

The Thousand Year Reign of Christ Revelation 20

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A Coming Kingdom

The reign of *The Righteous Branch* - Jeremiah 23:5,6

Justice and instruction dispensed from Zion - Isaiah 2:1-5

Glory on Mount Zion - Isaiah 4:4,5

The condition of the Earth during His reign - Isaiah 11

Revelation 20 provides the chronological framework and details of a 1000 year ("*millennium*") reign of Christ on Earth.

Follows Tribulation and Christ's Return

Precedes the Eternal State.

The Kingdom is *eternal*, *earthly* (phase 1), and *heavenly* (final phase, Chapter 21).

- Review Return of Christ : Revelation 19:11-21
 - Who comes back with Christ? Armies of Heaven? Jude 14
 - Note how His Return in Chapter 19 differs with John 14, 1 Thessalonians 4
- Jeremiah is just before Babylonian Exile — he is comforting his people in light of the coming exile
- Isaiah looked through the darkness and saw the dawn of a new day. His declaration of the future rule of Zion is in the midst of rebuke and coming judgement.

Three Views

Premillennialism (Chiliasm, Thousand Year Reign)

Christ's Second Coming (*Parousia* = arrival, presence) occurs **before** The Millennium.

A literal earthly reign of Christ on Earth (on David's throne in Jerusalem).

The promises to national Israel concerning the Kingdom are fulfilled.

Postmillennialism

Christ's Second Coming occurs **after** The Millennium (> 1000 years).

Spiritual reign of Christ through the Church ushers in a "golden age."

The Church is the "new Israel" (the "Israel of God" Galatians 6:15,16).

Amillennialism

Christ's Second Coming will usher in the eternal state.

The thousand year reign is figurative (no "golden age"); began at Pentecost (Acts 2:16)

Christ reigns from heaven and remains with the Church (not distinct from Israel).

- Premillennialists see Rev 19:11 - 20:1-15 as chronological.

Premillennialism Subviews

Dispensationalism : systematic theology that divides history into seven distinctive ages with differing modes of administration where God progressively reveals Himself and His plan of salvation.

Dispensation = distinctive period in history (Ephesians 1:10 KJV)

Israel and Church are distinct.

Rapture (*Latin rapio, Gk harpazo = snatch away*) of Church (1 Thessalonians 4:15-17).

(Pre / Pre-Wrath / Mid / Post) Tribulation Rapture

Historic / Classic: (Ireneaus, Polycarp, Justin Martyr)

Post-tribulation rapture

Israel and Church are one body, but promises to Abraham and David are literally and ultimately fulfilled.

- “dispensation” Ephesians 1:10 KJV
- 7 dispensations:
 - 1. Innocence (Garden), 2. Conscience (post-fall until flood), 3. Government (until Tower of Babel), 4. Promise (Abraham), 5. Law (Moses), 6. Grace (Cross until Second Advent), 7. Millennial Reign
- Numerous other distinctions and categories (e.g. Progressive Dispensationalism)

Other Views / Terms ...

Covenant Theology : Bible structurally divided into two (or three) theological (implicit) covenants : *Works* (Adam / pre-fall); *Grace* (OT and NT teaching promising eternal life through faith in Christ); *Redemption* (eternal agreement within Godhead in which the Son is appointed to become man and suffer, die, rise, and be glorified).

Presbyterian CT : Works (Pre Fall) / Grace (Post Fall)

Reformed Baptist CT : Works (Pre Fall / Moses) / Grace (New Covenant / Jesus)

Baptism replaces Circumcision as “sign of the covenant”

Postmillennialism / Amillennialism common view

Popular positions amongst Reformers / Calvinists (Origen, Augustine)

“*supersessionism*” / “*replacement theology*” : pejorative terms meaning God has replaced (abandoned!) Israel for the Church.

- Numerous other distinctions and categories (e.g. Progressive Dispensationalism)
- Reformed Baptist CT 1689 Federalism : “Two Covenants” of Galatians 4:14 (Hagar / Sarah)

Other Views / Terms ...

Preterism (*Latin praeter = past or beyond*)

Full Preterism : All significant events of prophecy (which are predominantly spiritual / figurative) took place in AD 70 when the Romans destroyed the Jewish Temple.

Must date book of Revelation before AD 70.

Christ’s physical second coming is still future: He will raise the dead and usher in the eternal state.

Partial Preterism : most eschatological events (e.g., Tribulation, Antichrist = Nero) have occurred.

Pan-millennialism : “I believe it will all pan out in the end!”

- Numerous other distinctions and categories (e.g. Progressive Dispensationalism)
- Reformed Theology / Calvinism
 - Martin Luther, later in life, saw Jews as rejected by God (some ugly history in church).

Removal of Satan Revelation 20:1-3

The Abyss : "bottomless pit" where demons are bound.

"Host of Heaven" imprisoned — Isaiah 24:21,22.

Luke 8:31 - Demons beg Christ not to send them there.

Revelation 9:1-11 : demonic locust released from The Abyss.
Their king is Abaddon (Hb) Apollyon (Gk), Destroyer.

Revelation 9:14-19 : release four angels bound at Euphrates.

Key : authorizes access; Christ holds keys of Death and Hades (Revelation 1:18).

Chains used to hold demons (Jude 6, 2 Peter 2:4). Earthly chains could not hold demons in Mark 4:4,5. *A great chain* needed for Satan.

Dragon, Ancient Serpent (Genesis 3:1) were cast to earth — Revelation 12:9.

Satan will not be allowed to "deceive the nations" during 1000 year Kingdom.

At the end of the 1000 years Satan will be released "for a little while" for a final battle (v. 7-9)

- First order of business for the establishing the Kingdom is to remove the influence of Satan and his minions.
- Some demons, fallen angels, seem to bound while others are loose. Many bound demons are loosed during the Tribulation; e.g.; unclean frogs in Revelation 16:13-14
- Mathew 10:28 : Christ able to destroy both body and soul in Hell.

Satan Bound Now?

Did Christ bind Satan during His First Coming?

Amillennial interpretation of Matthew 12:29

"Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour." 1 Peter 5:8

Who tempted Ananias? Act 5:3

"...the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God." 2 Corinthians 4:4

Who hindered Paul? 1 Thessalonians 2:18

- If I am living in the Millennium , then I got ripped off. All the talk of a golden age was just hyperbole.

The Thousand Year Reign of Christ Revelation 20:4-6

1000 years = *Millennium* (Latin) , *Chilía* (Gk χίλια ετη)

Thrones: reign of Saints with Christ as King

Christ will rule on the throne of David as told to Mary (Luke 1:32,33) with a rod of iron (Rev 12:5, 19:15)

Who did He promise would reign with Him?

"Saints of Most High" Daniel 7:18, 22, 27; Followers of Christ (Matt 19:28; 1 Cor 6:2; Rev 3:21); Tribulation Saints.

First Resurrection (v. 6); Ungodly not resurrected until end of Millennium (v. 13)

Long life (Isaiah 65:18-25)

The Tribulation and Christ's Return cause a cataclysmic change of the earth's topology and climate

Valleys raised, Mountains lowered (Isaiah 40:3,4,5)

Islands removed (Revelation 16:20).

The earth will be amenable to animals and crops (Joel 2:21-27). Desert will blossom (Isaiah 35:1,2; Isaiah 41:18-20).

Life will flourish, Animals non-predatory, ... Isaiah 11, 65

- Myriad = 10,000 (Revelation 5:11 — "myriads of myriads" = $10^4 \times 10^4 = 10^8 = 100,000,000$).
- Water Vapor return to Earth's canopy? Constant warm climate returns - no hostile environments.
- Will there be lawyers in the Millennium? :)
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The Last Battle Revelation 20:7-10

Satan released to deceive the nations (v. 7, 8)

Many will choose to reject Christ during His reign

Enemies of Christ gather to fight the saints in Jerusalem

Magog : grandson of Noah Genesis 10:2 ; Gog? Ezekiel 38:2

Battle is quick and decisive

The Great White Throne Revelation 20:11-15

White Throne : Throne of Righteous Judgement (Daniel 9:9-11)

Premillennial : judgment of wicked after 1000 year reign

Not *judgment seat of Christ* (2 Corinthians 5:10)

Our sins are forgotten (Hebrews 8:12); He *removes our transgressions* (Psalm 103:10-14)

Amillennial : judgment of all at the close of this age

Two Resurrections — John 5:29, Daniel 12:1-4

Resurrection of Life (1st Resurrection; Rev 20:4) — *“everlasting life”*

Resurrection of Damnation (2nd Resurrection; Rev 20:5) — *“everlasting contempt”*

Universe dissolves, Un-creation (v. 11, 2 Peter 3:10; Psalm 102:25,26)

Books were open (Rev 3:5; 13:8, 17:8; Daniel 7:10)

- Acts 17:31 God *“has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness”*
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Next Week
The Seed of The Serpent
vs
The Seed of the Woman
Genesis 3, Revelation 12