

“If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God...” (1 Peter 4:11).

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WHY THE DOCTRINE OF PREMILLENNIALISM CANNOT BE SO

Johnie Edwards

Almost every religious body teaches some form of the doctrine of premillennialism! The doctrine, in a nutshell, is that Christ will return to earth, set up an earthly kingdom and rule a thousand years in Jerusalem. You are invited to spend a little reading-time with us learning why this doctrine cannot be so:

THE BIBLE TEACHES THAT THE KINGDOM HAS ALREADY BEEN SET UP. Daniel said Christ would be “*given a kingdom*” when He “*came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days...*” (Dan. 7:13-14). This took place according to Acts 1:9-11. And in the very next chapter, men heard, believed, obeyed the gospel “*And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved*” (Acts 2:47).

FOLKS WERE IN THE KINGDOM IN NEW TESTAMENT DAYS. Paul said that the Colossians had been “*translated into the kingdom of his dear Son*” (Col. 1:13). How could this be if the kingdom was not in existence? This was about A.D. 62. John also indicated: “*I John, who also am... in the*

kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ...” (Rev. 1:9). How do you explain that John was in the kingdom of Christ if it was not in existence then? Sounds to me like the kingdom of Christ has already been set up!

WORSHIP TELLS US THE KINGDOM IS IN EXISTENCE. As Jesus was instituting the Lord’s supper, He said, “*For I say unto you, I will not any more eat thereof, until it be fulfilled in the kingdom of God. For I say unto you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine, until the kingdom of God shall come*” (Lk. 22:16, 18). Since the Lord’s supper is in the kingdom, if we can find the communion being observed, we will have found the kingdom. Right? We only have to travel to Troas to find brethren: “*And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread...*” (Acts 20:7).

SECOND COMING DELIVERS THE KINGDOM UP. The Corinthians were told: “*Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power*” (1 Cor. 15:24). Did you notice that when Christ comes, the kingdom will be delivered up; not set up!

CHRIST AND DAVID’S THRONE

J.P. Edwards

Such passages as 2 Samuel 7:12-16 and Psalm 89:3-4 promised that the Messiah would sit upon David’s throne. Premillennialists apply this prophecy to the millennial kingdom and deny that Jesus is now sitting on David’s throne.

You may be asking, “What difference does it make?” If we can prove from the Scriptures that Christ is now sitting on David’s throne, the doctrine of premillennialism is wrong, for it denies such. If Christ is now sitting on David’s throne, the premillennialists’ interpretation of Bible prophecy is wrong, and the second coming of Jesus will not result in the establishment of a millennial kingdom on earth.

WHAT IS DAVID’S THRONE? David’s throne was not a literal, physical chair on which David sat. David’s throne is not reserved somewhere for Christ. David’s throne is a position of authority that Christ has in the church. The word “*throne*” means sovereign power and dignity. Jesus is the Head, King, and Ruler over the kingdom, the church (Mt. 28:8-9; Eph. 1:20-23).

David’s throne was God’s throne, because God gave it to

him (1 Ki. 1:46-48; 2:12; 1 Chr. 29:32). Thus, the throne, although it was on earth, was Jehovah's throne and rule over His people. Christ sitting on David's throne is sitting on the throne of the Father ruling over His people (Col. 1:13; Rev. 3:21).

JESUS IS NOW SEATED ON DAVID'S THRONE. Jehovah made an oath to David in 2 Samuel 7:12-16 that he would sit one upon his throne. Christ was the one God raised up to sit on David's throne (Acts 2:25-36). Jesus was resurrected to sit in a position of authority in the kingdom, the church.

Christ was to reign on David's throne while David was dead. Jehovah said, *"When thy days are fulfilled, and thou shalt sleep with thy father, I will set up thy seed after thee, that shall proceed out of thy bowels, and I will establish his kingdom"* (2 Sam. 7:12). Jesus was resurrected to sit on David's throne while David was dead and in his tomb. Peter said, *"Brethren, I may say unto you freely of the patriarch David, that he both died, and was buried, and his tomb is with us unto this day. Being therefore prophet, and knowing that God hath sworn with an oath to him,*

that of the fruit of his loins he would set one upon his throne; he foreseeing this spake of the resurrection of the Christ..." (Acts 2:29-30). The premillennialists have Christ seated on David's throne after the resurrection of the righteous. After the resurrection of the righteous will be too late for Christ to reign. He must be reigning now, while David is dead in the tomb.

The Bible plainly teaches that Christ is now reigning over God's people on the throne of David. Thus, the doctrine that says that Christ is not now reigning on David's throne (premillennialism) is unfounded.

WHAT MAKES A ROPE STRONG

Selected

What makes a rope strong? Pulling together. That's the answer. Many tiny strands, each weak by itself, but united in a common effort, become strong enough to bind a giant.

What makes a rope strong makes a church strong also.

When you take hold of a rope, you seldom think of those tiny little parts that are entwined about each other so as to give the rope such strength. When we speak of a strong church, the little things that really combine to make the unity and power are often overlooked.

The strands that make a church strong are individuals. Under the mind and hand of God, they are directed toward a common goal, united in a common cause — God's glory and man's salvation. This is true if the church is a strong church. It cannot be strong unless its members are united.

Remember this: Strong ropes don't just happen! Neither do churches just happen to be strong. It takes pulling together. The influence of every member, his thought and time, his money and prayers, should all be coordinated with that of every other member to give the church its greatest strength for its task.

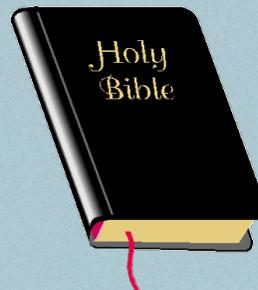
"...in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel"
(Phil. 1:27).

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