

**Revelation 6: 1; The 4 Major Views of Revelation - Part 8,**  
**"Pre-Millennialism Concluded", Delivered by Pastor Paul Rendall**  
**on March 11th in the Afternoon Worship Service.**

**Read Revelation 1: 4-7 -**

Last week I tried to show you, in short compass, why the Pre-Millennial view of Christ's Second Coming is flawed. It is flawed, not because there will not be a Rapture, but it is flawed because it does not see Christ's Second Coming as one grand and glorious event in which both the righteous and the wicked; indeed all men, will participate in. When Christ comes "every eye will see Him". If you will remember the way that the verse reads in Revelation 1: 8, it becomes even clearer that the resurrection of all the dead will take place on that great Day; a Day which will be glorious for the righteous, but a Day of terror and anguish for all the wicked. Listen to the verse again. "Behold, He is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him." "And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him." "Even so, Amen." How can every eye see Him, even those who pierced Him, unless there is the resurrection of the dead at that point? Those who pierced Christ, the unbelieving Jews and the Roman soldiers have been dead and gone for almost 2000 years. But they shall see him that day, and it won't be a private showing. "All the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him," it says. You might be saying in your mind, "Well if this is true, why doesn't it speak of the righteous and their rejoicing at Christ's return?" "Why is only mourning mentioned?" The answer is, that when Christ returns on that Day, the first events of resurrection will be the raising of all the righteous dead, and then the Rapture or translation of the living saints who remain being caught up together with them. This will take place, according to 1 Corinthians 15: 52, "in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye." The verses in Revelation chapter one assume this. "He is coming with the clouds." We will be "caught up together with Christ in the clouds." Colossians 3, verse 4 says, "When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory." Very shortly after this will follow the confrontation by Christ and the holy angels of the living wicked. Then will follow the resurrection of all the wicked dead, and the judgment of all the wicked dead will then follow. We who know Him will be with Him for all of these events. All of God's dear people will return with Him to judge the world. And then we ourselves who are believers in the Lord Jesus will appear before the judgment seat of Christ to receive the reward according to what we have done in the body, whether good or bad.

But that this is all begins on the same great Day, I tried to show you last week. "Do not marvel at this," Jesus says in John 5: 28, "for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice and come forth--those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of condemnation." I would have you to notice that there is one hour for both resurrections; two vastly different kinds of resurrection. But both will take place on the same Day, even in the same hour. This fits in well with the parable that Jesus told of the wheat and the tares in Matthew 13: 30. "Let both grow together until the harvest, and at the time of the harvest I will say to the reapers (the angels), 'First gather the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them, but gather the wheat into my barn.'" And in explaining that parable in verse 40, Jesus says further, "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."

Now all that I have just said to you sets the stage for what I want to speak to you about concerning the Millennium this afternoon. My main question, to try to show you the error of Pre-Millennialism will be this. What is the "thousand years reign" which is mentioned in Revelation 20? And in answering this question I would like to make several statements which will relate to all the Millennial views.

**1st- The Millennium is directly related to the progress of Christ's kingdom during this present age.**

I am a Post-Millennialist and as such I believe that there will be a future time period in which the Church of Jesus Christ shall come to reign upon the earth. Perhaps some of you who are listening to me do not believe this because you are A-Millennial. But as we examine these views we must understand that the nature of what would be taking place in a Pre-Millennial Reign of Christ is quite a different thing from what the Post-Millennial Reign of Christ's Church shall be, as we shall see. This is a distinction that should be observed in matters related to prophecy. As the A-Millennial view asserts, Christ is presently reigning over the world, and over His Church. During this present evil age he is calling out God's chosen people to be His servants in righteousness and they are His propagators and defenders of truth. He would have them to be faithful and true witnesses because he has gone before them in this way of holiness. In past sermons I have tried to show you that Christians who hold the A-Millennial view of Christ's present spiritual reign have been defending the truth of Christ's Millennial reign from the standpoint of the conversion of the Elect in all generations of the Church age. Christ is reigning over the whole world, and over His church presently, now. He is seated at the right hand of the Father and reigning there presently. His kingdom shall not fail. Christ shall not fail to save any one of God's chosen people. But with the A-Millennial view it does not appear to me that there has been sufficient consideration taken of the systematic oppositions which Satan has raised up against Christ's kingdom, which have been and are preventing a greater advance of that kingdom than we have seen thus far in Church history. I speak of this from the human perspective. I am well aware that God is sovereign and He does as He pleases in all the earth, and that He does everything according to His eternal purpose in Election. He does however, hold us, His Church, responsible for striving together for the gospel and the advancement of His truth which is found in the Bible.

The reason that A-Millennialism does not give greater consideration to the organized operations of Satan among the nations is because of their view of the binding of Satan. They link the binding of Satan in Revelation 20 with Christ's 1st coming; Christ's death and resurrection have bound him and are now presently preventing him from obstructing the conversion of God's Elect. Christ has broken down the barrier between Jew and Gentile and they know that there are not two programs of God in salvation; one for Israel and one for the Church. They correctly see that all that will happen in conversion work, including the future conversion of the Jews(if that event happens), and the building Christ's Church, will take place before Christ's Second Coming. But in the A-millennial position there is not sufficient Biblical knowledge brought forth concerning how the Church is going to come to reign upon the earth. They either believe that Christ's kingdom is presently reigning upon the earth in the conversion of the Elect, or that the Church will reign when Christ returns, in the New Heavens and New Earth. But I do not believe, and Post-Millennialists do not believe, that there has been enough mention made of the progress of truth and righteousness as is prophesied shall take place during this present age. This is what the book of Revelation is all about from Chapters 6 - 21. It is how the Church overcomes the systematic oppositions of Satan and comes to that place of victory as a kingdom over all other kingdoms. Revelation 11:

15 says, "Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, 'The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever!'" It is not the first angel that says this, it is the 7th, which means the victory among the nations of the world comes later in the Church age rather than at the beginning of Church history. The book of Revelation is the history of how Christ's Church comes to reign upon the earth, even as He presently reigns in heaven. We pray, "Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." This is what the book of Revelation is all about. The Millennium of Revelation 20 is that glorious time within this present evil age when the cause of Christ will triumph in the earth and among the nations of the world. Psalm 72: 8-11 say, "He shall have dominion also from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth." "Those who dwell in the wilderness will bow before Him, and His enemies will lick the dust." "The kings of Tarshish and of the isles will bring presents; the kings of Sheba and Seba will offer gifts." "Yes, all kings shall fall down before Him; All nations shall serve Him." This time surely has not come to pass as of yet, in human history. In the context of the verses which follow in that Psalm it appears to be speaking about a time before Christ's second coming, a time when "the needy cry to Him, the poor and him who has no helper." The Millennium is still to be found in the time and Day of salvation, before Christ returns.

The Pre-Millennialist believes that things are going to get much worse in the world. They often try to use 1 Timothy 3: 13 to show that this is true in an eschatological sense. "But evil men and imposters will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived." But this verse is simply making a statement of the progression of evil in evil men during "the last times", as a principle. It is something which is true during the whole church age, and does not indicate the progression of evil generally, in the world. Those who hold the Dispensational Pre-Millennial view believe that eventually, after "the gospel is preached to all the nations", the Lord will come to Rapture His Church and to take her out of the world before a time of "Great Tribulation". I do not believe that the 7 year Tribulation, which they believe will come, can be proved from the Scriptures. I have read Sir Robert Anderson's work, The Coming Prince, on the 70 weeks prophecy of Daniel, but still cannot be convinced that the prophecy in Daniel 9: 24-27 shows anything other than a prophecy foretelling the time when Christ would come the first time, and when all things would then be fulfilled in regard to His confirming a New covenant through Jesus Christ, with His ancient people the Jews. It is Christ who is the "confirms a covenant with many" for the one week of His earthly ministry. The Jews then, in their general rejection of their Messiah, suffer the destruction of Jerusalem by Titus in 70 A.D. which is spoken of in verse 26 and 28. There is no evidence of a "gap theory" there, and no mention of Antichrist in those verses that I can see. You simply have 490 years in 3 sections of fulfillment. Pre-Millennialists believe that there is a gap in the fulfillment of the 70 weeks which pushes the fulfillment of the 70th week until after the Rapture of the Church; a conclusion which simply cannot be proved. They insist then, that during that seven-year period of time, that the Antichrist will be revealed, and it will take Christ's personal visible 2nd Coming to bring about His Millennial kingdom. The Millennium in other words will be another age. This is the Dispensational Pre-Millennial view. The Jews will be converted at the end of the Tribulation and God will take up His program with them again in this new Dispensation. But this view that the Millennium will be a new age has some real problems attendant upon it, whether you are a Dispensational or Historical Pre-Millennialist. This leads me to my second statement.

**2ndly- The Millennium relates to gospel prosperity in this present age, and not a mixed state of grace and glory in another age.**

Turn with me to Revelation 20. It says this in verse 1, "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 of 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." Then 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." "Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison..." This surely is a picture of gospel prosperity in symbolic form. Satan is bound, and a spiritual resurrection takes place. It is of the souls of those who had not worshiped the Antichristian beast in either of his 2 major forms. Is this a literal resurrection from the dead? It cannot possibly be so, if it is only souls that are raised. And yet, the Pre-Millennial position requires that we believe it to be so. If we are to believe the Pre-Millennial view, we must somehow come to believe that there will be people who are believers who are resurrected and glorified, and who have been made perfectly holy, inhabiting the same earth with people who are believers or unbelievers that have come through the "Great Tribulation" and into this Millennium. Sometimes the Pre-Millennial writers speak of the resurrected saints as being in the heavenly realm only. Sometimes they are spoken of by Pre-Millennial writers as those who may come visit the earth or even live on the earth with sinners and saints who have not yet been resurrected. But what confusion is this. The Kingdom of heaven has come to earth, Christ has returned for His own, and yet many are not changed or resurrected? This cannot be the case; that sinful people, people born with a sinful nature inherited from Adam will somehow later, after Christ has returned, be saved by a Christ who is seated in Jerusalem instead of a Christ now seated in heaven. "Sit at My right hand until I make all your enemies a footstool for your feet," says the Father to the Son in Psalm 110. It does not say "some of your enemies." When do those who are born during the Millennium to people here upon the earth, get to be resurrected? The Pre-Millennial view believes that it is only the wicked dead that are resurrected at that time, at the end of the thousand years. It is a wonder that those who believe in this system do not just plainly stare at the words of 1 Corinthians 15: 22 and 23. "For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive." "But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who are Christ's at His coming." "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." This shows conclusively that when Christ comes, then comes the only resurrection of the believing dead. If there is a resurrection afterwards of believers, then this passage cannot be true. "In Christ all shall be made alive." That is, that all believers will be raised from the dead. And besides this, all rulers, all authority and power on earth shall then be put to an end. There cannot be a re-established Jewish Theocracy or any Gentile rule among the nations because there will be no rule except God's after Christ returns. There cannot be a Millennium after Christ returns; there is something else coming which is far, far better. And that is the New Heavens and the New Earth in which dwells righteousness. This will be the Eternal State. There will not be a mixed state of grace and glory. If there is to be a Biblical millennium, it therefore must come before the Second Coming of Christ. And I personally believe that it will. I will speak more about it as I preach to you next week on Post-Millennialism.

