



School of Prophets

Biblical Hermeneutics

Professor: Dave James

Course Purpose

This course is designed to give the student a working knowledge of the principles of literal, grammatical, historical method of interpretation.

Course Components

Reading. 20%
Basic Bible Interpretation, Dr. Roy Zuck.

Paper (12-18 pages, preferably 15 minimum). 80%

Using the principles studied in this course, develop a paper: ***“A Biblical Defense / Refutation of the Pre-Tribulational, Pre-Millennial Rapture of the Church”*** based on the exegesis and exposition of the following passages:

Daniel 9, Matthew 24-25, 1 Corinthians 15, 1 Thessalonians 4-5; 2 Thessalonians 1-2 and Revelation

The goal of the paper is not to simply agree or disagree with the professor or any given point of view per se. Rather, this paper is to establish and defend a thesis concerning whether or not the Rapture of the Church will be prior to a 7-year tribulation period. The paper will not need to deal with all of the major points of the Pre-Trib Pre-Mill view, but does need to take them into consideration.

The basic Pre-Trib, Pre-Mill view would include the follow major points:

1. The Church Age began on the Day of Pentecost and concludes with the Rapture of Church, when all those, alive and dead in Christ will rise to meet the Lord in the clouds of the air.
2. The 7-year Tribulation Period, Daniel’s 70th week, will begin after the Rapture of the Church.
3. During the Tribulation, the Church will not be on the earth as God deals directly the nation of Israel and the Gentile nations, bringing judgment upon them and the Anti-Christ who will deceive and lead them in rebellion against God.
4. Christ will return to the earth as the victorious King of Kings and Lord of Lords to defeat the enemies of God and establish his 1000-year reign upon the earth, during which time Satan will be bound in the Abyss.
5. At the end of His 1000-year reign upon the earth from the Throne of David in Jerusalem, Satan will be loosed for a short time, when he will gather the nations against Christ - at which time Satan and all unbelievers will be finally defeated and Satan will be cast into the Lake of Fire.
6. After this, the Great White Throne judgment of all unbelievers of all time will take place, based upon which they will be cast into the Lake of Fire forever.

This is not primarily a research paper, so references to commentaries and quotations should be kept to a minimum. However, the use of commentaries is encouraged for the purpose of becoming familiar with literary textual issues such as grammar, syntax and vocabulary, as well as historical contextual issues.

Paper Guidelines

In general you should follow the *MLA Handbook* guidelines.

Paper size/type: 8 ½ x 11

Font: 12 point Times Roman or Arial (or the equivalent of these)

Margins: .75" for all margins

Spacing: Double-spacing

Length: At least 12 pages and no more than 18 full pages (papers which are shorter will receive 1 full letter grade reduction for each page or portion of a page less than 12; longer papers will not receive higher grades or extra-credit.)

Spelling and grammar: Correct spelling and grammar are important and mistakes could affect your grade on the paper. Use your spell-checker, and when in doubt, look up the word.

Citations - Use endnotes (not footnotes) and a bibliography: If you use sources for your material, they must be referenced. Endnotes should be used, rather than footnotes - and do not count toward the length of the paper. If you use word-for-word what someone else has written, it must be quoted. If it is longer than two sentences, it should be a block quote. The total of all quotes should not be more than 10% of the paper. You may use abbreviated endnotes for the first citation in the following format:

Abbreviated endnotes: Author's full name, *Title of the book*, pages.

Biblical references: 3-4 -letter book abbreviations - chapter:verse(s)

An abbreviated bibliography in alphabetical order should be included at the end in the following format:

Author's last name, first name. *Book title*. Most recent publish date.

NOTE: Endnotes and bibliography do not count toward the required pages.

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