

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **Revelation 20:1-6**.
- B. See attached chart used in this lesson.
- C. One of the most popular religious doctrines today is that of premillennialism. This doctrine says that the end will come when Jesus returns to earth and sits on David's throne in Jerusalem and reigns in His kingdom for 1,000 years. After this period of time then will the universe be destroyed and judgment take place.
- D. As we conclude our series on The End Is Coming, we shall briefly discuss premillennialism and show why the Bible really doesn't teach it.

I. BRIEF REVIEW.

- A. In Part 1, we looked at how many things of the Christian Age will come to an end when Jesus returns.
- B. In Part 2, we looked at five passages explaining the resurrection of all souls and the judgment to follow.
- C. In Part 3, we looked at Mt. 24 and concluded that v1-35 deals with the fall in Jerusalem in 70AD and that v36-51 deal with the end of the Xian age.
- D. Tonight is the final lesson in this series.

II. FOUR MAIN POINTS TO BE COVERED.

- A. Point One: the kingdom prophesied will not arrive until Jesus comes again (according to Premillennialism). This is not true.
- B. Point Two: the church is a substitute (or stop gap measure) and originally intended by God as the unit of His covenant people under X. This is not true.
- C. Point Three: that Jesus is not sitting on David's throne in heaven and He will only do so when He returns to the earth for 1,000 years. This is not true.
- D. Point Four: X is to reign in Jerusalem for 1,000 years having then established His kingdom. This is not true.
- E. One of the most popular books written on this subject; a best seller for the decade of the 70's is The Late Great Planet Earth by Hal Lindsay. I will be taking selected passages from this book as to support the erroneous pre-millennial position.

III. THE KINGDOM, ISRAEL, AND THE CHURCH.

- A. According to premillennialism, God's promise to Abraham to set up a kingdom will not be carried out until Jesus comes back to the earth to reign in Jerusalem for 1,000 years.
- B. Lindsay believed that this millennium would begin in either 1988 or 1995.
- C. Quote from LGPE, page 165; and LGPE, page 33.
- D. Lindsay errs in his doctrine and in his understanding the fulfillment of the prophecies made to Abraham.
- E. God made three covenants with Abraham:
 - 1. The Land covenant (Gen. 15:18-21).
 - 2. The Seed covenant (Gen. 12:1-3).
 - 3. The covenant of circumcision (Gen. 17:9-13).
- F. The NT teaches that God has fulfilled all three of these promises:
 - 1. The Land covenant was fulfilled in Joshua (Jo. 24:43-45).
 - 2. The Seed covenant was fulfilled in Christ (Gal. 3:6-9,29).
 - 3. The covenant of Circumcision was fulfilled in Gal. 5:6.
- G. Israel took the land of Palestine by force, not by Biblical prophetic right in 1948.

- H. To take Mt. 24 out of context and apply it to May 14, 1948 and say that the millennium will begin in 1988 or 1995 is false.

IV. **THE CHURCH IS ONLY A TEMPORARY SUBSTITUTE.**

- A. According to the pre-millennial theories, God never intended, through X, to set up the church. It was only after Jesus rejected X, that the church was brought into existence as a type of temporary substitute until Jesus would return a second time to set up His kingdom.
- B. This particular theory comes from a basic misunderstanding of Daniel's 70 weeks as prophesied in Dan. 9 and a misunderstanding of the nature of God's kingdom.
(See chart to illustrate the 3 views of the 70 weeks of Daniel.)
- C. There are many passages in the NT showing that to speak of one being in the church also means they are part of the kingdom too (Mic. 4:1,2; Mt. 16:18,19; also 3:2 and 4:17; Mk. 9:1; Lk. 9:27; Col. 1:13; Rom. 14:17; Heb. 12:22-24,28).
- D. See how Paul makes the church the end product in Eph. 3:3-11. The church is not a substitute for the real kingdom to come, the church is the kingdom fulfilled.

V. **JESUS AND DAVID'S THRONE.**

- A. It is contended by the pre-millennialists that even though it was prophesied for Jesus to sit on David's throne as king, He will only do so when He returns for His millennial reign on earth.
- B. Quote from LGPE, page 159.
- C. Jesus was seated on David's throne in heaven at His ascension. He sits and reigns there now (Zech. 6:12,13; Lk. 1:31-33; Ac. 2:29-36; Heb. 1:3; 8:1).
- D. Paul says that X is seated in the heavenly places far above all rule, authority, power and dominion. Jesus sits as king on David's throne in heaven! (Eph. 1:20-23).
- E. It is false to believe that Jesus is yet to sit on David's throne in Jerusalem on earth and reign there for 1,000 years.

VI. **THE MILLENNIUM... WHAT IT DOESN'T MEAN.**

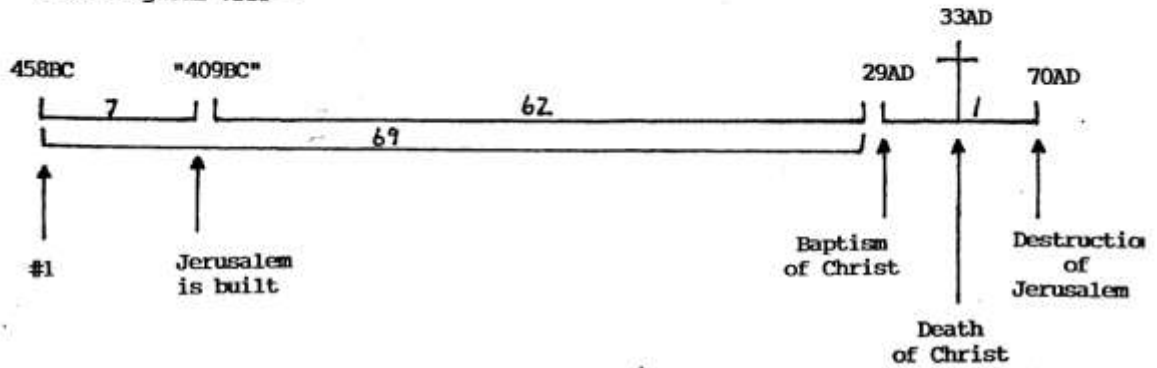
- A. Revelation 20:1-6 is a very difficult passage of scripture to understand. For me to use a brief time in this sermon to try and fully explain the text is impossible.
- B. Quote from LGPE, page 166.
- C. Lindsay says that there will come a revived Roman Empire only to be crushed by the millennial kingdom of X at Armageddon. Revelation 20 teaches no such thing.
- D. By looking at the text let me make some observations. This is my opinion, my theory of what the millennium means:
 - 1. The millennium begins at the cross or the day of Pentecost (Rev. 20:2,3; Mt. 12:29; Jn. 12:31-33; Heb. 2:14,15; Col. 2:14,15).
 - 2. The millennium is said to last as long as X reigns with the saints (Rev. 20:6; 4:4; Eph. 2:6; 2Tim. 2:12).
 - 3. The reign ends when X delivers the church (kingdom) to the Father (1Cor. 15:23-28).
 - 4. The "rest of the dead" are non-Xians (20:5) who at the end of time will be raised for destruction with Satan (20:7-10).
- E. My conclusion is that the millennium is a figurative time period of a 1,000 years, and represents the church age. It stands for the period of time between Calvary and the second coming. This millennium is followed by Satan's ultimate destruction, the final "white throne judgment" and for the faithful the eternal bliss of heaven.

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

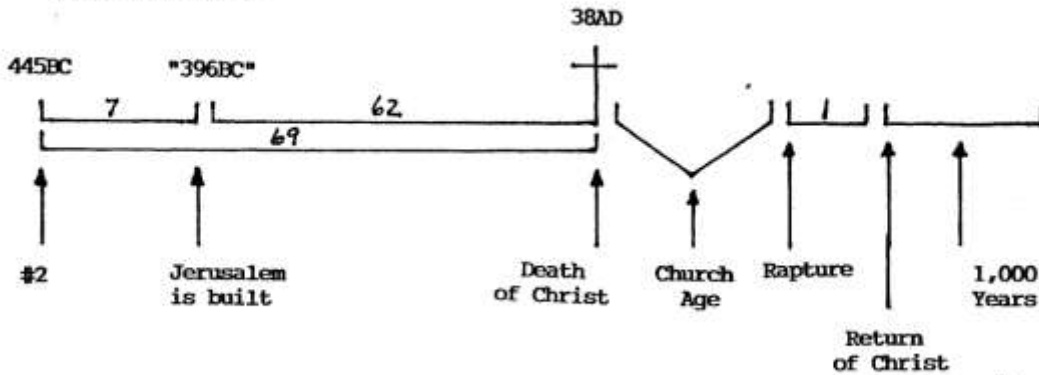
- A. We have covered a lot of ground tonight in a very short time. By way of summary here is what we have said tonight:
 - 1. The kingdom has arrived on the earth and it is the church.
 - 2. The church is not a substitute or stop-gap measure due to God's original plan being altered by the rejection of X.
 - 3. X now sits David's throne in heaven.
 - 4. There is no coming 1,000 year reign of X on earth known as the millennium.
- B. With this lesson we conclude our series on The End Is Coming.
- C. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; erring Xians.

THE SEVENTY WEEKS OF DANIEL (Dan. 9:24-27)

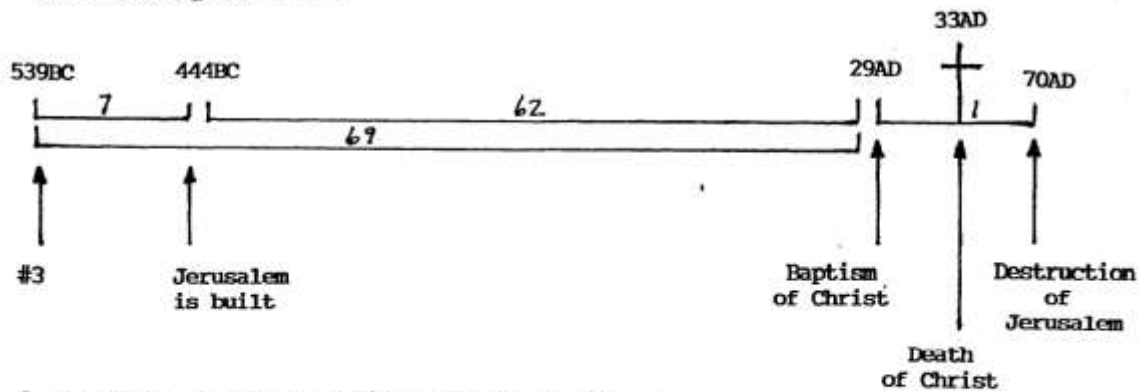
Chronological View—



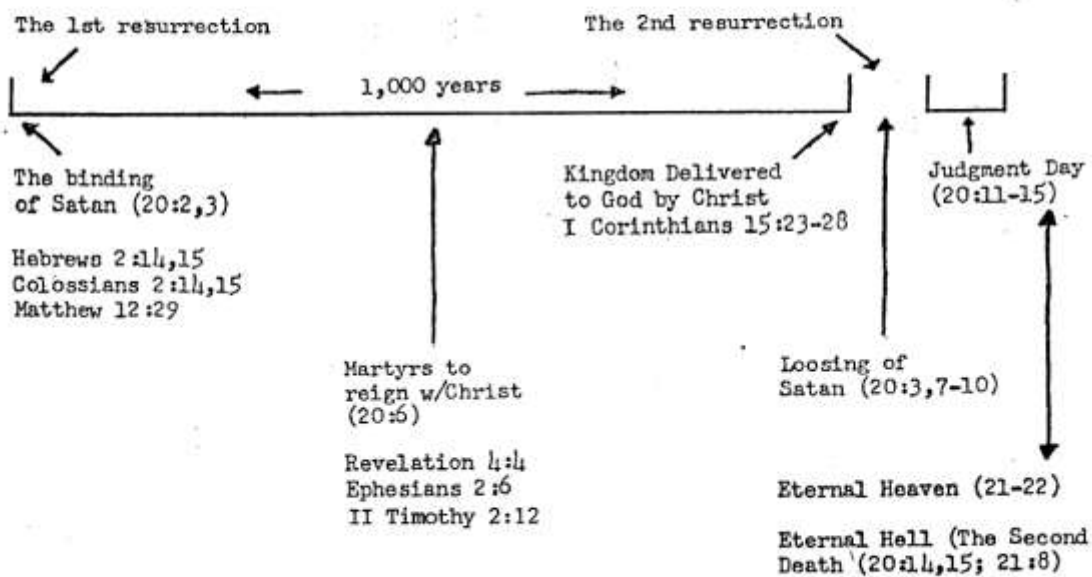
Millennial View—



Non-chronological View—



- #1 Decree of Artaxerxes I Longimanus in 458BC (Neh. 2)
- #2 Decree of Artaxerxes I Longimanus in 445BC (Ezra 7)
- #3 Decree of Cyrus in 539BC (Isa. 44:26b-28; 45:13)



The binding of Satan was done at the cross, so that the church could begin after that on the Day of Pentecost immediately following.

Christ will reign unto the end when He delivers up the kingdom back to the Father, which will be followed by the great Judgment Day.

Therefore, the 1,000 years is representative of the period of time of which the martyred saints reign with Christ between the crucifixion and the final day. In other words, the 1,000 years spoken of here is a figurative representation of the Christian Dispensation, or church age.

Revelation chapter 20 shows the downfall of Satan which is to take place a long time after the fall of the sea beast, and earth beast (false prophet). This downfall is yet to take place even in our present day, but is given to us in Revelation as a prophecy of comfort. We know that he (Satan) will meet his end, with all of those who follow after him.

Revelation chapters 21 and 22 then describe the wonderful blessings of heaven for all of the faithful. Judgment has taken place (20:11-15) and we see some of the glories that await us.