

***“That Blessed Hope”  
Amillennialism***

**Introduction:**

1. This Morning - We Are Going To Begin:
  - A Section In Our Series On Eschatology:
    - That - I Hope:
      - Will Not Only Be Informative:
        - But - Will Also Be:
          - Illuminating - To Our Own Understanding:
            - About The End Times!
2. Because - We Will Be Introducing:
  - Four Of The Major Systematic Approaches:
    - To Eschatology:
      - That Christians Have Held Over Time:
        - And Still Do!
  - Now - Even Though:
    - The Biblical-Theological Approach:
      - Is Where We Will Spend:
        - The Bulk Of Our Time:
          - In This Series!
    - I Do Think It Will Be Useful:
      - To See Where Those Biblical Paths:
        - Have Taken Others!
3. Those Four Approaches:
  - That We Briefly Touched On In An Earlier Lesson:
    - All Are Named In Relation To:
      - What Has Been Called:
        - The “Millennium” - Which Is The “Thousand Year” Period Referred To:
          - In Revelation 20!
  - **Those Four Approaches Are:**
    - A-Millennialism!
    - Post-Millennialism!
    - Historic Pre-Millennialism! And:
    - Dispensational Pre-Millennialism!
4. Now - As We Go Through These Approaches:
  - Over The Next 4-5 Weeks:
    - My Goal Is To Present Each One:
      - Independently:
        - Before We Try To Interact With Them!
  - I Think This Is Important:
    - Because It Will Help Us:
      - Look At Each Position:
        - From ***Their*** Point Of View:
          - In A ***Positive*** Way - Not Just In A Negative Way!
  - Because - There Are Some Things:
    - That We Can Learn From:
      - And Even Be Blessed By:
        - Each One Of Them!
5. Now - I’m By No Means:
  - An Expert In Any Of These Approaches:
    - To The Millennium!
      - But - As I’ve Been Studying Them:
        - Each One Has Its Own:
          - Strengths!
          - Weaknesses! And Even:
            - Variations!
  - But - All Of These Millennial Positions:

- Are Held By:
  - Orthodox, Bible-Believing Christians:
    - Who Believe That:
      - “What The Bible Says Is So!”
      - And:
  - **They Believe In The Fundamental Truths:**
    - About Christ’s:
      - Redemption & Resurrection!
      - Return!
      - Reception Of His People:
        - By Both A Resurrection & A Rapture!
      - Reign! And:
      - Restoration Of All Things!
        - Through Judgment & An Eternal State With A New Heaven & A New Earth!

6. Now - At The End Of Each Of Our Lessons:

- *If* We Have Some Time For Questions:
  - Please Make Sure Those Questions Are Asked:
    - To Help You Understand More:
      - About The Approach We Just Looked At!
  - At This Point:
    - We Are Not Going To:
      - Interact & Debate With Each View:
        - With Any Other!
    - But - If You Do Wonder How A Particular Verse Or Passage:
      - Is Handled By A Position:
        - I Will Try My Best To Answer It According To Their Principles Of Interpretation!

7. So - With That - The First Approach:

- That We Will Look At - Is Known As:
  - A-Millennialism!
  - And - The First Thing I Want Us To Consider Is:

1. ***The Meaning Of Amillennialism:***

- Most Of The Time - When You Add An “A” To A Word:
  - You Do So To Make It Into A “Negative” Or “Negation” Of That Word!
    - So - A Lot Of People - When They Hear That Someone Believes In: “Amillennialism”:
      - They Think That They Do **Not** Believe In **Any** Kind Or Form Of Millennium Or Reign Of Christ!
  - But - Most Amillennialists Take Issue With This:
    - Because - As They Insist:
      - They **DO** Believe In A Millennial Reign Of Christ!
        - But - That Reign Is:
          - **Going On Right Now!**
            - Not At Some Point In The Future!
        - And - That Reign Is:
          - Primarily A Heavenly Reign:
            - Not An Earthly Reign!
        - And - That Reign Is:
          - Enjoyed Only By The People Of God:
            - Not By Unbelievers As Well!
    - They Also Believe That:
      - The 1,000 Years Mentioned In Revelation:
        - Is A **Symbolic** Reference:
          - To A Long Period Of Time!
        - **Greater** Than The Period:
          - Of Trials & Tribulations:
            - Of Believers!
        - But **Less Than** Eternity!
          - And So Far - 2,000 Years!
      - And - This Is Something That Is Common:

- In Every Approach To The Millennium:
  - More Or Less!
- So - You Might Often Hear Them Say That:
  - They Believe In An:
    - **“Inaugurated Millennium!”**
      - It Is A Reign That Is Going On Right Now!
  - Now - There Is Some Variation:
    - Even Among Amillennialists!
      - Which Is Something That We Will Find:
        - In All Of The Approaches!
    - But Some Believe That:
      - The Kingdom Is Now:
        - Only In Heaven - For Believers Who Have Already Died And Are In The Presence Of The Lord!
    - While Some Others Believe That:
      - The Kingdom Going On Now:
        - Is In Heaven AND In The **Hearts**:
          - Of His People On Earth!
- But - Either Way - The Kingdom:
  - **Is Primarily A Spiritual Kingdom!**
    - And - They Will Point To What Jesus Said:
      - To Pontius Pilate In John 18:36-37 - “Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence. / Pilate therefore said unto him, Art thou a king then? Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice!”
- So - This Is The Meaning Of Amillennialism!
  - The Next Thing We Will Look At Is:

2.

**The Millennium Of Amillennialism:**

- The Chart Of Amillennialism Is On The Back Of The Lesson Guide:
  - Which You Can Refer To, If It Will Help:
    - Just Remember - There Are Variations As Well!
- Since They Believe That:
  - The Kingdom Of Christ Was Inaugurated At:
    - His Resurrection & Ascension Into Heaven:
      - They Look At Revelation 20 Differently Than Other Positions!
  - First - They Don't See:
    - The Book Of Revelation:
      - As Being A Strictly **Chronological** Account Of What Is Going To Happen:
        - At The End Times!
- And - There Is Some Validity To This:
  - Because - There Does Seem To Be Some Recapitulation In Some Of The Sections:
    - Where - After The Seventh Angel Sounds His Trumpet:
      - Revelation 12 Goes Back In Time To Describe The Birth Of Christ:
        - Who - 12:5 - “And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne!”
- Well - In The Same Vein - They Look At:
  - **Revelation 20** As A Summary Of:
    - The 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Comings Of Christ - Along With:
      - His Heavenly Reign Going On At The Same Time As:
        - The Church Age!
    - Robert Strimple - **“A Broad Panorama Of The Gospel Age!”** - So:
  - 20:1-3 - Tells Us In Symbolic Language:
    - What Jesus Did With Satan:
      - **At His First Coming!**
        - Which Was The First Messianic Climax!
          - He **“Bound** Him!” (20:2)

- They Will Then Look To Jesus' Words:
  - In Matthew 12:28-29 - To Prove That This Is Why Jesus Came - "But if I cast out devils by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God is come unto you. / Or else how can one enter into a strong man's house, and spoil his goods, except he first bind the strong man? and then he will spoil his house!"
- So - Jesus Bound Satan At His First Coming:
  - So That He Could "Spoil His House" And Bring The Gospel Of The Kingdom:
    - To The Whole World!
- 20:4-6 - Tells Us Also In Highly Figurative Language:
  - **What Is Now Going On** During This Church / Kingdom Age, With Both Earthly & Heavenly Visions!
    - Those Who Die In & For Christ:
      - Will "Live And Reign With Christ" In His Heavenly Kingdom!
  - So - The "First Resurrection" For:
    - The Amillennialist:
      - Is The New **Birth** Of Christians - Which Leads To:
        - The Spiritual Resurrection Of Their Souls Into Heaven After They Die!
  - So - In The Meantime:
    - The Church & The World / Good & Evil:
      - Will "Continue On Parallel Tracks!"
        - And This Means That The Church Will Continue To **Suffer!**
  - They Also See That:
    - The Period Of Suffering For Believers In Christ:
      - Will Intensify - Even To The Point Of:
        - "Great Tribulation" That Jesus Describes Matthew 24:21!
          - Because - Then:
- 20:7-10 - **Tells Us About Christ's *Second* Coming!**
  - Which Is The Second Messianic Climax!
    - Because - When He Returns:
      - So Much Will Take Place In Rapid Succession - A Cluster Of Events!
  - Because - This Will Be The Time:
    - Of The Resurrection & Rapture Of All Believers:
      - Who Will Immediately Follow Christ:
        - To Participate In His Judgment:
          - Upon The Wicked!
    - So - There Is One General Resurrection:
      - Of Both The Wicked & The Righteous:
        - Before The Great Judgment Of God!
  - And After The Final:
    - Casting Away Of The Devil:
      - The Lord Will Usher In The New Heaven & New Earth & The Eternal State!
- One Of The Main Reasons Why Amillennialists Believe That:
  - There Is No Additional Time Period:
    - Between The **Second** Coming Of Christ & The Recreation Of This World Is Because:
      - **I Corinthians 15:50-58 Tells Us That At** That Time:
        - "Death Is Swallowed Up In Victory!"
  - If There Is A 1,000 Year Millennial Kingdom:
    - After The Second Coming Of Christ:
      - Then Death Still Persists:
        - Through His Kingdom & Especially After It!
- Now - To See Why:
  - Amillennialists Look At End-Times Prophecy The Way They Do - We Need To Also Consider:

### 3. ***The Methods Of Amillennialism:***

- The Methods Of Biblical Interpretation:
  - Are Very Important For Amillennialists!
    - And - There Are A Couple Principles:
      - That Stand Out!
  - **First Method - The Primacy Of The *New* Testament!**
    - The New Testament - They Believe:

- Is “Our Infallible Guide” To Interpreting And Understanding:
  - The Old Testament - And Their Prophecies About The End Times!
- Because So Much Of The Messianic Age:
  - Was Foretold In ***Terms*** Of:
    - The Old Testament Age!
- So - To Know What God Meant To Teach:
  - About The Future Kingdom:
    - You Have To Look At:
      - What The New Testament Tells Us About Its Details!
- A Few Examples:
  - Might Help Us Understand This Better!
- 1 - The OT Prophets Tell Us About A Messianic Kingdom:
  - For The People Of Israel!
    - But - According To The New Testament:
      - Who Is The True Israel?
        - Jesus & His People!
          - ***Not*** National But Spiritual!
  - In Jeremiah 31:31-34 - The New Covenant:
    - Was Promised To Israel!
      - How Does The NT Interpret This Promise?
        - The New Covenant Is In Force Now! To The True Israel! Not Waiting For A Future Time!
      - See This In Hebrews 8:7-12 / 10:16!
  - So - According To The Amillennialist:
    - **The Gospel & Church Age:**
      - ***Is*** The Fulfillment Of:
        - This Promise To ***Israel!*** Also:
- 2 - The OT Prophets Tell Us About A Messianic Kingdom:
  - In Terms Of The Davidic Dynasty!
    - In 2 Samuel 7:16, King David Was Given This Promise:
      - “And thine house and thy kingdom shall be established for ever before thee: thy throne shall be established for ever!”
    - But - The Apostle Peter - In His Sermon On The Day Of Pentecost - In Acts 2:30-31 - Refers To The Resurrection & Ascension Of Jesus As The Fulfillment Of This Prophecy:
      - “Therefore being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him, that of the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh, he would raise up Christ to sit on his throne; / He seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul was not left in hell, neither his flesh did see corruption!”
  - So - According To The Amillennialist:
    - **The Reign Of Jesus Christ:**
      - Already ***Began*** At His Resurrection & Ascension:
        - Into Heaven - Where He Now Sits On His Throne At The Right Hand Of The Father!
- Another Important Method Of Interpretation Is:
  - **The Centrality Of *Christ!***
    - Even Though Prophecies Were Given:
      - About The Land Of Canaan & Israel!
      - About The City Of Jerusalem! And:
      - About The Temple!
    - These Geographical Locations & Structures:
      - Were Just ***Symbols*** - Given In A Way That:
        - The Old Testament People Of Israel:
          - Could Understand And Appreciate!
        - But - They Only Pointed To Greater Realities!
    - The Land Of Canaan / Israel:
      - Pointed To The Fuller Promise Given To Abraham:
        - Which Was Not Just A City Or A Country, But The Entire World!
        - And Is Fulfilled In The ***Gospel!***
      - And So - The Prophecy Of Isaiah 2:2-4:

- Is Taking Place Right Now - "And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the LORD'S house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it. / And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem!"

- The Future Temple:

- Pointed To Its Greater Fulfilment In ***Jesus!***

- Who Himself Said - Matthew 12:6 - "But I say unto you, That in this place is one greater than the temple!"

- And - John 2:19 - "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up!"

- Amillennialists Understand These Old Testament Objects:

- As Types & Symbols & Shadows:

- Of The New Testament Realities:

- That Are ***Right Now*** Found In Jesus!

### Conclusion:

1. So - One Of The Most Important Contributions:

- Of This Kind Of Approach To Eschatology:

- Is What Has Become Known As The:

- **"Already / Not Yet" - Distinction Of:**

- Prophetic Fulfilment!

- The ***First*** Coming Of Christ:

- Inaugurated The:

- "Already" Part Of Those Promises!

- Jesus Does Reign - And Its Eternal!

- Jesus Is King!

- Jesus Has Already Bound The Devil!

- Jesus Is The Temple!

- And "Since Christ Is The True Temple, We Are To Look For No Other!"  
(Strimple)

- But - The ***Second*** Coming Of Christ:

- Is The "Not Yet" Aspect Of Those Promises!

- When He Will Make Them Permanent!

2. So - Some Of The Primary Features:

- Of Amillennialism Are These:

- Very ***Symbolic!***

- Very Simple!

- Very ***Consistent!***

- Very Christ-Centered!

3. So - There Are Definitely Some Things To Appreciate:

- About The Amillennialist Position And Interpretation:

- Of The End Times!

- Any Questions To Help You Understand This Position Better?

4. **Titus 2:13:**

- "Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ!"

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