

Doctrinal Errors of Premillennialists

What the Bible Teaches

The Rapture:

The belief in a secret resurrection (carrying away) of believers only, some time before the second coming of Christ.

There is no biblical foundation for this doctrine. Adherents misinterpret I Thess. 4:15-17 and Matt. 24:40. Rapture theology ends up teaching a third coming of Christ—first in His birth in Bethlehem, second in His secret coming to snatch away the just before the tribulations of the end time, and third at the end of the world to reign in glory. The Bible teaches only one general resurrection at Christ's second coming, in which both the just and unjust will be raised.

The Great Tribulation:

A seven year period of severe judgment and persecution which they expect to take place on the earth prior to a thousand year reign.

Back in AD 96, the apostle John said he was already in the kingdom and in tribulation (Rev. 1:9). Paul was in tribulation (I Thess. 3:4). In speaking of the destruction of the temple (AD 70), Jesus said there would be great tribulation (Matt. 24:21, Dan. 9:26-27). Jesus told His followers that they would have tribulation (Jn. 16:33.) The martyrs went through great tribulation and so have saints all through the ages. No scriptures refer to a 7 year tribulation to come.

The Antichrist:

The millennialists' expected world ruler who is to arise during the years of the "great tribulation." In the "Left Behind" series, this world ruler dies and then is "resurrected" and indwelt by Satan himself. This "antichrist" then declares himself to be God.

The term antichrist is found 4 times in the Bible, all in John's epistles—I Jn. 2:18, 22; 4:3; II Jn. 1:7. These declare there are many antichrists, that to deny the Father and Son makes one an antichrist, deceivers are antichrists, and that it is a *spirit* and it was already working in John's time, which he called the "last time" meaning the gospel day, the last dispensation of mercy to mankind. Any person or system of religion that opposes or lowers the standard of the gospel is an antichrist.

The Mark of the Beast:

The Antichrist (or Beast) is to impose upon everyone the receiving of his mark, without which, none can buy or sell.
Those who refuse, they believe will be killed.

In Revelation, beasts represent false systems of religion. Some pagans of old wore the mark of their particular gods on their faces, and people today receive the mark of the beast by the false doctrines and beliefs they adhere to. One cannot buy and sell (have fellowship) with those having the mark of false religion unless they sell the truth—"buy the truth and sell it not"—and tolerate unbiblical teachings and fellowships.

The Battle of Armageddon:

The last great battle at the end of time, which they believe will be a literal, physical battle that takes place on the earth.

"Armageddon" is only found in Rev. 16:16. It means hill or mount of Megiddo, a place of decisive battles for Israel in the Old Testament and symbolical of the same for spiritual Israel—God's church—today. It is not a literal, physical battle yet to take place in the far east, but the spiritual warfare God's children have been fighting all along against good and evil (Eph. 6:12-13), and in these last days where we are seeing the ecumenical union of false religions opposing God's true church.

The 1000 Year Reign:

An earthly kingdom with Christ that millennialists believe is yet to come.

The Bible teaches no such literal reign on earth yet to come. Jesus Christ established a spiritual kingdom at His first coming, which "shall never be destroyed...and it shall stand forever" (Dan. 2:44). A premillennialist wrote, "The amillennial view advocates a present, but pessimistic, spiritual reign of Christ." To the contrary, there is nothing pessimistic about the good news of the gospel that gives us power to reign over sin, the flesh and the devil in this present world.

End-Time Errors

Sis. Susan Mutch

When Jesus told the disciples that the temple would be destroyed, they asked Him when that would be, and also what would be the sign of His coming and of the end of the world. Jesus answered, "Take heed that no man deceive you. For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect." Matt. 24:4b and 24.

When it comes to end-time theories today, there is no shortage of false prophets with their predictions of great signs and wonders. Premillennialists top the list with their dire, science fiction-like predictions of events—a secret rapture, a great tribulation, the rise of a world power antichrist, Armageddon, and so on. The problem is, it is all unscriptural!

The words that Jesus told the Sadducees fit very well today for the professing Christian world—"Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures." Sound, Bible teaching can destroy every one of these millennial myths and enlighten honest souls with a proper construction on their misinterpreted scriptures.

Many adherents of these teachings do not even understand the fundamentals of real, Bible salvation, let alone trying to unravel the highly symbolical language of Revelation and the prophecies of Daniel. Such seem easily led down the garden path of error to fantastical end-time "prophecies" by millennial dreamers of our day. In fact, this "seem right" way is well trodden as these premillennial errors hold prominence in this almost Bible-illiterate generation.

Movies and books on the end-times are capturing the minds of the public. The sweeping propagation of such is deepening the religious deception of literally multitudes of people. The incredibly popular "Left Behind" series of books by Tim LaHaye and Jerry Jenkins has many waiting for events to

start taking place which will never happen.

The Bible fact of the matter is—the glorious second coming of Jesus Christ will come in a most visible and glorious manner, in the which the just and the unjust will be resurrected, and the final Judgment will begin. This is the last day and time will then cease to be. Everyone will be rewarded according to the deeds done in the body and will go to either heaven or hell. No millennial period on earth will ensue, as the earth will melt with fervent heat.

"Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless." II Pet. 3:14.

As one writer stated, the devil works to deceive people in these two ways—some other way than Christ, or some other time than now. One of the underlying, damaging effects of the millennial teaching is a "second chance theory," though they would not teach this outright. Some will undoubtedly put off diligently seeking for real salvation until they see the "signs" beginning to take place. Then they will get down to business, or so they think, albeit subconsciously. What unutterable horror will take hold upon such when Christ's coming will bring them directly to the White Throne Judgment.


There is a remarkable parallel in the misconceptions popularly held by the people both at Christ's first coming and His second. Prior to the Babylonian captivity, the Levites were the ones to copy and explain the written law. After the exile, certain Jewish teachers, called scribes, who were trained laymen, rose to prominence. Not only did they copy the written law, but they formulated detailed rules made by later authorities, with their speculations and interpretations of the scriptures. This was called the oral law or the traditions of the elders. They incorporated this into the Talmud, which was accepted with more authority than the scriptures themselves by the time Christ came. Consequently Jesus denounced them, saying they had "made the word of God of none effect with [their] traditions." Mk. 7:13.

From these uninspired writings, the Jews wrongly expected their Messiah to usher in a literal, political kingdom wherein they would be delivered from their enemies, recover the land of Palestine and have Him reign in another golden era for Israel. Largely due to these false teachings, Israel rejected

their Messiah.

Striking parallel, is it not? An earthly kingdom, with earthly and political events! Consequently, many missed entering the spiritual kingdom which Jesus established at His first coming.

Likewise, many today, while awaiting an age which will not come, are missing entering into the true kingdom of God and reigning therein. They may tell you all about an "antichrist" and a "tribulation," but cannot testify to a present deliverance from the power of darkness (sin), and of being translated into the kingdom of His dear Son (Col. 1:13).

While the devil has people diverted due to misinterpretation of many scriptures, particularly in Revelation, souls are blinded to the truth which is really contained therein. Consequently, they are being exposed to the workings of seducing spirits and are become the victims of religious deceptions. 

Near the End

Time moves on with solemn footsteps,

As it nears the final shore.

Fast the sun of earth is sinking,
Soon our world shall be no more.
The seventh trumpet now is sounding,
To prepare the holy bride;
Many on the golden altar,
Purified, made white and tried.

The final trump is yet to summon
Us before the Judgment seat.
Then the time of our frail planet,
Will be said to be complete.
How the wicked will be wailing
And the righteous over-joyed,
When with fire the heaven's are burning,
And the earth shall be destroyed.

While false prophets are confiding,
In a foolish, erring dream,
Of millennial enjoyments,
They neglect the cleansing stream.
Oh, poor sinner! don't believe them!
There will be no age to come;
If in life you find not Jesus,
Death will seal your awful doom.

—W. Schell (Edited)