

BUILDING BLOCK ONE: A COMING KING AND KINGDOM

- The Bible teaches about a coming “King of kings and Lord of lords.” Revelation 19:11-16.
- This coming King will have an earthly kingdom that is of the nature of other earthly kingdoms.
 - Daniel 2:28, 36-44 – from these verses the phrase *Kingdom of God* comes, referring to the time in which the fifth Kingdom will have its rule.
 - Historically, the kingdom of the Medes & Persians followed the kingdom of Babylon, then followed by Greece, then Rome.
 - Rome had never ceased to be an empire, though it became divided and its influence waned (words like *Kaiser* and *Czar* come from Caesar).
- Because the book of Revelation speaks of the first 1,000 years of this kingdom, it is often called “the millennial Kingdom” or simply, “the millennium” (Revelation 20:1-6).

BUILDING BLOCK TWO: THE TIMING AND NATURE OF THAT KINGDOM

- Majority View: Amillennialism
 - Nature:
 - The fifth kingdom is spiritual and will not have a physical nature at all.
 - This kingdom is individual and not national.
 - In effect, the kingdom is the *rule and reign of God within you*.
 - Timing: The kingdom began with the resurrection of Christ and will end with the Second Coming. Only “eternity future” awaits (i.e.: Heaven and Hell).
 - Who holds this view?
 - This is the view of all Catholics, main-line Protestants, and many Baptists.
 - Famous adherents: Augustine, John Calvin, BB Warfield, Herschel Hobbs, and many more.
- Second-Place View: Postmillennialism
 - Nature: The fifth kingdom is future and physical but is built by man as they develop a perfect Christian society.
 - Timing: The tribulation is past, and the Kingdom can come when we march as better soldiers to build a better society.
 - Who holds this view?

- In the 1800s – 1930s it was the majority view among Protestants and is reflected in many hymns that we still sing.
- Today there are two versions of it that doesn’t like the name, but has many similarities: the New Apostolic Reformation (NAR) and those who build or advance the Kingdom.

- Minority View: Premillennialism
 - Nature: The fifth kingdom is future and physical and will be among the Jewish people (thus fraternal).
 - Timing: It will be cataclysmically established at the Second Coming, which comes at the end of a seven-year tribulation.
 - Who holds this view?: dispensationalists (mostly independent churches among Baptists, Bible-churches, Calvary Chapels, and other unaffiliated groups). Famous dispensationalists include John Nelson Darby, DL Moody, CI Scofield, Charles Ryrie, WA Criswell, Adrian Rogers, etc.

BUILDING BLOCK THREE: THE EVENTS LEADING UP TO THE KINGDOM

- The Bible teaches certain events prior to the establishment of the Kingdom. These events, while recognized universally, are interpreted very differently.
- Amillennialism and Postmillennialism recognize all pre-Kingdom events as having taken place in the past. The interpretation of these events is called *preterism* (which is the opposite of *futurism*)
- For pre-millennialism, there are still prophetic events leading to the Kingdom.
 - The symptoms that the end is near:
 - “The beginning of birth pangs”
 - Wars, rumors of war, famine, earthquakes, the establishment of a one-world order.
 - None of these events can be specifically shown to be a sign of the end times (though premillennial teachers will often teach them to be such).
 - The actual events that must occur:
 - The rapture of the church.
 - A peace treaty or covenant with Israel that establishes her place under the rule of the one-world order (which is led by the Antichrist).
 - A time of severe persecution for Israel of at least 3.5 years.
 - The Battle of Armageddon: *the world -vs- Israel*.
 - The Second Coming of Christ.