



*"Blow ye the trumpet in Zion,
and sound an alarm in my holy
mountain: let all the inhabitants
of the land tremble: for the day
of the LORD cometh, for it is
nigh at hand;" Joel 2:1*

September 2013

If any man will ...

... let him follow me, He says,
and some will rise and go after
Him, but others give no heed
to His voice.

So the gulf opens between man
and man, between those who
will and those who will not.
Silently, terribly the work goes
on, as each one decides
whether he will hear or ignore
the voice of invitation.
Unknown to the world,
perhaps unknown even to the
individual, the work of
separation takes place.

Each hearer of the Voice must
decide for himself, and he
must decide on the basis of the
evidence the message affords.

There will be no thunder sound,
no heavenly sign or light from
heaven. The Man is His own
proof. The marks in His hands
and feet are the insignia of His
rank and office. He will not put
Himself again on trial; He will
not argue, but the morning of
the judgment will confirm
what men in the twilight have
decided. And those who would
follow Him must accept His
conditions. Let him, He says,
and there is no appeal from His
words. He will use no coercion,
but neither will He
compromise.

Men cannot make the terms;
they merely agree to them.
Thousands turn from Him
because they will not meet His
conditions. He watches them
as they go, for He loves them,
but He will make no
concessions. Admit one soul
into the Kingdom by
compromise and that
Kingdom is no longer secure.

Christ will be Lord, or He will be
Judge. Every man must decide
whether he will take Him as
Lord now or face Him as Judge
then. A.W. Tozer (1897-1963)

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Sound the Trumpet!

- Section 1 -

Our Calling - To Suffer

The Word of God is filled with wonderful promises for the Christian. There is one promise that leaves us with an uneasy feeling. It is found in 2 Timothy 3:12, "Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution."

In 1 Peter 2:21 it is given as an exhortation that persecution is the normal experience of the followers of Christ. "For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps." That clearly states all who are called by Christ are also called to follow in His footsteps of suffering.

He emphasized the principal in Matthew 16:25, "For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it."

The Christian is a "called out one," called out of the world to follow Christ. If you are a "called out one" the world will hate you. John 15:18-19, "If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you."

If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you."

I can only conclude that if you are comfortable in the world and the world loves you, you are not a "called out one."

Herein lies the tragedy of New Evangelicalism, which has now permeated both Evangelicalism and much of Fundamentalism.

In the late 1940's a group of fundamentalists decided that they would stop contending for the faith and begin to build bridges to the world and to the apostate liberal church. They thought that they could win the world to Christ by becoming like the world. Their new philosophy was, "make friends with the world and enter into fellowship with them." They sought to get them into the worship service and make them feel at home in the church.

It was a direct violation of the clear teaching of the Word of God and it destroyed the church. It brought the

world into the church and the church became the like the world. The more people continued on this course of action the more God allowed them to be deceived in their error. The more they feel at home with the world's music, the world's methods, the world's entertainment, the world's ways and the world's immodest, sensual dress styles, the more deceived they become. In fact they become so comfortable with the world that the separated Christian is an irritation to them.

The New Evangelical church does not fear persecution, they are of the world and the world will love its own and never persecute them. John tells us about this lukewarm church in Revelation 3:16, "So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth."

I believe that when the rapture takes place this last days "Laodicean / Evangelical Church" will be spewed out into the tribulation period as an unregenerate church (see Matthew 7:21-23).

Persecution has always been the portion of the true followers of Christ though there have been periods when the church has had a mitigating influence on the evil powers of the world.

At this moment, from one end of the Muslim world to the other, Christians are being persecuted and slaughtered.

A Reuters 2012 report stated that an estimated 100 million Christians are being persecuted world-wide. The British Secret Service had put the number at 200 million. A human rights representative has estimated that a Christian is killed "every five minutes"

**"For whosoever will save
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Matthew 16:25

for his faith in Christ. The vast majority of these martyrs are being killed in the Islamic world.

The Voice of the Martyrs has estimated that since the death of Christ Jesus 2,000 years ago 43,000,000 Christians have been martyred. Over 50% of these were in the last century.

We have watched news clips where Christians in India have been beaten to death with rods by Hindus.

The most disturbing aspect of this incredible violence is that the Western Media turns a blind eye to it and are therefore complicit in it. The hatred for Christ and His followers runs deep.

In a classic illustration of this media bias against Christianity we saw much of the world and its leaders turn into convulsions when an obscure pastor in Florida did, what he should not have done, threaten to burn a copy of the Koran. However, by contrast when the Grand mufti of Saudi Arabia declared that it was necessary to destroy all the churches in the Arabian Peninsula the major media did not see this as worthy of reporting.

We, in our culture have been largely exempt from persecution, for many years we have escaped real persecution. There are clear signs that a change is coming. The righteous life of the true believer will be salt to the unrighteous and that will sting and bring a reaction. This has always been God's program for bringing conviction on the unsaved.

It seems to me that the stage is being set for the cataclysmic persecution of the tribulation period. One more piece of the end time scenario is falling into place.

In mid-September, two Taliban suicide bombers struck a church in Pakistan, killing 85 people and severely injuring another 140.

In Egypt, in the two week period after the Morsi Government fell, Muslims went on a rampage and destroyed 80 churches.

Also in Egypt, Raymond Ibrahim

“Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.”

2 Timothy 3:12

reported that the Muslim Brotherhood and its supporters began forcing the roughly 15,000 Coptic Christians of Dalga village in Egypt to pay a jizya tax as indicated in Koran 9:29.

Jizya is the money, or tribute, “that conquered non-Muslims historically had to pay to their Islamic overlords ‘with willing submission and while feeling themselves subdued’ to safeguard their existence,” Mr. Ibrahim explained.

According to Fr. Yunis Shawqi, who spoke to Dostor reporters in Dalga, all Copts in the village, “without exception,” are being forced to pay the tax.

“The value of the tribute and method of payment differ from one place to another in the village, so that, some are being expected to pay 200 Egyptian pounds per day, others 500 Egyptian pounds per day,” Mr. Shawqi said.

In some cases, families not able to pay have been attacked. As many as 40 Christian families have now fled Dalga.

Respected UK historian Tom Holland told a briefing in London this week that the world is watching the effective extinction of Christianity from the Middle East. “It is the climax of a process grinding its way through the twentieth century – the effective extinction of Christianity from its birthplace.”

Speaking about Syria, Nina Shea, director of the Washington, D.C.-based Center for Religious Freedom at the Hudson Institute stated the following.

Christians in Syria were now “caught in the middle”, she said. There was a shadow war against them by rebels, with jihadi and al-Qaeda factions deliberately attacking Christians.

“When they conquer a town they set up sharia courts and mini sharia states. The Christians are fleeing. Given the choice to be killed or to leave, they leave. If they stay, the jizya tax is imposed, and then raised. If they cannot pay they are killed.”

Christian converts in Savannakhet Province in Laos are facing eviction from their village if they refuse to renounce their Christian beliefs.

Last month, a group of fifty Christian converts in Borikan (sometimes known as Bolikanh) District, Bolikhamsai province were given a similar ultimatum and the drum beat goes on all around the world.

American Christians, it seems, are soon to become the most hunted people on the planet.

This coming persecution will make the persecution of the Roman Christians seem tame compared to what is about to break upon us. Depart of Homeland Security policies and their actions have become a barometer by which to judge the direction of the tyrannical takeover of the government by the central bankers and what it will ultimately mean for Christians.

Department of Homeland Security is lining itself up against Christians. The Army is lining up against Christians. Obama has always been against Christians. As Supreme Commander of the military, Obama has encouraged and permitted the United States military to participate in the persecution of Christians.

A recent Army briefing, given by Lt. Col. Jack Rich, to a reserve unit in Pennsylvania, identified several organizations and movements as extremist groups. First on the list of his slides presented in the briefing were evangelical Christians.

Lt. Col. Rich warned his subordinates to not back down from “bad Christian behavior” for “when they see behaviors which are inconsistent with Army values, don’t just walk by. Do the right thing before it becomes a problem.” Apparently bad Christian behaviour by Army standards is praying in the name of Jesus or talking about Jesus or displaying a Bible.

The following is a recent news commentary.

In Egypt, Libya and Syria, the Muslim Brotherhood was installed as the new leadership, or rebel leadership with the help of the Obama administration. These groups are also aligned with al-Qaeda. These groups are killing Christians by the thousands in all three countries. Presently, the Muslim Brotherhood and al-Qaeda are persecuting Egyptian Coptic Christians in horrific ways and Obama “hears no evil, and sees no evil.” It is notable that the Coptic Christian presence in Egypt predates the Muslim. However, to the Muslim Brotherhood, al-Qaeda, the CIA and apparently President Obama, Christians are now persona-non-grata and it does not matter what country the Christians are from.

Coptic children are forcibly being taken from their families and forced to

convert to Islam. Is this a foreshadowing of a future CPS field manual which will do the same here in America? Do you think this hyperbole? Then you must not be familiar with the new CPS manual which will be used to enforce "child welfare" under Obama-care. Under Obama-care, parents can lose custody of their children if their child gets a bad grade, is absent for more than 5 days in any 30 day period, if the parent has beer in the house or if the parent is a gun owner. Therefore, how far-fetched is it for American Christians to look at themselves as the next Coptic Christians and realize that the CPS could one day come for their children merely because they are Christians?

That which is now happening and that which is about to happen has occurred in the past and is foretold for the end times. All that is now taking place with regard to the end time biblical scenario is shouting loud and clear that the Bible is God's Word. Fulfilled prophecy proves beyond any shadow of a doubt that God is the Sovereign Lord of the universe who knows the end from the beginning.

We need to be seeking the face of the Lord and asking for the grace we will need for the coming days.

The world is on a rampage against God, His Word and His people. This hour was foretold by David in Psalm 2:1-3, "Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, saying, Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us."

This evil world is headed for an appointment with God. The Day of the Lord is soon to begin and the judgment of God will fall upon those who mock God and His Word. If the world could only understand what awaits it! Before the end of that seven year period the world will be largely depopulated as God brings judgment on it.

Meanwhile the party is in full swing, eat drink and be merry, we have it made, do not rain on our parade.

My dear friend, if you are unsaved now is the time to repent and turn to Christ, the one who can deliver you from the wrath to come. There is an eternal heaven to be gained and an eternal

lake of fire to be avoided. I plead with you, to turn to Christ before it is forever too late.

We read about that soon coming day in Revelation 6:15-17 "And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?"

Again, I plead with you to come to Christ while there is yet time.

"He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him."

- John 3:36-

THE PRE-TRIBULATION RAPTURE

All around the world Christians are under attack, persecution of Christians is growing rapidly. Another form of attack is also underway. Those who teach the premillennial message, that the rapture is at hand and that the long prophesied tribulation period will follow, are under attack by some who call themselves Christians.

Recently one of the large mainline Protestant denominations sent a letter of warning to their churches. They warned against Christian Zionism (Premillennialists). They warned that this teaching was harmful, and stood in the way of World peace. They stated that this teaching caused division between Arabs and Jews.

Just a few weeks ago the department of Homeland Security in the U.S. gave a secret warning to police forces. This warning was intended to alert police to groups of extremists who might cause disruptions to society, commit extremist acts or be involved in insurrections. One of the groups identified was religious groups who

believe in last days prophecies (Premillennialists).

We now have, among those who identify themselves as Evangelicals, some who are calling for an attack on premillennialists.

In an April 2009 article in Sojourner's magazine by Emerging Church leader Brian McLaren, McLaren clearly has targeted Christians. But, not just any Christians, McLaren is talking about Christians who believe Jesus Christ is coming back again, suggesting that these types of Christians are the reason there is no peace in the Middle East. He says what these end time believing Christians are doing is "terrible," "deadly," and "distorted."

The enemies of the premillennial message have been gaining much ground. Movements like the prosperity gospel, the church growth movement and competing views on prophecy have been chewing away at the pre-tribulation rapture's evangelical base. There are whole denominations and educational institutions who have turned their backs on Bible prophecy.

For example, Dallas Theological Seminary, the former bastion of premillennialism, has abandoned its traditional dispensational and premillennial view.

As the ground work for the harlot church is being laid it is to be expected that those involved in this ecumenical program will naturally abandon the premillennial position, which is a contradiction of the program of the harlot church.

Preterism or Amillennialism is an eschatology that perhaps unknowingly, makes way for the coming harlot church.

Preterism claims that nothing remains

"Preterism is a Christian eschatological view that interprets prophecies of the Bible as events which have already happened."

-wikipedia.org-

on the prophetic calendar to be fulfilled, events such as the rise of the Antichrist, the tribulation, the rapture and the Day of the Lord all took place around 70 AD, the year Rome invaded Jerusalem and destroyed the second temple.

I cannot understand why anyone would follow the preterist line of thinking in light of current world events.

Basically this error rests upon Jesus' statement that, "This generation shall not pass till all these things be fulfilled" (Matthew 24: 34).

It is easy enough to claim Jesus was speaking about a first century generation; however, this is not logical when contemplating the fulfillment of all Bible prophecy.

If we make 70 AD the magic year, we would have to delete dozens of prophecies that were never fulfilled at that time. When was the gospel preached to all nations? When was the mark of the beast implemented? What about China's 200 million man army? When did 100 lb. hailstones fall from the sky? And when was the Euphrates River dried up? Why do we have the rebirth of Israel? If Jerusalem was removed from being a burdensome stone, why is it after 2,000 years a burdensome stone today? When did Jews shout, "Blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord," as Jesus said they would?

After being so adamant about Matthew 24: 34 preterists violate many clear statements of Scripture. They say that although the resurrection of the saints happened in 70 AD, the bodies of Christians were left in the grave.

Preterists take the dangerous step of spiritualizing all passages of Scripture that relate to the nation of Israel, and maintain that these refer to the Church, claiming the Church is the new Israel. They teach that the "old earth" which the Scriptures say will pass away, is the Old Covenant. The "new heaven" and the "new earth", they claim, is the New Covenant, and the "elements" which Scripture states will burn up with fervent heat are the 'elements of the law'.

Preterism says we are now living in the kingdom age, and they produce some bizarre explanations for the calamities and sufferings from which the world still suffers. The theory that all Bible prophecy has been fulfilled is ridiculous.

One of the most widely circulated attacks against the pre-tribulation rapture is the notion that a girl named Margaret MacDonald started this theological view back in 1830. The claim is typically made that MacDonald received a demonic vision, passed it on to John Darby, who in turn popularized it. Disproving this assertion proves rather easy. Pre-tribulation scholars have discovered a host of rapture writings which predate Margaret MacDonald. Ephraem the Syrian said, in 373 AD, "For all the saints and Elect of God are gathered, prior to the tribulation that is to come, and are taken to the Lord lest they see the confusion that is to overwhelm the world because of our sins." One post-tribulation author offered a reward to anyone who could find a quote that predated MacDonald. He had to quickly cough up the money when someone identified a scholar who wrote about the pre-tribulation rapture several years before MacDonald. As of late, dozens of examples have been found, and the literary surface has hardly been scratched.

With the revealing of all these pre-MacDonald writings, you would think that this argument has been debunked. Unfortunately, this is not the case. We seem to be involved in a tug-of-war with the truth. Apparently, due to their lack of research, pre-tribulation opponents continue to pump out publications which cite MacDonald as the originator of the pre-tribulation rapture.

We have two different interpretations of the fulfillment of Bible prophecy.

AMILLENNIALISM AND PREMILLENNIALISM

These different interpretations of scripture involve a large portion of the Scriptures. These interpretations are radically different. They have a profound effect on the understanding of Scripture, on the purpose and direction of the Church, on the expectations of believers and upon the program and purposes of Satan.

Logically, one of these two views must be apostate! We (premillennialists) may have fellowship with our brothers and sisters in Christ who are Amillennialists. We can have no fellowship with them concerning a large portion of the Scriptures.

AMILLENNIALISTS TEACH:

There will be no future earthly millennium. The promises of Isaiah

11:6-12 are spiritualized away, along with many other promises.

The present church age is the millennium. That is not what Jesus promised the Church for this present age. See John 15:18-20, and consider the lives and martyrdom of the Apostles.

The Church saints are now reigning with Christ in a spiritual millennium (see Luke 1:32, 33, Rev 2:26, 27). Both of these relate to a yet future day.

The Church takes the place of Israel and that God is finished dealing with the nation of Israel. See Romans 11: 25-29, Jeremiah 31:35-38. If you can spiritualize that, then language has no meaning.

Satan is Now Bound. They do intellectual handstands to prove this. They claim that Revelation 20 has to do with the future and yet relegate verses 2 & 3 to the past. The fact is that as the age goes on Satan's power is increasing 2 Timothy 3:13.

The Tribulation Period took place in 70 AD. Only a vivid imagination can, through spiritualizing things, place the events of the tribulation period back in that time!

At the End of this so-called spiritualized millennium, Christ will return and a general resurrection and judgment will take place.

IN CONTRAST SCRIPTURE TEACHES:

There will be a future, literal, earthly millennial kingdom. It is a literal earthly kingdom in Isaiah 2:1-4. It has never happened in the world yet. These promises cannot be spiritualised. See Isaiah 11:1-9. It does not describe our world today (see also Jeremiah 23:5-8). These promises cannot be spiritualized as in Micah 1:1-3 and Zephaniah 3:9-12. God made promises to Israel, to David and his seed, Psalms 89:2-4. Do not listen to people who twist the scriptures. See also Hosea 3:4, 5. Those promises cannot and will not be broken. Psalms 89:30-37.

The Present Church Age is not the Millennium. Contrary to Amillennial belief, the second coming of Christ precedes the Millennium. The second coming of Christ is presented in Revelation 19: 11 - 20:4, as preceding the binding of Satan, which is concurrent with the beginning of the Millennial age. Revelation 19:11-20 shows Christ's coming to earth. In Revelation 20:1-3 we have the binding

of Satan. Revelation 20:4 tells of the beginning of the millennial kingdom.

The Church Saints are not now reigning with Christ in a spiritualized millennium. Instead of a time of spiritual peace, we are in a time of intense spiritual warfare. 2 Timothy 2:3, 4; 1 Timothy 1:18; Ephesians 6:13; 2 Corinthians 10:4, 5. In no way can the promises of the Old Testament be spiritualized to fit our present situation. They picture, peace and rest and ultimate triumph. These are the very opposite of our present spiritual conflict.

The Church is not Israel and God still has a plan for Israel. God promised three things to Abraham and his seed.

1. LAND - Genesis 13:14, 15 - a literal land and described as such. To change that clear, plain statement is to twist the Scripture. Today Satan is working through those in his kingdom to deny Israel that promise. Unfortunately, amillennialists are in Satan's corner.

2. SEED - Genesis 17: 7, 8 - unconditional, "I will give it unto thee, and to thy seed after thee." To change that clear promise is to make God a liar and discredit His Word. Gen. 3:1 "Yea hath God said", as Satan asked Eve. An eternal possession, "for an everlasting possession".

3. BLESSING - Gen 22:17, 18 - The promise of blessing for Israel is not forfeited because of sin. In the Church, pseudo-Christians do not partake of the blessing promised to the Bride of Christ and the Bride of Christ does not forfeit her blessing because of sin. Forgiven sin magnifies the Grace of God. God will punish and correct Israel but not make an end of her. Jeremiah 30:11; Jeremiah 31:33-36; Zechariah 12:10-14; 13:1, 8, 9. To spiritualize these promises is to twist Scripture and leave us uncertain of "rightly dividing the Word of truth". See also Isaiah 11:11,12

* **SATAN IS NOT BOUND**. In Revelation 20:1-3 notice the purpose for which he is bound. He is bound so that he cannot deceive the nations for the duration of the thousand years. Satan is obviously not bound now in the Church age. Acts 5:3, 2 Corinthians 4:4; Ephesians 2:2; 1 Thessalonians 2:18; 2 Timothy 2:26; 1 Peter 5: 8.

* **THE TRIBULATION PERIOD DID NOT TAKE PLACE IN 70 AD** The book of Revelation is a prophecy about future events, not a history about past events Revelation 1:1, 3. Most scholars believe

the book was written about 95 AD, certainly after 70 AD; therefore it cannot describe events in 70 AD. Irenaeus placed the writing of it in 95 to 96 AD in the reign of Domitian who died in 96 AD. In Matthew 24:21 Jesus describes the tribulation period as the greatest time of tribulation that has or ever will happen to Israel. The events of 70 AD do not fit that category. Josephus gives an eye witness account of what happened in 70 AD, 101,700 Jews were taken prisoner, 1,356,460 killed. The holocaust saw 6,000,000 Jews killed, so the tribulation period is yet future, Zech.13:8, 9. All the events of Revelation 6 to 19 were not fulfilled in 70 AD.

* **CHRIST WILL RETURN PRIOR TO THE MILLENNIUM NOT AFTER IT**. See Rev. 19:11 to 20:4, this corresponds with what Jesus taught in Matthew 25:31-34, 40-41. Eternity will not begin until after the Millennium. Revelation 20:7; 21:1

Scriptures tell us that someday Christ will come and remove the usurper of this world from his position of ruling over this world. See 2 Corinthians 4:4; Revelation 20:2, 3.

In Luke 1:32, 33 Christ will come to rule over a redeemed Israel, re-established in their own land. Satan knows if he can destroy Israel he can prevent Christ from fulfilling His promise and thereby he can defeat God. That is what anti-Semitism is all about, that is what is going on in the Mid-east today. That is exactly what Amillennialism is attempting to do theologically. It is a part of Satan's attempt to defeat God's program.

This is why the Roman Catholic Church has been anti-Semitic down through the ages. It claims to be the Kingdom of God on earth. That claim makes no room for Israel to receive the kingdom; the Roman Catholic Church says that Rome is the eternal city not Jerusalem.

Some people say we should not be concerned about Bible prophecy. The fact is that more than 25% of the Bible is predictive prophecy. If we are not interested in Bible prophecy we are not interested in the Bible. God thinks prophecy is important, we see that in Genesis 18:17, "And the Lord said, Shall I hide from Abraham that thing which I do." How can we say we are not interested in what God desires to reveal to us about what He intends to do.

About 50% of Bible prophecy has been fulfilled and that 50% has been fulfilled

literally. We can logically conclude that the remaining 50% will be fulfilled. We also conclude that the remaining prophecies will be fulfilled literally.

Logically it follows that the predictive prophecies concerning, the Rapture; the Tribulation Period; the Second Coming; and the Millennial Kingdom will all be fulfilled literally just as the First Coming of Christ was fulfilled literally.

You cannot understand what the scriptures teach unless you interpret them correctly. There are two basic methods of interpretation, Literal and Allegorical. Only one can be right.

LITERAL INTERPRETATION:

Literal interpretation involves the Grammatical, the Historical and the Literal aspects of interpretation.

In the Grammatical interpretation - we understand that God communicated through human language. Therefore the meaning of the message is to be understood in the normal sense and use of the language. We must understand the language to understand the message.

In the LITERAL INTERPRETATION - we are to understand the message as it is literally given to us. There are figures of speech, there are allegories and there are types. We must understand that the text will make it obvious when these figures and types and allegories are to be applied, as is the case in any normal language. You cannot take the scripture and arbitrarily give meanings to the words, meanings that are not there.

In the HISTORICAL INTERPRETATION - we must understand that God communicated in an historical setting. Therefore the historical setting gives meaning to the communication.

The ALLEGORICAL INTERPRETATION destroys the scripture. Anyone can give a text any meaning they choose to give it. The meaning then is determined by the reader rather than the giver of the scriptures. Allegory is a literary device in which each object, character or event is given a symbolic meaning. The meaning of scripture is then determined by the one doing the interpreting rather than the author.

Allegorical interpretation is the basic method of the Amillennialists. Literal interpretation is the basic method of the Premillennialists.

The PREMILLENNIALIST, with regard to eschatology, through a literal interpretation of scripture, sees some of the basic future events as follows:

- ✓ The Rapture of the Church is always imminent. It is the blessed hope of the Church.
- ✓ The Tribulation Period is seven years of catastrophe for the earth and its citizens. It follows the Rapture.
- ✓ The Second Coming of Christ is at the end of the tribulation period with His Bride, the Church. He comes to bring judgment on the gentile nations and set up the Kingdom for Israel.
- ✓ The Earthly Millennial Kingdom follows after the Second Coming of Christ. The curse on the earth is lifted as Christ comes to reign in righteousness and justice (Luke 1:32, 33). Isaiah 11 will be fulfilled at that time.

- ✓ The White Throne Judgment comes at the end of Christ's thousand year reign.
- ✓ The Eternal Age is ushered in with the transition between the millennial kingdom and the eternal age.

The AMILLENNIALIST, by way of contrast, through an allegorical interpretation of scripture sees a different scenario:

- ✗ The Tribulation Period is past; supposedly it took place in 70 AD
- ✗ The Kingdom of God on Earth is now! The State Churches and the Catholic Church claim to be administrators of this kingdom. Notice that Isaiah 11, and Luke 1:32, 33 have not yet been fulfilled. The imagination of the post-tribulationist knows no bounds at this point.
- ✗ Christ will return and all will be caught up.
- ✗ The Earth will be destroyed and that will be the end of the earth (see Psalm 104:5). The promises to Israel will not be fulfilled. (The whole thrust

of the O.T. is the redemption of Israel and her return to the promised land with the Son of David reigning on the throne of David.)

- ✗ The Beginning of Eternity will happen at the same time the previous two items, either simultaneously or in rapid succession.

This Amillennial eschatology is basically designed to allow the Catholic Church or the State Churches to be the kingdom of God on earth. This makes room for them, knowingly or unknowingly, to transition into the great harlot church of Revelation 17 which is the ambition of the Roman Catholic Church fulfilled. This fulfills the Churches age long desire to rule over the world as the supposed kingdom of God on earth.

This unbiblical eschatology is a very serious perversion of scripture with serious consequences for those involved in it. Art Sadlier.

THERE ARE YET TWO COMINGS OF CHRIST TO THE EARTH

The question is often asked: "Where in the New Testament does it say there are yet two comings of Christ?" We respond with another question, "Where in the Old Testament does it say there would be two comings of Christ?"

The fact is that it does not state in so many words in the Old Testament that there were yet two comings of Christ. However the Old Testament teaches clearly that there was to be two comings of Christ. The same situation applies in the New Testament, it does not plainly state that there will yet be two comings of Christ, but it does clearly teach that there are yet two comings of Christ.

In the Old Testament we read about Christ (Messiah) coming to die, even the method of His death, crucifixion, is described in detail. In contrast to that

we also read that He is coming in glory to rule this world, these are of necessity two separate comings. We have a classic verse that presents this idea, Isaiah 61:2 refers to both comings without any explanation, "To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, (First Coming) and the day of vengeance of our God", (Second Coming). We have the same principal in Matthew 24 we have, without explanation, reference to both the rapture and the second coming.

In the New Testament we have two irreconcilable accounts of Christ's coming, the only way they can be reconciled is to realize that they are talking about two separate comings of Christ. They are talking about the rapture and about the second coming.

CHRIST HAS TWO PURPOSES IN HIS COMINGS

First: He comes to bring about the Judgment seat of Christ and to prepare the church for marriage of the Lamb.

Second: He comes to the earth visibly in power and glory to destroy Antichrist, to bring judgment upon an unbelieving world at Armageddon, to rescue Israel's surviving remnant and to set up the millennial kingdom, Zech. 13:9 Zech. 14:1-4,9.

These two purposes could never fit into one event. They involve a sequence of events and a time lapse.

When Christ comes He will meet the saints in the air and return to heaven with them. When Christ comes, His feet will "stand in that day upon the mount of Olives". It is obvious that these are two separate events separated by a period of time.

Jude 14, "...the Lord cometh with ten thousands of His saints, to execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed..." That is irreconcilable with 1 Thess.4:17 where we are told that we will "meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord". These of necessity must be two separate events.

Christ comes when "... ye know neither the day nor the hour ...". When Christ comes every eye shall see him coming. "And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory" (Matthew 24:30).

"Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh."
- Matthew 25:30 -

WHICH IS IT? THEY ARE TWO SEPARATE EVENTS

Christ takes His Bride home to heaven with Him. Christ comes with His Bride arrayed in fine linen, having been purged at the judgment seat of Christ. These are two separate events.

When Christ comes life will be normal, they will be marrying and giving in marriage and eating and drinking, there will be no expectation of impending judgment. Men will be working in the fields and grinding at the mill. When Christ comes, men will be hiding in the caves of the earth in fear of the impending judgment of God. These are two obviously different scenarios and two different time frames and two different events.

Christ comes when even some Christians are sound asleep, Matthew 25:5. No one will be sleeping when the battle of Armageddon is raging and the world is destroyed as Christ comes the second time. Again we have two separate comings.

Christ comes to take the church back to Heaven to be with Him, John 14:3 and Christ brings the church to earth to reign with Him a thousand years, Revelation 19:11-15, Revelation 20: 4. These are two separate events.

As Noah was taken off the earth prior to the flood and lifted up in the ark of safety, and as Lot was taken up to the mountains to escape the judgment of God. In like manner the church, the bride of Christ will be taken from the earth before the awful world-wide wrath of God falls upon this world during the tribulation period.

Woven into the warp and woof of all of the scriptures is the teaching and promises of God that the seed of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob will inherit the Promised Land forever. Christ will rule and reign on the throne of David in Jerusalem, He will reign over Israel and the world.

The scripture is also a record of a great warfare that has been raging since the fall of Adam. The battle is over who will rule this world, Satan or God? God is not just going to destroy this world so that Satan cannot rule over it, which would be the defeat of God's purpose. God had a purpose when He created this world as a home for man, and He will fulfill His purpose.

Psalms 104:5, 148:6, along with other scriptures tell us that the earth will stand forever. At the end of the millennium, the heavens and the earth will be renovated, Psalm 102:26, Rev. 21:1. To teach, as the amills teach, that the earth is just going to cease to exist, is to attack the program and purposes of God.

Amillennialism is an attack on God's word, an attack on the purposes of God and an attack on Israel. It is an attack on the church today, an attempt to confuse the church about what God is doing and going to do in the world. It is an attempt to prevent the church from living in anticipation of Christ's any moment return, which Paul tells us is a purifying hope. It is an attempt by Satan to discredit what God is doing and intends to do through Israel. It is a source of confusion for the people of God.

The amillennialists have no message; they occupy their time in discrediting what God's word teaches. They set up straw men and attack them. To say that the tribulation period took place in 70 AD, and that the Devil is now bound and that we are now in the millennium is foolishness. Where today do we see the wolf lying down with the lamb, where do we see the lion eating straw like the ox? Satan is not bound; in fact his power and influence is growing by the day.

I acknowledge that there are amillennialists who are sincere in what they believe, but they are sincerely wrong and are dishonouring God, His word and His purposes and bringing great confusion at a crucial hour in the church's history.

Replacement theology is the child of amillennialism; it replaces Israel and does away with her altogether; that is the program of the devil. Satan hates Israel and has constantly sought to destroy her. He seeks to destroy Israel to prevent God from fulfilling His purposes for Israel. Christ will reign over this world from Jerusalem, ruling over Israel on the throne of David. Satan desires to rule this world in place of God. Amillennialists join with Satan in seeking to reject Israel.

Amillennialism is Roman Catholic Theology, invented when the Roman Emperor Constantine became head of the church. The Roman Church of that

day transferred the promises of God for Israel to themselves, making the church and the pope ruler of an earthly kingdom.

When the reformation came, the Mainline State Churches restored some of the great truths that had been lost, for example, salvation is by grace and not by works. The same reformation churches failed to complete the reformation, for example they held on to infant baptism. They also held on to Roman Catholic eschatology. That explains why premillennial eschatology was not taught during the long dark ages of the Roman Church, and why it was not taught during the era of the reformation church. Just as the reformation churches recovered the doctrine of salvation by grace without works, so the Philadelphian Church of the 18th and 19th centuries recovered the doctrine of the premillennial rapture.

The eschatology of Rome, which is seeking to build a world kingdom based on religion, will ultimately produce the world wide apostate harlot church of Revelation 17.

The signs the coming tribulation period are everywhere and the rapture is soon to take place. We are exhorted to be looking for and prepared for His coming. "And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming" (1 John 2:28).

Art Sadlier

Christ has two purposes in His Comings

First: He comes to bring about the Judgment seat of Christ and to prepare the church for marriage of the Lamb.

Second: He comes to the earth visibly in power and glory to destroy Antichrist, to bring judgment upon an unbelieving world at Armageddon, to rescue Israel's surviving remnant and to set up the millennial kingdom.



Safely Home

When Maude was diagnosed with Alzheimer's we began together, a seven year journey. The Gerontologist laid out for us the expectations we would have.

As I contemplated the journey and the scenario that would unfold, I took on a mission. Over the years it flashed like a neon light in my mind and in my soul. "Get her safely home".

The road was an uphill road that grew steeper as the years rolled on. We walked together and then I felt I was carrying her, all the while with the realization that the Lord was carrying both of us.

The Lord brought changes in my life that should have taken place years earlier. I learned about love and patience and endurance and faith. I thank the Lord He kept me alive more than eighty years to learn these wonderful things.

I discovered a helpful truth, Alzheimer's can destroy the mind but it cannot touch the soul. The mind gives input to the soul and that input can be managed. I used several methods of managing that input.

I played gospel music many hours each day. She would sit in her chair, seemingly asleep, all the while her lips would be moving, syncing the words.

She would watch and listen by the hour to the Bible on video. Occasionally she would exclaim, "That's wonderful."

Then if the dark clouds appeared on her countenance I would have her watch "Little House on the Prairie" to keep her mind active.

The third strategy was most important of all; I immersed her in my love.

The sunset and the night came on bringing anxiety and pain. The passion increased, "Get her home safely".

In the darkness and pain of a tortured mind, distorted by the disease, she would occasionally strike out in confusion and frustration. She said to me on occasion, "I hate you, I should never have married you." Moments

later she would say, "Kiss me, I love you."

Often in the morning after kissing her a number of times she would call me over and say, "I haven't had a kiss today."

As the end approached the passion grew, "Get her safely home".

In her last days in the hospital, I said one day to her, "I love you," after a period of silence, I said to her "do you love me?" She whispered "I have always loved you".

As the end drew near I was filled with anxiety and confusion as to how to proceed with her care. In the darkest night of my life I placed her again in the Lord's hand and the peace of God filled my soul.

A day later, the Lord in an unusual way brought me in contact with a leading authority on end care for Alzheimer's patients. He gave me a great assurance and confirmation as to how the care should proceed.

God is a God of promise. In our journey there failed not one word of all His good promise. God is a God of presence; we were conscious of His presence every step of the way.

The end came and through my tears I cried out, "Praise the Lord, she is safely home, Safe in the arms of Jesus".

Today we do not mourn a defeat, we celebrate a victory.

Dead? Can we call it dying? That life that is filled to the brim? She is living forever with Him.

F.B. Meyer said 120 years ago:

"Let us learn what death is.

It is simply a translation: not a state, but an act; not a condition, but a passage. We pass through a doorway; we cross a bridge of smiles; we flash from the dark into the light. There is no interval of unconsciousness, no parenthesis of suspended animation.

"Absent from the body," we are instantly "present with the Lord."

Oh, do not think of death as a jailor of a prison house, in which he is collecting the saints against some final order for their liberty. It is nothing of the sort. It is but the grim disguise of one the angels of God's presence-chamber, specially commissioned to bring faithful souls into the audience of the King. As by a single act of birth we entered into this lower life, so by the single act – men call death, but which the angels call birth (For Christ is the First born from the dead) – we pass into the real life. The fact that Elijah appeared on the Transfiguration Mount in holy converse with Moses and with Christ proves that the blessed dead are really the living ones, alert, active, intensely in earnest; and they entered that life in a single moment, the moment of death.

Would it not be truer to speak of them not as the dead, but as those who have died, and are alive forever. It must be remembered however, that while it is far better to be with Christ, present with the Lord – blessedness will not be complete until the resurrection of the body, which will then have put on incorruption and immortality. "

We are not here to eulogize Maude, for those who knew her no eulogy is necessary. For those who did not know her no eulogy would be adequate. We are here today to magnify and exalt Maude's Saviour.

William Carey said, "When I am gone say nothing about William Carey, speak about William Carey's Saviour."

"Should you go first and I remain to finish with scroll. No lengthening shadows shall creep in to make this life seem droll. I'll finish with zeal, the task we began sixty years ago.

Should you go first and I remain to finish with the scroll. I'll sound the trumpet loud and clear, warning of the judgement that is near."

Someday down that long or short road, we'll meet again in the light of His glory. Art Sadlier