

# Defending and Building Your Faith Christian Apologetics – Worksheet 05

## Week 5 – End Times Topics – Part 2

As the title indicates, this week we will continue to discuss topics related to end times. Last week we learned about our Blessed Hope (AG Fundamental Truth #13), our resurrection, the return of Christ and the tribulation. Before moving on it would benefit us all to consider again Titus 2:11-14:

*For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.*

With that in mind, our end times topics for this week include:

- The Millennial Reign of Christ – AG Fundamental Truth #14
- The Final Judgment – AG Fundamental Truth #15
- The New Heavens and the New Earth – AG Fundamental Truth #16

These topics should excite and comfort all of us who are saved! At the same time these topics should motivate us to share our faith with others. We'll begin this week with the Millennial (or \_\_\_\_\_ year) Reign of Christ.

### The Millennial Reign of Christ – AG Fundamental Truth #14

The millennial reign of Christ is described by the Assemblies of God fourteenth Fundamental Truth which states:

The second coming of Christ includes the rapture of the saints, which is our blessed hope, followed by the visible return of Christ with His saints to reign on the earth for one thousand years (Zechariah 14:5; Matthew 24:27,30; Revelation 1:7; 19:11-14; 20:1-6). This millennial reign will bring the salvation of national Israel (Ezekiel 37:21,22; Zephaniah 3:19,20; Romans 11:26,27) and the establishment of universal peace (Isaiah 11:6-9; Psalm 72:3-8; Micah 4:3,4).<sup>AG1</sup>

The primary passage dealing with the Millennium is \_\_\_\_\_. The debate about the meaning of Revelation 20, and the nature and extent of the millennial period has continued since the inception of the Church. There are \_\_\_ main views on what the Millennium is, and when it will occur. These are: \_\_\_\_\_millennialism, \_\_\_millennialism, and \_\_\_\_\_millennialism. Within the various views are further divisions and nuances of positions held.<sup>SMJ2</sup> In this class we will not examine them in detail but will instead present the basic views of each.

## Defending and Building Your Faith Christian Apologetics – Worksheet 05

### Premillennialism

In the premillennial view, the thousand year reign of Christ is a literal \_\_\_\_\_ years, and is yet future. It will follow the seven-year Tribulation period and the Rapture. When Jesus returns at the end of the Tribulation period, He will destroy the Antichrist, bind the devil, and begin the 1000-year period during which He will \_\_\_\_\_ as \_\_\_\_\_. During this millennial period, there will be great peace and harmony all over the world. There will be births and deaths of the descendents of those who have survived the Tribulation period. The Christians who were raptured, and all the saints in Christ up to that point who have previously died, will be \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ with Christ during the millennial period. At the end of the millennial reign, the devil, who is let loose, then gathers a resistance among the people who are alive on the Earth. But, the Lord Jesus quickly vanquishes them. Then there is the \_\_\_\_\_ Judgment, at which time God sends the wicked to eternal damnation, and the righteous live forever with the Lord. After this, the new heavens and the new earth are made. <sup>SMJ2</sup>

Within the premillennial view are two main subdivisions. The first is \_\_\_\_\_ premillennialism which teaches that Israel, as a \_\_\_\_\_, will be gathered, and a majority of Israel will be \_\_\_\_\_ before the return of Christ. The second is dispensational premillennialism which teaches that very few Jews will be saved before the return of Christ. <sup>SMJ2</sup>

### Postmillennialism

In the postmillennial view, the population of the earth, as a whole, will be converted to Christianity through the preaching of the Gospel. There will be great \_\_\_\_\_, prosperity, and harmony on Earth. \_\_\_\_\_ After this, the Lord will return. In this view, like amillennialism, the millennium is seen as an extended period between Christ's first coming and His second coming. But, where amillennialism holds to the increase of wickedness (as does the premillennial view), the postmillennial view teaches that \_\_\_\_\_ will increase as the Gospel spreads, and then comes Christ's return. <sup>SMJ2</sup> Stanley Horton and William Menzies state the following about the postmillennial view.

As time went on, the hope of some believers grew \_\_\_\_\_. But there continued to be those in the early centuries who emphasized Christ's millennial reign on earth. They were sometimes called "Chiliasts," from the Greek word chilia, "one thousand." Then, after Christianity was made the official religion of the \_\_\_\_\_, a change began to take place. The pastors of the assemblies no longer took the role of servant leaders. Instead, they followed the pattern of the government of the Roman Empire and built up a hierarchy of power. <sup>HSM1</sup>

When the capital of the empire was moved from Rome to Constantinople, this left a political vacuum in Rome; so the Bishop of Rome stepped into the gap to take political leadership, making his seat a \_\_\_\_\_. The other bishops began to look at their churches as a power base, their attention \_\_\_\_\_ from the blessed hope of the Church by earthly power and authority. As a result, postmillennialism arose, teaching that the millennial kingdom started with Christ's resurrection and will end with His second coming, and therefore there will be no future kingdom of

## Defending and Building Your Faith Christian Apologetics – Worksheet 05

God on earth. The only kingdom advocates of such teaching were concerned about was the one they could build for themselves using the people as their servants.<sup>HSM1</sup>

### Amillennialism

Later [*after postmillennialism developed*], amillennialism arose, teaching that there will be no millennium on earth (the “a” in amillennialism means “no”).<sup>HSM1</sup> In the amillennial view the Millennium is seen as a \_\_\_\_\_ period of time, and is not a \_\_\_\_\_ 1000-year period. Justification for this position is made by noticing that the term “1000” is always used in a \_\_\_\_\_ context in the Bible. In Revelation 20 there is figurative language describing the devil as a dragon, being bound with a chain, and then thrown into a pit. The devil, who is a spiritual being, cannot be bound with a physical chain and thrown into a pit. Furthermore, he is described as a dragon which further supports the figurative context. The binding of Satan during the millennial reign is said to have begun when Jesus was on Earth. Jesus was casting out demons from people, and the Jewish leaders said He was doing this by the power of the devil. Jesus responded with, “...how can anyone enter the strong man’s house and carry off his property, unless he first binds the strong man? And then he will plunder his house,” (Matt. 12:29), the strong man being the devil. Most amillennialists maintain that the devil was bound during Christ’s earthly ministry, but has since been let loose in order to deceive the nations; hence, we are very close to Christ’s return. At the end of the millennial reign, when Christ returns, the Lord will rapture His church, judge the wicked, and create the new heaven and earth.<sup>SMJ2</sup>

Stanley Horton and William Menzies state the following about the Millennium being seen as a representative period of time, not a literal 1000-year period.

Admittedly the Book of Revelation uses figures of speech. But those figures represent \_\_\_\_\_. The Antichrist is pictured as a beast, but he will be a \_\_\_\_\_ person, as 2 Thessalonians 2 shows. There are also some very \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ statements in Revelation, especially in its opening and closing chapters. The thousand years are mentioned \_\_\_\_\_ times in Revelation 20. That kind of repetition in the Bible indicates emphasis, which gives us every reason to take the thousand years of the Millennium literally.<sup>HSM1</sup>

### Summary

Each position has its strengths and weaknesses. The \_\_\_\_\_ positions held by the Christian Church over the past 2000 years have been premillennialism and amillennialism. Lately, in America, \_\_\_\_\_ millennialism has taken the lead, due mainly to the distribution of the Scofield Reference Bible, which advocated that position, and which was largely distributed in the early 1900s.<sup>SMJ2</sup>

The premillennial view is the only one that has a place for the restoration of \_\_\_\_\_ and for the \_\_\_\_\_ fulfillment of the prophecies of peace and blessing that Isaiah and other prophets foresaw.<sup>HSM1</sup> For this reason the Assemblies of God (and I) subscribe to a \_\_\_\_\_ millennial view. As previously



## Defending and Building Your Faith Christian Apologetics – Worksheet 05

### The Final Judgment – AG Fundamental Truth #15

Our third end time topic is the final judgment and is described by the Assemblies of God fifteenth Fundamental Truth which states:

There will be a final judgment in which the \_\_\_\_\_ dead will be raised and \_\_\_\_\_ according to their \_\_\_\_\_. Whosoever is not found written in the Book of Life, together with the devil and his angels, the beast and the false prophet, will be consigned to everlasting punishment in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone, which is the \_\_\_\_\_ death (Matthew 25:46; Mark 9:43-48; Revelation 19:20; 20:11-15; 21:8). <sup>AG1</sup>

This judgment is also called the \_\_\_\_\_ judgment and takes place at the \_\_\_\_\_ of the millennial reign. During this judgment the \_\_\_\_\_ dead will be raised and \_\_\_\_\_ according to their works. Romans 2:5-6 says, “But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God; <sup>6</sup> Who will render to every man according to his deeds.” Also, Revelation 20:12 says, “And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.” Some angels, those not the elect of God (1 Tim 5:21) will also face final judgment (2 Pet 2:4; Jude 6; Mat 25:41).

The wonderful news for us Christians is that, although God’s final \_\_\_\_\_ will come, we need not fear it. We need not fear it because of our faith in Christ, knowing that on the cross He took the \_\_\_\_\_ of God that we deserved. Love for our Savior and compassion for the lost, knowing that the unsaved are storing up wrath for themselves to be received at the righteous judgment of God (Rom 2:5-6), should motivate us to share the Gospel of our Glorious God and Savior, Jesus Christ!

### The New Heavens and the New Earth – AG Fundamental Truth #16

Our fourth and final end time topic is about the new Heavens and new Earth which is described by the Assemblies of God sixteenth (and final) Fundamental Truth which states:

“We, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness” (2 Peter 3:13; Revelation 21, 22). <sup>AG1</sup>

When sin entered the world through Adam, not only was \_\_\_\_\_ affected, but so also was \_\_\_\_\_ itself. \_\_\_\_\_ entered the world, and the world began to decay. We see storms, earthquakes, plagues, floods, etc. These catastrophes are the result of \_\_\_\_\_ affecting creation. God did not make the world with sin in it, so the intrusion of sin in God’s creation is a violation of the created order. Therefore, after the judgment of God upon all the people and the angels, God will make a new heavens and a new earth. He will do this because the \_\_\_\_\_ of sin must be removed from what God has created, so that

## **Defending and Building Your Faith Christian Apologetics – Worksheet 05**

God's created order might be restored. This is why Peter says, " 2 Peter 3:13 Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness," (2 Pet 3:13).<sup>SMJ2</sup>

Peter tells us the manner in which the new creation of heaven and earth will occur:

*2 Peter 3:10-12 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. (11) Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, (12) Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?*

Even as the world was baptized by the \_\_\_\_\_ of Noah, it will be \_\_\_\_\_ in the final fire of re-creation. All the forces of evil, and all the wickedness in man and in the angelic realm, will be done away with. All the foul works of mankind will be \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_. Peter tells us to look for the coming of the day of God, the day when the heavens are remade.<sup>SMJ2</sup>

*He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus. Revelation 22:20*

### **Week 5 Conclusion and Challenge**

Today we learned the basics about Christian end time beliefs, which was our last lesson on basic theology. The basic theological studies we have studied over the past weeks have prepared us to begin our apologetic studies. Next week we will begin our apologetic studies with a more in-depth examination of the Bible.

### **Week 5 Challenge**

I challenge you to memorize two of the following Bible verses (as shown below) by next Sunday. At the beginning of class next week I'll ask for someone to say two of these from memory. The first one to raise their hand and say two of the Scriptures from memory will earn a prize. I hope to see you all next week. Until then, I pray you have a blessed week.

*Matthew 25:46 And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.*

*2 Peter 3:13 Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.*

## **Defending and Building Your Faith Christian Apologetics – Worksheet 05**

### **Week 5 Review Questions**

What are the last four Fundamental Truths of the Assemblies of God, all of which pertain to the end times (Note: one of them was covered last week)?

What are the three view of the millennial reign of Christ?

What is another name for the final judgment and when does it take place in the premillennial timeline?

# Defending and Building Your Faith Christian Apologetics – Worksheet 05