

Postmillennialism

1. Review –
 - a. Dispensational Premillennialism – God has put His plans for Israel on hold until after the rapture of the church and will again work specifically with Israel as a nation again in the future
 - b. Historic Premillennialism – God works with both Jews and Gentiles alike in the church.
 - c. Amillennialism – The millennium is now and is symbolic
2. Postmillennialism – Similar to Amillennial position but does not hold the view of Satan being bound
 - a. Sees Revelation 20 as a future event
 - b. There will be an outpouring of the Spirit of God in the future and the whole world will become Christianized
 - c. After the world is Christianized Christ will return to a “saved” earth
3. The return of Christ will occur at the end of a long period of time (the millennium) of righteousness and peace.
4. Note the difference:
 - a. The Postmil believes that the kingdom will be promoted and the millennium will enter by the preaching of the gospel and the work of the Holy Spirit
 - i. A basic representation can be that the postmill and amill positions hold that the millennium is currently taking place with the preaching of the gospel and the work of the Holy Spirit
 - b. The Premil believes that there will be a military invasion of God – He will come in power and defeat all of the wicked and THEN the millennium will take place

- i. Basically the millennium cannot take place until there has been a military type victory won on earth by God.
5. The evolutionary view of Postmil - The kingdom was established at Christ’s first coming and will continue to grow until the whole world becomes Christianized
 - a. Agrees with Amil that the binding of Satan occurred at the cross and continues until he is loosed for a short while to deceive the nations once again

Consider this: What effects do you think the Great Awakenings would have had on this thought process? (First began in 1720, Second was 1800-1840, and a third in 1880-1910) – Note these times included Postmil supporters Jonathan Edwards (1703-1758), BB Warfield (1851-1921), Charles Hodge (1797-1878)

6. The revolutionary view of Postmil – There will be a day in the future in which the Holy Spirit will be mightily poured out converting the world – similar to the day of Pentecost in Acts 2
 - a. These hold that Satan is not yet bound and that the nations are still being deceived
 - b. Jonathan Edwards held to this view – there will be a kicker or starting point that initiates with the Jews flooding to Christ
 7. The reconstructive view of Postmil – Christian Reconstructionism – holds that the OT Mosaic law serves as a civil government model
 - a. Basically modern governments should adhere and enforce the punishments of the OT Mosaic law
 - b. This is basically a church ruled state
 - c. If this can be accomplished the kingdom can grow and Christ can be ushered in
 - d. AKA – Dominion Theology – Rousas John Rushdoony (1916-2001) – Wrote *The Institutes of biblical Law* and proposed theocracy over democracy

8. Postmillennialism looks forward to a period of peace and prosperity
 - a. Some say that period is growing now (the evolutionaries)
 - b. Some say that period will begin at the outpouring of the Holy Spirit (the revolutionaries)
9. Many Postmil's claim that they are holding to OT prophecies that speak of prosperity and Romans 11 and Revelation 20 indicate the timing of these prophecies fulfillment
10. OT Prophecy Examples:
 - a. Isaiah 2:2-4 – note “latter days” in verse 2 (clarified in Heb 1:2) and “Zion” in verse 3 (clarified in Heb 12:22-24) – also warfare will cease vs. 4
 - b. Isaiah 11:1-10 – Verse 9 has a strong indication that there will be a day when the whole earth is full of the knowledge of the Lord – this is problem for the Amillennialists
 - c. Other verses: Is 45:22-23; Is 65:17-25; Dan 2:44; Zach 9:10; Ps 47; 72:1-11
11. Some Postmil's see Rev 21 and 22 not as the eternal state but is a reflection of the Christianized state that they will support with Isaiah 65:17-25