

Midtown Messenger

Volume 2

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Issue 25

Will Jesus Reign On An Earthly Throne?

by: Ronnie Scherffius

One of the greatest errors perpetrated on the hearts and minds of man is the false doctrine of premillennialism. According to premillennial doctrine, Following the rapture (of which the Bible says nothing), Jesus will ultimately return to “set up His kingdom” over which He will reign for one-thousand years in the city of Jerusalem. Though this doctrine is nowhere found in the biblical text it is considered to be by many professed “Christians” a conservative doctrine. And though premillennial thought is not new to our time, the Council of Ephesus (431) rejected premillennial thought in favor of the amillennial view, it is now more widely accepted thanks to the work of men like John Gill, Charles Spurgeon, John Darby, and C. I. Scofield who popularized dispensational premillennialism through his Scofield Reference Bible. (beware of study Bibles!)

Of the many passages that soundly defeat premillennial heresy, Jeremiah 22:28-30 is by far one of the most simple and effective. From this text we read of Coniah, also known as “Jehoiachin” (2 Kings 2:46) and “Jeconiah” (1 Chron. 3:16), a descendant of David and King of Judah about whom a vow is made by God: Is this man Coniah a despised broken idol? is he a vessel wherein is no pleasure? wherefore are they cast out, he and his seed, and are cast into a land which they know not? O earth, earth, earth, hear the word of the LORD. Thus saith the LORD, Write ye this man childless, a man that shall not prosper in his days: for no man of his seed shall prosper, sitting upon the throne of David, and ruling any more in Judah. (Jer. 22:28-30)

From this Old Testament text we learn that none who descend from Coniah will ever sit on the throne of David in Jerusalem and have a prosperous rule. Yet, when we turn to the New Testament, from the very first chapter we learn that Jesus is a descendant of this king! “And Josias begat **Jechonias** and his brethren, about the time they were carried away to Babylon: And after they were brought to Babylon, **Jechonias** begat Salathiel; and Salathiel begat Zorobabel” (Mt. 1:11-12). The question to be answered is this, Since Jesus was descended from Coniah and since no seed of Coniah shall sit on the throne in Judah, how can Jesus sit on David’s throne in Jerusalem when He returns to the earth?

The answer is simple. Jesus will **not** return to this earth to establish an earthly kingdom over which He will reign for one-thousand years. In fact, we have no record that Jesus will ever return to this earth at all! (cf. 1 Thess. 4:13-18) According to Old Testament prophecy and New Testament fulfillment, Jesus is even now reigning over His kingdom as King of kings (1 Tim. 6:15)!

In Daniel we read: “I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him. And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed.” (Dan. 7:13-14). Contrary to premillennial thought, Daniel is not here foretelling

of a rapture in which Jesus returns to the earth to receive a kingdom **but** of Jesus being crowned King when He ascended back to the Father (Acts 1:9-11). Peter no doubt has the words of Daniel in mind when he preaches, "Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ" (Acts 2:36).

Jesus is **now** reigning as King on the throne of David. Jesus could not reign as King on the throne of David on this earth in Jerusalem as is falsely taught by the premillennialists. Will Jesus reign on an earthly throne? In one word, NO!

Numbering Our Days

By: John Moore

In Psalm 90, we learn that time is so precious and that our days ought to be numbered (v.12). Our life is but a vapor (James 4:4), and we must be careful to plan our days with useful and helpful endeavors. If care is not taken, we will find ourselves squandering our time and failing in the education and nurturing of our children. We must walk circumspectly (i.e. carefully, like an acrobat), buying up the time because the days are evil (Ephesians 5:15-16). Buying up the time and numbering our days implies that families ought to have a course of action for the edification, education, and spiritual exercise of their children. All secular educational institutions see the necessity of proper planning for a maximum educational experience. But what about the family? Is God's educational institution for children any less important? Should not families have at least a sketchy outline and set objectives for each family member? Indeed, we should be planning for our children's spiritual progress and rearing. Parenting involves planning and not passivity. Consider the following questions in view of the principle of planning:

1. From year to year, month to month, or even week to week, do you have in mind what you want your children to learn? Why not establish a curriculum for the home where specific books of the Bible are taught or emphasized throughout a quarter, etc. Some families create a chart of objectives to be mastered which involves memorizing pertinent facts, Scriptures, listing, names, etc., and when that objective is completed, it is duly noted on the chart so that both children and parents can monitor the pro-

gress.

2. Do you make arrangements and plan for your child's participation in Bible camps, "Bible Bowls," youth devotionals, lectureships, etc.?

3. Do you plan meaningful activities that will reinforce spiritual values, such as taking your children to visit the sick or the elderly?

4. Do you involve them in home projects designed to encourage others, such as baking food for the needy, writing letters to Bible class teachers, elders, or newcomers? OR, do you allow them to watch hour upon hour of television or play video games unceasingly?

5. Do you plan work details for helping the family, such as gardening, yard work, painting, cleaning, fence-building, etc. These things build character, impart wisdom, and prevent laziness. Consider these passages: Proverbs 6:6-11; I Kings 1-5; Ecclesiastes 9:10; Proverbs 24:3-4, 33-34; 26: 13-16.

6. Do you set aside time for Bible class homework assigned by the teacher in the local congregation? If this is not planned, it can so easily be forgotten until the mad rush to the building just before Bible class, when it is impossible to thoroughly concentrate and study.

7. Do you plan to be at every assembly of the church (Hebrews 10:24-25)?

8. Do you plan your schedule around the activities of the local church, or do other activities come first?

9. Do you plan to schedule time for family devotionals?

10. Do you plan outings for family enjoyment? I have found that a fishing trip, hike, or a ride in the country are excellent ways to foster communication and provide teaching opportunities. Observing the design of God's creation can reinforce the truths our children learn in the classroom. These outings also provide lasting memories, as funny, humorous, and serious events often occur.

Again, these things will only occur when we plan for them. It is imperative that families secure the future by making plans today. If we fail to plan, we will one day experience regret and dismay over what could have been. With children, we only receive one opportunity. They grow and mature so rapidly; so let us make the most of these tender years by effectively numbering our days and weeks by planning a specific course of action for our family.

PRIVILEGED TO SERVE
Week of June 23, 2019

Sunday Morning:

Announcements: Bryant Siegel
Scripture Reading: Isaac Jobes

Lord's Supper & Offering

Bread: Mark FitzSimmons
Fruit of the Vine: Doug Jobes
Offering: Bryce Dolan
Assist: Sammy Scherffius, Kirk FitzSimmons, Manny Flonnory

Sunday Evening: Mark FitzSimmons, Doug Jobes

Prayer

A.M. Closing: Jeff Harris
P.M. Closing: Larry Nuckels

Ushers: Don Lynn
Allen Clifton

Wednesday Devotional: Mat Gibson

Open/Close Building: Randles

Sound System: Scott DeDear

Greeters:

Don Lynn
Allen Clifton

Prepare Communion: Randles



Sunny Glen Children's Home is requesting the following items only: Cake mixes, frostings, Cooking Spray. Please place the items in the donation box in the hallway.

2019 Peach Valley Camp registration is open—
Please see Doug Jobes if you have any questions.

IN NEED OF PRAYERS:

Pat Atkinson, in the loss of her sister, Juanice Stevens, last week. Clifton Rutherford's brother and sister in law that were in the hospital last week.

UPCOMING EVENTS

June 26: Adult Summer Series-Matt Gibson
June 29: Men's Breakfast @ 8am at the building
June 29: Jr./Sr. High Devo at Yvonne Smith's 6:30 pm -8:00 pm at River Place, Thomaston
July 11: MidTown hosts Area Summer Youth Series

AREA EVENTS

June 23-28: Servants Academy @ Southwest
July 21-26: Peach Valley Youth Camp
Aug. 10: Adams Street Ladies' Day in Beeville
Sept. 21: San Pedro C of C Ladies' Day in San Antonio

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES:

Happy Birthday: Peggy Matlock (28); Zane Harris (29); Laura Purswell (30).

Happy Anniversary: Allen & Pam Clifton (24); Harvey & Della Rampley (28)

To Our Visitors: We welcome you to our service. Perhaps this is the first time you have visited us. It is our desire to have you return often and give us a chance to become better acquainted with you. You will find visitor cards on the back of the pew in front of you. Please fill one out.

KEEP IN PRAYER

MIDTOWN MEMBERS:

Jeff Cannady
Les Daltry
Dee Gilpatrick
Wayne Martin
Ann Pantel
Mickey Tisue
Clark Withers

SHUT-INS:

Faye Henderson
Sandy Malone

If you would like to add or remove a name on the "Keep in Prayer" List, please see Nina Siegel.

MIDTOWN CHURCH OF CHRIST

Minister: Ronnie Scherffius
Secretary: Nina Siegel

TIMES OF SERVICES

Sunday Bible Class: 9:00AM
Sunday Morning Worship: 10:00AM
Sunday Evening Worship: 5:00PM
Wednesday Bible Class: 7:00PM

RECORD OF ATTENDANCE

Week of June 16, 2019

Bible Class.....	95
A.M. Worship.....	125
P.M. Worship.....	85
Wednesday Bible Study.....	97

Offering \$3,717

THROUGH THE NEW TESTAMENT

Each week will focus on reading a portion of the New Testament, each reading will only take 30 minutes:

John 14—John 21



SUPPORTED WORKS

India - Mani Pagidipalli
New Zealand - James & Emily Cammock
Bible Land Passages - John & Carla Moore
Southwest School of Bible Studies - Cody Kilgore

GO PAPERLESS!

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