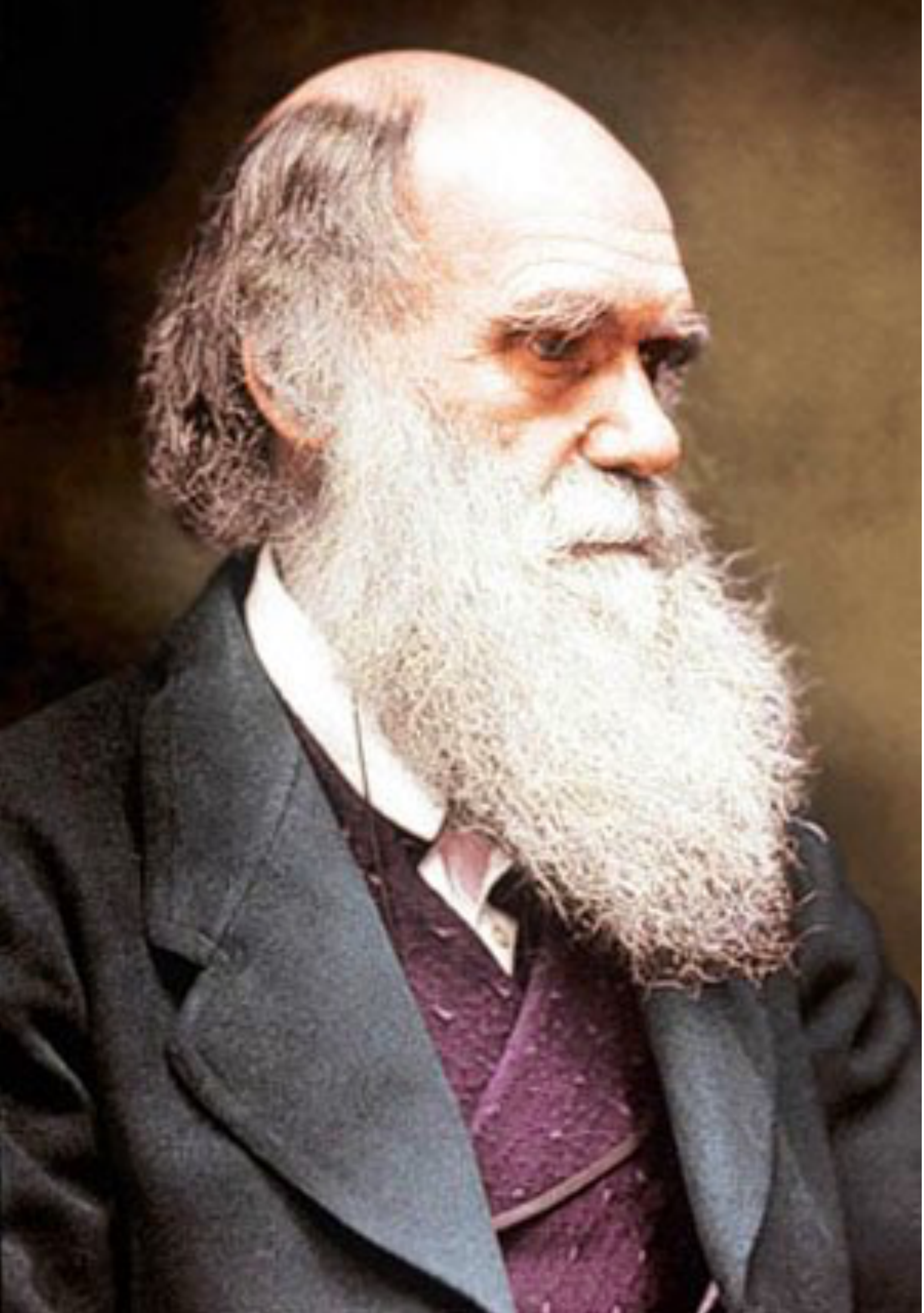


ESCHATOLOGY

FALL ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL SERIES

POSTMILLENNIALISM



CHARLES DARWIN



SHIRLEY
JACKSON
CASE

Merrill F. Unger, *Unger's Bible Dictionary* (1961): “This theory, largely disproved by the progress of history, is practically a dead issue.”

Jay Adams (*The Time is at Hand*, 1970) stated described postmillennialism as a “dead issue” with conservative scholars, since it predicts “a golden age while the world awaits momentary destruction” . . . the “advent of two World Wars . . . virtually rang the death knell upon conservative postmillennialism.”

J. Barton Payne's *Encyclopedia of Biblical Prophecy* (1973) mentions postmillennialism only once in a footnote: “two world wars killed this optimism.”

Hal Lindsey, “No self-respecting scholar who looks at the world conditions and the accelerating decline of Christian influence today is a ‘postmillennialist.’”



“The substance of this prayer is, that God would enlighten the world by the light of his Word, – would form the hearts of men, by the influences of his Spirit, to obey his justice, – and would restore to order, by the gracious exercise of his power, all the disorder that exists in the world Again, as the *kingdom* of God is continually growing and advancing to the end of the world, we must pray every day that it *may come*: for to whatever extent iniquity abounds in the world, to such an extent *the kingdom of God*, which brings along with it perfect righteousness, is not yet *come*.”

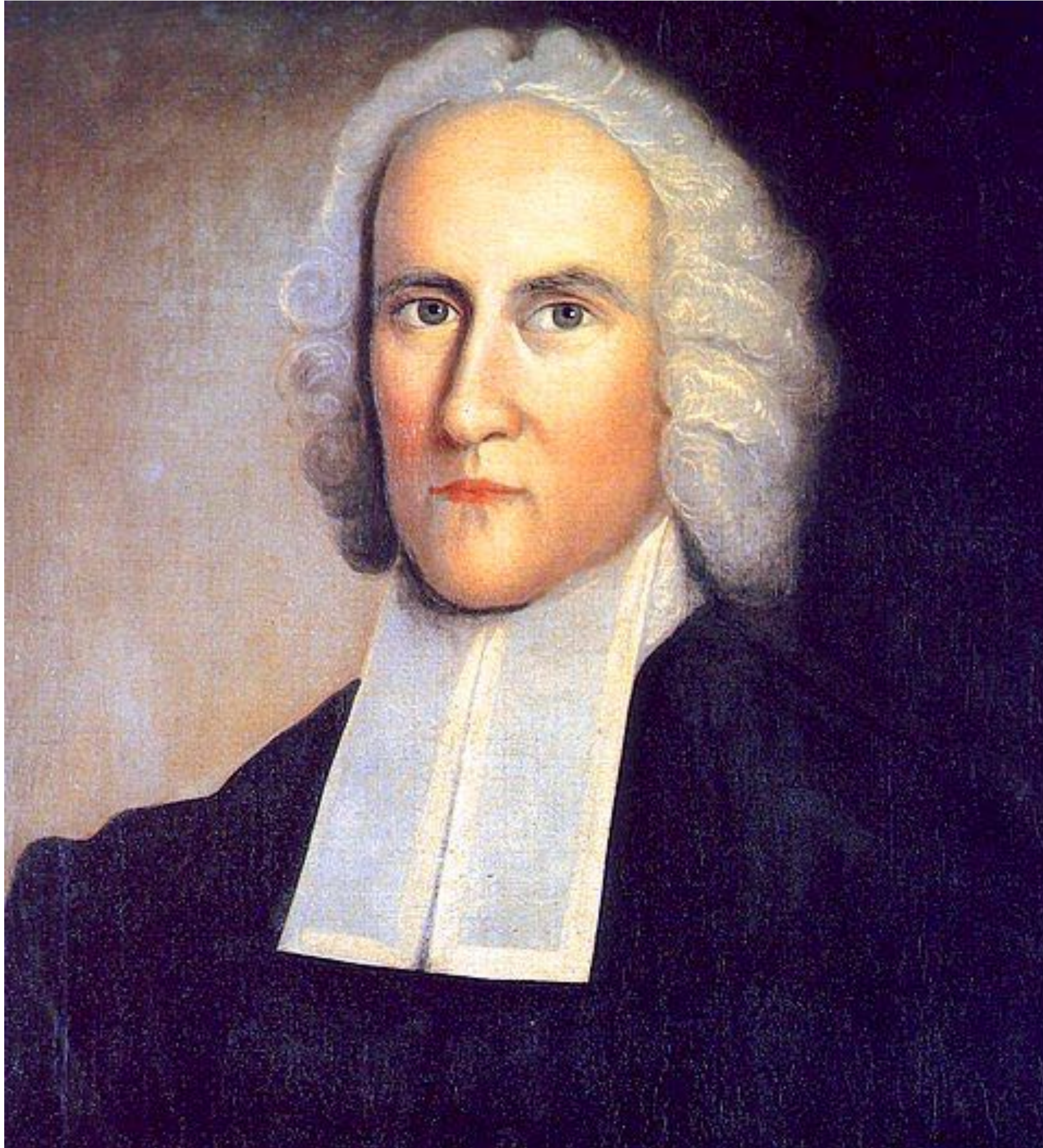
On Psalm 72, “the kingdom of Christ . . . was to be extended from the rising of the sun to the going down thereof The meaning then is, that the king chosen by God in Judea will obtain so complete a victory over all his enemies, far and wide, that they shall come humbly to pay him homage.”



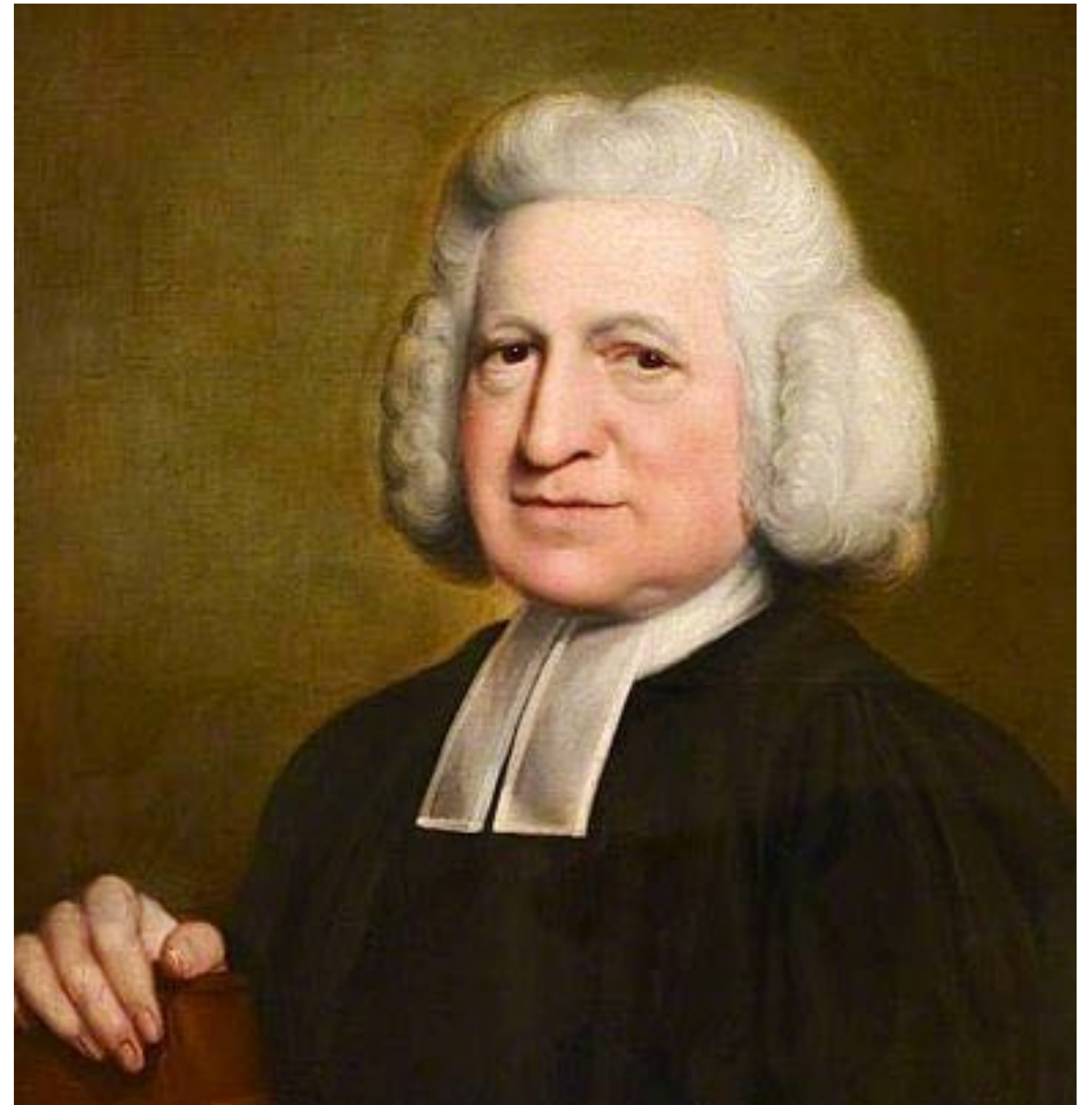
William Perkins



John Owen



Jonathan Edwards



Charles Wesley

Hymn #226 (Trinity) “Rejoice the Lord is King”

Rejoice, the Lord is King:
Your Lord and King adore;
Rejoice, give thanks and sing,
And triumph evermore:

Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice.

Jesus, the Saviour reigns,
The God of truth and love;
When he had purged our stains
He took his seat above:
His kingdom cannot fail,

He rules o'er earth and heav'n;
The keys of death and hell
Are to our Jesus giv'n:

He sits at God's right hand
Till all his foes submit,
And bow to his command
And fall beneath his feet:

Hymn #218 (Trinity) “All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name”

All hail the power of Jesus' Name!
Let angels prostrate fall;
Bring forth the royal diadem,
And crown him, crown him, crown him,
crown him Lord of all.

Crown him, ye martyrs of your God
Who from his altar call;
Extol the Stem of Jesse's rod,
And crown him, crown him, crown him,
crown him Lord of all.

Ye seed of Israel's chosen race,
Ye ransomed of the fall,
Hail him who saves you by his grace,
And crown him, crown him, crown him,
crown him Lord of all.

Sinners, whose love can ne'er forget
The wormwood and the gall,
Go spread your trophies at his feet,
And crown him, crown him, crown him,
crown him Lord of all.

Let ev'ry kindred, ev'ry tribe,
On this terrestrial ball,
To him all majesty ascribe,
And crown him, crown him, crown him,
crown him Lord of all.

O that with yonder sacred throng
We at his feet may fall;
We'll join the everlasting song,
And crown him, crown him, crown him,
crown him Lord of all.

Hymn #372 (Trinity) “Arm of the Lord, Awake”

Arm of the Lord, awake, awake!
Put on thy strength, the nations shake,
And let the world, adoring, see
Triumphs of mercy wrought by thee.

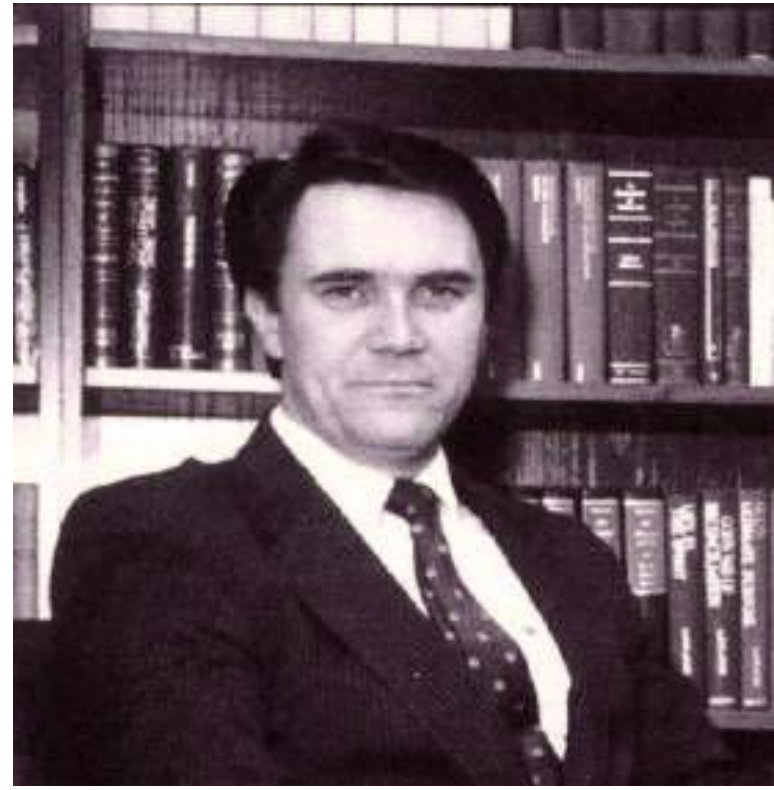
Say to the heathen from thy throne:
"I am Jehovah, God alone."
Thy voice their idols shall confound,
And cast their altars to the ground.

Let Zion's time of favor come;
O bring the tribes of Israel home;
And let our wond'ring eyes behold
Gentile and Jews in Jesus' fold.

Almighty God, thy grace proclaim
In ev'ry clime of every name;
Let adverse pow'rs before thee fall,
And crown the Saviour Lord of all.

Distinctives of Postmillennialism:

- 1. The course of the world:** There is over time a progressive victory wrought by God's grace through the preaching of the gospel. The kingdom of Christ will fill the earth. The majority of the world will be saved. Satan's kingdom will be progressively destroyed.
- 2. The millennium:** Traditional postmillennialism identifies the millennium as a "golden age" in which gospel peace reigns and there is unparalleled prosperity in the earth as God's covenant blessings are poured out upon His people. Some early post-mils believed that this millennium would last a literal 1000 years. Most post-mils today, however, view the millennium as the entire inter-adventual period in which the kingdom of Christ gradually grows to climax in something of a "golden age."
- 3. The Tribulation:** The great tribulation is not future but occurred in the time prior to and during the fall and destruction of Jerusalem in 70 A.D. God's people are to expect tribulation to some degree throughout history.
- 4. The essential distinctive of postmillennialism:** The essential distinctive of postmillennialism is its Scripturally derived, sure expectation of gospel prosperity for the Church during the present age (i.e. during history).



Greg Bahnsen made this observation:

The thing that distinguishes the biblical postmillennialist, then, from amillennialism and premillennialism is his belief that Scripture teaches the success of the great commission in this age of the church. The optimistic confidence that the world's nations will become disciples of Christ, that the church will grow to fill the earth, and that Christianity will become the dominant principle rather than the exception to the rule distinguishes postmillennialism from the other viewpoints. All and only postmillennialists believe this, and only the refutation of that confidence can undermine this school of eschatological interpretation. (“The Prima Facie Acceptability of Postmillennialism,” *Journal of Christian Reconstruction*, vol. III, no. 2, p. 68)

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