

Difficulties with Amillennialism

1. Amillennialism holds to the view that this present age will end and the eternal age will begin.
 - a. In this system Rev. 20 is a description of the entire present age in which we live
 - b. The OT prophets made predictions of the coming Messianic age and the Amill system holds that this began at the first advent of Christ and will be fulfilled at the second advent of Christ
2. Amillennial Difficulties
 - a. How do we explain the nature of the golden age predicted by the prophets along with the time period it is to occur?
 - b. Isaiah 11:6-10 and Isaiah 65:17-25
 - i. Ask the questions: What? When? Where? How?
3. Consider the details of these passages in Isaiah:
 - a. A new heaven and a new earth is created (65:17)
 - b. Life will be extended (65:20)
 - c. Works shall achieve long lasting results (65:21-22)
 - d. Prayer will be answered immediately (65:24)
 - e. The animal kingdom will be changed to match the condition prior to the fall (11:6-7; 65:25)
 - i. Cf. Gen 1:29-30; 9:3-5
 - f. The earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord (11:9)
4. **How:** All systems agree that these events will only be accomplished through the work of the Lord Jesus Christ and by Him alone – Christ is the how
5. **What:** All systems agree that these passages speak of a golden age that is to come (not a present golden age – postmillennialism)

6. **When:** When Isaiah wrote these events were not occurring so they must indeed be future events from Isaiah
 - a. Now move into the age of the Lord Jesus Christ
 - b. There are only three periods of time when can these things occur?
 - i. The present age of Christ's kingdom
 - ii. The close of the kingdom age or the Millennium
 - iii. The eternal age after the first resurrection and judgment of all men and angels
 1. 2 Peter 3:10-13 – The promise of the new heavens and earth are given in Isaiah 65:17 and 66:22
 2. The new heavens and earth are also referenced in Rev. 21:1 by the apostle John

If these conditions are real and physical then all four systems have to agree that all of these conditions have not yet come to pass. Basically – nothing in Isaiah's prophecy has changed.

- c. This either has to happen right at the end of the present age (pre and postmil views)
 - d. It must occur in the eternal age (the Amil position)
7. The postmill and both premill systems view this prophecy as being fulfilled during the time period of the close of the present age – the Millennium (Rev. 20)
 - a. They see Isaiah's words as a literal description of a glorious but not fully perfected time prior to the eternal age (the perfected age)
 8. This is where the major difficulty enters in for the Amillennialists

- a. If Isaiah's description are events and actions occurring in this present age before the eternal state – the Amill must relinquish that the entire Messianic age is the golden age of which Isaiah speaks.
 - i. The Amill must become a millennialist of the pre or post variety
 - b. Remember that the Amillennial view holds to the current age (the church age) and the age to come (the eternal age) but these statements of Isaiah seems to be a mix of the two – Isaiah 65:20 seems to indicate that humans will still be dying although their days have been extended. Can saints die in a glorified body? No they cannot – this is a problem.
 - c. Also – Isaiah 65:24 indicates an instant answer to prayer – is that happening now? Are there not examples in scripture of continuing in prayer until God answers? Ex. Paul in 2 Cor 12:8
 - d. The Amill must deny that this prophecy is being fulfilled in this present age or the Amill must look forward to a future fulfillment in this present age. To look forward to a present age fulfillment is to not be an Amillennialist
9. The Amillennialist is force to say that Isaiah's prophecies are poetic and not literal but this demands an answer to another question: What does the poetry mean?
10. There is yet another problem in the Amillennial system:
- a. What do we make of the binding of Satan in Revelation 20
 - b. It is held by the Amill that Satan was bound at the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ so that the nations could not be deceived any longer (Rev 20:3)

- c. But if we are in the 1000 year period, who has been deceiving the nations for the past 2000 years?
- d. Consider these passages:
 - i. 2 Cor 4:4
 - ii. 1 Pt 5:8
 - iii. Gal 6:7
 - iv. 2 Tim 3:13
 - v. James 1:16
- e. The common Amillennial answer to this is centered around a level of degree. Basically, Satan cannot deceive the nations on the same level that he did during the OT period.

11. The two beasts of Revelation 13

- a. The beast from the sea – commonly believed to be the anti-Christ (vs. 1-10)
 - i. Note the deception of this passage – They worship the beast, they follow the beast, all authority is given to the beast
- b. The beast from the earth – the false prophet (vs. 11-18)
 - i. This false prophet deceives those who dwell on the earth into worshipping the first beast (note vs. 14)

How can the Amill state and teach that Satan is bound and that the nations are not being deceived when the Bible states that they are being deceived?

12. Revelation 20:10

- a. The devil is a real person (created being) but who are the beast and the false prophet?
- b. Nearly all Amills and Postmills hold the view that these are not persons but are symbols of political and religious systems that oppose Christ and His kingdom
- c. However, nearly all of those who are Premill hold that these are in fact persons and not religious or political systems

- d. Another problem: If the beast and the false prophet are symbols of systems, how are symbols cast into a real place like the lake of fire?

This is why Amillennialists hold that the Revelation of John is full of symbolism.