


Premillennialism

The Doctrine – The Error – and The Consequences



Today's Class Session:
The Human History
of Premillennialism

The Human History of Premillennialism



- Post-apostolic Writers
- Jewish Messianic Belief
- Augustine's Philosophy and Middle Ages
- Reformation and Puritan Era

The Human History of Premillennialism



- Revival and 19th Century England
- Emergence in 19th & 20th Century America
- Modern Developments and Refinements

The Human History of Premillennialism

- Post-apostolic Writers and Movements
 - Didache
 - Justin Martyr, Irenaeus, Clement
 - Origen
 - Montanists
 - Jewish & Jewish-Christian Chiliastic views

The Human History of Premillennialism

- Jewish Messianic Belief
 - Since Christ was NOT the Messiah
 - Premillennialism provided for another Messiah
 - Stigmatized Premillennialism as philosophy of the “Christ-killers”
 - Catholic church rejected the book of Revelation

The Human History of Premillennialism

- Augustine's Philosophy and Middle Ages
 - First to espouse literal 1000 years - 2nd Coming
 - A “spiritual” 1000 years fulfilled in the church
 - Adherents later modified to amillennial system
 - Long term influence of Augustine philosophy
 - Reaction to various calamities of Middle Ages

The Human History of Premillennialism

- Reformation and Puritan Era
 - Augustinian influence
 - Modified by Reformers and Catholic church
 - Puritans and persecution
 - Whitby and postmillennialism
 - Historical interpretation of Apocalypse

The Human History of Premillennialism

- Revival and 19th Century England
 - French Revolution
 - Destruction of papal power under Napoleon
 - Renewed interest in conversion of Jews
 - Modern missionary movement
 - Apostasy in protestant and catholic churches

The Human History of Premillennialism

- Revival and 19th Century England
 - Restorationist Movement
 - Societal upheaval in post-Napoleonic world
 - Edward Irving
 - Margaret Macdonald
 - J. N. Darby

The Human History of Premillennialism

- Emergence in 19th and 20th Century America
 - Revolutionary War
 - William Miller and Futurist view
 - The Bible Conference Movement
 - Scofield Reference Bible and other books
 - E. L. Moody and Revival
 - WWI

The Human History of Premillennialism

- Modern Developments and Refinements
 - Nation of Israel established 1947
 - Ryrie, Pentecost, and Walvoord
 - The Dispensational sliding scale
 - The Late Great Planet Earth
 - TV evangelical preachers
 - Left Behind

The Human History of Premillennialism


- No proven historical early church origins
- Extra-biblical inspiration
- Fertile imagination
- Proof-text method
- Reactionary
- Disagreement among proponents
- Propagated by use of media

The Human History of Premillennialism

- Misuse of apocalyptic literature
- Inconsistent use of symbols
- Lack of historical knowledge
- It means now what it meant then
- Suspicion, fear, and gossip
- Bad scholarship and false statements

Premillennialism

The Doctrine – The Error – and The Consequences



Next Class Session:

The Truth about End-Times and
Prophecy

What the Bible Says