

## Session 2 - Covenant & Kingdom

### Intro and Review of Session 1

#### 1. Why Eschatology Matters

Expectation

Focus

Patience

Hope

#### 2. The Kingdom

1. Throughout history God establishes kingdoms through Covenants
2. The OT looks forward to the day when God's kingdom of peace would encompass the nations and fill the earth, where the LORD would be worshipped universally
3. The kingdom of God described in the NT can simply be defined as the 'reign of God'
4. This eschatological kingdom was inaugurated when the king came to earth (Mark 1:14)
5. People now enter the kingdom by faith in Christ
6. It is an spiritual kingdom now, as Jesus reigns from heaven (Luke 17:20-21)
7. It contrasts the kingdom of this world, of which Satan is its 'prince' or ruler (Eph 2:2; 2 Cor 4:4; Col 1:13 )
8. The kingdom comes in its fullness to the world when Jesus returns, overcoming every other kingdom and ruler, so that only the kingdom of God and his people will remain. (Revelation 11:15)

### 3. Return of Christ

EDS #6: "God the Son, Jesus Christ, will come again to the earth in bodily form, at an unknown time, bringing to completion God's plan of redemption secured at his first coming."

#### The Major Events (what we agree on)

Preceded by signs

Physical Return in Glory (Acts 1:11)

Resurrection of the just and unjust (John 5:28-29)

Jesus will judge the world in righteousness (Matthew 25:31-46)

Jesus will remove the curse from the earth (Rom 8:18-23)

There will be a renewed earth and we will dwell with God as his people forever (Isaiah 65:17; 66:22; 2 Pt 3:13; Rev 21:27)

#### Issues in Question

The Rapture - Invisible or visible? What happens afterwards?

The Tribulation - A specific period or descriptive of the time between advents?

The Millennium - Is this describing a physical, earthly rule or heavenly?

The Resurrections - How many and when do they take place? Nature of them?

The Antichrist - A singular eschatological figure or more general system of evil?

The Role of National Israel - No role, central role, or included in Church.

### 4. Assessment of Major Millennial views

#### Revelation 20

Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding in his hand the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain. 2 And he seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years, 3 and threw him into the pit, and shut it and sealed it over him, so that he might not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were ended. After that he must be released for a little while.

4 Then I saw thrones, and seated on them were those to whom the authority to judge was committed. Also I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for the testimony of Jesus and for the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. 5 The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended. This is the first resurrection. 6 Blessed and holy is the one who shares in the first resurrection! Over such the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ, and they will reign with him for a thousand years. 7 And when the thousand years are ended, Satan will be released from his prison.

## Postmillennialism

### Summary

"The view that Christ will return to earth after the millennium. In this view, the millennium is an age of peace and righteousness on the earth, brought about by the progress of the gospel and the growth of the church." ~Grudem

### Adherents

Many Puritans and Post-Puritans (17th-19 century), ex: Jonathan Edwards, Charles Hodge, B.B Warfield, R C Sproul, Dough Wilson, Christian Reconstructionists/ Theonomists (Rousas Rushdoony, Greg Bahnsen, Gary North, Kenneth Gentry).

### Draw

### Critique

## Dispensational Premillennialism

### Summary

The view that Christ will return in two stages: first secretly in order to rapture his church from the earth. This is followed by seven years of tribulation during which the antiChrist rises to power. After seven years of great tribulation Christ returns this time visibly and in glory to establish an earthly millennial kingdom, in which Israel plays a central role.

### Adherents

John Nelson Darby, C.I. Scofield, Charles Ryrie, John Walvoord, John MacArthur, Tim LaHaye, David Jeremiah, Greg Koukl (many fundamentalists, Evangelical, and Charismatic churches)

### Draw

### Critique

## Historic Premillennialism

### Summary

"The view that Christ will return to the earth after a period of great tribulation and then establish a millennial kingdom. At this time believers who have died will be raised from the dead and believers who are alive will receive glorified resurrection bodies, and both will reign with Christ on earth for a thousand years." ~ Grudem

### Adherents

George Eldon Ladd, Francis Schaeffer, Wayne Grudem, John Piper, Charles Spurgeon, D. A. Carson, Millard Erickson (Many Calvinistic Baptists and Conservative Evangelicals)

### Draw

### Critique

## A Case for Historic Premillennialism

## Amillennialism

### Summary

"The view that there will be no literal thousand year bodily reign of Christ on earth prior to the final judgment and the eternal state; on this view, scriptural references to the millennium in Revelation 20 actually describe the present church age" ~Grudem

### Adherents

Augustine, Herman Bavinck, Louis Berkhoff, Anthony Hoekema, Michael Horton, Sam Storms, Roman Catholic Church, Many Confessionally Reformed Denominations

### Draw



## A Summary of the Consummation from an Amillennial Perspective

### These Last Days - Expectations for living between the Advents (Matthew 24:4-14)

- Satan Bound so he cannot deceive the nations (Mt 12:29; Mk 3:27; 1 John 5:19; Rev 20:1-3)
- Calling in of the Gentiles: Gospel goes from Jerusalem (Acts 2) to ends of the earth.
- Saints who die in Christ go to be with him in heaven until he returns (Rev 20:4-6)
- False Christs, antiChrists, false teachers and false doctrine (Mt 24:11; 2 Pt 2)
- Political upheaval: Wars and rumors of wars, kingdoms rising and falling
- Creation Groaning: earthquakes, famines, floods, pestilences etc. (birth pangs- Matt 24:5-8)
- Persecution of Believers (Mt 24:9)

### Signs the End is Near - Events immediately preceding the Second Coming of Christ

- World Evangelization complete - Gospel goes to all nations (Mt 24:14)
- A large scale conversion of the Jews to Christ (Rom 11:20-26)
- Widespread Spiritual darkness: lawlessness, unbelief, and immorality (Luke 17:26-30)
  - The love of some will grow cold (Mt 24:12)
- Satanic Rule
  - Satan released from bondage deceives the nations (Rev 20:7-8)
  - Arrival of the AntiChrist - rises to power, sets himself up as god, deceives many, unites the world against believers (2 Thes 2; 1 John 2:18; )
  - Intense persecution of Christians cut short only by Christ's return (Matt 24:21-22; Rev 13:7-8)
- Natural World: Chaos and disturbances in the natural world (Death throes) (Luke 21:25-28)

### The Parousia (Visible Return of Christ)

- Darkening of the natural world and heavens
- Trumpet Sounds, Voice of the Archangel - Great attention drawn to Christ all the world knows it
- Jesus Appears in the sky in glory accompanied by the host of heaven and his saints
- Jesus sends the angels to four winds to gather his elect to meet him in the sky (resurrection & Transformation → Rapture) - (This is the Second Resurrection unto eternal life).
- The spirits in prison (Hades) are also raised to life but for judgment (John 5:29; Mt 24:31; Mk 13:27)
- This is a general resurrection of just and unjust at the same time, not separated by 1000 years (Matthew 25:31-46; John 5:27-29)

## The Judgment

- Jesus opens the lake of fire to cast all his enemies into it
- The Beast, the False prophet, and Satan are cast into the lake of fire (Rev 19:20)
- Jesus separates the just from the unjust,(Matt 25:31-46)
  - The Just are vindicated and rewarded according to deeds.
  - The Unjust are judged and cast into the lake of fire
- Death and hades cast into the lake of fire (Rev 20:10-15)

## The Renewal of the Earth

- Cosmic renewal as Christ purges the earth with fire (2 Peter 3:10-13)
- Renews Creation
- Jesus hands over the kingdom to the Father (1 Cor 15:24)
- Jesus and his Bride live forever in the glory of God forever and ever (Rev 19:6-10;21:1-22:5)