

PREMILLENNIALISM: GOD'S PROMISE TO DAVID, Part One

Hal Lindsey, self-styled pop theologian and self-proclaimed premillennialist, wrote the following. "In spite of all that man will try to do to establish his rule and push God out of the world, God will establish His king, the Messiah Jesus, as the psalmist goes on to predict: 'Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion (Psalms 2:6 KJV)'." A bit later, Lindsey said, "...Christ will set up a literal kingdom in time which will last in history a thousand years and then go into an eternal form which will never be destroyed..... For God unconditionally promised Abraham's descendants a literal world-wide kingdom over which they would rule through their messiah who would reign upon King David's throne" (THE LATE GREAT PLANET EARTH, pp. 159, 165).

Focusing on God's promise to David, and whether or not that promise has been fulfilled, we will save a discussion of Revelation 20's thousand years for a later article. For now, notice that the premillennial view of God's promise to David would have his descendant, the Christ, yet waiting to reign on David's literal throne over an alleged world-wide, world-dominant nation of Israel, and that the fulfillment of this promise awaits the return of Jesus Christ for that specific purpose.

Is Lindsey, and his many companions, right, or wrong? Is their premillennial view of God's promise to David true, or false?

Given the limited space left to us here, let's zero in on Psalms 2, the fulfillment of which Lindsey contends awaits the return of the Christ. The gist of this Messianic Psalm is that the nations and their kings, and the Jews with their rulers, would reject the rule of God and God's Anointed One, that is, the Christ. But far from being frustrated, God would laugh at them and establish his Messiah on his holy hill (kingdom) of Zion. This, David said, would signal the begetting of the Messiah to the rulership God had promised him (Cf., Psalms 2:1-9).

Now, notice the Holy Spirit's application of Psalms 2. Through Paul, the Holy Spirit declared this triumphant psalm to have been fulfilled in the death and resurrection of Christ and the salvation of men from sin and death made possible thereby (Acts 13:32-33). This points to a spiritual fulfillment in the reign of the Christ over a spiritual, heavenly kingdom—not Lindsey's, and premillennialists in general, fantasy of the Christ's reigning on David's literal earthly throne in Jerusalem over a reestablished national, world-dominant, Israel. —Jerry F. Bassett