

The Future 1000 Year Reign of Christ (Revelation 19:19-20:10)

And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army. And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone. And the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceeded out of his mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh. 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. 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, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years. 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, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years. 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. And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever. (Revelation 19:19-20:10)

Revelation 19:19-20:10 teach that the below listed literal series of events will occur in sequential order. We can tell that the vision John received of the events recorded in Revelation 19:11-21:2 are part of an interrelated sequence because John begins each new event recorded in the passage by saying "and I saw..."

The prophesied sequence of events is as follows:

- Antichrist the beast 666 and the 10 nations allied with him are gathered to make war against Jesus Christ and his army (Revelation 19:19)
- The beast and false prophet are taken and cast alive into a lake of fire (Revelation 19:20-21)
- Satan is securely bound in the bottomless pit for 1000 years from which he is unable to deceive the nations (Revelation 20:1-3)
- The 1st Resurrection: those that were beheaded for their allegiance to Jesus Christ rather than the beast 666 are resurrected to reign as priests of God and 1000 years with Christ (Revelation 20:4-6)
- After 1000 years, Satan is released from the bottomless pit. (Revelation 20:7)
- Satan deceives the nations and they attack the camp of the saints (Revelation 20:9)
- God sends fire from heaven to destroy Satan and his armies (Revelation 20:9)
- Satan is cast into the lake of fire where the beast 666 and the false prophet

were previously thrown where they are tormented forever. (Revelation 20:10)

This portion of scripture has been used by the devil to divide those who don't believe that the 1000 years is a future, literal 1000 year time period from those who consider it a future 1000 year period. The failure of certain branches of the professing church to interpret this passage correctly has led to a wrong view of the current world system, the nation of Israel and the proper relationship of the church with them.

Is the 1000 years a literal or symbolic figure?

In Revelation 20:2-7, the word translated thousand is the greek adjective **chilioi** meaning a thousand. There is no reason to interpret chilioi symbolically simply because the book of Revelation contains other symbolic language. The context of Revelation 20 doesn't dictate a symbolic interpretation of chilioi.

Why should 1000 be interpreted literally? To begin with, the prophecy makes sense if chilioi represents a literal 1000 years.

The prophecy could also make sense if chilioi is interpreted to be an undefined period of time. This would hold true as long as this period of time follows the prophesied return of the Lord to destroy antichrist the beast's 10 nation armed forces and includes the casting of the antichrist and false prophet into the lake of fire and brimstone (Revelation 19:20-21). Since we aren't told to interpret the 1000 years symbolically, however, there's no reason not to interpret chilioi to mean a literal 1000 year period of time.

Amillennialism

One of the groups which incorrectly interprets the 1000 year prophecy are called amillennialists.

Amillennialism isn't a biblical term. It's a theological label coined to describe professing christians denying a literal 1000 year millennial kingdom on earth following Christ's second coming. It teaches that the millennium is the current age or possibly the last 1000 years of the present age.

Reformed biblical professor Cornelis Venema has suggested that the term be changed to "nowmillennialism" because of his belief that the church is now in amillennialism's symbolic 1000 year period.

Some amillennialists believe that the 1000 year millennium is fulfilled now within the individual christian as Christ reigns in their hearts.

Other amillennialists believe that the millennial kingdom is fulfilled now as Christ

reigns spiritually over the earth from his Father's heavenly throne.

Still other amillennialists believe that the millennium was fulfilled between Christ's death and resurrection or will be fulfilled in the new heaven and new earth of Revelation 21:1, Isaiah 66:22 and 2 Peter 3:13.

Amillennialists tend to believe that David's throne is God's throne in heaven. As a result, they deny a literal fulfillment of God's covenants with Abraham (Genesis 15:1-7) and David (2 Samuel 7:13-16). They believe that Christ's reign on the Father's throne in heaven and his rule as head of the church on earth fulfill God's promise to David. They tend to rule out a literal fulfillment of the Abrahamic Covenant because of Israel's failures or belief that the promised land symbolizes heaven.

When the amillennialist believes the church is the new Israel, anti-semitism can be rationalized. Literal Israel's Jews are believed to be cursed by God while the church receives the blessings promised literal Israel. For an analysis of the dangers of denying the literal fulfillment of God's covenants with Abraham (Genesis 15:1-7) and David (2 Samuel 7:13-16), read "The Distinction Between Israel and the Church" found @:

<http://www.antipasministries.com/html/file0000015.htm#15g>.

Though offered to the church in many flavors, all flavors of amillennialism deny a literal 1000 year reign of Jesus Christ from Jerusalem after his return.

Preterism and Postmillennialism

When amillennialism (no or now millennium) is taken to its logical extreme, this doctrinal error, like the errant eschatological views of preterism (prophecy related to Christ's return have already been fulfilled) and postmillennialism (Christ returns after 1000 years of moral progression), lead to an improper view of the world system.

To understand Preterism's beliefs visit the link <http://www.planetpreterist.com/>.

To understand the error of postmillennialism visit <http://www.antipasministries.com/html/file0000036.htm#36i>)

In return for believing these heresies, the church becomes vulnerable to apparently well intended, yet false ideologies. False Ideologies like the current Dominionist and Christian Reconstructionist movements reflect another Jesus than the biblical Christ to the world (2 Corinthians 11). These movements grow out of an improper biblical understanding of the nature of the current world system and the church's role within it.

Overviews and analyses of the Dominionist and Christian Reconstructionist movements can be read at the following links:

<http://www.discernment-ministries.org/ChristianImperialism.htm>
<http://www.rapidnet.com/~jbeard/bdm/Psychology/cor/dominion.htm>
(http://www.rapidnet.com/~jbeard/bdm/Psychology/cor/notes_on.htm)
<http://www.antipasministries.com/html/file0000174.htm>
<http://rense.com/general60/domn.htm>
<http://www.theocracywatch.org/>
http://www.mountainretreatorg.net/eschatology/jewish_dreams.html

(Note: This writer doesn't advocate the entire content of these articles or their related websites.)

Future implications of amillennialism

Amillennialists deny a literal future fulfillment of the prophecy of Revelation 20:1 - 10. To be consistent within its own thinking, amillennialists shouldn't only negate scripture directly related to the 1000 year reign of Christ on earth from Jerusalem, however. If applied consistently, amillennial doctrine should also deny the literal fulfillment of prophecy leading up to the fulfillment of all prophecy regarding the coming 1000 year kingdom of Christ.

For example, in Daniel's prophecy's of 4 kingdom's found in Daniel chapter's 2 & 7, the amillennialist who denies a literal fulfillment of the 4th kingdom (Christ's 1000 year millennial kingdom) should also deny a literal fulfillment of Daniel's prophecy regarding the previous 3 kingdoms. If he doesn't, he's altering his method of biblical interpretation when addressing scripture related to the 4th kingdom.

History has witnessed the literal fulfillment of the first 3 kingdoms of Daniel's prophecies recorded in Daniel 2 and 7. A consistent application of literal biblical interpretation methods will also teach that history will witness the literal fulfillment of the 4th kingdom to be overthrown and replaced by the 1000 year or millennial kingdom. This kingdom will be set up by the God of heaven after the beast and the false prophet are cast into the lake of fire according to the prophecies of Daniel 2:40-44; 7:23-27; Revelation 13 and 9:11-20:4.

In teaching that the millennium is being fulfilled right now, amillennialists deny the reality of the following future things and a vast amount of biblical prophecy surrounding these items.

- antichrist the beast 666's future role as global dictator
- antichrist the beast 666's future 10 nation global kingdom.
- the false prophet's future cooperative ministry with antichrist

- Satan's current active role as the destructive and deceiving lord of this world
- the future image and mark of the beast 666
- the 1st resurrection of christians to be beheaded for refusing to worship the beast 666

The prophecy which would be denied would include, but not be limited to, the following passages: Daniel 2:31-45, 7:1-28, 8:1-27, 9:20-27, 11-12; Isaiah 10:5-25, 14:1-7; 2 Thessalonians 2:3-8; 1 John 2:18; Revelation 9-20.

If these scriptures aren't to be fulfilled literally, why would the amillennialist believe any biblical prophecy would be fulfilled literally? If the literal prophecies foretelling Christ's first advent were fulfilled, why wouldn't a believer think that the literal prophecies regarding his second advent wouldn't be fulfilled? Is it any wonder that those professing christian denominations which have embraced postmillennial or amillennial theology have been more prone to depart from a belief in the divine authority of all scripture and justify immoral actions which support their movements to reform the world system?

Will self-deceived amillennialists, preterists and postmillennialists fail to recognize the beast antichrist that shall come of 1 John 2:18 and Revelation 13:1-10 and receive his mark fulfilling the prophecy of Matthew 7:21-23 upon their lives because antichrist's global plan of dominion as taught by the false prophet meshed with the dominionist's plan for the world? (Revelation 13:11-18)

Are these doctrinal heresies part of the reason why the seduction of false prophets in the last days will be powerful enough to almost deceive God's elect according to Mark 13:22?

Puritanism and Amillennialism

There is currently a growing movement within the reformed branches of the Baptist and Presbyterian denominational churches to revive Puritanism. (for more information see:

<http://http://www.apuritansmind.com/Baptism/McMahonOldArticleOnReformedBaptists.htm>)

http://www.banneroftruth.org/pages/articles/article_detail.php?670)

In some ways this movement is potentially beneficial to the maturity of the body of Christ. This is due to the fact that the English Puritans of the 16th to 17th centuries were characterized by a high view of the holiness and sovereignty of God. Puritan ministers were generally considered to be deeply knowledgeable, yet practical, God-centered preachers of sound biblical doctrine. They were generally considered prayerful, disciplined, unselfish, holy men. They were

committed to the cultivation of a morally pure personal and corporate spiritual life, world evangelization, and the seasoning of the world with the salt of the gospel's life-changing power. Godly men like John Bunyan, John Owens, and Richard Baxter were Puritans.

As can be seen from the Westminster Catechism @ <http://www.apuritansmind.com/WCF/WestminsterLargerCatechism.htm> and the 1689 Baptist Confession @ (<http://www.apuritansmind.com/Creeds/LondonBaptistConfession1689.htm>) the Puritans sought to remain theologically balanced.

Some Puritans, however, had apparently carried their belief that life must be changed and brought under the dominion of Christ to unhealthy extremes. These extremes are discussed in an article found at <http://www.rapidnet.com/~jbeard/bdm/Psychology/amr/puritan.htm>.

The improper understanding of the current dominion of Christ, Satan and the church in the world are the potential dangers of Puritan doctrine.

Biblical dominion

The scriptures teach that God gave man dominion over the rest of his creation. Dominion means the power of governing and controlling. It includes the right to possess, direct, control, use and dispose of responsibly. According to Genesis 1:26-30, man's dominion over God's creation includes the power of governing and controlling the atmosphere, waters and land and their created living inhabitants such as trees, plants, animals, reptiles, fish, and birds. Psalm 8: 6-8 express how God has vested man with the honor of dominion over the Lord's creation. Man is ultimately accountable to God for the manner in which he exercises this dominion over God's creative works.

The throne of God

God the Father's role is that of possessing eternal, universal dominion from his throne. His throne is representative of his high, royal seat or position of honor, power and authority in the heavens. (Hebrews 8:1; Revelation 5:13, 19:4; Psalm 45:6, 93:2; Acts 7:49)

The right hand of the Father

Christ is now seated at the right hand of the Father where he was exalted after his resurrection. (Ephesians 1:20; Hebrews 1:3, 8:1, 10:12, 12:2) The right hand is representative of the shared partnership in divine administrative authority that Christ possesses with God the Father. (Revelation 3:21; 6:16, 7:9-17)

The throne or position of honor, power and authority of God is currently in the heavens. This remains true until Christ returns to earth and his enemies become his footstool. (Psalm 110:1; Acts 2:32-36; Hebrews 10:12-13; Matthew 22:41-46)

Christ's footstool

The word footstool describes a conqueror placing his foot upon the neck of his conquered enemy. When Christ returns in glory destroying his enemies, his enemies become his footstool as he treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God in conquering them to establish his 1000 year reign in Jerusalem. (Isaiah 2; 11-12; 24-27; 34-35; 49; 51; 60-66; Daniel 2:44-45; 7:23-28; Joel 3; Amos 9:5-15; Micah 4; Zephaniah 3:8-15; Zechariah 12-14:16; Malachi 3:16-4:3; 2 Thessalonians 2:8; Revelation 19:11-21)

Until that time when Christ returns and makes his enemies his footstool, we await Christ's glory to be revealed during the 1000 year kingdom (Isaiah 32; Matthew 19:28, 25:31-34).

At Christ's glorious return, the global armed forces of the beast are killed, the beast and false prophet are disposed of and Satan is fastened with chains and secured in the bottomless pit for 1000 years. (Revelation 19:11-20:2)

At that time, Christ begins his 1000 year glorious rule with his overcoming saints from his earthly throne. (Revelation 3:21) This will fulfill the prophecy of Psalm 110:1; Hebrews 1:13, 10:13; Acts 2:32-35 and Revelation 20:1-6)

Satan's limited, temporary dominion

Until that time when Christ returns to earth in glory, Satan remains the prince, lord and god of this world (Matthew 4:8; Luke 4:5; John 12:31, 14:30, 16:11; 2 Corinthians 4:4). Satan is currently unbound and roaming the earth in lion-like fashion seeking to devour Christians within the constraint of God's will. Still the devil remains the prince of the power of the air (Ephesians 2:2). He is served by his hierarchy of demons until he is bound for 1000 years when Christ returns.

Ephesians 6:12 teaches the church about her war with the demonic hierarchy. The occult world calls the 72 Spirits of this hierarchy the Goetia. The Goetia is found in a 1904 edition of the Lesser Key of Solomon based on manuscripts from the British Museum, edited by two prominent occultists, S.L. MacGregor Mathers and Aleister Crowley.

The external kingdom of Jesus Christ is not currently of this world. The whole evil world lies in wickedness. (John 18:36; 1 John 5:19)

Satan's dominion over this world has turned it into an organized system with

antichristian values and philosophies filled with hatred toward the Lord Jesus Christ and his children. (John 15:19, 16:33, 17:14; 1 Corinthians 1:20-21, 2:6-12, 3:19, 4:13; Galatians 1:4; Colossians 2:8; James 1:27, 4:4; 1 John 2:15-17, 3:13)

The world faces a woeful future until it's kingdoms are destroyed by the wrath of the Lord and they become the Lord's upon his return. (Matthew 18:7; Revelation 8-11, 19:11-21)

Antichristian dominion

Christians aren't to exercise dominion over people like people of the antichristian world system do. (Matthew 20:25-28; Luke 22:25-27; Mark 10:42-45; 1 Peter 5:3)

They're not to be in pursuit of it's pride, pleasures, possessions and power. (1 John 2:15-17; Colossians 3:1; Hebrews 13:14)

In the Old Testament God's favor on the obedient Jew was shown outwardly by financial blessing in line with his covenant with Abraham. In the New Testament, God's favor is shown by blessing with joy those who suffer like Christ did for doing what is right amidst the world's corruption. (Philippians 1:29)

Dominionism seeks to bring the material and blessings promised to Old Testament Israel into the New Testament church. It commands the church to take dominion over people in government, business, schools and churches.

Dominionism mixes law with grace. It selfishly uses either one as necessary too achieve personal and or organizational goals. In extreme forms, it promises financial success, ultimate improvement and eventual christianization of Satan's antichristian world system in preparation for Christ's return. The scriptures tell us to avoid those that believe the doctrine that godliness and the christian faith is a means to financial gain. (1 Timothy 6:3-11)

Dominionism is a way for professing christians who don't want to be crucified to this world to avoid or minimize persecution. (Galatians 6:12-15)

Dominionist deception

Dominionists can be outwardly very nice people. They may not call themselves a Dominionist, but the leaven of dominionist doctrine is discernable in their values and treatment of others threatening their domain. The scriptures warn us, however, of wolves in sheep's clothing and false prophets. (Matthew 7:15; Acts 20:29; Philippians 3; Colossians 2:8; 2 Peter 3)

Deceitfully hidden beneath the Dominionist's polished veneer may rage a ravenous, greedy, prideful pursuit of worldly success and or personal power

justifying unjust and merciless treatment of those who stand in the way of their dominion. This dominion mentality is what caused the Pharisees to conspire to kill Jesus because he was a threat to their dominion. (Luke 22:2; John 11:46-53; Matthew 23)

The same may be true today of professing Christians with Pharisaical Dominionist tendencies. They may even mistreat their brother or sister in Christ if the other's biblical views threaten their dominion.

As a closing thought concerning where Dominionism may be leading the church...will we one day find that there was a link between the deception of Dominionist doctrine and the fulfillment of prophecy teaching that many self-deceived professing Christians will be deceiving others and betraying true believers within the days leading up to the return of Jesus Christ? (Matthew 7:21-23; 24:9-14; Mark 13:12-13 and Luke 21:12-19)