



Clanking Chains: Characteristics of the Millennium; Preterist Motivation for Political Action; Whitewashing the Devil's World

- (5) The Gentile and Jewish remnant out of the Tribulation becomes the original human population of the Millennium. They will procreate rapidly and create a population explosion. Although the environment is perfect, the people, of course, continue to have sinful natures.

Zechariah 10: 8 - "I will whistle for them to gather them together, for I have redeemed them; and they will be as numerous as they were before."

Jeremiah 30:20 - Jacob's children [**Israel**] also shall be as formerly, and his congregation shall be established before Me; and I will punish all their oppressors.

- (6) With Jesus Christ ruling as a benevolent dictator, He will rule with perfect justice and a rod of iron:

Revelation 19:15a - And from His mouth comes a sharp sword, so that with it He may smite the nations; and He will rule them with a rod of iron.

The phrase "rod of iron" is:

σιδήρεος ῥάβδος, *sidēreos rhabdos* - "iron scepter"

Iron scepter means an inflexible set of standards based on the laws of divine establishment guaranteeing freedom for all under its principles of privacy, property, and life. What preserves freedom is a system of just authority.

- (7) Just authority means the administration of perfect justice:

Isaiah 9:7 - There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness from then on and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of the armies will accomplish this.

Jeremiah 23: 5 - "Behold, the days are coming," declares the Lord [**God the Father**], "When I shall raise up for David a righteous Branch [**a king descended from a royal ancestor; Jesus in hypostatic union will rule over David's kingdom in the Millennium**]; and He will reign as king and act wisely and do justice and righteousness in the land."

These are just a few of the characteristics of the Millennium. All indicate a literal kingdom ruled by the resurrected Christ whose Second Advent institutes a just government that provides the political, social, and spiritual order which permits universal prosperity among the peoples, world peace among the nations, and true worship of God for all believers.

- (8) You can live your life productively! No pessimism is necessary in this view. You won't have to be discouraged from working to change society because you will know that the things you do can make a difference!



Our nation's Constitution prohibits Congress from establishing a state religion but it also provides for any religion to freely exercise its beliefs. When the free exercise clause is assumed to be a license for the church to either **become** the government or to **harass** the government or the people through lobbying, law suits, intimidation, crusades, civil disobedience, violence, or revolution then free exercise is turned into an evil and must be suppressed by government. There are religious organizations that have as an objective to **impose** Christian theology on the government and the people using these several approaches.

We have emphasized the biblical approach in our classes and especially in *Clanking Chains*. Believers are to individually attempt to **influence** both government and others with Christian theology beginning with the Gospel. Influence on government starts with the voting booth and extends to the right to express grievances to one's representatives. Influence of others is accomplished by execution of the Christian way of life to the maximum thus demonstrating that Christian *modus operandi* is superior to any system *cosmos diabolicus* can offer. On the other hand, there is nothing in the First Amendment that prohibits government from **recognizing** and **supporting** religion; neither is there any prohibition against individual government officials from being **counseled** in the performance of their duties by biblical principles. Our Constitution is based primarily on biblical principles.

However, Preterist theology proposes that the kingdom is already up and functional and that believers should work for meaningful change in the world since a **spiritual** Millennium has been functional since A.D. 70.

It's a bit confusing but here's the gist: Preterists are a sect of five-point Calvinism. They believe they are the elect, chosen by God in eternity past and thus automatically saved by the work of Christ on the cross. Somehow, faith in Christ's work saves them but this faith is not from themselves but is some automatic response decreed in eternity past and energized by the Holy Spirit.

Since the kingdom is theirs and the kingdom is now, they are justified in seeking change in the devil's world that accommodates their theology.

- (9) You will discover that the ship is not sinking, and it is therefore a good idea not only to "polish the brass," but also to swab the decks!

Preterists, who reject dispensations, conclude the Church succeeded Israel as beneficiaries of the unconditional covenants. The "Tribulation" is considered already past, having occurred circa A.D. 70. We are now in the kingdom age or a spiritual Millennium.

Preterists assert that the Church is not an unknown "parenthesis" but the natural fulfillment of the plan of God following the first-century Tribulation.

They argue that if the Church is followed by the "Tribulation" then the Church must eventually fail in its duties and the covenants of God will go unfulfilled thus impugning the veracity of God.

From this they conclude that dispensationalists have a "death wish," in which they consider the "ship," Planet Earth, "sinking."



Instead of the constant dread of such morose gloom and doom, the Preterist claims there is no rapture, we are in the kingdom; there is no future Tribulation for it is already past. As citizens of the heavenly community we may now busy ourselves by “polishing the brass” and “swabbing the decks” of Spaceship Earth.

This is what is called “whitewashing the Devil’s world.” It allows consideration of the evolutionist view that man is getting better and better, the Church can achieve world peace through human energy, and that entropy is not a factor in the universe.

It is pointless for us to review passages that describe the catastrophic circumstances that occur during the Tribulation culminating with the horror the Second Advent imposes on the forces of the Antichrist and the other three armies in combat at Armageddon.