

Bible Training Institute

To proactively accelerate the spiritual growth of Grace Bible Church for the purpose of knowing God more intimately and becoming more effective servants of God in the world

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Eschatology 1

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Eschatology 1

Views of Eschatology; Premillennialism

- "eschatology" = *eskatos*—"last" -study of last things
- Four views on timing of prophecy
- 1. Preterism (Latin *preter*- "past")—Most eschatological passages in Scripture were fulfilled in A.D. 70 at destruction of Jerusalem
- 2. Historicism—the events of Revelation are being fulfilled now
- 3. Idealism—past, present or future fulfillment is not the issue; timeless truths are the issue
- 4. Futurism—major prophecy passages await a future fulfillment

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Critiquing Preterism

- Implications of Preterism to the Book of Revelation:
 - ✓ The Great Tribulation is the fall of Israel
 - ✓ Great apostasy of Revelation happened already
 - ✓ Last days happened between Christ's coming and AD 70
 - ✓ The Antichrist speaks of widespread apostasy before AD 70
 - ✓ The Beast is Nero and the Roman Empire
 - ✓ The False Prophet is the apostate leadership of Israel
 - ✓ The Great Harlot is Jerusalem
 - ✓ The Millennium is the kingdom of Christ happening now (partial preterist)
 - ✓ First Resurrection of Rev 20:5 is a spiritual resurrection
 - ✓ National Israel has been rejected; the Church is Israel now

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Critiquing Preterism

- Problems of the Preterist View
 - ✓ Founded on the flimsy foundation of Revelation being written between AD 64 - 67.
 - ✓ Preterist fulfillment claims don't hold water
 - ❖ Why did no one see Jesus return?
 - ❖ Matthew 24:21 becomes irrelevant
 - ❖ Nero cannot be Antichrist according to Scripture
 - ❖ Zech 12:3 is not fulfilled (all nations attacking Jerusalem)
 - ❖ Zech 13:8 is not fulfilled (1/3 of Jews being saved)
 - ❖ John 14:1-3 is not fulfilled (Why are we not in our Father's house?)
 - ❖ The 21 judgments of Revelation did not happen
 - ❖ Zech 14:1-4 is not fulfilled (Mt. of Olives split in two)

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Critiquing Preterism

- Dangerous Implications of Preterism
 - ✓ Some forms of Preterism deny a great doctrine of faith—the second coming of Christ, the “blessed hope” of Titus 2:13
 - ✓ Or it severely shrinks the doctrine of the Second Coming
 - ✓ Many commands of Scripture regarding holiness and godly conduct are related to the Second Coming
 - ✓ View of Israel is flawed and leads to a theological anti-Semitic position.

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Critiquing Postmillennialism

- Basics of Post-Mill:
 - ✓ The kingdom is fulfilled spiritually now until Christianity will permeate all of society
 - ✓ The world will get better until Jesus comes again
 - ✓ The Eternal State will begin when the gospel triumphs
- ✓ Problems:
 - ✓ Has a liberal flavor and tends to be very ecumenical
 - ✓ Encourages a social gospel of political activism as the means to bring in the kingdom
 - ✓ Unsupportable from Scripture

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Critiquing Amillennialism

- Basics of Amillennialism
 - ✓ There will not be a future literal 1,000 year reign of Christ
 - ✓ The millennium of Rev 20:1-6 is being fulfilled now
 - ✓ Satan is presently bound and we are enjoying the benefits of the millennium now
 - ✓ 1,000 years of Rev 20:1-6 refers to long indefinite time between the two comings of Christ
 - ✓ In regard to end times:
 - ❖ Christ is now ruling while Satan is bound from deceiving the nations
 - ❖ Tribulation is experienced in the present age though Christ is ruling
 - ❖ Jesus will return again after which will be resurrection and judgment
 - ❖ Eternal Kingdom begins

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Critiquing Amillennialism

- Amillennialism in History
 - ✓ Premillennialism was the predominant view of the first 300 years of church history
 - ✓ Augustine (354-430) is often referred to as the "Father of Amillennialism" though he simply popularized the views of others.
 - ✓ Augustine's Amillennialism quickly became the accepted view of the church. Council of Ephesus in 431 condemned Premillennialism as superstitious.
 - ✓ Amillennialism became the official view of the Roman Catholic religion and later kept by reformers such as Martin Luther and John Calvin

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Critiquing Amillennialism

- Basic Issue: Revelation 20:1-3
 - ✓ Amillennial approach to interpreting Revelation is unacceptable and illogical
 - ❖ *Progressive Parallelism*—says that Revelation is not chronological or sequential but contains seven parallel divisions/perspectives that happen all at once
 - ❖ **PROBLEMS: No other Bible book interpreted this way and defies conclusions a natural reading would give**
 - ✓ Conflicts with NT’s descriptions of Satan’s present activities
 - ❖ 2 Cor 4:4; 1 Peter 5:8; Acts 5:3; 1 Thess 2:18; 1 John 5:19

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Premillennialism

- Beliefs
 - ✓ End times will see a 7-year Tribulation Period
 - ❖ Antichrist
 - ❖ Wrath of God
 - ❖ Visible return of Christ at the end
 - ❖ Establishment of millennial kingdom
 - ❖ Tribulation martyrs receive resurrection bodies
 - ❖ Believing survivors will reign
 - ❖ Satan will be bound
 - ❖ At end of 1,000 years, Satan is released
 - ❖ Satan will be defeated and sent permanently to lake of fire
 - ✓ Literal 1,000 years (most premillennialists)
 - ✓ Unlike other views of the millennium, Premill holds to future fulfillment

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Premillennialism

- ✓ Scriptural Support
 - ❖ Premillennialism has no trouble with any passage of Scripture
 - ❖ Based on literal chronological reading of Revelation
 - ❖ OT passages consistent with intermediate kingdom—Isaiah 65:20; Zech 14:5 - 17; Isaiah 11:6 - 11; Psalm 72:8 - 14
 - ❖ Strong emphasis in NT that Davidic Kingdom is FUTURE, not present—Matt 19:28; Matt 25:31; Acts 1:6
 - ❖ Promise of believers reigning with Christ in the future not present (Rev 20:1-6; 2:26-27; 5:10)

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Premillennialism

- ✓ Two Forms of Pre-Mill
- 1. Dispensational–
 - 1. National Israel saved and restored
 - 2. Literal 1,000 years
- 2. Historic–
 - 1. National Israel saved but blends into church
 - 2. Maybe 1,000 years or just a long time
- ✓ Premillennialism in Church History: Papias, Irenaeus, Justin Martyr, Tertullian, Hippolytus, Methodius, Lactanius, etc.–PAPIAS is key: Apostle John → Polycarp → Papias

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