

February 11, 2024

# The View

*“Sirs, we wish to see Jesus.” – John 12:21*

**“The Lord your God is in your midst,  
a mighty one who will save;  
he will rejoice over you with gladness;  
he will quiet you by his love;  
he will exult over you with loud singing.”**

Zephaniah 3:17

## Welcome Visitors

Our goal at the Folsom church of Christ is to do everything according to God’s word, including respecting its silence. We are not a denomination, not part of anything larger than this local church; we have no earthly “headquarters.” The five elders oversee this church and, ultimately, we answer only to Christ. The comments you hear today are primarily for the benefit of our own members, as we examine Scripture and seek to be built up in our faith in Christ. If you don’t understand something, please do not hesitate to ask the preacher or one of the elders. We welcome and appreciate your comments and questions on any issue and especially if you see or hear anything that you feel does not correspond to God’s word. We are here to serve; please help us do that.

***Please fill out a visitor’s card and put it in the collection plate when it is passed.  
We do not solicit donations from visitors. See page 4 for more information.***

## Schedule

### The Lord’s Day

#### 9:30 AM Bible Classes

Auditorium: A Study of Nehemiah  
Young Adult Class (room 12): Romans  
Room 15/16: Ladies Class: Psalms

#### 10:30 AM: Assembly

Preaching Today: David Posey  
A Cloud of Witnesses I  
Hebrews 11:1-7

Livestream at 9:30 & 10:30 <https://tinyurl.com/5f2cbm3y>

#### Bible Class: 5:00 PM @ the Building

*Improving Our Singing (Auditorium)*

High School Class, 5 PM on Sundays @ David & Christie Posey’s home

Young people monthly meeting (middle school): contact David Sanderson ([david.r.sanderson@intel.com](mailto:david.r.sanderson@intel.com))  
or Seth Reagan ([sethreagan@gmail.com](mailto:sethreagan@gmail.com))

There are several on-going Bible classes in the homes of members. Check with David Posey or one of the other elders if you would like to join one of those classes.

### Wednesday 7 PM @ Building

Classes: same as Sunday 9:30 AM

2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday Men’s Bible Study: 7 to 8 AM

Bel Air Market on Bidwell in Folsom. “Iron sharpens iron” (Proverbs 27:17). Mentoring (Titus 2:1-6).

## Inside

**Premillennialism, page 2-3**

**“Thoughts for a Busy Church” page 3**

**News, page 4**

Articles published in the View reflect only the thoughts and opinions of the author alone, not necessarily the editor, the elders or any member of the church at Folsom.

# Premillennialism

By DAVID POSEY

I'M AWARE THAT THIS ARTICLE WILL NOT BE OF INTEREST TO EVERYONE BUT THIS IS A POPULAR DOCTRINE THAT HAS GAINED TRACTION PARTLY DUE TO CURRENT EVENTS. THIS DOCTRINE TEACHES THAT JESUS IS COMING BACK TO RULE IN JERUSALEM. THAT'S PART OF THE MOTIVATION FOR SOME OF OUR LEADERS SUPPORT OF ISRAEL (I'M NOT SUGGESTING THAT WE SHOULDN'T SUPPORT ISRAEL – BUT NOT FOR THIS REASON).

**Q**uestion: Is Jesus a reigning King, or still waiting in the wings? To believe in the doctrine of “premillennialism” is to deny that Jesus is reigning over his kingdom today. In fact, it is to deny that the kingdom of God is present today. Why is it important that we understand this doctrine? Let one of its most prominent proponents explain:

“Premillennialism is a system of interpretation which involves the meaning and significance of the entire Bible, and defines the meaning and course of the present age, determines the present purpose of God and gives both material and method to theology.” — John Walvoord

## Basic Features of the Doctrine

There are various shades of this doctrine but basically it comes down to an interpretation of Revelation 20:4:

Then I saw thrones, and seated on them were those to whom the authority to judge was committed. Also I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for the testimony of Jesus and for the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.

Pre” means “before; “millennial” = 1,000. Premillennialists believe Christ will come back to earth and then begin a literal reign of 1,000 years on the earth. This reign will take place in Jerusalem on David’s literal throne; Jews will return to Palestine and Christ will rule over them in a physical kingdom. The 1,000 years is the time between the second coming of Christ and the final judgment (they separate these into two events). “Pre” means we are living before that time; it hasn’t happened yet. The details:

The Old Testament promises a Messiah who would come to establish a kingdom and rule over all the nations. At his first coming, Jesus *intended* to set up this “earthly kingdom” but *failed* since the Jews rejected Him. Jesus therefore established the *church instead of the kingdom*, as a temporary measure. Therefore, his kingdom was *postponed* to a more suitable time in the future. According to this teaching, we are now living in this “church age” only because Jesus *failed in his first attempt*.

The next major event will be the “rapture” of the righteous, both dead and alive. They will stay with Christ for seven years. The unrighteous will still be on the earth. During this time, since the earth will be devoid of good people, wickedness will run rampant. This is called the “Tribulation.” At the end of the 7 years, Christ will return with a heavenly army and overthrow all the evil. This is the “Battle of Armageddon.” He will then resurrect the “tribulation saints” who (somehow, despite the evil environment) were converted during the 7 years.

Only then will Christ establish the earthly kingdom he *intended* to establish the first time. He will reign from Jerusalem on the throne of David for 1,000 years. Satan will be bound during this time so the earth will be pure — a *utopia*. After the 1,000 years, Satan will be loosed for a “little while” and will make his final assault on the saints, but will be defeated by God. The final resurrection and judgment on the wicked will occur and the righteous will go to heaven and the wicked to hell.

There are variations on this theme, but this is the general outline followed by most premillennialists. Why be concerned about

this doctrine? As we saw in Walvoord’s statement above, premillennialists view this as a, if not *the*, central doctrine in the Bible. It colors their interpretation of virtually every text in the Bible. Most false doctrines include a “second chance” component and we see that here in the eventual salvation of some of the “tribulation saints.”

## Four Major Problems with Premillennial Teaching

### I. Premillennialism misinterprets some scriptures and ignores others. For example:

1. Acts 2:29-31: Peter taught — in AD 30 — that Christ was already on David’s throne!
2. Peter is preaching about Christ’s *resurrection*, not his return!
3. Premillennialists *have no hour when ALL will be raised*. John 5:28-29: Acts 24:15 speaks of “a” resurrection not two or three.
4. The Bible clearly teaches that the wicked and righteous will be judged together; the resurrection of the dead and second coming are concurrent: See Mt. 25:31-46; II Tim. 4:1; II Thess. 1:5-10.

**Revelation 20:4-6** is the only passage in which a 1,000 year reign is mentioned and it doesn’t explicitly say what it is. Revelation is full of figurative language so we must be careful.

### Notice what Revelation 20 does NOT mention:

- The second coming of Christ.
- A “rapture” (the word is never used in Bible the way premillennialists use it — some “caught up” while others remain).
- II Pet. 3:10. A “rapture” requires the earth to remain but Peter explicitly says it will be *burned up*.
- Regarding the reign of Christ on the earth, the New Testament never says Jesus will set foot on earth when he comes back.
- Other things not mentioned in Revelation 20: a literal throne of David; Jerusalem; conversion of Israel; the church.

Premillennialists base their doctrine on texts that clearly contradict other texts.

### II. Premillennialism questions God’s and Jesus’ integrity.

God said clearly that he would establish his kingdom; according to this doctrine, he didn’t. If so, how can we have faith in a God who does not keep his promises? See Romans 4:21.

Can man thwart God’s plans!? Paul says “no!” Rom. 3:3-4. Yet Scofield says, “The kingdom announced as ‘at hand’... was rejected by the Jews... and the King, crowned with thorns, was crucified... afterward He announced His purpose to ‘build’ His church. But his chronology is wrong: Matthew 16:18 (“I will build my church”) comes before Matthew 27 (the account of Jesus’ crucifixion).

Another quote, by S. D. Gordon: “It can be said at once that his dying was not God’s own plan. It was conceived somewhere else and yielded to by God.”

Is God in control of the world he created and his plan to save man or not? Cf. Ps. 2:1-4; Isa. 14:24, 27; 46:9-10. Read Acts 2:23-24. Eph. 1:3-5.

*Continued on page 3*

Continued from page 2

### III. Premillennialism questions Christ's Deity

- Was Jesus a false prophet? Dt. 18:20; cf. Mk 9:1. He said he would set up his kingdom; if he didn't, what does that say about his deity?
- Jesus knew He was going to suffer and die: Mt. 16:21, etc. He was cognizant of having finished the work: Lk. 24:44.
- Jn. 17:4 — Jesus said "he accomplished the work" God gave him. Did he lie?

### IV. Premillennialism discredits the Church

Premillennialists teach the church (Christ's body; Eph. 5:23) is only a stop-gap — that if Christ had succeeded in establishing the kingdom, there would be no church. They say "Jesus had no plans to found a religion." How do they explain the book of Acts?

The Bible presents a high view of the church. See Mt. 16:16-18 (did the gates of hell prevail against the church even though Jesus himself said they would not?); Eph. 3:9-11, 21. Ephesians 3:10: "...so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places."

What is the truth about Jesus' work on earth and the Second Coming?

- Jesus accomplished *all* of God's will while on earth (Lk. 24:44; Jn. 17:4; Eph. 1:4; Heb. 1:1-3).
- Jesus never intended to set up a *worldly* kingdom (Jn. 18:36)
- Jesus Christ is the reigning King of the Universe, King of Kings now (Lk. 19:37-40; I Tim. 6:15-16; (Mk. 1:14-15; 9:1; Col. 1:13; Rev. 1:9)).
- When Jesus Christ returns, it will be the end, not the beginning (I Thess. 4:13-18; 5:2-3; II Pet. 3:7-10).

### Why would Jesus come back to earth? All has been completed!

- His work of redemption: DONE (Eph. 1:7-11)
- His revelation: DONE (Jude 3)
- His authority: DONE (Mt. 28:18)
- His kingdom: DONE (Col. 1:13)
- His throne: DONE (Rev. 3:21)
- His glory: DONE (Lk. 24:46).

### Conclusion

John warns us, "*Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world*" (I John 4:1).

If God desired to teach premillennialism (a word not found in anywhere in the Bible), there would be clear, unambiguous language to that effect. There is none. He did, however, teach us how to be saved in clear, unambiguous, convincing language: Acts 17:30; II Pet. 3:9; Heb. 9:27.

— Compiled from various sources

## Thoughts for a Busy Church

BY GARY HENRY

These are the days of many "Christian activities": gospel meetings, Bible studies, singings, lectureships, workshops, retreats, ladies' days, men's days, Bible forums, summer camps, young men's camps, young women's camps, Sunday night "devos," youth lectureships, preachers' conferences, etc.

Within scriptural limitations, of course, these things are wonderful, aren't they? I enjoy them as much as anyone. Activities like these have the potential to increase a person's spiritual growth and development. But to be quite frank, in recent years I have become concerned, and my concern is well expressed by some quotations that I came across in my reading just the other day:

"We are producing Christian activities faster than we are producing Christian experience and Christian faith." (John R. Mott)

"Today, through an overplus of Christian activities, Jesus Christ is being dethroned and Christian wits and wisdom are taking His place." (Oswald Chambers).

"In an effort to get the work of the Lord done we often lose contact with the Lord of the work and quite literally wear our people out as well." (A. W. Tozer).

I fear that we are not producing Christians who are more strongly devoted to the Lord, at all costs and under any circumstances; instead we are producing a generation of spoiled Christians whose interest is merely in these enjoyable activities.

"I talked to a young man last year who crossed his arms across his chest, looked me in the eye, and said, 'I'm not into old stuff. If the congregation expects me to be interested, they'd better bring in speakers who are cool.'"

The acid test would be dropping the Christians raised on these activities down into an environment where they could only worship with a small, struggling congregation in an area where there were few of these activities to be enjoyed. If they showed any less interest in the Lord's work under these "deprived" conditions, that might be indication that their interest was not being held by the Lord himself, but only by a certain group of activities within a particular kind of environment.

I would say the same thing about a strong, vibrant congregation, one that is very enjoyable to be a part of. There is nothing wrong with that; we all enjoy such an environment. But if all that congregation is doing is creating a dependency on a particular kind of environment, then it's not doing its job. What every congregation wants to know is that it is nurturing Christians who love the Lord, period — Christians who would, if need be, serve the Lord just as faithfully under very different circumstances. So I hope you'll yourself ask the same question that I ask when I look in the mirror: "Is my devotion to the Lord such that I find the 'cake' delicious ... with or without any particular 'icing' in the here and now?"

In particular, I worry about our young people, many of whom are really "into" youth-oriented congregational programs but show little interest in anything not designed to "rock" in a youthful kind of way. I talked to a young man last year who crossed his arms across his chest, looked me in the eye, and said, "I'm not into old stuff. If the congregation expects me to be interested, they'd better bring in speakers who are cool." (That's like me staying in someone's home during a gospel meeting and saying to the hostess, "If you expect me to eat, you'd better put my favorite foods on the table. If you don't, I'm outta here.") But my concern is that with our niche-marketing approach to church activities, we are *catering* to that kind of self-centered thinking rather than helping people grow out of it.

There is certainly nothing wrong with doing special things to meet specific needs — now and then. But the body of the Lord as a whole is in trouble if we've sliced and diced it into so many age-groups and interest-segments that people feel no need to be interested in anything that's not tailored specifically to their demographic group.

The question is not how the body orients itself to me and my preferences; it's how I orient myself to the body and, more importantly, to Christ "from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love" (Eph. 4:16).

— EXCERPT FROM ARTICLE APPEARING IN CY-FAIR NEWS AND NOTES