of the seventieth week	194
C. The scope of the seventieth week	195
D. The purpose of the seventieth week	197
E. The unity of the seventieth week	198
F. The nature of the church	199
G. The concept of the church as a mystery	200
H. The distinctions between Israel and the church	201
I. The doctrine of imminence	202
J. The work of the Restrainer in 2 Thessalonians 2	204
K. The necessity of an interval	205

Table of Contents

CHAPTER	PAGE
L. Distinctions between the rapture and the second advent	206
M. The twenty-four elders	207
N. The problem behind 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18	209
O. The announcement of peace and safety	209
P. The relation of the church to governments	210
Q. The silence concerning the tribulation in the epistles	210
R. The message of the two witnesses	211
S. The destiny of the church	212
T. The message to Laodicea	212
U. The times of the Gentiles	213
V. The waiting remnant at the second advent	214
W. The sealed 144,000 from Israel	214
X. The chronology of the book of Revelation	214
Y. The great object of satanic attack	215
Z. The apostasy of the period	215
AA. The promises to the true church	216
BB. The agreement of typology	217
XIV. THE EVENTS FOR THE CHURCH FOLLOWING THE RAPTURE	219
I. The judgment seat of Christ	219
A. The meaning of "judgment seat"	219
B. The time of the <i>bema</i> of Christ	220
C. The place of the <i>bema</i> of Christ	221
D. The Judge at the <i>bema</i> of Christ	221
E. The subjects of the <i>bema</i> of Christ	221
F. The basis of the examination at the <i>bema</i> of Christ	222
G. The result of the examination of the <i>bema</i> of Christ	223
II. The marriage of the Lamb	226
A. The time of the marriage	226
B. The place of the marriage	227
C. The participants in the marriage	227

Table of Contents

CHAPTER	PAGE
SECTION FOUR: PROPHECIES OF THE TRIBULATION PERIOD	
XV. THE SCRIPTURAL DOCTRINE OF THE TRIBULATION	229
I. The Day of the Lord	229
A. The time areas within the Day of the Lord	229
B. The events of the Day of the Lord	231
C. The Day of Christ	231
II. The tribulation period in Scripture	232
A. The nature of the tribulation	233
B. The source of the tribulation	235
C. The purpose of the tribulation	237
D. The time of the tribulation	239
1. The importance of Daniel's prophecy of the seventy weeks	239
2. The important factors in Daniel's prophecy ..	240
3. The meaning of "weeks"	242
4. The beginning of the sixty-nine weeks	244
5. The fulfillment of the sixty-nine weeks	245
6. Is there a gap between the sixty-ninth and seventieth week?	246
7. The beginning of the seventieth week	249
8. The program of the seventieth week	250
XVI. THE RELATION OF THE CHURCH TO THE TRIBULATION	251
I. The ministry of elders	251
II. The identity of the twenty-four elders	253
A. Angelic beings	253
B. Old Testament and New Testament saints	254
C. Saints of this age	255

Table of Contents

CHAPTER	PAGE
XVII. THE RELATION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT TO THE TRIBULATION	259
I. The identity of the restrainer	259
A. Who is the restrainer?	259
B. The work of the Holy Spirit to believers in the tribulation	262
II. Salvation in the tribulation	263
A. The nature of salvation in the Old Testament	264
B. Specific Old Testament promises of salvation ..	267
C. The fulfillment of the promised salvation	268
D. The basis of salvation in the tribulation	269
E. The relation of this gospel to the gospel of the kingdom	271
F. The results of salvation	273
XVIII. ISRAEL IN THE TRIBULATION	275
I. The Olivet discourse	275
A. The setting of the discourse	275
B. The questions of the disciples	276
C. The interpretation of the discourse	277
D. The tribulation period	277
E. The second advent of the Messiah	280
F. The regathering of Israel	280
G. The illustrative parables	280
H. The judgment on Israel	282
I. The judgment on the Gentile nations	284
II. The identity of the "woman" in Revelation 12	285
A. A great red dragon	285
B. A man child	286
C. A woman clothed with the sun	286
III. The remnant of the tribulation period	290
A. The necessity of a remnant	291
B. The remnant in Israel's history	292
C. The remnant in the prophets	292
D. The remnant in the New Testament	293

Table of Contents

CHAPTER	PAGE
E. The remnant in Revelation	294
IV. The removal of Israel's blindness	301
V. The two witnesses	304
A. The symbolic interpretation	304
B. The literal interpretation	305
VI. Will Elijah come again?	309
A. Elijah will not come again	309
B. Elijah will come personally and minister again	311
C. One will come in the spirit and power of Elijah	312
XIX. THE GENTILES IN THE TRIBULATION	314
I. The tribulation and the "times of the Gentiles"	314
A. The program with the Gentiles	314
B. The duration of the "times of the Gentiles"	315
C. The course of the "times of the Gentiles"	316
II. The final form of Gentile world power	318
A. Daniel 2	318
B. Daniel 7	321
C. Revelation 13:1-3	322
D. Revelation 17:8-14	323
III. The boundaries of the last form of the Roman Empire	324
IV. The powers aligned against the Roman Empire in the last days	326
A. The northern confederacy	326
B. The Kings of the East	331
C. The King of the South	331
V. The person and ministry of the Beast, the head of the empire	332
A. Will the Beast be a resurrected individual?	335
B. The doom of the Beast	336
VI. The person and ministry of the False Prophet, the religious leader	336
VII. The relation of antichrist to the two Beasts	337

Table of Contents

CHAPTER	PAGE
XX. THE CAMPAIGN OF ARMAGEDDON	340
A. The location of the campaign	340
B. The participants in the campaign	342
I. The invasion by the northern confederacy	342
A. The identification of the time in general	345
B. The time in relation to specific events	346
II. The invasion by the armies of the Beast	355
III. The invasion by the armies of the east	357
IV. The invasion by the Lord and His armies	357
XXI. THE JUDGMENTS OF THE TRIBULATION	359
I. The seals	359
II. The trumpets	361
III. The vials or bowls	363
IV. The judgment on Babylon	364
A. The description of the harlot	364
B. The identity of the harlot	364
C. The judgment on the harlot	368
V. The judgment on the Beast and his empire	368
SECTION FIVE: PROPHECIES RELATED TO THE SECOND ADVENT	
XXII. THE HISTORY OF THE DOCTRINE OF THE SECOND ADVENT	370
I. Views of the second advent	371
A. The non-literal or spiritualized view	371
B. The postmillennial view	371
C. The amillennial view	372
D. The premillennial view	372
II. The doctrine of the second advent in the early church	373

Table of Contents

CHAPTER	PAGE
A. Exponents of premillennialism	374
B. Antagonists against the premillennial position	376
III. The rise of amillennialism	381
A. The importance of Augustine	381
B. Augustine's view on the chiliastic question	381
IV. The eclipse of premillennialism	382
V. Chiliasm since the Reformation	383
A. The rise of postmillennialism	384
B. The recent rise of amillennialism	387
C. The resurgence of premillennialism	390
VI. Resultant Observations	392
A. The second advent is premillennial	392
B. The second advent is a literal advent	392
C. The second advent is necessary	392
D. The second advent will be visible	393
E. Practical exhortations arising from the second advent	393
XXIII. THE RESURRECTIONS ASSOCIATED WITH THE SECOND ADVENT	395
I. The kinds of resurrection	395
A. The resurrection to life	395
B. The resurrection to damnation	397
II. The time of the resurrections	398
III. The program of resurrection	402
IV. The resurrection of Israel	407
XXIV. THE JUDGMENTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE SECOND ADVENT	412
I. The judgment on the nation Israel	413
A. The time of the judgment	413
B. The place of the judgment	413

Table of Contents

CHAPTER	PAGE
C. The ones judged	414
D. The basis of the judgment	414
E. The result of the judgment	414
II. The judgment on the Gentiles	415
A. The time of the judgment	415
B. The place of the judgment	415
C. The subjects of the judgment	417
D. The basis of the judgment	417
E. The result of the judgment	422
III. The judgment on fallen angels	422
A. The time of the judgment	422
B. The place of the judgment	422
C. The subjects of the judgment	422
D. The basis of the judgment	423
E. The result of the judgment	423
IV. The great white throne judgment	423
A. The time of the judgment	423
B. The place of the judgment	423
C. The subjects of the judgment	423
D. The basis of the judgment	424
E. The result of the judgment	424
SECTION SIX: PROPHECIES OF THE MILLENNIUM	
XXV. THE KINGDOM CONCEPT IN THE OLD TESTAMENT	427
I. The eternal kingdom	428
A. The timeless aspect	428
B. The universal aspect	428
C. The providential aspect	429
D. The miraculous aspect	429
E. The use of the word <i>kingdom</i>	429
F. The universal kingdom challenged	430
II. The theocratic kingdom	433
A. The theocratic kingdom in Eden	435

Table of Contents

CHAPTER	PAGE
B. The theocratic kingdom under human government	436
C. The theocratic kingdom under the patriarchs	436
D. The theocratic kingdom under the judges	438
E. The theocratic kingdom under the kings	439
F. The theocratic kingdom under the prophets	441
 XXVI. THE KINGDOM PROGRAM IN THE NEW TESTAMENT	 446
I. The theocratic kingdom offered at the first advent of Christ	446
A. The Old Testament theocracy was offered	447
B. The recognition of the Messiah	448
C. The Messiah announced by His herald	449
D. The theocracy announced by Christ	450
E. The theocratic message limited to Israel	450
F. The theocratic message confirmed	450
G. The theocratic offer in relation to the Old Testament prophecies	452
H. The relation of Christ to the offer	452
I. The contingency of the offer	453
J. The bona fide offer	454
II. The presentation and rejection of the theocratic kingdom recorded by Matthew	456
A. The presentation and authentication of the King	456
B. The opposition and rejection of the King	458
C. The final rejection of the King	459
III. The theocratic kingdom offer withdrawn and postponed after the rejection by Israel	463
 XXVII. THE KINGDOM PROGRAM IN THE PRESENT AGE	 467
I. The theocratic kingdom reoffered to Israel	472
II. The theocratic kingdom instituted at the second advent	472

Table of Contents

CHAPTER	PAGE
XXVIII. THE SCRIPTURAL DOCTRINE OF THE MILLENNIUM	476
I. The millennium and Israel's covenants	476
A. The Abrahamic covenant	476
B. The Davidic covenant	476
C. The Palestinic covenant	477
D. The new covenant	477
II. The relation of Satan to the millennium	477
III. The relation of Christ to the millennium	478
A. The names and titles applied to Christ in the millennium	478
B. The manifestations of Christ in the millennium	480
IV. The spiritual character of the millennium	481
A. The kingdom characterized by righteousness	482
B. The kingdom characterized by obedience	484
C. The kingdom characterized by holiness	484
D. The kingdom characterized by truth	485
E. The kingdom characterized by the fulness of the Holy Spirit	486
V. Conditions existing within the millennium	487
A. Peace	487
B. Joy	488
C. Holiness	488
D. Glory	488
E. Comfort	488
F. Justice	488
G. Full knowledge	488
H. Instruction	488
I. The removal of the curse	489
J. Sickness removed	489
K. Healing of the deformed	489
L. Protection	489
M. Freedom from oppression	489
N. No immaturity	489

Table of Contents

CHAPTER	PAGE
O. Reproduction by the living peoples	489
P. Labor	489
Q. Economic prosperity	490
R. Increase of light	490
S. Unified language	490
T. Unified worship	490
U. The manifest presence of God	490
V. The fulness of the Spirit	490
W. The perpetuity of the millennial state	490
VI. The duration of the millennium	490
XXIX. THE GOVERNMENT AND THE GOVERNED IN THE MILLENNIUM	495
I. The government in the millennium	495
A. The government will be a theocracy	495
B. Messiah is the King in the millennium	496
C. David is the regent in the millennium	498
D. Nobles and governors will reign under David	501
E. Many lesser authorities will rule	501
F. Judges will be raised up	502
G. The nature of the reign	502
II. The subjects in the millennium	503
A. Israel in the millennium	504
1. Israel's restoration	504
2. Israel's regeneration	505
3. Israel as Messiah's subjects in the millennium	507
B. The Gentiles in the millennium	507
III. Jerusalem and Palestine in the millennium	508
A. Jerusalem in the millennium	508
B. Palestine in the millennium	509
XXX. WORSHIP IN THE MILLENNIUM	512
I. The temple in the millennium	512
A. The details of the temple	514
B. The purpose of the temple	516

Table of Contents

CHAPTER	PAGE
II. Will there be literal sacrifices in the millennium? ..	517
A. Is the Mosaic order re-established?	518
B. The purpose of the sacrifices	524
C. Some objections considered	527
XXXI. THE RELATION BETWEEN LIVING AND RESURRECTED SAINTS IN THE MILLENNIUM	532
I. The nature of the Old Testament hope	534
A. National promises	534
B. Individual promises	535
II. The nature of the millennium	537
III. The occupants of the heavenly Jerusalem	539
IV. A consideration of related passages	542
SECTION SEVEN: PROPHECIES OF THE ETERNAL STATE	
XXXII. THE PREPARATION FOR THE ETERNAL KINGDOM	547
I. The purging for the eternal kingdom	547
A. The release of Satan and the satanically led revolt	547
B. The purging of creation	551
C. The judgment on sinners	553
D. The destiny of the lost	555
II. The creation of the new heaven and new earth	561
XXXIII. THE HEAVENLY CITY NEW JERUSALEM	563
I. Where does Revelation 21:9 to 22:7 fit into the prophetic picture?	563
A. Revelation 21:9 to 22:7 describes the millennium	563
1. The principle of retrospection	563
2. The ministry of the vial angel	564
3. The use of dispensational names	565
4. The healing of the nations	565

Table of Contents

CHAPTER	PAGE
5. The existence of nations	566
6. The ministry of angels	568
B. Revelation 21:9 to 22:7 describes the eternal state	568
1. The adjective "new" in Revelation 21:1-2	568
2. The position of the city in Revelation 21:10 ..	569
3. The characteristics of the city are eternal	569
4. The length of the reign	570
5. The existence of nations in eternity	570
C. Revelation 21:9 to 22:7 describes the eternal habitation of the resurrected saints during the millennium	572
1. The city is a literal city	572
2. The inhabitants of the city	574
3. Means of entrance into the city	576
4. The relation of this city to the millennial age	577
5. The relation of this city to eternity	579
II. Life in the eternal city	580
A. A life of fellowship with Him	580
B. A life of rest	581
C. A life of full knowledge	581
D. A life of holiness	581
E. A life of joy	581
F. A life of service	581
G. A life of abundance	581
H. A life of glory	581
I. A life of worship	581
BIBLIOGRAPHY	584
SCRIPTURE INDEX	598
SUBJECT INDEX	