

# THE END TIMES PRIMER – Part 3

## Selected Scriptures

### INTRODUCTION

Isa 66:1-2 – End Times Primer

Christians take Bible at Face Value

Gen 6-9 (Flood)

Examples: Exod Plagues, Jonah

Exod 7:17 – liberals try to explain away as some kind of algae

Exod 14 (Red Sea)

Jonah (Swallowed by the Great Fish)

Isa 7:14 (Virgin Birth)

**Propos<sup>n</sup>:**

**So That:**

Ezra 7:10 – “to seek,” “to dig out”

→ You cannot dig out

... If you do not know Where to dig!

... If you do not know How to dig!

... If you do not have a shovel!

We need to Know Where to Dig.

We need to Know How to Dig.

We need a Shovel!

Luke 24:27 – “explained” – *hermeneuo* – to explain, to interpret  
Hermeneutics → The Methods, Techniques, Rules, or Principles

**III<sup>a</sup> – Lee Hoiby** (born [1926](#)) is an American [classical](#) pianist and composer of classical [vocal music](#). Hoiby compares composing to [archeology](#). In 2006 he said "For me, composing music bears some likeness to archeology. It requires patient digging, searching for the treasure; the ability to distinguish between a treasure and the rock next to it and recognizing when you're digging in the wrong place. The archeologist takes a soft brush and brushes away a half-teaspoon at a time. Musically, that would be a few notes, or a chord. Sometimes the brushing reveals an especially lovely thing, buried there for so long."

Hard Work! The Holy Spirit doesn't bless ignorance and laziness.

1) Philosophically, the purpose of language requires literal interpretation:

=> Biblical writers wrote:

- 1) to be understood
- 2) normal grammar
- 3) so the readers could understand

The Holy Spirit guides men into truth and away from error. The Spirit uses language and the words of language. Grammar and words are the fundamentals of all meaningful speech.

Grammatical-Historical – Normal – Plain

Normal ordinary usage of language, grammar, and words.

God wants to communicate and His meaning is clear.

Leaves room for the use of the beauty of language, poetic language, figurative language

“he is the spitting image of his father” comes from “he is the very spit and image of his father” → Not “his father spit him out ...”

Luther –

- “The literal sense of Scripture alone, is the whole essence of faith and of Christian theology.”
- “I have observed this, that all heresies and errors have originated, not from the simple words of Scripture, as is so universally asserted, but from neglecting the simple words of Scripture.”
- “Each passage has one clear, definite, and true sense of its own. All others are but doubtful and uncertain opinions.”
- “a layman who has Scripture is more than Pope or council without it.”
- “with all due respect to the Fathers, I prefer the authority of Scripture”

Calvin –

- “Let us know then, that the true meaning of Scripture is the natural and obvious meaning, and let us embrace and abide by it resolutely.”
- “It is the first business of an interpreter to let his author say what he does say, instead of attributing to him what we think he ought to say.”

Luther and Calvin were used by God → **expository preachers!**

Calvin came back to his church in Geneva after exile for 5(?) years and picked up the next verse where he left off!

**III<sup>a</sup>** – A child with poor eyesight sees a billboard with only unreadable words. Her parents take her to get glasses. When she wears them, she can read the billboard's words, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ." Her conclusion: "The billboard spell out words. I need a lens to read them."

## **Character of God ... Covenants**

### **Literal (Physical) Fulfillment of the Covenant Promises**

(Consistent Hermeneutic) God made to: Abraham (Land), Isaac, Jacob, David (Throne), Israel

→ not at the expense of Spiritual Fulfillment!!!

## **Already, Not Yet!**

inaugurated eschatology w/o denying either what the OT indicates about the future or what the NT indicates about the present reality. Links the plan of God into a unified whole.

Examples: Joel 2, AC, DC, NC

Jesus quotation of Isa 61

## **→ End Times → Consistent Literal**

### **Picture**

→ Resurrection, Ascension, Pentecost – Church Age (NC Outpouring of the Holy Spirit), Rapture, Judgment Seat of Christ, Marriage Supper of the Lamb, 7 Year Tribulation (Signing of the Peace Treaty – 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming of Christ), 75 Day Period (False Prophet, Antichrist, Satan Bound, Resurrection of OT and Trib Saints, Sheep/Goat Jgmt), Millennium (Rev 20), Short Period – Release and Rebellion – God’s Glory/Great White Throne – Eternal State

**Definitions** → Expand, Clarify, Prove during Exposition of Mk 13

### **More Coming**

→ All Christians agree that Christ is coming again

Pre – 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming is Before the Millennium

Post – 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming is After the Millennium

A – There is no Millennium

Definition: In terms of the “Millennium” → Pre-, Post-, and A-

→ Related to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming

### **A. Premillennial            2<sup>nd</sup> Coming Before Millennium**

2<sup>nd</sup> Coming of Christ takes place before the Millennium.

**literal 1,000 years.”** → unique to this view

His Kingdom is Eternal → His physical reign begins with a literal 1000 years Kingdom

Literal 7 year period before the Millennium called  
**The Tribulation**

☛ **Literal (Physical) Fulfillment of the Covenant Promises** (Consistent Hermeneutic) God made to: Abraham (Land), Isaac, Jacob, David (Throne), Israel  
→ not at the expense of Spiritual Fulfillment!!!

Church is related to Israel and distinct from Israel  
– together in one body in the Church

## **B. Postmillennial      2<sup>nd</sup> Coming After Millennium**

the world eventually will be Christianized, and the return of Christ will occur at the close of a long period of righteousness and peace – the Millennium.

Not literal 1000 years, long period of time.

Christ not physically present  
Not literal 7 year period  
No literal physical fulfillment of Promises to Israel

Postmillennialism adopts an optimistic view with respect to this age, seeing a golden age of progress in the church age that affects every dimension of life: economic, social, cultural, and political.  
- Edwards

**Theonomy** (♩+ m) – The belief that the entire Mosaic Law code is operative today in both its standards and penalties. Every stroke of the Law is applicable to this age. The Law should be kept by individuals as well as by society.

Civil authorities should carry out the death penalty in accordance with the Mosaic Law code – e.g., all 37 capital offenses: Homosexuality, Bestiality, Rebellious Children, etc. → this will bring about the return of Christ

### C. Amillennial → No Millennium

Lit. – “No Millennium” – most spiritualized of all

church age is the kingdom. We are in the millennium now.

Influenced by Origen (thoroughgoing liberal) – allegorical

→ No belief in a literal physical reign of Christ on earth.

No Millennium

No Physical Reign

No 7 Year Period

No Physical Fulfillment of Promises to Israel **Maybe KEY**

- NT Writer’s “Pattern” of using OT
  - 1) What pattern?
  - 2) You ain’t inspired (superintended – Neither am I ☺)

Distinctions between the Millennium and the Eternal State

→ Biblically – Rev 20-22 explicitly divides the future into two eras of blessings: the millennial kingdom and the eternal state. The OT prophets tend to put these two eras together (Isa 65:17f).

(1) Similar to Christ’s 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming (Isa 61:1-3; Acts 1:6; 1 Pet 1:10-11).

AND

A literal 7 year period preceding the millennium called:  
The Tribulation, The Time of Jacob’s Trouble

Matt 24:21 – “For then there will be a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever will.”

Rev 7:14 – “I said to him, ‘My lord, you know.’ And he said to me, ‘These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and

they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.””

a period of seven years, beginning shortly after the rapture, when judgment is meted out upon the world at large for its sinfulness of past ages, and when the nation Israel is brought, through tremendous suffering, to a receptive attitude toward Christ as its Messiah-Deliverer.

1 week – Dan 9:27

time, times, ½ a time – Dan 7:25; 11:13; 12:7; Rev 12:14

1260 days – Rev 11:3; 12:6

42 months – Rev 11:2; 13:5

→ Brother! You can't escape it! ☺

Floyd Hamilton, Amillennialist, in his book *The Basis of Millennial Faith* – “Now we must admit that a literal interpretation of the Old Testament prophecies gives us just such a picture of an earthly reign of the Messiah as the premillennialist pictures.”

Oswald T. Allis, Amillennialist, in his book *Prophecy and the Church* – “the Old Testament prophecies if literally interpreted cannot be regarded as having been yet fulfilled or as being capable of being fulfilled in this present age.”

**App<sup>n</sup>** – If you are of the opinion that you switch the rules, the hermeneutics, then who decides when to use?

One point of allegorical (prophecy) interpreters is the pattern of the NT authors use of the OT should be our pattern for interpretation.

- 1) What pattern is that? There is no one pattern.
- 2) Some OT passages get used in multiple ways in NT (e.g., Gen 15:6, “seed” vv., etc.)
- 3) Very simple – NT authors were borne along by the Spirit. Modern interpreters are not (Explain)

## CONCLUSION

III<sup>a</sup> – A Jewish marriage consisted of three parts, the first of which was the engagement. Most often arranged by the fathers of the bride and groom, the engagement amounted to a contract of marriage in which the couple had little, if any, direct involvement. The second stage was the betrothal, the marriage ceremony at which the bride and groom exchanged vows in the presence of family and friends. At that point the couple was considered married, and their relationship could be broken only by formal divorce, just as if they had been married for many years. If the husband happened to die during the betrothal, the bride was considered a widow, although the marriage had not been physically consummated and the two had never lived together. The betrothal could last for many months, sometimes a year, during which time the groom would establish himself in a business, trade, or farming and would make provision for a place for the couple to live.

At the end of the betrothal period the wedding feast would be held, and it was in the feast and its related celebrations that the entire community became involved. This festivity, which could last a week, began with the groom's coming with his groomsmen to the bride's house, where her bridesmaids were waiting with her. Together the bride and groom and their attendants would then parade through the streets proclaiming that the wedding feast was about to begin. The procession was generally begun at night, and lamps or torches were used by the wedding party to illumine their way and to attract attention.

At the end of the feast period, a close friend of the groom, who acted much like a best man, would take the hand of the bride and place it in the hand of the groom, and the couple would for the first time be left alone together. The marriage would be consummated and the couple would henceforth live together in their new home. It was that third part of the marriage rite that Jesus used as the framework for this parable.

A 14-year-old girl from Russia's Volga Republic of Mari El hanged herself last Saturday (May 21) over fears that the world would end.