

San Juan church of Christ

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What Does God's Word Say About . . .

Premillennialism - Part 3

The Old Testament prophesied the suffering of Jesus on the cross 700 years before He was crucified (Isaiah 53). There were more than 300 predictive prophecies in the books of the Old Testament explaining the Messiah's first coming. So vast was the Jewish misunderstanding of the Messiah's spiritual kingdom [church] that they were fully anticipating a materialistic [physical] and glorious coming of David's Son. To them the Messiah was to be an earthly king and that deliverance from Roman bondage would be part of His earthly rule.

In Jeremiah 22:30 the prophet writes that Jehoiachin (Coniah) would be the last of the kingly lineage of David who would rule on David's throne, or rule again in Judah. What is the significance of this prophecy? Christ cannot occupy a physical throne, ruling in Jerusalem in Judah, since He is of the lineage of David and of the tribe of Judah. The first chapter of Matthew goes to great lengths to prove Christ's genealogy. Now if Coniah was the last of David's seed to sit on a throne in Judah, there is no way that those who teach Premillennialism can have Christ rule on a literal throne for a thousand years in Jerusalem in the future. God's word says this will not happen!

While the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them a question: "What do you think about the Christ, whose son is He?" They said to Him, "The son of David." He said to them, "Then how does David in the Spirit call Him 'Lord,' saying, 'The Lord said my Lord, "sit at My right hand, until I put Your enemies beneath your feet"'? If David then calls Him 'Lord,' how is He his son?" (Matt. 22:42-45). While Jesus does not answer His own question, it is plain through the context of the New Testament that He was born in the flesh through Mary, but He is the Lord of David by the Spirit, being the Son of God. Peter told the Jewish brethren on the Day of Pentecost the fulfillment of this prophecy in (Acts 2:29-36). Christ is NOW High Priest, King of kings and Lord of lords, ruling from heaven in His spiritual kingdom, the church (Hebrews 3:1; Rev:12:19).

As we found in Part 1 of this series, God's land promise to Abraham has been fulfilled (Joshua 21:43-45). God's promise to make a great nation of Abraham's seed [Christ] has been fulfilled as well (Galatians 3:16). Peter called this nation "a spiritual house" and those who are IN Christ are "a chosen race, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession (1 Peter 2:5, 9-10). Paul said this house "is the church of the living God" (1 Timothy 3:15). God indeed has a special people now (1 John 3:1-4). This holy nation is not determined by politics, but by God's grace and man's obedience to the truth in which one is born again (John 3:5; Romans 6:3-9).

The false doctrine of Premillennialism holds the same misunderstanding toward His second coming, as did the first century Jews, anticipating a material [physical] kingdom in which the Messiah will sit on David's literal throne in Palestinian Jerusalem. Jesus denied this false doctrine (John 18:36)! Why should we believe the Jews, who rejected the Messiah and sent Him to the cross, will accept Him as the Messiah when He returns in His second coming?

False teachers today still associate this anticipated kingdom as one where materialistic blessings will be dominate. To them, bodily comforts and not soul concerns, are paramount in the Millennial Age. The Utopia of Premillennialism is filled with fleshly glory, earthly comforts, and prosperity (Isa. 61:1-9, 65:17-25). In one of Isaiah's prophecies (Isa. 11:1-10), he described the character of the Messianic King and His kingdom. In 1:10 he prophecies, "it shall come to pass in that day" (when the wolf dwells with the lamb, etc.) that the Gentiles would also seek the Messiah. Paul quotes this verse in Romans 15:8-12 and interprets it to mean that the Gentiles can now receive mercy from Christ. The question is: when did the Gentiles receive mercy from Christ? The answer is: while Paul was writing Romans. He applied Isaiah 11:10 to the Christian age. Yet Isaiah said it would happen "in that day when the wolf would lie down with the lamb and lions would eat straw like oxen." But literal wolves are not lying down with lambs. It was a figure of the peace we have with God through Jesus Christ our Lord (Romans 5:1, 16:20; Col. 1:19-21).

The millennium is a Latin term meaning a thousand years. The false doctrine of Premillennialism uses Revelation 20:2-3, 7 as a literal 1,000 years. The book of Revelation was written in symbolic language. "The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show to His bond-servants, the things which soon must take place; and He sent and communicated it by His angel to His bond-servant John" (Rev. 1:1). The Greek word for "communicated" is "signified." The thousand years through symbolic words is just an indefinite period of time. Examples include: "For every beast of the forest is Mine, the cattle on a thousand hills," "For a thousand years in Your sight are like yesterday when it passes by," "...that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years like a day," (Psm. 50:10, 90:4; 2 Peter 3:8).

The advocates of the theory of Premillennialism add many things into the passage of Revelation 20 that absolutely are not there. There is no mention of a second coming; no mention of a bodily resurrection; no mention of a reign on earth; no mention of Jerusalem or Palestine; no mention of Christ on earth. The apostle John warned us not to add anything to God's word (2 John 9 - which applies to God's word in whole; Rev. 22:19 - which applies to the book of Revelation).

If Premillennialism were true, there should be TWO hours and not just one, and TWO voices not just one (John 5:28). There would be TWO last days and not just one (John 6:39, 44, 54, 11:24, 12:48). There would be TWO trumpets and TWO soundings and not just one (1 Cor. 15:52, 1 Thess. 4:16). The Premillennialist's doctrine is anti-God, anti-Christ, anti-Spirit, and anti-gospel. The sad fact is that a majority of denominations believe this false doctrine (Matt. 7:21-24).

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