

LESSON 118

Egermeier's Story:

Page 397 – A Roman Captain Shows Great Faith

Memory Verse: I Corinthians 5:7b "...For Christ our Passover also has been sacrificed." NASB

Scripture: Matthew 8:5-13; Luke 7:1-10

Teaching Resource:

Bible Study Guide for All Ages Lesson 243

Object Lesson: No object lesson

Doctrinal Emphasis: The Millennial Reign

Key Theme: The Millennium is a literal earthly kingdom.

The many views on the Millennium are the source of much disagreement among Christians. Much of the disagreement stems from differing methods of interpreting. We will discuss the different interpretations and then discuss what the conditions and activities are like during the Millennium.

There are three basic schools of thought regarding the millennial kingdom. The first two groups take a nonliteral approach and deny that there will be a literal 1000 year reign of Christ on earth. These groups rely upon an allegorical method of interpreting Scripture. They believe that the basic meaning of Scripture is a vehicle for a deeper spiritual meaning. The first of these is the Postmillennialist group. They believe that the church is to bring the world into submission to the gospel before Christ returns to earth. This is also known as Reconstructionism or the "social gospel." It is their belief that the world will gradually get better under the reforming influence of the church. The second viewpoint taking a nonliteral view of the millennial kingdom is the Amillennial view. Amillennialism denies the literal 1000 year kingdom, stating that the promises made to Israel are now being fulfilled in the church. The kingdom exists now in the hearts of Christians, or perhaps the promises are being fulfilled by saints in heaven.

If one holds to a literal/grammatical/historical method of interpretation, i.e. the Bible is meant to be understood in the same manner as other documents, then

one holds to the idea that there will be a literal 1000 year kingdom on earth. This is the pre-millennial view. This is the view we hold. Christ will return to earth, literally and bodily, and reign for 1000 years.

The idea of the earthly kingdom finds its origin in the Davidic covenant. In I Samuel 7:12-16, a promise is made of an eternal political kingdom over Israel, with a descendant of David as king. In Luke chapter 1, Mary is told by the angel that her child will fulfill this covenant. After the resurrection, the disciples received forty days of teaching regarding the kingdom. At the ascension, in Acts 1:6 a question is asked that indicates that they were expecting a literal earthly kingdom. Therefore, we hold to a literal view of the kingdom.

Isaiah chapter 11 describes conditions during the kingdom. It is characterized by righteousness, obedience to God, holiness, truth, peace, joy, comfort, perfect justice, full knowledge of God, removal of sickness, and the presence of God.