


PREMILLENNIALISM



Defining & Disproving



Sermon  **SNAPSHOTS**

DEFINING AND REFUTING PREMILLENNIALISM

Premillennialism is one of the most popular doctrines of our time. *Pre* (before) *millennial* (1,000 years) *ism* (doctrine) is the doctrine that we are living in the time before the thousand-year reign of Christ on earth. This false doctrine has crossed denominational lines – *even affecting brethren!* It is a complex doctrine that affects Bible interpretation from Genesis to Revelation.

Defining Premillennialism

- Basically, it says that “the kingdom of God” has *not yet* been “set up” (cf. Dn.2:44)
- It views the kingdom as a literal, *earthly kingdom*, to be ruled by Jesus *from Jerusalem*
- Along with this doctrine are *other varying concepts*, depending on who is teaching it
- For instance, there are the three views of the “rapture” (i.e. pre, mid, or post-tribulation)

Refuting Premillennialism

- Nebuchadnezzar’s dream revealed *four kingdoms* before God’s kingdom (Dn.2:31-35)
- These kingdoms are: *Babylon* (Dn.2:36-38); then *Medo-Persia* (2:39a; 5:28-31)
- After that, *Greece* (Dn.2:39b; 8:20-21); then the *Roman empire* (2:40-43; History)
- *According to Daniel, God’s kingdom would be “set up” in the days of Rome!* (Dn.2:44)

The fulfillment of Daniel 2:44

- Carefully note that Jesus was born in the days of the Roman Kings (Lk.2:1-12)
- Jesus Himself taught the kingdom of God was “*at hand*” (near, Mk.1:14-15; 9:1)
- Was Jesus *wrong*? Did He *lie*? Did He *change His mind*? Are some *still alive*?
- He also said that the “kingdom” and the “church” are closely related (Mt.16:18-19)

The church IS the kingdom!

- On Pentecost, Jesus was declared to be “both *Lord* (King) & *Christ*” (Ac.2:29-36)
- Those who obeyed King Jesus were “added to the church” (Ac.2:37-38, 41, 47)
- Church members are considered “*citizens*” of the *kingdom* (Ep.2:19; Col.1:13-14)
- Hence, the church was not an “afterthought,” but the fulfillment of Daniel’s prophecy!

The entire thrust of Premillennialism is wrong! God *has* established His kingdom. It is a *spiritual* (not earthly) kingdom (cf. Mk.12:28-34; Lk.17:20-21; Jn.18:33-37). So, do not be misled by false teachers! The next lesson will focus on some of the specifics of premillennialism, and refute them.



PREMILLENNIALISM AND OT PROPHECY

In Matthew 5:17-18, Jesus said that the OT law would not “pass” until ALL was fulfilled. Later, the Bible says the OT law *did* pass (Col.2:14-17). This necessarily implies that the OT law was fulfilled. *But premillennialism denies the fulfillment of the OT law – as well as the fulfillment of some NT prophecies!* In this lesson, we’ll note what was fulfilled; and what will *never* be fulfilled.

The “*throne of David promise*” is fulfilled

- Premillennialists teach that Jesus will rule from the *literal* throne of David in Jerusalem
- God DID promise that a descendant of David would sit on David’s throne (2Sm.7:12-17)
- But the Bible says when Jesus *ascended*, He sat down on David’s throne! (Ac.2:29-36)
- Further, Jesus simply CANNOT rule ON EARTH! (Jer.22:28-30; then see Mt.1:1, 11-12)

The Jewish “*land promise*” is fulfilled

- God promised Abraham’s descendants (Jews) the land of Canaan (Gn.13:14-17)
- The Bible CLEARLY says that God has fulfilled this promise (Josh.21:43-45)
- But RETAINING the “Promised Land” was conditioned on obedience (Dt.29:24-28)
- By rejecting Christ, the Jews *permanently* lost their right to the land in 70-AD! (Mt.24)

The prophecy of “*Matthew 24*” is fulfilled

- Matthew 24 does NOT refer to the end of time, as claimed; *but to the end of Jerusalem!*
- Note these particular verses: Mt.23:37-24:3; 4-8, 15-16, 34 (temple/Judea/this generation)

The “*book of Revelation*” has been fulfilled

- Premillennialists *misuse* the book of Revelation as prophecy for our day – *a perversion!*
- The *primary* message of the book of Revelation was to “*shortly take place*” (cf. Rv.1:1-3)
- Hence, modern attempts to bring its message into our time are erroneous! (Rv.22:18-19)
- This includes the “1,000-year reign” (Rv.20:4-6; note: beheaded “souls” -- not on earth!)

The “*rapture promise*” will never be fulfilled!

- Premillennialists say the church will be “raptured” at tribulation time (See 1Th.4:13-18)
- Hence, they believe in *two* resurrections! (Righteous *before* the millennium; wicked *after*)
- However, the Bible clearly says there will only be ONE resurrection! (Jn.5:28-29)
- A careful look at their “proof text” (1Th.4:13-18) will show *no mention* of any “rapture”

A coming “*antichrist*” will never be fulfilled!

- All modern premillennial claims of a *single* “Antichrist” who is *yet to come* are false!
- As proof, consider 1Jn.2:18, 22; 4:3; 2Jn.7 (*Many* antichrists were *already here* long ago!)

Surely, we can see that the doctrine of premillennialism is false to the core! *It affects our entire interpretation of the Bible from one end to the other, and dethrones our Great King, Jesus Christ. Do not fall for the modernistic speculations of men! Only accept what you can read in your Bible. Are YOU a citizen of God’s kingdom (Jn.3:5)?*

-Lanny Smith



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