

We Are Premillennial (What's *that* mean?)

Revelation 19.11-20.6

Prophecy is a confusing subject – just ask some theologians! Few agree on what's coming. But this shouldn't stop us from studying it. While we don't know all the answers, learning from *fulfilled* prophecy can help us with *unfulfilled* prophecy. It does. That's why we're *premillennial*.

Going off the rails: How Bible Prophecy Got Confused

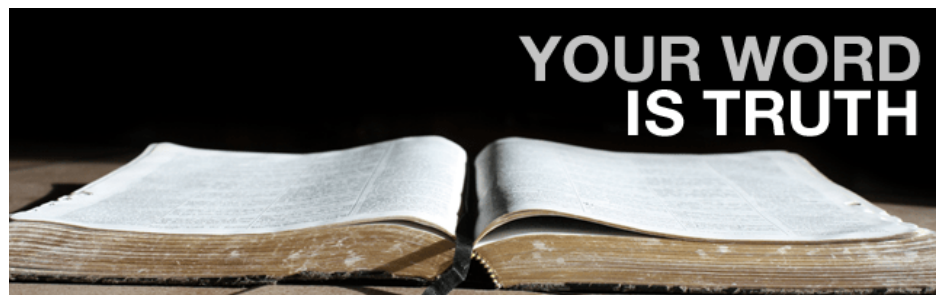
*For two centuries, Christians read prophecy literally: "What it says, it means!" Then allegorical interpretation arose in the third century, and Augustine cemented it as the way to understand prophecy...*

Three Seven-Syllable Approaches to Bible Prophecy!

- Postmillennialism – Church brings millennium, then Christ returns
- Amillennialism – No future 1000-year reign of Christ on earth
- Premillennialism – Christ returns and reigns on earth for 1000 years

What Difference Does it Make? (A lot!)

- We take God 'at His word'
- God honors all His promises
- King Jesus will reign on earth!
- Live for Him now, reign with Him then!



1. Bible prophecy is not meant to be a cudgel to beat down those who hold a different view from us, nor should we call someone a heretic because of how they interpret prophecy. Premillennialists have been called "blasphemous" by some who have a different view. Let us not be guilty of returning in kind! While we should understand prophecy and know why we view it the way we do, how should we respond to those who differ from us? When we discuss future prophecies, what should our 'end goal' be?
2. More to the point, why do you think God put so much prophecy in the Bible? Of course, it exhibits His omniscience, that He knows the end from the beginning, and shows the reliability of Scripture. But how did He want Christians down through the centuries to benefit from prophecy? What should prophecy promote in our lives (1 John 3.3; Titus 2.11-13)? How might it help us in hard times (2 Cor. 4.17; 1 Thess. 4.18; 5.11)? Why does prophecy motivate us to be faithful, even when facing persecution (1 Cor. 4.5; 1 Pet. 4.12-13)?
3. In general, unfulfilled Bible prophecy is interpreted either literally or figuratively. The best way to know how to interpret *unfulfilled* prophecy is to look at *fulfilled* prophecy. How were these *fulfilled* prophecies fulfilled? Gen. 2.16-17; 6.7; 8.21-22; 12.1-3; Josh. 6.1-5; 2 Sam. 5.1-2; Isa. 7.14; 9.6; Micah 5.2; Zech. 9.9; Mt. 1.21-23; 16.21; 26.21; Mk. 8.31-32; Lk. 1.13, 20, 30-35; 9.43-45; Jn. 2.19-22; 14.16-17; Acts 1.8. There are *hundreds* more, on virtually every page of Scripture! What does this say about *unfulfilled* prophecy?
4. Now it's your turn! How do you interpret the following prophecies? Are they already fulfilled, being fulfilled right now, or unfulfilled? How can you tell? If they are fulfilled literally, like the *fulfilled* prophecies in #3 above, when will they be fulfilled? What can we know about these times? Gen. 15.18; 2 Sam. 7.12-16; Isa. 9.1-7; 11.1-12; Jer. 30-31; Ez. 38-39; Dan. 12.1-3; Zech. 11.10; 12.1-9; Mt. 24.3-44; Jn. 14.1-3; 16.2; Rom. 14.10-12; 1 Cor. 4.5; 1 Thess. 4.13-18; 5.1-11; 2 Thess. 2.1-12; 2 Tim. 3.1-7; 4.3-4; 2 Pet. 3.8-10; and all of Revelation 4-22!