



Notes for TH 301 Ecclesiology, Eschatology

Textbooks: King James Bible; Systematic Theology, Lewis Sperry Chafer (Outline of Study from Textbook)

Ecclesiology (ἐκκλησιολογία)

I. Introduction to Ecclesiology

A. The Creatures of God Viewed Dispensationally

1. The Angels
2. The Gentiles
3. The Jews
4. The Christians

B. Scripture Doctrine Viewed Dispensationally

1. An Acceptable Standing on the Part of Man before God
 - a. Divine Grace upon Israel
 - b. Divine Grace upon Christians
2. A Divinely Specified Manner of Life
3. A Divinely Appointed Service
4. A Righteous Ground Whereon God May Graciously Forgive and Cleanse the Erring
5. A Clear Revelation of the Responsibility on the Human Side upon Which Divine Forgiveness and Cleansing May Be Secured
6. An Effective Basis Upon Which God May Be Worshipped and Petitioned in Prayer
7. A Future Hope
 - a. The Future of This Life

- b. Intermediate State
- c. Resurrection
- d. Eternal Life
- e. The Covenanted Davidic Kingdom

C. The Church Specifically Considered

- 1. Two Independent and Widely Different Purposes in the Incarnation
- 2. Christ Revealed Two Distinct Lines of Truth
- 3. In His Death and Resurrection the Same Two Widely Different Objectives are Discernible
- 4. Events Predicted for the Close of the Present Age
- 5. Distinctions between Israel and the Church in the Coming Kingdom

II. The Church as an Organism

A. The General Features of the Doctrine Concerning the Church

- 1. The Meaning of the Word Church
- 2. The Fact of a New Divine Understanding
- 3. Various Terms Employed
- 4. The First Use of the Word Church
- 5. The Church the Present Divine Purpose
- 6. Four Reasons Why the Church Began at Pentecost
- 7. The Church in Type and Prophecy

B. Contrasts Between Israel and the Church

- 1. The Extent of Biblical Revelation
- 2. The Divine Purpose
- 3. The Seed of Abraham

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4. Birth
5. Headship
6. Covenants
7. Nationality
8. Divine Dealing
9. Dispensation
10. Ministry
11. The Death of Christ
12. The Father
13. Christ
14. The Holy Spirit
15. A Governing Principle
16. Divine Enablement
17. Two Farewell Discourses
18. The Promise of Christ's Return
19. Position
20. Christ's Earthly Reign
21. Priesthood
22. Marriage
23. Judgments
24. Position in Eternity
25. Conclusion

C. Seven Figures Used of the Church in His Relation to Christ

1. The Shepherd and the Sheep
2. The Vine and Branches

3. The Cornerstone and the Stones of the Building
4. The High Priest and the Kingdom of Priests
 - a. The Service of Sacrifice
 - b. The Service of Worship
 - c. The Service of Intercession
5. The Head and the Body with its Many Members
 - a. The Church a Self-Developing Body
 - b. The Members are Appointed to Specific Service
 - c. The Body is One
6. The Last Adam and the New Creation
 - a. The Resurrected Christ
 - (1.) The Resurrection of Christ is Subject to Indisputable Proofs
 - (a.) The Truthfulness of Christ Himself
 - (b.) The Empty Tomb
 - (c.) The Experience of Christ's Followers
 - (d.) The Fact of the Church
 - (e.) The Eye Witnesses
 - (f.) The Direct Assertion of the Bible
 - (g.) The Resurrection and the Divine Program
 - (2.) The Resurrection of Christ is Reasonable
 - (3.) Prophecy Respecting the Resurrection
 - (4.) Seven Reasons from the Resurrection
 - (a.) Because of Whom Christ is
 - (b.) To Fulfill Prophecy

- (c.) To Become a Bestower of Life
- (d.) To Impart Power
- (e.) To Be Head to His Body, the Church
- (f.) Resurrection and Justification
- (g.) Christ the Pattern or First-Fruits
- (5.) Three Standards of Power
- (6.) It was an Actual Resurrection
- (7.) The Resurrection of Christ is unto a New Order
- b. The Believer's Position in Christ
 - (1.) The Resurrected Christ
 - (2.) The New Humanity
- c. The Two Creations Require Two Commemoration Days
 - (1) The Biblical Testimony Regarding the Jewish Sabbath
 - (a.) The Period from Adam to Moses
 - (b.) The Period from Moses to Christ
 - (c.) The Period Represented by the Gospels
 - (d.) The Period Represented by the Acts and the Epistles
 - [1.] The Sabbath in the Book of Acts
 - [2.] The Sabbath in the Epistles
 - (e.) The Sabbath in Prophecy
 - [1.] The Cessation of the Sabbath
 - [2.] The Re-Establishment of the Sabbath
 - (f.) The Exact Day

(2) The Biblical Testimony Concerning the Lord's Day

- (a.) The Mosaic System has Ceased
- (b.) A New Day is Divinely Appointed under Grace
- (c.) A New Day is Indicated by Important Events
- (d.) The New Day Typifies the New Creation
- (e.) The New Day is Typical of Unmerited Grace
- (f.) The New Day Began to Be Observed with the Resurrection of Christ
- (g.) The New Day has Been Blessed of God

d. The Final Transformation

- (1.) Release from the Sin Nature
- (2.) The Actual Occupation of Heavenly Citizenship
- (3.) The Possession of a Transformed Body

e. Conclusion

7. The Bridegroom and the Bride

- a. Contrasted with Israel
- b. A Delineation of Christ's Knowledge-Surpassing Love
- c. An Assurance of the Consort's Authority
- d. A Revelation of the Bride's Position Above All-Creation
- e. A Surety of Infinite Glory
- f. The Bride Types
 - (1.) Eve

(2.) Rebekah

(a.) The Father Undertakes in Behalf of His Son

(b.) The Father Sends the Trusted Servant

(c.) Election is Seen in the Particular One Chosen

(d.) Rebekah's Faith

(e.) The Foretaste of Isaac's Riches

(f.) The Journey

(g.) The Union

g. The Meaning of this Figure

h. Conclusion

III. The Organized Church

A. The Church a Local Assembly

1. The Church and Her Doctrine

2. The Church and Her Service

3. The Church and Her Organization

4. The Church and Her Ordinances

5. The Church and Her Order

B. A Group of Local Churches

C. The Visible Church Without Reference to Locality

IV. The Believer's Rule of Life

A. The Rules of Life in the Old Testament Period

1. The Pre-Mosaic Economy

2. The Mosaic Economy

- a. The Relation the Mosaic Law Sustained to the Time of Its Reign
 - (1.) The Law began Its Reign at Mount Sinai
 - (2.) The Reign of the Law was Terminated with the Death of Christ
- b. The Application of the Law
- 3. The Future Kingdom Economy
- 4. The Present Grace Economy
 - a. The Independent and Uncomplicated Character of Grace Teachings
 - b. Their Exalted Requirements
 - c. The Divine Enablement
- 5. The Grace Relationships
 - a. Relationship to the Persons of the Godhead
 - b. Relation to the Cosmos (κοσμος) World System
 - (1.) To Satan and His Emissaries
 - (2.) To the World System
 - (3.) To Human Governments
 - (4.) To the Unsaved as Individuals
 - c. Relationship in the Body of Christ
 - (1.) A Christian's Relation to Other Christians in General
 - (2.) A Christian's Relation to Those Who Are in Authority in the Assembly of Believers
 - (3.) The Relation of Christian Husbands and Wives

(4.) The Relation of Christian Parents and Children

(5.) The Relation of Christian Masters and Servants

(6.) A Christian's Obligation to an Erring Brother

(7.) A Christian's Obligation to a Weak Brother

B. Contrasts Between Law and Grace

1. Independent, Sufficient, and Complete Systems of Divine Rule in the Earth

a. The Teachings of the Law of Moses

b. The Teachings of Grace

c. The Teachings of the Kingdom

(1.) The Similarity and Dissimilarity between the Teachings of the Law of Moses and the Teachings of Grace

(2.) The Similarity and Dissimilarity between the Teachings of the Law of Moses and the Teachings of the Kingdom

(a.) They are Similar Because They are Based on a Covenant of Works

(b.) They are Similar Because of Elements Which Are Common to Both

(c.) They are Dissimilar Because of Certain Points in Which They Differ

(3.) The Similarity and Dissimilarity between the Teachings of Grace and the Laws of the Kingdom

(a.) The Beatitudes

(b.) The Similitudes of the Righteous in the Kingdom

(c.) Christ Interprets the Law in Its Relation to the Kingdom

(d.) Mere Externalism Rebuke

(e.) Prayer for the Kingdom, and in the Kingdom

(f.) The Law Governing Riches in the Kingdom

(g.) The Father's Care Over the Children of the Kingdom

(h.) Warning Against Judgment of Others

(i.) Warning Against False Prophets

(j.) Three Determining Statements Concerning the Kingdom

2. The Sequence of the Divine Blessing and Human Obligation

3. Different Degrees of Difficulty and Different Degrees of Divine Enablement

C. The Law Systems and Judaism Done Away

1. The Actual Written Instructions of Both the Teachings of the Law of the Moses and the Kingdom are Done Away

a. The Passing of the Law of Moses is the Explicit Teaching of the New Testament Scriptures

b. The Error of Commingling the Law of the Kingdom with the Teachings of Grace

(1.) The Two System Cannot Coexist

(2.) Not Necessary to Combine Them

2. The Law Covenant of Works is Done Away

3. The Law Principle of Dependence on the Energy of the Flesh is Done Away

4. Judaism is Done Away

D. Conclusion

Eschatology (εσχατολογία)

I. Introduction to Eschatology

II. General Features of Eschatology

A. A Brief Survey of the History of Chiliasm (1000 year reign)

1. The Period Represented by the Old Testament

2. The Messianic Kingdom Offered to Israel at the First Advent

3. The Kingdom Rejected and Postponed

4. Chiliastic Beliefs Held by the Early Church

5. The Chiliastic Expectations Continued Until the Roman Apostasy

6. Chiliasm Began to Be Restored in the Reformation

7. Chiliasm Since the Reformation

a. The Theory of Whitby

b. Antimillennialism

c. Postmillennialism

B. The Biblical Conception of Prophecy

1. The Prophet

2. The Prophet's Message

3. The Prophet's Power

4. The Selection of the Prophets

5. The Fulfillment of Prophecy

6. The History of Prophecy

1. Four Prophets Who Serve as Milestones

- a. Abraham
- b. Moses
- c. Daniel
- d. Christ

2. John the Baptist

3. False Prophets

4. The Classification of Old Testament Written Prophecies

III. The Major Highways of Prophecy

A. Prophecy Concerning the Lord Jesus Christ

- 1. Prophet
- 2. Priest
- 3. King
- 4. The Seed
- 5. The Two Advents
 - a. The First Advent
 - b. The Second Advent

B. Prophecy Concerning Israel's Covenants

- 1. Four Major Covenants
 - a. The Covenant Made with Abraham
 - b. The Covenant Given through Moses
 - c. The Covenant Made with David
 - d. The New Covenant Yet to be Made in the Messianic Kingdom

2. Seven Features

a. A Nation Forever

b. A Land Forever

(1.) The Nation “Plucked from Off” the Land for Its Unfaithfulness

(2.) A Future Repentance of Israel

(3.) The Return of Messiah

(4.) Israel’s Restoration to the Land

(5.) Israel’s Conversion as a Nation

(6.) Judgment on Israel’s Oppressors

(7.) The Nation Will Be Blessed Then

c. A King Forever

d. A Throne Forever

e. A Kingdom Forever

f. A New Covenant

g. Abiding Blessings

C. Prophecy Concerning the Gentiles

D. Prophecy Concerning Satan, Evil, and the Man of Sin

1. Satan

2. Evil

3. The Man of Sin

E. Prophecy Concerning the Course and End of Apostate Christendom

F. Prophecy Concerning the Great Tribulation

1. The Doctrine in General

2. The Church and the Tribulation

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- a. The Nature of the Tribulation
- b. The Nature of the Church
- c. Must the Last Generation of the Church Suffer Especially?
- d. The Testimony of the Scriptures
 - (1.) The Imminent Return of Christ
 - (2.) The Anticipation of the Element of Time
 - (3.) The Dispensational Feature
 - (4.) The Major Scripture
 - (5.) The Twenty-Four Elders
 - (6.) The Restrainer Removed

G. Prophecy Concerning the Church

- 1. The Last Days for the Church
- 2. The Resurrection of the Bodies of the Saints
- 3. The Translation of the Living Saints
- 4. The Judgment Seat of Christ
- 5. The Marriage of the Lamb
- 6. The Return of the Church with the Christ
- 7. The Reign of the Church with Christ
- 8. Conclusion

IV. Major Themes of Old Testament Prophecy

A. Prophecy Concerning the Gentiles

- 1. The First Gentile Prediction
- 2. The Judgments Upon Nations Adjacent to Israel
- 3. The Times of the Gentiles

- 4. The Succession of Monarchies
- 5. The Judgment of Gentile Nations
- 6. Gentile Nations and the Lake of Fire
- 7. Gentile Nations and the Kingdom

B. Prophecy Respecting Israel's Early History

C. Prophecy Respecting the Nation Israel

D. Prophecy Respecting the Dispersions and Regatherings of Israel

E. Prophecy Respecting the Advent of Messiah

F. Prophecy Respecting the Great Tribulation

G. Prophecy Respecting the Day of Jehovah and the Messianic Kingdom

H. Conclusion

V. Major Themes of New Testament Prophecy

A. The New Age

B. The New Divine Purpose

C. The Nation Israel

D. The Gentiles

E. The Great Tribulation

F. Satan and the Forces of Evil

G. The Second Coming of Christ

H. The Messianic Kingdom

I. The Eternal State

J. Conclusion

VI. Predicted Events in Their Order

A. Noah's Prediction Concerning His Sons

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- B. Israel's Bondage in Egypt
- C. The Future of Jacob's Sons
- D. Israel in the Land
- E. Israel's Captivities
- F. Judgments to Fall Upon the Surrounding Nations
- G. A Partial Restoration
- H. The Coming and Ministry of John the Baptist
- I. The Birth of Christ
- J. The Offices of Christ
 - 1. Prophet
 - 2. Priest
 - 3. King
- K. The Ministries of Christ
- L. The Death of Christ
- M. The Burial of Christ
- N. The Resurrection of Christ
- O. The Ascension of Christ
- P. The Present Age
- Q. The Day of Pentecost
- R. The Church
- S. The Destruction of Jerusalem
- T. The Last Days for the Church
- U. The First Resurrection
- V. The Rapture of Living Saints
- W. The Church in Heaven

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X. The Believer's Rewards

Y. The Marriage of the Lamb

Z. The Great Tribulation Per Se

AA. The Appearing of the Man of Sin

BB. Israel's Final Sufferings

CC. The Destruction of the Ecclesiastical Babylon

DD. The Battle of Armageddon

EE. The Destruction of Political and Commercial Babylon

FF. The Day of the LORD Per Se

GG. The Second Coming of Christ Per Se

HH. Satan Bound and Confined

II. The Regathering And Judgment Of Sorrowing Israel

JJ. The Judgment Of The Nations

KK. Human Life In The Earthly Kingdom

LL. The Loosing Of Satan In The Last Revolt

MM. The Doom Of Satan

NN. The Passing Of The Present Earth And Heaven

OO. The Great White Throne Judgment

PP. The Destiny Of The Wicked

QQ. The Creation Of A New Heaven And A New Earth

RR. The Destiny Of The Saved

TT. The Day Of God

UU. Conclusion

VII. The Judgments

A. The Divine Judgments Through The Cross

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1. The Judgment Of The Sin Of The World
2. The Judgment Of The Believer Sin Nature
3. The Judgment Of Satan Through The Cross
- B. The Self-Judgment Of The Believer And The Chastening Judgments Of God
- C. The Judgment Of The Believer's Works
- D. The Judgment Of Israel
- E. The Judgment Of The Nations
- F. The Judgment Of Angels
- G. The Judgment Of The Great White Throne
- H. Conclusion

VIII. The Eternal State

- A. The Intermediate State
 1. Two Important Words Of Location
 2. The Doctrine Of Sleep
 3. An Intermediate Body
- B. The Creatures Of God Who Enter The Eternal State
 1. Unfallen Angels
 2. Fallen Angels
 3. Saved Gentiles
 4. Unsaved Gentiles
 5. Gentiles of the Kingdom
 6. Gentiles Debarred from the Kingdom
 7. Jews in the Kingdom
 8. Jews Excluded from the Kingdom

9. Jews Saved by Entry into The Church
10. Jews Condemned by Rejecting the Gospel
11. The Unserved as a Whole
12. The Christians

C. The Various Spheres of Existence

D. Theories Relating to The Future State

1. Death as a Cessation of Existence
2. Transmigration of the Soul
3. Conditional Immortality
4. Universalism
5. Restitutionism or Reconciliationism
6. Rome's Purgatory
7. Nirvana

E. The New Earth

F. The Doctrine of Hell

G. The Doctrine of Heaven

1. The Informed Witnesses
 - a. Christ
 - b. Paul
 - c. John
2. The Future Estate of the Redeemed
3. Heaven the Suitable Abode of God and His People
4. Some Essential Features of Heaven
 - a. An Abundant Life
 - b. Rest

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c. Knowledge

d. Holiness

e. Service

f. Worship

g. Glory

5. The Third Heaven

H. Conclusion