

Lesson #10: The Millennial Reign

Introduction: Premillennialist assert that Jesus will return to this earth *before* he establishes his kingdom spoken of in the Old Testament and that he will rule with his saints in Jerusalem for a period of 1,000 years. This theory is taken out of Revelation 20:1-6. Yet, these verses say nothing of...

- The second coming of Christ.
- Does not specify a reign on earth.
- A bodily resurrection.
- Does not mention all the righteous. (John saw "the souls of them that were beheaded" - the martyrs).
- Does not locate Christ on earth.
- Says nothing of the establishment of a kingdom.
- Says nothing of the throne of David.
- Says nothing of the Jews being gathered to Palestine.

THESE THINGS ARE THE VERY "HEART AND SOUL" OF THE DOCTRINE! YET, THEY DO NOT APPEAR IN THEIR IS SO-CALLED "PROOF TEXT!"

Premillennialist Position:

- After the second coming of Christ, the Millennium finally is here. Destroyed are the forces of evil, Christ is victorious. He sits ruling on David's throne, the temple is rebuilt and the 1000 years of ultimate utopia begins. Scofield tells us, "It is impossible to conceive to what heights of spiritual, intellectual, and physical perfection humanity will attain in this, it's coming age of righteousness and peace."
- A Return to Judaism. "Passages of the Old Testament which have been studied previously anticipating a future day of glory for Israel find their fulfilment in the millennial reign of Christ. The regathering of Israel, a prominent theme of most of the prophets, has its purpose realized in the re-establishment of Israel in their ancient land. Israel as a nation is delivered from her persecutors in the time of tribulation and brought into the place of blessing and restoration." (The Millennial Kingdom, John F. Walvoord, Grand Rapids, Zondervan Publishing House, 1974. P. 303)
- During the 1,000 year reign of Christ, several things will happen. 1) Gentiles will be the servants of the Jews. Is. 14:1-2, 49:22-23, 60:14, 61:5, Zech 8:22-23. 2) Jerusalem will be the center of the world. Is. 2:2-4, Jer. 3:17. 3) Worship in Ezekiel's Temple. Is. 2:4, Micah 4:1-4, Ezek. 37:26, 49:22-23, 60:14, 61:5, Zech 8:22-23. 4) Reinstitution of a system of animal sacrifices in the Temple. Ezek. 43:18, 46:24, Zech. 14:16, Is. 56:6-8. (Things to Come, Pentecost, J. Dwight, Grand Rapids, Zondervan Publishing House, 1964. P. 508, 514, 517)
- "Christian ordinances will be terminated at the beginning of the millennium." (Ryrie, p. 150)
- "The millennium is a period of a thousand years of the visible, earthly reign of the Lord Jesus Christ, who after His return from heaven, will fulfill during that period the promises contained in the Abrahamic, Davidic and new covenants to Israel, will bring the whole earth to a knowledge of God, and will lift the curse from the whole earth." (Ryrie, The Basis of the Premillennial Faith, p. 145-146).

Questions for Discussion (Biblical Position):

1. What was to happen to Satan during the 1,000 years (Re. 20:1-3)?
 - "The chain is not literal; one would hardly use a literal chain on a spiritual being. The thousand-year period is no more literal than the chain. Numbers in Revelation are symbolical. "Ten" is a complete

number, and “one thousand” is a high multiple of ten. The number is to be understood as an idea of completeness” (Ray Sommers, Worthy Is The Lamb, p. 204).

2. Who were sitting on the thrones (Re. 20:4)?
 - Did these souls literally have no head?
 - What is the point of the figure?
 - Previously in the book, where had John seen these souls (Re. 6:9)?
 - How long until they would be avenged (Re. 6:10-11)?
3. How long would they live and reign with Christ (Re. 20:4)?
 - Is the 1,000 years literal or figurative? What is the point?
4. What was the value of this passage to the persecuted first century Christians?
5. Where are all spiritual blessings found (Ep. 1:3)?
6. Pick out some words and phrases used by Paul which indicate there is not going to be another time on earth of greater blessings than we have right now in Christ (Ep. 1:4-14).
7. In Isaiah 2:4, he prophesied of a time of great peace. What kind of peace do we have right now in Christ (Ep. 2:11-18; Ga. 3:26-29)?
8. Can we be in the kingdom of Christ today (Co. 1:13)?
9. In what position are Christians today (1 Pt. 2:5, 9-10)?

Conclusions:

1. The Premillennialist look forward to the 1,000-year reign as the time of the greatest blessing on earth. The Bible teaches the spiritual blessings of Christ are the time of the greatest blessings on earth.
2. It is strange indeed for one to contend that a figurative serpent was bound with a figurative chain and thrown into a figurative abyss which was locked with a figurative key, to be confined for a literal thousand years!
3. When Jesus returns, “we will ever be with the Lord” (1 Th. 4:17). We will meet Jesus in the clouds upon His return and Jesus will not step one foot on earth again.
4. Jesus says His kingdom is not of this world. It is a spiritual kingdom. (Jh. 18:36; Co. 1:13)
5. We are living in the “last days.” The gospel age is last dispensation of time. (Hb. 1:1-2; Ac. 2:16-17)

Lesson #11: Judgment Day and Eternity

Introduction:

Premillennialist Position:

- In discussion of 2 Peter 3:10-13, Lindsey says, “In other words, Christ is going ‘to loose’ the atoms of the galaxy in which we live. No wonder there will be a great roar and intense heat and fire. Then Christ will put back atoms together to form a new heaven and earth, in which only the glorified persons without their sinful

natures will live. There will be no more rebellion of man's will against God; only righteousness, peace, security, harmony and joy" (The Late Great Planet Earth, p. 179).

- "The sequence is clear in the last chapters of Revelation. First there is a return of Christ at the climax of the greatest war of all time. Second, Christ separates surviving believers from the surviving unbelievers; the unbelievers will be judge and cast off the earth (Re. 20:1-6; cf. Mt. 25:41-46). Third, Christ establishes the millennial kingdom and the surviving believers go into it as mortals and repopulate the earth (Re. 20:11-15; cf. Mt. 25:31-40). Fourth, at the end of a thousand years the unbelieving children rebel, Christ judges them, then He completely changes the old heaven and earth and creates a new one (Re. 21; Is. 65:17; II Pt. 3:8-13). This is the ultimate destiny of all persons who are redeemed by Christ" (Lindsey, p. 178).

Questions for Discussion (Biblical Position):

Judgment Day:

1. What will happen to the universe (2 Pt. 3:9-12)?
2. Who will be raised from the dead (Jh. 5:28-29)?
3. Who will face Jesus the Judge (Mt. 25:31-46)?
4. Where will Jesus be sitting (Re. 20:11)?
5. Who will be standing before Jesus (Re. 20:12-13)?
6. By what will they be judged (Re. 20:12-13)?
7. What is the destination of the lost and the saved (Re. 20:14-15)?
8. What will happen to the kingdom (1 Co. 15:24)?

Eternity:

1. What will replace the destroyed universe (2 Pt. 3:13; Re. 2:11)?
2. How is this place described (Re. 21:2-8)?
3. How is this place described (Re. 21:9-21)?
4. How is this place described (Re. 21:22-22:5)?

Conclusions:

1. When Christ comes for the second time, it means:
 - The resurrection of ALL the dead at the same time (Jh. 5:28-29).
 - The passing of everything material (2 Pt. 3:9-11).
 - The judgment of ALL – both righteous and the wicked (2 Co. 5:10; 2 Th. 1:1-12).
 - The kingdom will then be delivered over to the Father (1 Co. 15:21-28).
2. The dangerous consequences of premillennialism are many. If premillennialism were true:
 - The Old Testament prophets were wrong.
 - God selected the wrong time.
 - Christ failed in His mission.
 - The church is nothing more than an accident.
 - Christ is not reigning now.
 - It would destroy many fundamental principles of the gospel of Christ such as: 1) The future reign theory denies the present reign of Christ. 2) The theory, as a whole, denies that God kept His kingdom promises. 3) It is impossible to believe the premillennial teaching and at the same time believe we are living in the "last days." 4) It minimizes the gospel and belittles the church of Jesus Christ.
3. A judgment and resurrection day is coming one day. The timing is unknown, so BE READY!