

Causes of Disbelief in Biblical Prophecy

6. False Teaching of Biblical Prophecy - (Continued)

b. Replacement Theology – **Evangelicals: Covenant Theology** - (Cont.)

Amillennialism Negates God's Promises to Israel: By Jonathan Brentner

1. Amillennialism Negates the Abrahamic Covenant of the Land
2. Amillennialism Repudiates the Davidic Covenant
3. Amillennialism Contradicts Many Old Testament Prophecies Regarding Israel
4. Amillennialism Disavows Jesus' Assurance to His Disciples
5. Amillennialism Refutes the Father's Promise to the Son
6. Amillennialism Discredits God's Character
7. Amillennialism Ignores the Miracle of Israel's Rebirth as a Nation

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b. Replacement Theology – **Evangelicals: Covenant Theology (Continued)**

1. Amillennialism Negates the Abrahamic Covenant of the Land

In Genesis 15:12-21, God made a covenant with Abram regarding the Land. By causing a deep sleep to come upon the patriarch, the Lord emphasized that the fulfillment of this promise depended solely upon Himself and not the behavior of Abram and the descendants he represented at the time.

David later referred this covenant regarding the Land, “confirmed to Jacob,” as an “everlasting covenant to Israel” (1 Chron. 16:14-18; see also Psalm 105:8-11). Because God based it on His behavior, it exists as an “everlasting covenant” as David proclaimed.

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b. Replacement Theology – **Evangelicals: Covenant Theology (Continued)**

Amillennialism Negates the Abrahamic Covenant of the Land – (Cont.)

Has Israel ever realized the fulfillment of this covenant? No! The nation has never possessed all the land the Lord promised to them in Genesis 15:18-21. This leaves us with two choices. First, God has broken His “everlasting covenant” with Abram regarding the Land. Or secondly, God’s promise to the patriarchs still awaits a future fulfillment.

Amillennialism opts for the first alternative. However, this makes the Lord a defaulter on His solemn covenant with the patriarchs, does it not? And besides that, if He can renege on His promises to the likes of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, what does that say about His unconditional promises to us?

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6. False Teaching of Biblical Prophecy - (Continued)

b. Replacement Theology – Evangelicals: Covenant Theology - (Continued)

2. Amillennialism Repudiates the Davidic Covenant

Amillennialism repudiates the Lord's covenant with King David. In speaking of Solomon, God promised to “establish the throne of his kingdom forever” (2 Sam. 7:13). We see from David's prayer in response to God's promises that the king regarded the covenant as permanent – as something that would “continue forever” (1 Chron. 17:20-27).

We also see this covenant reiterated in the words of Isaiah as he promised that the Messiah would someday rule from “the throne of David” (Isa. 9:6-7) and again as the prophet later wrote that a “shoot from the stem of Jesse” would someday rule as king over all of the earth (11:1-5).

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Amillennialism Repudiates the Davidic Covenant – (Continued)

The angel Gabriel, when announcing the birth of Jesus, reiterated the promises of the Davidic covenant to Mary: “He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end” (Luke 1:32-33). This is not a reference to Christ’s headship over the church, but to His reign as King over Israel.

Scripture nowhere repudiates the Davidic covenant; it remains in effect!

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b. Replacement Theology – **Evangelicals: Covenant Theology (Continued)**

3. Amillennialism Contradicts Many Old Testament Prophecies Regarding Israel

In order to deny a future kingdom for Israel with Jesus seated on the throne of David, the Lord must renege on countless promises in the Old Testament regarding the restoration of a kingdom to Israel. Yes, amillennialists apply these prophecies spiritually to the church. However, this attempt fails to recognize the specificity of the promises of a kingdom to Israel as well as the large volume of passages that speak to the restoration of Israel.

And, they overlook the literal and precise way of how Jesus fulfilled the prophecies regarding His first coming.

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b. Replacement Theology – **Evangelicals: Covenant Theology (Continued)**

4. Amillennialism Disavows Jesus' Assurance to His Disciples

In Acts 1:6 the disciples asked this question of Jesus: “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel.” At this point, they clearly believed the Old Testament prophecies regarding a future kingdom for the Israelites. If this was no longer the case, would not Jesus have made it clear to them?

His response, however, does not deny their underlying assumption of a restored kingdom for Israel, but rather Jesus simply tells them their timing is wrong, “It is not for you to know times and seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority” (Acts 1:7). The Lord then turned their attention to the current task at hand: that of proclaiming the Gospel to the nations.

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b. Replacement Theology – **Evangelicals: Covenant Theology (Continued)**

4. Amillennialism Disavows Jesus' Assurance to His Disciples – (Cont.)

If, as the amillennialists assume, God had already rejected Israel, why did Jesus not make this clear to His closest followers? Why did He ascend back to heaven with the disciples still clinging to the hope of a restored kingdom for Israel? After listening to Jesus teach about the kingdom for the forty days after His resurrection, surely the disciples had a firm basis for assuming the Lord would someday restore a kingdom to Israel.

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6. False Teaching of Biblical Prophecy - (Continued)

b. Replacement Theology – **Evangelicals: Covenant Theology - (Continued)**

5. Amillennialism Refutes the Father's Promise to the Son

In Psalm 2:8, the Father makes this promise to the Son, “Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession.” Yes, Jesus will reign forever over the earth in the eternal state after sin and death have been forever vanquished. However, Psalm 2 makes it clear that sin exists during this time of the Son's dominion on the earth, something not seen in Revelation 21-22.

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Psalm 2 ¹ Why do the nations rage,
And the people plot a vain thing?
² The kings of the earth set themselves,
And the rulers take counsel together,
Against the LORD and against His Anointed,
saying,
³ “Let us break Their bonds in pieces
And cast away Their cords from us.”
⁴ He who sits in the heavens shall laugh;
The Lord shall hold them in derision.
⁵ Then He shall speak to them in His wrath,
And distress them in His deep displeasure:
⁶ “Yet I have set My King
On My holy hill of Zion.”
⁷ “I will declare the decree:
The LORD has said to Me, ‘You *are* My Son,
Today I have begotten You.

Psalm 2 - (Continued)

⁸ Ask of Me, and I will give *You*
The nations *for* Your inheritance,
And the ends of the earth *for* Your possession.

⁹ You shall break them with a rod of iron;
You shall dash them to pieces like a potter's
vessel.' ”

¹⁰ Now therefore, be wise, O kings;
Be instructed, you judges of the earth.

¹¹ Serve the LORD with fear,
And rejoice with trembling.

¹² Kiss the Son, lest He be angry,
And you perish *in* the way,
When His wrath is kindled but a little.
Blessed *are* all those who put their trust in Him.

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5. Amillennialism Refutes the Father's Promise to the Son – (Cont.)

'Zechariah 14:9-19 clearly pictures Jesus reigning over the entire earth at a time with nations capable of rebelling against the Lord.

In Psalm 2 and in other passages, the Old Testament pictures a time with Christ reigning over the nations of the world before sin and death are eradicated in the eternal state. This fits perfectly with the thousand-year reign of Jesus in Revelation 20:1-15 followed by the destruction of Satan, the White Throne judgment, and the eternal state where sin and death no longer exist.'

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b. Replacement Theology – **Evangelicals: Covenant Theology - (Continued)**

6. Amillennialism Discredits God's Character

“In the midst of proving that the Lord has not rejected Israel, the apostle Paul makes this statement in Romans 11:29: “For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.” Through Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, God called out a people with eternal, sovereign purposes. God will not be remiss in His calling of Israel as His people; it’s an “irrevocable” call.

The claim that God has now rejected Israel makes God a failure in His sovereign purposes regarding Israel. It casts dispersion upon God’s character, upon His faithfulness to His people.”

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6. Amillennialism Discredits God's Character – (Continued)

“I know that many will shriek at my above assertions, and in response many will attack me. However, God does not fall short on any of His purposes – and that includes His eternal design for Israel, as demonstrated through His covenants and large sections of the Old Testament dealing with His intent to restore a kingdom to Israel.

Though some will strongly disagree with me here, I believe I have a solid scriptural basis for my stand. After all, the apostle Paul expressed shock and great dismay that anyone would say God had rejected Israel (Rom. 11:1-7).”

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b. Replacement Theology – Evangelicals: Covenant Theology - (Continued)

Romans 11:1 I say then, has God cast away His people? Certainly not! For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin. 2 God has not cast away His people whom He foreknew. Or do you not know what the Scripture says of Elijah, how he pleads with God against Israel, saying, 3“Lord, they have killed Your prophets and torn down Your altars, and I alone am left, and they seek my life”? 4 But what does the divine response say to him? “I have reserved for Myself seven thousand men who have not bowed the knee to Baal.” 5 Even so then, at this present time there is a remnant according to the election of grace. 6 And if by grace, then it is no longer of works; otherwise grace is no longer grace. But if it is of works, it is no longer grace; otherwise work is no longer work.

7 What then? Israel has not obtained what it seeks; but the elect have obtained it, and the rest were blinded.