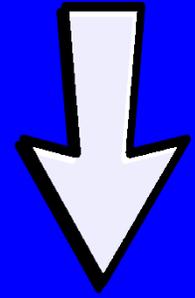


LIVING FOR HIS RETURN



Part 4: The Millennium

I. THE MILLENNIUM

- A. The word millennium refers to the period of 1,000 years mentioned six times in Revelation 20:2-7.
1. It will be the time of the reign of Christ and believers over the earth Rev. 20:6 (from Lat. *millennium*, “thousand years”).¹
 2. Some seek to interpret the 1,000 years in an allegorical manner. Others a more literal view. Following are three views on the Millennium.² There are arguments and counterarguments for each view.³
- B. The _____ View: Christ will return to the earth after the Millennium.
1. The word “millennium” is viewed as a long period of time—not necessarily a literal 1,000 years.
 2. Postmillennialists believe that the kingdom of God is now being extended through teaching, preaching, evangelization, and missionary activities.
 3. As the world becomes Christianized the result will be a long period of peace and prosperity called the Millennium.
 4. At the end of this long period Christ will return-- post-millennialists have no place for a rapture.
 5. Until then the church is responsible for proclaiming the gospel truth and seeing people come to faith in Christ so that this long period of peace and righteousness gradually becomes a reality.
- C. The _____ View: There will be no literal thousand-year bodily reign of Christ on earth prior to the final judgment and the eternal state.
1. Amillennialists understand the 1,000 years as merely a non-literal way of saying “a long period of time.”
 2. On this view, scriptural references to the millennium in Revelation 20 actually describe the present church age.
 3. The Rapture and the 2nd Coming of Christ are one and the same event taking place at the end of the church age.
- D. The _____ View: Christ will return to the earth before the Millennium
1. Christ will then rule on earth for a literal 1,000 years.
 2. The primary basis for a literal 1,000 years being that six times in Revelation 20:2-7 the Millennial Kingdom is specifically said to be 1,000 years in length.
 3. The argument against the Amillennial non-literal view is that if God wished to communicate “a long period of time,” he could have easily done so without explicitly and repeatedly mentioning an exact time frame.

¹ Wayne Grudem, *Bible Doctrine: Essential Teachings of the Christian Faith* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1999) 1247.

² For more about the various views of the Millennium see H. Wayne House and Randall Price, *Charts of Biblical Prophecy* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing, 2003) 134.

³ See Robert G. Clouse, Ed., *The Meaning of the Millennium: Four Views* (Downers Grove: Intervarsity Press, 1977).

II. WHAT WILL THE MILLENNIUM BE LIKE?

A. The Millennium will be a period of peace, joy, holiness, and glory such as never known before.

B. There will be five major events during the Millennium.⁵

1. The removal of Satan for 1,000 years (Rev. 20:1-3).
2. Jesus will reign on earth with the saints for 1,000 years (Rev. 20:4-6).
3. The return of Satan at the end of the 1,000 year period (Rev. 20:7).
4. The revolt of society when Satan returns (Rev. 20: 8-10).
5. The great white throne judgment (Rev. 20:11-15).

C. Big clues about the Millennium

Scriptures	Description
Isa. 2:1-4; Micah 4:1-3	Jesus will reign in Jerusalem (Mount Moriah) where he will teach his ways. There will be no war. There will be a unifying law from God.
Micah 4:3-4; Isa. 2:4	There will be universal security, and peace.
Isa. 11:6-9; 65:25	The animal kingdom will be changed.
Zeph. 3:9	There will be a unifying language so that all may worship in unison (reversal of Tower of Babel).
Zech. 14:4, 8	Mount of Olives will split in two, forming a great valley, water will flow to the eastern sea (Dead Sea) and to the western sea (Mediterranean)
Zech. 12:10	The ones who crucified Jesus (Jews) will finally recognize him as the Messiah and will weep and mourn.
Zech. 14:10	Jerusalem will be elevated, and never destroyed.
Isa. 62:1-2	Jerusalem (Zion) will be renamed to reflect Israel's new status (MacArthur, 837).

⁴ Some scholars see two premillennial views: historic premillennialism and dispensational premillennialism. See House, 134-135.

⁵ John MacArthur, *Because the Time is Near*, (Moody Publishers, Chicago), pp. 296-303.