

***“That Blessed Hope”***  
***Dispensational Premillennialism***

**Introduction:**

1. This Morning:
  - We Are Going To Continue Our Look At:
    - The Premillennial Approach:
      - To Eschatology:
        - By Learning More About:
          - What Is, Perhaps, The Most Recent Understanding Of Eschatology:
            - But Has Also Become One Of Most Popular!
2. **Dispensational Premillennialism!**
  - Now - That’s A Mouthful:
    - As Most Theological Terms Can Be!
      - But It Is Closely Tied To:
        - A System Of Biblical Interpretation & Hermeneutics:
          - Known As Dispensationalism!
  - So - Dispensationalism:
    - Doesn’t Just Have:
      - A Particular Interpretation:
        - About The End Times!
      - It Tries To Have A Consistent Interpretation:
        - About All Of Scripture!
3. This Approach To Scripture:
  - Was Founded By:
    - **John Nelson Darby - Who Lived In England - 1800-1882!**
      - And Was The Founder Of:
        - The English Brethren Movement!
  - As Darby Studied Scripture:
    - He Started To Develop His Understanding:
      - Of God’s Kingdom:
        - By Interpreting Scripture In A More Literal Way:
          - Than Was Done At That Time In The Church Of England!
  - Over Time:
    - This Approach Was Adopted By Others:
      - With The Belief That:
        - **“If The Plain Sense – Of Scripture – Makes Sense, Seek *No* Other Sense!”**
4. This Led To The Dispensational Approach:
  - That Was Promoted By:
    - Men Like:
      - C. I. Scofield & His Scofield Reference Bible!
  - It Was Also Popularized:
    - In The Late 1800's & Early 1900's - Through:
      - Bible & Prophecy Conferences:
        - That Were Held All Throughout:
          - The UK & The US!
  - Even In The Late 1900's:
    - It Was Popularized By:
      - Books & Films - Such As:
        - Hal Lindsey’s - “The Late Great Planet Earth” & The “Left Behind” Series Of Tim Lahaye & Jerry Jenkins!
5. One Of The Central Points:
  - Of Dispensational Theology & Hermeneutics:
    - ***Is*** Eschatology:
      - Because Of Its Understanding Of:
        - The Nation Of Israel & The Church!
  - So - To Understand:

- Dispensational Premillennialism:
  - We Need To Understand A Bit More About:
    - Dispensationalism As A Whole!
- So - Our Outline:
  - For Today's Lesson:
    - Will Be A Bit Different Than The Others!
    - In Reverse Order! So:

## 1. **The Methods Of Dispensational Premillennialism:**

- To Answer The Question:
  - What Is "Dispensationalism"?
    - Need To Look At A Few Things:
- The **Definition** Of Dispensationalism:
  - A Couple Of Helpful Definitions:
    - It Is - "A System Of Interpreting Scripture In As **Literal** A Way As Possible!"
      - While Also Affirming That In History There Are - "Divine Administrations Of Periods Of Time To Order The Affairs Of The World!"
  - Most Classic Dispensationalists Believe:
    - That There Are 7 "Dispensations" Through Which:
      - God Has Worked In This World:
        - To Reveal Himself & His Plan For This World!
    - This Does Not Mean They Believe:
      - There Are 7 Different Ways:
        - Of Salvation!
      - Only 7 Different Administrations:
        - To Show Men Their Need Of Him & His Grace!
  - **The Seven Traditional Dispensations Are:**
    - Innocence
    - Conscience
    - Human Government
    - Promise
    - Law
    - Grace
    - Millennium
  - And - In Each Dispensation - There Is A Pattern Of:
    - Responsibility
    - Failure
    - Judgment
    - And Grace - Which Leads On:
      - To The Next!
  - And Dispensationalists:
    - Uses These Categories:
      - In Their Interpretation:
        - Of All Of Scripture!
- **The Distinctions Of Dispensationalism:**
  - There Are Several Noteworthy Distinctions:
    - That Apply Especially To Our Study Of Eschatology!
  - A Primary Distinction - Is That:
    - The Nation Of **Israel** & The **Church**:
      - Are Two Distinct Entities:
        - Which God Deals With In Different Ways!
    - This Means That:
      - "Israel And The Church Are Separate And Always Will Be!" (Lewis Sperry Chafer)
        - So - If There Is A Promise Made By God In The Old Testament To Israel - It Is Not To Be Transferred To The Church!
  - A Secondary Distinction - But Related - Is That:
    - **The Church Is A Parenthesis:**
      - In God's Plan For Israel:
        - Because God's Original Intention Was To Reveal Himself In & Through His

### Relationship With Them!

- This Means That - When Jesus Came:
  - He Offered Israel The Kingdom!
    - Kingdom **Offered** - Matthew 12:28 - “But if I cast out devils by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God is come unto you!” - But:
  - Israel Rejected Jesus Offer!
    - Kingdom Rejected - John 1:11 - “He came unto his own, and his own received him not!” - So:
  - The Kingdom Was Postponed!
    - Kingdom **Postponed** - Acts 1:6-7 - “When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel? / And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power!”
      - So - The Church Is Formed! But:
  - The Kingdom Will Be Established!
    - Kingdom Restored - In A Millennial Kingdom After The Dispensation Of Grace / Church!
      - In Which Israel’s Special Status Will Be Restored!
- A Third Distinction - Also Related - Is That:
  - **The Church Is Unforeseen In Old Testament** Prophecy!
    - So - We Are Not To See Those Prophecies & Promises:
      - As Belonging To Us!
  - So - In Many Ways:
    - Dispensationalists Believe That:
      - Different Passages Of Scripture Apply To Different Dispensations:
        - And You Need To Discern That To Interpret It Properly!
- However - As We’ve Seen:
  - In The Other Approaches - A & Post & Pre:
    - We Need To See:
- **The Direction Of Dispensationalism!**
  - There Is Great Variation Today:
    - Amongst Those Who Hold To Dispensational Theology & Interpretation!
  - One Primary Variation Is:
    - “Progressive Dispensationalism”
      - Which Means That The Dispensations:
        - Progress & Develop:
          - Until Israel & The Church Is Finally United:
            - As One People Of God In The Eternal State!
    - So - Instead Of The Church Being A Parenthesis In God’s Plan For Israel:
      - The Church Is Seen As:
        - The First **Stage** / Step In:
          - The Establishment Of The Kingdom Of God!
  - But - Also Related To This Approach Is:
- **The Detail Of Dispensationalism:**
  - Another Distinction Of Dispensationalism Is:
    - Its Attention To Detail:
      - Especially In Prophecy!
  - “Prophecy Is Interpreted Very Literally And Often In Considerable Detail!”
    - This Can Be Seen In:
      - Another Popular Work Of The 20<sup>th</sup> Century - By Clarence Larkin:
        - “Dispensational Truth” - With Its Dozens Of Charts & Diagrams!
- So - With This Method Of Interpretation:
  - Of Scripture & Of Prophecy:
    - We Can Understand More About:

## 2. **The Millennium Of Dispensational Premillennialism:**

- First - Look At:
  - What Is Similar To Historic Premillennialism!
    - Much Of What We Said:

- About The Millennium Last Week:
  - Applies To This Approach As Well!
- Revelation 20:1-10 Is Considered To Be:
  - New Revelation & Information:
    - About The Future & Final Dispensation In God's Plan For The Ages!
- And So - All Premillennialists Believe That:
  - **The Second Coming Of Jesus Christ:**
    - Will Take Place Immediately **Before:**
      - The Millennial Kingdom - Which Jesus Will Set Up Himself!
      - And This Kingdom Will Be The Visible Kingdom Of God On Earth!
- And - This Kingdom Will Be:
  - A Kingdom Of:
    - Unprecedented Peace, Progress And Prosperity! But Then:
- Second - Look At:
  - What Is Different From Historical Premillennialism!
    - Quite A Bit - Because Of:
      - Their Understanding Of:
        - The Nation Of Israel & The Church In God's Plan!
  - Lewis Sperry Chafer:
    - "God Has Two Distinct Plans For The Two Different Groups Of People That He Has Redeemed! God's Purposes And Promises For Israel Are For Earthly Blessings, And They Will Yet Be Fulfilled On This Earth At Some Point In The Future. On The Other Hand, God's Purposes And Promises For The Church Are For Heavenly Blessings, And Those Promises Will Be Fulfilled In Heaven!" (Found In Wayne Grudem's Systematic Theology) So:
  - **The Period Of The Millennium:**
    - Is Primarily For:
      - **Israel** - And Not:
        - For The Church!
    - Because - It Is In The Millennium:
      - That God Will Fulfill:
        - All Of The Promises He Made To Israel In The Old Testament:
          - That Pertained To A Messianic Kingdom On This Earth!
      - However, Dispensationalists Still Believe:
        - That The Church Will Have Some Role To Play:
          - In Christ's Reign As Well!
    - But What About The Period Of Time:
      - Before The Millennium?
        - Another Notable Feature Of:
          - Dispensational Premillennialism: - Is Its Understanding & Description Of The Period Of Time Jesus Called: The "Great Tribulation!" So:
    - **The Period Of The Tribulation:**
      - Is Also Primarily For **Israel:**
        - And Not The Church!
          - It Is Considered By Many To Be:
            - A Seven Year Period Of Transition:
              - Between The Dispensation Of The Church & The Dispensation Of The Millennium!
        - And - During That Time Of Great Tribulation:
          - God Turns His Attention Back To:
            - His People Of Israel:
              - To Finish The Work He Started!
        - Many Have Also Described This:
          - As The "**Seventieth** Week Of Daniel":
            - Since - According To Daniel 9:24 - "Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy!"
        - So - For Many Dispensational Premillennialists:
          - There Is A Set Order:

- For The End Times!
- **First - The Removal Of The Church!**
  - They Believe That This Will Take Place Before:
    - The Tribulation Period:
      - Since The Tribulation Period Is Primarily To Prepare Israel For The Coming Of Their King!
  - They See 1 Thessalonians 4:17-18:
    - As Referring To Jesus Coming Back:
      - **For** His Saints In The Church!
        - And This Will Include Both A Rapture & A Resurrection:
          - Of The Church!
      - “For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: / Then we which are alive [and] remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord!”
  - Dispensational Premillennialists Believe That:
    - This Can Happen:
      - “At Any **Moment!**” - So For Them - It Is Truly Imminent!
        - Nothing Has To Happen Before Christ Comes **For** His Church!
  - Jesus Does This:
    - So That He Might Deliver His Bride, The Church:
      - From The Great Tribulation!
    - They Will Often Point To:
      - 1 Thessalonians 5:9 - “For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ!”
  - This Is Often Called:
    - A “Secret Rapture” - Because:
      - Only Believers Will See Christ:
        - When They “Meet The Lord In The Air!”
      - Though - It Will Be:
        - Noticed By The World!
    - However - Not All Dispensational Premillennialists:
      - Believe In A Pre-Tribulation Rapture!
        - Some - Mid / Pre-Wrath / Post!
          - **See Diagram!**
- **Next Comes - The Refinement Of Israel!**
  - Through The Great **Tribulation!**
    - To Prepare Them For The Second Coming Of The Lord:
      - As Their Rightful King!
  - And This Will Also Prepare The Way:
    - For Paul’s Prophetic Statement:
      - Romans 11:26 - “And So All Israel Shall Be Saved!”
        - Which Will Take Place Either After The Tribulation!
- **Then Comes - The Return Of Christ!**
  - They Say That This Is The True Second Coming!
    - And Describes The Time When Jesus:
      - Comes Back **With** His Saints!
        - All The Believers Who Have Already Been Given Their Glorified Bodies!
    - As Enoch Prophesied:
      - As Given In Jude 14 - “Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints!”
    - This Will Not Be A “Secret Rapture!”
      - Because - As Revelation 1:7 Says:
        - “Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen!”
  - At This Time:
    - According To Dispensationalists:
      - There Will Also Be:

- Another Resurrection - Of Those Who Turned To Christ In The Great Tribulation & Died!
- Many Also Believe That This May Be When:
  - The Old Testament Saints:
    - Will Be Resurrected!
- **And Then Comes - The Restoration Of The Kingdom:**
  - To Israel! The Millennial Kingdom!
    - Jesus Will Reign:
      - Over The Whole Earth:
        - From Jerusalem & On The Throne Of David!
  - Only Living Believers:
    - Of Both Jews & Gentiles:
      - Will Enter The Millennial Kingdom - To Repopulate The Earth!
  - And - Though There Will Be Many Nations:
    - The Millennium Will Have A Remarkably Jewish Character!
      - And - All Unfulfilled Prophecies To Israel Will Be Fulfilled At This Time!
- Then - At The **End** Of The Millennium - Revelation 20:7:
  - "Satan Shall Be Loosed Out Of His Prison" To:
    - Deceive The Unbelievers:
      - Who Lived In The Millennial Kingdom, But Did Not Trust In Their King!
  - Though They Will Come Against:
    - "The Camp Of The Saints" - God Will:
      - "Devour" Them With Fire!
  - After Which Will Be:
    - The Resurrection Of The Unjust:
      - Who Will Be Judged:
        - And Punished In The Lake Of Fire!

\* So - Finally - Briefly Consider:

3. **The Marks Of Dispensational Premillennialism:**

- The Rapture:
  - Is For The Church! And - There Is **One** Main Rapture:
    - And It Can Happen:
      - At Any Time & At Any Moment!
  - So - Believers Are To:
    - Matthew 24:42 - "Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come!"
- The Resurrections:
  - There Are **Three** Main Resurrections!
    - First Resurrection:
      - At Christ's Coming **For** The Church!
        - So - Of Believers Who Died:
          - During The Dispensation Of Grace!
      - Takes Place At The Same Time:
        - As The Rapture!
    - Second Resurrection:
      - At Christ's Coming **With** The Church!
        - After The Tribulation - Of Believers Who Died:
          - During The Tribulation!
      - But, There Is No Rapture:
        - So That Those Who Are Living:
          - Can Populate The Millennial Kingdom!
    - Third Resurrection:
      - At The End Of The Millennium!
        - Resurrection Of The Wicked:
          - For Their Judgment!
- The Judgments:
  - There Are **Three** Main Judgments!
    - First Judgment:
      - Judgment Seat Of Christ - Or - Bema!

- To Reward The Church:
  - For Their Works For The Lord!
- Second Judgment:
  - Judgment Of The Nations!
    - To Punish The Nations Who Persecuted Israel During The Tribulation!
- Third Judgment:
  - Great White Throne!
    - To Punish The Wicked!

**Conclusion:**

1. This Is Just A Summary:
  - Of Some Of The Many Details:
    - Of Dispensational Premillennialism!
2. Any Questions:
  - About This Approach?
3. **Key Verse:**
  - Titus 2:13 - “Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ!”

*Grace Baptist Church  
Stephen Elmer, Pastor  
4245 North 200 West  
Greenfield, Indiana 46140  
317-326-2362  
[www.sermonaudio.com/wordofgrace](http://www.sermonaudio.com/wordofgrace)  
[www.growatgrace.org](http://www.growatgrace.org)  
[pastor-elmer@hotmail.com](mailto:pastor-elmer@hotmail.com)*