



Northside Proclaimer

Proclaiming The Word Of The Lord

1 Thessalonians 1.8

Northside Church Of Christ Welcomes You!

October 26, 2014

“Our King Is Reigning”

Bryan Garlock

Last week we swept the legs out from under the premillennial doctrine when we showed that God kept His promises to Abraham. It was necessary to start there for that is where this doctrine begins its growth process and eventually lends itself over to the rapture theory. If you have not read that article please do so before reading this one.

Jesus failed. That’s right. He failed to convince the Jews He was the Messiah and His entire plan was a flop from the beginning. He even failed to establish His kingdom. What a surprise! God didn’t see that coming! Therefore, instead, He set up this thing called “church.” He’s coming back though; coming back to establish His kingdom and He’ll reign for 1,000 years! Oh, and the Jews will finally get their promised land. Whew! I guess the time was not full and God was not all-wise after all. While there are different variations, depending on whom you’re talking to, this is typically what the rapture theory aka Premillennialism teaches.

Premillennialists agree the coming kingdom of Jesus was prophesied. In a dream, king Nebuchadnezzar saw “a great image” which represented four kingdoms (see Daniel 2.31-45). Daniel’s interpretation foretold of each kingdom being destroyed and a fourth kingdom rising in power that could never be destroyed. Nebuchadnezzar, king of the Babylonians (circa 606-539 BC), was the head of gold. Its silver chest and arms stood for the Medo-Persians (circa 539-331 BC). The middle and thighs of bronze represented the Macedonians (Greece, circa 331-31 BC) and the Roman Empire (circa 31-476 BC) was signified by “its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay.”

How do these kingdoms and their ruling dates disprove Premillennialism? In reference to king Nebuchadnezzar’s dream, Daniel prophesied, “[a]nd in the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that shall never be destroyed, nor shall the kingdom be left to another people. It shall break in pieces all these kingdoms and bring them to an end, and it shall stand forever.” The “kings” Daniel referenced was that of the last kingdom in Nebuchadnezzar’s dream, the Roman Empire.

If it can be shown that the Roman Empire has already come, then it can be shown that the kingdom of our Lord has already been established. Notice the above dates in which secular history proves the Romans to be in power. Scripture, the authority in the matter, mentions a ruler named Caesar Augustus (Luke 2.1; 20.22, 25) three times. Caesar was the founder of the Roman Empire and its first Emperor! *Continued on back...*

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church Of Christ

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Announcements

- Remember John Blair
- Remember the shut in's.
- Pray for the church and one another.
- Men's Bible study Nov. 9th, 3:30 PM
- Teen's Bible study / Kid's drill next week
- Call or email me to add announcements, thanks.
- Coming soon: weekly Bible study at Tuesday 7 PM; ask Bryan Garlock for details
- Coming soon: Young family / couples' Bible study
- Remember the spiritual sick among us

Interestingly, John the Baptizer and Jesus the Christ promised the kingdom was “at hand.” The Greek ἐγγιζω (Strong's G1448) literally means, “to draw or come near to, to approach” (Thayer). The Kingdom was near; it was approaching. This was the message both John and Jesus went about proclaiming (Matt. 3.2; 4.17). Jesus demonstrated this truth by claiming, “...if it is by the Spirit of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.” He further said, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand...” Finally, if that isn't enough proof, He promised His disciples that they would see the Kingdom established in their lifetime (Mark 9.1; Matt. 16.28) and that He would not drink the Lord's Supper again with them until they drank of it in His Father's kingdom (Luke 22.16, 18). Daniel's prophecy and Jesus' promise of a coming “near” kingdom put the establishment of the kingdom of heaven during the rule of the Romans.

Further, while Daniel was having a dream of his own, He saw “**with the clouds** of heaven there came one **like a son of man**, and he **came to** the Ancient of Days [God] and was **presented before him.**” Once there, this person “**was given dominion and glory and a kingdom**, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; **his dominion is an everlasting dominion**, which **shall not pass away**, and his **kingdom one that shall not be destroyed**” (Dan. 7.13-14, emphasis added).

Daniel's dream was a prophetic summary of Luke's account in Acts 1.9-11. In chapter two, Peter proclaimed the law of the Lord as foretold by Christ (Luke 24.46-47). In that sermon, Peter declared that God raised up His Son, exalted Him at His right hand and has made him both Lord and Christ. Paul said it this way, “...when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion...” (Eph. 1.20-21; cf. 1 Peter 3.22).

The fact that Daniel's dream has been fulfilled is another blow to this religious error. You see, Premillennialists believe Christ is to return to reign for a thousand years on the *literal* throne of David in Jerusalem (a point we will develop and answer next week).

It is true God promised the throne to His Son (2 Samuel 7.12-16) and Isaiah and the angel Gabriel prophesied Jesus sitting on the throne (Isaiah 9.7; Luke 1.32-33). Yet, Daniel's dream foretold when such crowning would happen and Peter declared such crowning did happen. Our King is reigning now; not for a “thousand years” in the “future.”

While some deny our King and His kingdom, the Scriptures are not in their favor. If our King is reigning, and He is, Premillennialism falls apart. Why is this so important? This doctrine promotes Jesus as a failure! A failed, rejected king without his kingdom. He returned to the Father with his tail tucked between his legs like the cowardly lion when confronted by Toto. However, they say, He will return to set up His kingdom and to give the Jews their promised land. If Jesus failed once, what's to say He won't fail again? BG