

Eschatology (part one)

1. Some prophecy was fulfilled shortly after it was revealed:

- a. Eating from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in Genesis 2:17 – “but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”

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Genesis 3:7 – “Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.”

- b. God tells Noah his plan to send the Flood in Genesis 6:13-17 – “And God said to Noah, ‘I have determined to make an end of all flesh, for the earth is filled with violence through them. Behold, I will destroy them with the earth... For behold, I will bring a flood of waters upon the earth to destroy all flesh in which is the breath of life under heaven. Everything that is on the earth shall die.’ ”

-----FULFILLED-----

Genesis 7:11-12 – “In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, on the seventeenth day of the month, on that day all the fountains of the great deep burst forth, and the windows of the heavens were opened. And rain fell upon the earth forty days and forty nights.”

- c. Joseph's dream of his brothers bowing down to him in Genesis 37:5-7 – “Now Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers they hated him even more. He said to them, ‘Hear this dream that I have dreamed: Behold, we were binding sheaves in the field, and behold, my sheaf arose and stood upright. And behold, your sheaves gathered around it and bowed down to my sheaf.’ ”

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Genesis 42:6 – “Now Joseph was governor over the land. He was the one who sold to all the people of the land. And Joseph's brothers came and bowed themselves before him with their faces to the ground.”

- d. Samuel tells Saul he will die tomorrow and Israel will be defeated by the Philistines in 1 Samuel 28:19 – “Moreover, the Lord will give Israel also with you into the hand of the Philistines, and tomorrow you and your sons shall be with me. The Lord will give the army of Israel also into the hand of the Philistines.”

-----FULFILLED-----

1 Samuel 31:1-4 – “Now the Philistines were fighting against Israel, and the men of Israel fled before the Philistines and fell slain on Mount Gilboa. And the Philistines overtook Saul and his sons, and the Philistines struck down Jonathan and Abinadab and Malchi-shua, the sons of Saul. The battle pressed hard against Saul, and the archers found him, and he was badly wounded by the archers... Therefore Saul took his own sword and fell upon it.”

- e. Jeremiah tells Zedekiah, king of Judah, Jerusalem will be burned in Jeremiah 37:6-9 (and, in other places) – “Then the word of the Lord came to Jeremiah the prophet: ‘Thus says the Lord, God of Israel: Thus shall you say to the king of Judah who sent you to me to inquire of me, “Behold, Pharaoh's army that came to help you is about to return to Egypt, to its own land. And the Chaldeans shall come back and fight against this city. They shall capture it and burn it with fire.” ’ ”

----FULFILLED-----

Jeremiah 52:12-14 – “In the fifth month, on the tenth day of the month—that was the nineteenth year of King Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon—Nebuzaradan the captain of the bodyguard, who served the king of Babylon, entered Jerusalem. And he burned the house of the Lord, and the king's house and all the houses of Jerusalem; every great house he burned down. And all the army of the Chaldeans, who were with the captain of the guard, broke down all the walls around Jerusalem.”

.....and, in...

2 Chronicles 36:19-21 – “And they burned the house of God and broke down the wall of Jerusalem and burned all its palaces with fire and destroyed all its precious vessels...to fulfill the word of the Lord by the mouth of Jeremiah.”

f. Plus, all the prophecies of the other prophets concerning:

- i. the times of the Judges,
- ii. the life of the Kings,
- iii. the fall of Northern Israel,
- iv. concerning other nations,
- v. the return from exile,
- vi. the life of Jesus,
- vii. the Roman destruction of Jerusalem

2. Half of all prophecy has already been fulfilled literally.

- a. In the preface and during the introduction of his book “Every Prophecy of the Bible”, Dr. John F. Walvoord says,
 - i. “Most significant is the fact that half of these prophecies – five hundred of them – have already been literally fulfilled, establishing beyond any intellectual question that the Bible was intended to be interpreted literally in prophetic passages.” (page 7, “*Every Prophecy of the Bible*”, John F. Walvoord, 1999)
 - ii. “Many prophecies of Scripture were fulfilled shortly after their revelation. At least half of the prophecies of the Bible have already been fulfilled literally. Such fulfillment confirms the fact that unfulfilled prophecy will also be literally fulfilled as one could anticipate from fulfillment of prophecy already achieved. Fulfilled prophecy is an important guide in interpreting prophecy unfulfilled and generally confirms the concept of literal interpretation of a prophecy.” (page 14, “*Every Prophecy of the Bible*”, John F. Walvoord, 1999)

3. Conditional and unconditional promises and prophecies

- a. Conditional prophecies may never be fulfilled because the conditions were not met or the sin was corrected.
- b. Jonah in Nineveh.

4. Prophecies can have dual fulfillment.

- a. Part of the prophecy may have been fulfilled in the past, but the fullness of the prophecy is yet future.
- b. The prophecy may have been fulfilled fully in the past, but yet it serves as a sign of a greater fulfillment coming in the future.
- c. Matthew did this in Mathew 2:14-15 using an already fulfilled reference from Hosea 11:1:
 - i. Hosea 11:1 – “When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son.”

- ii. Mathew 2:14-15 – “And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, ‘Out of Egypt I called my son.’ ”
5. **25% of the Bible was prophetic at the time it was written.**
 6. **Literal or figurative interpretation?** The context of the scripture itself along with past fulfillments will guide the interpretation.

Foundational Prophecies for Eschatology in Genesis:

1. Genesis 2:16-17 –
 - a. The first prophecy
 - b. Fulfilled in Genesis 3:14-24
2. Genesis 3:14-24
 - a. Judgment and promise of salvation
 - b. Man’s purpose in Genesis 1:26-27 is left unfulfilled so corrections must be made so man’s purpose in creation is complete
 - c. First prophecy: Disobedience = Death
 - d. Second prophecy: The Seed of the Woman
 - i. The seed of the woman will suffer and pay a price in the conflict
 - ii. The seed of the woman will totally destroy the enemy forces
3. Enoch → Methuselah → Lamech → Noah
 - a. Enoch –
 - b. Methuselah –
 - c. Lamech –
 - d. Noah –
4. Flood
5. Government
6. Tower of Babel
 - a. One world government
 - b. Unified people
7. Nations
8. Abrahamic Covenant - Genesis 12:1-3
 - a. Abram would become a NEW nation
 - b. All nations would be blessed through Abram
9. The Land –
 - a. Genesis 12:7
 - b. Genesis 13:14-17 –
 - c. Genesis 27:41-28:22 –
10. King from the tribe of Judah – Genesis 49:8-12
 - a. Judah was triumphant over enemies
 - b. Judah would hold the scepter of rulership (king) until it came to the One it belongs to
 - c. The nations would be ruled by this descendent of Judah

CREATION OF MAN

PROPHECY

Genesis 1:26
 "Then God said, 'Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.'"

Genesis 2:16-17
 "And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, 'You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.'"

FALL OF MAN

PROPHECY

Genesis 3:6-7
 "...she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened."

Genesis 3:14-19
 The Lord God said to the serpent:
 "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat; all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."

To the woman he said,
 "I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be contrary to your husband, but he shall rule over you."
 And to Adam he said,
 "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it,' cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, and you shall eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

Genesis 3:21 - "
 "The LORD God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them:"

DELIVERANCE OF MAN

1. The seed of the woman will:
 - be a member of the human race
 - be bruised in his heel by "the serpent"
 - bruise the serpent's head (power, dominion)
2. During the time between the man eating from the Tree of Knowledge and the completed work of the "seed of the woman", YHWH will cause the human experience include:
 - "enmity" ("personal hostility", "hatred") between the serpent and the woman and her descendants
 - physical pain in labor (childbirth)
 - relationship strife
 - need for authority and submission
 - ecology deterioration
 - extensive effort in attaining provisions
 - agricultural and economic obstacles
 - painful, physical labor (work)
 - physical death and decay of body
3. Serpent's power will be broken and will spend all of existence in the dirt, underfoot.
4. Man's life is painful and filled with vanity, emptiness
5. But, what does the Lord providing the garments of animal skins for man mean?
 - God's continual care?
 - God's mercy?
 - God's plan to restore man to fulfill the original purpose at creation in Genesis 1:26 -
 - have God's image
 - be in God's likeness
 - have dominion over creation
 - rule over all the earth