

ESCHATOLOGY

NEW ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL SERIES

HISTORIC PRE-MILLENNIALISM



Justin Martyr

(2nd century)

Justin Martyr maintained that Jesus would reign, physically, on the earth in Jerusalem for 1000 years.



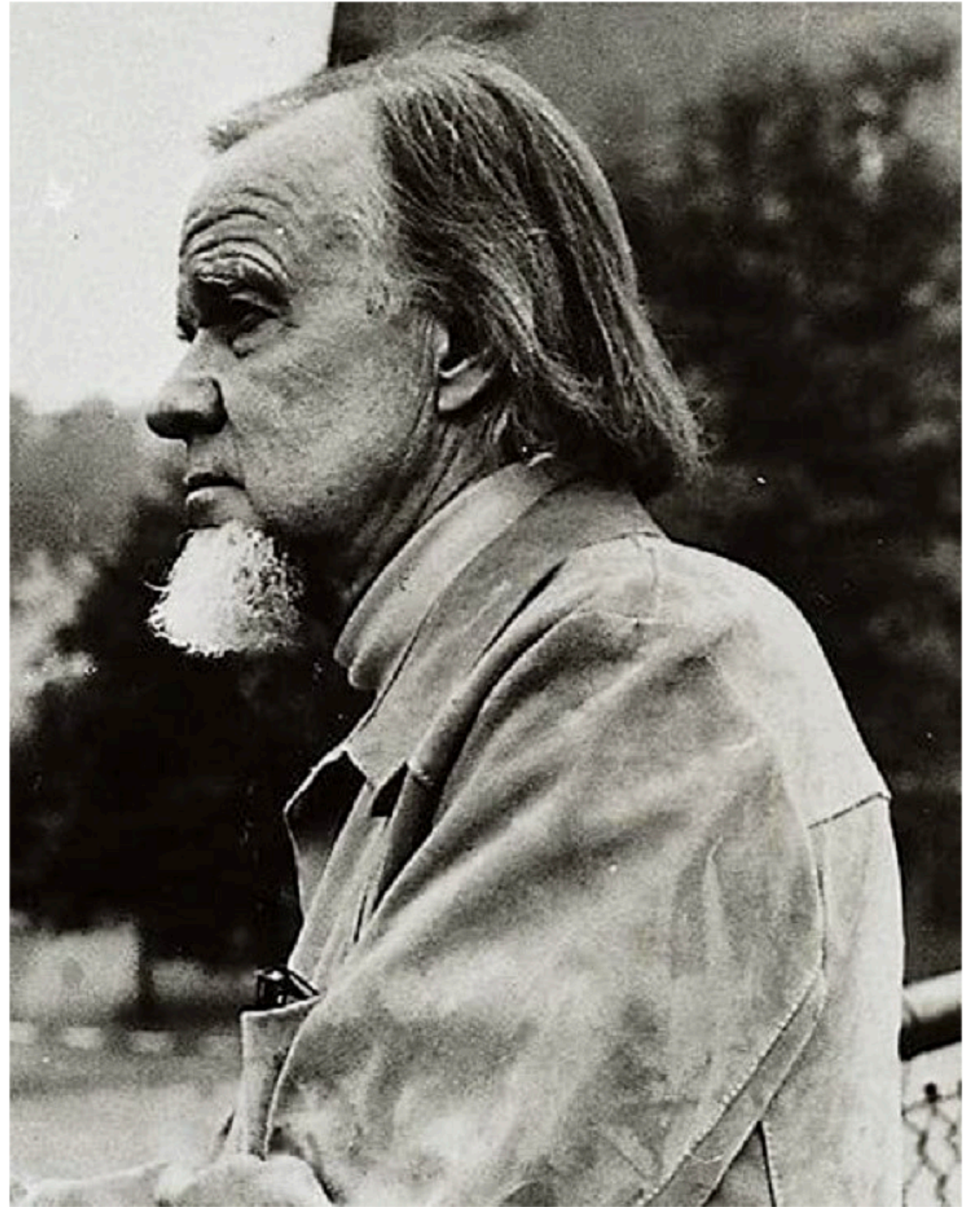
Irenaeus (2nd century, bishop of Lyon)

“The promise remains steadfast... God promised him the inheritance of the land. Yet, Abraham did not receive it during all the time of his journey there. Accordingly, it must be that Abraham, together with his seed (that is, those who fear God and believe in Him), will receive it at the resurrection of the just.”

The blessing to Jacob “belongs unquestionably to the times of the kingdom when the righteous will bear rule, after their rising from the dead. It is also the time when the creation will bear fruit with an abundance of all kinds of food, having been renovated and set free... And all of the animals will feed on the vegetation of the earth... and they will be in perfect submission to man.”

Francis Schaeffer

1912-1984



The Distinctive of Pre-Millennialism

- **The Course of the World:** The world is expected to grow worse and worse until the time of the rise of the Anti-Christ and the Tribulation. The gospel will be preached to all the world but without great effect (Matt. 13:24-30, 36-43; 24:37-39; 2 Tim. 3:1-8,13;
- **The Tribulation:** The Tribulation is generally held to be a literal 7 year period prior to the coming of Christ in glory.
- **The Rapture:** The historic pre-mil position does not teach a “secret” rapture and does not separate it from the final advent (as the Dispensationalists teach; 1Thess. 4:13-17).
- **The Final Advent:** There is only one “coming” of the Lord which will be visible, public, and glorious. It is seen as “near” although not immanent. At the final advent, Satan is bound for 1000 years while Christ reigns physically on the earth.
- **The Millennium:** The millennium is an earthly, physical reign of Christ, in Jerusalem for 1000 years. At the close of the 1000 years, Satan is loosed on the earth for a brief period and cause a widespread rebellion. The battle of Armageddon ensues and Satan and his hosts are defeated. The wicked are then resurrected and the final judgment takes place.

Critical Questions:

1. Are there Biblical grounds for separating the final advent of Christ and the final judgment? Matthew 13:40-43; Matthew 16:27; Matthew 25:31-32; 2 Peter 3:12-13

Further, if the pre-mil view of the millennium is accepted, the question should be asked: “Is there a possibility of salvation during the millennium?”

If one says “No,” then we must ask, “Why not?”

If one says “Yes,” then we must ask, “How so?” Matthew 25:10-12

2. Is the pessimism over the results of preaching the gospel warranted?

There are six things that you must embrace if you accept the pre-millennial interpretation of Scripture (taken from Sam Storms lead pastor for preaching and vision at Bridgeway Church in Oklahoma City):

1. You must necessarily believe that physical death will continue to exist beyond the time of Christ's second coming.
2. You must necessarily believe that the natural creation will continue, beyond the time of Christ's second coming, to be subjected to the curse imposed by the fall of man.
3. You must necessarily believe that the New Heavens and New Earth will not be introduced until 1,000 years subsequent to the return of Christ.
4. You must necessarily believe that unbelieving men and women will still have the opportunity to come to saving faith in Christ for at least 1,000 years subsequent to his return.
5. You must necessarily believe that unbelievers will not be finally resurrected until at least 1,000 years subsequent to the return of Christ.
6. You must necessarily believe that unbelievers will not be finally judged and cast into eternal punishment until at least 1,000 years subsequent to the return of Christ.

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