

Premillennialism

I. The Idea Defined.

- A. Premillennialism is the view that Christ will one day sit on a literal throne in Jerusalem where He will rule the earth during a 1000 year period of unprecedented peace and righteousness. At the end of the 1000 years, Satan will be loosed from his chain and again cause havoc on earth for a little time which will be followed by the last great day of judgment.
 - a. Pre – means “before.”
 - b. Millennium – means “1000 years.”
 - c. Hence, proponents of this view think we are living prior to or before the coming of Jesus to accomplish this.
 - d. Ground zero for this doctrine can be found in Revelation 20:1-6.

II. The Rapture Defined.

- A. The Rapture is the idea that the second coming of Christ will be quiet and invisible to all except those who believe in this teaching. Both the living believers, as well as those who died believing it, will be “raptured” off the earth to heaven, while a great tribulation is experienced by we who are left behind. After a 7 year struggle Christ will then return to earth again and establish His kingdom, which He was unable to establish at His first coming, because the Jewish nation rejected Him, so He set up the church until the time was right to usher in His kingdom.
 - a. 1 Thes. 4:13-17 is the passage that is appealed to as the main source of biblical teaching on the Rapture.
 - b. The world will experience chaos when it happens because those raptured at His invisible coming will no doubt be driving cars, flying planes, operating heavy equipment, or perhaps operating on patients, when they will suddenly disappear, leaving even their clothes in the very spot they were upon being taken away.

III. Ideas of Interpretation This View Violates.

- A. This idea violates the fact that Christ’s kingdom is spiritual and not material.
- B. This idea violates much of the OT prophets in two significant ways.
 - a. It takes many statements of the prophets literally, when they weren’t speaking literally.
 - b. It skips over the first coming of Christ, and applies their utterances to the second coming of Christ.
- C. This idea is supposed that the church and kingdom of Christ are two separate entities. The church is already established for two thousand years now, but the kingdom has yet to be established.
- D. This idea begins by defining one of the most difficult passages in the Bible (Rev. 20:1-6), and attempts to define easier straight forward passages to it, rather than define easy straight forward passages and then harmonize Revelation 20:1-6 with them.

IV. The Goal of This Class.

- A. We will examine some, not all passages to show it untrue, beginning with the Rapture.