

Apologetics

Premillennialism

(Jn 18:36)

INTRODUCTION

1. Good Evening
 - a. Greeting
2. Series of lessons on Apologetics
 - a. We have looked at a number of things such as...
 - i. Cloning, Jesus, Miracles, New Testament...
 - b. Today we will be looking at "Premillennialism."
3. Premillennialism
 - a. John Nelson Darby is the founder of the dispensational premillennialism. He was an Anglican priest in Ireland who was fed up with the church of England.
 - i. He wrote "'The church is in ruins.'" (Galli, M., & Olsen, T. (2000). 131 Christians everyone should know (98). Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers.)
 - ii. "Today his dispensational premillennialism is the view of many modern fundamentalists and conservative evangelicals." (Ibid)
 1. Dispensational premillennialism is the most common of the premillennialisms.
 2. Dispensational simply means they break the earth's timeline into seven dispensations since God made the earth in six days and rested on the seventh they make seven dispensations.

a. Innocence	Creation to the beginning of civilization
b. Conscience	Civilization start to the landing of the ark
c. Government	Landing of the ark to the Call of Abram
d. Promise	Call of Abram to the Law given to Moses
e. Law	Law given to the decent of the Holy Spirit
f. Grace	Holy Spirit decent to Christ's return in the air ie rapture.
g. Tribulation	Rapture to Christ's return to earth
h. Kingdom	Christ's earthly reign to final rebellion crushed & final judgment leading to eternity.
 3. For a breakdown of this system in chart form look to...
(<http://tinyurl.com/3zs6ypd>)
 - b. "Premillennialists hold that the second coming of Christ will occur before (pre) the millennium and that Christ, not the church (as in postmillennialism) will be the one to establish the kingdom. Christ will actually reign over the earth as King, and during the millennium the Jewish people will experience the fulfillment of the promises made to Abraham and David. According to premillennialism, the present church age will see increasing apostasy which will climax in the time of tribulation before the second coming of Christ. When He returns He will set up His kingdom for 1,000 years after which will occur the resurrection and judgment of the unsaved and the ushering in of eternity." (Ryrie, C. C. (1995). A survey of Bible doctrine. Chicago: Moody Press.)

Apologetics

- c. "Dispensational premillennialism can be identified through two basic features: (1) a distinction is made between God's program for Israel and His program for the church; (2) a consistently literal interpretation of the Scriptures is maintained. Dispensational premillennialists believe that the church will be raptured (1 Thess. 4:13–18) prior to the Tribulation period; God will judge unbelieving Gentiles and disobedient Israel during the Tribulation (Rev. 6–19). At the end of the Tribulation Christ will return with the church and establish the millennial kingdom on earth. Following the thousand-year reign, Satan will be freed once more, whereupon he and his followers will be cast into the lake of fire (Rev. 20:7–10). The eternal state will follow." (Enns, P. P. (1997). *The Moody handbook of theology* (389). Chicago, Ill.: Moody Press.)

I. The Land Promise & The Bible

- A. Premillennialism teaches that the land promise we never completely fulfilled
1. God did promise that Abraham & his descendants would inherit the promise land.
 - i. **Gn 13:14-15** "And the LORD said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him: "Lift your eyes now and look from the place where you are— northward, southward, eastward, and westward; 15 for all the land which you see I give to you and your descendants forever."
 - ii. **Gn 15:18-21** "On the same day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying: "To your descendants I have given this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the River Euphrates— 19 the Kenites, the Kenezites, the Kadmonites, 20 the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Rephaim, 21 the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Girgashites, and the Jebusites.""
 2. The promise was fulfilled however, the descendants did receive the promise land.
 - i. **Js 21:43-45** "So the LORD gave to Israel all the land of which He had sworn to give to their fathers, and they took possession of it and dwelt in it. 44 The LORD gave them rest all around, according to all that He had sworn to their fathers. And not a man of all their enemies stood against them; the LORD delivered all their enemies into their hand. 45 Not a word failed of any good thing which the LORD had spoken to the house of Israel. **All came to pass.**" (emphasis mine)
 - ii. **Ne 9:22-24** "Moreover You gave them kingdoms and nations, And divided them into districts. So they took possession of the land of Sihon, The land of the king of Heshbon, And the land of Og king of Bashan. 23 You also multiplied their children as the stars of heaven, And brought them into the land Which You had told their fathers To go in and possess. 24 So the people went in And possessed the land; You subdued before them the inhabitants of the land, The Canaanites, And gave them into their hands, With their kings And the people of the land, That they might do with them as they wished."

Apologetics

- iii. **I K 4:21** "So Solomon reigned over all kingdoms from the River to the land of the Philistines, as far as the border of Egypt. They brought tribute and served Solomon all the days of his life."
 - iv. **I Ki 8:56** "Blessed be the LORD, who has given rest to His people Israel, according to all that He promised. **There has not failed one word of all His good promise**, which He promised through His servant Moses." (emphasis mine)
- B. Something to remember about the promise land promise
- 1. It was conditional and thus could be lost.
 - i. **Js 23:16** "When you have transgressed the covenant of the LORD your God, which He commanded you, and have gone and served other gods, and bowed down to them, then the anger of the LORD will burn against you, and **you shall perish quickly from the good land** which He has given you." (emphasis mine)
 - 2. The Jews were not obeying God and thus they lost the land.
 - i. The northern kingdom was destroyed by Assyria.
 - a. **II Ki 17:5-6** "Now the king of Assyria went throughout all the land, and went up to Samaria and besieged it for three years. 6 In the ninth year of Hoshea, the king of Assyria took Samaria and carried Israel away to Assyria, and placed them in Halah and by the Habor, the River of Gozan, and in the cities of the Medes."
 - ii. The southern kingdom was destroyed by Babylon.
 - a. **II Ki 25:8-11** "And in the fifth month, on the seventh day of the month (which was the nineteenth year of King Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon), Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard, a servant of the king of Babylon, came to Jerusalem. 9 He burned the house of the LORD and the king's house; all the houses of Jerusalem, that is, all the houses of the great, he burned with fire. 10 And all the army of the Chaldeans who were with the captain of the guard broke down the walls of Jerusalem all around. 11 Then Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard carried away captive the rest of the people who remained in the city and the defectors who had deserted to the king of Babylon, with the rest of the multitude."
 - iii. Even after the return they were not obeying God as they should.
 - a. **Mt 23:35-39** "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing! 38 See! Your house is left to you desolate; 39 for I say to you, you shall see Me no more till you say, 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!'"
 - iv. They never regained it again, why because they were disobedient.
 - a. It's not like God didn't keep His promise He did, the people did not keep their end of it.

Apologetics

II. Jesus' Plan & The Bible

- A. Premillennialism teaches that Jesus' goal was to set up an earthly kingdom but that the Jews thwarted that attempt and thus He set up the church.
 - 1. "...Christ...intended to establish an earthly Jewish kingdom at His first advent. He says, for instance, 'The kingdom of God is at hand' (Mark 1:15). But the Jews rejected both the kingdom and Christ as King, so the kingdom could not be set up and the Jews were punished and scattered abroad among the nations. Therefore the kingly reign of Christ had to be postponed until the second coming." (Lloyd-Jones, D. M. (1998). *The church and the last things* (203). Wheaton, Ill.: Crossway Books.)
 - i. Think about the sheer arrogance of such a thought.
 - ii. Christ who helped create everything (Jn 1:3)
- B. Christ did come to setup a kingdom however it wasn't an earthly one
 - 1. It was prophesied that it would come to pass.
 - i. **Da 2:44** "And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever."
 - a. **Je 31:31** "Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah"
 - 2. Jesus said it would happen in the lifetime of those he preached to.
 - i. **Mk 9:1** "And He said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you that there are some standing here who will not taste death till they see the kingdom of God present with power.""
 - 3. Jesus even taught His kingdom was not an earthly/physical kingdom.
 - i. **Jn 18:36** "Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here.""
- C. Premillennialism teaches through implication it was never Jesus' plan to die but to set up the kingdom
 - 1. Notice that according to premillennialism...
 - i. "The Jews killed Jesus because they rejected Him. If the Jews' rejection of Jesus was unexpected and unpredicted, then Jesus' death must have been unexpected and unpredicted."
 - ii. "Jesus died to purchased the church with His blood (Acts 20:28; Ephesians 5:22-26). If the church was unexpected and unpredicted, then Jesus' death must also have been unexpected and unpredicted."
 - iii. "The gospel is the message of salvation by the death of Jesus (1 Corinthians 15:1-4; 1:18-25). If the gospel was not predicted, then Jesus' death was not predicted." (<http://tinyurl.com/65ets57>)
 - 2. Though most premillennialist will not say this some could not deny the logical reality of such a belief.
 - i. "S.D. Gordon, a dispensationalist, wrote: "It can be said at once that His dying was not God's own plan. It was conceived somewhere else and yielded to by God." (Eschatology Notes 2005 by Stapleton, Robert pg. 3)

Apologetics

- ii. This belief does not fit in any way with the scriptures.
 - a. **Ac 2:23** "Him, **being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God**, you have taken by lawless hands, **have crucified, and put to death**" (emphasis mine)
- iii. Even the O.T. prophesied about Jesus' death.
 - a. **Ps 22; Is 53**

III. Israel & The Bible?

- A. Premillennialism teaches that the Jews/Israel is still God's chosen people and will return with God's guidance back to the promise land
 - 1. This is why many believe that the United Nations Resolution #181 passed in May of 1948 that declared Israel a state was a fulfillment of biblical prophecy.
- B. How is Israel God's chosen people?
 - 1. There is no doubt that God created the Jewish nation and made them His chosen people.
 - i. **Gn 12:2** "I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing."
 - ii. **Ek 16**
 - 2. However notice that it is not the Jewish race ie being born a Jew that made one an Israelite or a Jew, God's chosen, it was their faithfulness.
 - i. **Ro 2:28-29** "For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh; 29 but he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the Spirit, not in the letter; whose praise is not from men but from God."
 - ii. **Ro 9:6-8ff** "But it is not that the word of God has taken no effect. For they are not all Israel who are of Israel, 7 nor are they all children because they are the seed of Abraham; but, "In Isaac your seed shall be called." 8 That is, those who are the children of the flesh, these are not the children of God; but the children of the promise are counted as the seed."
 - iii. **Ro 11:26** "And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: "The Deliverer will come out of Zion, And He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob"
 - a. In context Paul is writing here that Jew & Gentile Christians make up "Israel" not just the Jews. Read **Ro 11:13ff**.
 - b. Notice the Gentiles were grafted into the olive tree (**11:17**) but the natural branches (Jews) had to be grafted in again after being broken off (**11:71, 23**). Thus you have both Jew & Gentile making up "all Israel."

Apologetics

- C. Remember also that there is no such thing as a "Jewish race" anymore.
 - 1. "The Jews As A Race: The findings of physical anthropology show that, contrary to the popular view, there is no Jewish race. Anthropometric measurements of Jewish groups in many parts of the world indicate that they differ greatly from one another with respect to all the important physical characteristics." (Encyclopedia Britannica Vol. 12 pg. 1054)
 - 2. "A common error and persistent modern myth is the designation of the Jews as a 'race! This is scientifically fallacious, from the standpoint of both physical and historical tradition." (Is There A Jewish Race Today by Dennis, Todd pg 2)
- D. Israel has always been spiritual and not physical (**Ro 2:28-29**)
 - 1. Thus it makes no sense to have "Israel" get the promise land back and be the dominate religion especially since Christians are the spiritual Israel now (**Ro 11:13ff (26)**).

IV. Interpretation & The Bible

- A. Premillennialist think they are the best interpreters of the Bible because they are more literal than most
 - 1. "The premillennial scheme is a result of interpreting the promises and prophecies of Scripture in a plain, normal, or literal way. This is the strength of premillennialism—its method of interpretation is consistently the same whether applied to history, doctrine, or prophecy."
 - 2. In a form discussing if there is a real Jewish race notice the dialog as some get on the 144,000 of Revelation.
 - i. bapmom "and where does the Bible say that the 144,000 have to be from a "pure" bloodline?"
 - ii. Paul of Eugene "The 144000 is a symbolic number anyway. 12 being completeness, 12 X 12 being very complete, 1000 X 12 X 12 being very very very complete."
 - iii. bapmom "**of course its symbolic**, but that **doesn't mean it isn't literal, also.**"
 - iv. Ed Edwards "Amen, Sister Bapmon..."
- B. However this couldn't be further from the truth
 - 1. They claim being literal yet consider this the millennial rein itself.
 - i. **Rv 20:1-3** "Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the **key to the bottomless pit** and a **great chain in his hand**. 2 He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; 3 and he cast him **into the bottomless pit**, and **shut him up, and set a seal on him**, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished. But after these things he must be released for a little while." (emphasis mine)
 - a. No of the bolded is considered literal.
 - b. It is impossible to have a bottomless pit.

Apologetics

- c. It makes no sense to have a chain holding down Satan.
 1. **Jd 6** "And the angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode, He has reserved in everlasting **chains** under darkness for the judgment of the great day"
 - ii. **Rv 20:4** "And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. **And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.**"
2. Who's more consistent...those that say the whole thing is symbolism and thus figurative not literal or those that pick and choose what they want to be literal and figurative.

CONCLUSION

1. Foy E. Wallace defined premillennialism as, " Pre means before, millennial means 1,000, ism means there isn't anything to it anyhow." (Eschatology Notes 2005 by Stapleton, Robert pg. 2)
 - a. This is the best biblical definition for premillennialism I've come across.
2. Premillennialism is clearly a false doctrine that has been around for a very long time. However how long something is around is not that which makes it right, that which makes it right is its authority in scripture.