

PREMILLENNIALISM:  
PETER ON THE OLD TESTAMENT PROPHETS

The third chapter of Acts records a sermon delivered by Peter. It followed close on the heels of the one he had preached on the Day of Pentecost recorded at Acts 2:22-36. In this one, recorded in Acts 3, Peter made an even broader statement concerning the reign of the Christ as foretold by the Old Testament prophets (Acts 3:12-26).

He introduced this theme by saying, "...those things which God foretold by the mouth of all His prophets, that the Christ would suffer, He has **fulfilled**" (:18, emphasis added).

He then commanded his hearers to, "...repent and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord and that He may send Jesus Christ who was preached to you before" (19-20). It is significant that this sending of Jesus Christ could not have referred to his second coming at the end of time since the heavens were to receive him, "until the times of restoration of all things..." (:21). The idea here is not, then, a visual coming of Jesus. Rather, it is his coming to one whose sins are forgiven in obedience to the gospel; the restoring of man to the fellowship of God made possible by this forgiveness (:19-20; John 14:23).

Further, Peter said this restoration was that, "...which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began" (:21). This included:

**Moses** who foretold the coming of a prophet like himself whose word must be heard by all who would expect to be numbered among God's people (:22-23). This prophet would be the Son of God, Jesus.

"...**All the prophets, from Samuel and those who follow, as many as have spoken...**" (:24). This included all the oral prophets such as Samuel and Nathan, and all the literary prophets from Obadiah to Mal-achi. Every one of them, Peter said, spoke concerning this restoration made possible by the death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus.

**Abraham**, in the covenant God made with him in which was foretold the coming of a seed in whom all the families of the earth would be blessed (:25). This seed, of course, was God's servant, Jesus (:26).

So, the premillennialist contends that the O.T. prophecies of the Christ are not yet fulfilled. But here is an apostle of Christ, Peter, a N.T. prophet, who declared every single one of those prophecies to now be fulfilled.

Who, then, shall we believe?

—Jerry F. Bassett