

There are many false ideas being promoted about Jesus second coming and the end of all things. These can sometimes be based on misuse of prophetic scriptures, and a misunderstanding of the kingdom Jesus has established. While there are many offshoots of the general concept of premillennialism, there are certain basic concepts that are promoted by all groups pushing this teaching. Some examples are:

- a future reign of Jesus on the earth for one thousand years. Jesus will come back and be on a throne in Jerusalem where he will rule for 1000 years in his kingdom.

- that the church is not the earthly fulfillment of the kingdom spoken of by the Old Testament prophets. Instead it is taught that since the rejection of Jesus by the Jews was an unforeseen event, God postponed His plan to establish the kingdom and substituted the church as a temporary filler and that the kingdom would come at a later time.

- when the 'church age' is over, God will 'rapture' or remove His living faithful people from the earth along with the righteous dead from the church age. The wicked stay in the grave along with the Old Testament righteous who will be raised later.

- that there is a seven year period between the rapture of the saints and the thousand year reign on earth of Christ. During this time, only unsaved people are on the earth, the Holy Spirit is removed, wickedness will abound, and the Antichrist will rise to power.

- at the end of the seven year 'tribulation', the world's forces will gather to attack Israel but Jesus appears to defend the nation. (Who is involved in the attack is continually in flux in the teaching as the power in the world shifts from one nation to another) the battle that takes place is called the battle of Armageddon.

- after the battle, the world will be restored to its 'Garden of Eden' state. There will be no more natural disasters, no deserts, no predators, and nothing harmful. Jerusalem will be center of all the activities of the earth, and the Jews will be restored to prominence as a people. There will be peace and tranquility on the earth as Jesus reigns in His kingdom on earth for one thousand years.

- some offshoot of this idea also include the restoration of the Roman empire, the rebuilding of the temple in Jerusalem and the return to animal sacrifices

-at the end of the thousand year reign, Satan is released to bring havoc on the kingdom, but will be defeated and eternally condemned. At this time the wicked will be raised, judged, and sentenced to eternal destruction also.

There are many variations and additions to these basic ideas, most of which contract each other and violate plain scriptural teaching. In spite of this many people accept the ideas without ever examining them simply because it is popular or it is promoted in a book series as a 'best seller'. (note the popularity of the 'left behind' books and movies)

Let us look at some of the teaching in light of the plain words of scripture. For each of these teachings, tell how the referenced scripture refute it:

Teaching #1 – *The rejection of Jesus by the Jews was unanticipated and unexpected by God*

Acts 2:23 =>

Acts 4:27-28 =>

Luke 24: 25-27 =>

Isa 53:3-10 =>

What does this premise that the rejection was unforeseen by God say about God?

Teaching #2 - *The church was an afterthought and only used by God after the rejection of Jesus by the Jews.*

Eph 3:10-11 =>

Matt 16:18-19 =>

Teaching #3 – *The kingdom does not now exist on earth, the church is not the kingdom*

Heb 12:28 =>

Col 1:13 =>

Rev 1:9 =>

Teaching #4 – *Jesus will set up a literal kingdom on earth for 1000 years*

John 18:36 =>

Rom 14:17 =>

When Jesus returns, will it be to ‘establish the kingdom’? 1Cor 15:23-28 =>

In Daniel, where was the Son of Man given his kingdom? Dan 7:13-14 =>

Teaching #5 – *God has not yet fulfilled His promise to Abraham concerning the land of Israel that He promised. This will be fulfilled only when the earthly kingdom is reestablished.*

Joshua 11:23 =>

Joshua 21:43-45 =>

Joshua 23:14 =>

1Kings 8:56 =>

Teaching #6 – *the throne of David which Jesus was to occupy is on earth, the throne of God is in heaven where Jesus is now. Therefore, the kingdom He was to establish is on the earth.*

Luke 17:20-21 =>

Acts 2:30-36 =>

This is the same mistake that the Jews made who were looking for an earthly kingdom from the Messiah.

Teaching #7 – *while teaching multiple resurrections separated by long periods of time, the premillennialists group them together into two resurrections.*

The following resurrections are taught: (scriptures used as ‘references’ for this teaching)

First, Christ (1Cor 15:23)

Second, the church-age faithful at the rapture (1Thess 4:16)

Third, the tribulation period saints and the Old Testament saints ([Rev 20:3-4](#))

Fourth, the unsaved dead at the end of the thousand years ([Rev 20:5](#))

The first three are just said to be 'stages' of the first resurrection, while the fourth is the 'second resurrection'.

But Jesus teaches only one resurrection:

[John 5:28-29](#) =>

[Matt 25:31-33](#) =>

We see the problems caused by misunderstanding of the scriptures concerning the return of Jesus in the teachings of the New Testament.

In Thessalonica, there were those who quit working because they believed the Lord's return was very near – [2Thess 3:6-14](#)

Paul warned Timothy about those who were teaching that the resurrection had already occurred and that they 'missed it' – [2Tim 2:17-18](#)

The scriptures teach that Jesus will return at an unknown time (like a thief in the night), that all creation will be destroyed, that all the dead will be raised and the living changed, and that all will stand before God in judgment. Those who accept this and live accordingly have great incentive to live in such a way as to be ready for the return of Jesus at any time. But those who teach a God who does not fulfill promises, who is taken unaware by man's rejection of His plans and must change plans in midstream, are not following the God of the Bible but the deceptive teachings of men. They will face the consequences of their failure to follow what the Lord has said - [Gal 1:6-9](#) "I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you by the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel- which is really no gospel at all. Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ. But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let him be eternally condemned! As we have already said, so now I say again: If anybody is preaching to you a gospel other than what you accepted, let him be eternally condemned!"