

Welcome to the Millennium!



The Key Passage

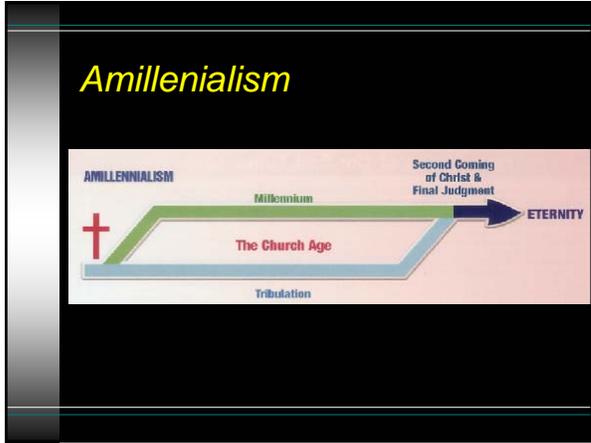
- Rev. 20:1-6
- Rev. 20:4 – Then I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was given to them. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony of Jesus and because of the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received the mark on their forehead and on their hand; and they came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.

Millennium

- Latin word for thousand is *mille*
- *Millennium* = a future period of time that will last for 1000 years

Three Distinct Views

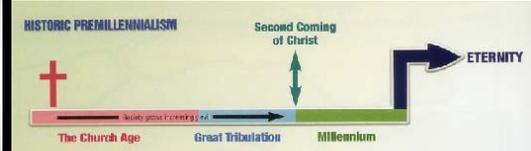
- Amillennialism
- Post-millennialism
- Premillennialism
 - Historic or Classic
 - Dispensational



Postmillennialism



Historic Premillennialism (Classic)



Dispensational Premillennialism



Classic Dispensationalism

- Christ made a legitimate offer of the kingdom at the Triumphal Entry.
- Church is a parenthesis in God's plan.
- Some of the "kingdom teaching" of Christ is not for us.
- There is a difference between kingdom of God and kingdom of heaven.
- Some say: different ways of salvation between OT and NT.
- There is little or no continuity between the Testaments.
- Israel will always maintain a distinct future, always remaining the earthly people of God while the church is the spiritual people of God.

Progressive Dispensationalism

- Christ came to die and had no intention of establishing an earthly kingdom at that time.
- The church has always been part of God's plan.
- All Scripture is intended for us.
- The kingdom of God and the kingdom of heaven are synonymous.
- There has always been only way of salvation.
- There is more continuity between the OT people of God and the NT people of God than discontinuity.
- Although there are promises that will yet be fulfilled to the ethnic descendants of Abraham alive at the time of the Tribulation and in the millennium, the distinctions will be distinctions of roles not an essential difference before God.

Share in Common

- 1) a future for ethnic Israel.
- 2) a literal hermeneutic when dealing with prophecy.

Three Main Views re: Millennium

- Amillennialism
- Post-millennialism
- Premillennialism

Disagree

- 1) Its nature
 - Amillennialism – a spiritual kingdom now; an eternal kingdom future
 - Post-millennialism – not a literal, physical reign of Christ on the earth, but an age of great spiritual advancement.
 - Premillennialism – a literal kingdom on a renewed earth in which Christ is the unquestioned ruler.

Disagree

- 2) Its timing
 - Amillennialism – now & eternity
 - Post-millennialism – now until Christ's return
 - Premillennialism – future, after the 2nd Coming but before the eternal state.

The Nature of the Kingdom

- 1) the universal sovereign rule of God
- 2) the messianic or mediatory rule of God

Throughout the OT

- Gen. 3:15 – a conquering Person would come
- Gen. 49:10 – "The scepter shall not depart from Judah, Nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, Until Shiloh comes, And to him *shall be* the obedience of the peoples.
- Ps. 2:8-9
- Ps. 110:1 A Psalm of David. The LORD says to my Lord: "Sit at My right hand Until I make Your enemies a footstool for Your feet."
- Dan. 2:44 – "In the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which will never be destroyed, and *that* kingdom will not be left for another people; it will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms, but it will itself endure forever.
- Dan. 7:13-18
- Is. 9:1-7
- Micah 5:1-4
- Primarily physical, political

NT Expectations

- Cf. Luke 17:20 - Now having been questioned by the Pharisees as to when the kingdom of God was coming.
- Cf. Acts 1:6-7 when they had come together, [the disciples] were asking Him, saying, "Lord, is it at this time You are restoring the kingdom to Israel?" He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority;

The Present Aspect

- Col. 1:13 -- He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son.
- John 18:36 - Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, then My servants would be fighting so that I would not be handed over to the Jews; but as it is, My kingdom is not of this realm."

The Future Kingdom

- Jesus promised a future kingdom.
 - Matt. 6:10 -- your kingdom come.
 - Matt. 7:21-22 -- "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven *will enter*."
 - Matt. 19:28 -- And Jesus said to them, "Truly I say to you, that you who have followed Me, in the regeneration when the Son of Man will sit on His glorious throne, you also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel."
 - Matt. 20:21 - He said to her, "What do you wish?" She said to Him, "Command that in Your kingdom these two sons of mine may sit one on Your right and one on Your left."
 - Mark 14:25 "Truly I say to you, I will never again drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God" (cf. Luke 22:18).
 - Luke 19:11-27
 - Luke 21:31

The Future Kingdom

- The Early Church Focused on the Future Kingdom.
 - Acts 8:12 -- But when they believed Philip preaching the good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were being baptized, men and women alike.
 - Acts 19:8 -- And he entered the synagogue and continued speaking out boldly for three months, reasoning and persuading *them* about the kingdom of God.
 - Acts 20:25 -- "And now, behold, I know that all of you, among whom I went about preaching the kingdom, will no longer see my face.
 - Acts 28:23 -- When they had set a day for Paul, they came to him at his lodging in large numbers; and he was explaining to them by solemnly testifying about the kingdom of God and trying to persuade them concerning Jesus, from both the Law of Moses and from the Prophets, from morning until evening.
 - Acts 28:31 -- preaching the kingdom of God and teaching concerning the Lord Jesus Christ with all openness, unhindered.

The Future Kingdom

- Acts 1:6 -- So when they had come together, they were asking Him, saying, "Lord, is it at this time You are restoring the kingdom to Israel?"
- Acts 14:22 -- strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and *saying*, "Through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God."

The Future Kingdom

- In the epistles, the primary emphasis is on the future aspect of the kingdom.
 - Our future inheritance
 - 1 Cor. 6:9-10 -- Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, nor thieves, nor *the* covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God.
 - Gal. 5:21 -- envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.
 - Eph. 5:5 -- For this you know with certainty, that no immoral or impure person or covetous man, who is an idolater, has an inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.
 - James 2:5 -- Listen, my beloved brethren: did not God choose the poor of this world *to be* rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him?

The Future Kingdom

- In the epistles, the primary emphasis is on the future aspect of the kingdom.
 - Our hope
 - 2 Tim. 2:12 -- If we endure, we will also reign with Him.
 - 1 Th. 2:12 -- so that you would walk in a manner worthy of the God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.
 - 2 Tim. 4:1 - I solemnly charge *you* in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom...

What is this future kingdom?

- OT kingdom prophecies – one coming of Messiah.
- NT – the kingdom prophecies will be fulfilled in two comings of the Messiah.
 - 1) The present manifestation was fulfilled with the 1st coming – “already”
 - 2) the future consummation will be fulfilled in the future – “not yet”

When and what will the future kingdom be?

- Amillennialism: one future aspect of the kingdom = eternal kingdom (the eternal state).
- Premillennialism: two future aspects of the kingdom...
 - Millennial kingdom (1000 years on this earth)
 - Eternal kingdom (the eternal state)