



Eschatology

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Agenda

- What is eschatology?
- What do we believe about eschatology?
- What is the timeline for the end times?
- What are the main passages of Scripture that talk about it?
- Why should we care about eschatology?

Ἔσχατος

ESCHATOS

“LAST”

Eschatology = The Doctrine of Last Things

Eschaton = The Last Period of Human History

What do we believe about eschatology?

- There are two big controversies about eschatology that you will discover as you meet other Christians and visit other churches.
- One is huge and important—what we believe about the “millennium” and when Christ will return.
- The other is interesting but less important—what we believe about the “rapture.”

Revelation 20: 4

- “And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and **reigned with Christ for a thousand years.**”
- In Latin, the word “thousand” = *mille*, from which we get the word “millennium,” which means a thousand year period. People who believe in Christ’s future thousand year reign are called “millennial” or “millenarian.”
- In Greek, the word “thousand” = *xilia*, from which we get the word “chiliasm,” which means belief in the thousand year reign of Christ.

What all Christians *agree* about...and what they *disagree* about

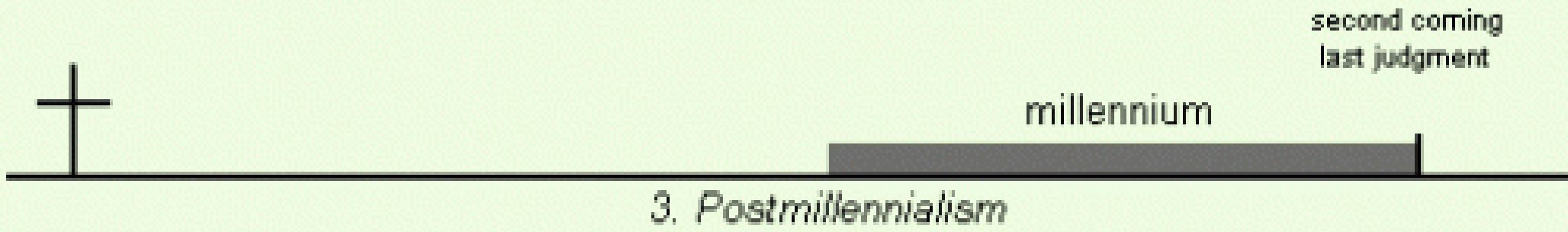
- All Christians believe that Christ will return to earth...because he said so!
- But—Christians *disagree* concerning ***when*** he will return and ***for what purpose***.
- Some Christians believe he will return before the Millennium (and will cause it).
- Some Christians believe he will return after the Millennium (which will be built by the Church.)
- Some Christians believe there will be no Millennium, and that Christ will return only to conduct the Final Judgment of Mankind.

First coming of Jesus Christ



Eternity

First coming of Jesus Christ



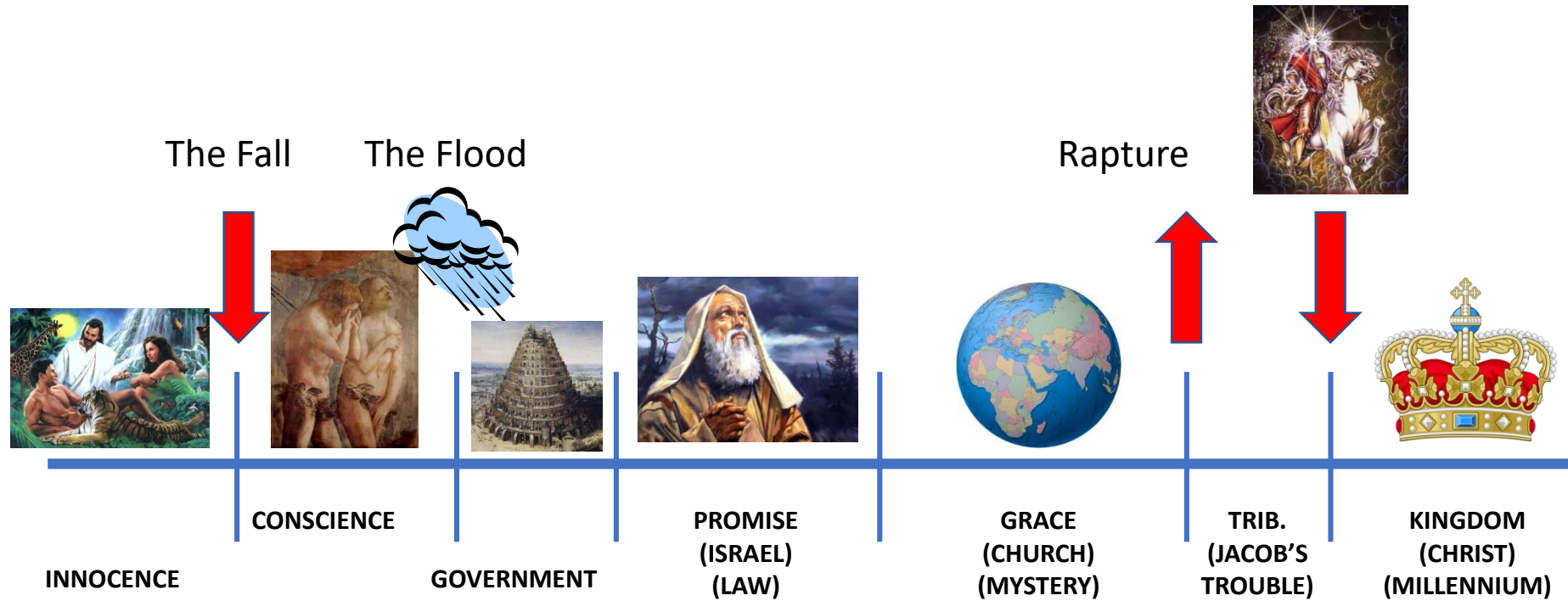
First coming of Jesus Christ



Dispensational Premillennialism

- Our church is **premillennial**. We believe that Jesus is returning to take his throne as King of Kings and will rule the earth for a thousand years.
- We also use a “dispensational” framework for understanding both history and the future.
- What is a dispensation?

Eternity
Past



- Patriarchs
- Law
- Incarnation

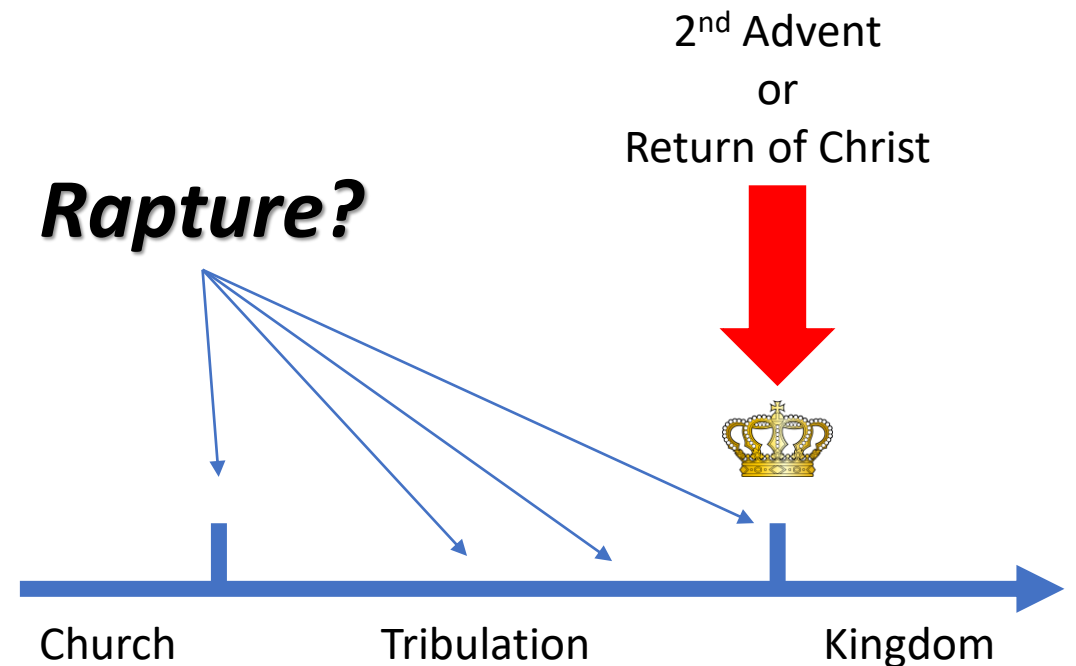
- Armageddon
- Judgments
- Satan Bound
- Kingdom
- Satan Loosed
- Gog-Magog
- Final Judgment

Dispensation: a period of time in which God dispenses His grace to mankind in a unique “economy”

Your Future!

The other controversy—the Rapture

- Among premillennial Christians, there are different beliefs about the Rapture.
 - Some do not believe in the Rapture at all.
 - Some believe that the Rapture of the Church will happen before the Tribulation.
 - Some believe that the Rapture of the Church will happen during the Tribulation.
 - Some believe that the Rapture of the Church will happen after the Tribulation.
 - Some believe in a partial Rapture of the Church.



Doctrine of the Rapture

- Normative passages
 - 1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18 (ἀρπάζω)
 - What was the problem Paul was addressing?
 - What does this tell us about what the church believed concerning the timing of the Rapture?
 - 1 Corinthians 15; focus on vv. 23, 50-58.
 - The Rapture is associated with Resurrection; and Resurrection is associated with sinlessness and holiness.
 - There are “battalions” of Resurrection: Christ, the Church, Trib and OT Saints, Millennial Saints.
 - Philippians 3: 20-21

What is the timeline for the end times?

- We believe that the Church Age (that we're in now) will continue until an unknown day on which the Rapture will miraculously happen.
- On that day, every believer in Christ will disappear from the earth.
 - First, the bodies of dead believers will rise into the clouds.
 - Then, living believers will join Jesus in the clouds.
 - Then, all Church Age believers will be judged, disciplined, rewarded, and resurrected!
- Seven years later, we will return with Christ to the earth for the great Battle of Armageddon, in which Jesus will fight his way to the throne.

Michael vs Satan;
Satan cast out of Heaven

Rapture

(Unknown Day)



- * Mt 24: 7-8
- * Beginning of Sorrows
- * False Covenant (Dan 9: 27)
- * Seal Judgments (Rev 6)

Second Advent
(Known Day)



- * Mt 24: 9-31
- * Great tribulation
- * Believing Israel flees
- * Unbelieving Israel into apostasy
- Trumpet Judgments
- Bowl Judgments

“Do not be deceived!”

- * Age of Church
- * False Christs
- * Wars & Rumors of Wars
- * Mt 24: 4-6
- * FALSE signs of the Tribulation

- * Rise of Revived Roman Empire...
- * Sealing of the 144,000
- * Ministry of the Two Witnesses

Abomination of Desolation
(Mt 24:15
Dan 9:27)



- * Israel regathered
- * Judgement of Gentile nations (Sheep and goats)

“Daniel’s Seventieth Week”

Why should we care about eschatology?

- Jesus told us to pray for the Kingdom to come! (Matthew 6: 10)
- Do you love Jesus?
- The Bible teaches that belief in the coming Kingdom is directly linked to your holiness and success as a believer!
 - “Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear.” (Hebrews 12: 28)
 - “Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ...” (1 Peter 1: 13)

Do you believe in the coming Kingdom?

Sure, I believe!



Again, the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.
(Matthew 13: 44)



Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven...
(Mt. 6:10)



Henceforth there is laid up
for me a crown of righteousness,
which the Lord, the righteous judge,
shall give me at that day: and not
to me only, but unto all them also
that love his appearing. (2 Tim 4:8)

The Kingdom

Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever;
a scepter of justice will be the scepter of your kingdom.
(Psalm 45:6)

Christ will fight to establish it

- Gird your sword on your side, you mighty one; clothe yourself with splendor and majesty. In your majesty ride forth victoriously in the cause of truth, humility and justice; let your right hand achieve awesome deeds. Let your sharp arrows pierce the hearts of the king's enemies; let the nations fall beneath your feet. (Psalm 45: 3-5)
- Revelation 19:11-21!



We will reign with him

- And they sang a new song, saying: “You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased for God persons from every tribe and language and people and nation. You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth.” (Rev. 5:10) (Church)
- Revelation 20:4-6 (Trib and OT Saints)
- 2 Timothy 2:12 (Church)
- Matthew 25:14-30 (Israel)
- Luke 19:11-27 (Israel)
- Revelation 2: 24-27 (Church)

Government of the Kingdom

Israel

- David as regent (Jer. 30:8-9; Ez. 34: 23-24)
- Tribal leaders under regent (Ez. 45:8)
- Municipal rulers (Luke 19:17)
- Judges restored (Is.1:26)

Nations

- The Church will reign with Christ, and most likely will focus on the government of the nations.

The Law will be restored

- Temple rebuilt (Ezekiel 40-47)
- Zadokite Priesthood (Ez. 40:46)
- Blood Sacrifice (Ez. 43: 19-20)
- Universal participation in feasts (Zech. 14:16-19)

Life in the Kingdom

- All nations worshipping (Is. 2:2-3; 19:23-25)
- Joy and peace (Is. 9:3-7; Is. 12)
- Comfort (Jer. 31)
- Peace and prosperity (Is. 65:19-24)
- Nature restored (Is. 11: 1-9)
- Physical health and longevity (Is. 33:24; 65:20; Jer. 30:17)

Will be opposed

- Isaiah 45:22-24—All shall bow...
- Psalm 2—Rebellion simmers...
- Revelation 20:7-10—Rebellion unleashed!