

What Does the Bible Say about the Millenium (1,000 years)?

www.BLC7500.com

Millenium Basics:

1. Definition:

- a. A Millenium: It is a period of 1,000 years – it can be a *literal* or a *symbolical* 1,000 years.
- b. Two basic Millennial beliefs: ➔ *It's literal and yet to come*; ➔ *It's symbolic and now*.
- c. Timing and nature of the Millennium: The exact timing and nature of what is meant by the Millennium is debated between three [or four] [interpretations of Scripture]:
 - i. **Premillennialism** [*Dispensational Premillennialism and Historic Premillennialism are similar, here they are together, later we will see the differences between the two*],
 - ii. **Postmillennialism**, and
 - iii. **Amillennialism**.¹

2. Terminology: “Each term is distinguished by a prefix attached to the word “millennium,” which is a compound of two Latin terms, mille [mee'-lay] (thousand), and annus (year). Over time, each view began to be known by its interpretation of [Revelation 20:1-10](#), particularly the timing of the return of Christ with reference to the period of 1,000 years (Ibid.).

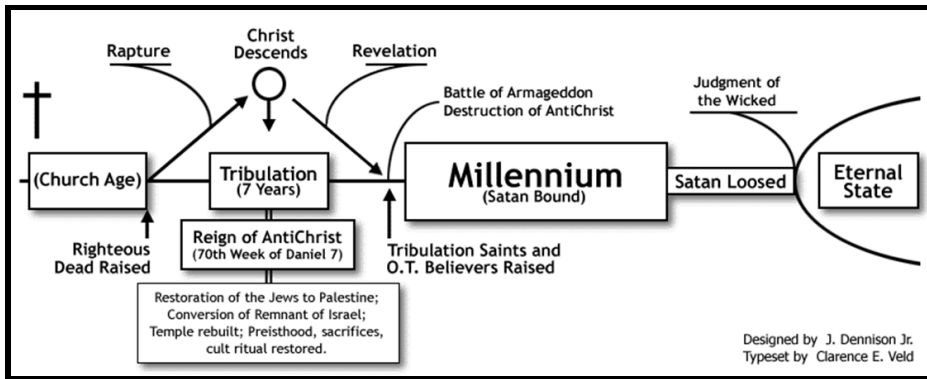
- a. **Premillennialists** believe Christ returns before the millennium (“pre” means “**before**”).
- b. **Postmillennialists** believe Christ returns after the millennium (“post” means “**after**”).
- c. **Amillennialists** expect no millennium (The prefix – “a” means, “**no**”).

3. Summary:

- a. The Millennium refers to the period of the 1,000-year reign of Christ mentioned in [Revelation 20:1-6](#): That passage is [especially] difficult to interpret and has been the source of debate among the three eschatological [*or four*] schools of thought (Ibid.).
- b. What is eschatology? It comes from the Greek word, ἔσχατος (escatos), which means “last” or “final” things. So, eschatology is **the study of the last or final things**. “It is the study of Christ’s future return, the resurrection, the rapture [*which we will come to later in this study*], the final judgment, the eternal blessedness of the redeemed with Christ, and the eternal punishment of the damned apart from his presence” (Ibid.).
- c. The three or four differences relate to the timing of the return of Christ regarding the 1,000 years and the precise nature of the Millennium.
 - i. **Premillennialists** believe Christ returns **before** the millennium preceded by a period of intense tribulation.
 - ii. **Postmillennialists** believe Christ returns **after** the millennium as a golden age when most of the world has converted to Christianity.
 - iii. **Amillennialists** do not expect a future literal 1,000 years but rather view it as Christ’s reign with his saints during the time between his two comings (Ibid.).

¹ <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/essay/views-of-the-millennium/>

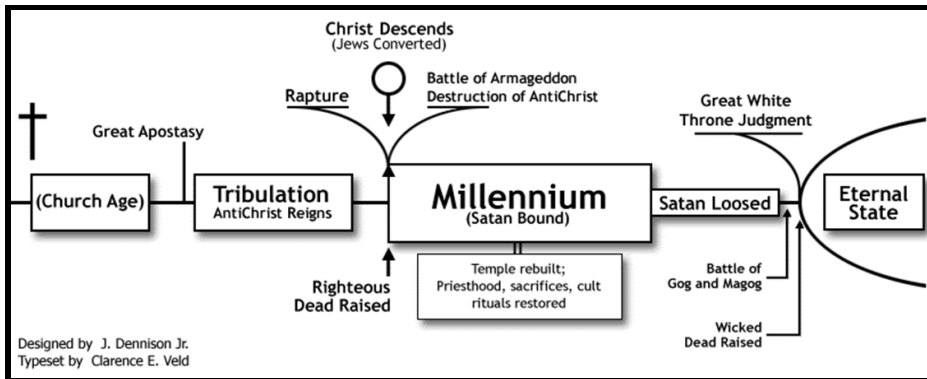
View One – Dispensational Premillennialism²



Denominations

Assemblies of God
Some Baptists
Pentecostals

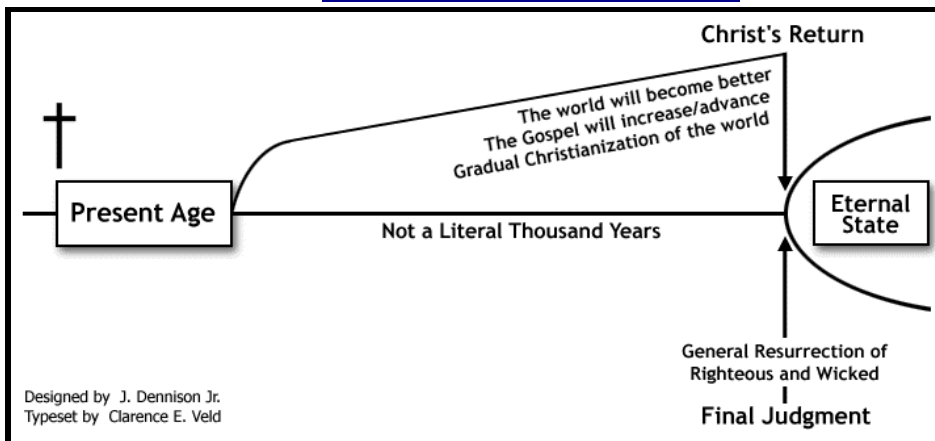
View Two – Historic Premillennialism



Denominations

Some Baptists
Presbyterians
Christian and Missionary Alliance
Several Evangelical Groups

View Three – Postmillennialism



Denominations

Calvinism and Neo-Calvinism
Adventist Church of Promise
Disciples of Christ (Campbell Movement)
American Presbyterian Church

View Four – Amillennialism



Denominations

Eastern and Oriental Orthodox
Roman Catholic
Lutheran; Reformed
Anglican; Methodist
Messianic Jews

² The images and some of the contents of this study are from this site: <https://www.blueletterbible.org/faq/mill.cfm>