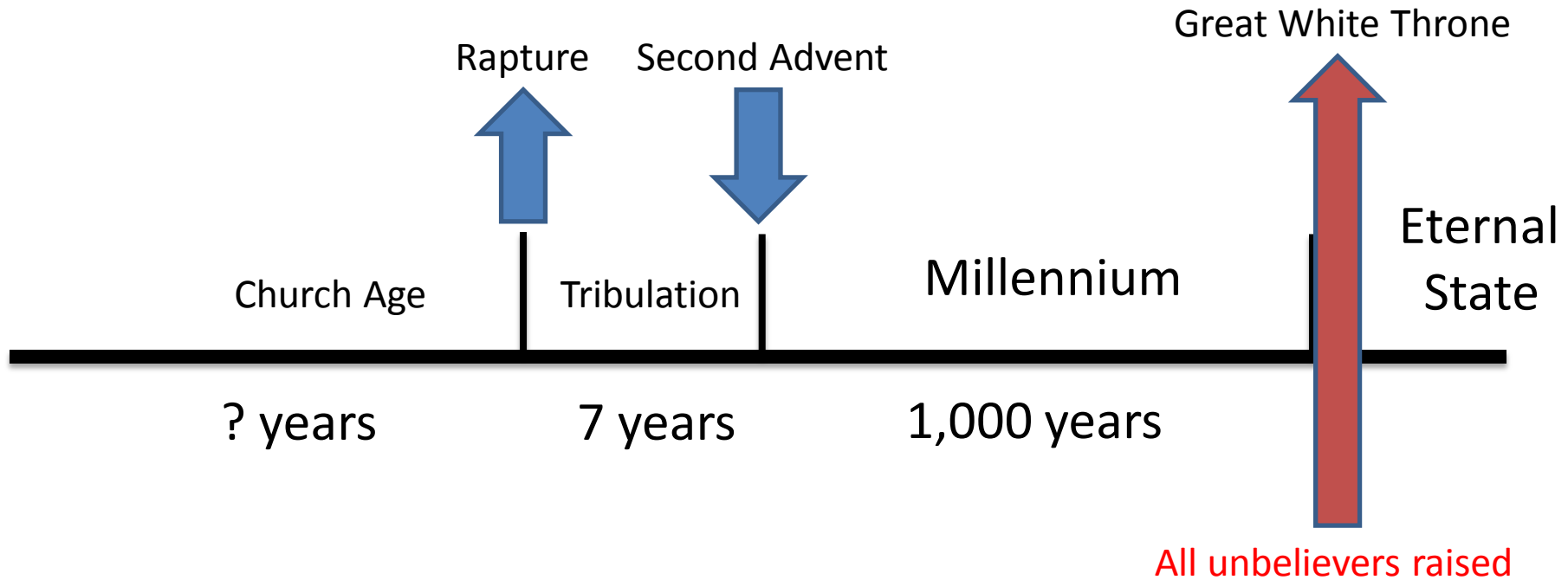


Doctrinal Foundations: Eschatology (4) The Rapture

1 Thess. 4:16-17, For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: ¹⁷ Then we which are alive *and* remain shall be raptured (ἄρπαγησόμεθα from ἄρπάζω) together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord [cf. John 14:1-3] ¹⁸ Wherefore comfort (παρακαλεῖτε) one another with these words.



Preparation for Bible Class

Foundations for the Spiritual life

#1- Salvation—positional truth

- **Ephesians 2:5** even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), ⁶ and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly *places*, in Christ Jesus, ⁷ in order that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

Preparation for Bible Class

Foundations for the Spiritual Life

#2 Daily spiritual life – the need for divine empowerment!

Ephesians 6:10 Finally, be strong in the Lord (ένδυναμοῦσθε έν κυρίω), and in the strength of His might. ¹¹ Put on the full armor of God, that you may be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. ¹² For our struggle (ή πάλη) is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual *forces* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*.

Preparation for Bible Class

Foundations for the Spiritual Life

**#3 - Spiritual maturity—the goal of life: “friend of God.”
Maximum glorification of God in the devil’s world.**

James 2:23 and the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "And Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness," and he was called the friend of God (φίλος θεοῦ).

2 Chronicles 20:7 "Didst Thou not, O our God, drive out the inhabitants of this land before Thy people Israel, and give it to the descendants of Abraham Thy friend (אַהֲבָה) forever?"

Any questions on
historiography or the
resurrection?

**These slides are available at
www.fbcweb.org/sermons.html**

Resurrection – 4 – The Cross/Death of Christ – Historiographical and Spiritual Dimensions

Historiographical Dimensions

1. The early oral testimony in 1 Corinthians 15:b3-5a:

ὅτι Χριστὸς ἀπέθανεν ὑπὲρ τῶν ἁμαρτιῶν ἡμῶν κατὰ τὰς γραφὰς
καὶ ὅτι ἐτάφη
καὶ ὅτι ἐγήγερται τῇ ἡμέρᾳ τῇ τρίτῃ κατὰ τὰς γραφὰς
καὶ ὅτι ὤφθη

That Christ died on behalf of our sins according to the Scriptures
and that He was buried
and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures
And that He appeared.

2. The evidence for the crucifixion of Christ is so overwhelming that virtually all critical historians concede Christ's death by crucifixion.

3. There are three minimal facts that are regarded as indisputable by virtually all critical scholars.

#1. Jesus died by crucifixion (This is due to early texts, traditions, and “embarrassing” passages).

#2. Very shortly after Jesus’ death, the disciples had experiences that led them to believe and proclaim that Jesus had been resurrected.

#3. Within a few years after Jesus’ death, Paul converted after experiencing what he interpreted as a postresurrection appearance of Jesus to him.

4. There are five principles historians use to establish historical bedrock.

#1 – Multiple eyewitnesses – rather than one.

#2 – Affirmation by neutral or hostile source – absence of bias.

#3 – Embarrassing details – details that weaken one's position.

#4 – Eyewitness testimony – over a second or third hand source.

#5 – Early testimony from very close to the event.

5. Crucifixion was a common form of execution employed by the Romans to punish members of the lower class, slaves, soldiers, the violently rebellious, and those accused of treason.

6. Crucifixion was usually preceded by torturing the victim brutally. Livy, Philo, and Josephus report of people being tormented with whips, fire, and all sorts of tortures before they were crucified. Lucian reports of a man who was whipped, his eyes put out, and tongue cut off before crucifixion.

7. There were reports of people whose flesh were so torn by whips that their veins and arteries became visible.

8. Josephus, the first century historian, tells of a man who was whipped to the bone by one of Pilate's successors before A.D. 70. He also reports that a group was whipped until their intestines were exposed. Josephus reports that the Roman soldiers felt such hatred toward the Jews that they crucified them in a multitude of postures.

9. In the first century, Seneca (1 B.C. – A.D. 65) described crucified victims as “maimed,” “deformed,” “nailed” and “drawing the breath of life amid long drawn out agony.”

10. Cicero (106-43 B.C.) referred to crucifixion as “that most cruel and disgusting penalty,” and “the worst extremes of tortures.” He says that the very word “cross” should be far removed not only from the person of a Roman citizen but from his thoughts, his eyes, and his ears.

11. Tacitus tells us that it was the “extreme penalty. “
12. Josephus on the crucifixion of Christ, “When Pilate, upon hearing him accused by men of highest standing among us, had condemned him to be crucified.
13. Tacitus reports, “Nero fastened the guilt [of burning Rome] and inflicted the most exquisite tortures on a class hated for their abominations, called Christians by the populace. Christus, from whom the name had its origin, suffered the extreme penalty during the reign of Tiberius at the hands of one of our procurators, Pontius Pilate.”

14. Lucian of Samosata, “The Christians, you know, worship a man to this day—the distinguished personage who introduced their novel rites, and was crucified on that account.”

15. Mara Bar-Serapion, writing to his son from prison comments,” Or [what advantage came to] the Jews by the murder of their Wise King, seeing that from that very time their kingdom was driven from them.

16. The Talmud, “on the eve of the Passover Yeshu was hanged” [i.e. hung on a tree/cross].

17. John Dominic Crossan, “That he was crucified is as sure as anything historical can be. “

What is the “Bedrock” of History?

- A. It is history that can only be confirmed in the Bible.
- B. It is history that is so certain that virtually all critical scholars accept it
- C. It is historical evidence (e.g. artifacts) that has been uncovered from the bedrock underneath the soil, sand, gravel, and clay of the earth’s surface.

What are the criteria used for establishing historical bedrock? (Historiography)

- A. Biblical tools: The Bible, a concordance, Bible maps, biblical Greek, and Hebrew word studies.
- B. Documents with early dates, eye-witness testimony, multiple attestation, embarrassing facts.
- C. Pray, fast, and ask your pastor.

True or False

Critical professional historians (e.g. atheistic, Jewish, agnostic) scholars accept the history in 1 Corinthians 15 and Galatians 1-2.

A. True

B. False

True or False

If a skeptic could show that the gospels were unreliable, it would destroy all reliable historical information on the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

A. True

B. False

True or False

The history recorded in 1 Corinthians 15 and Galatians 2 takes us back to multiple independent eyewitness testimonies to the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ—testimony that predates the writing of the gospels.

A. True

B. False

True or False

The apostle Paul preached a gospel of Christ that was independent of the other apostles.

A. True

B. False

True or False

Professional historians believe that Christianity began in A.D. 325.

A. True

B. False

True or False

Islam has more historical confirmation for its claim that Jesus was not crucified than Christianity has for the crucifixion and death of Christ.

A. True

B. False

What is the role of evidence when sharing your faith with others?

- A. Some who are seeking the truth about God have an emotional barrier to the gospel that can be removed by being informed of the evidence for Christianity.
- B. Evidence serves to prove that Christianity is true beyond all doubt.
- C. Some who are seeking the truth about God have an intellectual barrier to the gospel that can be removed by being informed of the evidence for Christianity
- D. The apostles never used evidence when presenting Christianity and neither should we.

What is the *Principle OF Enemy Attestation?*

- A. When an unsympathetic source doesn't like what is being said.
- B. A source that does not sympathize with a certain person, message, or cause affirms something about it
- C. Jesus and Paul agree that we should share the good news of the resurrection with unbelievers.
- D. All of the above.

Why is the “minimal facts: approach” effective?

- A. It enables me to present a strong case for Jesus’ resurrection without having to study much.
- B. It enables me to present a strong case for Jesus’ resurrection without assuming that the New Testament is inspired or even trustworthy.
- C. It helps keep the dialogue from diverging into less important issues and allows me to focus on the most important topic and the gospel.
- D. B&C are true

What is the *Principle of Multiple Attestation*?

- A. A source can be established by employing multiple principles of authenticity.
- B. Several people tell the same story.
- C. A source reports that several people saw or heard something.
- D. Several independent accounts tell the same story

What is the “minimal facts” approach?

- A. Only using facts that can be established by non-Christian sources.
- B. Only using facts that can be established from the four Gospels.
- C. Only using facts that are strongly attested and are accepted by nearly every scholar who studies the subject
- D. Only using facts that all cultists believe.

Jesus' resurrection is important because:

- A. Belief in Jesus' resurrection is part of the gospel.
- B. It is a starting point for confirming the trustworthiness of the Bible.
- C. It has practical implications for our lives.
- D. All of the above

Which of the following best describes when an event may be considered historical?

- A. The reasons for accepting it significantly outweigh the reasons for rejecting it
- B. No doubt remains as to its certainty.
- C. It can be found in the New Testament.
- D. None of the above.

True or False: If Jesus did not rise from the dead, Christianity is false and we should live accordingly.

A. TRUE

B. FALSE

What is the *Principle of Embarrassment*?

- A. A person or cause becomes embarrassed when challenged on the truthfulness of its beliefs.
- B. A source admits something that potentially damages its case
- C. The apostles embarrassed the Jewish leaders by preaching that they were responsible for killing the Messiah. This brought about repentance on the part of many Jews on the day of Pentecost.
- D. When discussing the evidence for Jesus's resurrection with others, you should avoid embarrassing them when they offer a response that is very weak and unsupported. It is important to answer "with gentleness and respect."

If a skeptic said, “I don’t believe that Jesus rose from the dead because I don’t believe the Bible,” you might respond with which of the following:

- A. It is not a matter of evidence. It is a matter of faith.
- B. Ask why he does not believe the Bible and address his objections.
- C. God said it. I believe it. That settles it.
- D. I have not based my case for the resurrection on the inspiration or even the general trustworthiness of the Bible

The Cross—The Spiritual Dimensions

A look at First Peter

1. 1 Pet 1:3-12. Resurrection, testing, and the Cross.

- ✓ 3, the resurrection—regeneration and the new life.
- ✓ 6-10, testing, suffering, and salvation, and the Cross
- ✓ Christ and His Cross are the center of human history, 1:10-12.
- ✓ Rooted in history (not mysticism or existentialism). All of the blessings come from Christ's living, dying, & rising again in history. Note the desire of OT prophets.

- ✓ Note our privileges, Verse 10: “to you” – verse 12: “serving you” “announced to you,” “gospel to you.” These wide and wonderful concepts are of no avail to us unless we realize the individual relation which Christ bears to each of us. We have the privilege of calling Him our Savior. We have Him, the grace, the completed picture, in union with Him.

- ✓ Note the longing of angels, 12; cf. Rev. 5:8-14; Eph. 3:8-10. They learn of God's grace but they will never feel the joy of our salvation. They are spectators not participants. They are fascinated with our salvation. They are fascinated with God's love and grace. They are fascinated with God's wisdom displayed in the theatre of human history. The wonder of God's grace coming to sinful men and transforming them. They cannot say "he died for our sins" but they can sing praise and glory to Him for redeeming man in matchless grace.

2. 1 Peter 1:17-25. Our priceless redemption and the Cross. Note the reference to the resurrection, 21.

3. 1 Peter 2:18-25. Christ, our Example. In unjust suffering we are to take up our crosses and glorify God.

- ✓ **Matthew 16:24** Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.

4. 1 Peter 4:1-2. Breaking the OSN and living in the will of God rather than the lusts of the flesh.