

#### **4.1 ESCHATOLOGICAL CHRONOLOGY**

Part 1 laid out the biblical and theological foundation for this study of the Eschatological Gospel of Both Comings of the Lord Jesus Christ by defining pertinent terms and concepts. Then both the Old and New Testaments' usage of the Eschatological Gospel and related concepts was addressed (e.g., kingdom of God/heaven, age or world to come, salvation history, *kairos* versus *chronos* time, *Parousia*/Second Coming of Jesus, etc.). This was done in light of the Parable of the Wheat and Tares/Weeds showing that both the kingdom of God (based on the orthodox Eschatological Gospel) and the kingdom of Satan (based on the heretical/"false" gospel) were to coexist on the earth until "the end of the age."

Part 2 then reviewed the historical foundation of the Eschatological Gospel throughout the Church Age. The firm and sure foundation laid by Jesus and His Apostles was the starting point, which was immediately followed by the Early Church Fathers, and then stretched well into the eighth century. There remained a small stream of Eschatological Gospel teaching spanning the rest of the Medieval Church Period, that led up to the Pre-Reformation Period and the beginning of the resurgence of the doctrine. This then continued to build through the Reformation and Post-Reformation periods well into the eighteenth century and culminated with the "birth" of Dispensationalism through Edward Irving and John Nelson Darby in the 1830s. This exploded throughout the rest of the nineteenth century and into the twentieth century; which in turn led to the founding of several churches, evangelical ministries and even one seminary upon the Eschatological Gospel (e.g., Plymouth Brethren, Christian and Missionary Alliance, Assemblies of God, Dispensational Baptists, Church of the International Foursquare Gospel, Billy Graham's and Oral Roberts' ministries, and Dallas Theological Seminary).

All of this led to the melding of the Eschatological Gospel with aggressive dispensationalism, as evidenced by Hal Lindsey and *The Late Great Planet Earth*. This also coincided with the Charismatic Movement (or Renewal) of the late 1960s into the early 1980s, and which has continued in different forms and in different locations into the twenty-first century. However, gradually, the emphasis has shifted from the Eschatological Gospel to just eschatology or “eschatomania” (Erickson 1977:160 - Eschatomania refers to an intensive preoccupation with the prophetic passages or details of the Bible, eschatological charts, prophecy studies, end-times predictions and preaching, etc. See Millard Erickson, *Christian Theology* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1985), 1152), as used by Douglas Matthews in his 1998 article “Approximating the Millennium: Premillennial Evangelicalism and Racial Reconciliation.” Over the last twenty years or so (the Postmodern Era), there has been a steady decline specifically in teaching the Eschatological Gospel in the churches where it was a central founding doctrine (or critical core belief), and generally in teaching the doctrine throughout Christendom worldwide.

Part 3 then reviewed the history of Satan’s development of false religions and heresies since the Garden of Eden, targeting specific “push points” in history when major false religions or cults were established. This culminated with the exponential increase in activity since the rebirth of Israel in 1948, leading up to the turn of the twenty-first century and the “Doomsday cults” and the meteoric rise of the Illuminati, New Age and radical Islam. It was also noted that when and wherever Satan “came in like a flood,” God “raised up a standard” of the Holy Spirit’s empowering of the Eschatological Gospel for “such a time as this.”

Following in the next Section, are two charts (compiled by the author) depicting the chronology of the Eschatological Gospel and the chronology of Satan’s plan of heresy and cult

religion. Please note, these charts are made in light of the tension surrounding Jesus' words in Matthew 24:36, "But as to that day and that hour, no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, except the Father only" (The Interlinear Bible). However, they were created more in response to Jesus' words in Matthew 24:4, "***See to it that no one misleads you,***" and verse 33, "***even so you too, when you see all these things, recognize that He is near, right at the door,***" and verses 42 and 44, "***Therefore, be on the alert, for you do not know which day your Lord is coming . . . For this reason you be ready too***" [emphasis added].