

DAY 4: THE CAPSTONE OF JEWISH CRUCIFORM APOCALYPTICISM

I. THE GREEK WORLDVIEW

- A. The Greek worldview refers to how Greek philosophers understand creation, the totality of existence, etc. (pagan philosophy)
- B. Socrates as the father of Greek philosophers and was influenced by a demon
 - 1. Plato, Aristotle, etc. later on
- C. Alexander the Great studied these teachings and brought greek philosophy with him as he conquered lands even throughout the Middle East
- D. Physical realm is bad, spiritual realm is perfect
 - 1. The goal of life is to get out of the physical to the spiritual
- E. History is cyclical as it moves forward, no real beginning or end
- F. Paul warns against a Greek-Philosophical worldview (Colossians 2:8-10)

II. THE JEWISH WORLDVIEW

- A. In the beginning, God created the heavens (sky, spiritual, Heaven) and the Earth
 - 1. It's all called good
- B. If the Gospel is mixed with greek philosophy, our only goal becomes to die and go to heaven
- C. The Bible teaches that we are awaiting the redemption of all things
 - 1. Not to destroy or escape the physical but to heal and bring it back to its original state in the beginning, when it was called good
 - 2. "All of creation groans and suffers..." (Romans 8:22-23)
- D. The ultimate goal of the Gospel is the redemption of our spirits AND our bodies
- E. If we were to die today, our spirits would be alive and with Jesus in heaven
 - 1. Even those who are in heaven are waiting for the Day of the Lord when our spirits will be restored with our eternal, redeemed bodies
- F. God is faithful to His creation
- G. He will redeem, restore, and heal his creation
- H. He will redeem the heavens and the earth together under His headship
- I. History is moving towards a very specific moment in time, the return of Jesus
 - 1. Creation
 - 2. The Fall
 - 3. Abrahamic, Mosaic, and Davidic Covenants
 - 4. The Cross- New Covenant
 - 5. The Return of Jesus
 - 6. Restoration of all things



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- J. [Revelation 21](#) speaks to this entire concept
- K. Jesus will reconcile all things in heaven and on earth (Colossians 1:19-20, Ephesians 10:1, Acts 3:19-21)

III. APOCALYPTICISM

- A. There are two primary time periods in the Bible: this age and the age to come
 - 1. Divided by the return of Jesus
- B. "Apocalypse" refers to the decisive event that separates this age and the age to come
 - 1. Until that day comes, we are dying, we are in this age
 - 2. The age to come will be defined by the healing of all things
- C. The millennium is the transition into this eternal state, from this age to the age to come
- D. The Book of Revelation, within the context of a Jewish apocalyptic worldview, is specifically talking about the events that surround the return of Jesus
 - 1. The events that precede and follow His return
- E. The return of Jesus is the pinnacle of all Jewish hope and expectation
- F. The Book of Revelation also has profound pastoral content for us today

IV. CRUCIFORM

- A. "Patterned after the cross"
- B. This age is defined by our embrace of the cross
- C. The lives that we live should emulate the pattern left behind by Jesus
- D. When He returns, we inherit glory
- E. Essentially, suffering before glory
- F. The Book of Revelation speaks of a time when the church will embrace that lifestyle more than ever before in history
- G. Was it not necessary for the Messiah to suffer before entering into glory? ([Luke 24:25-26](#))
- H. Tested by fire, lay down our lives now to receive glory when He returns ([1 Peter 1:6-9](#))
- I. We (believers) have been called to suffer as Jesus suffered ([1 Peter 2:21-24](#))
 - 1. Called to lay down our lives and spread the Gospel
- J. Those in the church will be killed in the last days because of the testimony of God ([Revelation 6:9-11](#))