



Jeff Sweeten

# Thus Saith the Lord

## ESCHATOLOGY

By Jeff Sweeten

Some of the simplest concepts are needlessly complicated with baroque expressions, replete with \$100 words and a penchant for scholarly snobbery (used a dictionary for that line). God's word was written simply, and for the everyday person. For example, eschatology, meaning: the end times.

There can be no more wonderful or more frightening a future event than the return of the Lord, and one's perspective depends largely upon one's preparation: anticipation or dread. Hence, speculation abounds concerning "eschatology" (religious doctrines concerning last or final matters) and the chaos is unnecessary.

Jesus will arrive unannounced (2 Peter 3:10) at a time unknown (Mark 13:33). There will be no signs of his Second Coming to afford us any last minute preparation (1 Thessalonians 5:2). We're encouraged to be ready always (Matthew 25:1ff), as Jesus' coming will be cataclysmic and universal, ***"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: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord"*** (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17). These have been called the loudest verses in the Bible. There will be no secret "Rapture" of an "elect" few, but such a clamor as a divine "shout" with the booming voice of an angel and the loudest instrument ever heard on planet earth, a holy trump. Even those in their grave will ***"hear his voice"*** (John 5:28). Further, all the saved will go to be with the Savior in the clouds of the air, never again to set foot on the dirt of this earth. And, there's good reason for that since ***"the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up"*** (2 Peter 3:10). There will be no earthly kingdom to rule upon since ***"then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God"*** (1 Corinthians 15:24), a kingdom, by the way, that already exists at this present time with Christ reigning supreme as I write and you read.

We are either ready for His coming or we are not, ***"for God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil"*** (Ecclesiastes 12:14). If the blood of the lamb covers your sins (Revelation 12:11; cf. 1 John 1:7), you will rejoice to see the Day, and witness the resurrection of saints gone before. However, if we constitute no more than a diseased contribution to this world's infestation of sin, the Second Coming of our Lord will be like the flash of a flood lamp in a room full of roaches, and the scurry to hide will be eternally vain. Be ready!

*Thus Saith the Lord*  
is presented by the

## Park Heights Church of Christ

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Hamilton  
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### Schedule of Services

#### SUNDAY

9:30 a.m. Bible Class  
10:25 a.m. Morning Worship  
1:30 p.m. Afternoon Worship

#### WEDNESDAY

7:00 p.m. Bible Study

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