

## PREMILLENNIALISM

### I. INTRODUCTION.

- A. In A General Sense, The Proposition Of The Premil-  
lennialist Is, "The Bible Clearly Teaches That,  
After The Second Coming Of Christ And Before The  
Final Resurrection And Judgment, There Will Be An  
Age Or Dispensation Of One Thousand Years, During  
Which Christ Will Reign On The Earth."
- B. For Your Further Study, Consult:
  1. Neal-Wallace Discussion on the Thousand Years-  
Reign of Christ.
  2. Premillennialism a System of Infidelity, Wayne  
Jackson, (tract).
  3. God's Prophetic Word, Foy E. Wallace, (church  
library No. 252W).
- C. A Thorough Study And Exegesis Of *Revelation Chapters  
19 and 20* Were Not Attempted In This Lesson, But  
Would Be Useful In Further Studies Of This Subject,  
As Well As *Matthew Chapter 24, et al.*

### II. AIM.

- A. To Present The General Teaching Of The Multifaceted  
Premillennial Theory.
- B. To Present Reasons And Consequences Why This Theory  
Should Be Rejected.

### III. OUTLINE.

- A. THE THEORY OF PREMILLENNIALISM.
  1. In the camp of the "millennialist" there are  
various ideas as to the procedure of events re-  
lated to Christ's second coming and His reign  
upon the earth.
  2. Premillennialism defined:
    - a. "Pre" means before. "Millennial" means a  
thousand years.

- b. In Baker's Dictionary of Theology under "Premillennialism," we quote: "It is believed that the Old Testament prophets predicted the reestablishment of David's kingdom, that Christ Himself intended to bring that about. It is alleged, however, that because the Jews refused His person and work, He postponed the establishment of His Kingdom until the time of His return. Meanwhile, the Lord gathered the church as a kind of interim measure."
- c. In the Handbook of Theological Terms, Vance Harvey, p. 151: "Generally premillennialists believe that shortly before the second coming of Christ, the world will be marked by extraordinary tribulation and evil, and the appearance of the Antichrist. At His coming, Christ will destroy this Antichrist, and believers will be raised from the dead. There will follow then a millennium of peace and order over which Christ will reign with His saints. At the close of this time Satan will be raised and a final judgment will take place in which Satan and all the evil ones will be consigned to eternal punishment."
- d. In Christian Doctrine, James A. Nichols: "For centuries the Jews have been scattered among many nations. In preparation for the return of Christ and the beginning of the millennium they are being gathered back to their own land, according to prophecy, in a national restoration. David's throne will be reestablished in Jerusalem, and through these restored people, as a nucleus Christ will reign with His immortal saints over the whole world, for a period of a thousand years."

3. Notice this theory in the following chart:

<i>Pentecost</i>	<i>The Rapture</i>	<i>The 2nd Coming</i>	<i>Satan Loosed</i>	
The Church Age	The Great Tribulation	The 1000 Year Reign	Little Time	Resurrection & Judgment
<i>Eph.</i> 3:1-12	<i>Matt.</i> 24:21 <i>Mark</i> 13:1-37 <i>Luke</i> 21:5-32			
				New Heaven And New Earth  Lake Of Fire

- a. The Church Age - Time period is from Pentecost until the Rapture.
  - b. The Rapture - They assume that the living and resurrected saints will be caught up into heaven. Their proof texts are *1 Thess. 4:13-18; Rev. 20:6.*
  - c. The Great Tribulation - The so called battle of Armageddon, the Antichrist destroyed. Proof texts are *Dan. 12:1; Rev. 19:17-21; 2 Thess. 2:8 & Dan. 7 & 11.* During this period, raptured saints are in heaven.
  - d. The Second Coming of Christ - He comes with His raptured saints and establishes His throne in Jerusalem. (Mt. Olivet, *Zech. 14:1-4*) Satan is bound 1000 years, *Rev. 20:1-3.* Christ on His throne judges the living nations. (*Matt. 25:31-46*) He reigns on earth 1000 years. Proof texts: *Matt. 24; Rev. 19; Rev. 20:6* - This is the fulfillment of the kingdom-promise of Jesus on David's throne - Period of peace.
  - e. The Little Time - Satan loosed, *Rev. 20:7-9,* and the armies of Gog and Magog destroyed.
  - f. Resurrection and Judgment. (*Rev. 20:11-15*)
4. One of the most widely known contemporary proponents of this view is Hal Lindsey in his book The Late Great Planet Earth.

B. REFUTATION OF THE MATERIALISTIC DOCTRINE OF PREMILLENIALISM.

1. They say that God did not fulfill all the land promises to the Israelites.

Answer: God has fulfilled the land promises. (*Josh. 21:43ff*)

2. They say that Christ planned to establish a literal kingdom in Jerusalem when He first came, in which He would fulfill these alleged unfulfilled promises.

Answer: It was never Christ's intention to set up an earthly kingdom. (*John 18:36*)

3. They say the Jews rejected Jesus' desire to set up an earthly kingdom and stopped His plans.

Answer: The Jews tried to take Jesus by force and make Him their nationalistic king - but He refused. (*John 6:15*)

4. They say that since His kingdom plans were rejected, He established the church as an emergency measure (an afterthought) until the time when the real kingdom could be established.

Answer:

- a. The church is certainly no afterthought, but rather God's eternally planned body for the redeemed. (*Eph. 3:10-11*)
- b. The kingdom He came to establish is the church. (*Matt. 16:18-19*)
- c. This kingdom established in Jerusalem. (*Acts 1:3-6; Acts 2:37-47*)
- d. The saints in the first century were not waiting for the kingdom - they were in it. (*Col. 1:13; Heb. 12:28*)

5. They say when Christ comes, at His second coming, He will enthrone Himself in Jerusalem on David's throne where He will reign for 1000 years over a kingdom in which all of the land promises will be fulfilled.

Answer:

- a. Christ is now on David's throne at God's right hand in heaven. (*Acts 2:29-33*) There is no New Testament passage which places Christ on earth again, in fact, just the opposite is true. (*1 Thess. 4:13-18*)
- b. He will not establish His kingdom when He comes, but He will deliver His present kingdom, the church, to the Father. (*1 Cor. 15:24-28*)

6. *Revelation Chapter 20*, is the "sugar stick" of premillennial thinking concerning Christ's reign of 1000 years. (*Rev. 20:1-10*)

- a. Note what this section of scripture does not say.
- 1) It does not mention the second coming of Christ.
  - 2) It does not mention a bodily resurrection.
  - 3) It does not mention a reign on the earth.
  - 4) It does not mention a literal throne of David.
  - 5) It does not mention Jerusalem or Palestine.
  - 6) It does not mention Christ on the earth.
  - 7) It does not mention Christians who are upon the earth.
- b. Note what this section of scripture says.
- 1) Satan bound for 1000 years.
  - 2) They lived and reigned with Christ 1000 years.
  - 3) A reign of souls on thrones with Christ 1000 years.
  - 4) Those who have participated in the first resurrection. (Cf. Lesson 43 - A., 2., f.)
- c. The 1000 years is figurative, not literal.
- 1) The language of *Chapter 20* is figurative.
  - 2) Note the usage of "1000 years" found only three times in the Bible. (*Psa. 90:4; 2 Pet. 3:8; Rev. 20:2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7*) 1000 represents completeness. The cattle on the 1001 hills are God's too! (Cf. *Psa. 50:10 cf. Deut. 7:9 - represents all generations.*)

- d. To build a doctrine on six verses of highly symbolic language is without foundation in light of other clear passages of scripture.

#### IV. CONCLUSION.

- A. At The Second Coming Of Christ There Will Not Be Two Bodily Resurrections With A Thousand Years Between.
  1. *John 6:40, 44, 54* - Jesus says that the righteous, those who have eternal life, shall be raised "at the LAST DAY." There could not be 1000 years (365,000 days) following the last day.
  2. *John 12:48* -, The word of Christ will judge those who reject Him in the last day. Where does the 1000 years fit in? Nowhere!
  3. *1 Cor. 15:50-54* - The dead raised and changed at the "last trump."
- B. The Resurrection Of The Righteous And Wicked Will Be At The Same Time. (*Cf. 2 Thess. 1:6-10; Matt. 25:31-34, 41, 46; John 5:28-29*)
- C. The Consequences Of The Premillennialist Theory.
  1. It denies that Christ is now reigning on David's throne.
  2. It frustrates every passage that speaks of this present age as the "last days."
  3. It makes God false to His promise of the kingdom being at hand. John and Jesus both preached this message. (*Matt. 3:2; 4:17*)
  4. It alternates type and antitype, Judaism and Christianity. It has all those Jewish ceremonies over there in the millennium. It revives the ordinances of the old law which Jesus took away. (*See Lesson 15, B.*)
  5. It brings Christ from heaven, His throne, and puts Him on earth, His footstool. (*Cf. Heb. 8:1-4 w/ Acts 7:49*)
  6. It denies the blessings of salvation to the Gentiles and nullifies the great commission. James

said (*Acts 15:14-18*), that Amos' prophecy concerning the building again of David's tabernacle was fulfilled. If this prophecy is unfulfilled, then the Gentiles cannot seek God. God forbid that to be true!

- D. Thus The Premillennialist Theory Needs To Be Exposed As Unscriptural, Therefore Without Foundation. It Is A Cause Of Division In The Church. It Is The Cause Of Many Scriptures Being Wrested And Misapplied. It Is A Materialistic, Unscriptural, Unsound, Unreliable Doctrine Which Is Actually A Theory.