

Unlocking The Mystery & Treasure Of My Inheritance

#2 The Prophetic Word Of God

The Prophetic Word: I believe the Bible is a REVELATION of God, the Fall of Man, the Way of Salvation and of God's Plan and Purpose in the Ages. The Bible reveals:

1. 4 Persons: God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit and Satan.
2. 3 places: Heaven, Earth and Hell
3. 3 Classes of People: The Jew, the Gentile and The Church of Jesus Christ

God's Word Was Given To Us Piece-Meal.

Heb. 1:1 God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets...

Holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit [II Pet. 1:21].

It covers a period of 1600 years [from 1492 BC - 100 AD].

There are 66 books: 39 OT and 27 NT. They were written by about 40 different authors.

God's Word is unlike any other "sacred book." It bases its authenticity and authority on PROPHECY. No other books contain predictions for the future.

Fulfilled prophecy is STRONG EVIDENCE for the inspiration of the Scriptures.

Miracle of Inspiration: (1) There is an integrated message, a progress of revelation and doctrine. "The New Testament is hidden in the Old Testament. The Old Testament is revealed in the New Testament." Ex: You cannot understand Leviticus without Hebrews; you cannot understand Daniel without Revelation.

(2) Evidence of supernatural origin: It can be translated into any language and not lose its virility or spiritual life giving power.

Language Styles: (1) Figurative - Expressions such as "Harden not your heart,"

"let the dead bury the dead," are figurative. Their meaning is made clear by the context.

(2) Symbolical - Description of Nebuchadnezzar's "Colossus," Daniel's "Four Wild Beasts," or Christ in "the midst of the 7 candlesticks," are explained either in the same chapter or elsewhere in the Bible.

(3) Literal - Interpreted to let the Bible say what it says and not allegorize or spiritualize it.

Terms: 1. Dispensational Truth = God's Plan & Purpose In The Ages

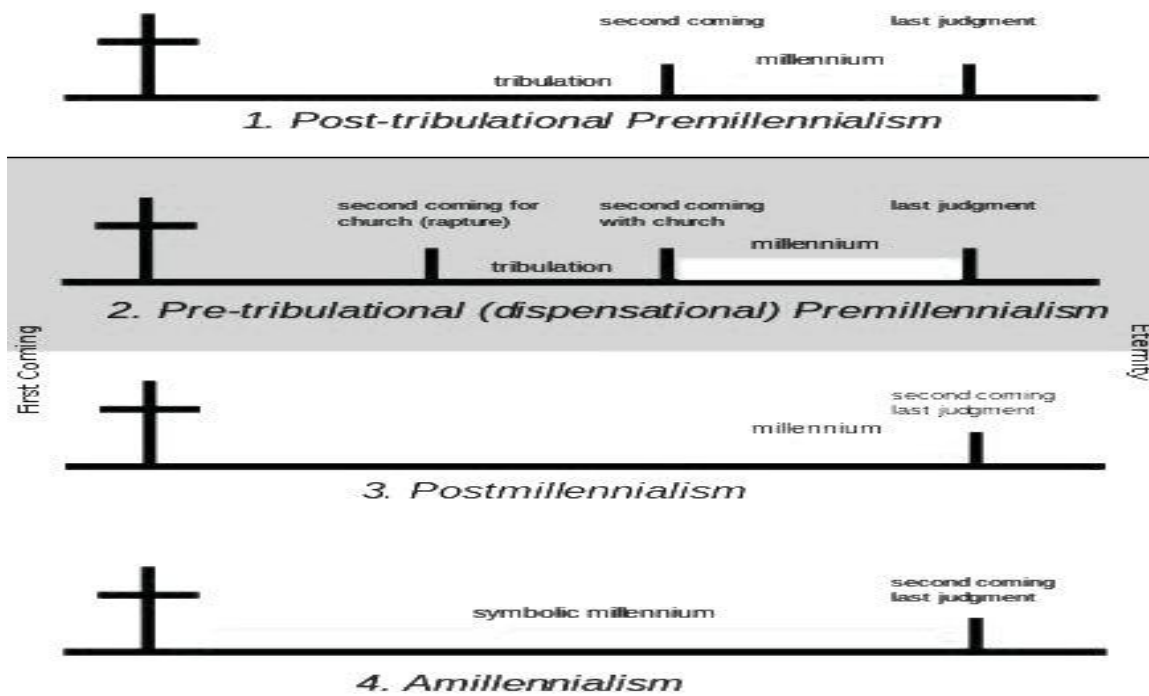
The TIME of The 2nd Coming of Jesus Christ is The Key that UNLOCKS "Dispensational Truth."

Truth: Most Christians believe Jesus Christ is returning, but they differ as to the TIME.

A. Pre-Millennialists = Jesus Christ will return BEFORE the Millennium.

Side Note: I am Pre-Millennial Futurist: I interpret the language of the Apocalypse "literally," except such symbols when they are named. I believe Revelation from 4:1 - the end is future and unfulfilled. Revelation 6-19 describes the future events of the last week of Daniel's 70 Weeks.

B. Post-Millennialists = Jesus Christ will return AFTER the Millennium.



Note: The Millennium is defined as the period of 1000 years in Rev. 20:1-7.

Satan Bound 1,000 Years: Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. ² He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is *the* Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; ³ 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.

The Saints Reign with Christ 1,000 Years ⁴ 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. ⁵ But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This *is* the first resurrection. ⁶ 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.

Critics of the pre-millennialist's view say we base our belief mainly on these 7 verses.

Truth: The OT is replete with the teaching of the "Coming of the Messiah" as pre-millennial.

God's Word: 1. OT prophets in plain language and in glowing terms, foretold an era or age of universal righteousness and peace on this earth, under the reign of "Messiah the Prince."

2. The disciples believed in an "earthly Kingdom" ruled over by their promised Messiah. Jesus NEVER reproved them for this belief.

3. After His resurrection but before His Ascension, the disciples asked Him if He would "at that time restore the Kingdom to Israel" [Acts 1:6].

Note His answer:

a. He did not say you are mistaken in your belief of an "earthly Kingdom," and I am referring to a "spiritual Kingdom." [Many believe it is a spiritual Kingdom only.]

b. Acts 1:7 Jesus said, "It is not for you to know the Times and Seasons which the Father has put in His own authority.

Acts 17:26 And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their PREAPPOINTED TIMES and the boundaries of their dwellings,

Note #1 Seasons are the climatic changes of earth due to: movements & changing characteristics of the Sun, Moon, and Stars which God ordained to regulate the seasons.

Note #2 Times:

I. Time Past

Heb. 1:1 God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in TIME PAST to the fathers by the prophets...

A. It began with Creation and the Garden of Eden and ended with the cross.

1. A subset of TIME PAST includes a period from Creation to Moses.

a. Times Of Ignorance: Acts 17:29-30 Therefore, since we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone, something shaped by art and man's devising. ³⁰ Truly, These Times Of Ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent,

b. Without Law: Rom. 2:12 For as many as have sinned Without Law will also perish without law, and as many as have sinned in the law will be judged by the law

2. A 2nd subset of TIME PAST is the Times of The Gentiles which started in 606 BC [see below]

II. Last Days - A. Began after the Cross until the end of time [does not include eternity]

Heb. 1:2 has in these Last Days spoken to us by *His* Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds;

Acts 3:20 and that He may send Jesus Christ, who was preached to you before,

1. There are 2 subsets of Last Days:

a. Times of the Gentiles

Luke 21:24 And they will fall by the edge of the sword, and be led away captive into all nations. And Jerusalem will be trampled by Gentiles until the Times Of The Gentiles are fulfilled.

Note #1: Times of the Gentiles started in 606 BC [Time Past] with King Nebuchadnezzar when the Jews were taken captive to Babylon.

Note #2: Times of the Gentiles will end at the 2nd Coming of Jesus Christ [Revelation of His Glory & Kingship] at the end of the 7 year Tribulation Period [Time of Jacob's Trouble]

b. Times Of Restitution Note: This begins with the 2nd Coming

Acts 3:21 whom the heaven must receive until the Times Of Restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began.

Note: There are 2 subsets during this time.

(1)Times Of Refreshing - The Millennium

Acts 3:19 Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that Times Of Refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord,

Isa. 35:1-10 Describes the Millennium & The Future Glory of Zion

(2) Fullness Of Times - The New Earth

Eph. 1:10 that in the dispensation of the Fullness Of Times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; *even* in him:

Consider: The Times Of The Gentiles: When the "Gentiles" are in power, the Jews are not.

Since we are in THE TIMES OF THE GENTILES, is it possible for the Church to be the governing or Kingdom power?

Within the framework of TIME [Time Past & The Last Days], there are 3 Ages.

1. Antediluvian Age > Extends from The Fall To The Flood

2. The Present Age > Extends from The Flood to the Second Coming Of Jesus Christ

3. The Age of Ages > Extends from the 2nd Coming to the End Of TIME

Age = From one cataclysmic or climatic change to another in the earth's surface or condition

a. Result of Flood: Gen. 7:11 Great cataclysmic changes > "the fountains of the great deep were broken up." Great physical changes affected the climate of the earth. Length of life was reduced from 900 yrs. to 100 years and later to threescore and ten.

b. We have been in "The Present Age" since the flood.

c. Next cataclysmic change is at Christ's 2nd coming to establish His millennial kingdom
Results of flood will be reversed.

Zech. 14:4,10 And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, Which faces Jerusalem on the east. And the Mount of Olives shall be split in two, From east to west, *Making* a very large valley; Half of the mountain shall move toward the north and half of it toward the south. All the land shall be turned into a plain from Geba to Rimmon south of Jerusalem. *Jerusalem* shall be raised up...

Zech. 14:8 And in that day it shall be *That* living waters shall flow from Jerusalem, Half of them toward the eastern sea and half of them toward the western sea;
In both summer and winter it shall occur.

This means: The Dead Sea which is now 1200' below the Mediterranean, will be elevated, its water flow south to the Red Sea, lose its saltiness and be filled with fish. [Ezek. 47:1-12 states fishermen spread their nets upon its shores.]

This cataclysmic change will restore the life-sustaining power of the atmosphere as before the Flood. [Isa. 65:20] Many will live the length of the Millennium.

The Premillennial View of Prophecy:

Critics: 1. It is a late invention and view! It didn't exist before 1830.

2. Maintain the traditional teaching of the early church was amillennial or postmillennial.

A. Amillennial: Jesus Christ WILL NOT literally return to earth to establish His Kingdom.

1. Revelation is simply a description of events that progressively unfold DURING the Church Age. Many events in Revelation have already taken place; a few are still to come.

2. The seals, trumpets, vials, angels and other elements are merely parts of a lengthy allegory

that imparts spiritual lessons to the faithful.

3. Literal, historical and grammatical methods of study are futile.

B. Post-millenniasts: During His earthly ministry, the Messianic Kingdom WAS established by Jesus.

1. They foresee the gradual arrival of Christ's Kingdom on earth.

2. Through the efforts of the CHURCH, a time will come when the Gospel covers the world.

3. When the Great Commission is fulfilled, righteousness will become the standard.

4. History will draw to a close as Christ steps out of the heavens.

5. His return will be physical and visible. THEN He will rule "on the basis of man's triumph."

Problems of the above 2 views:

A. Both take great liberties with literal Scriptural interpretation.

B. Both views obliterate the Bible's CLEAR teaching that Israel will, in the latter days, rise to become head of the nations. Also, at that time, the throne of David will be occupied by Jesus Christ... literally and physically.

Truth: The early church was given clear instruction there would be a future millennium: a literal 1000 year earthly Kingdom ruled by the Messiah on the throne of David.

Note #1 Paul taught that national Israel had been temporarily set aside, to be re-gathered in the latter days to a central position in the affairs of the Lord.

Rom. 11:25 For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.

Terms: Fullness Of The Gentiles: From the beginning of the Church [Pentecost] until the last person is born again. This completes the CHURCH and it is raptured!

Times Of The Gentiles: Began with King Nebuchadnezzar and the exile of the Jewish Nation; Will Finish at His 2nd Coming when Israel is restored and the Gentile ruling is defeated!

Rom. 11:26-27 And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written:

"The Deliverer will come out of Zion, And He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob;
27 For this *is* My covenant with them, When I take away their sins."

Note #2 Paul also wrote prophetically of a man who would stand in a literal Jerusalem Temple and proclaim himself to be God.

II Thess. 2:3-4 Let no one deceive you by any means; for *that Day will not come* unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, ⁴ who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.

Consider: For this to happen, Israel must build the 3rd Temple.

Note #3 Jesus spoke of this future event, teaching that Daniel's prophecy of the "abomination of desolation" was a LITERAL, future experience that would greatly affect those in Judea.

Consider: By spiritualizing these verses, it is possible to claim they have already happened or

they are in the process of happening. A literal, historical, grammatical approach reveals them as events in latter-day Israel.

C. BOTH views claim theirs is the traditional teaching of the church! Is this True???

Moved Away From Sound Doctrine - How? When?

1. The Apostolic Church was Pre-Millennial and for over 200 years, no other view was entertained. The writings of the "Church Fathers" abound in evidence of this fact.

2. Central issue began with the spiritualization of Scripture. Origen said the words of Scripture were but the "husk in which was hid the kernel" of scripture truth.

Schaff: *History of the Christian Church*: "In Alexandria, Origen opposed chiliasm [belief in a literal 1000 year future millennial reign of Jesus Christ] as a Jewish dream.

He spiritualized the symbolical language of the prophets."

3. Beginning of 3rd Century AD: Origen of Alexandria rose to confront the then-common pre-millennial belief system of the early church.

a. He had been a disciple of Clement who taught him an allegorical method of interpreting Scripture. He spiritualized the Apostles' doctrine.

b. Instead of a literal 2nd coming, he taught that the universe would be spiritually restored to its original, pristine state. He said Christ would come in an individual way to each believer - NOT a general, physical coming.

4. Sound doctrine was soon trampled under the weight of the great changes taking place in the Roman Empire.

a. "Christianity" triumphed under Constantine and was embraced by the Caesars.

b. The rise of the state-church presented a problem:

(1) Belief: Bible says Rome will be the seat of the Antichrist. "Is Constantine the Antichrist?"

(2) This was rejected! Needed a new view! "Antichrist is Pagan Rome."

(3) The Millennium BEGAN when Constantine ascended the throne.

(4) Constantine bestowed many gifts and privileges on the Church.

(5) Now they believed: The Millennial blessings of the OT had been transferred from the Jews to the Christian Church.

c. Schaff: The Millennial reign began to be dated either from: (1) the first appearance of Christ

(2) the conversion of Constantine and the downfall of paganism

d. The Millennial reign was now regarded as realized in the glory of the dominant imperial state-church."

5. Protesters refused to back down and continued to claim the Papal Church was the Antichrist.

6. The state-church tried unsuccessfully to expunge Revelation from the sacred canon.

Therefore, the Bible became "chained to the pulpits" and the Dark Ages settled in.

7. Even during the Dark, some groups such as the Waldenses, Albigeneses and others bore testimony to the Pre-Millennial return of Jesus Christ.

8. By 5th century > Augustine's book > *City Of God* > solidified amillennial teaching.

9. For the next 1400 years, spiritualized theology was the accepted method of explaining the Bible - both historically and prophetically. [Pergamos & Thyatira]

Result of Spiritualizing: The Church largely ceased to look for the Lord to return and set up His earthly Kingdom.

Truth: The OT SHOUTS of the fulfillment of the Abrahamic Covenant with its 300,000 sq. miles of territory, its Throne of David, upon which is seated Jesus Christ - Messiah. The NT specifically states that it lasts 1000 years.

To say there is NO Millennium, is to say Scripture cannot be literally believed!

The Light Begins To Shine In The Dark: The Doctrine of the Pre-Millennial return was revived by the reformers. However, this period was witness to much religious strife and the formation of many new religious sects. The demand for a NEW view of the Millennial Reign Of Christ arose due to their refusal to believe the world was fast ripening for judgment.

1. Daniel Whitby [1638-1726] - After reading Scripture regarding promises made to the Jews and the re-establishment of the Throne of David, he claimed these promises were spiritual and should be applied to the Church.

Note: He said the establishment of an outward and visible kingdom at Jerusalem over which Christ and His saints would reign, is gross and carnal. It is contrary to reason because it implies the mingling together of human and spiritual beings on earth. [It will happen!]

Note: Rev. 3:21 To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne. Where is HIS THRONE?

2. His New View: (a) By preaching the Gospel: Mohammedanism would be overthrown, the Jews converted, the Papal Church with the Pope [Antichrist] would be destroyed.

(b) THEN would follow 1000 years of righteousness and peace.

(c) At the end, there would be a short time of apostasy and then Jesus would return.

Note: The times were VERY FAVORABLE for this new view.

They were experiencing "The Great Awakening" with evangelists like Whitefield and Wesley. It looked as though the Millennium was about to be ushered in.

Note: Although it became evident they were not in the Millennium, this became an established doctrine of the Church.

SAD Note: This false doctrine of Post-Millennialism is taught by the headings of chapters in the OT by some publishers. Ex. Isaiah 43 & 44 [The Lord Comforts The Church With His Promises: Should be Israel; Jacob] Revelation [Of Jesus Christ].

The Second and Pre-Millennial Coming Of Jesus Christ is the "Key" to the Scriptures.

All prophetic writings make this event their terminal end.

This "Sure Word Of Prophecy" is given as a light to show us the way over the stormy sea of time. [II Pet. 1:19] Prophecy is NOT a haphazard guess; it is history written in advance.