



# REPENT AUSTRALIA

*“If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.”*

*2 Chronicles 7:14*

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Brothers & Sisters

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## END-TIME ERROR

When speaking to His disciples about the last days, Jesus warned them, “Take heed that no one deceives you”. Today the vast majority of Evangelicals, Pentecostals and Fundamentalists are firmly convinced that the Dispensational Premillennialist theory provides the correct scriptural interpretation of events which are soon to happen. But are they right---or are they deceived? In fact, is this a Jesuit-based misinterpretation of Daniel 9:27 and a few other scriptures taken out of context to “fool even the elect”? Worse, is it the core of an end-time deception, a billion-dollar a day hoax that rakes in big money for unscrupulous shysters? The main proponent of this theory is the Schofield Bible, which unfortunately has become the test of orthodoxy among many millions of Christians, and any disagreement with its teaching brings the brand “modernist” or “heretic”. Nevertheless, we should be prepared to examine its authenticity or otherwise as a true interpretation of the Scriptures rather than blindly follow the teachings of men that have become deeply engrained in our thinking.

### **Daniel’s Seventy Weeks**

The key to Dispensational Premillennialism is found in the prophetic “seventy weeks” of Daniel 9:24-27. Adherents of this theory maintain that while the first 69 weeks are completed at the ministry of Jesus, the 70<sup>th</sup> “week” of seven years is to be fulfilled at the end of the age when *the prince that shall come* will be a personal antichrist who makes a covenant with the Jews for those seven years, but then breaks it after three and a half years. Daniel’s prophecy begins with the command to rebuild the city (Jerusalem) and Temple, and ends with their destruction in AD 70. The next verse (27) is vital: *And he shall confirm the covenant with many during one week.* According to the laws of grammar, the **he** of verse 27 must refer to the singular subject of the preceding sentence; that is to “Messiah the Prince”. Furthermore, verse 24 states that by the end of the 70<sup>th</sup> week there would be an end of sins, reconciliation for iniquities, everlasting righteousness and many of the Old Testament prophecies fulfilled. We must assume that the Messiah achieved all this during the 70<sup>th</sup> week of Daniel’s prophecy. Moreover, the Hebrew word is NOT “treaty”---nor does it say anything about a peace treaty that an antichrist will make with the Jews. *He shall confirm a covenant*; and God’s meaning of a COVENANT has to do with the shedding of blood. In other words, only One could confirm the established Covenant with many---Jesus the Messiah! That is, in the middle of the week, by shedding His own blood He strengthened and fulfilled an existing covenant with all who would believe, not make an entirely new one.

### **The Death of Stephen**

This 70<sup>th</sup> week began with the baptism of Jesus in AD 27 and ended in AD 34 when the death of Stephen marked the final rejection of Christianity by the leaders of the Jewish nation. For seven years, or one prophetic week, the New Covenant was offered to them but they refused to change from the Mosaic system. From that time the Gospel was no longer the exclusive right of the Jewish nation, and the New Covenant was offered to the Gentiles. We read on: *And in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease.* This means that in the middle of the 70<sup>th</sup> week, in AD 30, Jesus the Messiah would cause the sacrificial system instituted under the Mosaic Covenant to be terminated when He died on the Cross, abolishing any need for other sacrifices. Note that it is **after** the 69<sup>th</sup> week (in the 70<sup>th</sup> week) that *Messiah shall be cut off*. This, of course, prevents the isolation of the last week, as Dispensational Premillennialism teaches. In other words, there is no room for a gap of 2000 years until it is fulfilled at the end of the age. Indeed, to use this prophecy to associate it mainly with an antichrist 2000 years later is a highly debatable approach to biblical interpretation.

### **The Postponement Theory**

A central tenet of Dispensational Premillennialism is the so-called postponement theory, a necessary link in its scheme, but one that is devoid of any scriptural basis. According to this theory, when the Jews rejected Christ, God postponed the establishment of a Jewish theocracy until His second coming. That is, when His primary plan was thwarted, God introduced Plan B---the Church. The next 2000 years then became the Church Age until the Church is secretly raptured prior to the Great Tribulation. This rapture, the catching up into the air of both living and dead saints, is recorded in 1 Thess 4:16-17. But it is hardly secret as the Lord Himself descends from heaven with a shout, together with the voice of the archangel and the trumpet of God! Moreover, the Lord prophesied that He would come "in a cloud with power and great glory" (Luke 21: 27). Nevertheless, the rapture is allegedly confirmed by Revelation 4: 1 when the Apostle John is transported to heaven; and because the Church is not mentioned again through Chapters 4-18 it can no longer be on earth to suffer in the Great Tribulation. However, though the term "Church" is not used, there are numerous references to the saints who will undergo much suffering and martyrdom during this time of tribulation.

### **The Secret Rapture**

The secret rapture in which planes, buses and trains crash because the pilot or driver has suddenly been "zapped" away---a theme highly dramatised in such books as "Left Behind"---was added to the theory by a follower of Edward Irving, founder of the Irvingites, when it was revealed to Miss Margaret Macdonald of Glasgow in a prophetic trance. Nevertheless, this teaching that Christians will escape the suffering and martyrdom of the Great Tribulation is not only unscriptural but it also can create a false sense of security, weakening the resolve of believers and producing a soft Christianity. Dispensational Premillennialism argues, too, that such texts as Revelation 3:10---"Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth"---justify their belief in a secret rapture. However, other texts such as Revelation 13: 7---"And it was granted unto him (the antichrist) to make war with the saints and to overcome them"---severely undermine their argument.

### **Favourite Texts**

Another of the theory's favourite texts is 2 Thess 2: 6, 7---"And now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time. For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only he who now restrains will do so until he is taken out of the way." While the Premillennialists claim this is the removal of the Holy Spirit when the Church is raptured, it is certainly not clear from the Word. In fact, the IVF New Bible Dictionary has this to say on this passage: "Paul explains that certain events must take place before the parousia; in particular, there will be a worldwide rebellion against God, led by one who will incarnate the forces of lawlessness and anarchy, which at present are being held in check by a power which he need not name in writing, since his readers know what he means. (The allusiveness of his reference to this power makes it likely that he had in mind the Roman Empire, whose maintenance of law and order gave him cause for gratitude several times in the course of his apostolic service.) Obviously, these texts are very suspect as proof of Dispensational Premillennialism. Another tenet of this theory is that during the Great Tribulation, with the Church gone, 144,000 Jews will evangelise the world. Scofield states in his notes: "The tribulation will, nevertheless, be a period of salvation. An election out of Israel will be redeemed (Rev 7: 1-4) with an innumerable multitude of Gentiles (v. 9). These are said to have come 'out of great tribulation' (v. 14). They are not of the priesthood, the Church, to which they seem to stand somewhat in the relation of the Levites to the priests under the Mosaic Covenant." This surely is drawing a long blow to claim that 144,000 Jews will evangelise the world!

### **Futurist School**

The Futurist School of biblical interpretation to which Dispensational Premillennialism subscribes was founded by the Jesuit, Francisco Ribera (1537-1591) because reformers during the Reformation were identifying the antichrist with the Roman papacy. To thwart this teaching Ribera, on behalf of the Catholic Church, ascribed the prophecies of Revelation to the distant future. For nearly 250 years, Protestantism was unaffected by this Roman teaching but in 1826 the Archbishop of Canterbury revised and published Ribera's interpretation and others accepted his views. J.N. Darby, a founder of the Plymouth Brethren, accepted futurism, added to it the concept of "dispensationalism" and, due to the Scofield Reference Bible, it was gradually accepted by most evangelical churches. Now it is uncritically taken as gospel truth. However, at a time like this when deception abounds, it behoves us to consider this important but controversial issue with open minds lest we be deceived.

*Wishing you and your family a blessed and glorious New Year 2009.*

R. A: Led by our Lord Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit to glorify the Fatherhood of God with the Brotherhood of Man; in love and in faithfulness to bring glory and honour to His holy name

**REJOICE IN COVENANT PRAYERS FULLY IN THE HOLY SPIRIT DAILY FOR AUSTRALIA'S REVIVAL.**