

PREMILLENNIALISM:
PAUL ON THE OLD TESTAMENT PROPHETS

As is easily observed, premillennial theory wends a wearisome path through a plethora of Old Testament prophecies. Citing these passages, the premillennialist will insist that their predictions of the Messianic reign of Jesus Christ have not yet been fulfilled. He will further insist that they will not be fulfilled until Jesus returns to establish an earthly reign of a literal 1,000 years. Doing so, he makes egregious misapplications of these passages. But there they are, proudly cited in his work.

Fortunately, one need not follow him passage by passage through the often figurative language of the O.T. prophets. Peter points out that these prophecies are not open to private interpretation by man because they did not come from man. Rather, Peter said, they came from the Holy Spirit through men he inspired to speak and write (II Peter 1:19-21). Consequently, an accurate application of these prophecies will be found only in the declarations of those who were moved by the same Spirit that inspired the O.T. prophets. Thankfully, we have such inspired and clear declarations in New Testament prophets—such as Paul.

Remember, the premillennialist insists that the Messianic prophecies of the O.T. have not yet been fulfilled. Further, he insists, they will not be fulfilled until Jesus' second coming.

Notice, however, that when Paul appeared before King Herod Agrippa to defend the gospel he had preached, he maintained that his message contained nothing other "...than those things which the prophets and Moses said would come..."—the suffering and resurrection of Jesus Christ and the light these events brought to all mankind (Acts 26:22, 23). This, Paul indicated, was the content of the Messianic prophecies of the O.T.

More, this apostle of Jesus Christ said the Jewish rulers who condemned Jesus FULFILLED the prophets and in doing so "...FUL-FILLED ALL THAT WAS WRITTEN CONCERNING HIM." Paul went on to cite the promise God had made to the fathers (Abraham, et al) and said "God has FULFILLED this for us, their children, in that He raised up Jesus" (Acts 13:27, 29, 32-33).

Now, who shall we believe, the premillennialist or Paul, a man inspired by the same Holy Spirit who himself uttered these prophecies and then declared them to have been fulfilled?

—Jerry F. Bassett