



Northside Proclaimer

Proclaiming The Word Of The Lord

1 Thessalonians 1.8

Northside Church Of Christ Welcomes You!

October 19, 2014

“God Kept His Promises”

Bryan Garlock

As stated in last week’s bulletin, we will run a short series dismantling piece-by-piece the so-called “rapture theory.” If you did not read it, please do so before reading the following.

As in all cases of religious error, there are so many tenets that must be created to answer the error that all false doctrine becomes a web of lies.

For example, Calvinism teaches Total Hereditary Depravity. In elementary terms this means children are born in sin. A whole system of tenets thrive off this single belief that infants are born little sinners! While this notion isn’t founded in Scripture, to stay consistent to the doctrine it was *necessary* to adopt infant baptism. Why? Well, if children are born in sin, and baptism saves, then babies need to have their sins remitted. Thus, the doctrine of infant baptism was established. Further, since we can’t immerse infants in water, sprinkling was adopted. Thus, sprinkling is now a form of baptism. It’s easy, therefore, to see how one false doctrine leads to another.

With this principle in mind, let’s notice how Premillennialism, which houses the rapture theory, is a never-ending cycle as it grows from perversion to perversion of Scripture.

One writer said, “The Abrahamic Covenant is described in Genesis 12:1–3 and is an unconditional covenant. There are no conditions attached to it (no “if” clauses, suggesting its fulfillment is dependent on man)... Israel as a nation will possess the land in the future. Numerous Old Testament passages anticipate the future blessing of Israel and her possession of the land as promised to Abraham.” (“What is the Abrahamic Covenant?” Got Questions Ministries, n. d. Web. [14 Oct. 2014] <<http://www.gotquestions.org/Abrahamic-covenant.html>>.)

It should be noted that Abraham himself did not receive the promise land, or any of the three promises, but his offspring surely did. It was God’s plan that these promises be fulfilled through his offspring (cf. Gen. 12.7; 13.14-17; 15.8; Heb. 11.13). Even today, as people come to Christ, they are blessed by the seed promise, that is, Christ Jesus (Gal. 3.16, 23-29). Those who argue that Abraham and/or the Jews did not literally inherit the land, and therefore in the future must, pass over the fulfillment passages below.

In showing that God did in fact keep His promises, let us consider several passages. *Continued on back...*

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Announcements

- Remember John Blair
- Remember the shut in's.
- Pray for the church and one another.
- Men's Bible study Nov. 9th, 3:30 PM
- Teen's Bible study tonight - Mike Hawk's house / Kid's drill today, 4 PM
- Call or email me to add announcements, thanks.
- Coming soon: weekly Bible study at Tuesday 7 PM; ask Bryan Garlock for details
- Coming soon: Young family / couples' Bible study
- Remember the spiritual sick among us

Moses taught the Jews that *if* they were obedient to God, He would give them six cities of refuge, thus enlarging their borders (Deut. 19.7-10). Joshua declared six cities of refuge, consequently fulfilling Moses' words (20.7-8). Further, the Scriptures show, "[t]hus the Lord gave to Israel all the land that he swore to give to their fathers. And they took possession of it, and they settled there... Not one word of all the good promises that the Lord had made to the house of Israel had failed; all came to pass" (Joshua 21.43, 45; cf. 23.14).

Interestingly, God gave the boundaries of the land and the nations that possessed it (Gen. 15.18-21). When Solomon became king of the Jews and his dominion was recorded, Scripture reveals he ruled over the promised land (1 Kings 4.21; 2 Chron. 9.26). Nehemiah informs, speaking of Abraham, "[y]ou found his heart faithful before you, and made with him the covenant to give to his offspring the land of the Canaanite, the Hittite, the Amorite, the Perizzite, the Jebusite, and the Girgashite. And you have kept your promise, for you are righteous" (9.7-8). With these passages, we've shown that God did give the land as initially promised to Abraham through his offspring.

Next, our friend claims God gave the land unconditionally. This simply is another lie. He further claims there were no "if clauses" meaning God was going to freely give the land to Abraham. The Bible, our authority, contradicts him in the following: "...just as all the good things that the Lord your God promised concerning you have been fulfilled for you, so the Lord will bring upon you all the evil things, until he has destroyed you from off this good land that the Lord your God has given you, if [meaning conditions] you transgress the covenant of the Lord your God, which he commanded you, and go and serve other gods and bow down to them. Then the anger of the Lord will be kindled against you, and you shall perish quickly from off the good land that he has given to you" (Joshua 23.14-16, emphasis added)

God gave the Israelites conditions that had to be obeyed or else they would lose their promised land. That is exactly what happened (see Deuteronomy 29.25-28; Jeremiah 25.8-11). Yet, because we serve a gracious and merciful God, once Israel repented and obeyed the law, God restored to them again His faithful promise: the land of Canaan (see Deut. 30.1-10; Jeremiah 29.10).

Finally, this doctrine espouses that the land was to be literally given to the Jews *forever* (cf. Gen. 13.15). As we've already shown, the land promise was conditional; obedience was *necessary*. Ultimately, the Jews did not maintain their allegiance to God and therefore eventually lost their land entirely (cf. Matt. 21.43). Yet, Premillennialism hinges on to the word "forever." There are many things said to be forever in Scripture.

One, for instance, is circumcision. God said this was to be an "everlasting covenant" (Gen. 17.13), but the New Testament says such has been fulfilled and taken away (Acts 15; Rom. 7.1-4; 10.4; Gal. 5.2-3; Eph. 2.15; Col. 2.14). Further, the word "forever" must be understood in its context. Whenever God used phrases like, "throughout their generations and a covenant forever" and "everlasting covenant," etc., He was referring to the duration of the covenant within such claims were made. The Scriptures teach the covenant was given to the Israelites only (Deut. 4.44; 5.1-21; Rom. 9.4; 2.14). And as mentioned above, the covenant was fulfilled and thus no longer binding. Forever then, is not a literal eternity!

God has always and will always keep His promises. This simple truth destroys the legs Premillennialism stands on, for if God did not give the land to the Jews as promised, then He would have to do so during the end times, or so they say.

Believe it or not, the rapture theory builds off the "unconditional, future land promise." We won't deal with every facet of Premillennialism, as it would require months of writing only to develop a cumbersome volume of articles. Lord willing though, the few truths we cover will be enough for us to recognize the error and refute this soul damning doctrine. BG