

Hello. /We will begin the nineteenth lecture on systematic theology.

/A. Great events preceding the Second Coming.

/1. The calling of the Gentiles.

/The gospel of the kingdom will be preached to all nations before Christ's return.

/Matthew 24:14 says, "And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come." /However, this does not mean that the gospel will be preached to all peoples. /It means that the gospel will be preached to every nation.

/2. The conversion of Israel.

/Romans 11:25-26 says that there will be great conversion of Israel before the return of Christ. /"I do not want you to be ignorant of this mystery, brothers, so that you may not be conceited: Israel has experienced a hardening in part until the full number of the Gentiles has come in. And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: 'The deliverer will come from Zion; he will turn godlessness away from Jacob.'"

/3. The coming of the antichrist.

/The antichrist will come appear before the return of Christ. /Matthew 24:24 says, "For false Christs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and miracles to deceive even the elect-- if that were possible."

/1 John 2:22 says, "Who is the liar? It is the man who denies that Jesus is the Christ. Such a man is the antichrist-- he denies the Father and the Son." /The Bible speaks of the spirit of the antichrist.

/1 John 4:3 says, "but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world."

/2 Thessalonians 2:3-5 says that the antichrist is a man of lawlessness. /The man of lawlessness will proclaim himself to be God and oppose Christ. /Yet, Jesus will kill the man of lawlessness and have victory.

/4. The great tribulation.

/There will be wars, famines and earthquakes before the return of Christ. /Matthew 24:6-8 says, "You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of birth pains."

/Churches will become morally corrupt before Christ's return, and God will punish them with great tribulations. /Hence, there will be a great tribulation and many martyrs.

/Matthew 24:21-22 says, “For then there will be great distress, unequaled from the beginning of the world until now-- and never to be equaled again. If those days had not been cut short, no one would survive, but for the sake of the elect those days will be shortened.”

/In those times, false Christs and false prophets will entice believers with great signs and wonders.

/Revelation 13:13-15 says, “And he performed great and miraculous signs, even causing fire to come down from heaven to earth in full view of men. Because of the signs he was given power to do on behalf of the first beast, he deceived the inhabitants of the earth. He ordered them to set up an image in honor of the beast who was wounded by the sword and yet lived. He was given power to give breath to the image of the first beast, so that it could speak and cause all who refused to worship the image to be killed.”

/B. The Second Coming of Jesus.

/1. The time of the Second Coming.

/The time of Jesus’ Second Coming will be the end of the world. /Hebrews 1:2; 1 Peter 4:7.

/1 John 2:18 says, “For everything in the world-- the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does-- comes not from the Father but from the world.”

/The end of times refers to the time from Jesus’ First Coming to His Second Coming.

/The “end of times” indicates the end of one period and the beginning of another. /The sinful world will come to an end, and the kingdom of God will begin at the end of times.

/The apostles said that the return of the Lord was near even in their times. /Believers were forgiven of their sins through the redemption and resurrection of the cross of Jesus from the time of the apostles, and the kingdom of God would be accomplished through the believers’ hearts and the Church.

/Thus, the end of times indicates the time of the apostles up until the destruction of the world as a result of Jesus’ Second Coming, when the kingdom of God will be accomplished.

/2. The state or manner of the Second Coming of Christ.

/a. It will be a personal coming. /Rationalists and liberal theologians deny the personal coming of Christ. /They interpret descriptions of the return of Jesus Christ to be spiritual and symbolical.

/However, the Bible prophesies the personal coming of Jesus Christ. /It says in Acts 1:11, “‘Men of Galilee,’ they said, ‘why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.’” /Acts 3:20, 21; Matthew 24:44; 1 Corinthians 15:23.

/b. It will be a physical coming. /Some say that the coming of the Holy Spirit at the Pentecost was the Second Coming of Christ and hence, there will not be another return. /However, the Bible clearly shows that Jesus Christ will return in a physical form.

/Revelation 1:7 says, "Look, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and all the peoples of the earth will mourn because of him. So shall it be! Amen."

/c. It will be a visible coming. /The Bible says that Christ will return for all peoples to see.

/Matthew 24:30 says, "'At that time the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and all the nations of the earth will mourn. They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky, with power and great glory.'" /Matthew 26:64; Mark 13:26.

/d. It will be a sudden coming. /It is a fact that there will be several signs before Christ returns, but man cannot know the exact date or time of His return.

/Matthew 24:36 says, "No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father."

/e. It will be a glorious and triumphant coming. /Christ was in a state of humility in His incarnation and birth, but the coming Lord will return in a state of honor and glory.

/Christ will come on glorious clouds as the angels escort Him. /1 Thessalonians 4:16. /The Lord will come as the King of kings and Lord of lords who is triumphant over all forces of evil. /Revelation 19:11-16.

/3. The purpose of the Second Coming.

/a. Christ will return to judge the sinful world. /The devil that tempts men to sin and the sinful world under the rule of the devil will receive God's just judgment.

/Revelation 20:10-11 says, "And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever. Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. Earth and sky fled from his presence, and there was no place for them."

/However, because believers have been delivered from sin, they will not receive punishment in hell. /Yet, each believer will be judged for his actions concerning the glorious rewards. /This judgment will take place when the Millennium comes to an end, before believers enter eternal heaven.

/2 Corinthians 5:10 says, "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad."

/b. Christ will return to complete the believers' salvation. /The physical salvation of believers will be made complete when Jesus returns and believers change into resurrected bodies. Then, the salvation of the body and soul of believers will be complete.

/Philippians 3:20-21 says, "But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body."

/c. Christ will return for the redemption of all creation. /All creation was cursed as a result of man's sin. /The salvation of believers will be completed at Jesus' Second Coming, and all creation will be restored to its original state. /Isaiah 65:23-25.

/d. Christ will return to establish the Millennium. /The Garden of Eden that God allowed man to live in at the very beginning was lost as a result of man's sin. /Hence, man lived in a cursed world.

/However, when salvation is completed and all creation is restored through the coming of the Lord, there will be a beautiful world like the Garden of Eden for a thousand years. /This will be the restoration of the Garden of Eden, and it will be called the Millennium. /The devil will not be present in the Millennium and there will be no sins, but it will be a place where man can live in happiness with the Lord. /Isaiah 11:6-9; Revelation 21:1-5.

/e. Christ will return to guide believers to the eternal heaven. /The eternal heaven is the believers' hometown. /Believers who receive the complete salvation of body and soul will enter eternal heaven, and enjoy eternal happiness and comfort with the Lord.

/This will take place after the Millennium comes to an end and after the final judgment. /John 14:3 says, "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am."

/II. The Millennium.

/There are three views of the Millennium.

/A. A-Millennialism.

/A-Millennialists say that the gospel will be widespread in the times of the New Testament Church to accomplish a spiritual kingdom of God on earth.

/Thus, they believe that there is no actual Millennium. /They say that the return of Christ, the general resurrection of the dead, and the final judgment will all take place at once. /They claim that the spiritual kingdom that is currently taking place on earth will become the eternal kingdom of Jesus Christ.

/B. Post-Millennialism.

/Post-Millennialists claim that the Second Coming of Christ will take place after the

Millennium. /They claim that the Millennium will take place in the period of the gospel that we currently live in. /There are two types of Post-Millennialism.

/1. The theory that believes in the spiritual Millennium.

/This claims that the gospel will gradually influence the world, and at the end, it will influence the world more effectively to bring about an abundance of spiritual blessings.

/This claims that after the temporary apostasy and the terrifying war against evil forces, the return of Christ, general resurrection, the final judgment, among other events will all take place at once.

/<Criticism> However, the belief that the world will gradually be evangelized and that the whole world will return to Christ does not agree with the Bible. /Jesus asked if the Son of Man would find faith on the earth when He returns.

/The current times will not naturally become Christ's eternal kingdom without there being tribulations. /The Bible says that the world will become new after the great tribulation. /Luke 21:25-28.

/2. The theory that does not believe in the spiritual Millennium.

/This theory does not believe that the Millennium will take place through evangelism and the works of the Holy Spirit. /It says that an ideal society will be constructed through education, the amendment of reasonable laws, and a social reform. /This society will be the Millennium.

/<Criticism> However, man cannot receive Christ's complete rule through good education, the amendment of laws, or through social reform. /Rather, there will be a great moral corruption at the end of the world. /Luke 17:26-30.

/C. Pre-Millennialism.

/1. Christ will return before the Millennium.

/Matthew 24:29-30 says, "Immediately after the distress of those days 'the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.' 'At that time the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and all the nations of the earth will mourn. They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky, with power and great glory.'"

/2. Christ will bring the resurrected believers at His return.

/1 Thessalonians 4:16 says, "For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first."

/The salvation of the body and soul of believers will be made complete with their resurrection. /However, unbelievers will not resurrect until the Millennium comes to an end.

/3. Much of Israel will have a change of heart and return to God when Christ returns.
/Romans 11:25-27 says, "I do not want you to be ignorant of this mystery, brothers, so that you may not be conceited: Israel has experienced a hardening in part until the full number of the Gentiles has come in. And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: 'The deliverer will come from Zion; he will turn godlessness away from Jacob. And this is my covenant with them when I take away their sins.'"

/4. Christ will judge the sinful world when He returns.
/There will be a great tribulation before Jesus returns. /Yet, Christ will judge the antichrist and the sinful world and destroy them after the tribulation. /2 Thessalonians 2:1-8.

/5. Christ will build the kingdom of God on this earth when He returns.
/When Jesus returns, He will bind Satan and lock him in the Abyss for a thousand years. /Then Jesus will build the kingdom of God, and Christ will reign as King for a thousand years.

/Revelation 20:2-3 says, "He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil, or Satan, and bound him for a thousand years. He threw him into the Abyss, and locked and sealed it over him, to keep him from deceiving the nations anymore until the thousand years were ended. After that, he must be set free for a short time."

/In that period of time, believers who died and resurrected and those in the flesh will live together, but those in the flesh will not sin because the devil will not be present. /The natural world will be redeemed and wholly obey Christ, and there will be complete peace. /This is the Millennium. /Revelation 20:1-6.

/6. Characteristics of the Millennium.
/The Lord will reign as King in the Millennium. /This kingdom will be a holy kingdom that will be without sin and without the devil. /It will be a peaceful kingdom with no war or pain. /It will be a righteous kingdom where all of creation will completely submit to the Lord. /Hebrews 2:8; Isaiah 11:6-9.

/7. Things that will take place after the Millennium.
/When the Millennium comes to an end, the devil will be set free for a short time. At that time, the devil will deceive men and stand against the Lord and the believers. /Revelation 20:2-3.

/At that time, Christ will send fire down from heaven, destroy those who stand against Him, and throw the devil into the lake of burning sulfur. /Revelation 20:10. /Then, Christ will sit on a great white throne and judge all men. This is the Great White Throne Judgment.

/At that time, unbelievers will resurrect and receive the final judgment, and they will enter eternal hell. /Revelation 20:11-14. /However, resurrected believers will enter eternal heaven with the Lord, and they will enjoy eternal happiness and comfort.

/D. Objections to the Millennium.

/A-Millennialists claim, “The thousand years in Revelation 20:2-5 must not be interpreted literally, but must be seen as a symbolic number.” /They say, “The kingdom of God is spiritual and universal, and advocates of Pre-Millennialism interpret this as an earthly kingdom.”

/They claim, “The Bible speaks of the resurrection of the righteous and the wicked that will take place at once” /They also say, “Believers who have become glorious cannot have relations with sinners who are bound by carnal desires.” /They claim, “Revelation 20:1-6 is not about earthly matters, but are about sights of heaven.”

/Let’s **criticize** this.

/1. There is the need for a literal interpretation along with a spiritual interpretation of prophetic writings. /The “thousand years” in Revelation 20 must be interpreted literally. /The “thousand years” is recorded six times in Revelation.

/2. The Bible records that Jesus will reign as King on earth. /Luke 19:11; Acts 1:6-7.

/3. The Bible says that the resurrection of the righteous and the resurrection of the wicked will each take place in its own turn. /1 Corinthians 15:22-24.

/4. The resurrected Lord lived with His disciples on earth when they had not yet resurrected. /Acts 1:3-8.

/5. Revelation 20:1-6 speaks of an earthly sight, not a heavenly sight. /If it were a heavenly sight, the devil could not be released in heaven. Believers are also not limited to a thousand-year reign.

/Revelation 20: 7-9.

/With this we will conclude the nineteenth lecture on systematic theology. /Thank you.