

Difficulties with Historic Premillennialism

1. Reflect upon the views:
 - a. Historic Premilennialism
 - b. Dispensational Premilennialism
 - c. Amilennialism
 - d. Postmillennialism
2. Reflect upon the mentality
 - a. World happenings often sway a persons eschatological view without them being aware of it

Should people interpret the Bible by what is taking place in the world or study and trust the scriptures despite world events?

Do you ever wonder which of these views are right? If all of these views have godly men that have held the position then which one is right or why are there differing views?

3. Your view is determined by how you interpret scripture
 - a. The Dispensational view holds that the OT prophecies are supreme over the NT – the OT interprets the NT
 - b. The other three views hold that the NT interprets the OT
4. Interpretive Example:
 - a. Consider Malachi 3:1 and 4:5 concerning the return of the prophet Elijah
 - b. The NT clarifies that this return of Elijah was fulfilled in John the Baptist (Mt. 11:13-14; Lk 1:17)
5. A great danger in Bible teaching
 - a. Bible teachers have to be extremely cautious not to let a system dictate a biblical text
 - i. If the Bible teacher refuses to recognize that their “system” has problems and forces an invalid

interpretation on the text then the hearers might believe that all other systems or views are departures from scripture

We should strive to embrace a “Barean spirit” according to Brother Jim Gables.

- Acts 17:11 – They “examined” the scriptures daily
6. The Historic Premillennial and Revelation 19-20
 - a. The millennium in Rev 20 follows the second coming of Christ found in Rev 19:11-21
 - b. It is viewed as being in chronological order
 - c. The wicked are destroyed in the end of 19
 - d. The righteous dead are resurrected to begin the millennial age
 - i. The first resurrection (Rev 20:4-6)
 - e. After the millennium is over the wicked or “rest of the dead” are raised to be judged (Rev 20:13-15)
 7. The Great Strength of the Premillennial Position
 - a. The straight forward reading of Rev. 19-20
 - b. If the 2nd coming is depicted in Rev. 19 and the millennial reign follows in Rev. 20 then some form of Premillennialism is established
 - i. If true – the Christ returns NOT to setup the new heavens and new earth, but to judge the world in Rev 19 and to setup His millennial reign on earth in Rev. 20
 8. The Great Weakness of the Premillennial Position
 - a. The great strength listed above turns out to be the greatest weakness
 - b. Most premillennial teachers will ignore, avoid, and be content in staying ignorant regarding the issues
 - c. The entire system rests upon the resurrection of the dead

- d. If there is a 1000 year period between the resurrection of the righteous and the unrighteous than the system stands
 - i. However, if there is a general resurrection of the righteous and unrighteous at the same time (the second coming of Christ) then the Premillennial system collapses
 - e. The entire system revolves around the resurrection
9. Revelation 20 is the only text in the Bible that places a time period between the resurrection of the righteous and the unrighteous
- a. C.I. Scofield – “The "resurrection of the just" is mentioned in Luke 14:13 Luke 14:14 and the resurrection of "life" distinguished from the "resurrection unto damnation" in John 5:29 . We here learn for the first time what interval of time separates these two resurrections.”
 - b. D. Pentecost even states in his book *Things to Come* that given the OT alone there is only the idea of a general election not separate ones separated by time. Pentecost indicates that the NT makes these time specific resurrections “clear.”

The question must be asked then at what point does this “clear” revelation come to us in the NT? Pentecost gives no scriptural references of this “clear” teaching – none in the gospels, none in the epistles.

The only clear revelation with a 1000 year time period is given in one text in the last book of the Bible which is dated around 95-96AD.

10. Now the difficulties begin

- a. This view must hold that Revelation 20 must replaces all previous revelation given in the OT (progressive revelation)
 - b. This view must also try to fit Rev 20 back into the previous revelations to indicate that this knowledge was already known by Jesus and the apostles – If this view is correct than Jesus’ and the apostles references to the resurrection must have held to this split view
 - c. All previous texts regarding the resurrection seem to indicate that the righteous and unrighteous are all judged (appointed to their destiny) at the second coming of Christ
11. More Problems
- a. A main difficulty also arises at the end of the 1000 years.
 - i. Satan is loosed and goes out to deceive “the nations” (Rev. 20:7-8)

Who are these people and where did they come from if all of God’s enemies were destroyed in Rev. 19:20-21?

- Can’t be the righteous – they have already been resurrected and given glorified bodies (the rapture)
 - It must be the unrighteous because they are seeking to overthrow God – but how did they get here if they were destroyed?
 - These wicked mortals (Gog and Magog) cannot be made up of mortals because none exist at this time
 - ii. Some would say that these are the living saints who were present at Christ’s coming and were not part of the rapture – they are left behind – but they also rise up against the saints and God (Rev 20:9) – so are they apostates? But God’s enemies have been destroyed
- b. Remember that the Historic Premillennial holds to the rapture of 1 Thess 4:13-18 – So

- there can be no mortal saints that are remaining after the second coming of Christ
- c. See also 1 Cor 15:51-55 – The saints are made imperishable

So “who” are these in Revelation 20? The Premillennialists has no answer for this outside of one common citation. Many will state that Rev 6:15-16 indicates that men will hide in caves at Christ’s second coming and somehow Jesus won’t be able to find them.

- d. John Gill (Baptist preacher of the 1800’s) indicated that a Dr. Burnet stated, “*that these men will be born of the earth, generated from the slime of the ground, and the heat of the sun; and increasing and multiplying after the manner of men, by carnal propagation, after a thousand years will become very numerous, as the sands of the sea, and make the attack they are said to do.*” -- Is this not contrary to God account of His creation of man?
- e. John Gill considered himself a historic premil and he held that the Gog and Magog are the resurrected wicked who are resurrected at the close of the Millennium – I have read several others who hold to this view as well – but there is no scripture to support this view and is an attempt to satisfy the systems discrepancy