

THE MILLENNIA MANIA (2 Peter 3:10-13)

Introduction:

- 1. The words “millennial” and “millennium” come from Latin meaning “a thousand years.”**
- 2. “Mania” is “an exaggerated or irrational craving; an infatuation or madness.”**
- 3. There is a millennial mania in the religious world today!**
 - a. Premillennial preachers fill the airwaves with predictions of Christ’s soon return.**
 - b. Premillennial books abound.**
 - c. Sensational sermons fill hearers with false hope and fear.**
- 4. Why is premillennialism so popular?**
 - a. We live in a troubled and uncertain age.**
 - b. There is greater overall Biblical illiteracy than ever before.**
- 5. Does the Bible really teach what the premillennialists are telling us?**

Discussion:

- I. WHAT IS PREMILLENNIALISM?**
 - A. There are three views of the “thousand years” in Revelation 20.**
 - 1. Premillennialism is the belief that Christ will return to this earth, set up an earthly kingdom and rule over it from Jerusalem for an actual 1,000 years.**
 - 2. Postmillennialists believe that things will get better and better as a result of the spread of the Gospel; this will bring in an age of peace and prosperity; Christ will come at the end of it.**
 - 3. Amillennialism is the view that the thousand years are figurative representing a period of time when the Gospel will have free course throughout the world.**
 - B. The most popular form of premillennialism is dispensationalism.**
 - 1. John Nelson Darby (1800-1882) is the father of this system.**
 - 2. Dispensationalism has been widely spread by the “Scofield Reference Bible.”**

C. Dispensationalism says all human history can be divided into seven ages which correspond to the days of creation.

- 1. The first day is “The Age of Innocence” which lasted from creation to the Fall.**
- 2. The second day is” The Age of Conscience” which lasted from the Fall to the Flood.**
- 3. The third day is “The Age of Human Government” which lasted from the Flood to the time of Abraham.**
- 4. The fourth day is “The Age of Promise” which lasted from Abraham to the giving of the Law at Mt. Sinai.**
- 5. The fifth day is “The Age of Law” which lasted from Sinai to Calvary.**
- 6. The sixth day is “The Age of Grace” which will last from Calvary until Christ comes to establish His kingdom on earth.**
- 7. The seventh day is “The Age of the Kingdom” which is from the second coming to the end of the millennium.**

D. There are two serious problems with the Dispensational divisions:

- 1. These ages are purely arbitrary; they do not teach the doctrine; rather they appear to have been selected to support the doctrine which was already believed.**
- 2. The idea that one day equals a thousand years is based on a misunderstanding of 2 Peter 3:8.**

“But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.”

- a. Peter did not say, “a thousand years is a day.”**
- b. He said, “A thousand years is AS one day.”**

II. PREMILLENNIALISM SAYS SEVERAL THINGS WILL HAPPEN BEFORE CHRIST RETURNS.

- A. There will be wars and natural disasters more severe than ever seen before (Matt. 24:5-7; v. 34).**
- B. The old Roman Empire will be revived and an evil world ruler will arise - “the Antichrist” (Dan. 2:40, 44; 1 John 2:18, 22).**
- C. The Jews will return to Palestine, convert to Christianity, the temple will be rebuilt, and Old Testament sacrifices restored (Rom. 11:26; Heb. 7:12).**

s

- D. Believers will be secretly and suddenly caught up in “the Rapture” (1 Thess. 4:17).**
- E. A time of intense persecution will take place on the earth - “the Great Tribulation” (Matt. 24:9-13, 34; 2 Tim. 3:12).**
- F. A final battle will be fought at Megiddo between the Antichrist and the kings of the East - “Armageddon” (Rev. 16:16).**

III. PREMILLENNIALISM SAYS SEVERAL THINGS WILL TAKE PLACE AFTER CHRIST RETURNS.

- A. He will come at a crucial time and determine the outcome of Armageddon.**
- B. The kingdom will be set up on earth and Christ will rule for 1,000 years (Mark 9:1; Col. 1:13; Rev. 1:9; Matt. 16:18,19).**
- C. At the end of the millennium, Satan will be released from prison.**
 - 1. He will lead a rebellion against the Lord and His righteous rule.**
 - 2. He and his fellow rebels will be defeated and cast into Hell.**
 - 3. The final (“Great White Throne”) judgment will take place.**
 - 4. Eternity follows as the righteous are made immortal and given a new heaven and a new earth.**
- D. The number and sequence of these events may vary from one premillennialist to another and from one sect to another.**

Conclusion:

- 1. There are many problems with premillennialism.**
 - a. It wrests the Scripture taking figurative passages in a literal sense (2 Pet. 3:16)**
 - b. It reverses God’s order restoring the defunct OT system to replace the NT system (Heb. 7:12 - 8:13).**
 - c. It has a carnal view of Christ’s spiritual kingdom (John 18:36).**
 - d. It makes the first coming of Christ a failure and casts reflection upon the omniscience of God (Gal 4:4,5).**
 - e. It takes prophecies which were fulfilled in the church and applies them to a supposed future kingdom on earth (Acts 15:13-18).**
- 2. One enters the kingdom by the new birth of water and the Spirit (Jn. 3:1-5).**

