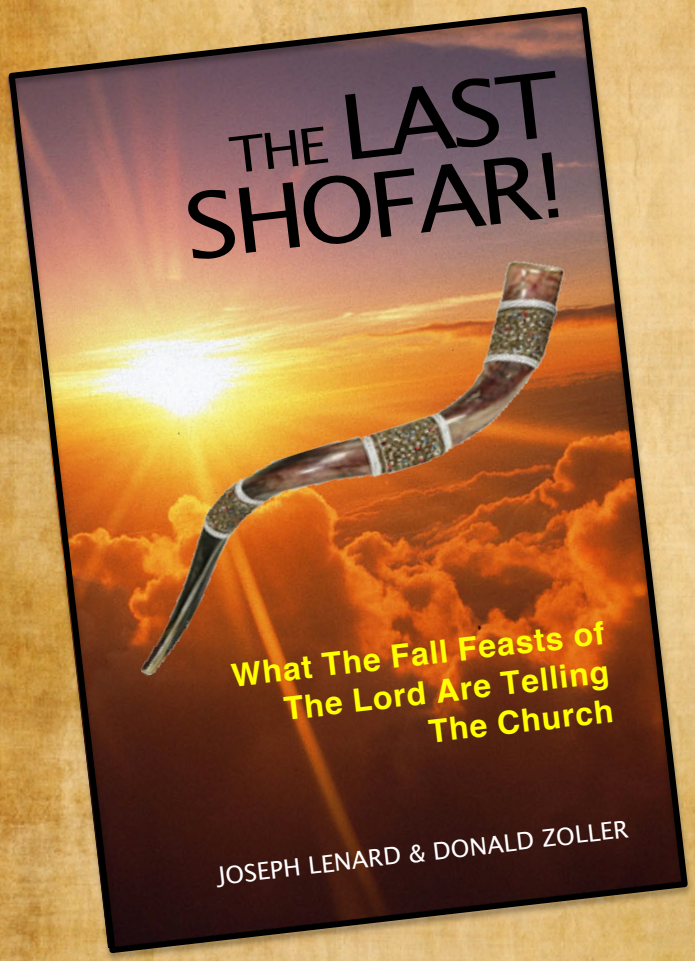

The Last Shofar! is available through the publisher, Xulon Press, Amazon and Barnes & Noble

Slide Presentation
The Last Shofar!

- Based on the 9 chapters of the book
- To be used as a companion study with the book; book page numbers are referenced on each slide
- Suitable for classroom or informal small group studies
- Discussion questions are included at the end of each presentation

Feedback is always welcomed

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Email: info@thelastshofar.org

The Last Shofar! *may be ordered at the Website above*

For Your Information . . .

The following slide presentation is ***incomplete*** and ***inadequate*** to *fully* understand the content of the book, ***The Last Shofar!***

The slides are only a *summary* of the ***nine chapters*** of the book and do not include the **Introduction**, **Epilogue**, three **Appendices**, and **Glossary**. All provide background and build *"the case."*

Therefore, the book is a ***necessary resource*** when viewing the slide presentation, and is ***essential*** to enhance understanding and discussion. It is highly recommended that a copy of the book be obtained for study and reference.

The Last Shofar!

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Everyone Has It "Right"

A Jew named Apollos, a native of Alexandria, came to Ephesus. He was a learned man, with a thorough knowledge of the Scriptures . . . and he spoke with great fervor and taught about Jesus accurately, though he knew only the baptism of John. . . . When Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they invited him to their home and explained to him the way of God more adequately. (Acts 18:24–26)

Joseph Lenard – Donald Zoller © 2014

Jesus' disciples asked . . .

"Tell us, when will these things be, and what will be the sign of your coming and the end of the age?" (Matthew 24:3)

A question they still ask!

In the years following Christ's return to heaven *(Acts 1:9–11)* . . .

The Church struggled with the issues of the "when" and "what" of Christ's return, beginning first as opinions and debates, but soon turning into doctrinal statements of beliefs against which, in many cases, tests of orthodoxy were applied, and divisions within the Church resulted.

So, When Will Jesus Return and When Will the *End of the Age* Come?

People's views of the end times generally fall into one of four categories—all connected to a thousand-year reign of Christ, i.e., the Millennium (Revelation 20:1–6).

1. ***Amillennial***
2. ***Postmillennial***
2. ***Historic Premillennial***
4. ***Dispensational Premillennial***

These views were developed and influenced in great measure by what was going on in the world external to the Church—social and political conditions that in some measure impacted the Church.

The Four Primary End-Time Views – How They Developed Throughout History

The First 300 years of the Church –

- Although, various ideas existed about the return of Jesus, the dominate view was ***Historic Premillennial***.
- A time of intense persecution and martyrdom, self-deification of Roman emperors, i.e., embodiment of Antichrist, etc.,
- These events led the Church to believe they were experiencing the Great Tribulation as foretold by Jesus in Matthew 24, and . . .
- That the coming of Jesus was soon at hand, followed by His Kingdom reign—***history in the making!***

From 312 AD –

- With the conversion of Constantine, Emperor of Rome, in 312 AD, and the Edict of Milan in 313 AD, the Church became legal.

- This was a new beginning for the Church, one of social prominence, acceptance and eventually dominance.

- Many in the Church believed that such favor and prominence meant that the Millennium had arrived.

- Such a conclusion led to a ***Postmillennial*** view, believing that Jesus would come in glory and judgment ***after*** the Church powerfully conquered the world with the Gospel for Christ.

Around 400 –

- The ***Amillennial*** view is attributed to Augustine of Hippo, church theologian of historical importance (354 AD – 430 AD).
- With ongoing wars, plagues, immorality, corruption, etc., Augustine could not reconcile the Post Millennial view with Scripture.
- Therefore, he thought, the Millennium must run concurrently with the "tribulation period" as described by Christ in Matthew 24.
- *Postmillennial* and *Amillennial* views became the accepted understanding of end-time events and of the return of Christ until the late 1800s–early 1900s.

Mid 1800s –

- During the 1800s, the social and political fabric of Western Europe was unraveling—wars, industrialization, science (good and bad), liberal progressive thought—all were impacting the church. People were desperate for meaning, order and direction for the future.

- It was in such times that John Nelson Darby, a former priest in the Church of England, with the help of other like-minded teachers, began to put forth a new idea about the end times and the coming of Jesus.

- ***Dispensational Premillennialism*** was a highly-structured and well-defined plan of the ages, from eternity to eternity, including end-time events and the return of Jesus Christ. This timely teaching, readily received by many within the Church, remains the dominant view among evangelical Christians today.

The Four End-of-the-Age Views — What makes them different?

While there are differences between the four views, there are also some things of which they are in agreement.

Here is how they answer the following questions:

- **Will Jesus return physically?**

  All four views agree He will.

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- **Do the Rapture and the Second Coming of Christ occur at the same time?**

  *Only the **Dispensational Premillennial** view disagrees—they are events separated by either 7 years (Pre-Tribulation Rapture) or 3 ½ years (Mid-Tribulation Rapture, etc.).*

- **Will there be a *Great Tribulation*?**

  ***Amillennial** view says tribulation occurs any time Christians are persecuted or wars and disasters occur.*

  ***Postmillennial** view says tribulation is either the first century Jewish-Roman War or the ongoing conflict between good and evil prior to the Millennium.*

  ***Historic Premillennial** and **Dispensation Premillennial** say "yes," with the latter being specific to the 70th Week of Daniel.*

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- **Will the Church suffer during the tribulation?**

  *Only the **Dispensation Premillennial** answers "No"—if the Rapture occurs before the 70th Week of Daniel; but "Yes" if the Rapture occurs at the mid-point (or later) of the 70th Week.*

- **When does the Day of the Lord (God's unique wrath) occur?**

  ***Amillennial** says it is only symbolic of God's judgment upon evil throughout history.*

  ***Postmillennial** says it happened already with the first century Jewish-Roman War and the destruction of the Temple.*

  ***Historic Premillennial** says it happens prior to the Millennium.*

  ***Dispensational Premillennial** says it happens during the entire 70th Week of Daniel—the last 7 years.*

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- **Will there be a literal Millennium, i.e., 1,000 years?**

  *The **Amillennial** view says "No"— the Millennium is symbolic and refers to the reign of Christ in the hearts of His followers.*

  *The **Postmillennial** view says "No"—the Millennium refers to a period of peace when the Gospel reaches all people; therefore, it is symbolic.*

  *The **Historic Premillennial** and **Dispensational Premillennial** Views say "Yes."*

- **Is the modern state of Israel relevant to end-time prophecy?**

  *Only the **Dispensational Premillennial** view says, "Yes."*

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Even though there are differences of opinions within these four views, and recognizing these opinions are sincere statements of belief, it is well to remember that all four views agree that:

- Jesus is returning physically
- Jesus will judge all humanity
- God will resurrect all humanity—some to eternal life while others to eternal death

Jesus Wins!

What do you do when people believe that their view of the end times, i.e., "when Jesus is coming again" is the "right" one?

- **Investigate the claims and tenets of their biblical assumptions**
- **Validate or refute their claims, tenets and biblical assumptions by examining Scripture**

Use The Berean Principle –

> *Now these Jews [in Berea] were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so.* *(Acts 17:11 ESV)*

Let's Talk About It

1. What are the four primary end-time views, and how do they differ?

2. How does each view affect the behavior of the church?

3. How would you define your *end-of-the-age* view? Why?

Looking Ahead . . .

In the next slide set—based on **Chapter 4**, "*What Most Evangelicals Believe*"—we will examine in detail the ***Dispensational Premillennial*** view as the one that has uniquely and significantly influenced the evangelical Christian community.