What God has NOT Joined Together

Jerusalem and the Second Coming of Jesus

Introductory Observations

Today, I want to address a timely subject, considering the troubling times in the world and our society. Many see such as evidence that the Lord's return is imminent.

I want to address Jerusalem as it relates to the end times

Premillennialism teaches that Jesus is going to return and reign on earth for 1000 years in Jerusalem on the throne of David.

The primary basis of this is **Revelation 20:1-6**.

In this lesson I want to address why this is NOT what the Bible teaches.

A brief history

- In AD 70, when Rome destroyed Jerusalem, this brought to a complete end the Jewish system of worship under the Law of Moses.
- Since then, Jews have not been able to follow it.
- They have no temple, Levitical priesthood, tribal distinctions, etc.
- The way Jews worship today is revised in anticipation of the promised messiah.
- They KNOW their religion is incomplete and has been so for nearly 2000 years (a period longer than the nation itself existed).
- However, scripture shows that Jesus IS the promised Messiah. The LOM was nailed to the cross (**Colossians 2:13-14**)

A brief history

- Then premillennialism is introduced. While some early writers (Justin Martyr, Irenaeus, Tertullian) did believe Jesus was going to return and reign on earth, it was not strongly believed and short lived (comparatively).
- The theory was not strongly resurrected until more than a thousand years later.
- In the 1800s, men like John Darby and C.I. Scofield promoted “dispensationalism”. It gained greater following over coming decades.
  Scofield’s produced a Bible in the early 1900s with notes advancing the theory.

A brief history

- After WWII, May 14, 1948, the United Nations declared an area of Palestine as “The Republic of Israel”, due to an influx of Jews to the area following the holocaust and WWI. They purchased land from Arabs with criticism. The United Nations divided the land into 2 states – one Jewish and one Palestinian. This is the beginning of modern Israel and a catalyst for modern premillennial thought.

A brief history

- In 1970, Hal Lindsey published his book, The Late Great Planet Earth.
- Others published materials and widely distributed materials setting the date of the Lord's return in 1988 and following, based on the establishment of modern Israel.
- In the mid 1990s, Tim LaHaye and Jerry Jenkins began producing a series of books, "Left Behind". This has sparked further belief in this system.

A brief history

- NOTE: In America there is a fascination with uniting Jewish faith and Christian faith. Organizations are formed with this goal in mind.
- This is fueled by the belief that Jesus is going to return and reign in Jerusalem for 1000 years with a renewed earth.
  The belief is that many orthodox Jews will finally accept that Jesus is their Messiah and the Jewish faith will be reestablished.
- BUT is this what the Bible teaches?

What does the Bible say?

Old Testament prophecies about Jesus reigning

- **Genesis 12:1-3, 7** – proponents of premillennialism teach that the land portion, was taken away and needs to be reinstated.
  - The nation promise – fulfilled – **Deuteronomy 4:7-8**
  - The land promise – **Joshua 21:43-45, Genesis 15:18** – see **1 Kings 4:21-25**
    Keeping the land was conditional

What does the Bible say?

Old Testament prophecies about Jesus reigning

- **Genesis 12:1-3, 7** –
  - The seed promise – the MAIN promise. Fulfilled through Jesus – **Galatians 3:8-9, 16; Acts 3:25-26** – salvation available to all.

What does the Bible say?

Old Testament prophecies about Jesus reigning

- **Jeremiah 22:30** – concerning Coniah (Jeconiah – he was the last king of Judah as they fell to Babylon.)
- *"Thus says Yahweh, 'Write this man down childless, A man who will not succeed in his days; For no man of his seed will succeed Sitting on the throne of David or ruling again in Judah.'"*
- **Matthew 1:12** – *Jesus was a descendent of Coniah (through Joseph?)*
- Jesus is now reigning in heaven!

What does the Bible say?

Old Testament prophecies about Jesus reigning

- **Daniel 2:44** – *““And in the days of those kings the God of heaven will cause a kingdom to rise up 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 stand forever.”*
- The fourth kingdom was Rome. God’s intent was to establish a kingdom

What does the Bible say?

Old Testament prophecies about Jesus reigning

- **Isaiah 2:2-4**– *Out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. Fulfilled on Pentecost* – **Acts 2**.
- **2 Samuel 7:12-13** – the throne of David was to be established forever.
- **Luke 1:30-33** – declared that Jesus would be given the throne of David forever and an eternal kingdom

Acts 2:29-36 – Jesus is NOT reigning on the throne of David.

What does the Bible say?

The kingdom was INTENDED for the first century

- It was established on Pentecost – **Acts 2**.
- **Matthew 3:2, 4:17** – the kingdom of heaven is at hand
- **Matthew 16:18-19** – Keys to the kingdom of heaven.
  Mark 9:1 – some standing here who would not taste death till the kingdom was present
- **1 Corinthians 15:22-26** – Jesus is now reigning on His throne in heaven!

What does the Bible say?

The nature of the kingdom - Spiritual

- Jesus NEVER intended for the kingdom to physically replace Israel.
- **John 18:33-38** – before Pilate Jesus explained this
- **Luke 17:20-21** – the kingdom is within you
  Romans 14:17 – it is not eating and drinking, but righteousness, peace and joy
- **Colossians 1:13-14** – we are conveyed (transferred) into His kingdom when we are saved.

What does the Bible say?

Concerning His second coming

- We do not know when it will be – **2 Peter 3:10**
- When He comes all things physical will cease – **2 Peter 3:10-12**
- **1 Thessalonians 4:17** – we will meet Him in the air and forever be with Him
- **John 5:28-29** – ONE judgment for both the righteous and the wicked.

What does the Bible say?

What about **Revelation 20:1-6**?

- We do not have time to address this in detail. But this is a fundamental passage concerning Jesus reigning in Jerusalem for 1000 years.
- This is the ONLY text mentioning 1000 year reign with His saints.
- Is it figurative or literal? Consider in the text:
  1) A key and bottomless pit
  2) A great chain
  3) A dragon (defined as Satan)
  4) Physically bound
  5) A covering and seal over the pit
  6) Souls beheaded
- ARE these figurative (representative of something) or literal?
- If figurative, why cannot the 1000 years be figurative?

What does the Bible say?

What about **Revelation 20:1-6**?

- NOTICE also what is NOT mentioned in this text:
  1) Christ's second coming
  2) A kingdom established
  3) Reigning on earth
  4) Physical bodies on earth – of those beheaded
  5) The throne of David
  6) Jerusalem
- To make this a literal reign on earth requires great speculation and manipulating numerous texts (including prophecies) and concepts.

What does the Bible say?

What about **Revelation 20:1-6**?

- What is the point of the 1000-year reign?
  The faithful saints are victorious even in death.
  The 1000 years could be an extended period of time, from their persecutions and death until Jesus DOES return.
- Again, Jesus is NOW reigning. And the faithful are "reigning" with Him.
- **Hebrews 12:28**, *Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear.*

Concluding remarks

- Thus, God has NOT joined together the second coming of Jesus and a physical reign in Jerusalem for 1000 years.
- The work of the Jewish nation is now complete!
- **Acts 15:10-11**, *Peter declares HOW Jews can now be saved.* **Cf. Galatians 3:26-28**
- **Galatians 3:19-25** explains the purpose of the law (of Moses) – to bring us to Christ. That has been accomplished!

Concluding remarks

- Jesus is NOW reigning in heaven on His throne. He accomplished EVERYTHING intended while on earth (**John 17:4**).
- He will continue to reign until the day of His return.

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Are you ready for that day?