



# The Voice of Truth

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## **The Throne of David** By Jimmy Pettigrew

If I were to speak on what the Bible teaches about the second coming of Christ, such would be a relatively easy task. But, to speak about the rapture, great tribulation, or Christ sitting on the throne of David in Jerusalem for a thousand years poses a more difficult problem for a student of the scriptures, since the Bible has absolutely nothing to say about the rapture, great tribulation, or Christ on the throne of David ruling in Jerusalem. One reason that members of the Lord's church know so little about the false teaching of Premillennialism is that the Bible does not mention these matters. However, as one "set for the defence of the gospel," (**Philippians 1:17**), it becomes my responsibility to recognize the false, non-biblical doctrines of men and set forth a clear, scriptural fight of them.

I have showed clearly and forcefully in past bulletin articles that the rapture and tribulation of the premillennial teachings is false to the very core. The rapture and tribulation thoughts are of men and not of God. Now, I want to look at the false teaching of Premillennialism concerning Christ and the throne of David.

Premillennialists hold that when Jesus said, "The kingdom of God is at hand" (**Mark 1:15**), it was His purpose to set up immediately the kingdom which had been prophesied by the prophets. However, according to premillennialism, the Jews rejected that kingdom and crucified the king. So, according to their false teaching (because the kingdom was rejected and the king crucified), the kingdom was postponed and will not be set until the second coming of Christ, and thus, His kingdom will be an earthly kingdom, as it was originally expected to be by the Jews. The kingdom is to be a material earthly kingdom which lasts a literal 1000 years. Christ will ascend to the throne of David and be seated as an earthly king of the so-called "millennial kingdom," which then will be established.

If all of this is true, then the kingdom was not set up by Christ. Yet, we know the Bible teaches that Christ did set up (build) the kingdom (the church) (**Matthew 16:13-18**). After the day of Pentecost, the kingdom was already in existence, listen to the word of God, "Who delivered us out of the power of darkness, and translated us into the kingdom of the Son of his love" (**Colossians 1:13**). In **Mark 9:1**, it says the kingdom would come with power. The power came on the first Pentecost after the death, resurrection and ascension of Christ when the apostles were clothed with the Holy Spirit (**Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4, 5, 8; 2:1-21**). What is the conclusion? Therefore, the kingdom of Christ was established on the first Pentecost after the death, resurrection and ascension of Christ. There is no more simple, direct and unmistakable proof that Christ was seated on the throne of David on the day of Pentecost (**Acts 2:22-36**). Christ now sits "on the right hand of the throne of the majesty in the heavens" (**Hebrews 8:1**). Christ will continue to rule until He puts all his enemies under His feet. The last one to be abolished being death (**1 Corinthians 15:25-26**). When all has been accomplished, what will take place? "Then (cometh) the end, when he shall deliver up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have abolished all rule and all authority

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and power” (1 Corinthians 15:24).

Again, notice **Mark 9:1**: “And he said unto them, Verily I say unto you, There are some here of them that stand (by), who shall in no wise taste of death, till they see the kingdom of God come with power.” Unless some who were living at the time Jesus spoke these words are still living, the kingdom already has been established. Since no person is still living on earth, the kingdom has already been established. The Premillennialists presently tell us that the time is “not yet come!” “Wherefore, receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us have grace, whereby we may offer service well-pleasing to God with reverence and awe” (**Hebrews 12:28**). The Hebrew writer said they received the kingdom in the first century.

I want us to notice in the book of **John the fifteen verse of the six chapter**; “Jesus therefore perceiving that they were about to come and take him by force, to make him king, withdrew again into the mountain himself alone.” The Jews with their vision of an earthly kingdom wanted Jesus to be their king with military power over this earthly kingdom, then why if this was Jesus’ mission did He withdraw himself into the mountains? The Jews would have accepted Him as their earthly king. But they (the Jews) rejected Him because His kingdom was spiritual, not material!

Jeremiah provides the answer about Christ sitting on the throne of David ruling in Jerusalem for a thousand years; it’s not going to happen. Notice **Jeremiah 22:28-30**: “Is this man Coniah a despised broken vessel? is he a vessel wherein none delighteth? wherefore are they cast out, he and his seed, and are cast into the land which they know not? O earth, earth, earth, hear the word of Jehovah. Thus saith Jehovah, Write ye this man childless, a man that shall not prosper in his days; for no more shall a man of his seed prosper, sitting upon the throne of David, and ruling in Judah.” Read Matthew’s record of Jesus’ lineage, we find Jesus in the line of Coniah (Jechoniah), therefore rendering it impossible for Jesus to sit on an earthly throne ruling in Jerusalem. Jesus likewise cannot be a priest upon the earth seeing He was of the tribe of Judah (**Hebrews 3:1-4:15; 7:12-14**).

The doctrine of premillennialism is false and Jesus is now reigning as king!

### “Getting An Answer You Don’t Want”

By Jarrod Jacobs

An old saying often repeated is: “Be careful what you wish for, you just might get it.” In like manner, be careful when asking a question, you just might get an answer that you do not want! Is this not what happened when the rich young man came to Jesus asking what to do to inherit eternal life (**Matt. 19:16**)? Jesus answered him, but the man received an answer he did not want, and so he abandoned Jesus (**Matt. 19:22**).

Naaman was also like this (**II Kings 5:1-14**). When he got the “prescription” for the healing of his leprosy (**v. 10**), he did not like the answer! He went away, and might not have been healed at all had it not been for the servant who talked sense into the man (**v. 11-14**). Unlike the rich young man in **Matthew 19**, Naaman did what God prescribed and he was healed. His flesh was restored. In other words, even though he got an answer he did not want, when he accepted the Lord’s plan, he was cleansed. Afterward, he showed that his attitude had changed when he made the promise to only worship Jehovah when he returned to his homeland (**v. 17**).

What about us, today? Do we sometimes get an answer from God’s word that we do not want? How do we react when we learn that the thing we have been doing (or would like to do) is not authorized of God in the Bible? Do we become defiant, saying, “I’m going to do it anyway”? Do we get mad, or sad? Maybe we say, “God’s way doesn’t make sense to me”?

Yet, when we are honest, we know that such responses do not change the nature of God's word. It is no different than Naaman or the rich young man. Getting mad or sad, or protesting, or substituting our ideas for God's will not change what has been written.

There are several "answers" from God that folks have not liked in the past. For example, some do not like God's answer to their question, "What must I do to be saved?" The Lord's plan is faith in Christ, repentance of sin, confession of faith, and baptism (**Heb. 11:6; Acts 17:30; Rom. 10:10; 1 Pet. 3:21; Acts 2:22-38; etc.**). People have been told various theories, and so when they hear the truth, some folks don't like God's answer.

Another "answer" not accepted by folks is God's answer to the question, "What kind of music do You accept in worship?" God's answer is vocal music (**Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16; Heb. 13:15; etc.**). Is this the answer men give to us? Of course, not! Therefore, whose answer will we accept?

Another answer not often accepted by people is the answer to the question, "Did Christ establish a church?" The answer we find in Scripture is that Christ promised to establish a church (**Matt. 16:18**), and this church began its existence on the Pentecost after Christ's resurrection (**Acts 2:41, 47**). Before **Acts 2**, the church was spoken of in prospect and promise, but after **Acts 2**, the church was spoken of as being in existence on earth. This church belongs to Him and not man (**Rom. 16:16; Acts 20:28**). This is the Lord's answer. Is it the one we want, or the one we have been taught?

Further, God answers the question as to whether or not the kingdom is in existence. Jesus said the kingdom was "*at hand*" when He was on earth (**Matt. 4:17**). He promised some would not "*taste of death*" until they saw the "*kingdom of God come with power*" (**Mk. 9:1**). He equated the kingdom with the church in **Matthew 16:19**. The kingdom then was brought into existence in **Acts 2** when folks heard the gospel, believed, obeyed it and were saved (**Acts 2:36-38**). As further proof of the kingdom's existence, the apostle Paul said folks who are saved are "transplanted" into this kingdom (**Col. 1:13**). Also, the apostle John said he was in the kingdom (**Rev. 1:9**). Is this the "answer" we tend to get from men? Yet, this is the Lord's answer to our question concerning the kingdom.

These and hundreds of other questions are answered by God in the Bible. The question then becomes, what is the proper response when we get an answer from God's word that we do not want? The answer is to be honest, and to accept what the Lord says. Yes, there are times when the answers do not make "sense" to us (like Naaman). This does not give us license to change the answer, though! "*Let God be true, but every man a liar*" (**Rom. 3:4**). Let us submit our will to God's, and let us be ready to accept what He says in all things (**1 Pet. 4:11**), knowing that God's ways are best (**Isa. 55:8-9; 1 Cor. 1:20-31**).

## Gladly Suffering Into Eternity

By Jonathan L. Perz

The apostle Paul faced trials and persecution as a result of serving the Lord. Some of this was likely the fruit of the persecution he bestowed upon others before his conversion (**Acts 8:1,4; 9:16**). Other persecution was the fruit of the good fight of faith he fought (**2 Tim. 4:7**).

Whether for wrongdoing (**1 Pet. 2:19-20a**) or for righteousness sake (**1 Pet. 2:20b-21**), this persecution clearly began to weigh on him. At one point, the Lord sought fit to encourage him in the face of this persecution (**Acts 18:9-10**). Consider the persecution he suffered as a testimony of His ministry (**2 Cor. 11:22-28**).

Some of Paul's most encouraging and hopeful words regarding his suffering spur us to realize the true value of suffering. Paul wrote, "Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though

our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal" (2 Cor. 4:16-18).

The light affliction we suffer here—even persecution—has a way of strengthening our appetite for the hereafter! Paul's suffering was endured with his eyes on heaven!

He was persuaded that God was able to keep his faith until that day (2 Tim. 1:12). He was hard-pressed between his labors here and his desire for eternity (Phil. 1:23). Paul, like many others, gladly suffered his way into eternity (Phil. 3:7-10; Col. 1:24; 1 Tim. 4:8-10; 2 Tim. 2:8-10; 3:12)!

When we suffer in this life, do we realize that these things should make us long less for the things of this earth and more for the blessing of heaven? *Credit: www.moodychristofchrist.com*

## Getting More Out of the Sermon

By Roger Hillis

Experts tell us that we speak at a rate of 125 words per minute. But we can listen to 400 words per minute. It's no wonder the attention often wanders. That means we need to discipline the mind to listen to a lesson without distraction. Here are some suggestions to help you get more out of the sermon.

**1. OPEN MIND.** We need to be in the right frame of mind to listen. Our worship is to be "in spirit and truth" (John 4:24). We should approach a sermon with the attitude that we want to learn and profit from it. Attitude makes a big difference.

**2. OPEN BIBLE.** Compare what you hear with God's word (Acts 17:11). You need to form personal convictions based on what you read in the Bible. It will stick in your mind longer when you read it for yourself.

**3. TAKE NOTES.** This will be another "visual aid" to help you remember. You can recall more of what you see than what you just hear. Plus, you will have the notes to use for further study.

You CAN get more out of the sermon. But only if you try. *Credit: www.moodychurchofchrist.com*

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## What Must I Do To Be Saved?

**Hear and Learn** - Rom. 10:17 m. 10:9-10 ; 1 Pet. 3:21 ; John 6:45; 17:3

**Believe** - Heb. 11:6; John 6:29; 8:24

**Repent** - Luke 13:3; Acts 3:19; 17:30

**Confess the Lord** - Matt. 10:32-33; Romans 10:9-10; 1 Pet. 3:21

**Be Baptized** - Mark 16:16; Acts 22:16; Gal. 3:26-27

**Continue in the Apostles' Teaching** - Acts 2:42; 2 Tim. 3:14-17