



THE GOSPEL TRUMPET®

"Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet." Isaiah 58:1

WILL THE TEMPLE BE REBUILT IN JERUSALEM?



Editorial

The devil infected the world by a dangerous plague in the 1800s—John Nelson Darby’s dispensational millennialism. At first, the teaching was not accepted, but, in time, this leaven permeated the world view of multitudes. This belief was not new, for it was first conceived in ancient paganism.

“The entire thrust of dispensationalism is the refounding of Israel as a nation state in Palestine. Without Israel, the whole plan falls apart.” Being “unlearned and unstable,” knowing not the interim function of Israel and the first covenant, or the immutability of prophecy, they wrest the scriptures, “unto their own destruction” (2 Peter 3:16). Looking for things future which have long been fulfilled, and awaiting events that shall never be, will catch millennialists unaware when the trump sounds on the Last Day.

What a tangled web they weave! I know of no other heretical teaching that encapsulates such a number of false doctrines as that of a literal 1,000 year reign on earth. It is a hermeneutical disaster and a lying wonder.

Jesus Christ ushered in the gospel covenant which exceeded in glory from that of the Old Testament covenant which is “done away” and “disannulled” (2 Cor. 3:8-11, Heb. 7:18). Believers can now have the very kingdom of God within their hearts. What utter madness to then regress to thinking the temple and sacrifices will be restored!

“O foolish [millennialists], who hath bewitched you...Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?” Gal. 3:1-3.

The gospel invitation is open to peoples of all nations, including the Jews, but “though the number of the children of Israel be as the sand of the sea, *a remnant* shall be saved” (Romans 9:27). The entire nation of Israel will not be saved, not because they cannot, but they will not, for “whosoever will may come.”

Search the scriptures, dear readers, for many err who know them not.

SIS. SUSAN MUTCH | EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
editor@thegospeltrumpet.com

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SERIOUS ERRORS IN DISPENSATIONALISM

DID JESUS FAIL? JOHN DARBY THOUGHT SO

SIS. SUSAN MUTCH

Dispensational premillennialism was developed by John Nelson Darby (1800-1882), of the Plymouth Brethren sect. The premise of his belief rested on the belief that since the nation of Israel largely rejected Christ, it was therefore necessary for Him to incorporate a plan B—one for the earthly nation of Israel, and the other for a heavenly people, the church. He called it dispensationalism, after the division of the history of man into dispensations or eras, the last presumed to be a kingdom set up on earth during a thousand year reign.

This was at first rejected by most Christians, being judged as unorthodox. Later, Cyrus Scofield's 1909 annotated Bible popularized Darby's error,¹ and, with time, scores of Bible institutes taught the new premillennialism. From there, the plague spread.

In plain words, Darby claimed that *Jesus failed* in His mission. This in itself ought to be enough for thinking people to see *HERESY* written all over this premillennial package of lies. Daniel 9:24 declares that "seventy weeks are *determined*—a divine prophetic decree—yet Darby taught that Jesus stopped this prophecy

after week 69 due to "His failure" to reach the entire nation of Israel. This dreamer assumed to do what *cannot* be done. "The more sure word of prophecy," long ago decreed, *cannot* be paused, then later restarted to suit his forced interpretation! Foolish dreamer! 📖

1] <https://wrmea.org/2015-october/the-scofield-bible-the-book-that-made-zionists-of-americas-evangelical-christians.html>

Cyrus Scofield presumably converted to Christianity in 1879. Known as a shyster before, his new life looked much like the old, including a series of forgeries in St. Louis for which he was sentenced to 6 months in jail. Being a "born again" preacher did not preclude Scofield from being invited to become a member of the Lotus club in 1901, an exclusive New York men's club. A fellow member, Wall Street lawyer Samuel Untermyer's pet project was the Zionist Movement. Professor David W. Lutz writes, "Untermyer used Scofield...to inject Zionist ideas into American Protestantism. Untermyer and other wealthy and influential Zionists whom he introduced to Scofield promoted and funded the latter's career, including travel in Europe."

The issues involved in Dispensational statements (i.e. postponement theory of the seventieth week of Daniel) are of the most fundamental importance. Notice for instance, that if Christ was supposed to set up a kingdom but was thwarted in His purpose from doing so because some unbelievers opposed Him, then He cannot be omnipotent.

If He was forced to change His plan then He is not immutable and we cannot say, "Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, today and forever."

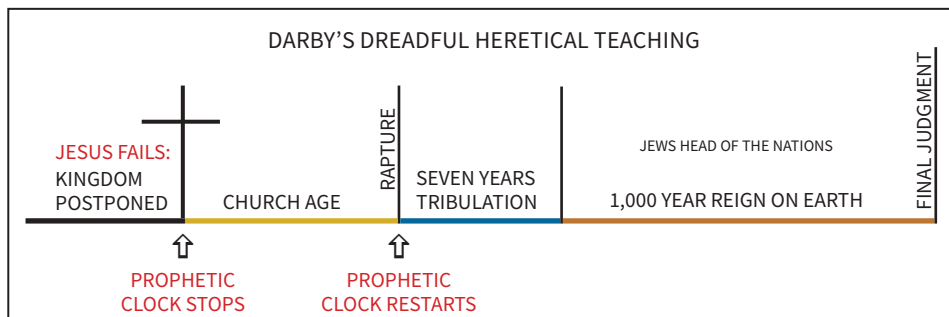
If He had to substitute an alternate and parenthetic program for the one He intended to bring into effect because of unforeseen circumstances unrevealed in scripture, then Christ is robbed of His omniscience. God's integrity is impeached if we allow to go unchallenged the statement of Scofield and other dispensationalists. To do so would make God a victim of His own conditions that, "when a prophet speaketh in the name of the Lord, if the thing follow not, nor come to pass, that is the thing which the Lord hath *not* spoken." Deut. 18:22.

Even the inspiration of the scriptures is seriously undermined by their paralyzing statements, for the basis of inspiration is its claim "to impart truth without error." To be mistaken in setting forth a predicted time is unquestionably an error.

A teaching that deprives Christ of His omnipotence, omniscience, immutability and other divine attributes robs Him of His Deity and "takes away my Lord."

The foundation of dispensational premillennialism interpretation accords with the Talmud rather than the New Testament. 📖

— H.C. Heffren



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Editor-in-Chief: Sis. Susan Mutch
German Dept.: Sis. Doreen Ertmer
Russian Dept.: Bro. Waldemar Anselm

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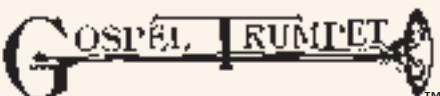
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Mail: P.O. Box 1139, Greenville, OH 45331

Phone: (937) 548-9876

Email: editor@thegospeltrumpet.com

Website: churchofgod.com



The book of Revelation is a masterpiece of God, revealing the history of the New Testament church from the time of Christ till the end of time. This period is also known as the gospel day.

Satan is aware that if we know the prophetic mysteries of this book, we will understand the times. Therefore, being the deceiver that he is, he has taken people on a wild, windy ride through its pages, as “children tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness.” (Eph. 4:14). All manner of errors have been propagated. One of the prevalent winds of false doctrine today is the millennial reign theory. The early church *did not* teach this.

Revelation is a book of symbols. If a literal translation is applied, error will ensue, as is the case with the millennialist's interpretation of Revelation 20:1-6.

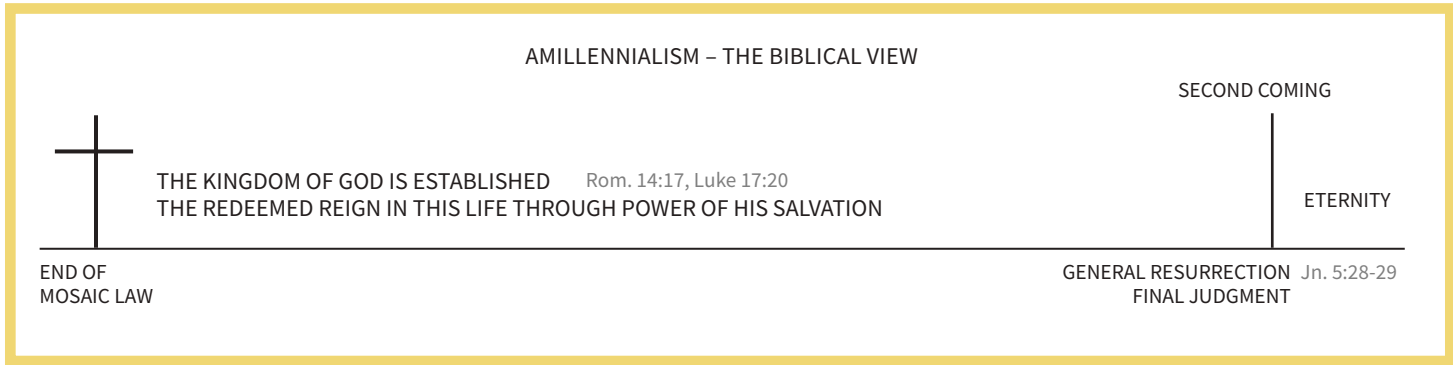
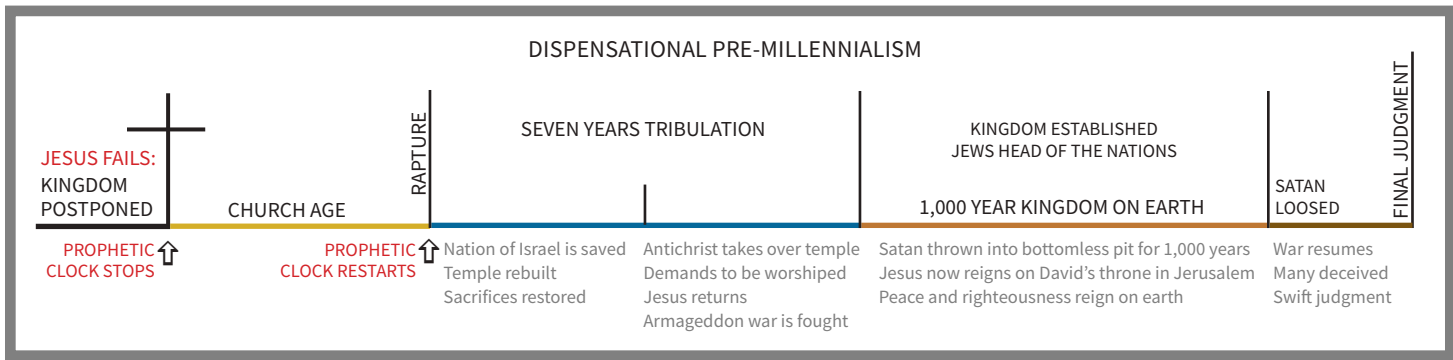
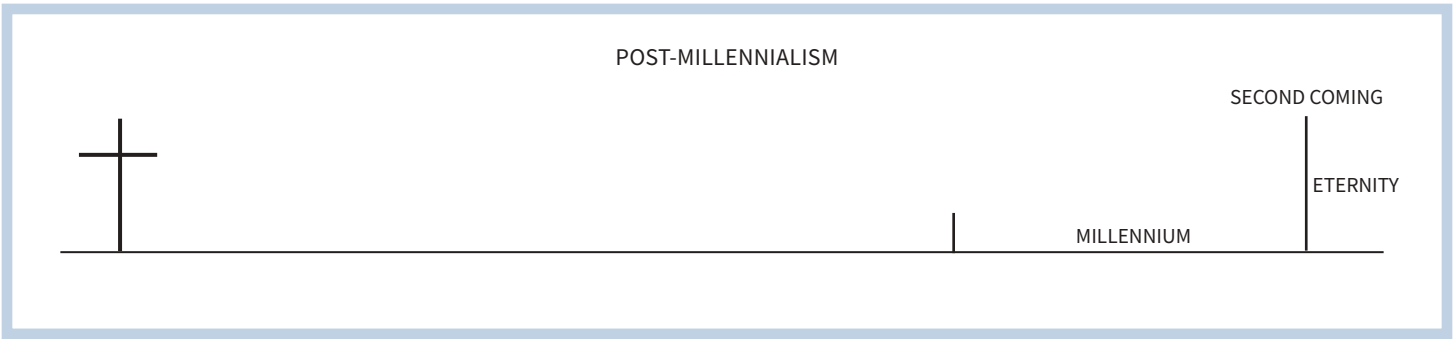
This is the only place in the Bible where a thousand years is even mentioned, and, again, this span of time is not literal, but symbolic, as are other numbers within Revelation. Void of prophetic understanding, false prophets propagating this heresy view the events in Revelation primarily as yet future, as in believing that Jesus on His white horse is making war (Rev.

19:11) at the battle of Armageddon in the Valley of Megiddo. But Armageddon started at Eden and Jesus, with His redeemed army, has been fighting the powers of darkness for a long time now.

We maintain a partial preterist view, as Revelation takes us through the history of the New Testament church in a series of seven dispensations. It speaks of seven seals and seven trumpets. The entire history is encapsulated within these seven. The seals and trumpets are parallel to each other in time, each bringing out different aspects of the respective periods. The first trumpet sounded when God established His church in power on the day of Pentecost (Rev. 8:3-7). The first seal typifies this infant church as a white horse and its rider going forth to conquer (Rev. 6:1-2).

The sixth trumpet sounded near the end of the 19th century. The seventh trumpet started to sound around 1980, and it is the last in the series of seven. When its prophecies are fully fulfilled, Christ shall return and usher in the Final Judgment. This consummation is near. There will be no thousand year reign on earth, as multitudes have been led to believe. The scriptures simply do not support it. 📖

Sis. Susan Mutch



DISPENSATIONALISM INSULTS CHRIST

H.C. HEFFREN

Preachers were not called to predict a future anti-christ, but to proclaim the eternal, present Christ. Also, we have no authority to postpone what God determined. Let us rather proclaim what God decreed.

Amillennialism exalts this Christ and His finished work. Dispensationalism insults Christ by telling us He would have set up His kingdom, but a handful of unbelieving Jews thwarted His plan and caused it to be postponed to a future age. The kingdom of God is based on God's sovereign will and not on sinful man's option. Romans 9:22-25.

Dispensationalism foresees a tribulation with

Christ drenching the world in human blood and gaining His victory through death-dealing struggles against a mystical, arch-fiend antichrist.

Amillennialism sees Christ victorious at Calvary, now exalted at the right hand of God, reigning in power and glory, "eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God [to whom] be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen." 1 Timothy 1:17.

Christ said, on ascending to His throne, "All power is given, [not going to be given at some future time, but given] unto me in heaven and in earth." Matthew 28:18. Which is your Christ? 📖

Pagans Believed it First

R. R. BYRUM

The idea of a millennium was not original with John Nelson Darby. Various heathen nations—Egypt, Babylon, Persia, Greece, and Rome—had an idea of a future golden age of the world when evil would be suppressed. Zoroastrianism expected a thousand-year period to follow the downfall of hostile powers, which period was connected with a resurrection of the dead.

By the time of Christ, the Jews generally expected the Messiah to establish an earthly kingdom. Having lost sight of the proper prophetic understanding of the scriptures, they expected an earthly king, freeing them from Roman rule, in spite of the fact that He had taught again and again that the kingdom is not of this world.

The rabbinical writers held some very exaggerated notions of the material benefits of the reign of the Messiah. The earth was to yield many thousandfold, and grain, fruit, and flesh were to be provided in immeasurable abundance.

But Jesus disappointed those carnal hopes. He neither established nor promised to establish such an earthly kingdom. In the words of the New Schaff-Herzog Encyclopedia of Religious Knowledge, “The teaching of Christ is not millenarian.”

As much may be truly said of the teachings of the epistles of the New Testament. The apostles taught a present spiritual kingdom of Christ. 📖

THE 1,000 YEARS OF REVELATION 20

SIS. SUSAN MUTCH

The book of Revelation, which speaks in symbols, cannot be understood if a literal interpretation is applied. Here it is that many flounder and wrest the scriptures to “their own destruction” (2 Peter 3:16), as is done with chapter 20.

Let us first consider the context of this chapter. It is a history from the time of the early church to the final Judgment Day. Verses 1-3 reveal the events in the days of Peter and Paul.

And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years. And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.

The early brethren, equipped with a chain and a key—the binding power of the Word of God—laid hold on the dragon and cast him into a bottomless pit. The apostle John had personally witnessed and partaken of this in his own lifetime.

What Is the Dragon?

What is this dragon? He is first introduced in Rev. 12 as a foe seeking to devour the new converts to Christianity. Chapter 12 refers to the same events as chapter 20. What were the angels—Greek for messengers or ministers—facing in their day? An “old” pagan belief system. We read of its workings throughout the

Old Testament dispensation.

“The great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, *called* the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world.” Rev. 12:9. *Called* the Devil, meaning it was a devilish system. Jesus once told Peter, “Get thee behind me, Satan [opposer].” The premillennial house of sand collapses when we understand the symbols. It is not Satan himself that is bound, for he has been loose since Eden and will be till the trumpet sounds. If it is Satan himself, then are we to believe the devil looks like a literal red dragon, having seven heads, as described in Rev. 12:3?

Paganism was conquered by the gospel, with many forsaking their idols to serve the living God. The preaching of the Word of God broke the chains of the dragon’s influence.

And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God.

Where is the 1,000 Years’ Reign?

These people are indeed reigning, for they are on thrones, but where is this taking place? If one understands that the whole family [is] in heaven and earth” (Eph. 3:15), it helps solve this particular mystery. After life on earth, the church of God continues their reign of righteousness in heaven. No reign on earth is mentioned here. The scene brought before John’s view is paradise, that land of rest for departed saints; it is here that he beholds the faithful through persecutions and the perils of Satan’s false reli-

gious systems during this long period of time.

This is the only reference to a thousand years reign in the entire Bible. It is not a literal thousand years—not in this book! We cannot break the law of biblical hermeneutics. All the numbers mentioned throughout Revelation are symbolical, none excepting. It simply means a very long period of time. Verse 4 spans a period from the early church up until the sounding of the seventh trumpet, which was approximately 1980 when the thousand years “were finished.”

The Mark of the Beast

We see the progression of time in this period with mention of the rise of the beast and his image. These are first introduced in chapter 13, and represent two false systems of religion that also fought and obscured the true church—papalism and protestantism. Those who escaped being marked by the spirit and teachings of these beasts and were not seduced by its falsities are seen enjoying a heavenly reign.

Everybody has either the mark of the beast, or the mark of God (Rev. 14:1); a mark of the false or of the true.

The First Resurrection

But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power.

During this thousand year period, a salvation work among the people was limited, being hindered by the deception of false religion. But after the thousand years were finished, the clear message of the seventh trumpet started to sound, and the dead were again finding life. Resurrection means to be raised out of a dead state and made alive—quite the miracle! And so it is for sinners who experience real salvation. They are born again, are no longer

“dead in trespasses and sins” (Eph. 2:1), and have “passed from death unto life” (John 5:24). This is the glorious first resurrection. To have part in this makes one “blessed and holy.” Blessed indeed, for “on such the second death hath no power”!

In speaking of the Great White Throne Judgment further into this chapter, John clearly explains that it is “the second death.” Verse 14. Without salvation, the second death, which is the final Judgment will have woeful power over you.

And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison. And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea. And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them. Rev. 20:7-9.

Loosing of the Dragon

When paganism was bound, it was no longer a prominent influence in the world. At its loosing, this same spirit, joined with every other false system, has made a resurgence. This has already taken place and has resulted in the chaos we see today! Satan is loosed via every antichrist spirit and system that has ever worked in the world since Eden. Filled with wrath and intent on deceiving the nations, we are in the battle of our lives—the last in the war of Armageddon. He is encompassing the church, for it is a war against God and every moral and righteous principle.

Verse 3 states “he must be loosed a little season.” Verse 9 lets us know that after this little season, “fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them.” At the height of this crucial conflict, God’s wrath will fall upon Babylon in glorious preliminary judgment, exposing the fullness of evil. The prophecy of Rev. 16:18-19 speaks of the same: “There was a great earthquake, such as was not

since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great...great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath.”

Shortly after this, the trump shall sound and God will summon this world to the Great White Throne Judgment. 📖

The Kingdom Taken From Them

“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not! Behold, *your house is left unto you desolate.*” Matthew 23:37-38.

Jesus wept over Jerusalem for they knew not the day of their visitation. The long-awaited Messiah “came unto His own, and His own received Him not,” just as prophesied. They called Him a devil, and cried, “Away with this man! Crucify Him, crucify Him!”

Israel’s history was one of unfaithfulness and idolatry, causing the prophet Isaiah to declare: “Ah sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, a seed of evildoers, children that are corrupters: they have forsaken the Lord, they have provoked the Holy One of Israel unto anger, they are gone away backward.” Isaiah 1:4.

“Jesus saith unto them, Did ye never read in the scriptures, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord’s doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes? Therefore say I unto you, *The kingdom of God shall be taken from you*, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof.” Matthew 21:42-43. 📖

WILL THE TEMPLE BE REBUILT IN JERUSALEM?

SIS. KARA BRAUN



The Promise of Abraham

From Adam to Noah to Abraham and the patriarchs, God's promise was passed down from generation to generation: a Chosen Seed would come; the serpent would be crushed; the world would find redemption from the curse. Then God made His covenant with Abraham: he would become the father of many nations, and God's promised seed would come through his progeny.

The law (with its animal sacrifices, its ordinances, and tabernacle) as revealed to Moses, did not come until four hundred thirty years later. It is vital to note that the promise of Abraham was never contingent upon the law, for it preexisted the law and the temple. The law, as clearly stated by Paul to the Galatians, *had a temporary function*. It was not everlasting. It was but a "schoolmaster" (in the Greek, a servant who delivered a child to school) with the assignment of bringing Israel to the place where they could receive Christ. When Israel arrived at this appointed inheritance, the law would reach its expiration date and vanish (Gal. 3:17, 19). The law was never completely adequate to fulfill their needs (Heb. 7:19). It fell short of the full prophetic standard—redemption for all nations.

Time and again, Israel transgressed God's law and fell into the ways of the pagans around them (Isa. 65:2-3). God sent His prophets to remind them of the cove-

nant, foretelling a time when the Messiah would come to restore a multi-national Israel, an Israel populated by Gentiles (Isa. 54:2-3; 65:1); an Israel through whom all the nations of the earth would be blessed. This Messiah would reign for ever on David's throne. And His ultimate sacrifice would put an end to animal sacrifices (Dan. 9:27). The whole world waited for the Messiah.

Who Is the Promised Seed?

Who, then, would inherit the promise of Abraham? Paul answers us very explicitly: "Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ" (Gal. 3:16).

Christ was whom Abraham looked forward to (John 8:56); and belief in Christ, the promised Abrahamic seed, was what characterized the household and lineage of Abraham. "For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise" (Gal. 3:26, 29). This faith was what differentiated between Nathanael, whom Jesus declared an Israelite indeed (John 1:47), and the Pharisees, whom Jesus said were not children of Abraham although physically qualified (John 8:39-40). Upon this ground, Paul could disqualify those as Jews who were Jews outwardly, but could

accept into the Jewish lineage those who were circumcised in heart (Rom. 2:28-29). Faith replaced the law with Christ: "But before faith came, we were kept under the law, shut up unto the faith which should afterwards be revealed...But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster" (Gal. 3:23, 25). Whoever had the faith of Abraham was a child of Abraham (Rom. 4:9-12).

Will the Temple Be Rebuilt in Jerusalem?

Scripture refers to two distinct cities of Jerusalem—one the physical location familiar to Jewish history, and the other a heavenly place (Gal. 4:25-26). There is no doubt that prophecy must be fulfilled; but if we limit its fulfillment to the literal Jerusalem, we take a different attitude than did Jesus, who assured the Samaritan woman that God was not seeking worshippers who will serve Him in Jerusalem, but those who will worship Him in Spirit and in truth (John 4:21-24). Jesus preached a kingdom which would not be limited to a certain location, but would be universal in the hearts of believers (Luke 17:20-21), and He scandalized the Jewish leaders by telling them He would raise up a temple in three days, a temple which, although they struggled to comprehend its full significance, they correctly understood to be different from the temple Herod had built.

New Testament writers understood that Christ had replaced the earthly temple with a heavenly sanctuary (Hebrews chap. 9 and 10), and described that sanctuary as God's people, His cleansed temple in which He dwells (1 Cor. 3:16-17; 6:19). They believed themselves to stand within the fulfillment of prophecy, having already come to God's heavenly Jerusalem, His church (Heb. 12:22-24).

Will Animal Sacrifices Be Reinstated?

If so, it would be against the will of God. "Above when he said, Sacrifice and offering and burnt offerings and offering for sin thou wouldest not, neither hadst pleasure therein; which are offered by the law; Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. *He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second.*" (Heb. 10:8-14). Animal sacrifices never could take away sins. Christ offered Himself as the perfect sacrifice. There is no need for any other.

Will Israel Regain the Promised Land?

Promises of the literal land belonging to Israel for ever must be understood in light of the original wording, which signifies not for ever as in eternity, but simply for ever as in, as long as something endures. And remember, Israel as a special people, along with the Mosaic law, had but a temporary function.

What About the Everlasting Covenant with David?

The covenant is everlasting because Christ, the Everlasting, is the embodiment of the covenant. David's throne will endure forever because Christ, the Eternal King, rules upon it without end.

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon

his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever." Isaiah 9:6-7.

Will Israel Be Saved?

There will be a remnant saved according to the election of grace (Rom. 9:27; 11:25). But there will also be those who stumble at the stumblingstone, not attaining righteousness because they seek it by the works of the law rather than by faith in Christ (Rom. 9:32). Those who are saved...will recognize Christ as the end of the law for righteousness (Rom. 10:4). "For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in. And so [in this manner: that is, through Christ and His gospel, operating through the fulness of the Gentiles] all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob" (Rom. 11:25-26).

Shadow vs. Substance

The law was what New Testament writers called a shadow, a kind of placeholder for something bigger to come. "Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days: Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ" (Col. 2:16-17). "For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect" (Heb. 10:1). A shadow is the shaded silhouette which light produces on a surface when shining from behind a body or substance. It is the outline of a substance, a representation of the shape of that substance, but it is not the substance itself. There is much more to the reality of the object that the shadow cannot represent because it fails in depth and substance.

Christ was the substance of prophecy. Of this, the New Testament writers were convinced. Every prophecy met its fulfillment in Him (Matt. 5:17). By arriving on the scene as the substance of God's plan, He effectively did away with the shadow. The ordinances of the law had but shadowy value in the face of the full glory of the fulfillment. "For there is verily a disannulling of the commandment going before for the weakness and unprofitableness thereof. For the law made nothing perfect, but the bringing in of a better hope did; by the which we draw nigh unto God" (Heb. 7:18-19).

To go back to the Mosaic system would be to go back to try to replace the fulfillment of substance with a mere shadow. It would be comparable, as one preacher quipped, to waiting for your wife to arrive at the airport, and when you see her, rather than embracing her, you run to embrace her shadow. Onlookers would have good cause to question your mental competence. You may have been in love with the shadow when the shadow was all you had, but to long to reinstate the shadow when you have the perfection of the substance would be ridiculous.

Conclusion

The thought that the church age has been an interruption of God's plan for Israel or that the prophetic clock has somehow been stopped to resume in some future dispensation, can only come through a complete misreading of the New Testament. The whole reason the Jews rejected Christ was that He didn't fit their literal vision of prophecy. Had Christ wanted a literal temple, literal sacrifices, or a literal throne in a literal Jerusalem, the Jews would have had no reason to oppose Him. Prophecy was bigger than the Jews had ever imagined. The prophetic clock never stopped—nothing and nobody can stand in the way of prophecy—but the Jews refused to move with it. The clock has kept

on ticking, the promises have kept being fulfilled, the kingdom has kept increasing; but prophecy has moved on the feet of Gentile children of Abraham.

God has the power to do anything He chooses. It is no great thing with Him to cause the temple to be rebuilt or to rein-

state animal sacrifices. But that would be prophecy going backward. It would be replacing that which is more glorious with that which is less glorious, that which has been done away. God does not wish to operate from a temple in Jerusalem. He does not want a Levitical priesthood or animal

sacrifices. The priestly office is already filled (Heb. 9:11). The ultimate sacrifice has already been made (Heb. 9:12; Heb. 10:12-14). The throne of David is already occupied (Heb. 1:8). And the temple of God is already among men, filled with the glory of His power (Heb. 12:22-23). 📖

The doctrine of a thousand years' reign with Christ on earth creates anew the problem of ethnic superiority. Jesus came to tear down the middle wall of partition which kept mankind divided into hostile camps—the wall between Jews and Gentiles. It is God's eternal purpose "that in the dispensation of the fulness 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" (Ephesians 1:10). The fulness of times is located for us by Paul in Galatians 4:4: "But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law."

Since that time, all national, racial, social, political, and economic distinctions between people are lost when men and women accept the mercy of God which He offers through His only begotten Son, our Saviour. "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus" (Gal. 3:28).



A NEW KIND OF ISRAEL

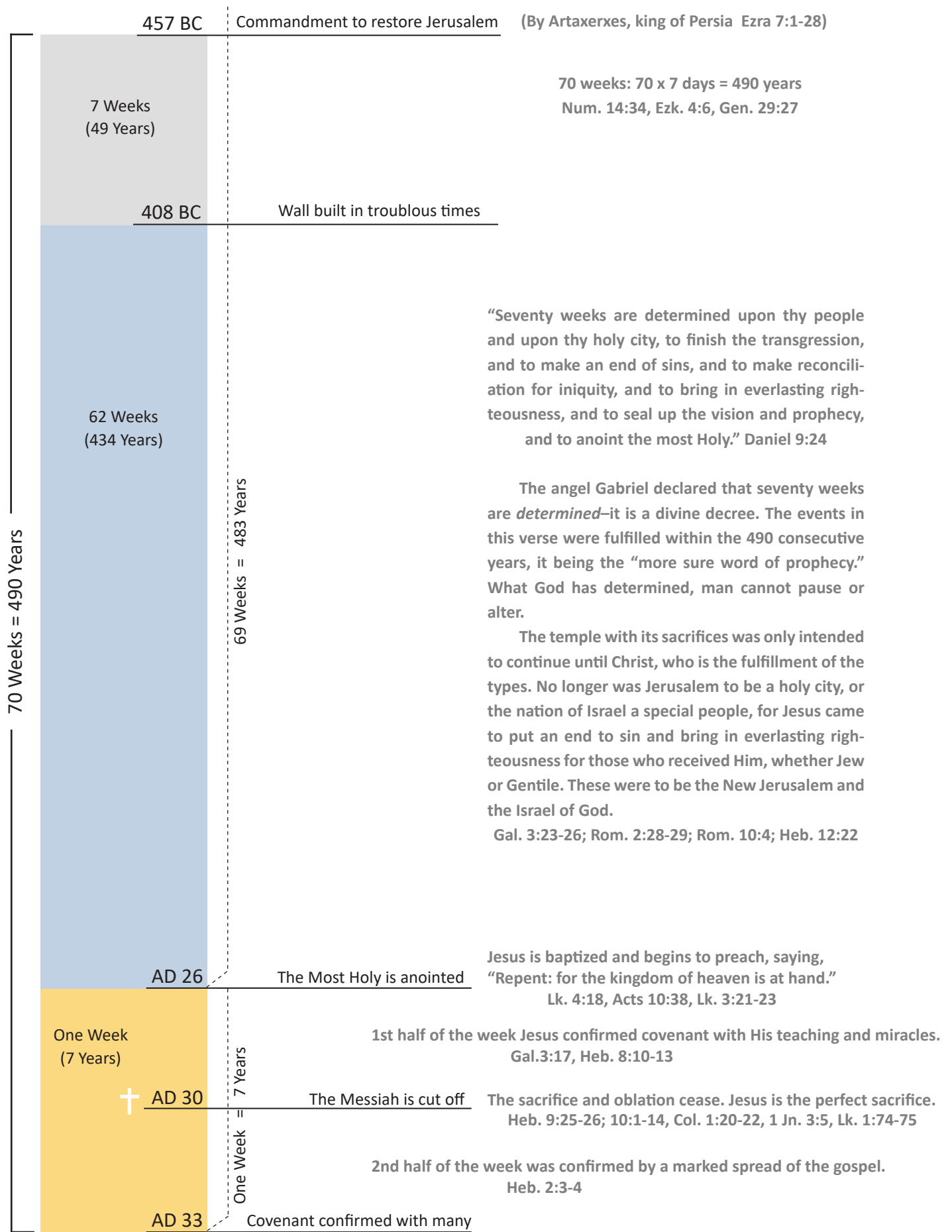
A.D. KAHN

A new kind of Israel has come into being since Jesus gave His life as a ransom for sin. The old Israel which was composed of those who were born as Jews physically has, since our Lord's death on the cross, been removed from special privileges and lowered to the common level of all mankind. Paul says to all who would revive that ethnic distinction: "There is no difference between the Jew

and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him" (Romans 10:12).

A Jew as such has no standing before God any more than any other sinner, "for God hath concluded them all in unbelief, that he might have mercy upon all" (Romans 11:32). We are told that "he is not a Jew which is one outwardly...but he is a Jew, which is one inwardly" (Romans 2:2-29). The new birth through faith in Jesus Christ makes a new creature who, with others of like spiritual nature, make up the New Testament "Israel of God" (Gal. 6:15-16).

The kingdom of God, therefore, is based upon a spiritual people composed of both Jews and Gentiles who have been saved by the precious blood of Christ. That is the "chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people" (1 Peter 2:9) of whom Peter speaks. Such redeemed people are "lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices." 📖



THE 70 WEEKS OF DANIEL



A SECRET RAPTURE

A SHOUT, a VOICE, a TRUMP — a SECRET?

John Nelson Darby said that his belief in the rapture virtually jumped out of the pages of scripture once he accepted the distinction between Israel and the church. He deemed it necessary for the church to be removed in order for God to proceed with plans for the earthly Jews and fancied that he found his desired answer in 1 Thessalonians 4:15-18; 5:1-2:

For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words. But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.

A Secret Coming?

Dispensationalists claim this as text-proof of a secret rapture, but can the Lord descend from heaven and none see Him?

And what secret is announced with A SHOUT, A VOICE of the archangel, and A TRUMP? We also do not read here of Christians vanishing, but of being caught up in the air, in the same visible sense in which Jesus was taken up and a cloud received Him out of their sight (Acts 1:9-11).

When scripture states that Jesus will come as a thief in the night, it is not referring to a silent or secret coming, but rather the unexpectedness of His coming (Matthew 24:44). “But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away *with a great noise*, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.” 2 Pet. 3:10. There is no mistaking here that the Last Day is intended. It is referring to the same day that Paul was speaking of in 1 Thessalonians 4.

The Last Day

It is imperative to consider the context of scripture—to whom it is written and why. The saints in Thessalonica were undergoing persecution (1 Thess. 1:6, 2:14; 2 Thess. 1:4) and experiencing distress as to what would become of those who had already died. Paul told them to “sorrow not, even as others which have no hope” (1 Thess. 4:13) and comforts them of the resurrection to come at the Last Day. Those yet living on this day would not precede those in the graves.

The dead would rise first, then all would be caught up together to meet the Lord in the air. The wicked are not mentioned here for he is addressing only the saved in Thessalonica. This does not mean that there will first be a resurrection of the righteous and a future resurrection of the wicked.

The scriptures are clear. 1 Thess. 4, 1 Cor. 15 and John 5:28-29 are all speaking of the events on the Last Day. “Marvel not at this: for *the hour is coming*, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice [same voice as 1 Thess. 4], And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.” John 5:28-29. All in *the same hour*. Then the earth and all the elements will be burned with fervent heat (2 Peter 3:10). There will be no place for a 1,000-year reign on earth and there is no second chance!

The events in 1 Thess. 4 are in no wise meaning a secret rapture of Christians which precedes further events on the earth, but rather *the end* of all things.

This trump of God is one and the same with the last trump of 1 Cor. 15:51-54, wherein all bodies will be changed “in the twinkling of an eye” to incorruptible, immortal bodies. Some erroneously refer to a secret rapture taking place in the twinkling of an eye, but the scripture is referring to the change of the bodies for both the resurrected dead and for those

still living at the second coming of Christ.

The First Resurrection

Millennialists believe their supposed secret rapture is a literal resurrection, but this the scriptures do not sustain. The “first resurrection” is a spiritual rising from a dead state of sin (Eph. 2:1; 1 Tim. 5:6) to newness of life in Christ Jesus, through salvation. Jesus “delivered us from the power of darkness, and...translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son” Col. 1:13.

In John 5:24, Jesus plainly taught this spiritual resurrection: “He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; *but is passed from death unto life.*”

Once “dead in trespasses and sins,” the Christian arises and walks in “newness of life.” A miracle indeed!

Ye Do Err

Many of the Jews of old rejected their Messiah at His first coming due to erroneous expectations of Him being

an earthly king to deliver them from the yoke of Roman rule. But He was a King of a much greater kingdom—and not merely for 1,000 years, but one that would have no end (Isaiah 9:7; Daniel 7:14). To them Jesus said, “Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures.”

We now stand on the verge of His second coming, and Satan has again deceived multitudes into expecting an earthly kingdom, but there will be no such age to come. Dear millennialists, “ye do err, not knowing the scriptures.”

Sis. Susan Mutch

THE SPIRIT OF ANTICHRIST

Within the millennial teaching is the belief that someone will arise and become “The Antichrist” who will demand to be worshiped. Some in the past have imagined this to be Stalin, Hitler, Mussolini—all now dead and gone. Each passing generation continues in the same search for this phantom character.

So who is the antichrist? Adam Clarke stated it well: “Any person, thing, doctrine, system of religion, polity, etc., which is opposed to Christ, and to the spirit and spread of His gospel, is antichrist. We need not look for this imaginary being in any of the above exclusively. Even Protestantism may have its antichrist as well as Popery. Every man who opposes the spirit of the gospel, and every teacher and writer who endeavors to lower the gospel standard to the spirit and taste of the world, is a genuine antichrist, no matter where or among whom he is found. The heresies which sprang up in the days of St. John were the antichrist of that time. As there has been a

succession of oppositions to Christianity in its spirit and spread through every age since its promulgation in the world, so there has been a succession of antichrists. We may bring this matter much lower—every enemy of Christ, every one who opposes His reign in the world, in others, or in himself, is an antichrist, and consequently every wicked man is an antichrist. But the name has been generally applied to whatever person or thing systematically opposes Christ and His religion.”

Whatever you may think the antichrist is, the Apostle John declared that it was already in the world in his day. “And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and *even now already is it in the world.*” 1 John 4:3. “Ye have heard that *it should come.*” *It is not a man, nor a woman, but a spirit that works through*

He also said that there were many antichrists in his day. “Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, *even now are there many antichrists;* whereby we know that it is the last time.” 1 John 2:18.

He mentions that in his time it was “the last time,” meaning that the Gospel Day is the last dispensation of mercy wherein people can find salvation. There is no age or opportunity, and no thousand year earthly reign that will follow. The Apostle Paul, speaking similarly, says “the ends of the world are come” 1 Cor. 10:11.

“Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son.” 1 John 2:22.

“For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and *an* [inferring others] antichrist.” 1 John 1:7.

Sis. Susan Mutch

What Is the GREAT TRIBULATION?

A.D. KHAN

The finger of Christian scholarship through the ages has pointed to the destruction of Jerusalem and the Jewish state as the fulfillment of the passages in Matthew 24:21-22, Mark 13:19-20 and Luke 21:20-24. History points to AD 70 for this great tribulation which millennial teachers refuse to accept, pointing all the while to the future for such a tribulation. A little independent research will convince any reasonable, unbiased heart of the truth of this position. Let the reader consult such authors as Josephus, Adam Clarke, and Matthew Henry for a safe and sane interpretation of the portions of scripture cited.

If the reader will turn to Daniel 12:1, he will find another account about “the great tribulation.” The tribulation period foretold by Daniel the prophet was not to follow Christ’s second coming, but was to come shortly after our Lord’s first advent. Jesus said it would reach its complete



fulfillment in the destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70, the ruin of the Jewish State, and the desolation of their land.

Our Lord referred to this very event as a tribulation such as was not since the beginning of the world, “no, nor ever shall be.” This utterly refutes the modern idea of another and greater tribulation time yet to come.

There are also NO scriptures that indicate a seven year tribulation. John Darby concocted it out of his misguided imagination. 📖

A Remnant Shall Be Saved

ALBERT BARNES

“Esaiahs also crieth concerning Israel, Though the number of the children of Israel be as the sand of the sea, a remnant shall be saved.” Romans 9:27.

Isaiah testified that, in his time, a large part of the Jews were rejected and cast off from being the special people of God. It is clear, therefore, that God has brought Himself under no obligation to save all the descendants of Abraham. This case settles the principle. If God did it then, it was equally consistent for Him to do it in the time of Paul, under the gospel.

The conclusion, therefore, to which the apostle came, that it was the intention of God to reject and cast off the Jews as a people, was in strict accordance with their own history and the prophecies. It was still true that a remnant was to be saved, while the great mass of the people was rejected. The apostle is not to be understood here as affirming that the passage in Isaiah had reference to the gospel, but only that “it settled one great principle of the divine administration in regard to the Jews, and that their rejection under the gospel was strictly in accordance with that principle.” 📖



A GEOPOLITICAL DANGER

SIS. SUSAN MUTCH

The heretical doctrine of millennialism was greatly popularised by the “Left Behind” series of novels by Tim LaHaye and Jerry Jenkins. By the time Mr. LaHaye died in 2016, they had sold over 80 million copies. In 2001, LaHaye was named the most influential American evangelical leader of the past 25 years by the Institute for the Study of American Evangelicals. And he was a man who would have ties with the White House.

This “messianic drama’s” premise “has led to a remarkable alliance between Christian Evangelicals and the Israeli right. As a result, political views drawn from an apocalyptic vision—once dismissed as extremist and delusional—have not merely swept mass culture but have shaped the political discourse all the way to Jerusalem and the White House. And if they are taken too seriously, the geopolitical consequences could be catastrophic.”¹

“In 1984, LaHaye helped to found the Council for National Policy (C.N.P.), a powerful coalition of billionaire industrialists, fundamentalist preachers, and right-wing tacticians.” They set out to create a strategy for the New Right. Its membership is secret, but was said to include Jerry Falwell and Pat Robertson; top right-wing political strategists, Republican senators and representatives, Ronald Reagan, both George Bushes, and Cabinet members.

In 1999, George W. Bush courted evangelical support for his presidential candidacy and since the start of his presidency, Falwell says, the C.N.P. has enjoyed regular access to the Oval Office.

Those deceived by this false eschatology have had part in disrupting the peace process in Israel. “I was ambassador for four years of the peace process, and the Christian fundamentalists were vehemently opposed to the peace process,” says Itamar Rabinovich, who served as Israeli ambassador to the U.S. between 1993 and 1996. “They believed that the land belonged to Israel as a matter of divine right” and became part of a campaign by the Israeli right to undermine the peace process.

Benjamin Netanyahu used the Christian right to fend off pressure from the Clinton administration to proceed with the peace process. Jerry Falwell promised him he would mobilize pastors to resist the return of parts of the West Bank to the Palestinians. Televangelist John Hagee stirred the crowd with their end-time “rapturemania,” bringing them to a frenzy chanting, “Not one inch!”—a reference to how much of the West Bank should be transferred to Palestinian control. He also gave \$1 million to the United Jewish Appeal. The peace process was thwarted, as it was again under the Bush administration.

And today again, we are facing an

Political views drawn from a false apocalyptic vision have not merely swept mass culture but have shaped the political discourse all the way to Jerusalem and the White House.

extremely woeful situation with multitudes dying, in part, due to false biblical teaching. All false doctrine comes with harmful consequences.

Pre-millennialism is the most widespread Christian eschatology.

According to a Time/CNN poll from 2002, 59 percent of Americans believe [LeHaye’s teaching] of events in Revelation will take place. There are as many as 70 million Evangelicals in the U.S.—about 25 percent of the population—attending more than 200,000 evangelical churches.

“That love of Israel is sometimes accompanied by racist hatred of Arabs. On several occasions, an Israeli guide on LaHaye and Frazier’s tour told the group that Arabs ‘breed like fleas’ and would soon be forced into the desert. LaHaye’s followers responded with warm laughter and applause.” 📷

1] <https://vanityfair.com/news/2005/12/rapture200512>

All enquoted text from *Vanity Fair* article.

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