

Imminent, But Not Now

Imminence in eschatology is the idea that Jesus could return at any moment – right now. This is not an error in teaching, but it's an extrapolation of what Jesus and the NT teaches.

We are to expect Jesus to return at any time because he told us he'd come like a thief in the night when we'd least expect it. The reason for this teaching was to keep us focussed on the main thing (him and his Kingdom) and not get lazy. When we get lazy, we drift off into the things of life and the world so we could quite easily lose our salvation because we don't complete the race¹ we're on.

One important thing we miss when we think that he can come any second now is that he has a plan which needs to be fulfilled before that can happen. For example, these must happen first:

1. The Gospel of the Kingdom needs to be preached to every ethnic group,² not the Gospel of Salvation.
2. The full number of the Gentiles needs to come into the Kingdom.³
3. The eyes of the Jews then need to be opened to the Jesus the Messiah.⁴

[NOTE: These points leave out the Futurist view of Revelation and Matthew 24 with all the predicted events that are believed to take place.]

The restoration of all things must also happen to a large extent before he returns to top it all off – that's according to what we are now being shown by the Spirit.

Also, one withholding point that isn't considered by most believers is that all the prophecies that have been delivered to believers and nations need to be fulfilled. These, of course, are those which are being anticipated and acted on, not those that have been rejected or forgotten.

For example: Jesus couldn't return before Apostle Paul's prophecies were fulfilled, even though NT teaching was that his return was imminent.

Here's how that panned out (note the chapters cited):

Acts 19:21 (NKJV) – *When these things were accomplished, Paul purposed in the Spirit, when he had passed through Macedonia and Achaia, to go to Jerusalem, saying, "After I have been there, I must also see Rome."*

Acts 23:11 (NKJV) – *But the following night the Lord stood by him and said, "Be of good cheer, Paul; for as you have testified for Me in Jerusalem, so you must also bear witness at Rome."*

Acts 27:23-24 (NKJV) – *For there stood by me this night an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I serve, saying, 'Do not be afraid, Paul; you must be brought before Caesar; and indeed God has granted you all those who sail with you.'*

Paul did go to Rome, and did speak in front of Caesar. This all happened years later.

REMEMBER: Jesus will come when we don't expect him.⁵

Actually, our King is expected to advise us as we get closer to that time so that we are up-to-date with heaven's plans. For example in August 2017 he told us this: *"I am not yet ready. This hour, this 12th hour,*

1 – 1 Corinthians 9:24; Hebrews 12:1

2 – Matthew 24:14

3 – Romans 11:25

4 – Romans 11:26

5 – 1 Thessalonians 5:1-3

is not ready to finish. Only I know...I will drag this hour out, as long as I need to..."⁶

So, we are to live as though Jesus will return at any moment, but not imminently. There's too much that has to happen before that occurs.



Like Futurist eschatology, Imminence Theology impacts the beliefs and lives of those who subscribe to it. Check out the resource podcast below for some enlightenment on this theology and its hidden impact.

RESOURCE

- Alan Kirschner “Why One’s View on Imminence Theology Matters” (MP3 podcast) [7:50-17:00]
(www.alankirschner.com/2017/07/21/why-ones-view-on-imminence-theology-matters-ep-90)

Laurence

3-9-2017

(www.CanberraForerunners.org)

COPYRIGHT

*Quotes are the copyright of their authors/publishers. Graphics are copyright of their creators.
This document is free to copy, republish and distribute, but only 'as is'. It is free to quote from at length.*

*All Canberra Forerunners' documents are licensed under
Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivs 3.0 Unported License*

6 – CCOP (14-8-2017) “MESSAGE – Are Things Really That Bad”

(canberraforerunners.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/MESSAGE-Are-Things-Really-That-Bad-14-8-2017.pdf)