

# Our Blessed Hope: A Study of Biblical Eschatology

## Lesson 6: Postmillennialism – Strengths and Weaknesses

Listening Guide to Video of Pastor Douglas Wilson, Christ Church, Moscow, Idaho

Two types of Interpretation:

“Wooden” – presses the \_\_\_\_\_ of the words or phrases, no matter what  
Naturally – taking scriptures the way it \_\_\_\_\_ itself to be taken.

Two great challenges of interpreting prophetic passages:

Decide on the nature of the \_\_\_\_\_  
Decide on the \_\_\_\_\_ of the fulfillment

Four names of the positions that handle the timing of fulfilled prophecy differently:

Futurist

\_\_\_\_\_

Idealist

\_\_\_\_\_

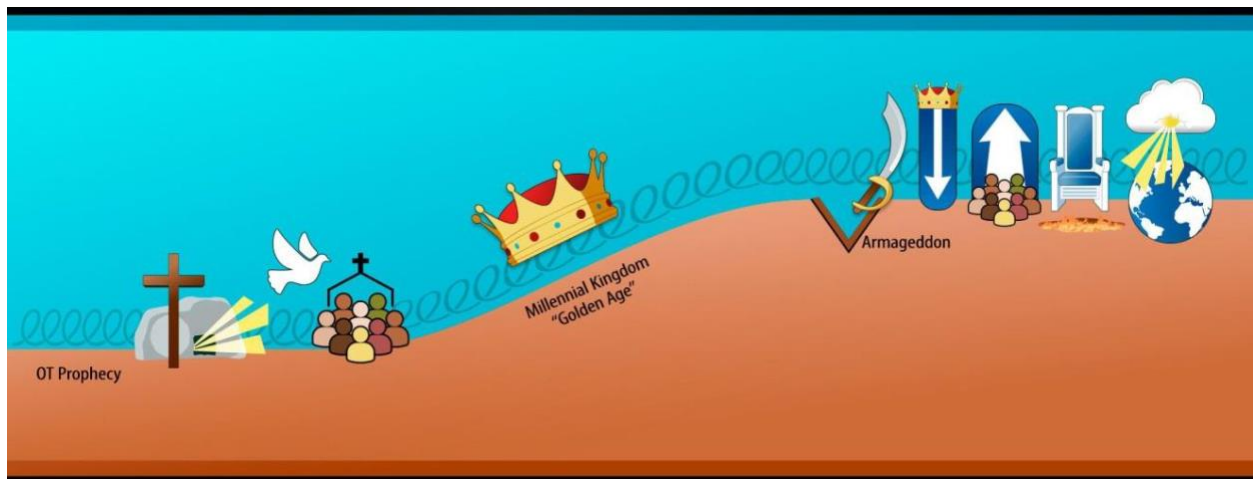
Preterist believe that the fulfillment of the prophecies were still in the \_\_\_\_\_ when they were made, but the fulfillment of them was in our \_\_\_\_\_, in the first century.

The Postmillennial view means that the millennial prophecies will be largely fulfilled down through church history as the world is \_\_\_\_\_ evangelized, and after that period of time, Christ will return (post-millennium).

### I. A Definition

The belief that Jesus will return after the millennium ends. Postmillennialists locate Christ physically in heaven during the millennium while he reigns spiritually on earth.

### II. Eschatological Calendar:



### III. Prominent Adherents

Puritans like Jonathan Edwards and John Owen; Theologians like BB Warfield, AA Hodge, Loraine Boettner, and RC Sproul; Contemporaries like Douglas Wilson, Kenneth Gentry, Keith Mathison

### IV. Basic Scriptural Tenets

#### A. \_\_\_\_\_ View of the Great Commission

*[19] Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, [20] teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” (ESV) Matthew 28:19–20*

#### B. Jesus’s teaching on the \_\_\_\_\_

*[31] He put another parable before them, saying, “The kingdom of heaven is like a grain of mustard seed that a man took and sowed in his field. [32] It is the smallest of all seeds, but when it has grown it is larger than all the garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.”*

*[33] He told them another parable. “The kingdom of heaven is like leaven that a woman took and hid in three measures of flour, till it was all leavened.” (ESV) Matthew 13:31–33*

#### C. Jesus’s teaching on the \_\_\_\_\_

*[24] He put another parable before them, saying, “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field, [25] but while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away. [26] So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared also. [27] And the servants of the master of the house came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have weeds?’ [28] He said to them, ‘An enemy has done this.’ So the servants said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ [29] But he said, ‘No, lest in gathering the weeds you root up the wheat along with them. [30] Let both grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, “Gather the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.”’” (ESV) Matthew 13:24–30*

#### D. The Kingdom will \_\_\_\_\_ cover the whole world

*<sup>27</sup> All the ends of the earth shall remember  
and turn to the LORD,  
and all the families of the nations  
shall worship before you. Psalm 22:27*

*May God be gracious to us and bless us  
and make his face to shine upon us, Selah  
that your way may be known on earth,  
your saving power among all nations. Ps. 67:1-2*

*All the nations you have made shall come  
and worship before you, O Lord, Ps. 86:9*

E. \_\_\_\_\_ writers' view of Psalm 110:1 (see Acts 2:34 and 1 Corinthians 15:25)

*The LORD says to my Lord:*

*"Sit at my right hand,  
until I make your enemies your footstool." Psalm 110:1*

*For he must reign <sup>u</sup>until he has put all his enemies under his feet. 1 Cor. 15:25*

F. \_\_\_\_\_ understanding of Revelation 20

1. In 1000 years, evil is bound, church is winning
2. Christ is ruling spiritually from heaven
3. Apostasy is coming at the end of 1,000 years
4. God deals final blow of defeat to evil

## V. Key Differences from other Views

A. Spiritual Millennium

- a. Earthly living looks a lot like today
- b. Postmillennialists set forth a spiritual kingdom in the hearts of men

B. Humanity Redeemed

- a. Majority of humanity will be redeemed.
- b. The Kingdom of God is to fill all the earth.

C. Golden Age of Christianity

- a. Christianity will influence all of life from families to people groups (nations)
- b. Edwards' "triumphant state"
- c.

## VI. Strengths

Optimism in the power of God through the Gospel

Boldness to transform the world through the Gospel

Scholarly reading of scripture

Emphasizes evangelism and job of the church now

"Thy Kingdom come on earth as it is in Heaven"

## VII. Weaknesses

Denial of the imminent return of Christ

Covenant Theology that fits better with pedobaptism

19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries actual history doesn't line up with where most post-mils' expectations

Explanation of Apostasy at end of 1000 years

Exegesis of Jesus' teaching of narrow gate/path