

THE FALLACY OF FALSE HOPES

By

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Soon after Zionist terrorists succeeded in getting Israel recognized as a nation, some acquaintances of mine sold their possessions and moved to Jerusalem. They were convinced that Christ must soon set up an earthly kingdom and rule it from Jerusalem. That was in 1948. A few years ago this family gave up and returned to the States.

But Christians are still deluged with books, movies, tracts and sermons to the effect that Christ is coming “soon” to take his saints out of the world while he deals with His “chosen” the Jews; after seven years (which is supposed to include the battle of Armageddon) He will return (the second “second coming”) and take possession of the resurrected throne of David, then with the Jews rule for a thousand years. At the end of the thousand years it will all be wiped out, with the final judgment and beginning of eternity.

The main impact of all this seems to be to prove that the Jews are still God’s chosen people and that if you do not bless and follow them, you are lost! Obviously this thinking is of inestimable value to Zionists, who use all these prophecies to gain support (almost 4 Billion a year from the U.S) for their political aggression and to keep the pot boiling in the Middle East. Incidentally, it also garners millions each year for those who write sensational books and make breathtaking pictures based upon these speculations. If anyone is scared enough of what might happen, he doesn’t mind paying for a sneak preview of it at a film or in a book. Many good-intentioned believers shrug off the question with, “What difference does it make? We’ll just wait and see. God can handle it.” While this seems to be a much better attitude than that of those who spread fear and turn believer’s attention from service to survival tactics, it would be much better to examine the claims and know the truth. Besides that, the Premillennial doctrines go far to deny some of the previous truths upon which the Christian faith is built and by which it lives.

ONE GOSPEL. Millennialism teaches that after the church is removed (“raptured”) from the earth there will be a great worldwide revival conducted by the Jews, who will have a gospel somewhat different from the gospel of grace we now know.

Paul fervently declares in Galatians 1:6–9 that there is only **one gospel**. After the Jerusalem Counsel described in Acts 15, the apostle Peter said that all, both the Gentiles and Jews, are to be saved in the same way. “We believe that we (Jews) shall be saved through the Lord Jesus, in like manner as they (Gentiles)” (Acts 15:11).

The Bible describes the Gospel as “everlasting.” There is no allowance made in Scripture for a gospel that differs from the one “once delivered” and no special time allotted for any special group to receive it. “Now is the day of salvation” (II Cor. 6:2).

SEGREGATION ENDED. The destiny of the Jew, as well as the Gentile, is forever settled by the Cross of Christ. In Romans 11 where Paul writes that God’s people were like branches broken off of the olive tree, because of their unbelief, he adds that “if they continue not in their unbelief (they) shall be grafted in, for God is able to graft them in again” (Rom. 11:23). In verse 25 he writes, “and so all Israel shall be saved: even as it

is written, there shall come out of Zion the Deliverer: He shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob, and this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins.”

Jacob (Israel) is saved when the sins are taken away through Christ the deliverer, and in no other way. “And so all Israel shall be saved” obviously cannot mean that all the descendents of Jacob are to be saved, as millions of them have died in unbelief. Rather it means that in the same manner (through faith in Christ) all will be saved.

Paul explained that God has broken down all distinction between Jew and Gentile by the death of Jesus. “For he is our peace who made both one, and broke down the middle wall of partition...that he might create in himself of the two one new man, so making peace; and might reconcile them both in one body unto God through the cross” (Eph. 2:14–16). All are now “fellow-citizens with the saints, and of the household of God” (Eph. 2:19) and “there is no respect of persons with God” (Rom. 2:11).

There is only one Zion, said to be in heaven, and is the heavenly Jerusalem (Gal. 4:25–31, Heb. 12:22). When Jerusalem was destroyed in 70 AD by the judgment of God that ended any special segregation of nations with regard to God’s purpose. Since then, all nations and all races are under the same judgment and have the same means of justification, the one and only Gospel of Jesus Christ.

All who are brought out of the nations into Christ constitute the one holy nation and chosen people of God (I Peter 2:9). All believers compose one temple (Eph. 2:19–22, I Peter 2:5ff). There is **one** body (Eph. 4:4–6). There is no Jew or Gentile in Christ, but all are new creatures.

A Jew who rejects Christ is just as lost and far away from God as a Hindu priest or Buddhist monk. His only access to God is through Christ, like anyone else. Jesus said, “No one comes unto the Father but by me” (John 14:6). On occasions he pointed to Gentiles and said they had a better chance of entering the kingdom than the leading Jews of the day. The Premillennial doctrine, in keeping with the notes in the Scofield Bible, claims that God will restore the segregation between fleshly descendents of Jacob, and all the rest. This would disqualify the work of Christ on the cross, and should be sufficient reason for all believers to reject it.

GOD’S ORDER. “That was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural, afterward that which is spiritual” (I Cor. 15:46). It was not the first Adam through whom we receive eternal life, but the second Adam, Christ. It was not the first son of Abraham through whom the seed was to come, but the second, Isaac. It was not Esau, the first born of Isaac, through whom the blessing proceeded, but Jacob, the second.

It was not the first nation that fulfilled the purpose of God, but the second. National Israel failed miserably. In the parable of the vineyard (Matt. 23:33–46), Jesus predicts of the wicked husbandmen (Jewish leaders) that the Lord of the vineyard would come and destroy them and give the vineyard to others. He interpreted the parable for them, saying, “Therefore say I unto you, the kingdom of God shall be taken away from you, and shall be given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof” (Matt. 23:43). Upon hearing this, the priests and Pharisees “sought to lay hold on him,” but “they feared the multitudes” (Matt. 23:46).

This destruction took place in 70 AD at the fall of Jerusalem. (See Vol. XV, No. 8, *The Abomination of Desolation – Past or Future?*)

The temporal, political kingdom of Israel was a type of the eternal, spiritual kingdom “not of this world.” This is in keeping with God’s order of things, that the first

is natural and afterwards the spiritual. There is nothing in scripture to indicate that He will reverse this order.

THE ANTICHRIST. Many scary predictions which are sure to gain attention center on the idea of someone arising as the super “antichrist” who will take over the world for at least 3 ½ years.

John states that even in his own day many antichrists had already arisen. He identifies “antichrist”: “This is the antichrist, he that denies the Father and the Son” (I John 2:22). The “man of sin” of II Thess. 2:3 is often cited as the final antichrist, but Thessalonians says nothing about “antichrist.”

Christ not only has power over all antichrist, but even power of Satan. To suggest that some man can rise up and overthrow the rule of Jesus Christ and take over His world, gathering all nations under his power against Christ’s will, is to indicate a very low estimate of the power of the Lord. Jesus said that conditions in the world at His coming would be comparable to those in the time of Noah, with people eating, drinking and marrying with nothing to hinder their routine of life. Jesus often spoke of the end, the resurrection, the judgment and eternity, but nothing is recorded of His ever mentioning a ruling antichrist or a millennium.

RAPTURE. While the Bible teaches that the saints will meet the Lord in the air (I Thess. 4:17), it will not be for just a seven year period, nor for a millennium, but forever. At His coming the Lord will separate the sheep from the goats (Matt. 25:31–46), each group going to its final and eternal destiny. He will come to render vengeance to the disobedient and to destroy them (II Thess. 1:7–9).

According to Jesus the tares and wheat, the good fish and bad, are separated at the end of the world (Matt. 13). If all are to grow together until the harvest at the end of the world, there can be no secret rapture of some, leaving the rest to live on. Saints and sinners are together (as in the day of Noah) until the last day of time. This leaves no time for a thousand year Utopia.

At His coming Christ will raise all the dead, the saved and unsaved, with the sound of His voice (John 5:28–29). The world that now is will be destroyed by fire (Mal. 4:2, II Thess. 1:7, II Peter 3). This leaves no place for a millennium.

We do not look for a millennium or period of one thousand years but to an eternity of which there will be no end. There was a millennial view among apostate Jews years before Christ. He said that they taught their traditions instead of God’s truth (Mark 7:8), and Paul warned against giving heed to such “Jewish fables” (Titus 1:14). The “thousand years” is mentioned on only one place in the Bible, in the book of Revelations written by John. The millennial idea was brought into the church by one Cerinthus, a contemporary of John. John so despised him that he would not enter the same bath house with him and called Cerinthus “that enemy of the truth” (Eusebius’ *Eccliaistical History*).

These prophetic speculations instill fear in the hearts of the unlearned, give false hopes to followers of Judaism and confuse believers. There is only **one hope** (Eph. 4:4) — the hope of eternal life and immortality in Christ at His coming.

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