VII. ESCHATOLOGY

VII. A. WHAT IS ESCHATOLOGY

Eschatology is the study of "l_____ things"

Biblical eschatology seeks to explain the p_____ passages in the Bible
(mainly Daniel & Revelation)

So here are the key questions:

1. How does the t_____ in Daniel fit with the New Testament descriptions?
I Thessalonians 3:4 For verily, when we were with you, we told you before that we should suffer tribulation; even as it came to pass, and ye know. (KJV)

θλίψει (*phlipsei*) tribulation (KJV) hardship (NJB) affliction (NIV) suffering (NRS)

Revelation 7.14: I answered, "Sir, you know." And he said, "These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

2. When will the a_____ occur?
the Roman empire of John's time?
the world as it is until the end times?
the events of the end times only?
a mixture of all 3?
is this only a symbolic set of events that do not actually happen?

For what place eschatology has in history, the four most common views are:

- The ***Preterist*** approach (from the Latin *praeteritus* meaning *gone by*) seeks parallels between *Revelation* and the events of the 1st century AD, such as Herod's attempt to kill the infant Christ, the struggle of Christianity to survive the persecutions of Judaism and the Roman Empire, the fall of Jerusalem in 70 AD, the desecration of the temple in the same year, and the growth of Christianity from a sect within Judaism to an independent religion.
- The ***Historicist*** method takes a broader historical approach and seeks parallels between *Revelation* and the major people and events of history, especially those that directly affected Israel and the Church.
- The ***Futurist*** method approaches *Revelation* as chiefly referring to events that have not come to pass, but that will take place at the end of this age and at the end of the world. The main focus is the return of Christ.
- The ***Idealist*** model, also known as *Spiritualist* or *Symbolic*, approaches the images of *Revelation* **as symbols that represent larger themes and concepts, rather than actual people and events.** It sees in Revelation an allegorical representation of the ongoing struggle of the forces of light and darkness, and the ultimate triumph of good over evil. An advantage of this approach for some is that it does not require belief in divine inspiration or the supernatural prediction of future events. But this fact also limits its application to eschatology, unless used in combination with the other approaches.
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christian_eschatology

3. Do the events of Revelation chapters 6 - 18 happen in s_____ , overlap, or occur simultaneously?

4. What is the m_____ and how does it work?

Millennialism (from millennium, Latin for "thousand years"), is a belief held by some Christian denominations that there will be a Golden Age or Paradise on Earth in which Christ will reign for 1000 years prior to the final judgment and future eternal state. This belief is derived primarily from the book of Revelation 20:1-6.

For what relation the thousand year kingdom has to Christ's second coming, the three most common views are:

- **Premillennialism**: Christ's Second coming before a literal one thousand year period, known by some as a thousand-year Sabbath, is preceded by a gradual deterioration of human society and behavior, and the expansion of evil through an end time government or kingdom.
- **Postmillennialism**: Christ's Second coming is seen as occurring after the one-thousand years, which many in this school of thought believe is ushered in by the church.
- **Amillennialism**: Non-literal "thousand years" or long age between Christ's first and second comings; the millennial reign of Christ as pictured in the book of Revelation is viewed now as Christ reigning at the right hand of the Father.

5. What-- and when-- is the r_____ ?

I Thessalonians 4.17: ἁρπάζω harpazo (Latin: *rapio*... English: rapture)
literally "caught up"

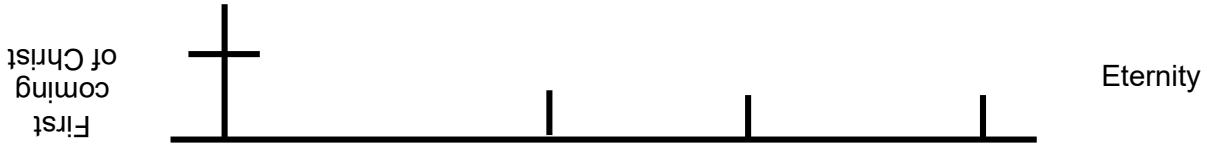
I Thessalonians 4.15-17: According to the Lord's word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. For **the Lord himself will come down from heaven**, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with **the trumpet call of God**, and **the dead in Christ will rise first**. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be **caught up together with them in the clouds** to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.

6. What do all these s_____ mean?
the four horsemen of the apocalypse; a lamb with seven eyes & seven horns; a dragon with seven heads; Babylon; others ... 666

7. Who is the a_____ -Christ?
Revelation 13.18: This calls for wisdom. Let the person who has insight calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man. That number is 666.

8. How do we put this all t_____ ?
The millennium also must be considered in relation to the tribulation mentioned both in Daniel and Revelation. These combinations lead to the following eschatologies (these models are based on the material from the Blue Letter Bible website)

(As you fill out ;this section, use **T** for tribulation, **M** for millennium, ↑ for rapture
Chr for Second Coming of Jesus and **LJ** for Last Judgment



1. Dispensational Pre-Tribulation Premillennialism

this is the "Left Behind" model... it includes the salvation of I_____

Romans 11.25-26: I do not want you to be ignorant of this mystery, brothers and sisters, so that you may not be conceited: Israel has experienced a hardening in part until the full number of the Gentiles has come in, and in this way all Israel will be saved. As it is written: "The deliverer will come from Zion; he will turn godlessness away from Jacob.

2. Historical Pre-tribulational Premillennialism

this model sees Christians as the n_____ Israel

Romans 9.6-8: It is not as though God's word had failed. For not all who are descended from Israel are Israel. Nor because they are his descendants are they all Abraham's children. On the contrary, "It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned." In other words, it is not the children by physical descent who are God's children, but it is the children of the promise who are regarded as Abraham's offspring.

3. Post-millienialsm

this model sees the world being evangelized until all the e_____ are saved,
then Christ will come
This is a preterist view

4. Amillienialsm

This model see the Church in the world as growing but s_____ as well

The final key issue involves the role of I_____ in the last times.

VII. B. READINGS

here is the on-line reference for Blue Letter Bible sides:
https://www.blueletterbible.org/faq/
(look for Four Views of the Millennium)

VII. B. 1. Overview of the book of Revelations

General Comments to the Churches Chapters 1 - 5 **The Seven Seals** Chapters 6 - 10 **Two Witnesses, the Lady & the Dragon** Chapters 7 - 14	**The Seven Plagues & Seven Bowls** Chapters 15-16**The Woman on the Dragon & the fall of Babylon** Chapters 17-18 **The Coming of Christ** Chapter 19

VII. B. 2. The Tribulation

Daniel 9.21-27: while I was still in prayer, Gabriel, the man I had seen in the earlier vision, came to me in swift flight about the time of the evening sacrifice. He instructed me and said to me, "Daniel, I have now come to give you insight and understanding. As soon as you began to pray, an answer was given, which I have come to tell you, for you are highly esteemed. Therefore, consider the message and understand the vision**: "Seventy 'sevens' are decreed for your people and your holy city to finish transgression,** to put an end to sin, to atone for wickedness, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the most holy.

"Know and understand this: From the issuing of the decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem **until the Anointed One, the ruler, comes, there will be seven 'sevens,' and sixty-two 'sevens.'** It will be rebuilt with streets and a trench, but in times of trouble. After the sixty-two 'sevens,' the Anointed One will be cut off and will have nothing. The people of the ruler who will come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end will come like a flood: War will continue until the end, and desolations have been decreed. He will confirm a covenant with many for one 'seven.' In the middle of the 'seven' he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on a wing *of the temple* he will set up an abomination that causes desolation, until the end that is decreed is poured out on him."

Daniel 12.1-13:: "At that time Michael, the great prince who protects your people, will arise. There will be **a time of distress** such as has not happened from the beginning of nations until then. But at that time your people--everyone whose name is found written in the book--will be delivered. **Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt.** Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever.

But you, Daniel, roll up and seal the words of the scroll until the time of the end. Many will go here and there to increase knowledge." Then I, Daniel, looked, and there before me stood two others, one on this bank of the river and one on the opposite bank. One of them said to the man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, "How long will it be before these astonishing things are fulfilled?" The man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, lifted his right hand and his left hand toward heaven, and I heard him swear by him who lives forever, saying, "**It will be for a time, times and half a time.** When the power of the holy people has been finally broken, all these things will be completed."

I heard, but I did not understand. So I asked, "My lord, what will the outcome of all this be?" He replied, "Go your way, Daniel, because the words are rolled up and sealed until the time of the end. Many will be purified, made spotless and refined, but the wicked will continue to be wicked. None of the wicked will understand, but those who are wise will understand. "From the time that the daily sacrifice is abolished **and the abomination that causes desolation is set up, there will be 1,290 days**. Blessed is the one who waits for and reaches the end of the 1,335 days. "As for you, go your way till the end. You will rest, and then at the end of the days you will rise to receive your allotted inheritance."

Zachariah 14.1-9: A day of the LORD is coming, Jerusalem, when your possessions will be plundered and divided up within your very walls**. I will gather all the nations to Jerusalem to fight against it; the city will be captured,** the houses ransacked, and the women raped. Half of the city will go into exile, but the rest of the people will not be taken from the city. Then the LORD will go out and fight against those nations, as he fights on a day of battle. On that day his feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, east of Jerusalem, and the Mount of Olives will be split in two from east to west, forming a great valley, with half of the mountain moving north and

half moving south. You will flee by my mountain valley, for it will extend to Azel. You will flee as you fled from the earthquake[1] in the days of Uzziah king of Judah**. Then the LORD my God will come, and all the holy ones with him.** On that day there will be neither sunlight nor cold, frosty darkness. It will be a unique day--a day known only to the LORD--with no distinction between day and night. When evening comes, there will be light. On that day living water will flow out from Jerusalem, half of it east to the Dead Sea and half of it west to the Mediterranean Sea, in summer and in winter. The LORD will be king over the whole earth. On that day there will be one LORD, and his name the only name.

Matthew 24.14-42: And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and **then the end will come**. "So **when you see standing in the holy place 'the abomination that causes desolation,' spoken of through the prophet Daniel**-- let the reader understand-- then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. Let no one on the roof of his house go down to take anything out of the house. Let no one in the field go back to get his cloak. How dreadful it will be in those days for pregnant women and nursing mothers! Pray that your flight will not take place in winter or on the Sabbath. For then there will be great distress, unequaled from the beginning of the world until now-- and never to be equaled again. If those days had not been cut short, no one would survive, but for the sake of the elect those days will be shortened.

At that time if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ!' or, 'There he is!' do not believe it. **For false Christs and false prophets will appear** and perform great signs and miracles to deceive even the elect-- if that were possible. See, I have told you ahead of time. "So if anyone tells you, 'There he is, out in the desert,' do not go out; or, 'Here he is, in the inner rooms,' do not believe it. For as lightning that comes from the east is visible even in the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.

Wherever there is a carcass, there the vultures will gather. "Immediately after the distress of those days "**'the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light;** the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.' "At that time the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and all the nations of the earth will mourn. They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky, with power and great glory. And he will send his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other. **... Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left.** "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come.

Acts 2.17-21: "'In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy. I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood and fire and billows of smoke. The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before **the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord.** And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.'

II Thessalonians 2.1-7: Concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered to him, we ask you, brothers and sisters, not to become easily unsettled or alarmed by the teaching allegedly from us--whether by a prophecy or by word of mouth or by letter-- asserting that the day of the Lord has already come. Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and **the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction.** He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to

be God. Don't you remember that when I was with you I used to tell you these things? And now you know what is holding him back, so that he may be revealed at the proper time. For the secret power of lawlessness is already at work; but the one who now holds it back will continue to do so till he is taken out of the way.

II Peter 3.9-11: The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief**. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire,** and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare. Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives

Revelation 1.9: I John, who also am your brother, and companion in **tribulation**, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was in the isle that is called Patmos, for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.

Revelation 2.9: I know thy works, and **tribulation**, and poverty, (but thou art rich) and *I know* the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but *are* the synagogue of Satan.

Revelation 2.20-23: Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols. And I gave her space to repent of her fornication; and she repented not. Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into **great tribulation**, except they repent of their deeds. And I will kill her children with death; and all the churches shall know that I am he which searcheth the reins and hearts: and I will give unto every one of you according to your works.

Revelation 7.13-15: Then one of the elders asked me, "These in white robes--who are they, and where did they come from?" I answered, "Sir, you know." And he said, "These are they who have **come out of the great tribulation**; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore, "they are before the throne of God and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence.

The Millennium

Revelation 20.1-10: And I saw an angel coming down out of heaven, having the key to the Abyss and holding in his hand a great chain. He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil, or **Satan, and bound him for a thousand years**. He threw him into the Abyss, and locked and sealed it over him, to keep him from deceiving the nations anymore until the thousand years were ended. After that, he must be set free for a short time. I saw thrones on which were seated those who had been given authority to judge. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony about Jesus and because of the word of God. They had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands. **They came to life and reigned with Christ a thousand years**. (The **rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended**.) This is **the first resurrection**. Blessed and holy are those who share in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them, but **they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him for a thousand years. When the thousand years are over, Satan will be released** from his prison and will go out to deceive the nations in the four corners of the earth--Gog and

Magog--and **to gather them for battle**. In number they are like the sand on the seashore. They marched across the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of God's people, the city he loves**. But fire came down from heaven and devoured them**. And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

The Rapture
Matthew 24.34-44: Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away. "But **about that day or hour no one knows**, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. Two men will be in the field**; one will be taken and the other left**. Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left. "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come. But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into. So you also must be ready, because the **Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him**.

Luke 17.30-35: "It will be just like this **on the day the Son of Man is revealed**. On that day no one who is on the housetop, with possessions inside, should go down to get them. Likewise, no one in the field should go back for anything. Remember Lot's wife! Whoever tries to keep their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life will preserve it. I tell you, on that night two people will be in one bed; **one will be taken and the other left**. Two women will be grinding grain together; one will be taken and the other left."

Corinthians 15.51-52: Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed-- in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at **the last trumpet**. For the trumpet will sound, **the dead will be raised imperishable**, and **we will be changed**.

I Thessalonians 4.15-17: According to the Lord's word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. For **the Lord himself will come down from heaven**, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with **the trumpet call of God**, and **the dead in Christ will rise first**. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be **caught up together with them in the clouds** to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.