

QUESTION: Does the Bible teach a literal 1000-year reign of Christ on the earth? (Part 4)

This is our fourth and final article in answer to the question above, and the last in a series related to the Second Coming of Christ. I hope you have enjoyed reading and have a better understanding of what the Bible teaches about the kingdom of Jesus Christ.

The premillennial theory and its advocates make a grave blunder in concocting a fictional story regarding the Second Coming of Christ. It used to be preachers made it clear that Jesus will return to judge the earth and separate the sheep from the goats. The sheep are allowed into the everlasting kingdom of God (Heaven), and the goats are sent to into everlasting punishment (Ma 25:31-46). Today, the human theories about the Lord's return are so prevalent that many people don't know what to expect. Notice the following points.

Premillennialism, a so-called 1000 year reign of Christ on the earth, makes the "shadow of good things to come" the end to be attained. Let me explain. The law of Moses included many shadows or types anticipating the "very image" of blessings in Jesus Christ (He 10:1). In Moses were shadows, in Christ there is substance, i.e., the real or true blessings God has for man. Premillennialists revive Mosaic ordinances and place them in a supposed future reign of Christ. Chasing shadows, they completely miss the point of His life, death and resurrection (1Co 15:1-4).

The prophet Jeremiah said that Jeconiah would be the last descendent of David to reign on David's throne in Judah (Jer 22:28-30). Jesus was of the lineage of this king (Mt 1:11) and thus could not reign from the earth without violating this passage. However, David's throne is God's throne and symbolic of a Divine appointment to rule (1Kgs 1:13; 1Chr 29:23). Peter stated that God raised His Son to sit on David's throne (Ac 2:30), and since Jesus is prevented, by prophesy, from reigning on the earth, then David's throne is in Heaven and the reign of Christ spiritual.

David prophesied of "the day of Your power" (Psa 110:1-4). In that day Christ was (1) to sit at the right hand of God, (2) to rule among His enemies, (3) to rule over willing subjects, (4) and to be a priest after Melchisedek's order. Every aspect of this prophecy is fulfilled in Jesus Christ. Follow these references: (1) He 1:3, (2) He 1:8, Ep 1:21-22, (3) Re 22:17, (4) He 6:20. Today, NOW, is the day of His power.

The prophet Zechariah (6:12-13) said that Christ would (1) build a temple, (2) sit and rule on His throne, (3) and be a priest. Every part of this prophecy is NOW fulfilled in Jesus Christ. Read these passages: (1) 1Co 3:16, Mt 16:18, (2) Ac 2:34, He 1:8, (3) He 4:14, 8:4. Millennial teachers must avoid the truth in order to establish their theory. Their doctrine either denies the present reign of Christ or combines it with a supposed earthly reign.

When you get right down to it, their doctrine denies the non-Jew (which is most of us) the right to be Christians (read Amos 9:11-12). Premillennialists contend the "tabernacle of David" has not been rebuilt, and thus Gentiles have no access to God. However, God stated otherwise through His servant James, who correctly applied the prophecy to the "church age" and the present rule of Jesus Christ from Heaven (Ac 15:13-21). To teach otherwise is to demote Christ and to nullify His great commission to preach His saving gospel to the world (Mt 28:18-20; Mk 16:15-16; Lk 24:46-48).

When Jesus comes, the physical elements will be destroyed, His reign will cease, death will be no more and all will be judged. Premillennialism is a hostile doctrine to God's word and truth seekers. -C. Boyd Jennings