

# San Juan church of Christ

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

### Premillennialism - Part I

On May 14, 1948, the U.N. established Israel as a Jewish state and the Palestinians were driven out of their homeland. From President Truman to the current President, the United States has strongly supported Premillennial views and have supported Israel against the claims of the disenfranchised Palestinians. The false doctrine of Premillennialism causes the U.S. government to protect Israel so that we might help God fulfill His purpose. Nearly every Protestant denomination is infested with this false teaching; some more than others.

In 1830 John Darby was the first evangelist to begin teaching the doctrines of the Rapture and Premillennialism. These teachings gained popularity when Israel was established as a state in 1948. Hal Lindsey, another evangelist, began writing concerning this subject in 1970 with a book entitled, "The Late, Great Planet Earth."

No two denominations teach this false doctrine exactly alike, but all have five major points of agreement. The kingdom of the Old Testament prophecies has not been established and we now have the "church phase." God's promises to Abraham to make his seed a great nation are not yet fulfilled. Christ came to set up His kingdom, but when the Jews did not believe He was the Messiah prophesied in the Old Testament, they sent Him to the cross. Because of this rejection, He set up the church instead, intending to return later to set up His kingdom. The Jews, as a nation, will be converted and restored to Palestine. Christ will return to earth, establish His kingdom, and reign for 1,000 years on David's literal throne in Israel.

Premillennialism teaches that the Jews never occupied all the land that God promised them. Therefore, the Old Testament kingdom of Israel will have to be restored with the Jews in Palestine, so that God's promise can be redeemed and fulfilled. But God's Word says that the Jews did receive the full promise. "So the Lord gave Israel ALL the land which He had sworn to give to their fathers, and they possessed it and lived in it. NOT ONE of the good promises which the Lord had made to the house of Israel failed; ALL came to pass" (Joshua 21:43-45).

Premillennialism teaches that Abraham's descendants are "in the flesh" rather than "in faith." But note that the gospel teaches that there is now no more distinction between Jew and Gentile in God's sight, but that the true descendant of Abraham is the Christian. "For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly [in the flesh], nor is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh. But he is a Jew who is one inwardly [spiritual]; and circumcision is that which is of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter" (Romans 2:28-29). This point is carried further in Galatians 3:7, "it is those who are of faith who are sons of Abraham."

Christ will NOT return to establish a physical kingdom. "So Jesus, perceiving that they [Jews] were intending to come and take Him by force to make Him king, withdrew to the mountain by Himself alone" (John 6:15). Why did Jesus not allow the Jews to make Him king at that time? In the Lord's prayer, before He was crucified, He said, "I glorified You on the earth, having ACCOMPLISHED the work which You have given Me to do" (John 17:4). Through His prayer Jesus claimed He accomplished the mission of the Father as prophesied in Daniel 2:44. Daniel prophesied in the days of the 4th kingdom, which was the Roman Empire, "the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which will never be destroyed, and that kingdom will not be left for another people."

Next week we will establish the fact that the church is the eternal kingdom and purpose of God.

Send comments, questions, or requests for a Bible study to:

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