

The Millennium – A Handout

--Historical positions of interpretation for Revelation

1) preterist – describes the present world in which John lived

(Revelation applies to 1st C. Roman world)

2) futurist – primarily describes events that will take place at the end of history

3) idealist – symbolic and does not relate to specific events but timeless spiritual truths

4) *eclectic – combination of the various views*

--Positions of interpretation for the reign of Christ in the 'millennium':

1) Postmillennialism – Christ returns to earth after the church wins most human beings to faith in Jesus Christ; the Church will gradually produce a time of peace & righteousness to which Christ returns

2) Premillennialism – evil increases and moral & social conditions worsen culminating with the Anti-Christ, Christ returns to earth suddenly to establish his kingdom

3) Amillennialism – no physical 1000-year reign of Christ on earth, but instead His spiritual reign in hearts of His disciples that began at the cross & culminates at his return

--Interpretative combinations

Preterism & Postmillennialism

- Whore Babylon & Anti-Christ are Rome & Nero (no future Anti-Christ)
- Great Tribulation describes events surrounding Jewish rebellion & Temple destruction in 70AD
- Church is currently in the Millennium period ushering in Christ's return

Futurism & Premillennialism

- Whore Babylon & Anti-Christ are like Rome (Imperial Cult) but are still future
- Great Tribulation is future worldwide persecution of the Church
- Church is not in millennium but under persecution until rescued at Christ's return

Amillennialism

- Most adaptable to different interpretative positions
- Reject millennialism IE. No physical reign of Christ on earth, but only his spiritual reign over the Church
- Jesus' proclaimed Kingdom of God (Gospels) = Millennial Kingdom
- Return of Christ immediately ushers in the New Heaven & New Earth (Rev 21)