

BANNER: THE SURE WORD

By Jonnie Hutchison

Title: A Thousand Years from the Truth

Have you heard of the doctrine of premillennialism? One of the tenets of this doctrine is a thousand-year reign of Christ on the literal throne of David in the city of Jerusalem for a literal thousand years. The advocates of premillennialism assert that Jesus' intention in this FIRST coming was to establish an earthly, national kingdom of Israel over which He would rule the world as King. However, because the Jews rejected Jesus and crucified Him, the establishment of His kingdom was "postponed" until His second coming.

Was it the will of God and the intention of Jesus to establish an earthly, national Kingdom? Was it the desire of the Godhead to restore the glory of the kingdom of Israel upon this earth? Is the church merely an "afterthought" of God?

Let the Lord Himself answer. "My kingdom is NOT OF THIS WORLD; if my kingdom WERE OF THIS WORLD, then would my servants fight that I should NOT BE DELIVERED TO THE JEWS: but now is MY KINGDOM NOT OF THIS WORLD" (John 18:36). Jesus clearly states that if it had been His intention to establish an earthly kingdom His servants would have fought to prevent the Jews from crucifying Him. The fact is that Jesus came into this world for the express purpose of suffering death upon the cross to provide the means for man's salvation from sin. Jesus states His purpose for His first coming in the words, "For the son of man is come to seek and save that which was lost" (Luke 19:10). The Bible teaches that it was the will of God that Jesus die on the cross. "Him being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain" (Acts 2:23). Was Jesus delivered according to God's plan? Yes! (See also Romans 5:6-10 and Hebrews 9:11-17). The lost need deliverance from the bondage of sin, not the bondage of an earthly government.

The Lord Himself prophesied that He would build His church and at the same time give to His apostles the "keys of the kingdom." (Matthew 16:18-19). The church Jesus built is the kingdom of Christ which He established through the preaching of His apostles on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2). The church, rather than being temporary a replacement for a postponed kingdom is the Kingdom of Christ coming into existence according to "the eternal purpose which He purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Ephesians 3:10-11). We know the kingdom of Christ was already in existence in the 1st century for Paul declared that both he and the Colossian Christians had been "translated into the kingdom of God's dear son" (Colossians 1:13). How would that be possible if the kingdom was not already in existence?

Dear reader, the teaching of premillennialism is false because it denies the true mission of Christ and the spiritual nature of His kingdom. It is a THOUSAND YEARS FROM THE TRUTH.