

From Where I Sit . . .

"What's So Bad About Premillennialism?"

When I was a child of about 4th-5th grade in school, I lived in a small Central Florida town where many of my school friends were "getting saved" at a very early age. The local preacher in one of the denominations had been preaching a frightening series of sermons about some future "rapture and tribulation" where horrible creatures with scorpion-like stingers would be turned loose on society. The only hope of rescue was to be saved, and thus a large number of small children were flooding the aisles.

The fear which many of those children felt is not reserved for children only. A large segment of the religious community is confused and frightened about this subject that has caused a rush of authors to publishing houses where millions of dollars are made exploiting our curious natures and appetites for sensationalism.

While we must preach about the Lord's second coming, the theories we hear preached fail to properly represent what the Lord had to say on these very important matters.

Friends, if God's Word is true, and I affirm that it is, then that Word will not contradict itself. There are some serious conflicts and contradictions with plain and simple truths of the Bible when one tries to pour them into the premillennial mold. I can only conclude that someone is mishandling the Scriptures. If they are handled correctly, no such contradictions will follow.

Any claims that Jesus came to set up a kingdom, but was precluded from doing so by a Jewish rejection, and that He offered a "church substitute" until such future time when He can come back to finally accomplish His plan, is heresy!!! This makes the prophets out to be false prophets, and their message, one that did not come to pass. They prophesied of this kingdom and pinpointed its coming to the days of the Roman kings (Daniel 2:44) with no room for a several thousand year miscalculation. Deuteronomy 18:22 says, "When a prophet speaketh in the name of the Lord, if the thing follow not, nor come to pass, that is the thing which the Lord hath not spoken, but the prophet hath spoken it presumptuously: thou shalt not be afraid of him."

Furthermore, such nonsense would make Jesus out to be either a liar, or an honest but mistaken prophet when He said in Mark 9:1, "...Verily, I say unto you, That there be some of them that stand here, which shall not taste of death, till they have seen the kingdom of God come with power." He either lied or was mistaken, but in either case He would have failed the test of Deuteronomy 18:22 if the premillennialists were right.

"What's so bad with premillennialism?" It's a theory that makes Christ and the Old Testament prophets false prophets. That's only the beginning, however. Jesus also would owe Pontius Pilate a shamefaced apology for the misrepresentation of truth when He stated in John 18:36, "My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence." According to the theories about some future Armageddon, there will indeed be fighting, and allegedly Jesus did intend to rule on a throne down here when He lied to Pilate. These theories are not so innocent because of what they say about the integrity of the Scriptures.

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