

Premillennialism

Will Israel be restored to its land?

- Historic premillennialist vs dispensational premillennialist?
 - Historic premillennialists believe that scriptural prophecy, especially the passages in Daniel and Revelation, give the entire history of the Church in symbolic form. Thus, they look into the Church's past and present to find prophetic fulfillment and to see where they are in God's prophetic timetable. Most historic premillennialists hold that the nation of Israel will undergo a national salvation immediately before the millennium is established, but there will be no national restoration of Israel. Thus, the nation of Israel will not have a special role or function that is distinct from the Church. Historic premillennialists assert that the 1000 years is figurative for a long period of time, whereas most dispensational premillennialists hold that the millennium is for a literal 1000 years.

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 - Dispensational premillennialists hold that the second coming of Christ, and subsequent establishment of the millennial kingdom, is to be preceded by a seven-year-long period known as the “Tribulation,” the earthly activity of the Antichrist as well as the outpouring of God’s wrath on mankind. Dispensational premillennialists hold that the nation of Israel will be saved and restored to a place of preeminence in the millennium. Thus, Israel will have a special function of service in the millennium that is different from that of the Church. The millennium will be a period of history in which God reverts back to fulfilling His Old Testament promises made to ethnic Israel, after this modern “Church Age” in which we live today is concluded. As such, the millennium will be a state of Jewish dominion over all the world, along with a newly restored Jewish temple and priesthood.

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- It is held that the Old Testament prophets predicted the re-establishment of David's kingdom and that Christ himself intended to bring this about. It is alleged however, that because the Jews refused his person and work he postponed the establishment of his kingdom until the time of his return. Meanwhile, it is argued, the Lord gathered together "the church" as a kind of interim measure (Kevan 1999, 352).
- Generally, premillennialists believe that shortly before the second coming the world will be marked by extraordinary tribulation and evil and the appearance of the Anti-Christ. At his coming, Christ will destroy this anti-Christ and believers will be raised from the dead. There will then follow a millennium of peace and order over which Christ will reign with his saints. At the close of this time, Satan will be loosed and the forces of evil will once again be rampant. The wicked will then be raised, and a final judgment will take place in which Satan and all evil ones will be consigned to eternal punishment (Harvey 1964, 151).
- For centuries the Jews have been scattered among many nations. In preparation for the return of Christ and the beginning of the millennium, they are being gathered back to their own land, according to prophecy, in a national restoration. David's throne will be re-established at Jerusalem, and through these restored people as a nucleus Christ will reign with his immortal saints over the whole world (Nichols n.d., 279).

WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS...

What will happen when Christ comes again?

- Yes, Christ will come again
- No one knows except for God as to when Christ will come again
- When Christ comes again...
 - It will be the end of time on earth
 - Judgement upon the whole world will be based on His words
 - The dead in Christ will rise first
 - Those alive and in Christ will rise to meet Him
 - The Kingdom will be delivered up to the Father
 - Those not in Christ both dead and alive at that time will go away into eternal punishment away from the Lord

WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS...

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- The church and the kingdom
 - Where there is a *kingdom* there is what?
 - Matt 16:18-19 – I will build my *church*/ keys to the *kingdom*
 - Mark 9:1 – Will not taste death till they see the *kingdom*
 - Mark 15:43 – Was waiting for the *kingdom* of God
 - John 18:36 – My *Kingdom* is not of this world
 - Acts 1:6 – Are you restoring the *kingdom* to Israel?
 - Eph 1:22-23 – The *church*, which is His body
 - Col 1:13, 18 – Transferred us to the *kingdom*, head of the *church*
 - Acts 8:12 – Preaching about the *kingdom*
 - Acts 2:47 – NKJV, the Lord added to the *church*
 - 1 Cor 15:24 – He hands over the *kingdom* to God

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- Christ is the ultimate fulfillment of the promise
 - Acts 26:6-7 – The promise to the nation of Israel
 - Acts 28:20 – The hope of Israel
 - Gal 3:26-29 – You are Abrahams descendants
 - Rom 9:6-8 – Children of the promise are regarded as descendants
- Israel can be returned to God by faith
 - Rom 1:16 – Salvation to everyone who believes
 - Acts 13:46-48 – Bring salvation to the end of the earth
 - Rom 11:20-28 – God is able to graft them in again
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