

# OVERCOMING MILLENNIAL MADNESS

## An introduction to the study of prophecy and end times

### Class 2 – Coming to Terms with the End Times: An Eschatological Glossary

#### Millennial Views:

- **Millennium:** A one-thousand-year period of time during which Messiah will rule over the world while seated on the Davidic throne in Jerusalem, described in Revelation 20.<sup>1</sup>
- **Eternity Future (or Eternal State):** A never-ending era following Christ's millennial reign spoken of in Revelation 21-22.<sup>2</sup>
- **Premillennialism:** A second-century AD prophetic school of thought teaching that Christ rules over an earthly kingdom after His second coming.<sup>3</sup>
- **Amillennialism.** A fourth-century AD school of prophetic thought that teaches that the church is a spiritual Israel, Christ rules a heavenly kingdom (never one on earth), and all end-time events occur almost simultaneously just prior to eternity future commencing.<sup>4</sup>
- **Postmillennialism:** An eighteenth-century AD prophetic school of thought that anticipates the church triumphing over the world prior to Christ's second coming.<sup>5</sup> Most popular in the nineteenth century, this view holds that the world will become progressively better with the ultimate triumph of the gospel. Christ will return after the millennium. It has been revised in "Christian reconstructionism."<sup>6</sup>
- **Preterism:** A prophetic school of thought that proposes that Christ's second coming occurring in AD 70.<sup>7</sup>

#### Tribulation and Rapture:

- **Tribulation:** The future seven-year period described in Revelation 6-19. During this period God judges an unbelieving world and His disobedient people, Israel.<sup>8</sup>
- **Daniel's Seventieth Week:** A time spoken of in Daniel 9:24-27 that corresponds to the seven-year period of tribulation just prior to Christ's millennial reign on earth.
- **Rapture:** The snatching of the church out of the world by Christ spoken of in 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18.<sup>9</sup>
- **Pretribulationism:** Places the rapture before Daniel's seventieth week.<sup>10</sup>
- **Posttribulationism:** Places the rapture at the end of Daniel's seventieth week.<sup>11</sup>
- **Midtribulationism:** Places the rapture at the midpoint of Daniel's seventieth week.<sup>12</sup>

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1 John MacArthur & Richard Mayhue, editors, *Christ's Prophetic Plans: A Futuristic Premillennial Primer* (Chicago: Moody Publishers, 2012), 209.

2 Ibid.

3 Ibid., 208.

4 Ibid.

5 Ibid., 209.

6 Paul Enns, *The Moody Handbook of Theology* (Chicago: Moody Press, 1989), 643.

7 *Christ's Prophetic Plans*, 209.

8 *The Moody Handbook of Theology*, 649.

9 *Christ's Prophetic Plans*, 209.

10 Ibid.

11 Ibid.

12 Ibid

#### EQUIPPING HOUR

- **Prewrath tribulationism:** Places the rapture at the end of the “Great Tribulation” but before the Day of the Lord, typically during last half of the tribulation. Distinguishes wrath of Satan during the tribulation, which believers will experience, and wrath of God, which believers will not experience. Usually after the sixth seal of Revelation 6:12 is opened.

### Premillennial Varieties:

- **Futuristic Premillennialism.** “A school of prophetic thought that results from a normal use of hermeneutics and produces a futuristic view of Revelation 6–20, including Christ’s one-thousand-year millennial kingdom. This was the predominant view of the early church”<sup>13</sup>
- **Dispensational Premillennialism (Dispensationalism):** “A system of theology primarily concerned with the doctrines of ecclesiology and eschatology that emphasizes the historical-grammatical meaning of Old Testament prophetic passages and covenants, a distinction between Israel and the church, and a future salvation and restoration of the nation Israel in a future earthly kingdom”.<sup>14</sup>
- **Historic Premillennialism (Covenantal Premillennialism):** A prophetic school of thought that believes in a future reign of Christ but often interprets Revelation 6–18 as having already been fulfilled or being fulfilled in church history.<sup>15</sup> Minimizes the distinction between Israel and the church.

### Israel and the Church

- **Supersessionism:** “The belief that the church has superseded Israel as God’s chosen people of blessing”<sup>16</sup>
- **Replacement Theology:** “A school of theology that teaches that the church has replaced Israel as the objects of God’s blessing”<sup>17</sup>

### Covenants

- **Covenant:** “An agreement between two parties. A bilateral (conditional) covenant is an agreement that is binding on both parties for its fulfillment (e.g. Mosaic). A unilateral (unconditional) covenant, although an agreement between two parties, is binding only on the party making the covenant (e.g. Abrahamic, Palestinian, Davidic, New).”<sup>18</sup>
- **Covenant Theology:** A seventeenth-century AD system of theology based on covenants not spoken of directly in Scripture. Generally identified as the Covenant of Redemption, the Covenant of Works and the Covenant of Grace. Strong emphasis on the elements of continuity between the Old Covenant and New Covenant believers.
- **Reformed Theology:** Distinguishes Calvinism from Lutheranism and Anabaptist theology. Reformed theology developed confessional statements espousing the Calvinistic position (Doctrines of Grace), embraces covenant theology, and emphasizes one people of God, minimizing distinctions between Israel and the church.<sup>19</sup>

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13 Ibid., 208.

14 Michael Vlach, *Dispensationalism* (Los Angeles, Theological Studies Press, 2008), 50.

15 *Christ’s Prophetic Plans*, 209.

16 Ibid.

17 Ibid.

18 *The Moody Handbook of Theology*, 262.

19 Ibid., 605.