

Update November 10, 2013

End Times Hermeneutics 1

Hermeneutics refers to the rules of interpreting God's word in the Bible; however, the rules are not the same for all of Scripture. The hermeneutics of end times prophecy is most definitely separate and unique. Daniel, Revelation, Ezekiel, Esther, the Olivet Discourse, etc, cannot be understood using the same hermeneutics as used for deciphering the rest of the Bible.

End Times hermeneutics has three important characteristics: first, the symbolic interpretation always takes precedence over the literal interpretation. Second, there is a great emphasis on numerology, and third, you need a co prophet to make sense of the prophecy. These three unique rules indicate that end times prophecy is a function of the Holy Spirit and a chief characteristic of the Holy Spirit is mystery!

For an example of various types of interpretation, let's look at the Old Testament story of Jonah and the whale. We accept on faith, that Jonah literally lived for three days, in the belly of a whale. That is the straight forward kind of interpretation that works with most Bible writing.

In addition, the accepted symbolic interpretation is that Jonah in the whale's belly prefigured the body of Jesus in the ground for three days following His crucifixion. In fact, Jesus referred to that interpretation himself when he said the sign of Jonah would be the only sign given to an unrepentant generation.

If there is an end times significance then we must understand the three days cannot symbolize three days. It could mean 3 months, 3 years, 3 centuries or 3 millennia but it could not, for example, represent the three days of darkness, because the three days must represent some other time frame. In this case, it is likely that Jonah's three days in the whale and Jesus' three days in the ground symbolize the three plus years of that dark prison of the end times known as the great tribulation.

Jesus gave similar prophecy when He said "destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up again". Again, He was speaking symbolically

about the Resurrection of His body after being in the tomb for three days. However, Jesus was also giving end times prophecy as well as using replacement theology. The three days represents, in that case, the three plus years of great tribulation during which time the Church will be crucified and buried just like her Master. But what a promise! After the great tribulation, Jesus will raise His Church up again more glorious than ever.

The third rule of end times prophecy is that you need two people for it to be understood: the original prophet and a co prophet to explain the meaning, in much the same way that speaking in tongues requires one speaking and one interpreting. As Saint Paul says, speaking in tongues has no edification for the Church unless another interprets. This is how the Holy Spirit typically operates: two people are required. For example, as the giver of life, the Holy Spirit requires both a man and a wife to produce a child.

Several passages in Daniel confirm the fact that his words represent only half of the prophecy: read Daniel 12:4 "But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased". Obviously, SOMEONE must come along to unseal Daniel. Read Daniel 12:9 "And he said, Go thy way, Daniel: for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end". The "time of the end" is NOW, and my job as co prophet is to do the unsealing. I do not claim to be the only co prophet.

I will talk more about end times hermeneutics and its unique characteristics of Bible interpretation in future updates.