

Interpreting the Prophets Correctly

1. Two mistakes made by Pre-millennialists while interpreting the prophets.

- a. They take many statements of the prophets literally, when they weren't speaking literally.
- b. They skip over the first coming of Christ, and applies their utterances to the second coming of Christ.

2. Examples.

a. Hosea 1:1-11

- i. Hosea's children are given prophetic names designed to teach Israel that God will indeed scatter His people all over the world, will not have mercy on them, and will not call them His people anymore.
 1. This is prophet foresees the destruction of the N. kingdom which was destroyed by the Assyrians, as well as the S. Kingdom being destroyed by Babylon.
- ii. However, in the future, God will sow His people back to Himself, and once again call them His people.
 1. This name of his firstborn, (Jezreel), foresees the idea that Judah will come home from Babylonian captivity, will re-establish Jerusalem, and then will eventually bring forth Jesus the Savior of all mankind.
 2. Those who were formerly "scattered," (Jews), will be "sown" back to Him (The Christian Era).
 3. How do I know I am correct?
 - a. Rom. 9:22-26 – Paul uses this very passage (Hos. 1:10-11), as proof that God always intended for Gentiles to be a part of His kingdom.
 - b. While it is true, I do not read Hosea 1:10-11 literally, I am reading it the same way Paul did. If Paul looked at that passage spiritually, so should we!
- iii. The mistake made by Pre-millennialism?
 1. In Hosea 1:11, the prophet claims one day "Judah" and "Israel" will be gathered back together.
 2. And since Judah and Israel, as of today, have not been back gathered back together, they surmise the passage is referring to sometime in the future!
 3. The problem for them is, Paul claimed it was fulfilled in the first century!
 - a. It is true that we do not read the passage literally!
 - b. But we do read it the same way Paul does! And I'm quite okay with that!

b. Amos 9:8-12

- i. Amos claims that one day God will raise up the tabernacle of David. To the Premillennialist, that has not happened yet, and therefore, the prophecy is yet unfulfilled.
- ii. In Acts 15:13-17 – James, the brother of our Lord, claims the passage was fulfilled in the first century!