

## WILL THERE BE AN EARTHLY KINGDOM?

A. In this series on the Kingdom of God we have covered about every facet of it as far as God through the Scripture has revealed it to us.

1. Promised by the OT prophets like Nathan & Daniel (2 Sam 7:12-16; Dan 2:44; 7:13-14).
2. Anticipated by John the baptizer, Jesus, the Jews & the disciples (Matt 3:1-3; Mark 1:14-15).
3. Established in the days of the apostles, on the first Pentecost after His resurrection (Acts 2:36).
4. Identified by the preaching of Jesus, Paul & John (Matt 6:33; 13:16:18-19; 18:3-4; 19:23; John 3:3-5; 18:36; Acts 1:3; Col 1:13-14; Rev 1:9-10).
5. Character of its citizens (Matt 5:1-12).

[The question we want to address is, “Will there be an earthly Kingdom?” with Jesus coming back to the earth to reign in Jerusalem on David’s literal throne for 1000 yrs.]

## I. PREMILLENNIALISM

A. A quote from an advocate of Premillennialism.

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“But God in his foreknowledge knew that Israel would reject the king when he came. Therefore, the kingdom would be postponed & not set up until his second coming. They rejected the king, & now instead of the kingdom comes a cross, the resurrection, the setting aside of Israel, the calling out of the church, & then after that will come the kingdom.”

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1. That statement summarizes the theory known as “Premillennialism”.
  - a. “Pre” means before; “Millennial” means 1000; “ism” means it ain’t so!
  - b. We are supposedly living before the literal 1000 year reign of Christ on the earth, & the kingdom that was “postponed” when He came the first time will be established when He comes at the end of this age (refer to ppt).

B. **Let's notice** several tenets of this false doctrine.

1. **Three bodily resurrections:** first, the redeemed are raised at the "Rapture; then, after 7 years of tribulation those converted to Christ are raised, & after the 1000 year reign, the wicked are raised.

a. The Scripture speaks of only one.

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**John 5:28-30** – Do not marvel at this; for ***the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice 29 & come forth*** — those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, & those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation. *When will that hour be? On the last day!*

**John 6:39-40** – This is the will of the Father who sent Me, that of all He has given Me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up at the last day. 40 And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son & believes in Him may have everlasting life; & ***I will raise him up at the last day.***

**Acts 24:15** (Paul before Felix) – *I have hope in God*, which they themselves [the Jews] also accept, ***that there will be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just & the unjust.***

*Paul goes into more detail regarding those who will be resurrected to life.*

**1 Thess 4:13-17** – But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died & rose again, even so God will bring [lead, conduct, guide] with Him those who sleep in Jesus. *How will God do this?*

15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive & remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, & with the trumpet of God. And ***the dead in Christ will rise first.*** 17 ***Then we who are alive & remain shall be caught up together with them*** in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.

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2. **A Rapture:** the second of three appearances of Christ in which He raises the righteous dead & living to meet Him in the air before 7 years of tribulation on the earth.

a. The Scripture speaks of only of the second coming of Christ in judgment.

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**Acts 1:11** – who also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same ***Jesus***, who was taken up from you into heaven, ***will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven.***"

**2 Thess 1:7-10** – And to give you who are troubled rest with us ***when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven*** with His mighty angels, 8 in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, & on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord & from the glory of His power, 10 ***when He comes, in that Day***, to be glorified in His saints & to be admired among all those who believe, because our testimony among you was believed. (Quote Heb 9:28)

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3. **A Great Tribulation:** a seven year period of unrest on the earth before the establishment of the Kingdom.

- a. The tribulation Jesus spoke of in Matthew is related to the destruction of Jerusalem, which was the Lord's coming in judgment against those who rejected Him (Matt 24:4-31).

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**Matt 24:32-35** – Now learn this parable from the fig tree: When its branch has already become tender & puts forth leaves, you know that summer is near. 33 So you also, when you see all these things [see 4-31], know that it is near — at the doors! 34 Assuredly, I say to you, **this generation will by no means pass away till all these things take place.** 35 Heaven & earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.

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4. **Christ back on the earth for 1000 years:** He finally begins to reign over the Kingdom in the fullest sense.

- a. There is not a single Bible passage that states Jesus will ever again set foot on this earth.

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**Rev 20:4** – And I saw thrones, & they sat on them, & judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the **souls** of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus & for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, & had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And **they lived & reigned with Christ for a thousand years.**

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- b. John didn't see any of the tenets of Premillennialism: the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming of Christ, a bodily resurrection of the righteous, Jesus in Jerusalem on David's throne, the conversion of the Jews, or actual human bodies.
- c. John saw martyrs, souls in Heaven reigning with Christ for an extended period of time: 1000 years is 10 the complete human # multiplied three times, the complete divine #.

5. **The salvation of all the physical descendants of Abraham:** to take place during the 1000 year reign of Christ on the earth.

- a. This is based on a misunderstanding of Paul's language & expression in the following passage.

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**Rom 11:25-27** – For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. 26 And **so all Israel will be saved**, as it is written: “The Deliverer will come out of Zion, & He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob; 27 For this is My covenant with them, when I take away their sins.” (Jer 31:31-34; Heb 10:15-22; Ac 2:38)

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- b. “So” – houto (hoo’-to); adverb: “in this way” (referring to what precedes or follows): “As it is written: “The Deliverer will come out of Zion, & He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob; 27 For this is My covenant with them, when I take away their sins.
- c. The only other covenant God made with Israel was the New Covenant sealed with the blood of Christ, which commanded their obedience to Him (cf. Jer 31:31-34; Acts 2:38).

[These five tenets of Premillennialism are clearly disproven by an honest study of the Scripture.

As with any false religious view there are negative consequences in believing it. What are the consequences of believing the theory of Premillennialism?]

## II. CONSEQUENCES OF PREMILLENNIALISM

- A. **The greatest men of faith** to have ever lived on this earth, including the Son of God, are false prophets.
  - 1. Who is prepared to call Daniel, John & Jesus false prophets?
- B. **The church or body of Christ** is no more than an audible called at the line of scrimmage, a stop-gap measure, a temporary solution to a divine dilemma.
  - 1. God declared that the church is the summation of His eternal purpose in Christ Jesus.

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**Eph 3:8-11** – To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, 9 & to make all see what is **the fellowship of the mystery** [verse 6], which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God who created all things through Jesus Christ; 10 to the intent that now **the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church** to the principalities & powers in the heavenly places, 11 **according to the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord**,

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C. The worst consequence of all would be that Jesus is not now King in the fullest sense of the word.

1. Peter, by inspiration of God, declared Him to be Lord & Christ (Acts 2:36; cf. Matt 28:18-20; Acts 5:30-31; 10:36; Psa 2:1-8; Acts 13:32-34; Rev 17:14; 19:16).

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**Matt 28:18** – And Jesus came & spoke to them, saying, **“All authority has been given to Me in heaven & on earth.**

**Acts 5:30-31** – The God of our fathers raised up **Jesus** whom you murdered by hanging on a tree. 31 **Him God has exalted to His right hand to be Prince & Savior**, to give repentance to Israel & forgiveness of sins.

**Acts 10:36** – The word which God sent to the children of Israel, preaching peace through Jesus Christ — **He is Lord of all** —

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## CLOSING

A. There is one final point, that we might say “seals the fate” of the Premillennial doctrine.

1. Jesus is prohibited by the Word of God from every reigning on a physical throne.

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**Jer 22:24-30** (**Prophecies against the Kings of Judah**) – “As I live,” says the Lord, “though **Coniah** the son of Jehoiakim, king of Judah, were the signet on My right hand, yet I would pluck you off; 25 & I will give you into the hand of those who seek your life, & into the hand of those whose face you fear — the hand of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon & the hand of the Chaldeans. 26 So I will cast you out, & your mother who bore you, into another country where you were not born; & there you shall die. 27 But to the land to which they desire to return, there they shall not return. 28 “Is this man **Coniah** a despised, broken idol — a vessel in which is no pleasure? Why are they cast out, he & his descendants, & cast into a land which they do not know? 29 O earth, earth, earth, hear the word of the Lord! 30 **Thus says the Lord: ‘Write this man down as childless, a man who shall not prosper in his days; for none of his descendants shall prosper, sitting on the throne of David, & ruling anymore in Judah.’”**

**Matt 1:1-11** – **The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ**, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham: 2 Abraham begot Isaac, Isaac begot Jacob, & Jacob begot Judah & his brothers. 3 Judah begot Perez & Zerah by Tamar, Perez begot Hezron, & Hezron begot Ram. 4 Ram begot Amminadab, Amminadab begot Nahshon, & Nahshon begot Salmon. 5 Salmon begot Boaz by Rahab, Boaz begot Obed by Ruth, Obed begot Jesse, 6 & Jesse begot David the king. David the king begot Solomon by her who had been the wife of Uriah. 7 Solomon begot Rehoboam, Rehoboam begot Abijah, & Abijah begot Asa. 8 Asa begot Jehoshaphat, Jehoshaphat begot Joram, & Joram begot Uzziah. 9 Uzziah begot Jotham, Jotham begot Ahaz, & Ahaz begot Hezekiah. 10 Hezekiah begot Manasseh, Manasseh begot Amon, & Amon begot Josiah. 11 **Josiah begot Jeconiah & his brothers about the time they were carried away to Babylon.**

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[God’s word tells us that it is not Christ who reigns “on” [or from] the earth, but that His people “reign on the earth” (Rev 5:8-10; 1:4-6; 2 Tim 2:12) by the power of His command. Will you not be “born again” into His Kingdom (John 3:3-5).]