

The Book of Revelation

Week 2 – Approaches to Revelation

August 20, 2024

Introduction

Goals

1. To encourage believers with the basic theme and structure of Revelation.
2. To help you understand the meaning and significance of the book's broad contours and specific texts.
3. To equip you to read the Bible more faithfully and humbly.
4. To stir your worship of God, appreciation for His Word, and longing for the consummation of all things in Christ.
5. To challenge our zeal (or lack of it) for evangelizing those around us.

Questions Answered

- Why is the book so different and why does it use such radical symbolism? *It is apocalyptic literature so it uses these unique forms of communication to convey its content.*
- When was it written? *Mid-90's AD*
- Does Parkway and/or the SBC have a position on the millennium, rapture, etc.? *No*

Review

- Daniel 7-12 provides an example of apocalyptic literature.
 - Narrative Framework
 - Discourse Cycles
 - Schematization of History
 - Given by Heavenly Messenger
 - God's Eye-view of History
 - Colorful Metaphors
 - Future Hope and Present Trouble

Hermeneutical Principles

1. Note the type of literature
2. Note the perspective of the passage
3. Note the structure of the passage or book
4. Note the function and meaning of the symbols
5. Stress the theological and note the predictive with humility.

Eschatology and the Covenants

Inaugurated Eschatology

Four Approaches to Interpretation¹

1. Preterism (Partial Preterism)

Revelation's Visions

Chs. 1–3: Letters to 7 churches	Chs. 4–11: seals, trumpets, witnesses	Chs. 12–19: woman/dragon, beasts, bowls, harlot, Armageddon*	20:1–6: millennium	20:7–22:5: dragon destroyed, all in graves rise, white throne judgment, all things new
↓	↓	↓	↓	↓
1st-century churches	Jerusalem's fall: A.D. 70	Rome's fall: 4th century*	Rest of Patristic, medieval, Reformation, modern church ages	second coming, general resurrection, last judgment, new heaven and earth

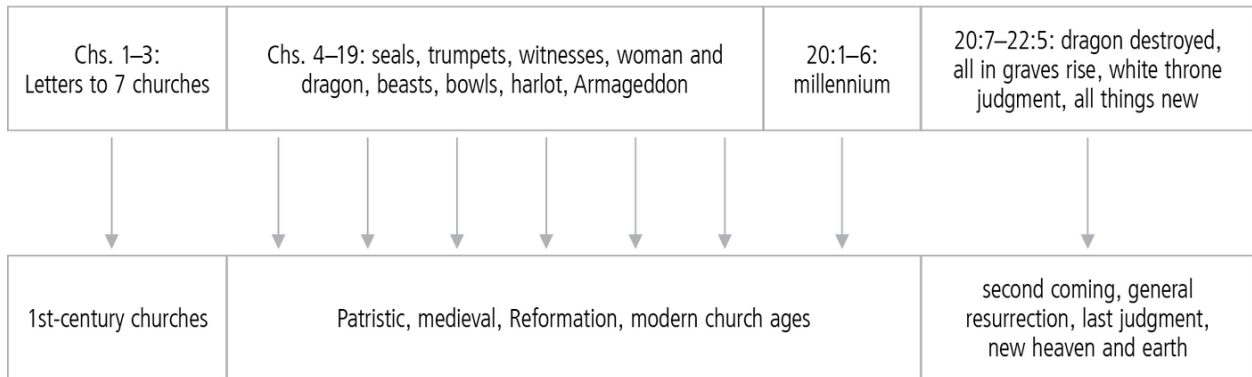
Historical References and Events

* Partial preterists differ on what would (from the original recipients' viewpoint) precipitate the millennium. This chart represents the view that sees ancient Rome as the church's main enemy. Others would understand Second Temple Judaism as the church's main enemy.

2. Historicism

¹ All graphics are from the *ESV Study Bible*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2008. P. 2456-2460.

Revelation's Visions

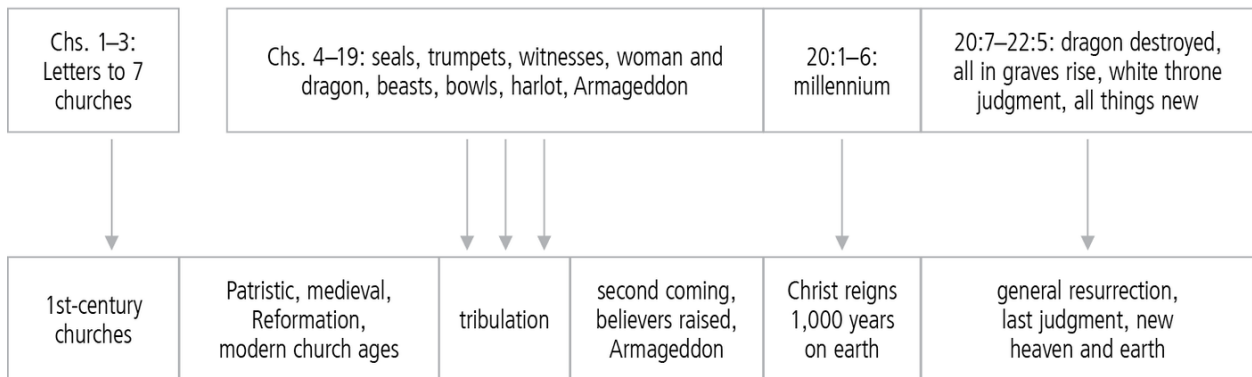


Historical References and Events

3. Futurism

Historical Premillennialism

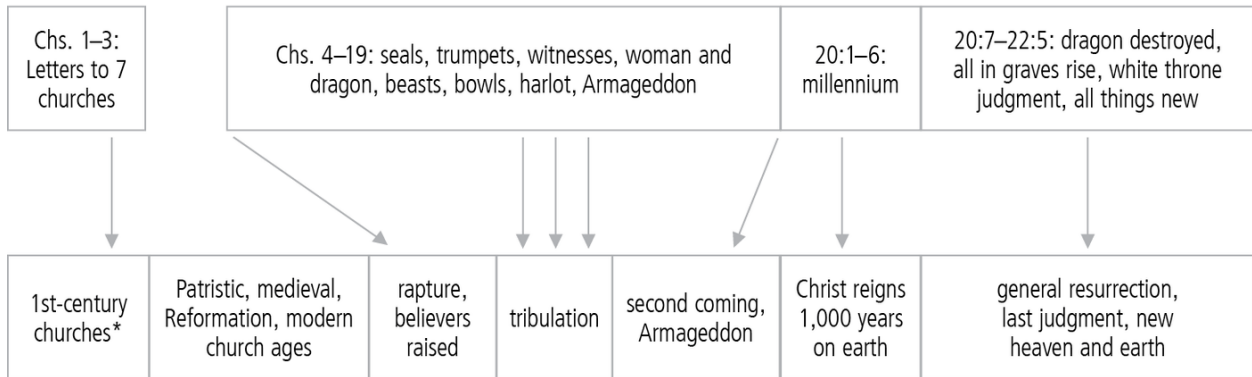
Revelation's Visions



Historical References and Events

Dispensational Premillennialism

Revelation's Visions

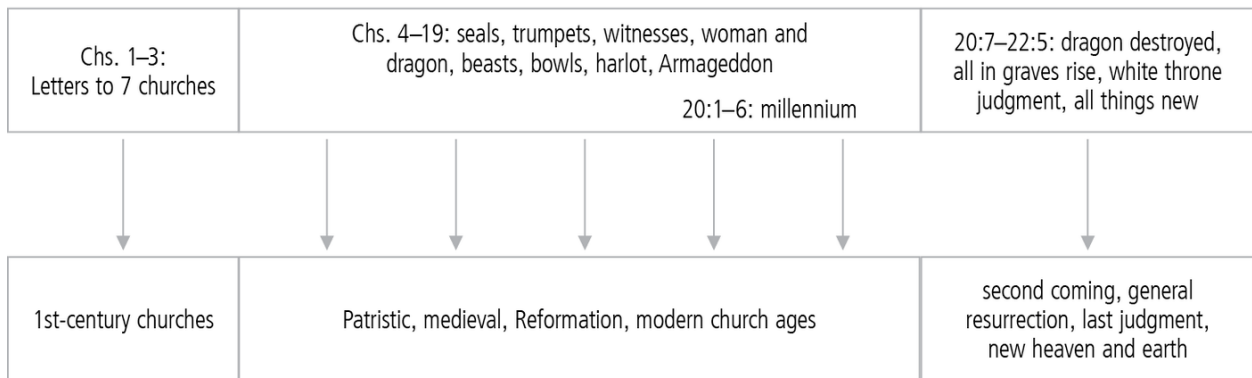


Historical References and Events

* Some dispensational interpreters think the churches addressed in chs. 2–3 predict different periods in church history.

4. Idealism

Revelation's Visions

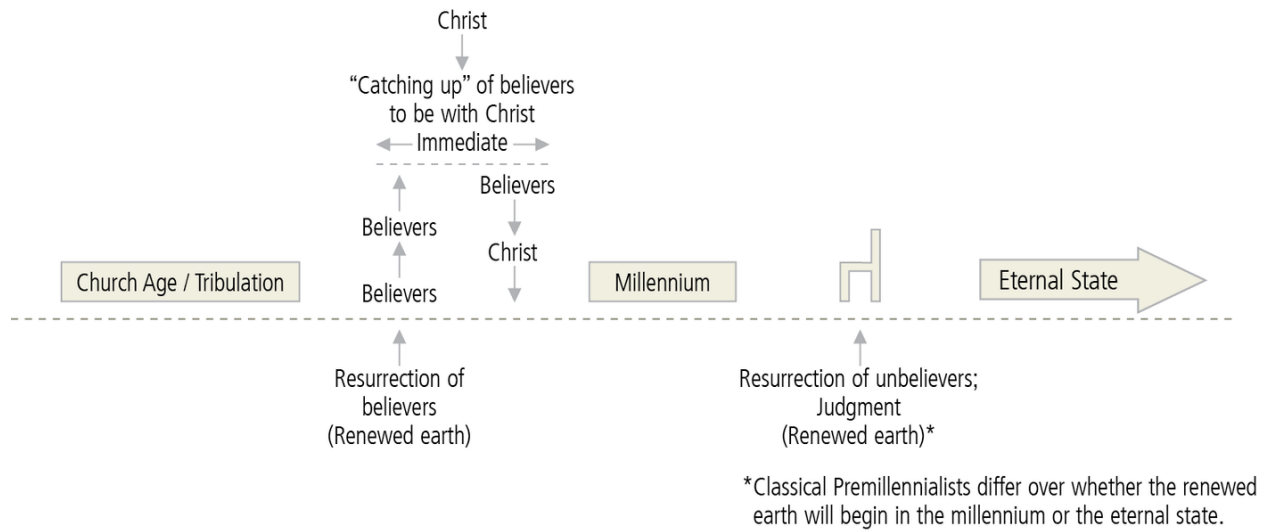


Historical References and Events

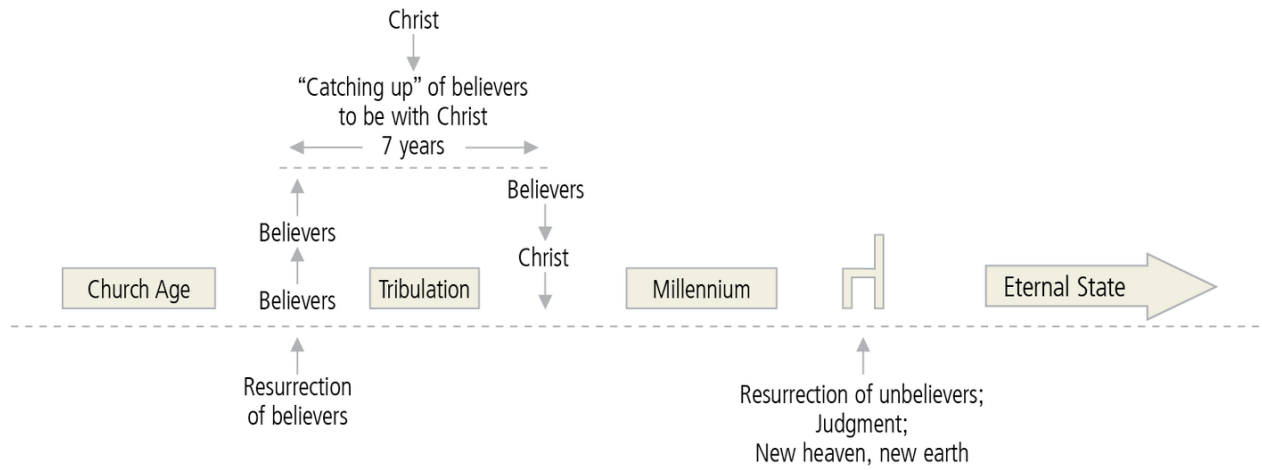
Millennial Views (Revelation 20:1-6)

Premillennialism

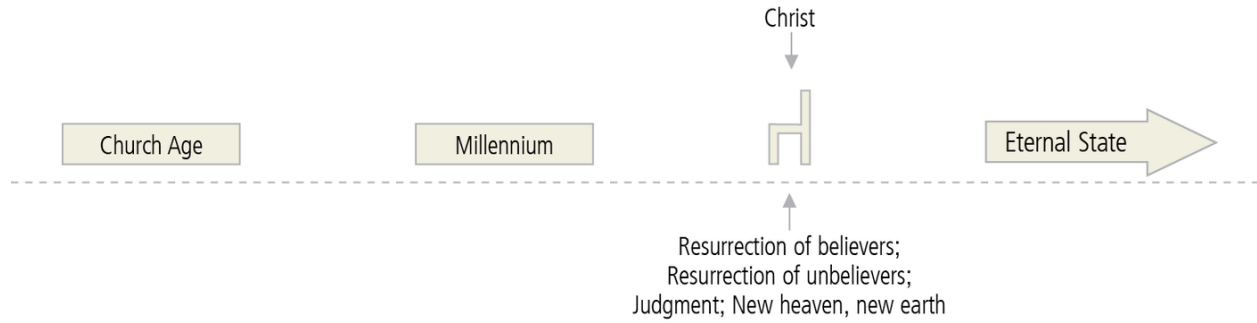
Classical Premillennialism



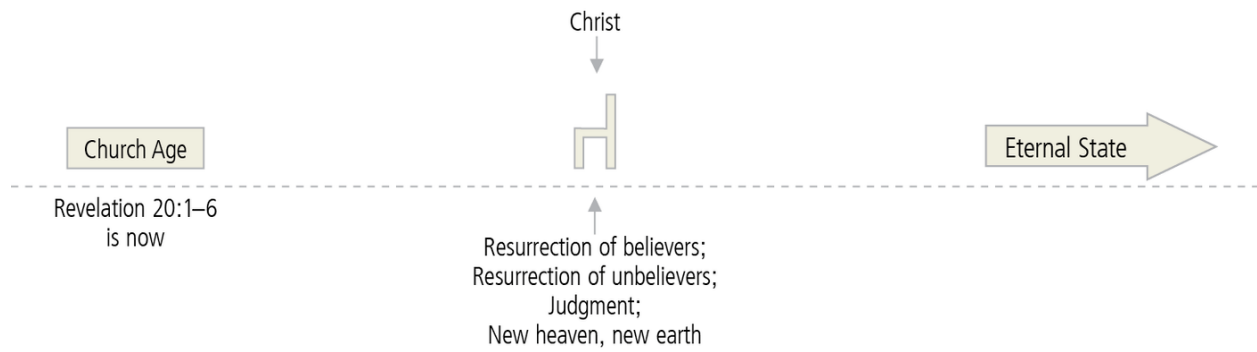
Pretribulational Premillennialism



Postmillennialism



Amillennialism



Competing Biblical-Theological Systems

1. Dispensationalism
2. Covenant Theology
3. Progressive Covenantalism

Bibliography

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Chad O. Brad, ed. *Perspectives on Israel and the Church: 4 Views*. Nashville, TN: B&H Academic, 2015. 317 pp.

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