

### *Premillennialism in history*

- *Seldom has premillennialism received fair treatment among theologians, either in the past or the present.*
- *The complete evidence of history shows that premillennialism was the undisputed worldview among Christians and Jews until the time of Augustine.*

### *Premillennialism in the Old Testament*

- *The foundational information for premillennialism is found in the Old Testament, and a premillennial doctrine can be built completely in the Old Testament.*
- *“The premillennial interpretation offers the only possible literal fulfillment for the hundreds of verses of prophetic testimony” (pg. 114).*
- *The “two main routes of escape” for amillennarians:*
  - *The literal interpretation of Scripture is wrong. The error of premillennialism is making the same mistake that the Jews made.*
  - *The Kingdom promises of the Old Testament required faith and obedience. Since Israel failed, the promises will never be fulfilled.*
  - *These are mutually exclusive arguments. One assumes the literal interpretation is right, the other assumes it is wrong.*

### *Premillennialism in the New Testament*

- *The New Testament gives plenty of evidence that the promises of the Kingdom are literal.*
  - *Gabriel’s announcement to Mary – Luke 1:32-33 “Did Mary for one moment hold the amillenarian view?” (Pg. 117).*
  - *The teaching of Christ, in which He never “denied, corrected, or altered, but...instead confirmed” (pg. 117).*
    - *The request of the mother of James and John was not denied on the grounds of a mistaken interpretation.*
    - *The apostles were told they would sit on 12 thrones—the night of the betrayal.*
    - *Acts 1:6, the apostles wanted to know the timing of the restoration of the Kingdom.*
  - *The teachings of Paul: He says, “God forbid!” when asked if God could rescind His promises (Rom. 11:1).*
  - *The confirmation by John: John 20 is the “classic passage” on premillennialism (pg. 118).*
  - *The absence of any hint of millennial controversy in the New Testament.*

### *Premillennialism since the New Testament*

- *1<sup>st</sup> Century: each of the “early church fathers” taught premillennialism, and “no less than fifteen advocates of premillennialism” can be verified from 1<sup>st</sup> century extra-Biblical documents (pg. 119).*
- *2<sup>nd</sup> Century: Undisputed, and found in writers like Justin Martyr, Irenaeus, Tertullian, and others. No opposition to premillennialism exists.*
- *3<sup>rd</sup> Century: The historic decline began and the allegorizing method of Scripture interpretation began an almost total reign.*
- *From then till now:*
  - *Roman Catholicism needs Amillennialism to continue its existence. It will collapse without it.*
  - *The Reformation brought the renewal of personal study of Scripture that gave birth to modern premillennialism, but the reformers themselves failed to recognize the amillennial error.*

## Modern Premillennialism's DNA

- *Infallibility of Scripture*
  - *Fundamentalists: Inerrancy of Scripture*
- *Literal interpretation of Scripture*
- *Evangelism*
  - *Belief in an orthodox gospel, opposition to legalism, emphasis on grace.*
- *Independence*
  - *Rarely part of ecclesiastical organizations.*
  - *An emphasis on informal church services and exegetical preaching*
- *Prophetically oriented*

## Distinctive Premillennial Doctrine

- *Doctrine of the present age*
  - *There are no prospects of a "golden age" before the Second Coming.*
  - *There are no commands to improve society.*
  - *Evangelism and Bible teaching are the tasks of the Christian today.*
- *Doctrine of Israel*
  - *Protestants have held three views:*
    - *Calvin: the church is the true Israel. The nation of Israel is set aside permanently.*
    - *William Hendriksen / Charles Hodge: Israel's promises are to Israel, but only the part of Israel that comes into the church. Israel's promises will be fulfilled in the present age.*
    - *Both of the above views:*
      - *Cancel some promises as conditional*
      - *Spiritualize other promises*
    - *Premillennialism: the prophecies to Israel are literal, unconditional, and future.*

## Premillennialism and the Church

- *Three types millennial ecclesiology:*
  - *Covenant theology:*
    - *"Conceives the purpose of God as essentially soteriological, or concerned with the salvation of the elect" (pg. 222).*
    - *Every stage of God's work is simply a progression of God's work to fulfill the "covenant of redemption."*
    - *Israel merges into the church.*
  - *Kingdom theology:*
    - *The Kingdom includes the work of the church in this age and the millennium in the future.*
    - *The emphasis is "soteriological rather than governmental," (222), thus the kingdom is internal over external.*
      - *When you minimize the governmental character of the kingdom, you end up building a theology of moralism that leads to liberalism (the social gospel).*
  - *Dispensational theology:*
    - *It sees at least three dispensations: Law, Grace, Kingdom.*
    - *Believers of the present age are separated in duty from believers of previous and future ages.*