

# **PREMILLENNIALISM**

## **A False Doctrine**



**by**

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Though the doctrine of premillennialism is taught by most every major denomination, there are but few brethren who believe in the theory. Recently, brethren from Louisville, Ky brought this doctrine to the Philippine Islands and spread it among churches of Christ.

Though the word "premillennialism" sounds very complicated, it is actually a very simple word. "Pre," meaning "before," and "millennial" meaning 1,000. Hence the theory of premillennialism is as follows:

(1) God promised and His prophets (Ezekiel and Daniel) prophesied that He would set up an earthly kingdom with Christ on David's literal throne in Jerusalem.

(2) That the kingdom of Old Testament promise and prophecy has not yet come into existence.

(3) Though the kingdom was announced "at hand" by both John and Jesus, it never has appeared.

(4) Jesus is King by right, but is not now actually on His throne.

(5) The kingdom of Old Testament prophecy was postponed because national Israel rejected Christ.

(6) Christ presented in parables a new announcement of the new and unexpected aspect (church age) the kingdom would assume during an anticipated age of the king in rejection and absence from the world (Kingdom of God, by R. H. Boll, Page 70).

(7) In order for the prophecy of Daniel 2:44 to be fulfilled, pagan Rome must come back into existence with a world dictator over a 10 part kingdom.

(8) The Jews must be restored as a nation, return to Palestine, and be converted en masse, in order that Christ can be king "in fact," instead of merely a "crown prince."

(9) The temple of Solomon will be rebuilt and a Jewish system of worship will be restored.

(10) There will be a "rapture"—the saints, both living and dead, will meet the Lord in the air and continue there for a time.

(11) There will be two resurrections in the future,

one of the saints at the "rapture," and one of the wicked at the end of the 1,000 years which will be the end of the world.

(12) At the time of the "rapture," there will come a time of "the great tribulation" upon the earth, which the saints will escape.

(13) After the "rapture" a period of time will pass, perhaps 7 years, and Christ will leave the throne of His majesty in heaven and occupy the literal throne of David for a literal 1,000 years.

(14) As king on David's literal throne in Jerusalem, Jesus shall engage in a carnal "battle of Armageddon."

(15) Christ's coming is imminent.

Thus the theory of premillennialism is that when Daniel prophesied of the kingdom that was to be established (Daniel 2:44), he was speaking of Christ coming to sit upon David's literal throne in Jerusalem and rule over all Israel. When the Jews rejected Christ, the prophecy was postponed and the church was substituted instead. Now, according to the theory, Christ has promised to return and fulfill the promise of Daniel 2:44 by reigning in Jerusalem on David's literal throne for 1,000 years according to Revelation chapters 19 and 20. Thus according to the theory, "pre" means "before" and "millennial" means 1,000. Hence Christ will begin His reign before the 1,000 years of Revelation 20.

### The Premillennial Theory—Part I

In our study I believe it will be to our advantage to divide the theory into 5 different parts, examining each part separately. We will include the first four statements of the theory in part # 1 of our study.

I do not suppose that any serious student of the Bible would deny that God promised, in the book of prophecy, that He would set up "His Kingdom." Neither is there any doubt as to "WHEN" it was to be established.

You will recall that in Daniel 2, Nebuchadnezzar had

a dream. The dream was of the image of a man whose form was magnificent. Nebuchadnezzar called all his magicians, and astrologers, and sorcerers, and the Chaldeans, to show the king his dream. They told him if he could tell them the dream, they would give him the interpretation thereof. The king said he could not remember the dream, and unless they told him the dream and the interpretation thereof they would all be cut in little pieces.

Daniel sought "an audience" with the king and said, "there is a God in heaven that revealeth secrets, and maketh known unto Nebuchadnezzar what shall be in the latter days" (Daniel 2:38). Then Daniel tells the dream of the great image Nebuchadnezzar saw.

The image which Nebuchadnezzar saw had a head of gold, arms and breast of silver, the belly and thighs of brass, and whose legs were of iron, with the feet and toes part of iron and part of clay. Then Daniel gives the interpretation of the dream.



He said king Nebuchadnezzar was the head of gold (v. 38). Daniel was simply showing that Nebuchadnezzar's kingdom was represented by the head of gold. However, "another kingdom inferior to thee, and another third kingdom of brass which should bear rule over all the earth. And the fourth kingdom shall be as strong as iron. . . (vs. 38-40). Thus history reveals that the 2nd and 3rd kingdoms that should follow the Babylonian kingdom were the Medes and Persians, and the Grecian kingdom under Alexander the great. The fourth kingdom, that would follow the Grecian kingdom, was the Roman empire. Both Bible and secular history confirm that this is what did take place.

Daniel also prophesied that "in the days of these kings (of the Roman empire, jts) the God of heaven shall set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed: and it shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces all of these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever" (v. 44). Thus, all admit that God's prophecy, according to Daniel, was that during the days of the Roman kings, God would set up a kingdom that would never be destroyed.

However, the problem arises when brethren (1) want to make it a **literal** kingdom in **literal** Jerusalem with Christ sitting and ruling on David's **literal** throne; (2) and saying that even though the kingdom was prophesied by both John the Baptist and Christ as being "at hand," it did not come "in fact." I believe both of the above statements are erroneous.

First of all, it is simply an *assumption* to say that Christ was coming to Jerusalem to establish a **literal** kingdom and sit upon David's **literal** throne. Some brethren contend that the prophecy of Daniel was "postponed." Where is the passage of Scripture that indicates this? Either the prophecy was fulfilled, or it failed. Notice the following chart.

## **PROPHECY - UNFULFILLED OR FAILED - WHICH?**

**If Unfulfilled:**

- 1. Who Can Give The Meaning?  
II Pet.1:20-21**
- 2. Only Deity Can Give The  
Meaning Of Prophecy!  
I Cor.2:9-12 - Eph.3:2-5**

**If Failed:**

- 1. Spoken By False Prophet  
Deut.18:21-22**

Next we notice one of the great mistakes of the Jews of the Old and New Testament periods is the same mistake of premillennialists today. They all want to make the kingdom that God was to establish a **literal**, **physical** kingdom here on earth with Christ on David's **literal** throne in **literal** Jerusalem. God made no such promise. In fact, every specific thing taught by Jesus about the kingdom is that it would be a **SPIRITUAL KINGDOM**, and not a **literal**, **physical** kingdom like the kingdoms of David and Solomon in the Old Testament.

## **CHRIST'S KINGDOM PHYSICAL OR SPIRITUAL**

**Christ's Kingdom Is Not:**

- 1. Of This World - John 18:36**
- 2. Meat & Drink - Rom.14:17**
- 3. Entered By Natural Birth John 3:1-7**
- 4. Entered By Saying Lord, Lord  
Matt.7:21**

**Christ's Kingdom Is:**

- 1. Within You - Luke 17:21**
- 2. Righteousness, Joy, Peace - Rom.14:17**
- 3. Entered By Spiritual Birth - John 3:1-7**
- 4. Entered By Doing Father's Will  
Matt:7.21 - I Pet:1.23**

The very thing that Christ argues when he speaks concerning his kingdom is that it IS NOT physical, but spiritual. And then in many of the same verses, as you can see from the above chart, he argues that IT IS SPIRITUAL in its nature.

When Jesus began His personal ministry in John 3, a ruler of the Jews, Nicodemus, came to Jesus and told Him that he accepted Him as a teacher come from God. Now here was a man that had every right, according to Jewish and premillennial beliefs, to be a part of the kingdom prophesied by Daniel. He was a Jew, even a ruler of the Jews. Was he, because of his being of the literal seed of Abraham, eligible to be a part of God's kingdom? Jesus said he was not! In fact the very second lesson recorded by John of Jesus' ministry involved His teaching concerning His kingdom, and he told Nicodemus, "Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God" (John 3:3). Nicodemus was amazed at this teaching. "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter the second time into his mother's womb and be born?" (v. 4). Nicodemus had missed the point entirely, just as the premillennialists miss the point today. All he could visualize was literal. But Jesus explained that it was not the fleshly or Israelite that was destined to be a part of His kingdom, but "except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God" (v. 5). What did Daniel prophesy? That God would set up His kingdom. To whose kingdom is Christ referring? God's! Then Jesus told this Jewish ruler, who thought, according to all he understood of God's kingdom, that he was of the proper physical lineage to be a part of it, "ye must be born again" (v.7).

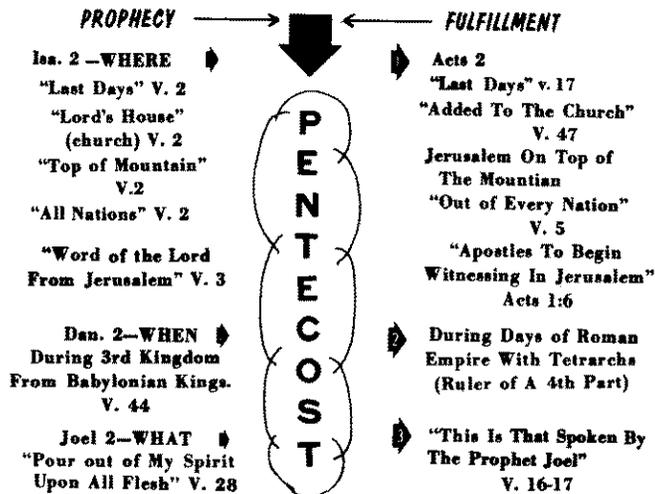
So Jesus, in explaining His kingdom, said it is "not of this world." (The word "world" is from the Greek

word *kosmos* which means "order or arrangement of things"). else would my servants fight (wage a carnal battle) that I might not be delivered into the hands of the Jews" (John 18:36). Paul explained it was not eating and drinking, but righteousness, and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit (Romans 14:17). And as Jesus explained, it is entered by a birth of water (baptism) and the Spirit (John 3:1-7). It is not entered by saying Lord, Lord, but by doing the will of the Father (Matt. 7:21; 1 Peter 1:23). Thus in the very beginning of His ministry, Christ introduced His kingdom as **spiritual**.

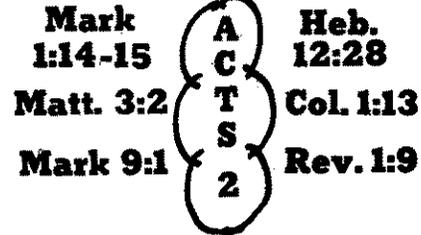
You will recall that Daniel said God had made known these things unto him that would take place in the "latter days." But Isaiah 2:2-3 also talks about what is to take place in the "last days." "And it shall come to pass in the last days that the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it. And many people shall go and say, come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem."

Now from these passages we learn that the "Lord's house" would be established in the "last days," and the word of the Lord would go forth from Jerusalem. I understand the expression "The Lord's house" to mean the church (cf. 1 Tim. 3:15). Jesus said that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name **among all nations** (as Isaiah prophesied) beginning at Jerusalem" (Luke 24:47).

Then Joel's prophecy of what would happen in the "last days" (Joel 2:28-32), was quoted in Acts 2:16-21 and Peter said, this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel" (v. 16).



## Kingdom NOW In Existence



We can see from the above chart that the prophecy of Daniel 2, Isaiah 2, and Joel 2 were fulfilled on the first pentecost after Christ’s resurrection.

Thus to sum up what has been said by Daniel, Isaiah, and Joel, they said in the last days the Lord would establish his kingdom (which would be entered by baptism as the Spirit directed, John 3:5; the Lord’s house or church) would be established and all nations would flow unto it, or as Jesus said, His name was to be preached among all nations (Luke 24:47); and Joel’s prophecy of what would happen in the “last days” DID HAPPEN according to Acts 2:16.

Hence, according to the above information, the kingdom of Daniel’s prophecy and the Church of Isaiah’s prophecy are one and the same thing, both are entered by baptism. Thus both the Jews and the premillennialists look for the fulfillment of a prophecy that has already been fulfilled.

Those who are Christians, who believe in premillennialism, are not foolish enough to deny that we are a part of Christ’s kingdom today, for Col. 1:13 plainly says we have been translated into it. However, according to a conversation I had in the Philippines with brother Robert Boyd, the kingdom of Col. 1:13 is “Abolutely not the kingdom of Daniel 2:44.” But where is God’s prophecy of two kingdoms? Thus according to premillennialists, God promised a kingdom which we do not have, and has translated us into a kingdom which he had not promised. Who can believe it?

According to premillennialists, Christ is supposed to change positions before the end. He is supposed to leave the throne of his Father David, which is now in heaven (Acts 2:29-35) and return to His footstool, the earth, to reign for 1,000 years. However, David, as quoted by Peter in Acts 2, said God would not leave Christ in the grave (v. 29). This was fulfilled, Peter said, when Christ was raised from the dead (v. 31). Christ began sitting on Pentecost, for he sat down at the right hand of the throne of God after He ascended (vs. 34-35). And, Paul said He must reign until he hath put all enemies under His feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death (1 Cor. 15:25-26). The end of death will come at the judgment, thus Christ will occupy his present position (of sitting and reigning over his spiritual kingdom) until the end.

Besides, Christ was to be raised up to "sit on David's throne while he slept with his fathers" (II Samuel 7:12-13). But, if Christ is to sit on David's throne after the "rapture," as premillennialists tell us, then it will not be while "David is sleeping with the fathers," for they will all, according to the premillennial theory, have already been raised.

### The Premillennial Theory—Part 2

This section of our study will include numbers 5 and 6 of our explanation at the beginning of this study on the salient points of the theory.

It is claimed that one of the reasons Christ postponed His kingdom was because of the rejection of the Jews. However, in Matthew 3, when John the Baptist began to preach, "repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" (v. 2), the Scriptures say, "Then went out to him Jerusalem, and all Judaea, and all the regions round about Jordan, and were baptized of him in Jordan, confessing their sins" (vs. 5-6).

Also, in John 6 when the 5,000 were fed with the five barley loaves and two small fishes, vs. 14-15 say, "Then those men, when they had seen the miracle that Jesus did, said, This is of a truth that prophet that should come into the world. When Jesus therefore perceived that they would come and take him by force, to make him a king, he departed again into a mountain himself alone." Does this sound like they had not accepted him to be their king? They understood all right who He was. However, they already had their minds made up as to what kind of kingdom He should establish (literal instead of spiritual) and later rejected Him because He did not establish the kind of kingdom they expected. How great, however, would have been the problem had Jesus done what the Jews expected of Him according to Ezekiel's and Daniel's prophecies. Observe:

That Christ should come to Jerusalem and sit on David's literal throne ruling over National Israel and conquering all the nations.

Question: If their expectations had been fulfilled, what about all the prophecies of Isaiah, and David in the Psalms, concerning a "suffering saviour"? For Christ could not have been conquered and would have never died on the cross. Thus, both the Jews expectation, along with the premillennialists theory, would completely have annihilated Christ's suffering on the cross (I Peter 1:9-11); remission of sins, both Jew and Gentile being included in God's plan (Eph. 2:16); etc. On the other hand, if all the prophecies concerning the "suffering saviour" were to be fulfilled, is it possible that God never intended to establish His kingdom during the days of the Roman kings as Daniel prophesied, which puts God in the position of making two sets of promises both of which COULD NOT have been fulfilled without contradicting each other? Who can believe it?

However, if as we have already suggested, Christ's kingdom is spiritual, and his body (church) is spiritual, then He was to suffer and die that by His resurrection and ascension He might receive authority both in heaven and on earth (Matt. 28:18; Romans 1:4) and establish himself king of His kingdom and head of His body, the church, which is, of course, what happened.

### The Premillennial Theory—Part 3

Now parts 7, 8, 9 of our explanation of the premillennial theory are the next points of our study.

According to the premillennial theory, in order for Daniel 2:44 to be fulfilled, pagan Rome must come back into existence with a world dictator over 10 world kingdoms. In fact we are made to wonder, because of some statements by brother R. H. Boll, whether Christ's failure to establish His kingdom was a result of the Jews rejection, or God's mistake.

# The Jews Rejection Or God's Mistake - Which?

According to brother R. H. Boll in his book, *The Kingdom of God*, page 32, "The Roman world-power then, though now it does not exist, as such, is to return. When it returns, the Roman power will be in the form of a ten-kingdom confederacy under one dominant head; which fact is indicated by the toes of the Image; more fully set forth in the ten horns of the fourth beast (Daniel 7); and clearly revealed to John in Revelation... (Rev. 17:12-13; 19:11-21)."

## HOWEVER

On page 30 of the same book brother Boll says, "But she (Rome, jts) has never as yet, nor at any time in the past, taken on its final shape as a ten-kingdom world-power which Daniel and John beheld. (Daniel 2 and 7, and Revelation 13)."

## THUS

According to brother Boll, God sent Christ into the world (and Christ was willing to come) at a time when it would have been IMPOSSIBLE for the prophecies concerning the Kingdom to be fulfilled.

Also to show that when Daniel said "in the days of these kings" he was speaking of the Roman empire that was in existence during Jesus' lifetime, we know that Caesar was on the throne in Rome. However, there were rulers (kings) over provinces during these days who were under Caesar, and the proof is so stated in Luke 3:1 where these men are referred to as "tetrarchs" (ruler of a 4th part). Herod is one of those who is listed as a tetrarch. However, in Matthew 2:1, Herod is referred to as "king." Hence, Daniel's prophecy of God's kingdom being established during the days of "kings" fits completely in this time period.

Almost every premillennialist that you hear preach on the subject sooner or later brings up the "land promise" or God's giving the land of Canaan to Israel in fulfillment of the promise to Abraham and his seed in Genesis.

## RESTORATION OF THE JEWS TO PALESTINE

1. THE LAND PROMISE TO ABRAHAM & HIS SEED FULFILLED UNDER JOSHUA
  - A. LAND OF CANAAN PROMISED TO ABRAHAM & HIS SEED GEN. 13.15, 15.18, 17.7-8.
  - B. THE LAND PROMISE WAS FULFILLED EXO. 6.4-8, JOSH. 21.43-45.
2. THE JEWS & THE ABRAHAMIC PROMISE
  - A. THE LAND PROMISE WAS FULFILLED UNDER JOSHUA 23.12-16.
  - B. THE RESTORATION PROMISE WAS FULFILLED UNDER EZRA 1.1-4.
  - C. THE SPIRITUAL PROMISE IS FULFILLED IN CHRIST GAL 3.26-29.

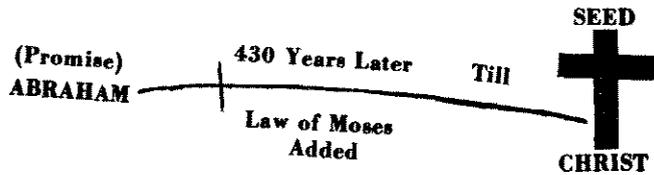
PROMISES FULFILLED  
CEASE TO BE BINDING!

As you will note from the above chart, every promise God made to Abraham and his seed was fulfilled. The promise of God's giving the land of Canaan was fulfilled under the leadership of Joshua. Also the Jews and Abraham's promise was fulfilled under Joshua with a warning in Joshua 23:43-45 that if they did not continue to serve God but turned to idol gods, God would drive them off the land. However in the above cited passages in Joshua, God said "not ought of the promise failed, all was fulfilled."

But premillennialists say that after driving the Jews out of the land into Babylonian captivity, He renewed the promise to bring them back into the land. Every promise made by Jeremiah was "accomplished" or "fulfilled" under king Cyrus according to II Chron. 36:22 and Ezra 1:1.

This only leaves the spiritual promise God made to

Abraham in Genesis 22:18 when He promised to bless all nations through the "seed" of Abraham. In Galatians chapter three, Paul explains the spiritual promise.



The above chart shows that God intended to fulfill His promise to Abraham through Christ (v. 16). He also shows that the Law of Moses was added because of the transgressions of the people till (showing duration of time) the seed (Christ) should come. So, says Paul, "The law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster" (thus no longer under the law of Moses). Now, Paul says, "Ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, bond nor free, male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed and heirs according to the promise." Thus if one has been baptized into Christ, he is therefore a part of the body of Christ, Abraham's seed, and an heir according to God's promise to Abraham. Hence all God's promises to Abraham and his seed have been fulfilled.

Thus the teaching of the premillennialists that the Jews must be restored to Palestine as a nation and be converted en masse as a nation is just a figment of their imagination. The truth of the matter is, today the Israel of God are those who have received "spiritual circumcision."

## NEW TESTAMENT CIRCUMCISION

1. Kind - Spiritual of the heart  
Rom. 2:28-29
2. Performed By - Deity  
Col. 2:11-12
3. Purpose - Cutting Off of the Body of the Sins of the Flesh  
Col. 2:11
4. When? - In Baptism  
Col. 2:12 Rom. 6:6  
"Spiritual Jews"

### The Premillennial Theory—Part 3

Now parts 10-12 of our explanation of premillennialism.

Premillennialists have taken a word that is not found in the Greek New Testament at all, but in the Latin, and continually talk about its fulfillment. The word is "rapture." Premillennial preachers preach about the "rapture" as if it is found on almost every page in the Bible. Of course the "idea" of the word "rapture" as used by the premillennialists is found in 1 Thess. 4:13-14. However, let me hasten to say that their application of it and their theory about it is not found.

The idea is that of "rising to meet the Lord." There is certainly no question about this happening according to the above passage. The problem arises when premillennialists say this is going to take place a thousand and seven years before the resurrection of the wicked. (Supposedly the raised saints will be with the Lord "somewhere" for 7 years before the millennium begins).

There is no evidence that there will be any "time separation" between the resurrection of the righteous and the wicked. 1 Thess. 4:13-17 is not a passage to be used as proof by the premillennialists. Here Paul has only the righteous under consideration. Yes, the word

pass away or perish until the things he had prophesied be fulfilled. Hence, He was speaking of the destruction of Jerusalem and not the end of the world.

“But,” someone may ask, “What about the teaching of Revelation chapters 19-20 on this subject?” “Isn’t Christ to return and establish His kingdom here on earth and reign for 1,000 years in Jerusalem on David’s literal throne?” Let’s look at the book of Revelation and see just what is said.

John gives us an insight into the book of Revelation in the very first chapter and the first three verses that will help us to understand what is taught therein.

In verse 1, John made two points that must be understood in studying the book of Revelation. (1) God was revealing “things which must shortly come to pass.” Also, “he came and signified . . . unto his servant John.” The word “signify” simply means he presented it in “signs” or “symbols.”

(2) In verse 3, he said the prophecies revealed should be read and observed, “for the time is at hand.” Thus we understand from these statements that the things revealed were “yet future” but in the “near future,” “at hand,” “shortly to come to pass.” So, these things were written in revelation specifically to give comfort to those who were being persecuted by the “great harlot” whom John identifies as “the great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth” or Rome (Rev. 17:18). Hence, the book was written specifically to teach those who were being persecuted and killed for the cause of Christ, that in the end those who would worship and serve God would be victorious. Chapters 19 and 20 are the victory chapters with chapters 21 and 22 showing the ultimate of what those who are victorious will receive.

Now back to chapters 19 and 20. I contend that the majority of the things referred to are symbolic. Otherwise, we will have a literal “lamb” riding through heaven on a “white horse.” But observe the

following chart, and after reading Revelation chapters 19 and 20, see how many of the twenty things listed you believe are literal.

### **Revelation 19, 20 Literal or Figurative - Which?**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Great Harlot - 19:2</li> <li>2. Her Smoke - V. 3</li> <li>3. Four Beasts Worshipping God - V. 4</li> <li>4. Lamb - V. 7</li> <li>5. White Horse and Rider - V. 11</li> <li>6. Eyes As Flames of Fire - V. 12</li> <li>7. Many Crowns On His Head - V. 12</li> <li>8. Vesture Dipped in Blood - V. 13</li> <li>9. Armies On White Horses - V. 14</li> <li>10. Sword Out Of His Mouth - V. 15</li> <li>11. Tread The Wine Press - V. 15</li> <li>12. Name On His Thigh - V. 16</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>13. Fowls Flying To Supper - V. 17</li> <li>14. Beast - Mark - Image - Vs. 19-21</li> <li>15. Angel Coming Down - 20:1</li> <li>16. Key - Chain - Fit - V. 1</li> <li>17. Dragon - Tail - Stars - V. 2, 12:3-4</li> <li>18. Bound - Bottomless Pit - V. 3</li> <li>19. Shut - Sealed - V. 3</li> <li>20. Thrones - Beheaded - V. 4</li> <li>21. Prison - Loosed - Battle - Vs. 7-8</li> <li>22. Camp of Saints Compassed - V. 9</li> <li>23. Fire and Brimstone - V. 10</li> <li>24. 1000 Years - V. 2</li> </ol> |
|---|--|

Perhaps you only chose the 1,000 years. If so, why? Besides, in order for the 1,000 years to fit into the millennial theory, all of the things on our next chart would have to be taught in these two chapters. And, even though Revelation 19 and 20 are the “proof texts” given for the theory, notice according to the following chart that none of them are even mentioned.

### **REVELATION 19, 20 MILLENNIAL PROOF TEXT ??**

*Yet It Does Not Mention:*

1. **The second coming of Christ.**
2. **A bodily resurrection.**
3. **Christ on earth.**
4. **An earthly reign.**
5. **Palestine**
6. **Jerusalem**
7. **The literal throne of David.**
8. **Resurrection of the Jews.**
9. **All the saved.**
10. **Flesh and blood.**
11. **Imminence**
12. **Us**

“But,” someone says, “do you mean to tell me that when Christ returns that He will not be given His kingdom?” That’s right. The facts of the matter are these. The premillennialist have Christ going in the wrong direction to receive His kingdom. (Read Daniel 7:13-14, cf. Acts 1:9). Christ received His kingdom when he came **TO** the Father—not **FROM** the Father.

#### **Then What About Rev. 20:1-6?**

The writer here concludes by showing that Satan has been overcome and is now bound so that he should deceive the nations no more. The Hebrew writer said that Christ by His death destroyed him that hath the power over death, even the devil” (Hebrews 2:14). Also, John said that the Son of God was manifest that he might destroy the works of the devil (1 John 3:8).

During the days of Christ and the apostles, Satan and his spiritual followers could deceive, and people were demon-possessed. However, that is not true today. Christ’s death on the cross destroyed that device of Satan. Notice what John said in Revelation 20:3, “that he (Satan) should deceive the nations no more.” Man does not have to be deceived by Satan now, for we are not ignorant of his devices (2 Cor. 2:11). Christ came to make manifest the works of the devil, and said if we “resist the devil he will flee from us” (James 4:7). Peter says Satan does not deceive us, for he goes about “as a roaring lion,” (1 Peter 4:8-9), not as one who “stalks his prey” but as a “roaring lion” seeking whom he may devour. Whom Peter said, “resist steadfast in the faith . . .” So we are told not to let Satan get the advantage of us, for we are not ignorant of his devices. We are told we may resist him, and if we do, he will flee from us. Thus, Satan is bound. He can deceive us no longer, unless we allow him to do so. However, this is predicated on our “having an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God . . .” and allowing ourselves to “be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin” (Hebrews 3:12-13). So, as John pointed out in Rev. 20:3 no one should be deceived.

#### **The First Resurrection of Revelation 20**

But what about the “first resurrection” of Revelation 20:3? It seems to me that verse 4 explains it. “The souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus and the word of God” in verse four are the ones who are reigning with Christ in vs. 4-5, and that is said to be the “first resurrection.” Oftime the Bible speaks of the freeing of people, who are held captive, as a resurrection. For example, when the children of Israel were in Babylonian captivity in Ezekiel 37, and God showed Ezekiel the “valley of dry bones,” He said it represented His people in captivity. However, He was going to bring them out, and in 37:11-14 God describes it as “opening their graves and causing them to come out of their graves and live.”

But we see the people of Rev. 20 described as the same people who had already been mentioned in Rev. 6:8-11 and being “under the altar” and begging for deliverance of their cause. They were told, “rest for a little season until thy fellowservants and thy brethren” that should be killed as they were, should “be fulfilled” (Rev. 6:9-11). Thus as we have the resurrection of a people held captive in Ezek. 37, so we also have a resurrection of a people held captive in Rev. 6 and 20. And the passage says, “and **THEY** lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years” (or long period of time).

#### **Universal Peace**

But if the preceding teaching is true, what of all the prophecies in Isaiah and Micah of the “peaceful nature” of the kingdom? When we understand that the kingdom of God is spiritual and not literal, then those promises also have spiritual application, and are not describing literal beasts of the field, but the nature of a people.

## UNIVERSAL PEACE

Isa.4:2 - Micah 4:3

Isa.11:6-9, 65:25

### 1. The Church - "Spiritual Kingdom" Is A Peaceful Organization:

A. Its Servants Should Not Fight  
John 18:36

B. Its Weapons Are Not Carnal  
II Cor.10:4

C. Its Members Are Peaceful In  
Nature - Rom.14:17-19

### 2. The Church Is For All People, And Nations Have No Identity In It Eph.2:11-17

Though R. H. Boll said in his book *The Kingdom of God*, written in the 1920s, that the millennium is imminent, brother Boll is dead and Christ has not yet come. Besides, if premillennial teaching is true, we know that it cannot be imminent. (Observe the following chart).

## Millennium Not Near

According to millennialists, certain conditions are going to have to be in existence before the millennium comes.

For Example:

1. The Jews Will All Return To Jerusalem.
2. The Jews Will Be Re-Established As A Nation.
3. The Jews Will Rebuild The Temple In Jerusalem.
4. A 10 Kingdom World-Ruling Roman Empire Will Exist.
5. This Empire Will Be Under A Roman World-Ruling Dictator.
6. I Thessalonians 4:13-17 Will Be Fulfilled.
7. The City Of Babylon Rebuilt

### Conclusion

If Christ should return to earth, notice on the following chart the things that would have to take place in violation of the teaching of the Bible.

## IF CHRIST RETURNS TO EARTH

1. He will not be a priest (Hebrews 8:4; 7:14).

2. There will be no forgiveness of sins.

"There is evidence that there will be some sin even in the millennium" (R. H. Boll, *The Kingdom of God*, P. 163). cf. Hebrews 10:4

3. He will have a name inferior to the one he now has (Eph. 1:21).

4. He will not prosper (Jeremiah 22:30).

5. He could not have any more authority than he has now (Matthew 28:18-20; I Cor.15:27).

**THERE IS NO INDICATION THAT CHRIST WILL EVER SET FOOT ON EARTH AGAIN!**

What then, does the Bible teach about Christ's 2nd coming? It teaches that "The Lord will come as a thief in the night in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, and the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up" (2 Peter 3:10).

It teaches that both the just and the unjust—ALL will be brought into judgment at the same time (John 5:28-29; Acts 24:15).

But what about the kingdom and the end of the world?

## WHAT IS TO TAKE PLACE

I Corinthians 15:23-26

"...at Christ's coming"

↓  
"THEN cometh the end

↓  
WHEN

He shall deliver up the kingdom to God...

↓  
WHEN

He shall put down (bring to an end - Gingrich: render inactive - Vine) all rule and authority and power.

↓  
FOR = GAR

He must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet.  
The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death."

Thus Christ is not coming back to BEGIN anything on earth. His coming will be an END of all things on earth, the premillennial brethren notwithstanding. For Jesus himself said, "And these are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the Psalms, concerning me" (Luke 24:44). So, Jesus said it, that settles it, I believe it!