

## PREMILLENNIALISM

### Definition:

"Premillennialism is the view that, when Christ comes, He will set up an earthly kingdom in which Christ is the king, and certain classes of believers are to reign with Him on the earth, over the nations. The nations will bow before the stern "iron rod rule" of Christ, though they remain unconverted and rebellious at heart. After a thousand year reign, Satan, who was bound at the beginning of the millennium, is to be loosed to deceive the nations for a time and to gather them in rebellion against Christ. Their hosts are to be destroyed by fire from heaven. The resurrection of the wicked dead is then to take place, and the judgment of the great white throne (Rev. 20:11-15) takes place. The righteous dead are said to have been raised before the beginning of the millennium and to have been raptured at that time to meet the Lord in the air."

Hamilton, The Basis of Millennial Faith, p. 21

### **I. THE BASIC POSTULATES OF PREMILLENNIALISM NEED TO BE LISTED:**

- A. That God did not yet give to the Jews all the land He promised to Abraham.
- B. That Christ came to establish His Kingdom, but that the Jews rejected Him. Therefore, the Kingdom is yet to be established.
- C. That the Church was established as an afterthought with God since the Kingdom was not established.
- D. That Christ is not now a King except in **Right** and not in **Fact**.
- E. That Christ is coming a second time to take the Saints, living and dead (called the first resurrection) up in the air (called "the Rapture") where they will stay with him for seven years.
- F. That while this "Rapture" is transpiring in the air, the "Tribulation" is going on upon the earth, during which time God is pouring out His wrath upon the Ungodly.
- G. That after the "Rapture" and "Tribulation," Christ will visibly descend to earth for a Preliminary Judgment of the nations.
- H. That Satan will be bound at this time.
- I. That Christ will ascend David's literal throne in Jerusalem.

- J. That He will reign upon David's literal throne in Jerusalem for 1000 years.
- K. That the temple of Solomon with all its sacrifices and ordinances will be re-established.
- L. That the Jews will all go back to Palestine and be saved.
- M. That this will be a period of Universal Peace upon the earth.
- N. That at the end of this thousand years Satan will be loosed and lead his army against Jerusalem, will be defeated and cast into hell.
- O. That at this time the Unrighteous Dead are then raised and judged and that Christ will take His victorious Saints home to heaven.

#### Definition of Postmillennialism

"Postmillennialists believe that Christ accomplished what He intended to in His first coming, establishing a spiritual kingdom. They believe that before the second coming of Christ the principles of the gospel will be universally (or, almost universally) accepted by men and the world will be "practically Christianized." They believe this condition will prevail for a long time (not a literal thousand years) and will be followed by a short season in which wickedness will revive, which will be ended by the appearance of the Lord to raise and judge all the dead."

Kent Ellis, "Will There Be A Millennium?"

Gospel Guardian, Aug. 7, 1969

- A. Many of the early preachers in the Restoration Movement in America held to some form of postmillennialism. This sort of optimism evidently caused Alexander Campbell to name his paper the "Millennial Harbinger."
- B. One objection we have to postmillennialism is that in postulating a long period of righteousness yet in the future, it denies the present possibility of the Second Coming.
- C. Our Major Concern is with this Damnable Doctrine of Premillennialism in these sermons.
  - 1. Actually, the Scriptures do not teach premillennialism or postmillennialism, or any other kind of millennialism.

#### **II. WE SHALL TAKE UP THESE POSTULATES ONE BY ONE AND REFUTE THEM BY THE SCRIPTURES.**

A. THAT GOD DID NOT KEEP HIS LAND PROMISE TO ABRAHAM.

1. The promise stated to Abraham and his seed:

- (a) Gen. 12:1-3: "Now the Lord had said to Abram: Get out of your country, from your kindred and from your father's house, to a land that I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing. I will bless those that bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

Verse 7 says, "Then the Lord appeared to Abram and said, 'To your descendants I will give this land.'" And there he built an altar to the Lord, who had appeared to him."

- (b) Gen. 15:13-16: "Then He said to Abram: 'Know certainly that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, and will serve them, and they will afflict them four hundred years, and also the nation whom they shall serve I will judge; afterward they shall come out with great possessions. Now as for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you shall be buried at a good old age. But in the fourth generation (Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, new generation) they shall return here, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete.'"
- (c) Gen. 28:13: God speaking to Jacob said, "And, behold, the Lord stood above it, and said, 'I am the Lord God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and your descendants.'"
- (d) Deut. 34:4: Moses speaking to the Israelite nation just before they went into the land of Canaan. "Then the Lord said to him, 'This is the land of which I swore to give to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, saying, 'I will give it to your descendants.' I have caused you to see it with your eyes, but you shall not cross over there.'"

2. The Promised Land Was Given to the Israelites Just Like God Promised.

- (a) Joshua 21:43: "So the Lord gave to Israel all the land of which He swore to give to their fathers, and they took possession of it and dwelt in it."
- (b) Joshua 23:14: "Behold, this day I am going the way of all the earth. And you know in all your hearts and in all your souls that not one thing has failed of all the good things which the Lord your God spoke concerning you. All have come to pass for you, and not one word of them has failed."
- (c) 2 Chron. 9:26: In speaking of Solomon's reign, we are told that, "So He reigned over all the kings from the River (Euphrates) to the land of the Philistines, as far as the border of Egypt."  
NOTE: This corresponds exactly with what God had promised.
- (d) Nehemiah 9:7-8: "You are the Lord God, who chose Abram, and brought him out of Ur of the Chaldees, and gave him the name of Abraham; you found his heart faithful before you, and made a covenant with him to give the land of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Jebusites, and the Girgashites--to give it to his descendants. You have (verb is in the past tense) performed Your words, for You art righteous."

B. They Claim That The Covenant Was To Last For A Thousand Generations.

- 1. Psalms 105:8-10: "He has remembered His covenant forever, the word which He commanded, to a thousand generations, the covenant which He made with Abraham, and His oath to Isaac, and confirmed it to Jacob for a statute, to Israel for an everlasting covenant."

- (a) This Land Promise Was Predicated On Their Keeping God's Covenant.

See Deut. 30:1-5; Lev. 26:27-34; Neh. 1:7-8; Jer. 25:7-11.

- (b) They Broke The Covenant and Were Scattered Among the Nations.

- (i) Jer. 31:31: God was going to make a new covenant with house of Isaac and Jacob.

(ii) Heb. 8:7-13: Says that God made that new covenant and took away the first.

C. If the Jews Left Palestine, It Was Because They Disobeyed God of Their Own Free Will.

## II. THAT CHRIST CAME TO ESTABLISH HIS KINGDOM BUT THAT THE JEWS REJECTED HIM. THEREFORE, THE KINGDOM IS YET TO BE ESTABLISHED.

A. The Kingdom Was Preached "At Hand" in the First Century.

1. Matt. 3:1-2: "In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, and saying, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.'"
2. Matt. 4:17: "From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, 'Repent, for the kingdom of Heaven is at hand.'"
3. Mark 1:14-15: "Now after John was put in prison, Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, and saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel.'"
4. Matt. 10:6-7: Jesus in giving instructions to the twelve said, "But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. And as you go, preach, saying, 'The kingdom of Heaven is at hand.'"
5. Luke 10:10-11: Jesus in giving instructions to the seventy said, "But whatsoever city you enter, and they do not receive you, go out into its streets and say, 'The very dust of your city which clings to us we wipe off against you. Nevertheless know this, that the kingdom of God has come near you.'"

NOTE: Eighty-Four preachers were preaching in the First Century that the Kingdom of Heaven and of God was at hand.

B. In the Second Place, the Jewish People Did Not Reject Christ.

1. Our Lord was the most popular person in Palestine in His day and the people wanted to make Him their King. This is really what caused Him to be crucified.
2. John 6:14-15: "Then those men, when they had seen the sign that Jesus did, said, 'This is truly the prophet who is to

come into the world.' Therefore, when Jesus perceived that they were about to come and take Him by force to make Him king, He departed again to a mountain by Himself alone."

3. John 12:19: In reference to the multitudes following Him as He came down the Mount of Olives on the Triumphal Entry. "The Pharisees therefore said among themselves, 'You see that you are accomplishing nothing? Look, the world has gone after Him.'"
4. John 11:47-53: "Then the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered a council, and said, 'What shall we do? For this Man works many signs. If we let Him alone like this, everyone will believe in Him, and the Romans will come and take away both our place and nation.' And one of them, Caiaphas, being high priest that year, said to them, 'You know nothing at all, nor do you consider that it is expedient for us that one man should die for the people, and not that the whole nation perish. Now this he did not say on his own authority; but being high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus would die for the nation, and not for that nation only, but also that he would gather together in one the children of God who were scattered abroad. Then from that day on they plotted to put Him to death."

CONCLUSION: The Jewish nation followed Jesus wherever He went. They tried to take Him by force to be their King. The leaders recognized His popularity. They were afraid of their own positions. Therefore, they (the handful of leaders) plotted His death.

**To claim that the Jewish nation rejected Christ outright is to refuse to believe the Scriptures.**

### **III. THAT THE CHURCH WAS JUST ESTABLISHED AS AN AFTERTHOUGHT AFTER THE JEWS REJECTED CHRIST.**

- A. First: The Bible Teaches That The Church Was in the Mind of God From Beginning.
  1. Eph. 3:9-11: "And to make all people see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God who created all things through Jesus Christ; to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the

principalities and powers in the heavenly places, according to the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus Our Lord."

B. Second: Jesus Used the Term Church and Kingdom to Refer to the Same Institution.

1. Matt. 16:13-19: "When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, 'Whom do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?' So they said, 'Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' He said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?' And Simon Peter answered and said, 'You are the Christ (Messiah), the Son of the Living God.' Jesus answered and said to him, 'Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah: for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.'"

Definition of Terms:

Church - The Called out.

Kingdom - is the form of government of the church.  
It is an absolute monarchy with Christ as the King.

C. Third: The Kingdom Came Into Existence In The First Century.

1. Daniel 2:30-44 had stated that God's Kingdom would be established during fourth kingdom.
2. Luke 3:1-3: Teaches that John the Baptist and Jesus began to preach the Kingdom was At Hand during the days of the fourth, or Roman, kingdom.
3. Matt. 6:10: Jesus taught the Apostles to pray "thy kingdom come ...."
4. The Brethren in the Church at Colesse Were in the Kingdom.

Col. 1:1-2, 13: "Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timothy our brother. To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ who are at Colosse. Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ ... He

has delivered us from the power of darkness, and translated us into the kingdom of the Son of His love."

5. The Apostle John Said That He was in the Kingdom.

Rev. 1:9: "I, John, both your brother and companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was on the island that is called Patmos for the word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ."

6. Some of the Apostles Were Still to be Living When the Kingdom Was Established.

Mark 9:1: Not too long before His crucifixion, Jesus said, "And He said to them (the apostles) 'Assuredly, I say to you that there are some standing here who will not taste death till they see the kingdom of God present with power.'"

7. Paul Had Received an Unmovable Kingdom.

Heb. 12:28: "Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear."

8. The Lord's Supper Was to be in the Kingdom - Yet It Was in the Church.

Matt. 26:29: "... drink it new with you in My Father's kingdom."

Luke 22:18: "... will not drink the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God come."

1 Cor. 11:23-26: Paul reminds the brethren at Corinth about The Supper.

1 Cor. 10:20: "But I say that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice they sacrifice to demons and not to God, and I do not want you to have fellowship with demons."

**D. THAT CHRIST IS NOT NOW A KING EXCEPT IN RIGHT AND NOT IN FACT.**

1. The New Testament Teaches That Christ Is a King Right Now.

(a) Jesus was born to be a King.

Luke 1:31-33: The angel Gabriel announced to Mary: "And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever; and of His kingdom there will be no end."

- (b) Jesus confessed to Pilate that He was a King.

John 18:36-37: "Jesus answered, 'My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here. Pilate therefore said to Him, 'Are You a king then?'" Jesus answered, 'You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause was I born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth...'"

Kent Ellis in his Will There Be A Millennium? has well said on this:

"They (the Premillennialists) believe Christ came the first time to establish an earthly kingdom among the Jews, ascent the mundane throne of David, give to the Jews the land God promised to the descendants of Abraham (which they allege was never completely delivered during the Old Testament period), and with the Jews holding a favored position reign over all the earth. It is taught that the Jews rejected Jesus in the midst of His personal ministry and thus made impossible the fulfillment of the prophecies and purposes of God at that time. Therefore, God "stopped the prophetic clock" and postponed the fulfillment of His purpose until the second coming of Christ, and established the church instead, as a sort of interim measure."

"Let us pause here to ask two questions: If the Jews expected and wanted an earthly kingdom and Jesus came to establish one of precisely that kind, why did they reject Him? Also, if God's purpose and prophecies failed at the first coming of Christ, what guarantee is there that they will succeed at His second coming?

- (c) Paul, in his writings, depicts Christ as a King in the First Century.

1 Timothy 1:17: "Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, be honor and glory forever and ever."

1 Timothy 6:14-15: "Until our Lord Jesus Christ's appearing, which He will manifest in His own time, He who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of Kings, and Lord of Lords."

1 Cor. 15:24-25: "Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father; when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power. For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet."

(Greek tense of the verb shows that he must continue to reign - to keep on reigning.)

- (d) John pictures Christians of the First Century as already reigning with Christ.

Rev. 1:5-6: "And from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father; to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever, Amen."

CONCLUSION: Christ is depicted in exalted terms throughout the New Testament and He is depicted as a King Now.

- E. THAT CHRIST IS COMING A SECOND TIME TO TAKE THE SAINTS, LIVING AND DEAD (called the first resurrection) UP IN THE AIR (called the "Rapture") WHERE THEY WILL STAY WITH HIM FOR SEVEN YEARS. (Corresponds to the seventieth week of Daniel).

1. There will be only One General Resurrection of the Dead.

- (a) 1 Thess. 4:16-17 is used as a proof text by them.

"For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet of God: and the dead in Christ will rise first;

Then we who are alive and remain, shall be caught up with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord."

- (i) Paul is contrasting the Righteous dead and the Righteous living.
  - (ii) The brethren at Thessalonica were wondering about their dead brethren in Christ if they were going to share the resurrection.
  - (iii) Paul says that the dead saints will rise first before the living saints ascend.
  - (iv) Furthermore, it is said that these saints would forever be with the Lord in the air. Nothing is mentioned about living on earth.
- (b) John 6:39: "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."
  - (c) John 6:40: "And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day."
  - (d) John 6:44: "No man can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him: and I will raise him up at the last day."
  - (e) John 6:54: "Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day."
  - (f) John 11:24: "Martha said to Him, 'I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.'"
  - (g) John 12:48: "He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him--the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day."
  - (h) John 5:28-29: "Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice, and come forth--they who have done good, to the resurrection of life; and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation."

(i) The Wicked and Righteous Dead are raised at the same time.

(ii) There is no room for two resurrections with 1000 years between.

(i) 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, in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power; WHEN He comes, in that day, to be glorified in His saints and to be admired among all those who believe because our testimony among you was believed."

(j) Matt. 25:31-33: "WHEN the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne (judgment throne) of His glory. All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left."

(i) Both the righteous and the wicked are under consideration in this chapter:

The Wise Virgins - The Foolish Virgins.

Five and Two Talents - Man with One Talent Buried.

Those Who Had Served - Those Who had Neglected the Needy.

(ii) Where is the room for a rapture up in the air for seven years?

(iii) Where is there room for 1000 years between two resurrections?

(1) The Word of God doesn't teach any such about a "Rapture".

F. THAT WHILE THIS "RAPTURE" IS TRANSPERING IN THE AIR, THE "TRIBULATION" IS GOING ON UPON THE EARTH, DURING WHICH TIME GOD IS POURING OUT HIS WRATH UPON THE UNGODLY.

1. The Church has faced Tribulation down through the ages.
  - (a) Matt. 13: In the Parable of the Tares, the good and bad were to exist together until the end of the world. Thus, there is no room for the so-called "Rapture" and "The Tribulation at the Second Coming."
  - (b) 2 Thess. 2:3-12: "Let no one deceive you by any means; for that day (the second coming) will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God. Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things. And now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time. For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains will do so until He is taken out of the way. And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming. The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, that they all may be condemned who do not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness."
    - (i) So the tribulation against the church began even in the First Century.
  - (c) 1 Tim. 4:1-3: "Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron, forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from foods which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth."
    - (i) Part of this prophecy is fulfilled in the Roman Catholic doctrine and that of the Adventists.

- (d) 2 Tim. 3:1-5: "But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!"
- (i) These days are with us right now and we do not have to wait for the so-called 1000 year reign.
- (e) 2 Tim. 4:2-5: "... Preach the word! ... For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables. But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry."
- (i) Who is there among us that can deny that this day has come?
- (f) Acts 20:28-30: "Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. For I know this, that after My departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves."
- (i) False teachers among the elders at Ephesus would arise up and try to destroy the church there. This doesn't sound like the end of the age.
- (g) Jude 17-18: "But you, beloved, remember the words which were spoken before by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ: how they told you that there would be mockers in the last time who would walk according to their own ungodly lusts."
- (h) 2 Peter 3:3-4: "Knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own

lusts, and saying, 'Where is the promise of His coming?' (Not the last day - but the last days or latter days.)

G. THAT AFTER THE "RAPTURE" AND "TRIBULATION" CHRIST WILL VISIBLY DESCEND TO EARTH FOR A PRELIMINARY JUDGMENT OF THE NATIONS.

1. Hamilton, in his book, The Basis of Millennial Faith, says that "instead of one Second Coming of Christ, there are two distinct stages, so that in reality we should speak of the Second and Third Coming of Christ. The Second Coming will concern the church alone, and will occur at the beginning of the Seventieth week of Daniel 9:24-27, when Christ comes for His church. The Third Coming will concern Israel and the world, and occurs at the close of the Seventieth week, when Christ comes with His church. Between the Second and Third Comings of Christ, there will be at least seven years, the Seventieth week of Daniel 9:24-27."

"After the rapture of the church, the Antichrist sets up his kingdom, and institutes the Great Tribulation. The church which has already been raptured, therefore, will not pass through the Great Tribulation."

"The Holy Spirit is removed from the world at the time of the Second Coming ... at the close of the seven years (Daniel's seventieth week) the Antichrist gathers his hosts against the Remnant and those Gentile believers who have not been martyred, at the Battle of Armageddon." (Rev. 16:16).

"Christ then comes in glory with the church, holds the Sheep and Goat judgment, (the basis of which is how the nations have treated the Jews, who are the "brethren" of the Lord, the separation thus being on the basis of good works. The living Remnant, and the Gentile "nations" then enter the Millennial Kingdom set up by Christ, but with unglorified bodies."

2. In Matthew 25:31-46, we learn at the Sheep and Goat Judgment that:
  - (a) The righteous are awarded with eternal life (not 1000 years reign).
  - (b) The wicked are consigned to eternal punishment.

3. The Bible knows nothing of a Preliminary Judgment of the Nations.

- (a) Acts 17:30-31: "... Because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all, by raising Him from the dead."
- (b) 2 Thess. 1:7-9: "... coming in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God."
- (c) John 5:28: At Christ's coming, the dead will be raised and the Last Judgment will take place.

4. At the Second Coming, this earth will be burned up so there will be no way for Christ to return to THIS earth for any kind of Judgment.

- (a) 2 Peter 3:10: "But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth, and the works that are in it will be burned up."
  - (i) Where is there room for any kind of Preliminary upon the earth?

H. THAT SATAN WILL BE BOUND AT THIS TIME. (NOTE: A binding would mean a limitation of his power.)

1. Our Lord has bound Satan now to those who will obey Him.

- (a) John 12:31: "Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out."
- (b) In Heb. 2:14, the writers tell us, "that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil."
- (c) Paul tells us that, in Col. 1:13, "He has delivered us from the power of darkness and translated us into the kingdom of the Son of His love." (Christians are not longer under the power of Satan.)
- (d) 1 John 3:8: "... For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of Satan."

- (e) Satan is bound toward us if we will resist him. (See Rom. 16:20; 2 Cor. 2:11, 11:3; Eph. 4:27, 6:16; 2 Tim. 2:26; James 4:7; I Pet. 5:9; I John 2:13).
  - (i) Certainly, there is to be no literal binding of Satan. How would it be possible to bind a spiritual or spirit entity?

I. THAT CHRIST WILL AT THIS TIME ASCEND DAVID'S LITERAL THRONE IN JERUSALEM.

1. Christ is reigning on David's throne right now.
  - (a) God promised David that Christ would reign on his throne.
    - (i) 2 Sam. 7:12-16: "When your days are fulfilled and you rest with your fathers, I will set up your seed after you, who will come from your body, and I will establish His kingdom. He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. I will be his Father, and he shall be My son. If he commits iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men and with the blows of the sons of men. But My mercy shall not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I removed from before you. And your house and your kingdom shall be established forever before you. Your throne shall be established forever."
    - (1) Hebrews 1:5 says, "I will be to Him a Father, and He shall be to Me a Son."
    - (2) 2 Cor. 5:21 teaches that Christ became sin for us. "For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him."
    - (3) Isa. 53:5 says that, "He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed .. and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all."

- a) The language of II Samuel 7:12-16 plainly refers to Christ.
  - b) David's throne, Solomon's throne, and God's throne are used synonymously in:
    - I Kings 1:46-48
    - I Kings 2:12
    - I Chron. 29:23
- (ii) Isa. 9:6-7: "For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace, there will be no end, upon the throne of David and over his kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this."

Fulfilled In Christ: Luke 1:31-33: "And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end."

Acts 2:29-36: "Men and brethren, let me freely speak to you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. Therefore, being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that of the fruit of his body, according to the flesh, He would raise up the Christ to sit on his throne, he, foreseeing this, spoke concerning the resurrection of the Christ, that His soul was not left in Hades, nor did His flesh see corruption. This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses. Therefore being exalted to the right hand of God, and having received (past tense) from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He poured out this which you now see and hear. For David did not ascend into the heavens, but

he says himself: 'The Lord said to my Lord, sit at My right hand, til I make Your enemies Your footstool. Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.'

This scripture fulfills God's promise to David.

- (1) Christ had received the throne as promised.
  - (2) He was exalted at the right hand of God.
  - (3) He was to sit there until all his enemies became his footstool.
  - (4) He was the anointed (King) of Israel and their Messiah.
- (iii) Paul in the great sermon at Antioch of Pisidia affirmed that God's promise to David in Psalms 110:1-4 had been fulfilled.

Psalms 110-1-4: "The Lord said to my Lord, Sit at My right hand, til I make Your enemies Your footstool. The Lord will send the rod of Your strength out of Zion. Rule in the midst of Your enemies. Your people shall be volunteers in the day of Your power; In the beauties of holiness, from the womb of the morning, you have the dew of your youth. The Lord has sworn and will not relent, you are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek."

FULFILLED IN ACTS 13:15-38: (Sermon at Pisidian Antioch)

...v. 22,23: "I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after My own heart, who will do all My will. From this man's seed, according to the promise, God raised up for Israel a Savior--Jesus ... vs. 32-37: "And we declare to you glad tidings--that promise which was made to the fathers, God has fulfilled this for us their children, in that He has raised up Jesus. As it is also written in the Second

Psalm: You are My Son, today I have begotten You. And that He raised Him from the dead, no more to return to corruption, He has spoken thus: I will give you the sure mercies of David. Therefore he also says in another Psalm (Ps. 16:8-10) 'You will not allow Your Holy One to see corruption.' For David, after he had served his own generation by the will of God, fell asleep, was buried with his fathers, and saw corruption; but He whom God raised up saw no corruption. Therefore let it known to you, brethren, that through this Man is preached to you the forgiveness of sins;"

NOTE: 1) He sits at God's right hand in the Day of His Power.

2) He rules in the midst of His enemies.

3) His people are willing (obedient).

4) He is a priest after Melchizedek.

See: Heb. 1:3,8  
Heb. 6:20

(iv) Amos 9:11-12: "On that day I will raise up the tabernacle of David, which has fallen down, and repair its damages; I will raise up its ruins, and rebuild it as in the days of old: that they may possess the remnant of Edom, and all the Gentiles who are called by My name, says the Lord who does this thing."

Fulfilled in Acts 15:13-18: "And after they had become silent, James answered, saying, 'Men and brethren, listen to me: Simon has declared how God at the first visited the Gentiles to take out of them a people for His name. And with this the words of the prophets agree, just as it is written: After this I will return and will rebuild the tabernacle of David which has fallen down. I will rebuild its ruins, and I will set it up, so that the rest of mankind may seek the Lord, even all the Gentiles who are called by My name, says the Lord who does all these

things. Known to God from eternity are all His works."

- (v) Isa. 22:22: "The key of the house of David I will lay on his shoulder; so he shall open, and no one shall shut; and he shall shut; and no one shall open."

FULFILLED IN REV. 3:7: "And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These things says He who is holy, He who is true, He who has the key of David, He who opens, and no one shuts; and shuts, and no one opens."

NOTE: What is Jesus doing with the Key of David if He does not have the House of David? (Tabernacle)

- (vi) Zech. 6:12-13: "Then speak to him, saying, 'Thus says the Lord of hosts, saying: Behold, the man whose name is the BRANCH! From His place He shall branch out, and He shall build the temple of the Lord; Yes, He shall build the temple of the Lord, He shall bear the glory, and shall sit and rule on His throne; so He shall be a priest on His throne, and the counsel of peace shall be between them both."

Isa. 11:1: "There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots."

Rom. 15:12: "And again, Esaias says, 'There shall be a root of Jesse;, and He who shall rise to reign over the Gentiles, in Him the Gentiles shall hope."

THESE PASSAGES TEACH:

1. That Christ is The Branch.
2. That He will build the Temple.

Eph. 2:19-22 says that He did.

"Now, therefore, you are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and members of

the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord."

3. That He would sit and rule on His throne.

Heb. 1:3,8 teaches that he is doing that now. "Who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high ... But to the Son He says: 'Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; a scepter of righteousness is the sceptre of Your Kingdom.'"

4. That He would be a priest on His throne.

Heb. 4:14: "Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession."

Heb. 8:1: "Now this is the main point of the things we are saying: 'We have such a High Priest, who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens.'"

5. That He cannot be a priest on earth.

Heb. 8:4: "For if He were on earth, He would not be a priest, seeing there are priests who offer gifts according to the law."

NOTE: Since He cannot be a priest on earth, He cannot be a king because He was to be a priest on His throne. Therefore, His throne and kingdom is not literal.

6. That Christ is NOW on His throne.

Rev. 3:21: "To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame (past tense) and sat down with My Father on His throne."

1 Cor. 15:20-26: "... for he must reign (continue to reign)."

1 Peter 3:22, in speaking of Christ, says, "Who has gone into heaven, and is at the right hand of God; angels and authorities and powers having been made subject to Him."

Eph. 1:21-23: Exalts Him above all powers.

(vi) Argument from Coniah.

Jer. 22:25-30.

1 Chron. 3:16.

Christ was of this lineage.

He could not prosper on David's throne and ruling in Judah.

J. THAT HE WILL REIGN UPON DAVID'S LITERAL THRONE IN JERUSALEM FOR 1000 YEARS.

1. Their Major Proof Text for Premillennialism is Revelation 20:1-6:

"Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. He laid hold on the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished. But after these things he must be released for a little while. And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. But the rest of

the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years."

2. Their Major Proof Text Doesn't Remotely Teach Their Theory.

- (a) It does not mention the Second Coming of Christ.
- (b) It does not mention a bodily resurrection.
- (c) It does not mention a reign on earth.
- (d) It does not mention the literal throne of David.
- (e) It does not mention Jerusalem or Palestine.
- (f) It does not mention US.
- (g) It does not mention Christ on the earth.
- (h) It does not mention the Rapture or the Tribulation.
- (i) It does not mention the Physical Jews.
  - (i) Jesus in John 4: has said that Jerusalem was NOT the place in which God had designated for people to worship God - that is, as a center of worship.
  - (ii) Brother Foy E. Wallace, Jr. tells a story which illustrates the problem they have with this text:

He says: "It reminds me of the young drummer, who was newly wed. Having gone on his usual travel trip to sell his goods, his young bride decided that she could not wait until the week-end to see her husband, so she sent him a telegram, which was worded: 'Do come to see me at once. I am dying.' The young husband grabbed his hat and handbag and ran for the train, but when he arrived and rolled off the train, lo! his charming young wife was at the station, full of smiles, to greet him. Completely exasperated, he said: 'My dear, why did you send me that telegram? You

said you were dying.' She replied, 'Oh, I was dying to see you, but I could send only ten words for a quarter!'"

"Now that is exactly the situation with the millennialists on Rev. 20:. The words of millennialism are not there, the ideas of millennialism are not there, and as words are the signs of ideas, there is not enough "stretching" in the whole passage to supply even the idea for their theory. It is the figment of a fantastic imagination."

W. B. West has well said: "The 'they' were not you and I but those who refused to participate in Roman emperor worship in the years it was demanded of subjects of the Roman Empire. There is no promise for people other than 'they' living and reigning with Christ a thousand years. The thousand years here, as in the case of the binding of Satan, are not a literal thousand years, but an idea conveyed in this way of restraining almost completely the persecuting power of Satan during the time of the non-persecuting Emperors and of the victory of the persecuted and martyred saints."

Fort Worth Christian College Lectures,  
pp. 278-9 (1968)

K. THAT THE TEMPLE OF SOLOMON WITH ALL ITS SACRIFICES AND ORDINANCES WILL BE RE-ESTABLISHED.

1. Hamilton in his book, The Basis of Millennial Faith explain their position here on p. 39:

"Israel is to be restored to Palestine; other nations exist elsewhere but they are subservient to the Jews, Isa. 60:1-22, people will have mortal bodies, will live in houses, eat of physical vineyards, bear children, be subject to sickness and death, though not to the same degree as at present (Zech. 14); the temple and the temple service will be restored with bloody sacrifices as sin offerings to make atonement for the people (Ezek. 45:17); the temple priests will teach the people the difference between clean and unclean things; the tribes of the earth will come up to Jerusalem yearly to keep the feast of the tabernacles."

2. To Restore the Ordinances of Old National Israel is to Dishonour Our Lord.

(a) Hear the writer to the Hebrews:

- (i) Heb. 10:1-4: "For the law, having a shadow of the good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with these same sacrifices, which they offer continually year by year, make those who approach perfect. For then would they not have ceased to be offered? For the worshipers, once purged, would have had no more consciousness of sins. But in those sacrifices there is a reminder of sins every year. For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins."
- (ii) Heb. 10:9-10: "Then He said, 'Behold, I have come to do Your will, O God.' He takes away the first that He may establish the second. By the will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ Once for all."

3. To Restore This Temple and Its Ordinances Is to Ignore The Change of Priesthood.

- (a) Heb. 7:12-19: "For the priesthood being changed, of necessity there is also a change of the law. For He of whom these things are spoken belongs to another tribe, from which no man has officiated at the altar. For it is evident that our Lord arose from Judah, of which tribe Moses spoke nothing concerning priesthood. And it is yet far more evident if, in the likeness of Melchizedek, there arises another priest, who has come, not according to the law of a fleshly commandment, but according to the power of an endless life. For He testifies: 'You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.' For on the one hand there is an annulling of the former commandment because of its weakness and unprofitableness, for the law made nothing perfect; on the other hand, there is the bringing in of a better hope, through which we can draw near to God."
- (b) Heb. 8:1-4: "Now this is the main point of the things we are saying: We have such a High Priest, who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty

in the heavens, a Minister of the sanctuary and of the true tabernacle which the Lord erected, and not man. For every high priest is appointed to offer both gifts and sacrifices. Therefore it is necessary that this One also have something to offer. For if He were on earth, He would not be a priest, seeing there are priests who offer gifts according to the law."

Heb. 7:28: "For the law appoints as high priests men who have weakness, but the word of the oath, which came after the law, appoints the Son who has been perfected forever."

- (i) If Christ were on the earth, he would not be a priest and, in addition, he would have to start offering sacrifices for himself if he were.
- (ii) But the writer tells us that his priesthood is forevermore.

4. Why would we even want to bring Christ back to this earth?

- (a) His Mission and Redemption is Complete. (Eph. 1:7-10).
- (b) His Revelation is Complete. (Eph. 3:1-10 and Jude 3).
- (c) His Authority is Complete. (Matt. 28:18-20; Eph. 1:20-23).
- (d) His Kingdom is Complete. (Col. 1:13 - Heb. 12:28).
- (e) His Throne is Complete. (Heb. 4:14 - Rev. 3:21).
- (f) His Name is Complete. (Eph. 1:22 - Col. 3:17).
- (g) His Glory is Complete. (Lk. 24:25 - I Pet. 1:20-21).

NOTE: The Premillennialists dilemma is that he takes all the prophecies and makes all literal - especially concerning the return of the Jews from Babylonian and Persian captivity fulfilled 500 years before Christ.

L. THAT THE JEWS WILL ALL GO BACK TO PALESTINE AND BE SAVED.

1. God promised that He would scatter the Jews among the nations if they forsook Him.

(a) Deut. 4:25-27: "When you beget children and grandchildren and have grown old in the land, act corruptly and make a carved image in the form of anything, and do evil in the sight of the Lord your God to provoke Him to anger, I call heaven and earth to witness against you this day, that you will soon utterly perish from the land which you cross over the Jordan to possess; you will not prolong your days in it, but will be utterly destroyed. And the Lord will scatter you among the peoples, and you will be left few in number among the nations where the Lord will drive you."

(b) Lev. 26:27-34: "And after all this, if you do not obey Me, but walk contrary to Me, then I also will walk contrary to you in fury; and I, even I, will chastise you seven times for your sins. You shall eat the flesh of your sons, and you shall eat the flesh of your daughters. I will destroy your high places, cut down your incense altars, and cast your carcasses on the lifeless forms of your idols; and My soul shall abhor you. . . . I will bring the land to desolation . . . your land shall be desolate and your cities waste. Then the land shall enjoy its sabbaths as long as it lies desolate and you are in your enemies' land."

(c) Jer. 25:7-11: "Yet you have not listened to me," says the Lord ... Therefore thus says the Lord of hosts: 'because you have not heard My words, behold, I will send and take all the families of the north, says the Lord, 'and Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, My servant, and will bring them against this land, against its inhabitants, and against these nations all around, and will utterly destroy them, and make them an astonishment, a hissing, and perpetual desolation ... And this whole land shall be a desolation and an astonishment, and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years."

(d) 2 Chron. 36:13-21: "And he (Zedekiah) also rebelled against King Nebuchadnezzar ... and hardened his heart against turning to the Lord God of Israel ... Therefore He brought against them the king of the Chaldeans, who killed their young men with the sword in the house of their sanctuary ... And all the

articles from the house of God... All those who escaped from the sword he carried away to Babylon ... to fulfill the word of the Lord by the mouth of Jeremiah, until the land had enjoyed her sabbaths. As long as she lay desolate she kept sabbath, to fulfill seventy years."

2. God promised that they would return and they did. They rebuilt walls, and the temple.
  - (a) Cyrus King of Persia sent the exiles back to Jerusalem. (Ezra 1:1-11).
  - (b) Ezra 2:1 says: "Now these are the children of the province who came back from the captivity, of those who had been carried away, whom Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon had carried away to Babylon, and who returned to Jerusalem and Judah, everyone to his own city."
  - (c) The Altar is set up (Ezra 3:); Kept feast of tabernacles (Ezra 3:4-5); Started building the temple again (Ezra 3:8-13); Temple is finished (Ezra 6:15-18); Passover restored (Ezra 6:19-22); Treasury brought into the temple (Ezra 8:33-35); Nehemiah returns and rebuilds the walls of Jerusalem (Neh. 1:1 - 6:19); Law was read and explained (Neh. 8:1-18); The people repent and fast (Neh. 9:); Order of sacrifices re-established (Neh. 12:1-47); Sabbath law restored (Neh. 13:7).
3. God makes no distinction today between the Jew and Gentile.
  - (a) Rom. 2:28-29: "For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly; nor is that circumcision which is outward in the flesh: but he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not from men, but from God." (See Gal. 3:6-7).
  - (b) Gal. 3:26-27: "For you are all the sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female: for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ's, then you

are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise."

- (c) Romans 1:16: "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes: for the Jew first and also the Greek (or Gentile)."
- (d) Romans 10:12: "... for there is no distinction between the Jew and Greek ..."
- (e) Romans 11:26: "And so (in this manner) all Israel will be saved: as it is written, 'The Deliverer will come out of Zion, and he will turn away ungodliness from Jacob; for this is My covenant with them, when I take away their sins.'"

  - (i) Christ is that Deliverer and if they reject Him they are eternally lost.

M. THAT THIS WILL BE A PERIOD OF UNIVERSAL PEACE UPON THE EARTH.

1. There is no scripture which teaches that the world will get better or that a period of universal peace will prevail.
2. Isa. 2:1-4: Envisioned the peace which would exist among every nation, tribe and tongue who had entered the kingdom of God. That those within this kingdom would beat their swords to plow shares and their spears to pruning hooks.

(This had nothing to do with the nations of the world.)

3. Jesus in the Parable of the Tares points out that the wicked will remain on the earth until the end of time and then be destroyed.
  - (a) Matt. 13:36-43: "Then Jesus sent the multitude away and went into the house. And His disciples came to Him, saying, 'Explain to us the parable of the tares of the field.' And He answered and said to them, 'He who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; the field is the world; the good seeds are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the sons of the wicked one. The enemy who sowed them is the devil, the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are the angels. Therefore as the tares are gathered and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of this age. The Son of

Man will send out His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and those who practice lawlessness, and will cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears to hear, let him hear!"

verses 49-50 say: "So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come forth, separate the wicked from among the just, and cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth."

- NOTE:
1. Wicked people are to be on earth until the end of the world.
  2. As long as there are wicked people, there will be no peace.
  3. These will be destroyed at the end of the world.

N. THAT AT THE END OF THIS THOUSAND YEARS SATAN WILL BE LOOSED AND LEAD HIS ARMY AND WILL BE DEFEATED AND CAST INTO HELL.

1. Proof text used by Premillennialists is in Revelation 16:13-16; also Rev. 19:19-21:

"And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs coming out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. For they are spirits of devils, performing signs, which go out to the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty. Behold, I am coming as a thief. Blessed is he who watches, and keeps his garments, lest he walk naked and they see his shame. And they gathered them together to the place called (in Hebrew tongue) Armageddon." (Har - Megiddo)

This Text Doesn't Mention:

- (a) Who was to engage in the battle,
- (b) Does not mention Christ.
- (c) Does not mention Jerusalem, the Jews.

- (d) It does not mention the destruction of Satan. Nor the armies of the earth.

NOTE: If this is a literal battle to be fought on the literal battlefield of Har Megiddo, the nations will be led to battle by three literal frogs.

Proof Texts:

Isa. 13 - deals with destruction of Babylon.

Zech. 14 - deals with destruction of Jerusalem.

Matt. 24:

2. Premillennialists make Chapter 19 of Revelation tie in with Chapter 16, and by putting a literal interpretation on these Chapters have a literal battle.

WHICH ARE THESE THINGS / LITERAL OR FIGURATIVE? (Rev. 19-20)

- (a) A white horse and rider.
- (b) Armies - Horses - War.
- (c) Sword - out of mouth.
- (d) Rule - Rod of iron.
- (e) Tread the wine press.
- (f) Name on his thigh.
- (g) Fowls fly to supper.
- (h) Eat flesh - Kings - Men - Horses.
- (i) Fowls filled with their flesh.
- (j) Beast - Mark - Image.
- (k) Angel coming down.
- (l) Key - Chain - Fit.
- (m) Dragon - Tail - Stars.
- (n) Frogs - out of mouth.
- (o) Bound - bottomless pit.
- (p) Shut - sealed.
- (q) Thrones - Beheaded.
- (r) Prison - Loosed - Battle.
- (s) Camp of Saints - Compassed.
- (t) Fire and Brimstone.

Foy E. Wallace, in his God's Prophetic Word, p. 285, has well said:

"What about the reference to this dragon plucking the stars of heaven out of their orbits with his tail? That was some tail, if it is literal. How far is it to the stars? Several million miles. But this dragon drew the stars out of the sky with his tail. A magic tail! If literal, it was either some tail, a phenomenal tail - or it had a powerful magnet on the end of it. Then that dragon had a body that filled the whole earth; yet a hole is dug in the ground in which to seal him up, tail and all! LITERAL? Since the body of the beast was so big as the whole earth, where did they dig the hole, and where did they get the dirt?"

3. Har - Megiddo is used by John to describe one of most bloody battlefields of all time.

(a) From this valley one can see:

(i) Mount Tabor, Mount Gilboa, Peaks of Lebanon, Mountains of Galilee.

(ii) This is the most fertile valley in all Palestine.

(b) This valley has been the scene of many bloody battles:

(i) Here Deborah and Barak slew the Canaanites and Sesera.

(ii) Here Gideon slew the Midianites.

(iii) Here Saul and Jonathan died fighting the Philistine.

(iv) Here Josiah died fighting the Egyptians.

(v) Here Crusaders clashed with the Turks in the 12th Century.

(vi) Here Napoleon vanquished the Turks.

(vii) Here General Allenby conquered the Turks.

NOTE: This valley has literally been fertilized by the blood and bones of soldiers from the early morning of history.

(c) The Apostle John chose this valley to describe Armageddon to his hearers:

- (i) The churches in Asia Minor to whom the book of Revelation was written would have been very familiar with this famous battlefield.
- (ii) Ray Summers in his book Worthy Is The Lamb, has said pp. 189-190: "These allies gather their forces on the battlefield called Armageddon. This was a famous Hebrew battlefield. Here Gideon and his three hundred defeated the Midianites. Here King Saul was defeated by the Philistines. Here Barak and Deborah overthrew the hosts of the Canaanite king, Jabin. Here, Ahaziah died of Jehu's arrows. And here Pharaoh-Necho overthrew Josiah. The place was burned into the minds of the Jewish people, and the mourning for Josiah in the valley of Megiddo was long afterward quoted as a typical example of national grief. Thus, Megiddo fitly symbolized the worldwide distress of righteousness and evil engaged in deadly combat. This is not an actual material sword and spear battle. Such a thing would be at cross purposes with all the teachings of the New Testament, the ideals which Jesus held, His death on the cross, and all God's purposes of grace. Jesus' way was never the way of the sword. His sword is the sword of the Spirit, the Word of God. If one expects this to be a literal material battle, he must expect the army to be headed by a committee of three frogs. Both figures are symbolical; neither is literal. There is no reason for making one literal and the other symbolical. The Armageddon in the book of Revelation has no location on the maps of the world; it is logical, not spatial. The battle is not one in which material, physical armaments will decide the issue; the battle is between righteousness and evil, and righteousness is the certain victor."
- (iii) William Hendricksen in his book, More Than Conquerors, says: (p. 196)

"Hence Har-Megiddon is the symbol of every battle in which the need is greatest and believers are oppressed, the Lord suddenly

reveals His power in the interest of His distressed people and defeats the enemy."

- (iv) W.S. Thompson in his Comments on Revelation has said: (p. 168)

"The fact that it is a 'spiritual battle' can be seen from the description of the opposing leaders in it. This spiritual battle involves every accountable person who lives, and has lived, upon the earth. Every responsible being is engaged. Each person is enrolled either in the forces of Christ or the forces of Satan. Christ is portrayed as the conqueror over the beast and the false prophet and the dragon. All who wear the "name of Christ, the seal of God," and are marching behind the "bloodstained banner of the cross" will ultimately be led to a triumphant and glorious victory. Those who wear the "name of the beast" and have the "mark of the beast upon them" will finally be subdued, condemned and punished with everlasting woes and eternal sufferings."

- (v) C.H. Roberson in his Studies in Revelation has said: (p. 123)

"It symbolizes the world-wide distress of the nations in the victory of the church over the world."

- (vi) Frank Pack in his Revelation (Part II), Living word Series, says:

"The context in which this passage occurs would indicate that this is the final and decisive battle between God and his Messiah and Satan and his agents. Whatever may have been the struggles that through the ages have taken place, this is the kind of climaxing struggle."

- (vii) W.B. West, who is writing a commentary on Revelation has said:

"The Battle of Armageddon signifies a spiritual battle which began in the garden of Eden and

will continue until the end of time. It is a battle between the forces of righteousness and the forces of evil. It is a conflict between right and wrong not fought on physical battlefields of war but on the moral and religious battlefields."

(viii) St. Augustine saw it as a constant battle between the Church and the World.

NOTE: Whatever the meaning of the Battle of Armageddon, it does not have a logical place where it is put by the premillennialists.

O. THAT AT THIS TIME THE UNRIGHTEOUS DEAD ARE THEN RAISED AND JUDGED AND THAT CHRIST WILL TAKE HIS VICTORIOUS SAINTS HOME TO HEAVEN.

1. We have already ably proven that the judgment takes place at Christ's coming and not 1000 years later.

(a) Matthew 25:1-46.

(b) II Thess. 1:7-9.

#### CONCLUSION:

The Doctrine of Premillennialism, Postmillennialism, or Millennialism cannot be proven by the Word of God. It is a fantastic figment of some men's imagination.

See Summers:

WHAT THEN DID REVELATION MEAN TO THE CHRISTIANS OF THE SEVEN CHURCHES TO WHOM IT WAS ADDRESSED?