

**“Eschatology”**  
**(Part 44: Postmillennialism and Amillennialism)**

**I. Postmillennialism and Amillennialism.**

**C. Postmillennialism in the Old Testament: “But indeed, as I live, all the earth will be filled with the glory of the LORD” (Num. 14:21).**

**1. Review.**

- a. The Premillennial view is excluded in Scripture.
  - (i) The events Christ’s coming sets in motion exclude the possibility of a thousand years following on the old earth.
  - (ii) When He comes, He will destroy the wicked, raise all the dead, gather all the remaining living, judge all the righteous and the wicked and situate them eternally, renovate the old heavens and earth, and conclude His mediatorial reign.
  - (iii) With everyone finally judged and situated in either heaven or hell, there is no one left to continue the human race on earth.
  - (iv) With the New Heavens and Earth having come and the old destroyed, there is no place for the human race to continue.
  - (v) There can’t be a thousand year reign of Christ following His return.
  - (vi) The Millennium must take place prior to Christ’s Second Coming.
- b. The only remaining options are the Amillennial and Postmillennial views.
  - (i) Both are united on the sequence of events at Christ’s return.
  - (ii) But they differ on the success of the kingdom of God.
    - (a) The Amil position sees things as a continual struggle between the kingdoms of darkness and light.
    - (b) The Postmil position sees the kingdom of God triumph bringing worldwide peace and prosperity for a long period of time.
  - (iii) What difference does it make?
    - (a) The Lord will do as He has planned.
    - (b) But knowing He will do something powerful and wonderful can encourage us to work with greater boldness and hope.

**2. What does the Lord reveal regarding the progress of His kingdom in the Old Testament? He will reverse the effects of the Fall, generally at first, perfectly at last.**

- a. Originally, the Lord charged Adam to multiply and subdue the earth.
  - (i) God made Adam in His image and invested him with authority as His vicegerent to rule over the earth.
  - (ii) Under His authority, Adam was to multiply and fill the earth, and he and his children were to subdue the earth to His glory.
    - (a) God gave them the ability and the command to grow numerous so that this could be carried out.
    - (b) He also commanded them to labor and make the earth yield its riches for the glory of God and the good of mankind.

- (c) We call this the Cultural Mandate: “God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. God blessed them; and God said to them, ‘Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth’” (Gen. 1:27-28).
- b. In the Fall, however, Adam forfeited his right to rule, leaving it to be usurped by Satan.
  - (i) When Adam rendered himself unfit to rule, Satan stepped in and took control.
  - (ii) What Satan said to Christ was true in a certain sense: “And he led Him up and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. And the devil said to Him, ‘I will give You all this domain and its glory; for it has been handed over to me, and I give it to whomever I wish’” (Luke 4:5-6).
  - (iii) Jesus calls him the ruler of this world: “Now judgment is upon this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out” (John 12:31; cf. 14:30; 16:11).
  - (iv) What he has, he has only under God’s sovereign control: When Satan wanted to do something to Job, he still needed God’s permission (Job 1:12, 2:6).
- c. The fulfillment of the Cultural Mandate was further complicated by the curse on the Creation.
  - (i) The world became barren and under the curse; it would no longer yield its fruit to Adam without a great deal of effort; man would also be prevented from working for very long due to sickness, aging, and death: “Then to Adam He said, ‘Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree about which I commanded you, saying, “You shall not eat from it”; cursed is the ground because of you; in toil you will eat of it all the days of your life. Both thorns and thistles it shall grow for you; and you will eat the plants of the field; by the sweat of your face you will eat bread, till you return to the ground, because from it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return’” (Gen. 3:17-19).
  - (ii) The Fall rendered Adam and his seed incapable of fulfilling the Cultural Mandate.
- d. What Adam and his children could no longer do, the Lord purposed to do through His Son, the second Adam.
  - (i) The Lord promised He would send His Son through the seed of Abraham:
    - (a) “Now the LORD said to Abram, ‘Go forth from your country, and from your relatives and from your father’s house, to the land which I will show you; and I will make you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great; and so you shall be a blessing; and I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse. And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed’” (Gen. 12:1-3).
    - (b) Christ is that seed, “Now the promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. He does not say, ‘And to seeds,’ as *referring* to many, but *rather* to one, ‘And to your seed,’ that is, Christ” (Gal. 3:16).
  - (ii) The Son would destroy/bind the god of this world.
    - (a) “And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, and you shall bruise him on the heel” (Gen. 3:15).
    - (b) Christ bound Satan at His first coming (Matt. 12:29); and He laid the foundation of his complete defeat at the cross.
  - (iii) He would gather together a people of His own from all the peoples of the earth:
    - (a) The whole human race would have done this work to God’s glory.

- (b) But since now they couldn't, the Lord redeemed a people that would from all the nations of the earth.
- (i) "The Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, *saying*, 'All the nations will be blessed in you.' So then those who are of faith are blessed with Abraham, the believer" (3:8-9; cf. Gen. 18:18; 22:18; 26:4).
  - (ii) "He says, 'It is too small a thing that You should be My Servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the preserved ones of Israel; I will also make You a light of the nations so that My salvation may reach to the end of the earth'" (Isa. 49:6).
  - (iii) "But the LORD was pleased to crush Him, putting Him to grief; if He would render Himself as a guilt offering, He will see His offspring, He will prolong His days, and the good pleasure of the LORD will prosper in His hand. As a result of the anguish of His soul, He will see it and be satisfied; by His knowledge the Righteous One, My Servant, will justify the many, as He will bear their iniquities. Therefore, I will allot Him a portion with the great, and He will divide the booty with the strong; because He poured out Himself to death, and was numbered with the transgressors; yet He Himself bore the sin of many, and interceded for the transgressors" (Isa. 53:10-12).
- (iv) He would bring all the nations under His rule.
- (a) *Christ* would receive a kingdom.
    - (i) "I kept looking in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven One like a Son of Man was coming, and He came up to the Ancient of Days and was presented before Him. And to Him was given dominion, glory and a kingdom, that all the peoples, nations and men of every language might serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion which will not pass away; and His kingdom is one which will not be destroyed" (Dan. 7:13-14).
    - (ii) "Then the sovereignty, the dominion and the greatness of all the kingdoms under the whole heaven will be given to the people of the saints of the Highest One; His kingdom will be an everlasting kingdom, and all the dominions will serve and obey Him" (Dan. 7:27).
    - (iii) "For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; and the government will rest on His shoulders; and His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness from then on and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will accomplish this" (Isa. 9:6-7).
  - (b) His kingdom would *fill* the earth.
    - (i) "Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver and the gold were crushed all at the same time and became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away so that not a trace of them was found. But the stone that struck the statue became a great mountain and filled the whole earth" (Dan. 2:35).
    - (ii) "In the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which will never be destroyed, and that kingdom will not be left for another people; it will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms, but it will itself endure forever" (Dan. 2:44).
  - (c) All nations would *serve* and *worship* Him.
    - (i) "The LORD says to my Lord: 'Sit at My right hand until I make Your enemies a footstool for Your feet.' The LORD will stretch forth Your strong scepter from Zion, saying, 'Rule in the midst of Your enemies'" (Psalm 110:1-2).
    - (ii) "'But as for Me, I have installed My King upon Zion, My holy mountain.' I will surely tell of the decree of the LORD: He said to Me, 'You are My Son, today I have begotten You. Ask of Me, and I will surely give the nations as Your inheritance, and the very ends of the earth as Your possession. You shall break them with a rod of iron, You shall shatter them like earthenware.' Now therefore, O kings, show discernment; take warning, O judges of the

earth. Worship the LORD with reverence and rejoice with trembling. Do homage to the Son, that He not become angry, and you perish in the way, for His wrath may soon be kindled. How blessed are all who take refuge in Him!" (Psa. 2:6-12).

- (iii) "All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the LORD, and all the families of the nations will worship before You. For the kingdom is the Lord's and He rules over the nations" (Psa. 22:27-28).
  - (iv) "May he also rule from sea to sea and from the River to the ends of the earth. Let the nomads of the desert bow before him, and his enemies lick the dust. Let the kings of Tarshish and of the islands bring presents; the kings of Sheba and Seba offer gifts. And let all kings bow down before him, all nations serve him" (Psa. 72:8-11).
  - (v) "All nations whom You have made shall come and worship before You, O Lord, and they shall glorify Your name. For You are great and do wondrous deeds; You alone are God" (Psa. 86:9-10).
- (v) With many converted, the nations subjected, and all – whether inwardly or outwardly – walking according to God's Law, there will also be unprecedented blessings of peace and prosperity.
- (a) "Now it shall be, if you diligently obey the LORD your God, being careful to do all His commandments which I command you today, the LORD your God will set you high above all the nations of the earth. All these blessings will come upon you and overtake you if you obey the LORD your God: Blessed shall you be in the city, and blessed shall you be in the country. Blessed shall be the offspring of your body and the produce of your ground and the offspring of your beasts, the increase of your herd and the young of your flock. Blessed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl. Blessed shall you be when you come in, and blessed shall you be when you go out" (Deu. 28:1-6).
  - (b) "The word which Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. Now it will come about that in the last days the mountain of the house of the LORD will be established as the chief of the mountains, and will be raised above the hills; and all the nations will stream to it. And many peoples will come and say, 'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; that He may teach us concerning His ways and that we may walk in His paths.' For the law will go forth from Zion and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. And He will judge between the nations, and will render decisions for many peoples; and they will hammer their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not lift up sword against nation, and never again will they learn war" (Isa. 2:1-4; cf. Micah 4:1-5).
  - (c) "'For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth; and the former things will not be remembered or come to mind. But be glad and rejoice forever in what I create; for behold, I create Jerusalem for rejoicing and her people for gladness. I will also rejoice in Jerusalem and be glad in My people; and there will no longer be heard in her the voice of weeping and the sound of crying. No longer will there be in it an infant who lives but a few days, or an old man who does not live out his days; for the youth will die at the age of one hundred and the one who does not reach the age of one hundred will be thought accursed. They will build houses and inhabit them; they will also plant vineyards and eat their fruit. They will not build and another inhabit, they will not plant and another eat; for as the lifetime of a tree, so will be the days of My people, and My chosen ones will wear out the work of their hands. They will not labor in vain, or bear children for calamity; for they are the offspring of those blessed by the LORD, and their descendants with them. It will also come to pass that before they call, I will answer; and while they are still speaking, I will hear. The wolf and the lamb will graze together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox; and dust will be the serpent's food. They will do no evil or harm in all My holy mountain,' says the LORD" (Isa. 65:17-25).