

“That Blessed Hope”
Postmillennialism

Introduction:

1. I Trust That The Video:
 - That We Played Last Sunday:
 - Was Not Only Interesting - But Also:
 - Informative - As We Are Exploring:
 - The Different Systematic Approaches:
 - To The Millennium!
 - In The Video:
 - All Three Major Approaches Were Represented:
 - A / Post / Pre Millennialism!
 - But - I Hope You Also Noticed:
 - That All Three Of Those Men:
 - Were Baptists - And Serve At The Same Southern Baptist Seminary:
 - In North Carolina!
 - So - Once Again - This Shows Us That:
 - Eschatology Is Something That:
 - We Can And Ought To:
 - Debate & Even Disagree:
 - But Never To Divide Over - Unless There Is A Denial Of:
 - The Literal Return & Second Coming Of Jesus Christ!
 2. Well - This Morning:
 - We Are Going To Turn Our Attention To:
 - The Second Major Approach:
 - To The Millennium - Which Is Known As:
 - **Post-Millennialism!**
 - And - As We Did:
 - When We Looked At:
 - A-Millennialism - My Goal For This Lesson:
 - Is To Look At This Approach:
 - In An Independent & Positive Way:
 - Before We Try To Interact With It!
 3. But - As We Saw From The Video Last Week:
 - This Position Is Also Considered To Be:
 - An Orthodox Position:
 - That Believes In The Fundamental Truths:
 - Of The Gospel & Of Christ’s Return!
 - And - Once Again:
 - *If* We Have Some Time For Questions:
 - Please Make Sure Those Questions Are Asked:
 - To Help You Understand More:
 - About This Approach!
 - And With That - As We Did With Amillennialism:
 - The First Thing I Want Us To Consider Is:
1. **The Meaning Of Postmillennialism:**
 - This Approach Simply Believes That:
 - The Second Coming Of Jesus Christ:
 - Will Take Place Immediately ***After***:
 - The Millennium Kingdom:
 - Which ***Does*** Take Place On This Earth!
 - So - Unlike Amillennialism:
 - The Millennial Kingdom:
 - Is Not Just A Spiritual Kingdom:
 - That Exists In Heaven!
 - ***It Is Or Will Be***:
 - A ***Spiritual*** Kingdom:
 - With An Extensive ***Earthly*** Influence!

- And This Is In Accordance With:
 - God's Initial Promise To Abraham:
 - In **Genesis 12:2-3** - "And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed!"
- This Means That:
 - Jesus Will Reign Over This Kingdom:
 - From Heaven - While:
 - He Extends His Reign Over The Whole World Through:
 - His People - The Church:
 - Till "All Families Of The Earth Be Blessed!"
 - And Only *After That*:
 - Will Jesus Return:
 - To Judge The "Quick & The Dead!"
- You Can Look At The Chart Of:
 - **Postmillennialism** Which I Handed Out With The Lesson Guide:
 - Which Is Also Pretty Simple In Its Approach!
- So - Like Amillennialism:
 - Postmillennialism Also Considers The Thousand Years:
 - That Are Mentioned In Revelation 20:
 - To Be A Symbolic Number:
 - That Refers To A Long Period Of Time!
 - And - For Some Postmillennialists:
 - That One Thousand Year Period Can Potentially Extend To:
 - Thousands & Thousands Of Years!
- In The Words Of Kenneth Gentry:
 - "Postmillennialism expects the proclaiming of the Spirit-blessed Gospel of Jesus Christ to win the vast majority of human beings to salvation in the present age. Increasing Gospel success will gradually produce a time in history prior to Christ's return in which faith, righteousness, peace, and prosperity will prevail in the affairs of people and nations. After an extensive era of such conditions the Lord will return visibly, bodily, and in great glory, ending history with the general resurrection and the great judgment of all human kind!"
- So - This Is The Meaning Of Postmillennialism!
 - The Next Thing We Will Look At Is:

2. **The Millennium Of Postmillennialism:**

- Now - Even Among Postmillennialists:
 - There Is Some Variation To This Approach As Well!
- Some Believe That:
 - The Entire Church Age:
 - Is The Millennial Kingdom!
 - So That - When Jesus Rose From The Dead And Ascended Into Heaven:
 - The Kingdom Began - And His Kingdom Will Slowly But Surely:
 - Expand Until It Extends To The Entire World!
 - They Consider The Promise Land Of The Old Testament:
 - To Be A Symbol Of The New Testament:
 - Kingdom Of God!
 - And So - What God Said About:
 - *That* World - Applies Also To *This* World!
 - **Deuteronomy 7:22-23** - "And the LORD thy God will put out those nations before thee by little and little!" / "But the LORD thy God shall deliver them unto thee, and shall destroy them with a mighty destruction, until they be destroyed!"
- Others Believe That:
 - The Millennial Kingdom Will Begin:
 - At Some Time In The Future:
 - When The Gospel So Penetrates & Permeates The World:
 - That The Church Will Enter Into A "Golden Age" - And:
 - Its Influence Will Be Seen & Felt In Every Nation & Institution In This World!
 - There Will Still Be:
 - Both Nations & The Church:

- But The Spiritual Influence Of The Christ & His Church:
 - Will Effectively “***Christianize***” The World!
- Perhaps Even With:
 - The Vast Majority Of People On Earth Being True Christians / Believers In Christ!
- And This “Golden Age” May Last:
 - For A Literal Thousand Years:
 - Which Is What Many Of The Old English Puritans Believed:
 - Or - It May Extend Even Longer!
- But - Either Way:
 - **The *Success* Of The Gospel:**
 - Is This World & In This Age:
 - Is What Sets Post-Millennialism Apart:
 - From The Other Approaches!
 - And - They Believe This:
 - Because Of The Great Commission:
 - That Jesus Gave To His Church:
 - In Matthew 28:18-20 - “And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. / Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: / Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen!”
 - Since Jesus Right Now Possesses:
 - “All Power” And Authority:
 - As The King Of Kings & Lord Of Lords:
 - As He Builds His Church:
 - In This World:
 - “The Gates Of Hell Shall Not Prevail Against It!” (Matthew 16:18)
- Now - Postmillennialists Will Admit That:
 - This May Not Be What We See & Experience Today!
 - But - They Would Say:
 - We Must Not Judge The Truth:
 - Of This Kingdom Based On:
 - Its Timing!
 - They Would Turn To Some Of Jesus’ Parables:
 - To Show That:
 - Even Though The Advance Of The Kingdom:
 - May Seem Very Slow At Times:
 - It Is Still Very ***Sure***:
 - Because Of The Word & Power Of Christ!
 - So - The Kingdom Progresses:
 - Over The Long Term:
 - Not Short Term!
 - **Like The Parables Of The Mustard Seed & Leaven:**
 - In Matthew 13:31-33 - “Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is like to a grain of mustard seed, which a man took, and sowed in his field: / Which indeed is the least of all seeds: but when it is grown, it is the greatest among herbs, and becometh a tree, so that the birds of the air come and lodge in the branches thereof. / Another parable spake he unto them; The kingdom of heaven is like unto leaven, which a woman took, and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened!”
 - The Postmillennialists Believe That These Parables Show That The Kingdom Of The Lord Will Grow & Spread:
 - In A Slow But ***Steady*** Way:
 - Until - As It Is Described In Isaiah 11:9 - “The Earth Shall Be Full Of The Knowledge Of The Lord, As The Waters Cover The Sea!”
- So - How Does The Postmillennialist See:
 - Revelation 20?
 - Much In The Same Way:
 - As The Amillennialist:

- In That It Is A **Summary** Of The Kingdom / Gospel Age!

- They Too See:
 - The Binding Of Satan:
 - As Taking Place:
 - At Jesus' First Coming!
 - Because - Kenneth Gentry:
 - "Before The Coming Of Christ, All Nations Beyond The Borders Of Israel Were Under The Dominion Of Satan!"
 - But Now - The Gospel Has Spread & Is Believed Throughout All Nations!
- And So - When The "Golden Age" Of The Church:
 - Reaches Its Zenith - And Perhaps:
 - Even Well Beyond That Point In Time:
 - 1 Corinthians 15:24-26 Will Be Fulfilled - "Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. / For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet. / The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death!"
- Now - To See Why:
 - Post-Millennialists Look At End-Times Prophecy The Way They Do - We Need To Also Consider:

3. **The Methods Of Postmillennialism:**

- The Methods Of Biblical Interpretation:
 - Are Very Important For Postmillennialists As Well!
 - And - There Are A Couple Principles:
 - That Stand Out!
- First Principle - **God's Purpose!**
 - His Purpose For His Creation!
 - This World Was Made By Him & For Him:
 - Colossians 1:16 - "For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether [they be] thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him!"
 - And So - To Relinquish His Creation:
 - To The Power Of The Devil:
 - Would Be Contrary To His Purpose:
 - For Creation!
- Second Principle - **God's Power!**
 - His Sovereign Power & Ability:
 - Versus The Limited Power Of The Devil!
 - Even The Power Of His Word:
 - Isaiah 55:11 - "So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it!"
 - The Postmillennialist Believes That:
 - The Power Of God's Word **Will:**
 - At Some Point, Cause The Whole World To Return To Him!
- Third Principle - **God's Provision!**
 - In Addition To His Word:
 - God Also Provides:
 - The Holy Spirit - Along With Other "Ample Equipment" To Eventually:
 - Bring "All Things Under His Feet!" (Ephesians 1:22)
 - And So - Even In This Age:
 - "The Resurrection Of Christ Is More **Powerful** Than The Fall Of Adam!"
- Fourth Principle - **God's Promises!**
 - The Postmillennialists Believe That:
 - All Of The Promises Given:
 - To The People Of Israel In The Old Testament:
 - Are Fulfilled In And Through The **Church** - Which Consists Of The True People Of God - Both Jew & Gentiles:
 - As The Spiritual Israel!
- Fourth Principle - **Principle Of Preterism!**
 - This Is The Principle Used By Postmillennialists:
 - To Interpret Many Of The Prophecies About The Future & Judgment!
 - "Preterism" Means Things That Are Past!

- So - What Was Future For The Biblical Writers Is Past To Us!
- So - In Matthew 24 & In Revelation:
 - So Much – Even Most – That Is Described There:
 - Has Already Been **Fulfilled**:
 - Especially In The Years That Ran Up To:
 - The Fall Of Jerusalem In 70 AD!
 - And Even The Great Heavenly Signs & Wonders:
 - Are Put In Strong, **Figurative** Language:
 - That Are Familiar Throughout Biblical Prophecy!
 - For Example - In Matthew 24:
 - The Great Tribulation That Jesus Describes:
 - Refers To The 42 Month-Long Period Of Persecution:
 - By The Roman Emperor Nero!
 - 3 ½ Years!
 - But - As Jesus Says In:
 - 24:29 - “Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken!”
 - This Is Symbolic Language That Looks Back To The Language Of Judgment Used In Isaiah To Describe The Judgment That Was Going To Take Place On Babylon & Did:
 - Isaiah 13:10 - “For the stars of heaven and the constellations thereof shall not give their light: the sun shall be darkened in his going forth, and the moon shall not cause her light to shine!”
- These Are Some Of The Main Principles:
 - That Are Used By Postmillennialists:
 - As They Interpret - Not Just Prophecy:
 - But The Whole Of Scripture!

Conclusion:

1. So - As We Did With Amillennialism:
 - I Want To Look At Some Of The Primary Features:
 - Of Postmillennialism!
 - Postmillennialism:
 - **Is Very Optimistic!**
 - It Envisions A Glorious Future:
 - For The Gospel, The Church:
 - And Even The World - In This Age!
 - **Is Very Extensive!**
 - It Does Not Divide The People Of God:
 - Into Different Camps!
 - When Jesus Came - He “Broke Down The Middle Wall Of Partition” Between Jewish & Gentile Believers! (Ephesians 2:14)
 - The Kingdom Belongs:
 - To All Of God’s People!
2. So - Along With Amillennialism:
 - There Are Also Some Things To Appreciate:
 - About The Postmillennialist 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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