

IS PREMILLENNIALISM TRUE?

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Are the Jews still God's chosen people? Will there be 7 years of tribulation? Will there be an Antichrist? The doctrine called Premillennialism is one of the most prominent doctrines in the world today. Advocates of this doctrine teach such things as the idea that the Jews are still a chosen people of God, that Christ will return not once, but twice more, and that we can predict when Christ is about to come. They also teach that Christ failed in His mission to establish His kingdom! Most denominations teach that Premillennialism is fact. The "*Left Behind*" series of books and movies is one of the most popular types of propaganda used by believers of Premillennialism. There are also tons of books, tracts, radio programs, and television programs, and websites which promote this teaching. Some of its more well-known advocates have included Billy Graham, Hal Lindsey, Jack Van Impe, and multitudes of others. This is the "hot topic" of most religious television shows these days, and it is estimated that 70% of people professing to be Christians believe in the false doctrine of Premillennialism!

What Do Premillennialists Believe?

The prefix "pre" means "before," and "millennium" means 1,000 years. The most popular form of Premillennial doctrine is called Dispensational Premillennialism, or Dispensationalism. They believe in seven dispensations, which are divided as follows:

- (1) Innocence: Creation of Adam to the Fall
- (2) Conscience: The Fall until the Flood
- (3) Human Government: The Flood until the call of Abraham
- (4) Promise: The call of Abraham to the giving of the law on Mount Sinai
- (5) Law: The giving of the law through most of Jesus' public ministry
- (6) Grace (or Church Age): Closing days of Christ's public ministry until the second coming of Christ
- (7) Kingdom: The Millennium (the 1000 year reign of Christ on earth)

They teach that we are presently living in the dispensation of Grace (also known as the "Church Age"), and that events indicate that Jesus will soon descend from heaven. When He descends, He will resurrect the dead saints (only) and they along with the living saints will be raptured to meet the Lord in the air. These will be transported to heaven for a period of seven years. While the saints are raptured, there will be a seven year period on earth which is divided into two three and one half periods. In the first half of the seven years, all the Jews will return to Jerusalem and Israel. The Old Testament temple will be rebuilt. A world leader will arise and demand worship. However, at the end of the first three and one half years, he will be revealed to be the Antichrist. Anyone who does not worship him will be put to death. During the last three and one half years there will be a great tribulation upon the world. All those converted during these seven years will be put to death. When it appears that the Antichrist is completely victorious, Christ will descend (with the raptured saints), and a literal battle of Armageddon will take place, at which time Christ will be victorious over the Antichrist and will establish the Davidic throne in the city of Jerusalem and will rule the world in righteousness for a literal one thousand years. All those that were converted to Christ during the tribulation and were killed will be resurrected at this time, just

prior to the 1000 reign. At the end of this one thousand years (Kingdom Age), the wicked will be resurrected and the great white throne judgment will take place, at which time the wicked will be cast into Hell and the righteous will be taken into Heaven (Billy Bland, "Premillennialism," in *Dangerous 'isms*).

Does this doctrine coincide with God's Word, or does it contradict God's Word? Let us consider just a few examples of how Premillennialists and God do not agree:

Is Premillennialism a Scriptural Doctrine?	
Premillennialists say:	God says:
<p>The land of Palestine rightly belongs to the Jews</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">The land promise has already been fulfilled Deuteronomy 19:7-9; Joshua 20:7, 8 Joshua 21:43, 45 Genesis 15:18; 2 Samuel 8:3 Nehemiah 9:7, 8</p> <p style="text-align: center;">The land promise was said to be "forever," but sometimes the word translated as "forever" actually meant for a long, allotted amount of time, such as: Circumcision (Genesis 17:13) The Passover (Exodus 12:14) The Levitical priesthood (Numbers 25:13)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">The land would only remain theirs if they remained faithful Deuteronomy 6:10-15; 8:18-20; 30:17, 18 Joshua 23:13</p> <p style="text-align: center;">God took them off the land when they disobeyed Deuteronomy 4:25-27 Israel - 2 Kings 15:27-29; 17:17-23 Judah - 2 Kings 23:27; 24:8-16</p> <p style="text-align: center;">The Jews are in disobedience today, rejecting the only Savior Romans 9:6, 30-32; 10:1-4, 19-21 1 Thessalonians 2:14-16</p> <p style="text-align: center;">God is no longer concerned with which land belongs to whom; He wants the focus to be on Christ! Galatians 3:28</p> <p style="text-align: center;">The only prophecies of the Jews getting their land back were before or during the Babylonian captivity! After they returned to the land, these prophecies had been fulfilled, and there were no more such prophecies!</p>

<p>The Jews are still God's chosen people</p>	<p>The Jews "killed the Lord Jesus" and "they please not God...for the wrath is come upon them to the uttermost" 1 Thessalonians 2:14-16</p> <p>There are no longer such things as Jews or Gentiles in the mind of God; we are simply in Christ or out of Christ! Galatians 3:26-29 Colossians 3:11</p> <p>The church is the Israel of today -- both Jew and Gentile are reconciled to God in one body, which is the church Ephesians 2:16; 3:6; 1:22, 23</p> <p>The Jews were God's peculiar people, but now Christians are God's peculiar people Exodus 19:5; 1 Peter 2:9</p> <p>The Jews were God's holy nation, but now Christians make up God's holy nation Deuteronomy 14:2; 1 Peter 2:9</p> <p>Not all in the Jewish bloodline are part of the true Israel of today (the church) Romans 9:6, 30-32</p> <p>The Jews are in disobedience today, rejecting the only Savior John 14:6 Acts 4:12 Romans 9:6, 30-32; 10:1-4, 19-21</p> <p>Galatians 3:26-29 tells us how to be Abraham's seed, thus being heirs</p>
<p>Christ failed to accomplish His mission in setting up an earthly kingdom because His people rejected Him</p> <p>(The Postponement theory states that since the Jews rejected Christ, the kingdom was put "in abeyance")</p>	<p>God's timing was just right Daniel 2:44; Galatians 4:4 Mark 9:1; Acts 1:8; Acts 2:1-4</p> <p>God always knew that Christ was going to be rejected and slain! Isaiah 53; Acts 3:18; Revelation 13:8</p> <p>The church was always in the "eternal purpose" of God; it was not a "Plan B" contingency measure Ephesians 3:10, 11</p> <p>The mission of Jesus Christ was "to seek and to save that which was lost," not to set up a material kingdom; We are saved in the church; therefore He completed His mission! Luke 19:10; Ephesians 5:23; Acts 2:47</p>

After Christ states His mission to save the lost, he begins talking about the kingdom; the lost are saved in the church, which is the kingdom!

Luke 19:10ff; Ephesians 5:23; Acts 2:47

John, Jesus, and His disciples all preached that the kingdom was “at hand.” Were they wrong?

Matthew 3:2; 4:17; 10:7

Mark 1:15

Christ said there were some with Him that would “...not taste of death, till they have seen the kingdom of God come...”

Mark 9:1

Christ spoke of the church and the kingdom in verses of the same context

Matthew 16:18, 19, 28

The kingdom would come with power (Mark 9:1); the power would come with the Holy Ghost (Acts 1:8); the Holy Ghost came on the Day of Pentecost when the church was established (Acts 2:1-4); therefore the church is the kingdom!

After the church was established, the kingdom is said to have already come

Colossians 1:13

1 Thessalonians 2:12

Hebrews 12:28

Revelation 1:9

Christ reigns over this world now; He also reigns in the world to come, which is heaven; no other future age (or world) is mentioned

Ephesians 1:20-23

Luke 18:30

Daniel said that the dominion and glory would come at the same time as the kingdom; Christ has dominion and has been glorified now, so he also has His everlasting kingdom now!

Daniel 7:13, 14; Acts 3:13

1 Corinthians 15:27; Ephesians 1:20-23

Philippians 2:9-11; 1 Peter 3:22

Christ is King of kings now; but is He a King without a kingdom?

1 Timothy 6:15

Before the church was established, Jesus taught His disciples to pray that the kingdom would come; After the church was established, we read of no such requests for the kingdom to come

Matthew 6:9, 10

	<p>If God's plan failed the first time, how do we know that there will not be another failed attempt?</p>
<p>Christ will reign over an earthly kingdom, headquartered in Jerusalem</p>	<p>The Jews tried to take Jesus and make Him King, but He would not allow it. Later Christ said, "...My kingdom is not of this world..." Luke 17:20, 21; John 6:15; John 18:36</p> <p>Premillennialists make the same mistake the Jews made 2000 years ago, by assuming that the kingdom is a material kingdom! Luke 17:20, 21; John 6:15; 18:36</p> <p>Christ is to be King and Priest at the same time, but He cannot be a priest on earth, so He will not be a King on earth Zechariah 6:12, 13; Hebrews 8:4; 7:14</p> <p>Christ is not coming back to "set up" His kingdom; He is coming back to "...deliver up the kingdom to God" 1 Corinthians 15:23, 24</p> <p>When the Lord returns, the heavens, the elements, the earth, and the works therein will be burned up 2 Peter 3:10</p> <p>No descendent of Jeconiah would ever rule again in Judah Jeremiah 22:29, 30; Matthew 1:12</p> <p>Christ is reigning on David's throne in heaven Acts 2:25-36</p> <p>The present spiritual kingdom (the church) set up in the days of the Roman kings is "...a kingdom which shall never be destroyed..." Daniel 2:44</p> <p>The present kingdom is "...a kingdom which cannot be moved..." out of the way for another kingdom to come Hebrews 12:28</p>
<p>God will have the earthly temple rebuilt, and Old Testament priestly duties will be reinstated (such as animal sacrifices)</p>	<p>Only Levites could serve as priests, but the genealogies are gone, and cannot be proven today Exodus 28:1 Hebrews 7:14</p> <p>The temple was the habitation of God on earth, but now Christians are the temple of God 1 Corinthians 3:16, 17; 6:19 1 Peter 2:5</p> <p>Christians are the priests of today, not the Levites 1 Peter 2:9; Hebrews 7:12</p>

	<p style="text-align: center;">Christ is now the High Priest Hebrews 4:14, 15</p> <p style="text-align: center;">This priesthood is “...an unchangeable priesthood” Hebrews 7:24</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Those Old Testament sacrifices pointed to the death of Christ John 1:29; Hebrews 8:4, 5; 10:1ff; Revelation 13:8</p> <p style="text-align: center;">To sacrifice lambs today would be like saying that the Lamb of God needs to be sacrificed again Hebrews 6:4-6; 8:4, 5; 10:1ff</p> <p style="text-align: center;">God no longer takes pleasure in such things Hebrews 10:5-14</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Those former things were “our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ...We are no longer under a schoolmaster” Galatians 3:23-27</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Christ, the Lamb, was the last sacrifice that ever needed to be made Hebrews 7:27, 28; 10:1-14, 18</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">The 10 “lost tribes” of Israel will finally be restored to their land</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">A remnant of all 12 tribes were restored to the land during the time of Cyrus the Great 2 Chronicles 36:22, 23 Ezra 1:1-4; 2:70; 6:17; 9:24, 25, 35 Ezekiel 37:21-23</p> <p style="text-align: center;">In the New Testament, Anna was of the tribe of Asher, so apparently nobody told her that her tribe was lost! Luke 2:36</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">The righteous will be resurrected 1,007 years before the wicked</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">There will be only one resurrection, which will take place just before the judgment John 5:27-29; Acts 24:15</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Both righteous and wicked will be raised in the same hour John 5:28, 29; Matthew 25:31-46</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Jesus taught that both the righteous and wicked will be resurrected and judged on “the last day” John 11:24; 12:48</p>

<p>Based on 1 Thessalonians 4, there will be a mysterious “rapture” of the righteous living, and a resurrection of the righteous only (wicked not raised at this time)</p>	<p>The phrase <i>“the dead in Christ will rise first”</i> is a comparison between the dead in Christ and the living in Christ.</p> <p>There is nothing in 1 Thessalonians 4 about when the wicked will be raised, but 1 Thessalonians 5, John 5:27-29 and other passages say that it will be at the same time as the righteous!</p> <p>Premillennialists falsely assume that the wicked are not resurrected and judged at that time.</p> <p>When Christ comes it will be loud: <i>“...the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God...”</i> 1 Thessalonians 4:16; 1 Corinthians 15:52</p> <p>When Christ comes He will be clearly seen by all 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9 Revelation 1:7</p>
<p>There will be an Antichrist (who has not arrived yet)</p>	<p>There were already antichrists in the first century (antichrist = against Christ) <i>“...even now are there many antichrists...”</i> (1 John 2:18)</p>
<p>Our doctrine of Christ’s 1000 year reign comes from Revelation 20:1-6</p>	<p>Revelation is a book of figurative <u>signs</u>; most of the book is in apocalyptic language that is not to be taken literally. <i>“...signified...”</i> (Revelation 1:1)</p> <p>Revelation was written to the seven churches of Asia – Christians who were undergoing Roman persecution. The message of the book is victory in Christ. Revelation 1:4</p> <p>Critical items <u>not found</u> in Revelation 20:1-6:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Christ’s second coming. (2) The establishment of Christ’s kingdom. (3) An earthly reign of Christ. (4) Christ coming to sit on David’s throne in Jerusalem. (5) We who are alive today are not mentioned. John saw disembodied spirits who had been beheaded for the witnesses of Jesus. (6) The Jews’ return to Palestine. (7) The restoration of the Law of Moses. (8) Restoration of Jewish worship. (9) The length of Christ’s reign

<p>There is a distinction between the “coming” and the “appearing” of Christ. Christ’s “coming” is the rapture of saints, and His “appearing” will be seven years later. Two different Greek words are used:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. “<i>Parousia</i>” is the coming of Christ, (or the “rapture”). 2. “<i>Epiphany</i>” is the “appearing” or “manifestation” of Christ (which takes place at the end of the rapture). 	<p>These two words speak of the same event “...at the <i>brightness (epiphany) of His coming (parousia)</i>” (2 Thessalonians 2:8).</p> <p>1 Thessalonians 3:13 also refutes this “...at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints” (1 Thess. 3:13).</p> <p>The word “coming” is the word “parousia,” which is supposed to be when He comes “for” His saints. However, the text says He is coming (parousia) “with all His saints.”</p>
<p>We can predict when Christ will return</p>	<p>We have no need to discuss times and seasons to try to predict when He will come, because nobody can predict that <i>“But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night”</i> (1 Thessalonians 5:1, 2). 2 Peter 3:10; Matthew 24:36; Mark 13:32</p> <p>The Lord will come when not even His followers expect Him to come <i>“Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh”</i> (Matthew 24:44; cf. 25:13).</p> <p>How many hundreds of Premillennial prophecies about Christ’s coming have failed? False prophecies come from false prophets. Deuteronomy 18:20-22</p>
<p>These are the last days</p>	<p>It has been “...the last days...” ever since the church was established (the Christian age is the last dispensation of time before the final judgment) Acts 2:17; 1 Cor. 10:11; Hebrews 9:27-28</p> <p>We cannot predict when “the last days” will be as far as when Christ will return (as shown above)</p>