

Response to article by Wayne Jackson
In the Christian Courier—
"Examining Premillennialism"

by Jack Langford

Mr. Jackson's representation of Premillennialism is characterized by *mis-representations* and "straw men" which he successfully shreds to pieces. Let us see if he can deal with some actual Scriptural truths about this important doctrine.

1. "Pre-Millennialism" We know the word "millennium" means one thousand years. It has reference to Revelation chapter 20 where the millennium (1000 yrs) is mentioned six different times (20:2,3,4,5,6&7). So, every Bible reader should believe in the "millennium." The prefix "Pre" has reference to the second coming of Jesus Christ BEFORE ("Pre") the millennium. So, once again, every Bible reader can look just BEFORE chapter 20, to chapter 19, verses 11-16, and see that the second coming of Jesus Christ from heaven to "REIGN" over the "NATIONS" of earth is plainly described. At that time He will show Himself (I Tim. 6:14,15) to be "King of Kings and Lord of Lords," (Rev. 19:16). Verses 17-21 tell of the King's destruction of His enemies, and chapter 20 tells of the "Saints reigning with Christ for One Thousand Years." Consequently, we can conclude that if anyone who reads the Bible is not a "Pre-millennialist," then he simply refuses to believe *the order* that is plainly written before his eyes. Mr. Jackson only deals with this Biblical order in Revelation 19 and 20 by later exclaiming, "figurative," "obscure," and "symbolic." (Very profound.)

2. The Offer, Rejection and Postponement of the Messianic Kingdom. Mr. Jackson begins by quoting what certain authors say about Pre-millennialism, and then he throws up "straw men" ideas that Pre-millennialists are supposed to believe like, "(Christ was) surprisingly rejected by the Jews," and this was "an unexpected miscarriage in the plans of God," "the Church is but an accident," etc, etc. When in fact, there never has been, nor is there to this day, a Pre-millennialist who believes that garbage!

In order to accurately testify of the emphatic truthfulness of this understanding of the Offer, Rejection and Postponement of the Messianic Kingdom, I will call before you **three witnesses**. No, these are not highly rated theologians of this persuasion, but rather the Biblical characters who are themselves universally recognized by both Jewish and Christian teachers as the God-ordained types of the Messiah—**Joseph, Moses and David**. Their lives spell out very emphatically the doctrine of the Offer, Rejection and Postponement of the Messianic Kingdom—especially in their TWO-FOLD approach to ruling over Israel. What happened to these three men was God-ordained to *prefigure* what would happen to the Messiah when He came.

Witness Number One—Joseph: So surely was Joseph a picture of the Messiah that Jewish writers speak of "Messiah ben Joseph." The favored son of Jacob was given a princely garment of many colors. His brethren become envious. He exposed their sins, and this brought severe animosity toward him. Joseph dreamed of ruling over his brethren and even his father and mother. To this they briskly responded—"Shalt thou indeed reign over us!?" (Gen. 37:8),

exactly as the Jews said to Jesus centuries later. He was rejected, cast into a deep pit, his coat was dipped into blood to speak of his death, and finally sold to the Gentiles. A gap of many years transpired. Then he eventually took a Gentile bride and became a great ruler. Finally under great world hardship his brethren came before him. He shockingly revealed himself to them and did, indeed, on this second occasion rule over them in great splendor—exactly as Jesus will do in the future.

Witness Number Two—Moses: (Read Deut. 18:15-19) When Moses first rose up to deliver his brethren from bondage, they refused his leadership and shouted to him, "Who made you a prince and a judge over us?" (Exo. 2:14), just like they did to Jesus centuries later. Mose's life was threatened and he had to flee away. A gap of many years transpired during which Moses took a Gentile bride. Eventually he **returned** with great power and signs, delivered Israel, and, indeed, was a great prince and ruler over them—exactly as Jesus will do in the future!

Witness Number Three--David: Again, the Jews, themselves, refer to "Messiah ben David." After being anointed by Samuel to be King over Israel (I Sam. 16:1), he was chided by his brethren, and King Saul tried to kill him, thinking David would assume the Kingdom (I Sam. 18:8,9), exactly as the Jews thought of Jesus centuries later. David fled for his life, a potential King in exile. A gap of many years transpired during which David joined himself to the Gentiles. Finally, after Israel's near destruction, David returned a second time in greatness and strength to reign over the nation, and bring them to the highlight of their national history—exactly as Jesus will in the soon future!

Now Mr. Jackson, and any of your cohorts of like persuasion, deal with the clear testimony of these witnesses! "At the mouth of Two or Three Witnesses shall a matter be established," (Deut. 19:15). This Scripturally prefigured two fold appearance to Israel by the Messiah is what Premillennialists believe, *and it is irrefutable!!!*

James, the brother of our Lord, and leader in the early Church, had this to say, "Brethren, hearken unto me: Simeon has rehearsed how God has first visited the Gentiles, to take out of them a people for His name. And to this agree the words of the prophets; as it is written, 'After these things I WILL RETURN, and I WILL BUILD AGAIN THE TABERNACLE OF DAVID, which is fallen; And I will build again the ruins thereof, and I will set it up!'" (Acts 15:14-16).

3. The Kingdom of God. There is no possible way a person can understand the Kingdom of God subject unless he understands that the term "Kingdom of God" does not always refer to the same thing when used in the Bible. There are least *five* major uses of this expression as one looks at the whole panorama of the Scriptural ages.

No. 1) In its broadest aspect the "Kingdom of God" is Eternal and co-equal with God. It had no beginning and will have no ending. It is all inclusive. See Jer. 10:10; Lam. 5:19; Dan. 2:19-21; 4:3,17,34-37; Ps. 10:16; 29:10; etc., etc.

No. 2) Then there is the future view of this Eternal Kingdom that is the permanent residence of the righteous for eternity. The universe has been cleansed of all rebellion, the wicked being segregated into "the Lake of Fire." See such passages as Gal. 5:21; Eph. 5:5; I Cor. 6:9,10; II Pet. 1:11; Rev. 21: 1-8, etc., etc.

No. 3) There was the Israelitish, Palestinian Theocracy. The Law of Moses was the code of rule over the nation of Israel. God's ultimate design was to make Israel a "Kingdom of Priests," (Exo. 19:6). God's mediatorial rule was established first in the person of Moses and later Joshua and the Judges and finally, the Kings. It was called "The Kingdom of the Lord over Israel," (I Chron. 28:5), and "The Kingdom of the Lord in the hands of the Sons of David," (II Chron. 13:8). When Israel totally apostatized the city of Jerusalem was destroyed, the Kings were terminated, and there began a long period of Gentile dominion over Israel.

No. 4) There was promised and prophesied to Israel a Great Messianic Kingdom, the King being of the seed line of David, and this Kingdom would effect the whole world and bring it into paradisiac conditions. There are literally hundreds of passages in the prophets that tell about this. Christ was *literally* born in David's city, *literally* of the seed line of David, and *literally* performed thousands of signs (too many to list here) in *literal* fulfillment of these prophecies. He offered this Kingdom to the nation of Israel of His day, and as prefigured by Joseph, Moses and David, He was hated and rejected, and the Kingdom taken from them, to be restored to a future generation of the Nation of Israel who humbling their hearts will accept it. The Messiah will return as a Lion to smite the earth in judgement and set up this Kingdom.

No. 5) Last of all, there is the present Spiritual phase of the Kingdom of God, which was not prophesied in the Hebrew Scriptures and was a mystery hidden in past ages (Eph. 3:1-6,9), Rom. 14:17; Col. 1:13; John 18:36; etc. etc.

(For an indepth explanation of these 5 uses of the expression "Kingdom of God" see my Bible study by that title.) Since Mr. Jackson does not believe in Pre-Millennialism, he does a Pre-Frontal-Lobotomy on those he teaches and mixes these Kingdoms all together in your mind, especially Kingdom No. 4 & 5, so that no one can tell the difference. Thus he constantly quotes references concerning the Spiritual phase of the Kingdom in order to prove that the Messianic Kingdom over Israel is really a spiritual one. *Mr. Jackson does not tell you that his "Replacement Doctrine" originated from Rome, spilled over throughout Christendom, and climaxed as the theological basis for "Christian Europe's" massacre of the Jews in the Holocaust.

4. Daniel 2, the Great Image Vision. This is the first proof Mr. Jackson offers in an attempt to show that the Prophesied Kingdom was set up shortly after the death of Christ. He says the Kingdom was set up during the early "Roman" rule which was the "fourth part" of the image vision of Nebuchadnezzar. This, of course, is *not even close* to what the text specifically says. Let me unscramble this presentation of confusion.

First, there are not "Four" parts to this image vision! There are **FIVE!!** No. 1) the head of *gold*—Babylonian empire; No. 2) Breast & Arms of *silver*—the Medo-Persian empire; No. 3) Belly Thigh of *bronze*—Grecian empire; No. 4) Legs of *iron*—the Roman empire; and last of all No. 5) the Feet & Toes of *iron and clay mixture*—a confederacy of Kings in the last days.

Second, Daniel's interpretation focuses upon the Feet and Toes of this image, *for it is there that the smiting Stone strikes and sets up the Kingdom!* (Dan. 2:34 & 44). It **does not** strike the image at the time of the Roman empire, "at the first century", as Mr. Jackson surmised! The text specifically says that the image was smitten in its "feet that were part iron and part clay."

Third, It is obvious that the ingredients of the image degenerate all the way from "Gold" to

"clay." Daniel explains what the Iron & Clay means—government or rule "*mingled with the seed of men!*" (Verse 43). The Iron represents the strength and yet the Clay represents the weakness of mankind, who is made from clay. This government is totally different and inferior to all other governments in the image, and yet its difference should be very obvious to us today. It is best explained by our common form of government today—Democracy—"government of the people, by the people, and for the people." The "people" is the "seed of Men" and is represented by the "clay." The "ten toes" represent the ten kings that will be in unity *at that time*. Today, all of Europe, Greece, Turkey, Israel and certain Arabic nations (headed that way) have become democracies. There will be a ten nation confederacy of Democracies in the last days—and—"In the days of **these kings** will the God of Heaven set up a Kingdom." Hallelujah!! Now deal with the real Daniel, Mr. Jackson!

5. Some Apostles see the Kingdom of God come with power—Mark 9:1. Just read the rest of the passage and you have your answer. "And after six days Jesus takes with Him Peter and James, and John, and brings them up to a high mountain apart by themselves: and He was transfigured before them; and His garments became glistening, exceedingly white"—Mark 9:2. Now listen to Peter's explanation of this vision—"For we did not follow cunningly devised fables, when we made known to you the POWER and COMING of our Lord Jesus Christ, BUT WERE EYEWITNESSES OF HIS MAJESTY—when we were with Him in the holy mount." II Peter 1:16-18. Yes, Peter, James and John got a preview of what Christ will be like when He comes in His Kingdom.

6. The LAND of Israel and God's promises. It is amazing how much space Mr Jackson gives in his attempt to cancel out any future for the Land of Promise, and yet he never deals with the specific "**Land Covenant**" given to the nation of Israel. Now I can understand why he does not, because it positively demolishes all his arguments. Besides the *Law Covenant* given at Sinai God made a *Land Covenant* with the same nation (Deut. 29:1), and it is this Land Covenant that is emphasized at the close of the book of Deuteronomy. This Covenant is commonly called "The Blessing, Curse and Restoration Covenant" because this covenant is composed of these three ingredients. First, there were the promised "blessings" in the Land to the degree Israel obeyed the Law. Second, there was the promised "curse" upon Israel and the Land to the degree the nation disobeyed the Law. This curse is spelled out in detail and leaves Israel scattered throughout the world in misery. Thirdly, there is the promised "restoration or remembrance" of the Land that is guaranteed in the Covenant:

Deut. 30:1-10, "And it shall come to pass, when all these things are come upon you, the *blessing* and the *curse*, which I have set before you, and you shall call them to mind among all the nations where Jehovah your God has driven you, and you shall return to Jehovah...with all of your heart...that Jehovah your God will RETURN and GATHER YOU from all the peoples where Jehovah your God scattered you. If any of the outcasts be in the uttermost part of heaven, from there will Jehovah your God gather you...and BRING YOU INTO THE LAND which your fathers possessed, and you shall possess it; and He will do you good, and multiply you ABOVE your fathers..."

Lev. 26:40-45, "And they shall confess their iniquity...and I will remember the Land."

Deut. 4:25-31, "But from thence ye shall seek Jehovah thy God, and thou shalt find Him when you search after Him with all your heart and with all your soul. When you are in *Tribulation*, and all these things are come upon you, *in the latter days*, you shall return to Jehovah your God and harken to His voice, for Jehovah your God is a merciful God; He will not fail you, nor destroy you, nor forget the covenant of your fathers which He swore to them."

Deut. 32:43, "Rejoice, O You Nations, with His people: For He will avenge the blood of His servants, and will render vengeance to His adversaries, and will make expiation for HIS LAND, and for His People!"

7. The Throne of David. Next Mr. Jackson, like his theological predecessors, tries to connect the Salathiel (Shealtiel) of Luke's chronology of Mary, to the Salathiel of Matthew's chronology of Joseph, in order to say that Christ could "never prosper upon the (physical) throne of David." What Mr. Jackson doesn't tell is the fact that this is pure, 100% conjecture. It is the same name alright, but to positively prove that they are the same person has never been done by any Bible scholar. To have the same father-son names (Salathiel-Zorobabel) in two different chronologies is no doubt unusual, but not at all impossible. One scholar points out that the 12th and 18th Dynasties in Egypt had a series of Amenemhat-Senwosret and Amenhotep-Thutmose kings respectively. In addition, both the kings of Israel (Ahab) and Judah (Jehoshaphat) named their sons the same—Jehoram and Ahaziah. In Luke's chronology alone there are 3 Josephs, 2 Jesuses, 2 Matthats, and 2 Mattathiases. In Luke the Father of Salathiel is Neri, whereas in Matthew the father of Salathiel is Jechonias.

8. Then Mr. Jackson goes to Acts 2:29-31 to argue that Christ was "raised up" from the dead to sit upon the throne. But even a casual reader of the text will note that the words "raised up" are connected to the previous words—"of the fruit of his (David's) loins, as concerning the flesh, to raise up Christ to sit upon His throne." In other words, this is talking about raising up of physical descendency, "of the fruit of his loins," and not being raised (resurrected) from the dead. Peter will talk about the resurrection from the dead, but not at this point. See—

I Chron. 17:11 "And it shall come to pass, when your (David's) days are fulfilled that you must go to your fathers, that I will raise up your seed after you, who shall be of your sons; and I will establish His kingdom..."

Jeremiah 23:5 "Behold, the days come, says Jehovah, that I will raise unto David a Righteous Branch, and He shall reign as King..."

Having established that Christ was raised from the seed line of King David, Peter next establishes that King David, himself, prophesied of Christ's resurrection—"he foreseeing this spake of the resurrection of Christ, 'that neither was He left in Hades, nor did His flesh see corruption.'" (Psalm 16:10 & Acts 2:31).

9. Rev. 3:21 It is further amazing to me that Mr. Jackson will quote Rev. 3:21, "He that overcometh, will I give to him to sit down with me in My throne, as I also overcame and sat

down with My Father in His throne," and then only notice the "*past tense* 'sat down'." When the emphasis of the passage, yea, its major message, is in the future tense "will I give to him to sit

down with **Me in My throne.**" The *future* promise to "overcomers" of sitting with Christ on His Throne is based upon the *past event* of Christ "overcoming" and sitting with His Father upon His Throne! Now, anyone can read this and see that there is a future Throne of Christ. As the Apostle Paul said, "If we suffer with Him we *shall also reign* (future tense) with Him, " and "which in His own times *He shall show* (future tense), Who is that blessed and only Potentate, the King of Kings, and Lord of Lords..." (II Tim. 2:12 & I Tim. 6:15).

10. Matthew 25:31-34 Here is a passage I would like to close with—

"But when the Son of Man *shall come* (future tense) in His glory, and all the angels with Him, **THEN SHALL HE SIT** (future tense) ON THE THRONE OF HIS GLORY: and before Him *shall be gathered* (future tense) all nations...**THEN SHALL** (future tense) THE KING say unto them on His right hand, 'Come, ye blessed of My Father, **INHERIT THE KINGDOM** prepared for you from the foundation of the world."