

Parson to Person

Galatians 1

(Introduction – Part 5)

The Gospel of Grace vs. The Gospel of the Kingdom (Debunking Preterism)

“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. This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.

Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison and will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle, whose number is as the sand of the sea. They went up on the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them. The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever” (Revelation 20:1–10).

Amillennialism/Postmillennialism and Replacement Theology

In eschatology there are two closely aligned (but erroneous) belief systems. One is Amillennialism and the other is Postmillennialism.

Amillennialism asserts that there is no literal 1000-year physical reign of Jesus on the earth. The adherents to Amillennialism assert that Jesus inaugurated His earthly reign at His birth and is presently reigning through the Church. Their understanding is that the millennium is a figure of speech, illustrative of the entire Church Age, and will come to an end at the Second Coming when Christ returns to judge (think The Great White Throne Judgment) and bring to fruition the New Heaven and New Earth.

Postmillennialism asserts that there is no literal 1000-year physical reign of Jesus on earth. The adherents to Postmillennialism assert that Jesus inaugurated His earthly reign at His birth and is presently reigning through the Church. Their understanding is that the millennium is a figure of speech, illustrative of the entire Church Age, and will come to an end when the Church successfully establishes Jesus' Kingdom on earth—in order to usher in His Second Coming when Christ returns to judge (think The Great White Throne Judgment) making way for the New Heaven and New Earth.

The distinction here is that Postmillennialism generally suggests that the behavior of the Church (as the present working Kingdom) works to Christianize the world in order to provide welcome to Christ at His Second Coming. This is the root of “Christian Nationalism/Globalism”—a motivation for Roman Catholic and similar Protestant denominational world domination.

Both Amillennialism and Postmillennialism are false teachings. They use allegory and symbolism to reinterpret Scripture in order to explain what would otherwise be thought as literal. Generally, both Amillennialists and Postmillennialists also embrace Supersessionism/Replacement Theology. This is the belief that the Church is “The Israel of God” and that

all future prophecies concerning the land and people of Israel are fulfilled in and through the Church.

As a church, Candlelight rejects Amillennialism, Postmillennialism, and Replacement Theology.

Preterism

A fundamental to the Amillennial/Postmillennial Supersessionist/Replacement theologians is Preterism. “Praeter” is Latin meaning “past.”

Full Preterists believe all prophecy was fulfilled in the past (in A.D. 70), including the resurrection of the dead and Jesus’ invisible Second Coming.

Partial Preterists believe most prophecy has been fulfilled but reserve the Second Coming and resurrection of the dead for the future.

Generally, both full and partial Preterists believe that the Law was fulfilled in A.D. 70 and that God’s covenant with Israel was ended at that time. Moreover, Preterists believe that the New Heavens and New Earth is a description of the world under the New Covenant. They suggest that the “new creation” attributed to regenerated Christians (2 Corinthians 5:17) also applies to the world under the now present New Covenant.

As a church, Candlelight rejects Preterism, and believes that there is a future age literal 1000-year earthly reign of Christ that will follow the 7-year Tribulation—after which will be the Great White Throne Judgment and the New Heavens and New Earth (see our dispensational model.)

Against Preterism—A.D. 70 Fulfillment?

Preterists hold Matthew 24 and the Book of Revelation as primarily a prophecy about the Roman war against the Jews in Israel—beginning about A.D. 67 and ending with the destruction of the Temple in A.D. 70 and death of the final holdouts in Masada, Israel in A.D. 73.

Preterists suggest that the Book of Revelation was written by A.D. 65 or 66. This is the only way the preterist interpretation can be a possibility. However, much evidence suggests a later date.

Why Preterism Fails:

- a. Prophesied World Devastation vs. The Localized Devastation that occurred in Jerusalem in 70 A.D.
(See Matthew 24, Revelation 4–19, Ezekiel 38–39, etc.)
- b. Drying up of the Suez Canal, Euphrates River, and Nile River
(Isaiah 11, Revelation 16, Zechariah 10)
- c. Damascus Remains.
(Isaiah 17)
- d. The Mount of Olives has yet to be “*split in two.*”
(Zechariah 14:4)
- e. The Dead Sea is Still Dead.
(Zechariah 14:8, Ezekiel 47:1–12)
- f. Israel Will Dwell in Permanent Peace vs. The Wars and Rumors of Wars of Today
(Ezekiel 30, 37:26, Haggai 2, etc.)
- g. God’s failure to keep His promise to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.
- h. (More can be demonstrated...)

The dating of the Book of Revelation is a key attribute of our Premillennial views. Therefore, the late date of the writing of Revelation (95-96 A.D) demands a Futurist view of the Tribulation, Millennial Kingdom, and The New Heavens and New Earth. In fact, the date The Book of Revelation was written is mute when one understands the failure of Preterism and the future events that are clearly unfulfilled—and therefore will be in days to come.

Why the Late Date for the writing of The Book of Revelation is supported:

- a. Antipas of Pergamum Martyrdom (Disciple of John)
(Bishop of Pergamum) (Martyred in 92 Under Emperor Domitian)

b. John Banished to Patmos in 94-95 A.D.

(Under Domitian)

c. John Released from Patmos and Returns to Ephesus (Under Emperor Nerva in 96 A.D.)

More can be said. However, time and space limits further documentation. I think this is enough.

I love you all,

Pastor Paul