

Prophets

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that there is going to be a rapture of the church before the tribulation; he may believe there is going to be one in the middle of the tribulation; he may believe there is going to be one at the end of the tribulation; he may believe there is going to be one in the middle of the week but before the beginning of the tribulation. He could take any one of these different views on the rapture. They do not affect whether he is a premillennialist or not. A premillennialist simply means that he believes that when Christ returns to an unconverted world and sets up, that is a world which has not been completely conquered by the gospel but from which a race has been taken out for His name, from which the elect of God have been gathered out and have been brought into the body of Christ, not that the whole world is converted but the elect have been converted. Now, of course, there are those who very strongly oppose premillennialism saying that it is derogatory to the Holy Spirit to say that the Holy Spirit can't convert the world, that it does not give sufficient honor to the Holy Spirit but no true premillennialist says the Holy Spirit cannot convert the world. What he says is that the Scripture doesn't say the Holy Spirit will convert the world. That is all that he says. I have never been able to understand why some people have said that premillennialism was inconsistent with Calvinism. To my mind it is much more consistent with Calvinism than any other view, certainly than a postmillennial view, even though it is not required by Calvinism. That is to say, the Calvinist view is that God calls those whom He chooses to call. Well, certainly that doesn't require that He should have to choose all those living at any one particular time. I don't see how--it seems to me that the premillennial view fits better/^{with Calvinism} than the postmillennial view, though I do not think that postmillennialism would be impossible at all in relation to Calvinism.

Now, we have these two views, the postmillennial view and the premillennial view. Then there is what I call, not a view but a denial, which is called amillennialism. That is to say, there is no one particular view on which any