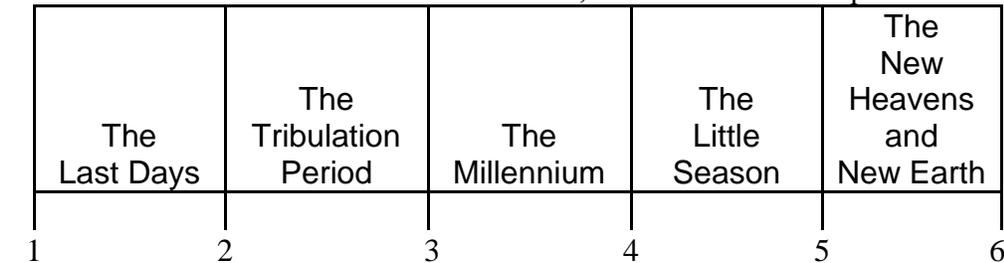


## Episode # 432 Bins for Bible Prophecies 6 – Two Difficulties

I. The Word of God contains many passages wherein Scriptures predict future events. There is a need to properly order the predictive passages of Scripture. Lord Bacon called this “sorting prophetic material.” We can compare this to sorting screws into bins. We need “bins for Bible prophecies.” We can get these by establishing the future time periods of Scripture, and then sorting any given prophecy into the proper one of these bins.

II. We have established five future bins, “The Last Days,” “The Tribulation Period,” “The Thousand Years,” “The Little Season,” and “The New Heavens and New Earth.” The first period, “The Last Days,” is not one that is commonly believed among Christians, but we have seen that this period must exist to sort prophecies that could not fit either in the Thousand Years or in the New Heavens and New Earth. Next, we will answer the question of “What next?”



### III. What Is Next?

- A. Many believe it is the last seven years of Daniel’s seventy weeks of years. Yet if that is the case, if next is the 7 years of Daniel 9 followed by the second coming of Christ, then most of the earth would be wiped out at Christ’s return, according to II Thess. 1:7-10. This would make His return a disaster, with bodies piled everywhere!
- B. Even C.I. Scofield, the dispensationalist responsible for popularizing the modern idea, recognized this, and wrote that between “the coming of the Lord for His church, and His return to earth with His saints, the overwhelming majority of living humanity will be saved.” (*Scofield Correspondence Course*, Volume 2, pages 344, 345.) But this would make the tribulation, instead of a time of unparalleled trouble, perhaps the greatest period of blessing the world has ever known! Dr. Scofield had to abandon this idea in his later writings because of this.
- C. Malachi 4:6 tells us that Elijah is going to do a work before the day of the LORD that will mean He will not have to come and strike the earth with a curse. I believe that this work will take place in a time period that most Bible scholars have missed.
- D. I believe that next in God’s program comes a period of enlightenment and blessing from God, not a period of punishment and wrath. This period precedes the second coming of Christ, and will make it so that the number of rebels who will be wiped out at His coming will be relatively small. This period, which we have called before “The Last Days,” will be one stage of the Kingdom of God, and in many ways the most important. Therefore we might call this stage just “The Kingdom of God,” or, since it is a premillennial stage of the kingdom, “The Premillennial Kingdom of God.”

IV. Many will no doubt protest against any idea of a “new” prophetic period. Certain arguments have been brought against it. What can we say to these arguments?

- A. This means Christ will be ruling from heaven. Therefore God’s Kingdom will be on earth, but the King of that kingdom will not be here. Some say there can be no Kingdom without the King.

1. This argument was originally made to argue against the idea called “postmillennialism,” which taught that the church would bring in God’s Kingdom by its own efforts. “There can be no Kingdom without the King” was the rallying cry of those who opposed postmillennialism.
  2. But what does the Bible say? It must be the final arbiter.
  3. Psalm 103:19. This describes a time when God’s government has already taken charge of the world, but His seat of government is in heaven, not on the earth. Will Christ not be stationed on the throne at this time?
  4. Acts 7:49. The footstool is what is under your control. Will the Lord Jesus Christ be reigning from the throne or from the footstool? In the premillennial kingdom idea, Christ does not come back to reign. He has already been reigning before He comes.
  5. Yet we are not saying, as the postmillennialists did, that men will bring the Kingdom in with their own efforts. Perish the thought! Only God can bring in God’s kingdom. Yet He will do this from heaven, not by coming to earth.
  6. Matthew 8:5-13. This passage is important in that it shows us that Christ has the power to heal from a distance. He commended the centurion’s faith because he believed this. If Christ could heal at a distance, why could He not also rule from a distance? Do we have the faith to believe He can do this?
- B. Many believe that conditions in our day are getting worse and worse because the Tribulation Period is coming near. Yet if the premillennial kingdom of God is next, the Tribulation must take place after the kingdom has already started! How could the tribulation follow the Kingdom of God?
1. I do not believe that the Tribulation Period is the result of our sinful day getting worse and worse, but rather of a rebellion against the Kingdom.
  2. II Thessalonians 2:1-4. This is a “falling away,” Greek “*apostasia*,” from which we get “apostasy.” Yet how could men fall away from God, when they have never followed Him in the first place?
    - a. Some try to suggest this means a falling away from Biblical morals and ideals. Yet the world in general has never really held with these. It seems some Americans look at history with the rose colored glasses of the 1950s to cloud their vision.
    - b. Others try to argue *apostasia* means “departure,” referring to the rapture. They support this with Acts 21:21. But this was a rebellion against Moses, not a literal departure. I leave it to your conscience if this was a rapture-type departure.
  3. Matthew 24:5-8. False Christs, wars, famines, pestilences, and earthquakes are much better signs if they stop and then start again than they would be now, when we have always had such things going on. How can these mark the beginning of sorrows in a world that has never seen the end of sorrows?
  4. The tribulation is a revolt that divides the Kingdom of God from the next stage of God’s work: Christ’s personal presence on earth for 1,000 years.

V. Conclusion: I believe that the next prophetic event is the enlightenment of all mankind resulting in the coming of God’s premillennial kingdom on earth.