

What Is Premillennialism?

I. What Does The Word “Premillennialism” Mean?

- A. [Latin} “Pre” means “before” and “millennial” means “one thousand” and “ism” indicates a dogma (relate James Miller definition). Hence, it is the doctrine that we are in a time before the time when Jesus will return and reign 1,000 years on earth.
- B. Well known teachers of this doctrine: Hal Lindsey, James Walvoord, Jerry Falwell, Billy Graham, Oral Roberts, Pat Robertson, Jimmy Swaggart, Jim Bakker, Rex Humbard, Cyrus Scofield (of “Scofield Bible” fame), Charles Ryrie (of “Ryrie Study Bible” fame), et al. Early in this century there were some among our brethren who were quite outspoken with this doctrine: R. H. Boll, Charles Neal, Don Carlos Janes, E. L. Jorgensen, et al.
- C. In the political realm (in my lifetime) there have been some who have brought up this doctrine specifically in dealing with Israel: Jimmy Carter and Ronald Reagan are two that come to mind. Former Secretary of the Interior James Watt also shocked Capitol hill with Premillennial remarks. There was also much said about Premillennialism when the present day country of Israel came into existence in 1947. The “Six Day War” in 1967 between Israel and the U. A. R. initiated many comments on Premillennialism from secular corners.

II. A Real Challenge.

- A. Challenging due to “offshoots” of the doctrine.
 - 1. Jehovah’s Witness have a different view.
 - 2. Mormons have a different view.
 - 3. Most “mainstream” denominations have a different view.
 - 4. Our “Premil” brethren have a different view.
- B. But there is a common view among all who hold to the doctrine of Premillennialism. This is illustrated on our chart.
 - 1. Christ was on earth to establish His kingdom.
 - 2. He failed to do so and the Jews had Him Killed.
 - 3. He arose from the grave ascended into heaven.
 - 4. The church was set up instead of the kingdom.
 - 5. At some time future He will return and “rapture” the living saints and the righteous dead. Wicked are left on earth.
 - 6. The wicked on earth endure a seven year period of tribulation.
 - 7. During this tribulation the gospel will be preached and many wicked will be converted.
 - 8. At the end of the tribulation period, Christ returns (again) and fights Satan in the battle of Armageddon. Wicked then living are dispatched.
 - 9. The victorious Christ will then set up His kingdom and rule over for a period of 1,000 years.

10. During this 1,000 years Israel is restored to all its former glory and land. Temple will be rebuilt and Old Testament worship re-instituted. It from Jesus rules from David's rebuilt throne in Jerusalem. No more war.
 11. Finally, the end. Righteous converted during the tribulation are judged (living and dead). Wicked dead are raised and judged.
- C. Notice the chart:
1. Christ goes into heaven three times (after cross; from rapture; from millennial reign).
 2. Christ returns twice (at rapture and end of tribulation).
 3. There are three judgments (at rapture; at end of tribulation {Armageddon}; at end of millennial reign).
 4. Some other views might even include **MORE** than these!

III. What The Bible Teaches.

- A. Jesus to establish His kingdom.
1. Kingdom established during Roman rule (*Dan. 2:40-44*).
 2. Kingdom "*at hand*" (*Mk. 1:14-15*).
 3. Some would live to see kingdom (*Mk. 9:1*).
- B. When Jesus ascended to heaven:
1. "*Last Days*" began (*Heb. 1:1-2; Acts 2:16-17*).
 2. Kingdom in existence during New Testament times (*Col. 1:13*).
 3. Church in existence (*1 Tim. 3:15*).
 4. No difference between kingdom and church (*Matt. 16:16-19*).
 5. 1,000 year reign began (*Rev. 20:4-5*).
- [All last until the end]
- C. The end, **final** judgment.
1. At the end is the resurrection and the return (not establishment) of kingdom (*1 Cor. 15:23-24*).
 2. Separation of righteous and wicked (*Matt. 25:31-46*).

Conclusion: Premillennialism is not a part of the doctrine of Christ. It instills fear and scatters hope. It is a lie!

From time to time brethren say, "What's the big deal about this?" My answer: Every passage is supposedly connected to this doctrine. They believe you can't be saved without it. The most serious aspect is that it makes Jesus a failure. There is nothing right about any doctrine that has that in it!