

Week #6

Old and New Testament Prophecies of the End Times

A 6-week Bible study on what the Bible says (and doesn't say) about this important subject.

**Good Shepherd's Lutheran Church
West Allis, Wisconsin
September & October, 2017**



Who was the real underdog?

- “No one will be able to stand against you as long as you live. I will be with you, just as I was with Moses. I will not leave you or forsake you. “Be strong and courageous . . . (Joshua 1:5–6)



Who was the real underdog?

- You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the LORD Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. (1 Samuel 17:45)



Why are we sometimes underdogs?

- Often false teachings appeal to sinful hearts and agree with selfish hopes and dreams. Sinners hear what they want to hear.



Why are we sometimes underdogs?



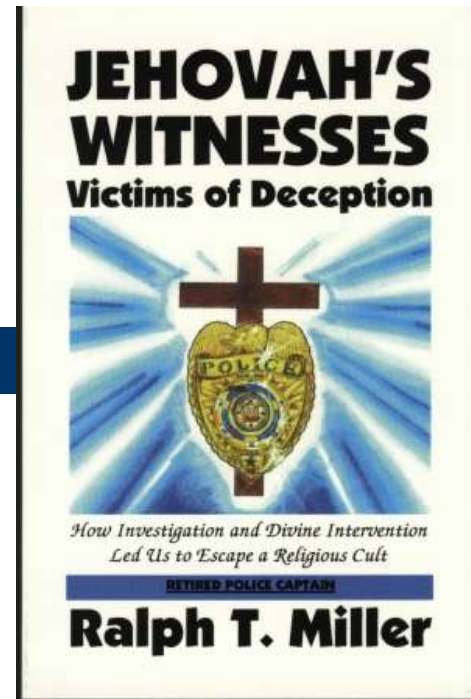
- Sometimes people aren't so interested in what people believe, but in the level of friendliness and courtesy and social skills they see in others. People like to be liked.
- **And sometimes we fail at friendliness.**

Why are we sometimes underdogs?

- False teachers and erring churches often have a zeal more dramatic or visible than that of “normal” Christians. Ungodly emotion is just as powerful as godly emotion.



Mormon Missionaries are sincere, but deceived people, who are unwittingly spreading FALSE information as the truth of God to their own harm and the harm of others.



Why are we sometimes underdogs?

- Sometimes God visits cultures in judgment and gives them doctrinal and spiritual blindness.
- Widespread deception may prevail.
- Godly believers have often suffered as their nations and cultures were disintegrating.



EMPIRES FALL

Why is Dispensationalism so popular?

- The literalistic hermeneutic is appealing, at least at first glance.
- “Spiritualizing” Bible texts can be seen as distorting the Bible message – until it is examined more closely.



Why is Dispensationalism so popular?



- Sometimes we are part of the problem. We might be improperly or inadequately prepared to identify error and may unknowingly tolerate it.
- Being strong in some doctrines doesn't mean we are strong in all doctrines.

How did the Homework go for you?



- Did you review (again) the diagrams (p. 3), the summaries of what we and dispensationalists believe (p. 4-7), and basic principles of Bible interpretation (p. 23-24)?
- How about why dispensationalism is false and dangerous (p. 25), the Glossary of Terms (P 27-28) and the Rise of Futurism?
- **How about “What can we do about this?” (pages 26-27)**
- **Did you bring questions with you?**



Revelation 20:1-10

As you read these passages, be asking . . .

- What are reasons in the text itself that point to “1,000 years” as a figurative expression?
- How do the phrases “first resurrection” and “second resurrection” match John 5:24-29?

Revelation 20:1-10

- **Helpful passages:** *Do these help our understanding of the passage?*
- **What dispensationalists say:** *Can you see how they end up with their beliefs?*
- **What amillennialists say:** *Can you see how we end up with our beliefs?*

Revelation 21 – 22

As you read these passages, be asking . . .

- What do you see as the main blessings or components of the eternal home for believers?
- Why do you think the description of heaven draws on so many Old Testament images of things on earth (Jerusalem, river, tree, throne, etc.)?

Revelation 21 – 22

- **Helpful passages:** *Do these help our understanding of the passage?*
- **What dispensationalists say:** *Can you see how they end up with their beliefs?*
- **What amillennialists say:** *Can you see how we end up with our beliefs?*

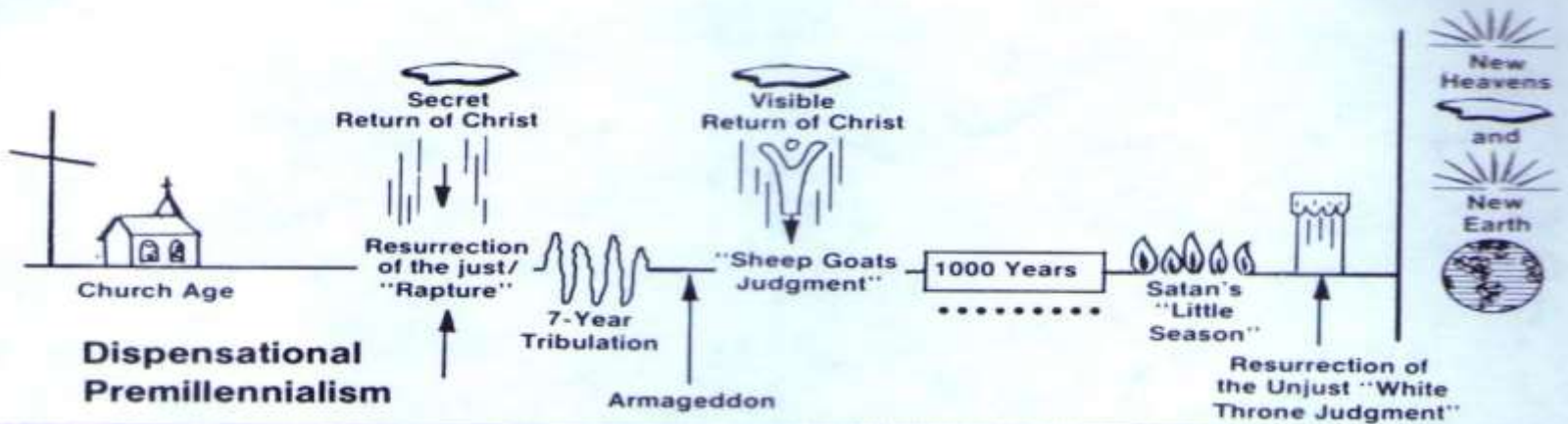
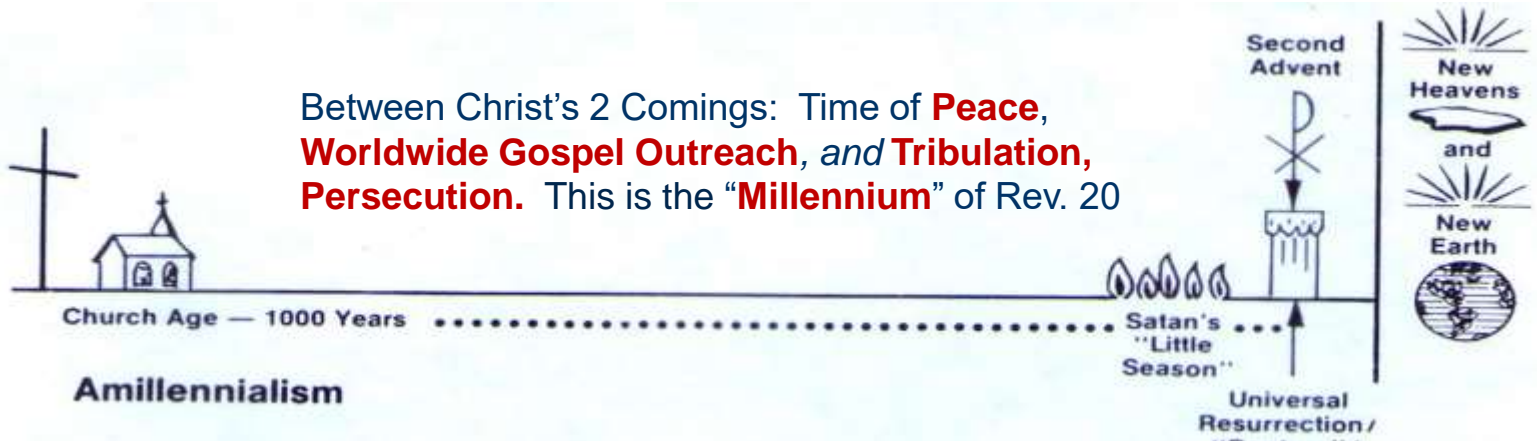
How do bank tellers spot counterfeit money?

- First, they study the real and genuine
- Then they compare the false with what is true.
- Is it any different with Bible truth, real truth?



Ready to talk about it yet?

Between Christ's 2 Comings: Time of **Peace**, **Worldwide Gospel Outreach**, and **Tribulation**, **Persecution**. This is the "**Millennium**" of Rev. 20



So one thing we can do is . . .

- **We can freely (and humbly and honestly) admit that our convictions (amillennialism or realized millennialism) are not taken seriously by many professing Christians. We can feel lonely.**



We can “speak the truth in love”

- Of all the suggestions on **pages 26-27**, which do you like best?
- Is this scary?
- Are printed materials helpful?



Homework for this week:

- Consider reviewing all the material we looked at.
- Obtain a book that can give more detail.
- Give thanks for what you do know and believe and look forward to in Christ.
- Continue to “search the Scriptures” prayerfully and trust the Lord to grant strength and wisdom.





Soli Deo Gloria

F. Bivens, 2017