

Course of Study

January 11	Introduction to Eschatology
January 18	Dichotomy or Trichotomy, Death, The Intermediate State
January 25	A Look at Key Apocalyptic Texts
February 1	Interpretive Perspectives on Revelation
February 8	Revelation 20: Brands of Premillennialism
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March 1	Summary & Significance

I. The Nature of Man

A. Monism- There is no immaterial soul distinct from a person's body.

B. Dualism- Man is made up of both material and immaterial substance

Gen. 1:26-27: Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."²⁷ So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

Gen. 2:7: then the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature.

Eccl. 12:7: and the dust returns to the earth as it was, and the spirit returns to God who gave it.

1. Dichotomy- Man's immaterial substance consists of his soul alone.

(Soul and spirit refer to the same immaterial substance.)

a. **Luke 1:46-47:** And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

b. **Is. 26:9:** My soul yearns for you in the night; my spirit within me earnestly seeks you.

c. **Mt. 10:28:** And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell.

d. **1 Cor. 5:3,5:** For though absent in body, I am present in spirit; and as if present, I have already pronounced judgment on the one who did such a thing...⁵ you are to deliver this man to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord.

2. Trichotomy- Man's immaterial substance consists of his soul plus his spirit.

a. **1 Thess. 5:23:** Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

b. **Heb. 4:12:** For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

c. Deut. 6:5 quoted using 5 distinct terms for the immaterial

i. **Matthew 22:37:** And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.

ii. **Mark 12:33:** And to love him with all the heart and with all the understanding and with all the strength, and to love one's neighbor as oneself, is much more than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices."

iii. **Luke 10:27:** And he answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself."

II. Death

A. Death used in 3 ways

1. physical death (**Gen. 5 'and he died'; 1 Cor. 15:21-22**)

2. the spiritual state of all fallen men

Eph. 2:1-6: And you were dead in the trespasses and sins² in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience—³ among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.⁴ But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great

love with which he loved us,⁵ even when we were dead in our trespasses, 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,

3. separation from God at the final judgment (the ‘second death’)

a. **Rev. 20:6:** Blessed and holy is the one who shares in the first resurrection! Over such the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ, and they will reign with him for a thousand years.

b. **Rev. 21:8:** But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death.”

B. Death is a result of sin

1. **Gen. 2:17:** but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”

2. **Gen. 3:17,19:** “Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, ‘You shall not eat of it,’ cursed is the ground because of you....¹⁹ By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”

3. **Heb. 9:27:** And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment,

C. Death causes the separation of the soul from the body (Eccl. 12:7)

III. The Intermediate State

A. ‘Soul Sleep’

1. **1 Thess. 4:13-15:** But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. ¹⁴ For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁵ For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep.

2. **John 11:11-14:** After saying these things, he said to them, “Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I go to awaken him.” ¹² The disciples said to him, “Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will recover.” ¹³ Now Jesus had spoken of his death, but they thought that he meant taking rest in sleep. ¹⁴ Then Jesus told them plainly, “Lazarus has died,

B. Purgatory

1. **2 Maccabees 12:42-45:** ⁴² and they turned to supplication, praying that the sin that had been committed might be wholly blotted out. The noble Judas exhorted the people to keep themselves free from sin, for they had seen with their own eyes what had happened as the result of the sin of those who had fallen. ⁴³ He also took up a collection, man by man, to the amount of two thousand drachmas of silver, and sent it to Jerusalem to provide for a sin offering. In doing this he acted very well and honorably, taking account of the resurrection. ⁴⁴ For if he were not expecting that those who had fallen would rise again, it would have been superfluous and foolish to pray for the dead. ⁴⁵ But if he was looking to the splendid reward that is laid up for those who fall asleep in godliness, it was a holy and pious thought. Therefore he made atonement for the dead, so that they might be delivered from their sin.

2. **Matthew 5:23-26:** So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, ²⁴ leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. ²⁵ Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are going with him to court, lest your accuser hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you be put in prison. ²⁶ Truly, I say to you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny.

C. Instantaneous Resurrection

2 Cor. 5:1-3: For we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. ² For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling, ³ if indeed by putting it on we may not be found naked.

D. Disembodied souls go to be with Christ or go to hell.

1. **2 Cor. 5:8-9:** Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. ⁹ So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him.

2. **1 Cor. 15:22-23:** For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. ²³ But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ.

3. **John 5:28-29:** Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice ²⁹ and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment.