

# Revelation: The Thousand Year Reign Of Christ On Earth

Lesson 23

# Christ's Kingdom: The Millennium

- How long is a thousand years?
  - Depends on who you ask .....
  - Amillennialism
  - Postmillennialism
  - Premillennialism
  - Historical Premillennialism
- Near the end of his visions on the island of Patmos, John glimpses an amazing angelic being.
  - The angel bursts forth from the heavens with a chain and a key in hand
  - Suddenly, a dragon appears as well – the same dragon who had
    - Deceived Adam and Eve in the garden
    - Tempted Jesus in the deserts of Judea
  - The angel seizes the dragon, chains the dragon, hurls the dragon into a bottomless pit
  - The dragon will remain for a thousand years in the pit.
  - Throughout this span of a thousand years, the souls of martyrs and faithful witnesses live and reign with Christ. ([Revelation 20:4-5](#))

# The Four “Whens” of Christ’s Kingdom

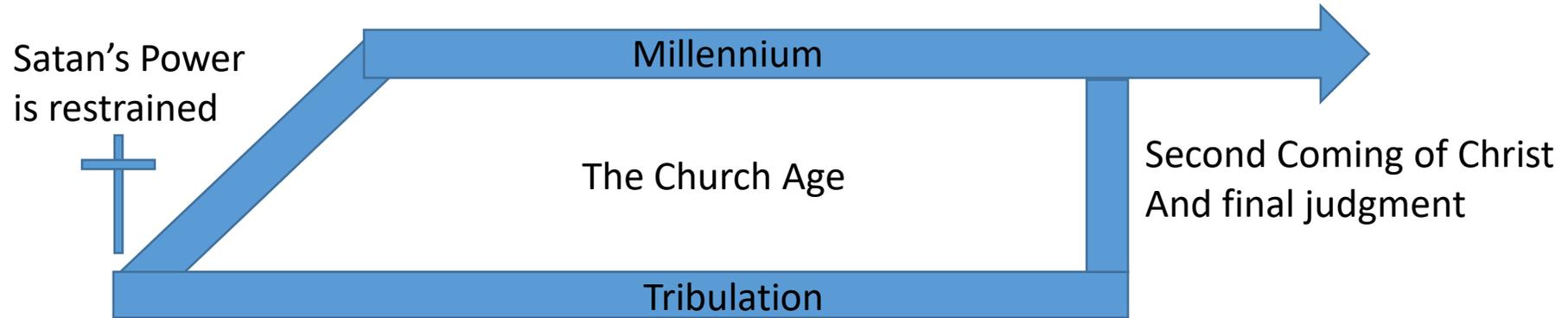
- Over the past 2,000 years, differences in interpretation of apocalyptic text have yielded four primary perspective on how time will.
- All four views agree when it comes to every essential truth about the end times:
  - Jesus will return to set the world right
  - God will resurrect all humanity
  - Jesus will be their judge.
  - Yet each view takes a very different perspective on how the return of Jesus relates to his reign, the millennial kingdom.

# #1 Kingdom Came, And Is Still Coming

- Amillennialism

- The thousand years is not a future, earthly reign.
- The millennium symbolizes the present and ongoing reign of Jesus with His people.
- It is a spiritual reign that extends from the ascension of Jesus to his glorious return.
- Amillennialists tend to see the relationship between Israel and the church from a covenantal or new covenantal perspective.

# Amillennial View of Christ's Kingdom



# Amillennial Interpretation of Revelation

Approaches to Revelation	Covenant Perspective	Apocalyptic Perspective
The Seven Churches <a href="#">Revelation 1-3</a>	<b>Preterist:</b>  <b>Idealist</b>	<b>John</b> was addressing seven local churches in the first century <b>Each</b> church symbolized a type of church that can be found in every age.
The time of tribulation <a href="#">Revelation 4-19</a>	<b>Historicist</b>  <b>Preterist</b>  <b>Idealist</b>	<b>Tribulation</b> describes distresses that God's people endured throughout history. <b>Tribulation</b> describes first century persecutions and conflicts. <b>Tribulation</b> symbolizes distresses that God's people endure in every age.
The millennial kingdom <a href="#">Revelation 20</a>	<b>Idealist</b>  <b>Historicist</b>	<b>Millennial</b> kingdom symbolizes the reign of Jesus in the lives of his people or with the glorified people of God in heaven <b>Millennial</b> kingdom is the reign of Jesus through his people from the establishment of the Church to the end of time.
The New Creation <a href="#">Revelation 21 22</a>	<b>Futurist</b>	<b>God</b> will glorify all who trusted Jesus and condemn all who rejected him.

# #2 Kingdom Came, And Is Yet To Come

- Postmillennialism

- Jesus won't return until the millennial kingdom is complete.
- Jesus will return to earth after a millennium when the overwhelming majority of persons throughout the world embrace the gospel..
- The thousand years could be the exact number of years, or any extended number of years.
- Jesus will not be physically present on the earth during the millennium.
- Jesus reigns spiritually through the spread of his gospel around the globe.
- Postmillennialists see covenantal continuity between Israel and the church.

# Postmillennial View of Christ's Kingdom



Most postmillennialists see the tribulation as a brief time of persecution that occurs right before the millennium. Others, mostly known as preterists believe the great tribulation describes the first Jewish-Roman war in AD 70 with the destruction of the Jewish temple.

# Postmillennial Interpretation of Revelation

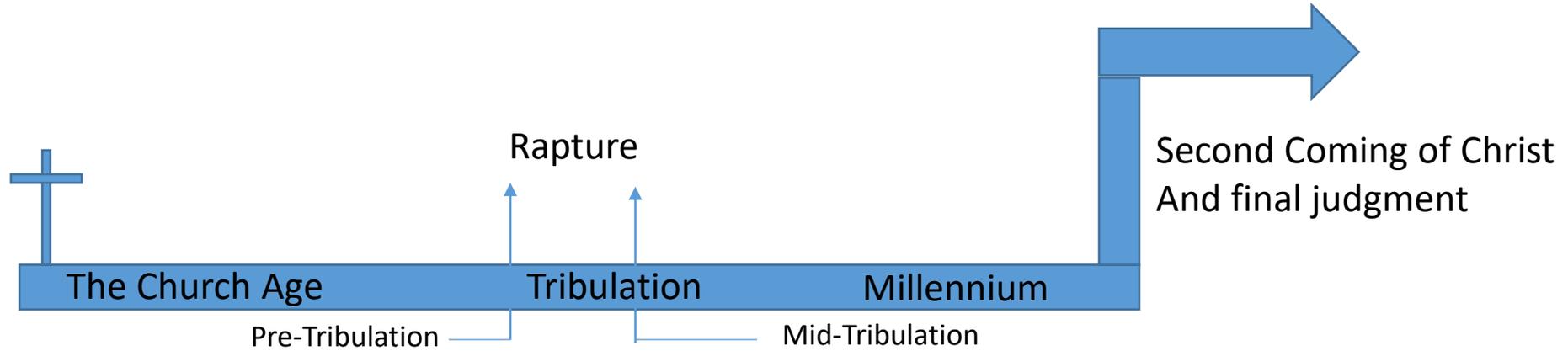
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The millennial kingdom <a href="#">Revelation 20</a>	<p><b>Historicist</b></p> <p><b>Futurist</b></p>	<p><b>Millennial</b> kingdom is the reign of Jesus through his people.</p> <p><b>Millennial</b> kingdom symbolizes describes a future time when Jesus begins to reign through his gospel</p>
The New Creation <a href="#">Revelation 21 22</a>	<p><b>Futurist</b></p>	<p><b>God</b> will glorify all who trusted Jesus and condemn all who rejected him.</p>

# #3 Kingdom Is Yet To Come, And A Large Number Leaves The Planet

- Premillennialism

- Jesus will return before the millennial kingdom begins.
- Prior to Jesus' return, seven (7) years of tribulation will afflict the earth, unlike any ever encountered.
- Most dispensationalists do expect to be 'raptured' prior to the great tribulation. Some expect to be 'raptured' halfway through the great tribulation.
- Dispensationalists see Israel and the church as two separate groups for whom God has two separate plans.
- During the great tribulation, God will renew his work with the earthly nation of Israel
- The millennial kingdom will be for 1,000 years.

# Premillennial View of Christ's Kingdom



# Dispensational Premillennial Interpretation of Revelation

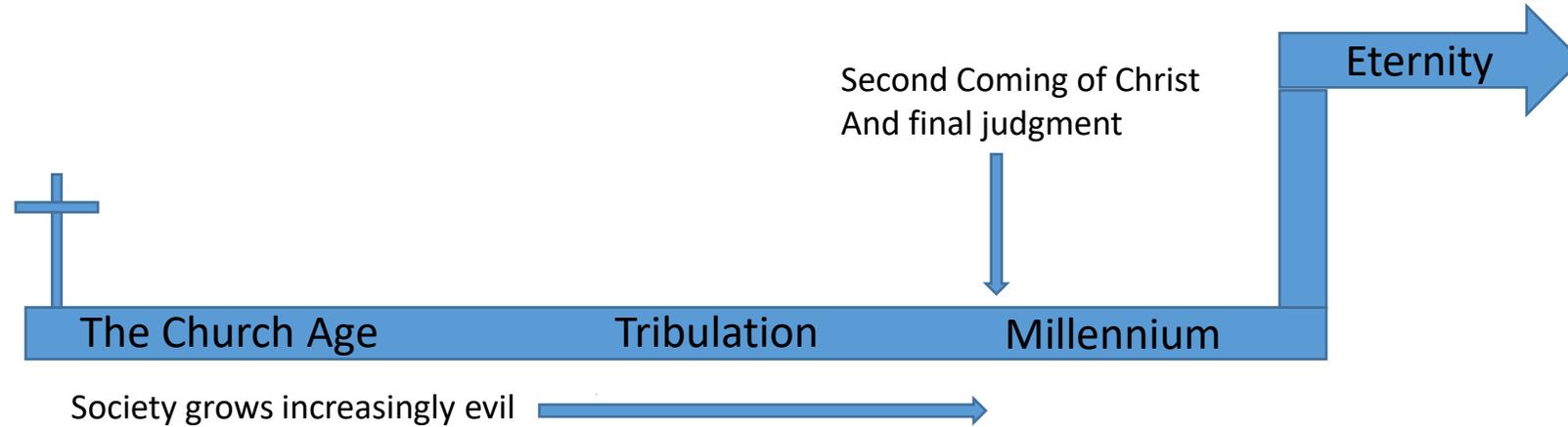
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The time of tribulation <a href="#">Revelation 4-19</a>	<b>Futurist</b>	<b>Tribulation</b> describes a seven (7) year time of distress between the rapture and Jesus' return to establish his millennial kingdom.
The millennial kingdom <a href="#">Revelation 20</a>	<b>Futurist</b>	<b>Millennial</b> kingdom describes a future time when Jesus will physically reign on earth.
The New Creation <a href="#">Revelation 21 22</a>	<b>Futurist</b>	<b>God</b> will glorify all who trusted Jesus and condemn all who rejected him.

# #4 Kingdom Is Yet To Come, And Christians Never Leave The Planet

- Historical Premillennialism

- Jesus will return before the millennial kingdom begins.
- Prior to Jesus' return, seven (7) years of tribulation will afflict the earth, unlike any ever encountered.
- Christians endure the time of tribulation
- Historical Premillennialists tend to take a covenantal or new covenantal perspective on the relationship between Israel and the church.
- The millennial kingdom will be for 1,000 years.

# Historical Premillennial View of Christ's Kingdom



# Historical Premillennial Interpretation of Revelation

Approaches to Revelation	Covenant Perspective	Apocalyptic Perspective
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The New Creation <a href="#">Revelation 21-22</a>	<b>Futurist</b>	<b>God</b> will glorify all who trusted Jesus and condemn all who rejected him.

# Jesus As King

- Assumption: Jews & Gentiles who seek the Lord during the messianic age ([Zechariah 2:11-12](#)) will also be resurrected and welcomed into the heavenly realms. The 'first resurrection' of [Revelation 20:5](#) suggests there could be others. But if so, it's not explained to us.
- It is not entirely clear here, but if [Revelation 20:11-15](#) is intended to be taken at face value, it appears that sin is not judged, the wicked are not punished (second death), and death and hades are not destroyed until the thousand years are ended.
- The time of the one thousand year reign is not the time of the new heaven and earth. Death, mourning, crying and pain (fruits of sin) have passed away in the new heaven and earth.

# Millennial Life

- [Revelation 19:15-16](#) Jesus: Coronation of the King
  - The King will arrive and initiate His reign of righteousness, joy, prosperity and peace. His glory will shine forth and bathe the universe with righteousness.
  - He will come as a conqueror, taking back the world.
  - His reign will have no end ([Luke 1:32-33](#))
  - Jesus will rule with an iron scepter ([Psalm 2](#), [Revelation 12:5](#))
  - He will rule the nations from Jerusalem
  - Christians will interpret Jesus' rule as a reign of righteousness and peace ([Isaiah 60:17b](#), [Isaiah 61:11b](#))
  - God's beloved people will see Jesus and his beauty. ([Isaiah 33:17](#), [35:1-10](#))
  - Judah and Jerusalem will be chosen as his living area among his people in Zion ([Zechariah 2:10-13](#))
  - Jesus name will be great among the nations ([Malachi 1:11](#))
  - Jerusalem will then be called the City of Truth, her location, the Holy Mountain.

# Millennial Life (2)

- [Revelation 19:15-16](#) Jesus: Coronation of the King (Cont'd)
  - The Lord will bring all of his Jews back to Jerusalem. ([Zechariah 8:1-8](#), [20-23](#))
  - They will be his people and he will be their faithful and righteous God.
  - By implication God's people will receive his loving protection and provision.
  - The nations of the world will come to Jerusalem to meet and entreat the Lord.
  - The Lord promises to cleanse and forgive all of his people's sins
  - The Lord will write his law in their hearts
  - The Lord will give them singleness of heart
  - The Lord will give them godly fear to keep themselves and their children after them from turning away from him.
  - The Lord will bless each of them with a permanent home and never stop doing good for them.

# Millennial Life (3)

- Restoration of Israel ([Jeremiah 3:14-16](#), [Jeremiah 23:3-7](#), [Jeremiah 30:8-9](#), [Jeremiah 31:33](#), [Jeremiah 32:37-41](#), [Jeremiah 33:7-9](#), [15-16](#))
  - The Lord will bring a remnant of His back to the land he promised them.
  - He will place good shepherds over them to instruct them in righteousness
  - He will provide security for them
  - They will increase in number
  - Never again will they walk in their old stubbornness and rebellion
  - Jesus presence among them will negate their need for the ark, which formerly symbolized God's presence among them. ([Micah 2:12-13](#))
  - Jerusalem will be inhabited by the meek and humble remnant of Israel. Their lives will be peaceful. ([Zephaniah 3:11b-13](#))
  - The remnant of Israel has been cleansed from sin (made righteous, not sinless) through their acceptance of Jesus as their Savior and King ([Zechariah 13:1](#), [Zeph 3:13](#))
  - Gentiles and Israel ([Isaiah 49:22b-23](#))
  - The Gentiles will restore the sons and daughters of Israel to their homeland.
  - The kings and queens of the Gentile nations will serve as nurturing foster parents to the newly born-again nation of Israel ([Isaiah 60:16](#), [14:1-2](#))
  - The nations will beseech the Jews to act as liaisons between them and God since they understand that God is with the Jews ([Isaiah 55:5](#))

# Millennial Life (4)

- [Revelation 20:1-3](#) The Incarceration of Satan
  - For 1,000 years, Satan will be rendered powerless. He will have no power or influence over anything or anyone.
  - Satan will not be able to tempt, accuse or deceive mankind
  - Satan will be bound and thrown into the Abyss ([Revelation 20:1-3](#))
  - It appears mankind can still rebel on its own volition ([Zechariah 14:16-17](#), [Isaiah 60:12](#))
  - It will be Satan's absence in part that allows the earth to be filled with great prosperity, peace and joy.
- [Jeremiah 10:9](#) The Administration of David
  - The Lord Jesus will be King Supreme, but He will choose to rule through a vice-regent – The resurrected King David.

# Millennial Life (5)

- The Inhabitants Of The Millennial Kingdom
  - Jesus as King
  - Old Testament Believers (Resurrected)
  - New Testament Saints (Resurrected)
    - Christ's followers, who were resurrected and changed into his likeness when he arrived on the clouds of heaven will reign with him on earth ([Revelation 20:6](#), [5:10](#))
  - Tribulation Saints (Living, Especially The Jewish Nation survivors)
  - Tribulation Saints (Resurrected)
- [Revelation 20:4-6](#) The Participation Of The Saints
  - Daniel anticipated this moment when the saints will reign with Christ ([Daniel 7:18](#), [27](#))
  - There will be a hierarchy of rulers and judges in the Millennium. ([1 Corinthians 6:2](#), [Matthew 19:28](#); [Revelation 19:8](#), [14](#), [19](#))
    - David
    - Twelve Apostles
    - Saints

# Millennial Life (6)

- [Micah 4:4](#); [Isaiah 2:4](#); [19:23-25](#) The Elimination of War
  - Nations will no longer desire to become hostile to one another
  - The absence of hostility between humans will be mirrored throughout the animal kingdom. ([Isaiah 11:6-9](#), [65:25](#); [Hosea 2:18](#))
- [Psalm 72:7](#) The Realization of Prosperity
  - The perfect labor situation and ecological changes in the kingdom age will produce economic abundance.
  - There will be no want. All people will have what they need.
  - It will be a time of unparalleled prosperity ([Isaiah 35:1](#); [Joel 2:22-24](#), [26](#))
  - The millennial kingdom will have no need for rescue missions, welfare programs, food stamps, relief agencies or worldwide poverty programs. The world will flourish under the hand of the King.
  - Animals tamed ([Isaiah 11:6-10](#))
  - Nothing harmful (whether this extends to other nations or just Israel is not clear)
- [Isaiah 4:3](#) The Integration of Holiness
  - Holiness simply means being like God and being submitted to Him.
  - The millennial kingdom will be a holy Kingdom
  - The King is holy, the land, the city, the Temple and the King's subjects.
  - Holiness will be integrated into every aspect of life during the King's reign.

# Millennial Life (7)

- Life Within The Kingdom
  - The desert will bloom
  - The Holy Highway that leads to the temple mount will be lifted up.
  - Jerusalem will be lifted up above the surrounding hills and mountains ([Revelation 21:22](#))
  - Natural life prolonged. Although death still seems to occur, it happens at the proper stage, at a ripe old age. ([Isaiah 65:9-22](#))
  - Labor rewarded. Work as now known still continues, but God's chosen ones will long enjoy the fruit of their labors.
  - They will live in the houses they build.
  - They and not others will eat from the plants they grow ([Amos 9:14](#), [Isaiah 62:8b-9](#))
  - The nations will stream to Jerusalem to learn God's word ([Micah 4:1-3](#))
  - The earth will be at peace and the Lord will be the judge in any disputes between nations and peoples. No more war.
  - Zion receives favor: Having been chastised for her former rebellion Zion now receives the Lord's compassion and favor ([Isaiah 40:2](#))
  - Foreigners rebuild Jerusalem ([Isaiah 60:10-14](#), [16-18](#))
  - Foreigners shepherd their flocks and work their fields and vineyards ([Isaiah 61:4-9](#))
  - Kings of the nations will come, in procession, to bring their wealth into the "city of the Lord."
  - Any nation that balks at paying homage to Israel will suffer ruin
  - Oppressors humbled. Anyone who once despised Zion will bend the knee and proclaim her the city of the Lord. ([Micah 4:11-13](#))
  - Zion's inhabitants will call her walls Salvation, her gates Praise

# After The Millennium ....

- The millennial kingdom will not be temporary.
  - The earthly kingdom, when Christ rules out of Jerusalem, will last one thousand years, but at the end of that time it will merge into God's eternal rule ([1 Corinthians 15:24](#))
  - Daniel describes the Kingdom rule of Christ as “an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away.” ([Daniel 7:14](#))
  - Dr. John Walvoord writes, “Taken as a whole, the social and economic conditions of the millennium indicate a golden age in which the dreams of social reformists through the centuries will be realized by the immediate presence and power of God and the righteous government of Christ.
  - After the completion of the Millennium, Christ's Kingdom will continue without end as heaven comes to earth.
  - Remember the King Arthur story. Begins his reign and sets up a kingdom founded on the ideals of equality, justice, purity, courage, and integrity. But human weakness in the form of lust and treachery eventually brought King Arthur's kingdom crashing down.

# Why does God Allow A Rebellion After The Millennium?

- All Millennium off-springs are not exempt from personally choosing between God or Satan. They will still need to be regenerated through the ministry of the Holy Spirit.
- By releasing Satan one more time all of mankind are given equal standing before God.
- The decision to accept or reject Christ is the most important decision anyone can make, even in the Millennium.