

Lesson 12 Conclusion; Eschatology and the EFCP's SOF #9, Adopt the 2019 change or Stay with the older?

Definition

Premillennialism—The view of the eschaton wherein the second coming of Christ is pre-millennial. The lead in to the Second coming includes a “restrainer” of evil removed from the earth, the proclamation of the Gospel to all nations, the “apostasy”, the Great Tribulation, under the influence of the personal Antichrist. Rev 19:11-16 is a symbolic depiction of His coming, that is **before** the thousand years spoken of in Revelation 20:1-6. Satan is bound and cast into the Abyss for 1000 years. During that time certain saints come to life and reign with Christ on earth for 1000 years. Those certain saints include those who were beheaded because of their testimony for Jesus, and the word of God, who had not received the mark of the beast. Other saints elsewhere mentioned in Rev. 2:26-27 may be included among these who reign during the millennium. Christ rules along with the saints He delegates. Evil is very restrained, , the earth is fruitful, peace predominates even in nature. After the Millennium, Satan released, a final battle, Satan thrown into the Lake of Fire, Final Judgment, the eternal state of the redeemed.

Current Varieties of Premillennialism

Early Church Premillennialism-- found in the church fathers of the second and third centuries with enough detail to show they were premillennial in their thinking.

Classical Dispensational—

God has **Separate Programs for Israel, and the Church**, Church age not seen in the OT prophecies, Daniel's 70 weeks (Dan. 9:24-27) of years, declared from the decree to restore and build Jerusalem till the coming and being “cut off” of the Messiah. This is followed by the Church Age, until God restarts the clock for his dealing with Israel: the 70th week. that week of years is known as the Tribulation & Great Tribulation (last 3 ½ yrs), Time of the Antichrist. It begins with the Pre-tribulation rapture of the Church immediately before the 7 year Tribulation, great tribulation second half. During the tribulation, the seven year reign of the AntiChrist, Israel rebuilds its temple. The Church spends the thousand years in heaven, not on earth. Israel goes through the Great Tribulation on earth as God completes unfulfilled prophecies relating to Israel, as in believing Israel's return to the land promised to Abraham, as in the rebuilt temple, OT sacrifices re-established...the Lord returns to earth in His Second Coming, Beast and false Prophet thrown into lake of fire. The time of the Millennium of Christ's rule, great influx of Jews who believe who then rule with Christ etc.

Then Satan released, defeated, thrown into the Lake of Fire, Resurrection of Unbelievers to stand before God in the Great White Throne Judgment, to Lake of Fire. Eternal states of the believing Israel and the Church.

Progressive Dispensational--

New historical, George Eldon Ladd

Supporting factors for Premillennialism

Historically early--clear it was there in the 1st, 2nd and 3rd centuries.

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The strength of a fairly literal hermeneutic not derived from Neo-Platonism in which heaven is not material but spiritual.

Evangelicals hold all 3 positions (Premillennialism, Amillennialism & Postmillennialism) but their individual differences can be very significant-

1. Honor clear believers as brothers and sisters in Christ—they should all look to the personal bodily return of the Lord Jesus

How the change will affect the theological balance of the EFCA, both in churches and in the seminaries, and in the denomination as a whole. The NMD of the EFCA has already been losing its loved District Superintendent.

The coming theological shift. Why the EFCA has chosen not to make a decision to be Calvinistic or Arminian can be seen in the past bloody conflicts between these two theological systems. It can be seen today...

Tension say between John MacArthur and Rick Warren

Tension between a Doug Wilson and Billy Graham (locally)

Strengths and weaknesses of Premil

Does justice to the emphasis of Israel in Revelation

Treats the two "came to life's" in a way that makes the most sense

Does justice to the strong statements in the eschatological sections of Matthew 24 and

Weaknesses—whole church age unknown from the OT???

Weeks in Daniel... which decree?

Interpretation of Ezekiel's temple probably has to be taken spiritually.

Greatest weakness of dispensational variety is the re-establishment of OT sacrifices on the Classical Dispensational position.

SOF #9 before and after the change voted on at the Annual EFCA Meeting 2019

Before—

Christ's Return

9. We believe in the personal, bodily and **premillennial** return of our Lord Jesus Christ. The coming of Christ, at a time known only to God, demands constant expectancy and, as our blessed hope, motivates the believer to godly living, sacrificial service and energetic mission.

After--

Christ's Return

9. We believe in the personal, bodily and glorious return of our Lord Jesus Christ. The coming of Christ, at a time known only to God, demands constant expectancy and, as our blessed hope, motivates the believer to godly living, sacrificial service and energetic mission.