

## I. INTRO: *Dispensationalism - From The Millennium To The End* by Daniel Ridinger

A. The Lord will return at an unexpected hour.

B. 4 lessons have been presented pertaining to the topic of Pre-millennial Dispensationalism.

1. Lesson 1: Introduction To Dispensationalism [D teach that there are 7 dispensations of time. They contend that we are living in the 6<sup>th</sup>. The 7<sup>th</sup> dispensation will commence when Jesus comes again to set up an earthly kingdom & reign in Jerusalem for a literal 1K years.]

2. Lesson 2: Dispensationalism & The Church [D do not believe that the church was involved in God's *eternal purpose*. They assert that Jesus offered to Israel an earthly kingdom, but they rejected Christ & His offer. So, the est. of the kingdom was *postponed*. In its place, the church, as an *after thought, a parenthesis, an accident, a stop-gap* measure, was instituted until Jesus comes again to establish His millennial kingdom.]

3. Lesson 3: Dispensationalism & The Rapture [D contend that Jesus will *come for* His saints, suddenly & secretly.

4. Lesson 4: Dispensationalism - From The Rapture To The Millennium

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## II. OVERVIEW OF EVENTS FROM THE MILL. TO THE END

- Some of details of the dispensational plan vary among dispensationalists.
- This is a general overview of what dispensationalists believe will happen from the millennium until the end of time.

### A. The Millennium - Victorious Scene

1. D believe that Christ will destroy all ungodly kingdoms & afterwards set up His kingdom. They contend that Christ's millennial reign, 1K reign over an earthly kingdom, will begin after the Judgement of The Nations, 75 days after His 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming<sup>1</sup> (Dan.12:11-12; Zech.14:9-10; Rev.20:1-6).

2. Haggee: "The advent of the Age of the Kingdom will be a time of great rejoicing for God's people...Jesus will regather, regenerate, and restore faithful Israel. He will call the Jewish remnant hiding from the Antichrist's persecution in Petra and welcome them back into Jerusalem, His holy city...The saints who return with Christ in the army of God will rule & reign over cities and provinces, and Christ Himself will reign from Jerusalem, the Holy City."<sup>2</sup>

3. D give several reason why Jesus will reign over an earthly kingdom for 1K years: (1) Fulfill His promise to reward His children. (2) To give Israel the *Promised Land* for ever. (3) To answer the prayers of the saints, *Thy kingdom come*. (4) To prove a point, that man without God is helpless.<sup>3</sup>

### B. The Millennium - Peaceful & Prosperous Scene

1. D believe that the millennium will be *paradise restored*.<sup>4</sup>

2. Hal Lindsay: "God's kingdom will be characterized by peace and equity, and by universal spirituality and knowledge of the Lord. Even animals and reptiles will lose their ferocity and no longer be carnivorous. All men will have plenty and be secure... The Great Society which human rulers

throughout the centuries have promised, but never produced, will at last be realized under Christ's rule. The meek and not the arrogant will inherit the earth."<sup>5</sup> [Proof Text: Is.11:1-10]

3. Lightner: "The sun (and consequently the moon) will shine more brightly in the Millennium, and this will no doubt be one of the factors responsible for the overall prosperity of the period (Is.30:26; Mal.4:2). The Millennium will be a time of great prosperity and activity (Joel 2:24-26; Amos 9:13, 14; Isa. 32:17, 18; Zech.10:7,8)."<sup>6</sup>

### C. The Millennium - Violent Scene

1. D contend that that children will be born during the millennium. They will be "prone" to sin. Some of the children will choose to do wrong.

2. D cite Zech.14:17 to show that some citizens of the millennium will refuse to come up to Jerusalem to worship the Lord. They also believe Christ will rule with a rod of iron (Rev.19:15).

3. Hal Lindsay: "The kingdom will begin...with mortal subjects (Revelation 20:4-6), last 1000 years, and at the end of that time some of the children of the believers who started in the kingdom will apparently prove to be unbelievers and start a rebellion against Christ and His rule...(Revelation 20:7-10)."<sup>7</sup>

4. Haggee: "At the end of the Millennium, Satan will be free from his prison, and thousands of people from all nations of the earth will believe his lies and follow him. They will gather around Jerusalem, Christ's capital city, and wage a great war (Revelation 20:7-9)...."<sup>8</sup>

### D. The Millennium - A Judgment Scene

1. Haggee: "As judgment for sin, fire will come down from out of heaven and devour the millennial earth. The rebels who chose to side with Satan will be destroyed. God will bring an end to rebellion as all rebels, human and immortal, face judgment and are confined to eternal hell and torment."<sup>9</sup>

2. D believe the second resurrection mentioned in Rev.20:6 applies to the resurrection of the unjust. They refer to this as the Great White Throne Judgment which is for those who have rejected Christ. The condemned will be cast into the lake of fire.

### E. The Millennium - A Terminus Scene

1. The 1K year reign of Christ will come to an end & eternity will begin.

2. The church will spend eternity in Heaven after the millennium while the Jews will spend eternity on earth following the millennium.<sup>10</sup>

3. My understanding of the D view is that the earth will be renovated, *a new heavens and earth* (2 Pt.3:7-13). This will be eternal dwelling place of the Jews. The Jews, however, are invited to live with the Gentiles in the *New Jerusalem* which will come down out of Heaven (Rev.21-22).<sup>11</sup>

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## III. WHAT THE SCRIPTURES SAY ABOUT THE MILLENNIUM?

### A. Rev.20 & 1,000 Year Reign

1. Rev.20:4-6 is used by D as a proof text that Christ will establish an earthly kingdom & reign for a literal 1K years on David's throne in Jerusalem. [One writer stated that Rev.20:4-6 is "the very citadel and bulwark of premillennial eschatology".]<sup>12</sup>

2. Rev.20:4-6 [Notice some significant omissions in Rev.20:4-6 which are crucial to the D theory. Rev.20:4-6 does not--]

- a. say anything about the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming of Jesus.
- b. mention Jesus returning to the earth.
- c. show Jesus setting up an earthly kingdom.
- d. mention Jerusalem.
- e. say that a 1K year reign will occur after Jesus' 2<sup>nd</sup> coming.
- f. state that Christ will reign for 1K years.
- g. say that Christ will reign on earth for 1K years.
- h. mention that Christ will reign on David's throne.
- i. say that resurrected saints will reign w/Jesus for 1K years.
- j. state that all the r. dead will reign with Christ for 1K years.

3. Observe what the text does say. [The text--]

- a. mentions the souls of headless, martyred saints, who neither worshipped the beast nor received his mark.
- b. says that these saints lived & reigned with Christ, but the location of their reign is not disclosed.
- c. states that the saints reigned with Christ for 1K years. The text, however, does not reveal the length of Jesus' reign.
- d. implicitly declares that the martyred saints were involved in the *first resurrection*.
- e. says that 2<sup>nd</sup> death has no power over these martyred saints (6).
- f. states that the martyred saints are *priests of God and Christ* (6).

4. Q: Should the *thousand years* to be interpreted literally or figuratively?

a. D follow a literal method of interpretation throughout the Scriptures. Thus, they view the 1,000 years in Rev.20 as literal years.

b. Look at the context of Rev.20.

aa. If the 1K years is literal, what about the *key* (Vs.1a)? the *chain* (Vs.1b)? the *dragon*, the *serpent* (Vs.2)?

bb. Are we to believe that an angel used a literal key to unlock the *abyss* & a real chain to bind a literal *dragon*?

c. Q: Why interpret these things figuratively, but literalize the 1K years? [Wayne Jackson: "It is certainly a strange interpretation which contends that a *figurative* serpent was bound with a *figurative* chain and thrown into a *figurative* abyss which was locked with a *figurative* lock that had a *figurative* key, to be confined for a *literal* thousand years!"]<sup>13</sup>

d. The numeral 1,000 is used more than 20 times in the book of Revelation and not once is it used in a literal sense.<sup>14</sup>

5. Let us remember that the Revelation is a book of symbols & figurative language.

a. Rev.1:1 [The word *signified* means "showed by signs".]<sup>15</sup>

b. Symbols should not be interpreted literally, but rather they are like code words, comparable to the skull & crossbones on a bottle of poison.

c. The number 1,000 in apocalyptic literature means ultimate completeness or a greater degree of completeness<sup>16</sup> Hence, the *thousand years* refers to a complete or definite period.

## B. Christ & His Kingdom

1. Jesus during His earthly ministry preached that His kingdom was nigh, near at hand (Mt.4:17; Mk.1:14-15).

2. Jesus commissioned *the twelve* to preach that the kingdom was at hand as they traveled throughout Israel (Mt.10:7).

3. In Jn.6:15, the Jews were thinking about forcing Jesus to be their earthly King. In Jn.18:36-37, Jesus informed Pilate that He came to be a King, but not a kingdom of this world.

4. We learn from such passages as Col.1:13; Rev.1:9 that Jesus has established His kingdom. It is a spiritual kingdom into which one enters by being born again (Jn.3:5).

5. The Pt: Jesus will return not to establish a kingdom on the earth for a literal 1K years. Rather, He will deliver up the kingdom to God, the Father (1 Cor.15:20-28).

6. Thought Question: If the Jews rejected Christ and His kingdom during His earthly ministry, as the dispensationalists content, then what if they reject Him the 2<sup>nd</sup> time?

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Preached: Oliver church of Christ, Rogersville, AL (11/10/02, PM)

<sup>1</sup>John Haggee The Revelation Of Truth A Mosaic Of God's Plan For Man (Thomas Nelson Pub: Nashville, TN 2,000), p.233

<sup>2</sup>Ibid, p.229-230

<sup>3</sup>Ibid, pp.231-232

<sup>4</sup>Hal Lindsay The Late Great Planet Earth (Zondervan Pub. House: Grand Rapids, MI 1970), p.177

<sup>5</sup>Ibid, p.177

<sup>6</sup>Robert Lightner Last Days Handbook (Thomas Nelson Publishers: Nashville, TN 1997), p.37

<sup>7</sup>Ibid, p.177

<sup>8</sup>John Haggee The Revelation Of Truth A Mosaic Of God's Plan For Man, p.251

<sup>9</sup>Ibid, p.253

<sup>10</sup>William E. Cox Biblical Studies In Final Things (Presbyterian & Reformed Pub. Co, 1975, 1966), p.47

<sup>11</sup>John Haggee The Revelation Of Truth A Mosaic Of God's Plan For Man, p.277

<sup>12</sup>*Christian Courier* "Examining Premillennialism" by Wayne Jackson, February 1, 2001 [Words are attributed to George Murray in *Millennial Studies*, Grand Rapids: Baker, 1948, p. 175]

<sup>12</sup>Ray Summers, Worthy Is The Lamb, pp.19-25

<sup>13</sup>Wayne Jackson, Select Studies From The Book Of REVELATION (Courier Pub: Stockton, CA 1995), p.88

<sup>14</sup>Ibid, p.88

<sup>15</sup>*Revelation 20 and the Millennium* by Harold Hazelip, p.58