

## **QUESTION: Does the Bible teach a literal 1000-year reign of Christ on the earth? (Part 2)**

The millennial picture in Revelation 20:1-6 is a martyr scene. John, the apostle, saw “the **souls** of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God...And **they** lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.”

If this passage refers to a future event, it fails to mention a few important details. The second coming of Christ, a “bodily” resurrection as in (1Cor 15:42), the throne of David, the conversion of the Jews, the establishment of the kingdom, a rule on earth and the city of Jerusalem are not mentioned.

The premillennial hypothesis of a literal 1000-year reign of Christ on the earth frustrates the will of God. It charges God with failure. It assumes that God planned to set up His “physical” kingdom, but the Jews did not allow it. Consequently He postponed the kingdom and established the church.

The Bible teaches that when people are added to Christ through faith, repentance and baptism, they become members of His church and citizens in His kingdom (Ac 2:47; Co 1:13, 18; He 12:28). The church is no accident, God planned it before time began (Ep 3:10-11). What right thinking person would charge God with failure? Is God so powerless that mere man can thwart His plan? The words “church” and “kingdom” are descriptive terms of the relationship Christians have with Christ. In the church, members make up one body. The word kingdom describes the relationship each one has to Christ the King.

The imaginative doctrine of Premillennialism denies the essence of Christianity, and its spiritual nature. Further, it denies plain statements of the Lord. Jesus stated to Pilate, “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” (Jn 18:36). **Jesus Christ does not reign over His kingdom from this earth!** The Pharisees asked Jesus when the kingdom of God would come, and He told them, “The kingdom of God does not come with observation; nor will they say, ‘See here!’ or ‘See there!’ For indeed the kingdom of God is within you” (Lk 17:20-21). The phrase “within you” means “among you.” Jesus was not saying that the rebellious Pharisees were in the kingdom of God. He was saying that the kingdom of God and His Christ is not an observable kingdom like earthly kingdoms, but it is the reign of God through Christ in the hearts of men and women (Ep 3:14-21; Co 1:9-14).

Premillennialism describes the reign of Christ in physical, material terms. He must put on the flesh again, sit on a literal throne over an earthly nation. Sounds like a kingdom “of this world” does it not? Satan added one word to tempt Eve...“you will **not** surely die.” Premillennialists leave out one word (the word in bold type) when describing the kingdom of Christ...“My kingdom is **not** of this world.”

– C. Boyd Jennings