
to seek
to do &
to teach

essays in honor of
Larry D. Pettegrew

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to do
and to teach

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Editors

Douglas D. Bookman

Tim M. Sigler

Michael J. Vlach



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To Seek... to Do... and to Teach: Essays in Honor of Larry D. Pettegrew
Editors: Douglas D. Bookman, Tim M. Sigler, and Michael J. Vlach

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*For Ezra had prepared his heart
to seek the law of the LORD, and to do it, and to teach
in Israel statutes and judgments.*

Ezra 7:10 (KJV)

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Introduction

TIM M. SIGLER

IN THE GREAT ACADEMIC tradition of collegial congratulations, this work seeks to honor the life and ministry of a humble and faithful servant of the Lord—Dr. Larry Dean Pettegrew. A Festschrift is a celebratory volume that welcomes scholarly contributions from an honoree's colleagues at various institutions where they have taught, former pupils, and friends in the guild. Throughout his illustrious career of over 50 years in theological higher education, our esteemed brother has taught at Pillsbury Baptist Bible College (Owatonna, MN), Detroit Baptist Theological Seminary (Allen Park, MI), Central Baptist Theological Seminary (Minneapolis, MN), The Master's Seminary (Los Angeles, CA), and most recently at Shepherds Theological Seminary (Cary, NC). His investment in countless lives of his own students is multiplied by the fact that so many have gone out from his classrooms to teach others also. He has modeled the multigenerational ministry mindset found in Paul's instruction to Timothy:

*You then, my child, be strengthened
by the grace that is in Christ Jesus,
and what you have heard from me
in the presence of many witnesses
entrust to faithful men,
who will be able to teach others also.*

2 Timothy 2:1–2 (ESV)

It is our desire to give honor where honor is due. Larry has invested in so many of us, and his contributions continue to bring each of us great blessing. Though I personally was not one of his students in the classroom, Larry

began to reach out to me to follow him as Provost and Dean at Shepherds Theological Seminary beginning in 2017. The more we got to know each other, the greater my respect for him grew. He had built such an impressive team of faculty members at Shepherds, and their esteem for him was evident. As he passed along the baton, he exemplified every virtue of godly leadership and theological fidelity. He made it a joy to step into his office and be entrusted with his duties—and he continues to be a wise counselor and trusted friend. Dr. Pettegrew has taught all of us at Shepherds to reflect upon and repeat the truth that “This is the Lord’s seminary.” And he really means it! We love giving the Lord the glory for all He is accomplishing, and we are so grateful to see Him using his servants to accomplish His work for His glory. Even as we honor our friend, we are mindful to give the glory to God.

Larry’s contributions in the classroom and through his academic writings have often focused on issues related to historical theology, systematic theology, and dispensational hermeneutics. The essays in this volume seek to contribute to these areas of great concern to him and to us. Like Ezra, Larry provides a worthy example for others to follow.

*For Ezra had prepared his heart
to seek the law of the LORD, and to do it, and to teach
in Israel statutes and judgments.
Ezra 7:10 (KJV)*

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This theological essay will be a fitting biblical complement to Dr. Pettegrew's fine historical essay "The Curious Case of the Church Fathers and Israel" in Larry Pettegrew, editor. Forsaking Israel: How It Happened and Why It Matters, 2nd ed. The Woodlands, TX: Kress Biblical Resources, 2021. Larry (and Linda) Pettegrew accepted my invitation to join The Master's Seminary in 1995 as a colleague, serving for twelve fruitful years (1995–2007) as Professor of Theology. I salute you, Larry, for over fifty years of faithful ministry on behalf of our Lord Jesus Christ.

CHAPTER 12

Why Futuristic Premillennialism?

RICHARD MAYHUE

Introduction

DURING MY CHILDHOOD YEARS, I loved the challenge of jigsaw puzzles. Early on, a basic strategy emerged which usually led to completing the puzzle successfully. First, I found the most obvious, most determinative pieces for the puzzle which guided all my further efforts. This involved identifying the four unique *corner* pieces. Second, I located the next most obvious pieces which turned out to be those with one straight edge, i.e., the *border* pieces. With these two steps complete, finally the jigsaw puzzle picture took on a basic shape/design to which the multitude of remaining *interior* pieces conformed.

The same approach works well in solving the millennial-view puzzle. Four basic views prevail today: Postmillennialism (P), Amillennialism (A), Historic Premillennialism (HP), and Futuristic Premillennialism (FP). I intend to define each of the four perspectives, and then explain which one is biblically preferable and why.

The terms 'millennium' and 'millennialism' come from the Latin word *mille*, meaning 'one thousand.' Biblically, they point to the Greek phrase *chilia etē*, 'one thousand years,' which appears six times in Revelation (20:2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7). The prefix 'post' in P refers to Christ's second coming after the millennium, i.e. the intermediate kingdom of the church age; while 'a' in A indicates that there is no millennium on earth before or after Christ's

¹ This essay has been adapted from John MacArthur and Richard Mayhue, eds. *Christ's Prophetic Plans* (Chicago: Moody, 2012), 59–84, by permission of Moody Publishers (June 21, 2022).

second coming. Both of the 'pre' positions (HP and FP) believe that there is a millennial period on earth which is preceded by Christ's second coming.

Postmillennialism teaches that the kingdom of God is currently being advanced with increasing triumph in the world through gospel preaching and the ministry of the church. Christ now rules over this 'golden age' of undetermined length from heaven and will return to earth at the end, thus a postmillennial return. The church is considered to be spiritual Israel, having inherited the promises made to Abraham and David, which God abrogated for Israel because of their national disobedience. Therefore, there will be no future for a national Israel with any biblical significance. When Christ returns at the end of the millennium, then the Rapture, second advent, general resurrection, and judgment all take place in rapid sequence, followed by the eternal state.

Amillennialism teaches that the church is now spiritual Israel, having inherited God's promises to Abraham and David which were forfeited by Israel because of continued disobedience. Christ rules over this spiritual kingdom from heaven, and the redemptive work of Christ continues on earth, but without the optimism of Postmillennialism. There is no expectation of a restored national Israel which will have prophetic significance. The affairs of earth will deteriorate until Christ intervenes at His second coming. All of the end-time events—e.g. the Rapture, general resurrection, and the judgment—happen in a short span of time as the immediate prelude to eternity future.

Historic Premillennialism teaches that Christ will return posttribulationally to rapture the church, judge living unbelievers, and set up an earthly kingdom (some say it will be one thousand years in length, while others believe '1000' is a symbolic number meaning 'a long time'). Christ now rules over the earth from heaven and in the future will rule over a Millennium on earth where little distinction is made between the church and restored national Israel. At the end of the Millennium, there is the resurrection of unbelievers and the final judgment, which is followed by the eternal state. This category of Premillennialism generally interprets Revelation 6–18 in a 'historic' sense rather than looking to the future.

Advocates of *Futuristic Premillennialism*, also called Dispensational Premillennialism, use a consistent grammatical-historical approach to both the Old and New Testament Scriptures by which the Bible is interpreted normally throughout, regardless of whether the subject matter is non-eschatological or eschatological in nature. Therefore, God's promises to Abraham

and David are viewed in a futuristic sense as anticipating a restored nation of Israel. In this pattern, the Rapture comes first, followed by Christ's second coming at the end of the seven-year tribulation period, biblically spoken of as Daniel's seventieth week. After judging the earth and its inhabitants, Christ rules over the earth for one thousand years (the Millennium) from His Davidic throne in Jerusalem. At the end of the Millennium, Satan rebels one final time but is quickly defeated. Then comes the resurrection and judgment of all unbelievers at the Great White Throne Judgment, which is followed by the New Jerusalem and the Eternal State.

The remainder of this essay will apply the rules for conquering jigsaw puzzles to solving the prophetic puzzle. There are four unmistakable 1) *corner pieces* that connect to four distinct 2) *border pieces*. These eight pieces correspond figuratively to my contention that there are eight defining biblical reasons to champion FP as the actual future plan of God. Then all of the 3) *less obvious, detailed-but-not-defining interior pieces* can be worked on, although they will not alter the broad, basic pattern which this essay outlines. No one or two reasons make the case for FP compelling, but rather the combined strength of them all. We might never know or understand every minute detail of God's prophetic plan, but we can know the basics. The purpose of this essay is to help you be certain about the fundamentals of biblical prophecy.

A Consistent Hermeneutic—First Corner Piece

FP is distinct because it is the only option, out of four major views, which results from 1) dealing with all Scripture inductively, 2) consistently employing the time tested grammatical-historical hermeneutical approach, and 3) not having to shift to a double-meaning hermeneutic when dealing with ecclesiology and eschatology.

In other words, FP takes a "normal" or "plain" approach to all the Scriptures, all of the time which means that FP:

- Takes the biblical text at face value.
- Interprets the biblical text in context.
- Recognizes symbolic language/speech figures and the reality they express.
- Uses clear texts to interpret the unclear/more difficult.

Contributors

Thomas J. Baber (D.Min., Southern Baptist Theological Seminary) is pastor of Emmanuel Baptist Church in Bryan, TX. He is an adjunct professor of Bible and theology, board member, and director for the Texas Teaching Site of Shepherds Theological Seminary. He earned his Doctor of Ministry from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, KY, and Master of Divinity from The Master's Seminary in Sun Valley, CA. Thomas and his wife, Nancy, have been married 28 years and have six children.

Roy Beacham (Th.D., Grace Theological Seminary) has served as a professor of Old Testament at Central Seminary since 1976. Roy served on the pastoral staff of Fourth Baptist Church from 1975–1983 in college and single-adult ministries and as minister of music. Roy recently retired from police chaplaincy with the city of Plymouth, MN after nearly 19 years of service. The Beachams have three adult children: Amy (Straub), Sarah, and Paul, and 6 grandchildren.

Todd Bolen (Ph.D., Dallas Theological Seminary) is professor of biblical studies at The Master's University. Formerly resident at the university's campus in Israel, he continues to guide tours in the Middle East. He is the creator of many photo collections of biblical lands, including the new *Photo Companion to the Bible*. Todd and his wife Kelli have five children.

Douglas D. Bookman (Th.D., Dallas Theological Seminary) is the Professor of Bible Exposition at Shepherds Theological Seminary. Doug has had a long career as a Bible professor in Christian colleges and seminaries, as a pastor, and as a Bible-conference speaker. He is a graduate of Pillsbury Baptist Bible College, Central Baptist Theological Seminary of Minneapolis, and Dallas Theological Seminary.

Bruce Compton (Th.D., Grace Theological Seminary) has taught at the Detroit Baptist Theological Seminary in Allen Park, MI since 1984. He currently serves as Professor of Biblical Languages and Literature. He has

published several articles in theological journals and has a commentary on Revelation that will be published by Regular Baptist Press. Bruce and his wife, Mari, were married in 1971 and have two grown children who are married and serving in vocational ministries in the US and overseas.

W. Edward Glenny (Th.D., Dallas Theological Seminary; Ph.D., University of Minnesota) is Professor of New Testament and Greek at University of Northwestern – St. Paul (MN) where he has taught for the past twenty-three years. He has published on Septuagint translation technique (*Finding Meaning in the Text: Translation Technique and Theology in the Septuagint of Amos*, Brill, 2009) and on the Greek Twelve Prophets (volumes on *Hosea*, *Amos*, and *Micah* in the Brill Septuagint Commentary Series and *Amos: A Handbook on the Greek Text* in the Baylor Handbook on the Septuagint, 2022), and he is co-editor of the *T&T Clark Handbook of Septuagint Research* (2021) and *Canon Formation: Tracing the Role of Sub-Collections in the Biblical Canon* (T&T Clark, forthcoming). He and his wife, Jackie, have two children: Brittany and Courtney.

Michael Grisanti (Ph.D., Dallas Theological Seminary) serves on the faculty of The Master's Seminary in Sun Valley, CA. He is director of the Old Testament department and Distinguished Research Professor. He directs their Israel studies program. He serves in lay capacities at Grace Baptist Church in Santa Clarita, CA. He and Martha Ann were married in 1980 have eight children, three daughters-in-laws, and five grandchildren. Dr. Pettegrew has been part of his life since 1977.

Rick Holland (Ph.D., Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary) is senior pastor at Mission Road Bible Church in Kansas City and serves on the faculty of The Expositors Seminary. Rick and his wife Kim have three sons, two daughters-in-law, and a grandson.

Richard Mayhue (Th.D., Grace Theological Seminary) served as Executive Vice President, Dean, and Professor of Pastoral Ministry and Theology (1989–2016) of The Master's Seminary, having retired as Research Professor of Theology Emeritus in 2016. During that time, he also served as Executive Vice President and Provost of The Master's College (2000–2018). Dr. Mayhue has written, contributed to, and/or edited over thirty books and, additionally, more than eighty-five journal essays and periodical articles. Dick has been married to his gracious wife "B" for fifty-six years (1966), and they have two children, two grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

Justin H. Pettegrew (Ph.D., Loyola University Chicago) is a Professor of History at Shorter University in Rome, GA. He received his Ph.D. in History from Loyola University Chicago in 2006. His research interests include U.S. Urban, Cultural, and Religious History.

Jon Pratt (Ph.D., Dallas Theological Seminary) serves as Vice President of Academic Affairs and Professor of NT at Central Baptist Theological Seminary of Minneapolis. He also serves as an elder at Redeemer Bible Church in Minnetonka, MN. Jon has been married to Elaine since 1986, and God has blessed them with four children and three grandchildren.

Tim M. Sigler (Ph.D., Trinity Evangelical Divinity School) is Provost and Dean at Shepherds Theological Seminary as well as the Israel Scholar-in-Residence with CJF Ministries. He served with distinction at the Moody Bible Institute for 18 years, most recently as Professor of Hebrew and Biblical Studies. He and his hospitable wife, Bernice, have three adventurous young adult children and host educational tours throughout the biblical world with Wisdom Passages.

W. Andrew Smith (Ph.D., University of Edinburgh) is Associate Professor of New Testament and Early Christianity at Shepherds Theological Seminary and the director of the Center for Research of Biblical Manuscripts and Inscriptions. He is on the editorial board for the Society of Biblical Literature's *Text-Critical Studies* series and is currently directing work toward the *Editio Critica Maior* edition of the Pastoral Epistles. His publications include a monograph on the codicology and palaeography of the Gospels in Codex Alexandrinus and the *editio princeps* of P136. Andrew is married with children.

Michael J. Vlach (Ph.D., Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary) is Professor of Theology at Shepherds Theological Seminary. He also is an author and conference speaker. Michael, his wife Holly, and their four children live in Fuquay-Varina, NC.

Matt Waymeyer (Ph.D., The Master's Seminary) serves on the pastoral staff at Grace Immanuel Bible Church and on the faculty of The Expositors Seminary in Jupiter, FL. In addition to teaching New Testament Greek and Systematic Theology at TES, he also serves as the Academic Dean. Matt and his wife, Julie, were married in 1995, and they have five children: Jessica, Caleb, Courtney, Jacob, and Zachary.

THE FIRST TIME I had the privilege of meeting Larry Pettegrew was in New Testament Survey. It was my first year of seminary when our paths crossed—and only for one year. By the grace of God, our paths would cross again, decades later, giving me the privilege of serving with him at The Shepherd's Church, and as Professor and Dean of Shepherds Theological Seminary.

When Larry arrived in Cary, he would not only revive an adult Sunday School class—whose love for him makes this volume possible—but organize our fledgling seminary. His knowledgeable experience in the academic world, his shepherd's heart, and his gracious leadership and wisdom combined to develop and expand the effective ministries of both church and seminary.

It is my privilege to join all the contributors to this Festschrift as we tip our hats and hearts to our beloved professor, mentor, elder, shepherd, and friend.

Gratefully,

Stephen Davey, President
Shepherds Theological Seminary

Contributors

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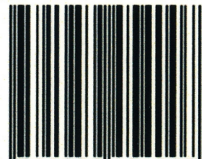
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