

# San Juan church of Christ

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## What Does God's Word Say About . . .

### Premillennialism - Part 2

This article continues a three part series on the false doctrine of Premillennialism. This is a dangerous doctrine that is accepted by the majority of denominations as truth. First, it is dangerous due to the fact they teach the church is only temporary. They also teach the church is not the spiritual kingdom in which Jesus rules [presently] as King sitting at the right hand of God (Hebrews 1:3-4,8,13). If you minimize the importance of the church [kingdom] in salvation, it would not matter which church you are a member of according to the false teachers, and those who fellowship them. (Ephesians 4:4-6, 5:23; 1 Cor. 15:24, 25).

Secondly, this false doctrine teaches that the Jews have a different way of being saved than the Gentile. Jesus said, "unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God" (John 3:5). Paul wrote, "For ALL OF YOU who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are ALL one in Christ Jesus. And IF [there is a choice] you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's descendants, heirs according to promise" (Gal. 3:27-29).

In Paul's letter to the Ephesians he explained that the barrier between Jew and Gentile has been removed. Both Jews and Gentiles (all nations) are reconciled in the body, the church, thereby becoming members of God's household (Eph. 2:11-19). Folks, according to scripture there is no "special" way that the Jews will be saved when Christ returns. We all have to be obedient in the same way before Christ returns (2 Thess. 1:7,8).

The church [kingdom] was prophesied in the Old Testament as an eternal kingdom and the eternal purpose of God. "Now it will come about that in the last days the mountain [government] of the house of the Lord will be established as the chief of the mountains, and will be raised above the hills; and all the nations [Gentile] will stream to it. And many peoples [Jews] will come and say, 'Come let us go up to the mountain of the Lord'...For the law will go forth from Zion and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem" (Isa. 2:2,3). "The house" of God is the church (1 Timothy 3:15; 1 Peter 2:5). The church began on Pentecost, and the apostle Peter said the events on that day fulfilled the prophecies in the Old Testament regarding the "last days". Peter said that "the last days" are the days from the cross to the time when Christ returns (2 Peter 3:3,4).

A second prophecy from the Old Testament was the "Branch" [Messiah] would build the "temple of the Lord", where He would rule on His throne as priest (Zech. 6:12, 13). We learn that this was fulfilled in Jesus who is NOW a priest ruling on His throne. Scripture says that God's temple, which He would build, is speaking of the church (1 Cor. 3:16; 2 Cor. 6:16; Hebrews 3:6, 9:11). The church makes known God's wisdom according to His eternal purpose. The church was not an unplanned substitute, but part of God's eternal purpose (Eph. 3:10,11). God is glorified in the church throughout all ages. Therefore, this leaves no room for the church to be replaced by a later kingdom age (Eph. 3:20,21). There are many more prophecies concerning the church [kingdom] found in the Old Testament contrary to the teaching of Premillennialism, which claims that the church was not planned or prophesied.

To degrade the importance of the church is to degrade the blood of Jesus which was shed to purchase the church (Acts 20:28). To deny that the church had a place in God's eternal plan is to deny that Jesus' death had a place in God's eternal plan (1 Cor. 2:6,7; Eph. 3:3-6).

Religious people today, including Premillennialists, often malign the importance of the church. They say, "You don't need to be a member of the church to be saved." They claim "We need to preach Christ, not the church."

They also say, "It doesn't matter what church you join as long as you're sincere." Such statements might make sense, if in fact the church was just a temporary, last

minute change in God's plans. They do want to preach the kingdom, but they believe that the kingdom will come after Christ returns. If they realized that the kingdom exists now, and that it IS the church, then they would appreciate the importance of the church and see the need to preach both Christ and the church!

Please send any comments, questions, or requests for a Bible study to:  
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