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APOCALYPTIC_ is a religious world view oriented towards the end of time, or eschatology and, 2. It is a genre of literature that articulates this world view.

Characteristics are: cosmic dualism, a focus on transcendence and a deterministic and pessimistic view of history. It makes extensive use of symbolism, emphasizes ecstatic experience as the source of revelation and identifies superhuman beings- devils, angels- as agents of cosmic conflict. It is usually pseudonymous

ESCHATOLOGY: is the understanding of the essential nature of existence in terms of its goal or destiny. Eschatology constitutes one element in practically all religious and philosophical systems of thought.

There is some ambiguity in that it may refer to the realm of the absolute or it may point to the events that mark the goal of the historical process. In the case of Judaism and Christianity, it refers to a historical process that encompasses humanity or even all creation. The primary subjects in this case are death, resurrection, judgement, heaven and hell.

JUDAISM: eschatology refers to God's choice of the nation as an instrument for achieving his purposes. The expectation of a Messiah who is to establish God's rule in the Earth. Beginning in the 2nd Century BCE APOCALYPTIC thinkers pointed to the pre-existent agent who would effect God's purposes at the end of history. This emphasis upon transcendence both supplemented and replaced earlier messianic hopes.

Apocalyptic eschatology existed primarily outside rabbinic Judaism.

CHRISTIANITY: primitive Christians understood themselves as the eschatological community envisaged in Israel. By identifying Jesus as God's eschatological agent they set definite limits upon the use of traditional Jewish apocalyptic systems.

Although the Messiah had already come, they anticipated his immanent return to consummate the process he had begun.

Christianity has, theologically, treated eschatology as a distinct subject that relates primarily to life after death. Consequently, the issue has frequently become the primary concern of sectarian movements outside the mainstream of Christian thought. Today, it again occupies a place of importance in many groups.

PROPHETIC HERESIES

The Church had inherited from antiquity, both Jewish and Christian, a tradition of prophecy, which, in theological language, is called Eschatology. This has to do with the end of the world, and of the universe.

This prophecy foretold a Millennium, not necessarily limited to a thousand years, and maybe not limited at all, in which the world would be inhabited by a humanity at once perfectly good and perfectly happy.

Because the Medieval church withheld solace of this kind, it exercised a powerful and enduring fascination on the common people and still does.

Generation after generation was seized, at least intermittantly, by a tense expectation of some sudden miraculous event in which the world would be utterly transformed with Christ and the angels returning for a final struggle with the Antichrist and history would be justified and fulfilled.

Often when needy or discontented masses were captured by some millenial prophet movements were apt to arise which, tho relatively small and short lived, looked much like the totaltarian movements of today.

As we come up on the 3rd Millenium, we are seeing many more of these groups and will continue to do so till after the turn of the century. In this lecture I will attempt to deal with some of the major heretical groups of the past 2000 years and today involved in apocalyptic sects.

#It is interesting to note that from the earliest gospel, Mark, who was sure the Lord would return when Jerusalem fell to the Romans, to John's Gospel written around 100, there was a shift to a spiritual understanding of Christ's return. John believed in "realized Eschatology" which means the minute you accepted Christ you were in the kingdom. There is no second coming in John.

MONTANISTS

The New Prophecy Movement, it was called by its adherents, Montanus came from Pyrgia, now part of Turkey. He lived in the second century and perhaps was a pagan priest before converting to Christianity. Of more importance was his ecstatic temperment.

Influenced by the Gospel of John's description of how Jesus would send the Holy Spirit, he declared that he himself was the spokesman of the Holy Spirit promised by Christ. With him, therefore, a new era would begin.

Speaking in prophetic ecstasy as a channel for the Holy Spirit he proclaimed: "Behold, man is as a lyre and I play upon him as with a plectrum; man sleeps and I arouse him; behold, it is the Lord who throws men's souls into ecstasy and gives them a heart." Some of his followers even claimed that he was an incarnation of the Holy Spirit.

Two women, Maximilla and Prisca (or Priscilla), served as his assistants and led the movement after his death.

They and other followers also delivered ecstatic prophecies; women more than men proclaimed prophecies and new Montanist teachings.

During the second century the Great Church was carefully formulating its doctrines and elaborating its institutions of administration. The Montanists reacted against these developments. They aimed at a freer, more emotional form of religion, requiring ecstasy in worship, prophetic visions from their leaders and "speaking in tongues" by the faithful --not unlike the "charismatic groups today.

Christianity had grown dramatically by the end of the 2nd century and were no longer small closed communities. New Christian converts were less strict in behaviour and many bishops wanted to make it easier to become a Christian.

Montanus sought a higher standard of morality, wanting stricter rules. He did not deny any of the accepted doctrines but felt the church was getting to 'secular'.

At the beginning of the 3rd century, Tertullian the great jurist-historian and former writer against heresies, joined the Montanists. IE, he died a heretic.

Around 177 CE the Montanists were expelled from the great church. By the end of the century, the Montanist church appeared as an even more powerful rival to the Catholic Church than the Marcionites. People asked, Were they the true heirs of Christ rather than the Catholic Church.

JOACHIM OF FIORE (1135 - 1202)

After the year 1000 came and went and Jesus didn't return, people began looking for an explanation of why? Joachim, a Benedictine abbot born in Calabria in S. Italy offered a three part view of history that became highly influential among unorthodox religious groups in the 13th century and following.

Based on his study of the Bible and on particular moments of illumination, he declared that human history could be divided into three stages that correspond to the three persons of the trinity. In particular he was moved by the passage in Revelation 14 that speaks of an angel flying in mid-heaven with an eternal gospel to proclaim to those on earth, every nation and tribe, language and people.

According to his presentation of the Eternal Gospel, the AGE OF THE FATHER corresponded with the Old Testament times and was characterized by its emphasis on law and God's role as a lawgiver and the absolute authority over the people. He also called this the age of St. Peter, and it was the age of the servants of God.

The AGE OF THE SON- also called the age of St. Paul--was the time of the New Testament and of the church. Its keynote was divine grace. Using Matt. 1:1-17, which listed 42 generations between Abraham and Jesus he calculated 42 generations ending @ 1260 which would bring the age of the holy spirit.

THE AGE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT would come with enormous upheaval and the brief rule of the antichrist. While the 2nd age was the age of the sons of God, the third would be the friends of God. In the age of the Holy Spirit, love and liberty would reign. He aligned this with St. John, alleged author of Revelation.

Likewise, Joachim saw human life-styles altered. the first age was the age of the householder-priest, symbolized by the Hebrew Patriarchs. The 2nd took its spiritual direction from the monks and clergy. In the third, paradisaical age, all people would live like monks and nuns in religious contemplation and ecstasy.

The idea that paradise would arrive on Earth thru an historical process ran counter to Catholic teaching, although we see it repeated by Socialism. Marxism and other later political and utopian movements. The worker's paradise, the Age of Reason, and the New Age all follow similar schemes of historical progression, assigning definite values to past, present and future.

Many people of different social classes embraced his teachings and Dante placed him in his literary paradise. However, the abbots ideas alarmed the church. His prophecy left the church in a marginal role and it could be taken as a criticism of the church as it existed.

Joachim's followers carried it further saying, along with other reformers, that the Catholic church had become corrupt, that baptism and priestly absolution were no longer efficacious and that personal holiness counted for more than ordination as a priest.

Among other things, Joachim prophesied the arising of two new orders within the church which would help usher in the Age of the Holy Spirit. Many, on hind sight, saw this fulfilled by the new orders of the Franciscans (1206) and the Dominicans (1215). These were different from other orders in that they were mendicant, ie, they were free to go where they felt called and were not strapped to one location.

This is one reason the Franciscans took up a number of his ideas as well as the popular preachers inside the church (The Dominicans are called the Order of Preachers). Joachims doctrines were officially condemned by theologians of the University of Paris, the leading university of the age, and by Pope Alexander IV in 1263 after a Franciscan had rewritten Joachim's ideas in a book called "Introduction to the Eternal Gospel.

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GUGLIEMA AND THE GUGLIEMITES

She was an Italian prophetess in the city of Milan about 1270 and was seen by her followers as incarnating the Holy Spirit, thereby ushering in the third age of the world foreseen by Joachim of Fiore, which was to begin about 1260.

Many followers of Joachim believed that since the second person of the Trinity had incarnated as a male, Jesus, the third person, the Holy Spirit, would be female for the sake of cosmic symmetry.

With her incarnation, new gospels would appear, and women would be spiritual leaders. In Provence, a Beguine named Prous Beneta was similarly hailed as incarnating the Holy Spirit in the early 1300's.

The idea of a woman incarnating the Holy Spirit has occurred since the Middle Ages. For example, "Mother" Ann Lee (1736-1784), English born founder of the American sect of celibate utopians called SHAKERS, taught that she represented God's incarnation as a woman, as Jesus had in a man.

Her less well known contemporary, Jemima Wilkinson (1752-1819), known to her american followers as the Publick Universal Friend, was regarded by many as Christ returned. Wilkinson also founded a community in NY state. She was accompanied by two women who were presented as the biblical prophets, Daniel and Elijah now "operating in these latter days in the female line".

An unsubstantiated tradition makes Gugliema the prototype of the Female Pope (also called the High priestess) card in the tarot deck.

ADAMITES

The Term Adamites ^{was given to} ~~were~~ a radical group of Husites who were rebelling against the German emperor and the Roman Catholic church during the 15th century in what is now the Czech republic. It is confusing as the same name was applied to 2 other movements, one in the 2nd century, and one the brotherhood of the Free Spirit. The common thread is the recurrent upwelling of desire to return to the alleged primitive bliss of the Garden of Eden.

It was said that the Hussite Adamites ~~were~~ said to go naked, to believe that they were in a sinless state because their spirits were free, and to attack priests and all organized religion.

They were to radical even for their fellow reformers. and were massacred by a Hussite force in 1421.

Apocryphal books ascribed to Adam were circulated during the middle ages, keeping the myth of his secret magical knowledge alive. It may be said --without stretching the point too far, --that the English poet John Milton's epic work Paradise Lost was the last and greatest Adamite work.

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THOMAS MUNTZER (1488-1525)

Muntzer was a warlike leader of the anabaptists, educated at the university of Leipzig, and ordained a priest. ~~around~~. He was influenced by Martin Luther, who helped him when he wanted to be assigned a parish in Zwickau, a town in the midst of a silver mining boom.

While in Zwickau he began to organize groups of weavers and other craftsmen who faced hard times due to inflation. He fell in with a radical group known as the Zwickau prophets.

One of their leaders had revived the millenarian doctrines popular among some of the Hussites. The last days were at hand, the Turks would conquer the rest of Europe, and the antichrist would rule, followed by the second coming of Christ and his thousand year rule over the earth--the millennium.

He was more and more convinced that the Holy Spirit spoke thru him and castigated the rich, other clergy, and the economic system which caused galloping inflation. He lost his pastorate and went to Prague, where he looked for support of the Hussites for a "renewed apostolic church."

Ejected from Prague, he wandered around, married a former nun and got another pastorate in Saxon Allstedt. He set out to reform church and society, wrote revolutionary pamphlets calling on people to overthrow princes, clergy and capitalists and hold all things in common.

He turned increasingly violent, both corrupt rulers and clergy must die. His small band started out by destroying a nearby Catholic chapel. He continued to pepper Luther and the other reformers with his manifestos w/o much positive response. Alarmed by the chapel's destruction, Saxon authority suggested he stop and keep quiet, but no way!

He joined an army of rebellious German peasants in what became known as the Peasant war of 1525. He served as their chaplain and leader. It was an uncoordinated uprising but was sparked by the sense of growing economic, religious and judicial oppression.

In one area the peasants temporarily formed a communal state with all property held in common. Militarily, however, they could not stand against the forces of nobles and mercenaries.

After bloody fighting and atrocities on both sides, the revolt was smashed. Muntzer himself was captured, tortured and beheaded. Luther wrote approvingly of Muntzer's execution saying it was the judgement of God. "whoever has seen Muntzer can say that he has seen the devil incarnate in his fiercest fury." Luther said.

Other leading reformers also castigated him, giving Muntzer the distinction of having been condemned by both Catholics and Protestants.

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WILLIAM MILLER (1782 - @1845) AND THE ADVENTIST MOVEMENT

The Seventh Day Adventist movement sprang from the 2nd great awakening in the middle of the 19th century. There was a re-emphasis on the 2nd coming of Christ in Europe, Briton and America. These were based mainly on the books of Daniel and Revelation.

Theology of the adventist movement was discussed in newspapers and theological journals and the "seventy weeks" and "twenty three hundred days" were common subjects of conversation.

Following the chronology of Bishop Usher and interpreting the 2300 days of daniel as 2300 years, many Bible students concluded that Christ would come back about the year 1843. One of these students was Wm. Miller, a Baptist minister in NY.

The second advent movement in the US stemmed largely from the activities of this minister, who confidently taught in the year 1818 that in about 25 years, ie., 1843 Jesus Christ would come again.

He wrote, I believe the time can be known by all who desire to understand and to be ready for His coming. And I am fully convinced that some time between March 21, 1843 and March 21, 1844, according to the Jewish mode of computation of time, Christ will come. . . . "

These were not crackpots of his day. Rather, the great advent awakening movement which spanned the Atlantic from Europe was bolstered by a tremendous wave of contemporary

Biblical scholarship. Scores of prophetic scholars in Europe and the U.S. had espoused Miller's views before he himself announced it.

Tracing the seventy weeks of Daniel on the theory that, as the Hebrew indicated, it should be rendered "seventy weeks of years" or 490 years, the Millerites arrived at the date 33 AD; that is from 457 BC to 33 AD Since this date reliably refers to Christ's crucifixion.

They then linked it to Daniel 8:14, "Unto two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed" with the seventy weeks of years prophecy, and the 2300 days became 2300 years. Thus, if you subtract 490 years from 33 AD, the figure 1843 is arrived at.

When Jesus didn't return, the Millerites were very disappointed and strove vainly to reconcile their interpretation of prophetic scripture with the stark truth that Christ had not returned.

With one last gasp, so to speak, Miller endorsed the "seventh month Movement" or the belief that Christ would come on October 22, 1844, the tenth day of the seventh month according to the Karaite reckoning of the Jewish sacred calander.

When the Lord didn't return that day either, the Millerites were a shattered and disillusioned people. The final phase of this movement then closed with the "Great Disappointment" of 1844.

Out of this three segments came that later fused to produce the seventh day adventist denomination. William Miller, was never a seventh day adventist and in fact was disillusioned about the new theories that emerged from the shambles of the millerite movement.

The first of the three groups came from NY and proclaimed the doctrine of the sanctuary "as embracing a special or final ministry of Christ in the Holy of Holies in the HEAVENLY sanctuary," thus giving new meaning to the message "the hour of God's judgement has come."

the second group, whose main following was in Massachusetts and New Hampshire, advocated the observance of the seventh day 'as involved in keeping the commandments of God. This included following kosher diet and other Jewish laws of various things.

The third group, found in Maine, emphasized the "spirit of prophecy" or "the testimony of Jesus" which they believed was to be manifest in the "remnant". This based on Revelation 14:6-12, or "The last segment of God's church of the centuries.

By 1855, these had united, with headquarters in Battlecreek, Michigan. In 1860 they took the official name of Seventh Day Adventist. Today they have over 40 publishing houses with about 225 languages published and between 2 and 3 million members worldwide. Today they emphasize health care and run many hospitals. They downplay the second coming of Christ, but still hope it is soon.

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JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

Charles Taze Russell (1852 -1916) was the founder and energetic administrator of the Witnesses that brought about the far flung organization it now is. At an early age he rejected the doctrine of eternal torment, probably because of the severe indoctrination he had received as a Congregationalist. He entered a long a varied career denouncing organized religion.

At age 18, he organized a bible class and 6 years later was elected "pastor" of the group. He learned the publishing trade as assistant editor of a monthly magazine and after leaving that in 1878, founded "Zion's Watchtower"

Russell wrote 6 of the 7 books of "Studies in the Scriptures" the last one, "The Finished Mystery:" published in 1917 after his death caused a split in the organization.

He was accused of using the Watchtower simply as a money making scheme, including advertising "miracle wheat" for 1.00 a pound in 1913. His X wife also won a suit against him so his character certainly was in question. Be that as it may, the organization grew and is still going fairly strong, especially with the millenium coming up.

Unlike the Seventh Day adventists who are at least on the fringes of Christianity and orthodoxy, Jehovah's witnesses have virtually abandoned all the beliefs of Christianity. It must be remembered that Russell put together his doctrine w/o benefit of any education, or inspiration,

SOME DOCTRINES OF THE JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

1. there is one solitary being from all eternity, Jehovah God, the creator and preserver of the universe and of all things visible and invisible.

2. The Word or logos is "a god" not God. A mighty God, the beginning of the Creation of Jehovah, and his active agent in the creation of all things. The Logos was made human as the man Jesus and suffered death to produce the ransom of redemptive price for obedient men. (Arian)

3. The Bible is the inerrant, infallible, inspired Word of God as it was originally given, and has been preserved by Him as the revealer of His purposes.

4. Satan was a great angel who rebelled against Jehovah and challenged His sovereignty. ~~That~~ Satan, sin and death came upon man. His destiny is annihilation with all his followers.

5. Man was created in the image of Jehovah but willfully sinned, hence all men are born sinners and of "Of the Earth" Those who follow Jesus Christ faithful to the death will inherit the heavenly kingdom with him. Men of good will who accept Jehovah and his theocratic rule will enjoy the "new Earth"; all others who reject Jehovah will be annihilated.

6. The atonement is a ransom paid to the Jehovah God by Christ Jesus and is applicable to all who accept it in righteousness. In brief, the death of Jesus removed the effects of Adam's sin on his offspring and laid the

foundation of the New World of righteousness including the Millennium of Christ's reign.

7. The man Jesus Christ was resurrected a divine spirit creature after offering the ransom for obedient man.

8. The soul of man is not eternal but mortal, and it can die. Animals likewise have souls, tho man has the pre-eminence by special creation.

9. Hell, meaning a place of "fiery torment" where sinners remain after death until the resurrection does not exist. This is a doctrine of "Organized Religion" not the Bible. Hell is the common grave of mankind, literally Sheol "a place of rest in hope" where the departed sleep until the resurrection by Jehovah God.

10. Eternal punishment is a punishment or penalty of which there is no end. It does not mean "eternal torment" of living souls. Annihilation, the second death, is the lot of all those who reject Jehovah God and it is eternal.

11. Jesus Christ has returned to earth in 1914 AD, has expelled Satan from Heaven and is proceeding to overthrow Satan's organization, establish the Theocratic Millennial Kingdom, and vindicate the name of Jehovah God. He did not return in a physical form and is invisible as the Logos.

12. The kingdom of Jehovah is supreme, and as such cannot be compatible with present Human Government (the Devil's visible organization) and any allegiance to them in any way which violates the allegiance owed to Him, is a violation of the scripture.

To attempt to summarize than:

Jesus is not God, but was made a divine spirit at the resurrection. Man is not eternal, but will lie in the grave until the last judgement. Then, 144,000 will be resurrected to live in heaven, the rest will either live in the new paradise on Earth, or be annihilated if they are wicked, since there is no hell of eternal torment.

Jesus is in the watchtower in Brooklyn, NY and has been since 1914, setting up his organization and expelling Satan from Earth.

They tend to set dates of when Christ will manifest himself. The last date I knew of was October, 1975 and the Witnesses were really out working to convert people before that time. After the date came and went, they lost people, but are still going strong. I believe the current date is at the millenium, tho I'm not sure.

They continue to be a very viable and growing group mainly drawing from professing Christians who are not well grounded in their own doctrines. These can be pried loose from the churches and led into the Watchtower. This is their stratagy, and it works, since most Christians are not grounded in Orthodox beliefs. The average Jehovah's witness can shred most seminary graduates on knowledge of the bible and this is their strength, interpretation aside. They have their own "translation", the New World Bible, taking out or re-translating things with which they don't agree.

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HAL LINDSEY ET AL.

Now, hopefully, we will come up to what is happening now in the realm of "prophetic" interpretations. Without question, Hal Lindsey is probably the one most people are aware of. Tho he is non-denominational (at least, I am unaware of his affiliation, except it is very conservative). He has written a couple of best selling books, and can still be seen on one of the religion channels every week (thursday here in Albuq.) going over the news and what prophecys are being fulfilled.

Before getting into him, we need to know some definitions that are floating around. Different groups take different views of when Jesus will return in regard to the tribulation. There are three views @ whether Christians will have to undergo the final seven years before Jesus returns.

POST TRIBULATION people believe that the church, including the "true Christian" will have to undergo the whole 7 years of the antichrists reign and persecution. Then Jesus will return and judge, rewarding the true ones and condemning the rest of humanity.

MID-TRIBULATION people believe that the church will only undergo the first half of the tribulation (the time, 2 times

and a half time of Daniel) or 3 ½ years. Then, before the final 3½ years, at which time things will be terrible, Christ will take out the true Christians in the "rapture" spoken of in I Thess.4:15-17, when the Lord will descend and the dead Christians will be raised along with all the living ones left to rise to meet him and go with him before the final testing.

PRE-TRIBULATION is the view that Hal Lindsey takes. This, he believes, is the biblical view. He says that Christians may endure severe persecution as the day of Christ's return approaches, but The Rapture will occur before the last seven years which, according to Revelation 3:10 is sent on the world to try unbelievers.

According to Lindsey, the confusion on this issue rises from a failure to distinguish two stages in Jesus 2nd coming. One passage speaks of Jesus coming in the air and in secret, like a thief in the night.

Another part describes Christ's coming in power and majesty to the earth with every eye seeing him. Both of these can be true only if there are two separate appearances of Christ in the future. To the best of my knowledge, this means the rapture will not be seen, people will simply disappear. The coming after the tribulation at the battle of Armegeddon, will be public.

SIGNS OF THE END

Pretty much accepted by all groups who expect Jesus return before the end of the century, whether pre,mid or post tribulation are the following:

- 1.The return of the dispersed Jews to Israel to become a nation again in 1948.
2. The Jews recapture of the old city of Jerusalem in the 1967 5 day war.
3. The rise of Russia? as a powerful enemy of Israel
4. the Arab confederation against Israel
5. The rise of military power in China that can field an army of 200 million soldiers.
6. the revival of the old Roman empire in the form of the Common market
7. the revival of occultic practices of ancient Babylon
8. unprecedented turn to drugs.
9. The increase of international revolution, wars, earthquakes, famines, pollution and lawlessness
- 10 the departure of many Christian churches from orthodoxy
11. the move toward an one-world religion and government.
12. the decline of the US as a major power
13. the coming of plagues (aids)

This pretty well covers the attitude today looking at the millenium. There are numerous groups, mostly fundamentalist and pentacostals(old and new) expecting the rapture anytime

THE TEMPLE IN JERUSALEM

One other thing needs to be mentioned and that is the idea that the temple in Jerusalem has to be rebuilt before the Messiah can come. For the Jew, this means for the first time. For the Christian, it means the second coming.

The temple is the focal point in both cases. The problem is that the Dome of the Rock Mosque is built right where the temple is supposed to be rebuilt.

There have been several attempts, none successful, to blow up the mosque, both by Christians and Jews over the years since 1967.

This all goes back to the book of Daniel in which the antichrist (for Christians) will create what is called the "abomination of desecration." This, historically, happened when Antiochus IV Epiphanes erected a statue of Zeus in the temple and sacrificed a pig on the alter in 167 BC.

In 164 BC (a time, two times and a half time) the temple was cleansed by the Macabees after defeating Antiochus.

This is where the seven years comes from , $3\frac{1}{2}$ years before and after the abomination. Thus, for Christians, the temple has to be rebuilt before the final $3\frac{1}{2}$ years of the tribulation so it can take place.

Conservative Jews are training levites to take up the sacrifice of animals again when it is rebuilt. Thus, this is something both Jews and Christians share in common.