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# THE MILLENNIAL REIGN OF CHRIST

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*Jim Powell & Mark Hecht*

## *Revelation 20.1-10*

Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding in his hand the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain.<sup>2</sup> And he seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil and Satan, and **BOUND** him **FOR A THOUSAND YEARS**,<sup>3</sup> and threw him into the pit, and shut it and sealed it over him, so that he might not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were ended. After that he must be **RELEASED FOR A LITTLE WHILE**.

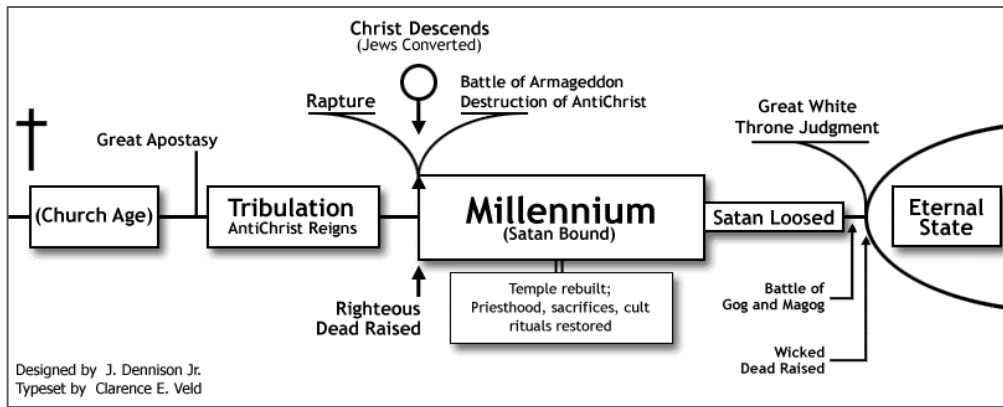
<sup>4</sup>Then I saw thrones and seated on them were those to whom the authority to judge was committed. Also I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for the testimony of Jesus and for the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and **REIGNED WITH CHRIST FOR A THOUSAND YEARS**.<sup>5</sup> The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended. This is the **FIRST RESURRECTION**.

<sup>6</sup>Blessed and holy is the one who shares in the first resurrection! Over such the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ, and they will reign with him for a thousand years.<sup>7</sup> And when the thousand years are ended, Satan will be released from his prison<sup>8</sup> and will come out to **DECEIVE THE NATIONS** that are at the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them for battle; their number is like the sand of the sea.<sup>9</sup> And they marched up over the broad plain of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city, but fire came down from heaven and consumed them,<sup>10</sup> and the devil who had deceived them was thrown into the **LAKE OF FIRE** and sulfur where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night **FOREVER AND EVER**.

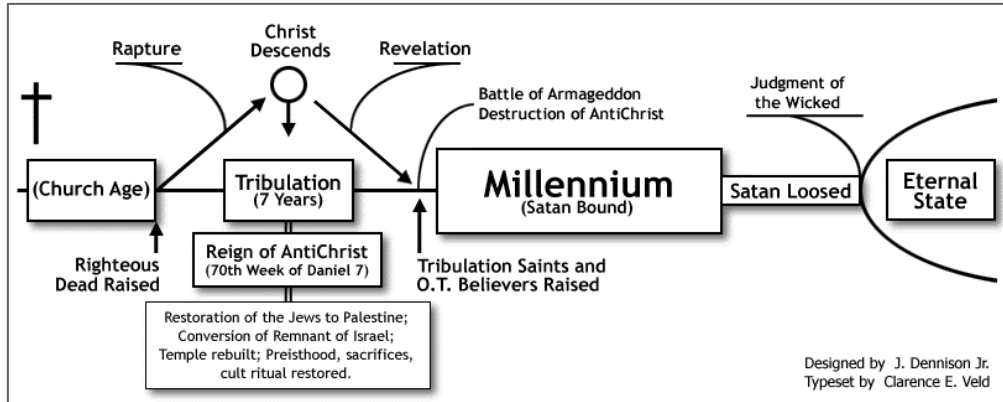
## *Views*

<b>Temporally.</b> <b>2 views.</b>	<b>Hermeneutically.</b> <b>3 (ish) views.</b>
Premillennial (before)	Premillennial
Postmillennial (after)	Amillennial
	Postmillennial





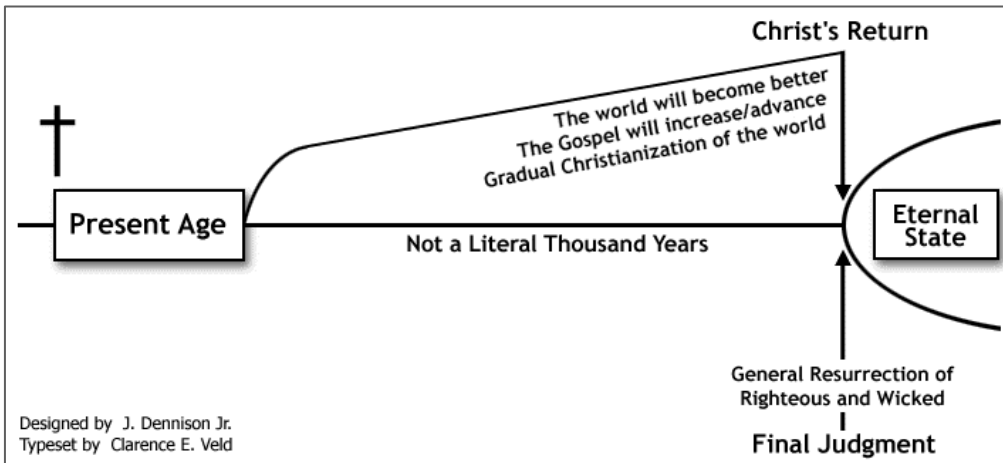
Premillennial  
(Historic)



Premillennial  
(Dispensational)



Amillennial



Postmillennial



### *Premillennial Texts*

**1 CORINTHIANS 15:51-52; 1 THESSALONIANS 4:15-17** - The RAPTURE. Dead saints will rise from their graves and all the living members of the church shall be raptured up to meet Christ in the clouds. [*Dispensational – prior to the seven-year tribulation, the 70<sup>th</sup> week of DANIEL 9.24-27.*]

During this time of tribulation, there will be three-and-a-half years of world peace under an AntiChrist figure (**DANIEL 7:8; REVELATION 13:1-8**) who will establish a world-church (**REVELATION 17:1-15**), followed by three-and-a-half years of greater suffering. At the end of this period, Christ will return (**MATTHEW 24:27-31; REVELATION 19:11-21**), judge the world (**MATTHEW 25:31...**), bind Satan for one thousand years (**REVELATION 20:1-3**), and raise the Old Testament and tribulation saints from the dead (**REVELATION 20:4**).

The millennial reign will begin, and Christ will reign politically over the earth at this time from His capital in Jerusalem (**ISAIAH 2:3**). There will be no war, even animals will dwell in harmony (**ISAIAH 2:3; 11:6-9**). Those who come to believe in Christ during the seventieth week of Daniel (including the 144,000 Jews) and survive will go on to populate the earth during this time. At the end of this era of peace, Satan will be released and instigate a colossal (but futile) rebellion against God (**REVELATION 20:7-9**).

### *Amillennial Texts*

**ACTS 2:16-21; 1 CORINTHIANS 10:11** - The “last things” have been initiated at the first coming of Christ and his death/resurrection. The church age and the age of the kingdom are aligned.

**MATTHEW 3:2** - “The kingdom of heaven is at hand.” At the cross, Christ won final victory over death and Satan. And then He ascended to reign upon the throne of David forever (**LUKE 1:32-33; ACTS 2:30-31**).

In the present age of the kingdom of Christ, we “look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal” (**2 CORINTHIANS 4:18**). Thus, the final things are already accomplished, though not yet seen by sight, but by faith (**2 CORINTHIANS 5:7**).

NT Parable Guidance – **MATTHEW 13.24-30; 36-43**. Parable of weeds, a parallel development of good/evil during the kingdom age. Thus suffering/persecution remain as an important part of the church’s role in the kingdom of God. The Christian will be hated by all, as was Christ (**MT 10:22**). Thus, there is no present hope of earthly exaltation, rather longing for the fulfillment of the second stage of the coming of the Kingdom.

NT Promise/Authority. **MATTHEW 28.19-20** – The Great Commission.

### *Postmillennial Texts*

The millennial kingdom is the fulfillment of God's promise to Abraham that "all peoples on earth would be blessed" through him (**GENESIS 12:2-3**) with his descendants as the stars or sand on the shore (**Gen 15:5-6**). This reign will come about via gradual conversion (rather than premillennialism's cataclysmic Christological advent) through the spread of the Gospel — this incremental progress is presented throughout Scripture (**DEUTERONOMY 7:22, EZEKIEL 47:1-12**).

Prophetic Psalmody. The Psalms often speak of all nations fearing Him, salvation being known among all nations, the ends of the earth fearing Him (**PSALM 2:1-12; PSALM 22:27; PSALM 67:2,7; PSALM 102:15; PSALM 110:1**). Earthly optimism also visible in **ISAIAH 2:2-3** in which the nations will stream to the righteousness of God.

OT Prophetic Vision. **ISAIAH 11.6-10; 65.17-25; DANIEL 2.31-35;44-45**

NT Parallel Vision. **MATTHEW 13.32-32** (Mustard Seed); **MATTHEW 16.18** (the gates of hell will not prevail against the church.) **HEBREWS 1.13** (Enemies under his feet.)

NT Promise/Authority. **MATTHEW 28.19-20** – The Great Commission.