

PREMILLENNIALISM AND THE BIBLE

Int.

1. Aim: To show that the doctrine of Premillennialism is False
2. Text - Rev. 20:1-7 the phrase one thousand years is found 6 times
3. This section of the Bible is used by men to teach premillennialism
 - a. "This is a most excellent subject to let alone" - G.C. Brewer
 - b. Term Millennium does not occur in the Bible.
4. I Thes. 4:21 "Prove all things; hold fast that which is good."
5. Premillennialism is a doctrine that most religions teach. What does it mean?
 - a. Pre- Before Mille - 1,000 Ism - doctrine of
 - b. The doctrine is that Christ came to the earth the first time to set up the earthly kingdom of David in Jerusalem and rule in His earthly body for a thousand years, but FAILED; was defeated because Israel as a nation rejected him. Christ is coming back to earth to correct the Failure of his first coming. Christ is coming back to earth before this 1,000 year reign of His begins on earth, according to them.
6. The doctrine of premillennialism is an insult to God.
 - a. It makes God or His prophets or both DECEIVERS
 - b. It destroys God as an All POWERFUL and an ALL KNOWING GOD
 - c. It simply says God FAILED!!! That is an insult to God!
7. Plan of lesson:
 - a. Present brief description of the premillennial doctrine
 - b. Show that it contradicts plain Bible teaching by setting forth what the Bible teaches about Christ and His reign and His kingdom

Discussion**I. THE DOCTRINES OF PREMILLENNIALISM****A. LOOKING FOR A MESSIAH**

1. The Jews had a strong desire for an earthly kingdom:
 - a. To drive out the Roman military forces
 - b. To conquer all others
2. The Premillennialists argue that the prophecies of the O.T. indicated that the Messiah was to reign on a literal throne over fleshly Israel in Jerusalem - that is, a political ruler!

B. COMING OF JESUS TO OFFER THE KINGDOM TO THE JEWS

1. Premillennialists hold that because Christ did not measure up to the image that the Jews had of a king, that most of them rejected Him.
2. This led to his crucifixion.
3. The Jews had expected a messiah who would be an ordinary human descendant of David that would rule on a throne on earth.
4. They did not expect a spiritual kingdom or the church
5. Today the Premillennialists still have that same mistaken view and want a material kingdom.

C. KINGDOM "POSTPONED" AND THE CHURCH ESTABLISHED

1. Premillennialists say that when Jesus said "the kingdom of God is at hand" (Mk.1:5) that he had planned to set up the kingdom immediately.
2. But according to this view of the Premillennialists that since the Jews rejected the kingdom and crucified the king, that he postponed the building of the kingdom until a second coming of Jesus.

3. At that time Jesus will set up an earthly kingdom, as it was originally expected to be by the Jews, so the Premillennialists say.
4. Instead of building the kingdom they believe that he established the church in its place. It was a temporary substitute to function until Christ comes again.

D. THE FIRST RESURRECTION

1. According to the Premillennialists view the first resurrection will take place at the "rapture".
2. This means that Christ will come for His saints - all the faithful during the O.T. and N.T. times
3. All saints living will be changed

E. THE "RAPTURE"

1. Their view is that all the saints will ascend to meet the Lord in the air.
2. The coming of Christ for His saints will be secret, it will be in the night.
3. They teach that the "church age" will end at the rapture.

F. THE SAINTS IN HEAVEN

1. Premillennialists believe that after the rapture the saints will be in heaven with the Lord for seven years.
2. During this time each saint will be given his appropriate reward
3. During the last 3 ½ years there will be a terrible tribulation on earth.
4. The anti-Christ will appear during this time.

5. All the saints who have been converted, will be killed; according to the Premillennialists.
6. Question: If all the pre-tribulation saints are in heaven who is it that does the converting during this time?

G. THE SECOND COMING OR "THE REVELATION"

1. They believe that Christ will come with all His saints to end the great tribulation.
2. At this time the so-called "tribulation saints" will be resurrected.
3. Christ will then ascend to the throne of David and be seated as an earthly king of the so called "millennial kingdom."
4. Satan will be bound and sealed in the pit.

H. MATERIAL KINGDOM LASTS FOR 1000 YEARS

1. Christ will reign on earth for 1,000 years
2. During this time the Gentiles will be converted.
3. National Israel will be supreme over all the earth and militarily speaking will be number one among the nations.
4. The saints will be in Jerusalem and will rule as co-rulers with Christ.
5. According to the Premillennialists no one on earth will be subject to temptation during that period.
6. Utopia

- I. All of these things are false! They are not found in the Bible. They are the teachings of men.

II. THE TRUTH ABOUT CHRIST AND HIS KINGDOM

A. Basic Argument

1. If the death, burial, resurrection, ascension, and coronation of Christ all occurred in fulfillment of prophecy, then Premillennialism is false, and Christ has been reigning as king since the first Pentecost following His resurrection.
2. The death, burial, resurrection, ascension, and coronation of Christ all occurred in fulfillment of prophecy.
3. Therefore, Premillennialism is false and Christ has been reigning as king since the first Pentecost following His resurrection.

B. Proof of the argument

1. Prophecy made and fulfilled concerning the **death of Christ**
 - a. Isa. 53:7,8 "He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth. 8 He was taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall declare his generation? for he was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was he stricken."
 - (1) Describes what happened during his trials
 - (2) Describes his trial
 - b. Acts 8:31-35 -- Philip, an inspired preacher, pointed out that the death of Christ was the fulfillment of this passage
 - c. The verse teaches that Christ came - not to live and reign on earth over a military power for 1,000 literal years - but to be crucified.

- d. Acts 2:23 - Christ died according to the "foreknowledge of God" -not as the result of an unexpected rejection.

2. Prophecies made and fulfilled concerning **His Burial**

- a. I sa. 53:9 "And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth."
- b. N.T. passages - Mt. 27:57-60, Mk.15:46, Jn. 19:42
- c. Christ was crucified between two thieves and buried in the tomb of Joseph of Arimathea, a rich man

3. Prophecies made and fulfilled concerning **His Resurrection**

- a. Ps. 16:10 "For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption."
- b. Acts 2:27 Peter says this was fulfilled in the resurrection of Christ
- c. It was not the plan of God that Christ should come to reign on earth a literal 1,000 years.
- d. But it was the plan of God that Christ should be crucified at the end of a short ministry on earth and that he be raised from the dead before his flesh saw corruption.

4. Prophecy made and fulfilled concerning **the coronation**
- a. Dan. 7:13,14
 - (1) Following the ascension of Christ and His entrance into heaven, dominion and glory in the kingdom were given to Him.
 - (2) All peoples, nations and languages should serve Him.
 - (3) His dominion was to be an "everlasting" (age-lasting) dominion.
 - b. Acts 2:1-47 fulfills this prophecy
 - (1) The kingdom was set up on the first day of Pentecost following the resurrection of Christ
 - (2) Christ became king over a spiritual kingdom -- not some military, material earthly kingdom with a political throne in Jerusalem

III. THE KINGDOM OF CHRIST

- A. The Kingdom was "at hand"
 - 1. Matt. 3:1-3 John the Baptist stated that the kingdom of heaven was at hand
 - 2. Matt. 4:17 Jesus also preached that the kingdom of heaven is at hand
 - 3. The expression "at hand" never means something that was passed.
 - 4. Also the expression "at hand" never refers to a time that is far distant
 - a. Dan. 2:44 - Daniel said that God would set up the kingdom.
 - b. But he did not say that it was "at hand" because it was 600 years before it was set up
 - c. In Mark 1:15 Jesus said "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand:..."
 - d. He did not say the time would be fulfilled 2,000 years later.

- B. When was the so called failure of the kingdom announced?
1. The Bible never records anything about the kingdom being postponed.
 2. Mk. 9:1 ESV
 - a. Jesus said the kingdom would be set up during the time of some who lived
 - b. Unless someone is over 2,000 years old the kingdom has already been established.
- C. In John 6:15 the Jews tried to force Jesus to become a king who would become a rival to Caesar
1. The Jews with their vision of an earthly kingdom wanted Jesus to be a civil king over an earthly kingdom
 2. If Jesus' mission to the Jews had involved such a kingdom then the Jews would have received Him.
 3. But since Jesus came to set up a spiritual kingdom then the Jews rejected him.
 4. Lk.22:69 Jesus predicted that he would be king at the right hand of God.
 5. He said nothing about postponement of establishing the kingdom.
 6. Jesus departed into a mountain alone
- D. Jesus was accused by the Jews of claiming to be a king when he was on trial
1. The Jews tried to imply that Jesus was claiming to be a king that was a rival to Caesar.
 2. The Jews knew they were bearing false witness, and that Jesus had made no such claim.

3. If the charge had been true, then they would have gladly hailed Him as their king.

E. John 18:33-37

1. Jesus admitted that he was a king
2. But he said that His kingdom was not of this world.
3. He came into the world to be king over a spiritual kingdom, not a civil, military kingdom.

F. Acts 2 shows the kingdom was established

1. Peter convinced many of the Jews that they should repent of their sins including the sin of having Christ crucified.
 - a. He referred to the miracles which God did by Jesus -v.22
 - b. He pointed out that Jesus was delivered up by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God - v. 23
 - c. He emphasized that God raised up Jesus and that this was a fulfillment of prophecy
2. Acts 2:25-35
 - a. Peter quotes from Ps. 16:8-11 a prophecy of David
 - b. The passage teaches that someone was to die, that his soul would not be in the grave long enough for his flesh to see corruption and that he would be exalted at the right hand of God.
 - c. Peter then argued that this prophecy could not have referred to David because his body was buried there in the city.

d. Peter declared that the prophecy referred to Christ and that He was now on David's throne.

G. Remember God does not lie - Heb. 6:18

1. God does not have failures in His overall scheme.
2. God had promised David that he would set one of his(David's) descendants upon the throne of David.
3. Peter has by inspiration declared that this was what happened with Jesus of Nazareth.
4. If it did not take place, but God failed in His plans then God is not all powerful.

Conclusion

1. We have shown that the death, burial, resurrection, ascension and coronation of Christ all occurred in fulfillment of prophecy.
2. The Doctrines of Premillennialism cannot stand the test of scriptures
3. They are false and must be rejected.
4. The Kingdom and the Church are the same
 - a. Matt. 16:18-19 "And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my **church**; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. 19 And I will give unto thee the keys of the **kingdom** of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."
 - b. Col. 1:13-14 "Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated [us] into the kingdom of his dear Son: In whom we have redemption through his blood, [even] the forgiveness of sins:"

5. You can become a member of the church and be in the kingdom if you will obey the gospel of Christ.

6. What about Armageddon?
 - a. Rev. 16:12-16
 - b. Har = mountain Megiddo
 - c. Place of a great struggle between the forces of evil and good
 - d. Meant something to readers in 1st century - would have been in their lifetime around the close of the 1st century
 - e. Has no application to us

7. There are no events that will signal the return of Jesus and the end of the world.
 - a. Matt. 24:36,42,44
 - b. Come as a thief in the night

8. II Pet. 3:10-11 - This earth will be destroyed

Sources Consulted

Spiritual Sword - Vol.9#1 p.1ff

Files on Second Coming and premillennialism

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