

Systematic Theology II

Taught by Dr. Luke Johnson

Mondays, June 15th - July 20th

6:30-8pm in the Education Center

SCHEDULE FOR COURSE AND EVENING

SCHEDULE FOR THE COURSE:

WEEK 1: PNEUMATOLOGY I

WEEK 2: PNEUMATOLOGY II

WEEK 3: ECCLESIOLOGY I

WEEK 4: ECCLESIOLOGY II

WEEK 5: ESCHATOLOGY I

WEEK 6: ESCHATOLOGY II

SCHEDULE FOR THE EVENING:

6:30-7:10 LECTURE

7:10-7:15 BREAK

7:15-8:00 LECTURE

THEOLOGICAL TRIAGE

Full Deity and Actual Humanity of Christ

The Trinity

Justification by Faith Alone

Authority of the Scriptures

Ecclesiology

Baptism

Lord's Supper

Gender Roles in the Church

Certain Eschatological Questions

Gospel Freedom Issues

Understanding of Some Difficult Texts

Understanding of Miraculous Gifts

**TIER 1:
DIFFERENT FAITH**

**TIER 2:
DIFFERENT CHURCH**

**TIER 3:
DISAGREE WITH UNITY**

KEY FOUNDATIONAL DOCTRINES

2 Timothy 3:16–17

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

2 Peter 1:19–21

And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts, knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

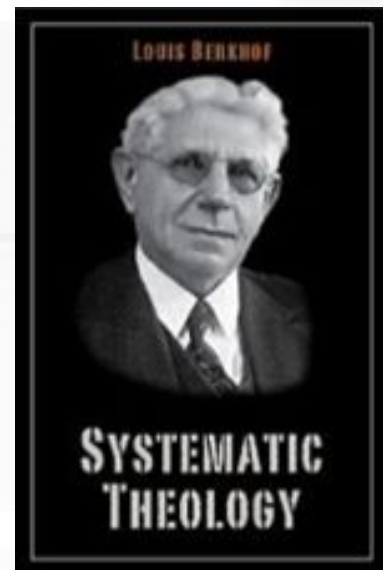
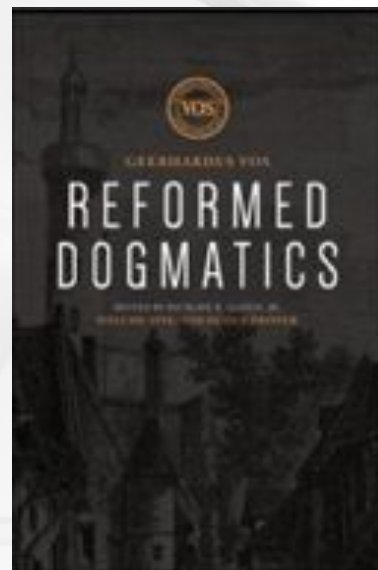
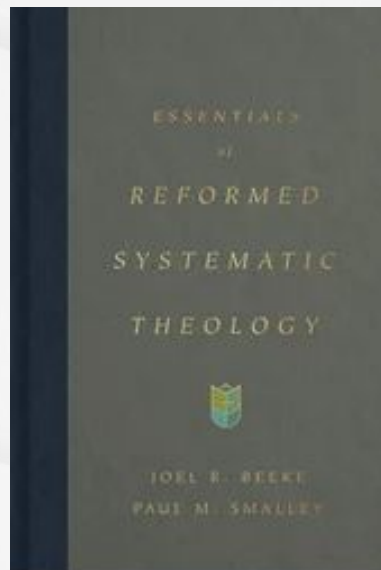
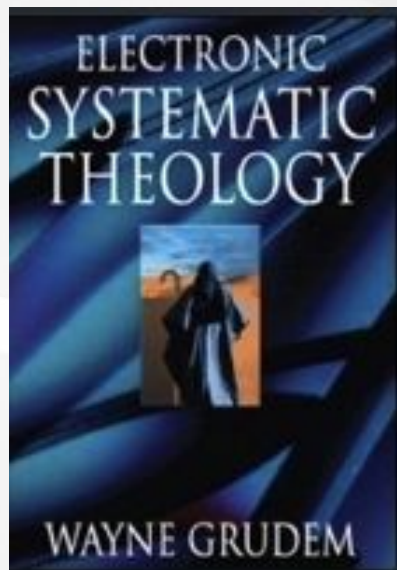
SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY II

PNEUMATOLOGY | ECCLESIOLOGY | **ESCHATOLOGY**

ESCHATOLOGY:

DOCTRINES OF THE LAST THINGS

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES:



RECOMMENDED RESOURCES:

Heaven Is Not My Home



1. Heaven is Not My Home | Part 1

Jun 8, 2025 • Drew Warner



2. Heaven is Not My Home | Part 2

May 11, 2025 • Drew Warner



3. Heaven is Not My Home | Part 3

May 4, 2025 • Drew Warner



4. Heaven is Not My Home | Part 4

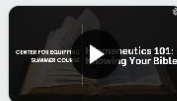
Jun 29, 2025 • Drew Warner

Hermeneutics 101: Knowing Your Bible



Hermeneutics 101 | Session 1: Part 1

Jul 8, 2025 • Luke Johnson



Hermeneutics 101 | Session 1: Part 2

Jul 8, 2025 • Luke Johnson



Hermeneutics 101 | Session 2: Part 1

Jul 15, 2025 • Luke Johnson



Hermeneutics 101 | Session 2: Part 2

Jul 15, 2025 • Luke Johnson



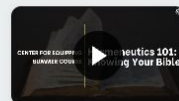
Hermeneutics 101 | Session 3: Part 1

Jul 22, 2025 • Luke Johnson



Hermeneutics 101 | Session 3: Part 2

Jul 22, 2025 • Luke Johnson



Hermeneutics 101 | Session 4: Part 1

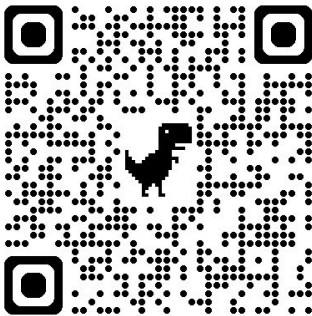
Jul 28, 2025 • Luke Johnson



Hermeneutics 101 | Session 4: Part 2

Jul 28, 2025 • Luke Johnson

SCAN HERE TO ACCESS THESE LECTURES!



RECOMMENDED RESOURCES:



An Evening of Eschatology – Premillennialism, Amillennialism, Postmillennialism

All From Desiring God



An Evening of Eschatology: Revisiting The Millennium | Kenwood Hall Disputation Series

All From Kenwood Institute

ESCHATOLOGY:

DOCTRINES OF LAST THINGS

- **Session 1: End Times Passages in the Old & New Testaments**
- **Session 2: Terms, Frameworks, Rapture, and Millennial Views of the End Times**



TERMS

ESCHATOLOGICAL TERMINOLOGY

- **Rapture-** The “taking up” or snatching up (from Latin *rapio* “seize, snatch, carry away”) of believers to be with Christ when he returns to the earth. (Grudem, *Systematic Theology*)

Only 1 explicit occurrence of the “rapture” of the saints

¹⁵ For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁶ For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. (1 Thess 4:15–17)

ESCHATOLOGICAL TERMINOLOGY

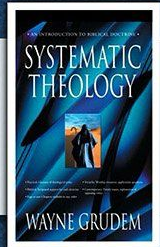
- **Tribulation-** A period of time, understood as either a literal 7 year period, in fulfillment of Daniel's "70 weeks" prophecy, or as an indefinite amount of time at the close of "this age" in which Satan torments the earth in general, and the Church in particular, in an intensified way before his inevitable judgment.

ESCHATOLOGICAL TERMINOLOGY

³ *Let no one deceive you in any way. For that day will not come, unless the rebellion comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, ⁴ who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God. ⁵ Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things? ⁶ And you know what is restraining him now so that he may be revealed in his time. ⁷ For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work. Only he who now restrains it will do so until he is out of the way. ⁸ And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will kill with the breath of his mouth and bring to nothing by the appearance of his coming. ⁹ The coming of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan with all power and false signs and wonders, ¹⁰ and with all wicked deception for those who are perishing, because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. ¹¹ Therefore God sends them a strong delusion, so that they may believe what is false, ¹² in order that all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness. (2 Thess 2:3–12)*

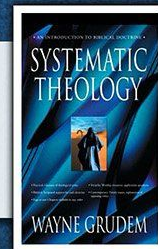
Great Tribulation: Once again, it seems likely that the language of Scripture indicates a period of suffering coming to the earth that is far greater than anything that has yet been experienced. But it must be realized that many people have understood Jesus' warnings about great tribulation to refer to the Roman siege of Jerusalem in the Jewish War of A.D. 66–70.¹⁸ The suffering during that war was indeed terrible, and could be what was described by Jesus in predicting this tribulation.

WAYNE GRUDEM
Systematic Theology



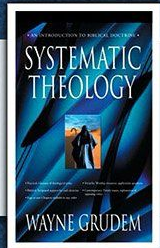
In fact, since the first century, there have been many periods of violent and intense persecution of Christians, and even in our century much of it has occurred over large portions of the globe, with Christians being horribly persecuted in the former Soviet Union, in communist China, and in Muslim countries. It would be difficult to convince some Christians in this century who have undergone decades of persecution for their faith, and have known that persecution to affect thousands of other Christians throughout large segments of the world, that such a great tribulation has certainly not yet occurred. They have longed and prayed for years for Christ to come and rescue them from the tribulation that they are enduring.

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Once again, though we may think that Jesus' words indicate the likelihood of a yet greater persecution coming in the future, it is difficult to be certain of this. It seems appropriate to conclude that it is unlikely but possible that the prediction of a great tribulation has already been fulfilled.

WAYNE GRUDEM
Systematic Theology



ESCHATOLOGICAL TERMINOLOGY

- **Millennium-** The word *millennium* means “one thousand years” (from Lat. *millennium* “thousand years”). The term comes from Revelation 20:4–5, where it says that certain people “came to life, and reigned with Christ *a thousand years*. The rest of the dead did not come to life until *the thousand years* were ended.” Just prior to this statement, we read that an angel came down from heaven and seized the devil “and bound him for *a thousand years* and threw him into the pit, and shut it and sealed it over him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till *the thousand years* were ended” (Rev. 20:2–3). (Grudem, *Systematic Theology*)

REVELATION

APPROACHING THE BOOK

FRAMEWORKS FOR ESCHATOLOGY

- **Author:** The Apostle John, while exiled and imprisoned on the island of Patmos
- **Audience:** Seven churches of Asia Minor (Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea)
- **Date of Writing:** 90-100 A.D.
- **Genre:** Apocalyptic
 - Includes prophecy
 - Heavy use of symbolism
 - Dependent on OT allusions and micro-allusions

FRAMEWORKS FOR ESCHATOLOGY

- Theme: Consummation of all things in Christ
- Key Verse: “Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this.” (Rev. 1:19)
- Significant Imagery/Themes
 - “Angels”- 75x
 - “Babylon,” “Beast,” and “Dragon”- 57x
 - Numbers: “7” (54x), “12” (22x), Multiples of 12 (i.e. “144,000”), “1,000” (aka: The Millennium)

FRAMEWORKS FOR ESCHATOLOGY

- **Preterist-** In general, all events of Revelation are completed by 70 A.D. until chapters 21-22
- **Futurist-** In general, all events of Revelation are yet to come after chapter 3
- **Historic-** In general, the events of Revelation have been and will continue to unfold from the 1st century until the return of Christ
- **Spiritual-** The content of Revelation is allegorical, and symbolically depicts the struggle between good and evil

HERMENEUTICAL DIFFICULTIES

PRINCIPLES OF HERMENEUTICS

- **Historical-** Every Biblical passage is situated in a particular time and cultural that shapes a proper understanding of the respective text.
- **Grammatical-** Every Biblical passage is constructed of words, syntax, sentences, paragraphs, pericopes, etc., which form the essential basis for meaningful communication.
- **Literary-** Every Biblical passage belongs to a literary genre that utilizes various literary devices (narrative prose, metaphor, allegory, etc.) to accomplish the desired communicative purpose.

HERMENEUTICS OF REVELATION

- **Historical:**
 - What is a reference to Rome? What is archetypal of human history?
 - What is directly *about* the 1st century church, and what is prophetic *for* the entire church?
- **Grammatical/Literary:**
 - Is the flow of argumentation (1) linear, (2) cyclical, (3) chiasmic, (4) other?
 - To what degree is the language symbolic versus literal?
 - To what degree does John rely on the OT, and to what degree does the OT govern the interpretation of Revelation?

HERMENEUTICS OF REVELATION

- **Historical:**
 - **Seven churches of Revelation 2-3 were actual churches, whose circumstances addressed are historically verifiable and contextually relevant to their historical situation.**
 - **Babylon in Revelation 18 is, and was at the time of the writing of Revelation, a conquered and non-existent empire.**
“Babylon” as a Biblical motif, however, spans the entirety of the Biblical narrative, beginning in Genesis 10 and 11.
(Hebrew *babel* in the “Tower of Babel” is the same *babel* that appears as “Babylon” in English, which is the nation who conquers Judah in 1 Kings 25, Daniel 1, etc.)

**POINT: THERE ARE BOTH
HISTORICAL AND THEMATIC
REFERENTS IN REVELATION**

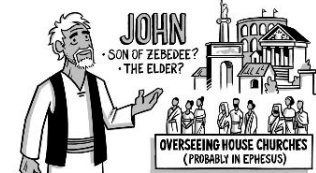
HERMENEUTICS OF REVELATION

- **Grammatical/Literary:**
 - **What is the orientation of the flow of thought?**

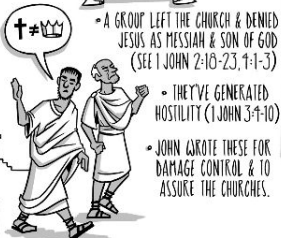
A LINEAR, CHRONOLOGICAL TIMELINE OF REVELATION



THE AUTHOR
"THE ELDER" → THE DISCIPLE
(SEE 2&3 JOHN) JESUS LOVED
(SEE JOHN 21:20-24)



THE CRISIS
• A GROUP LEFT THE CHURCH & DENIED
JESUS AS MESSIAH & SON OF GOD
(SEE 1 JOHN 2:10-23, 4:1-3)



THE LETTERS OF 1-2-3 JOHN

KNOWING JESUS = KNOWING THE GOD of LOVE

THE UNIQUENESS OF
1 JOHN

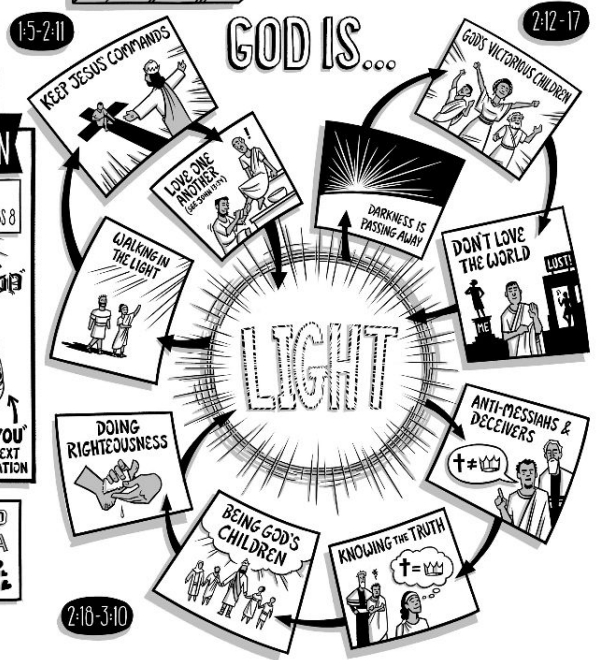
- NOT A LETTER, BUT A POETIC SERMON
- ALL THE KEY IDEAS CAME FROM JESUS' FINAL SPEECH IN JOHN chs.13-17

~~NOT LINEAR~~
~~1 AND 2, THEREFORE, BUT NOT 3, THUS, 5...~~

"AMPLIFICATION"

- CYCLICAL REpetition
- HYPERBOLE
- STARK CONTRASTS

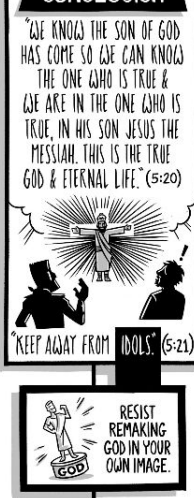
1:5-3:10 THIS IS THE MESSAGE...



3:11-5:17 THIS IS THE MESSAGE...



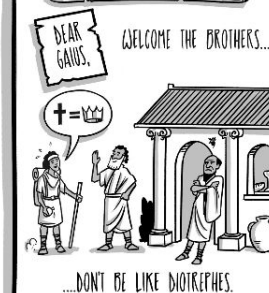
5:18-21 CONCLUSION



DEAR CHURCH, IF THE 'DECEIVERS' COME TO YOUR CHURCH...



DEAR GAIUS, WELCOME THE BROTHERS...



1a OPENING

SYMBOLIC VISIONS
 * A TYPE OF JEWISH LITERATURE
 (EZEKIEL, DANIEL, EZRA, 1 ENOCH)
 THAT REVEAL A HEAVENLY PERSPECTIVE ON HISTORY IN LIGHT OF ITS FINAL OUTCOME

MEANINGFUL IMAGES DRAWN FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT

LETTER (1:1-2:21)
 SENT TO 7 CHURCHES
 ITS MEANING FOR US MUST BE ANCHORED IN JOHN'S MEANING FOR THEM!

PROPHET (1:3)
 GOD'S WORD THROUGH A PROPHET
 BRINGS OLD TESTAMENT PROMISE TO ITS COMPLETION

JOHN
 THE BELOVED DISCIPLE?
 ANOTHER JOHN?

THE REVELATION OF JESUS



A SYMBOLIC VISION FOR EVERY GENERATION OF THE CHURCH

HISTORY'S PATTERN THAT REVEALS GOD'S PROMISE

ALL HUMAN KINGDOMS BECOME BABYLON & MUST BE RESISTED

JESUS WILL RETURN TO REMOVE EVIL FROM HIS WORLD

1b-3 MESSAGE TO THE 7 CHURCHES

THE SEVEN CHURCHES (SEE REVELATION 1)
 EPHESUS, SMYRNA, PEGAMUM, THYATIRA, SARDEIS, PHILADELPHIA & LAODICEA

PERSECUTION
 TRIBULATION (2:10)
 COMPROMISE
 FAITHFULNESS
 IMMORTALITY
 APOSTASY
 REFUGES

THE CONQUERORS ARE REWARDED in the NEW CREATION (ch. 21-22)

6-16 3 SETS OF 7 DIVINE JUDGMENTS

10-11 SEVEN SEALS

12-14 SEVEN SIGNS (SYMBOLS)

15-16 SEVEN BOWLS

17-19a THE FALL OF BABYLON

19b-20 THE FINAL BATTLE

21-22 THE MARRIAGE OF HEAVEN & EARTH

ch. 7 THE LAMB'S ARMY

MARK GOD'S SERVANTS: the 144,000
 MILITARY CENSUS OF 12 TRIBES (SEE NUMBERS 1)

THEY CAN!

THE MESSIANIC ARMY OF GOD'S KINGDOM FROM ALL NATIONS

ch. 8 THE DAY OF THE LORD

WHO CAN STAND?
 REST A LITTLE LONGER...
 (ISAH 26:12)

ch. 9 THE LAMB'S SCROLL

MEASURE THE TEMPLE
 BUT EXCLUDING THE COURT
 (2:18-21)

ch. 10 THE LAMB'S SCROLL

MEASURE THE TEMPLE
 BUT EXCLUDING THE COURT
 (2:18-21)

ch. 11 THE LAMB'S SCROLL

MEASURE THE TEMPLE
 BUT EXCLUDING THE COURT
 (2:18-21)

4-5 THE THRONE OF GOD & THE LAMB

HOLY!
 HOLY!
 MESSAGE OF THE PROPHETS (ISAIAH 6:1-6; EZEKIEL 23; DANIEL 12)
 ABOUT HOW GOD'S KINGDOM WILL COME ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN

WHO CAN OPEN THE SCROLL?

THE SACRIFICED LAMB
 GOD'S KINGDOM WAS INAUGURATED THROUGH THE CRUCIFIED MESSIAH (WHO DIED FOR HIS ENEMIES)

THE LION OF JUDAH!
 THE ROOT OF DAVID!
 (ISAIAH 11:1)

12-14 SEVEN SIGNS (SYMBOLS)

THE COSMIC BATTLE (BASED GENESIS 3:15)
 THEY CONQUER THE DRAGON THROUGH THE BLOOD OF THE LAMB (12:11)

15 THE EARTHLY BATTLE (BASED DANIEL 7:12)

MILITARY POWER
 ECONOMIC MACHINE
 BABYLON
 THE ANTI-CHRIST
 THE GRAPE HARVEST OF GOD'S PEOPLE

16a THE LAMB'S ARMY

THE ETERNAL GOSPEL (14:6)
 THE NEW JERUSALEM

16b FINAL JUSTICE

THE CHOICE
 RESIST BABYLON TO FOLLOW THE LAMB
 OR
 FOLLOW THE BEAST & SUFFER ITS DEFEAT

15-16 SEVEN BOWLS

THE EXODUS PLAGUES (AGAIN!)

ARMAGEDDON:
 LOCATION OF MANY ISRAELITE BATTLES (JUDGES 5:14, 2 KINGS 23:29)
 SYMBOL OF REBELLIOUS NATIONS (EZEKIEL 38-39)

16-17-21

17-19a THE FALL OF BABYLON

BABYLON → ROME'S MILITARY & ECONOMIC POWER
 ARCHETYPE OF HUMANITY'S REBELLION AGAINST GOD

BLEND OF OLD TESTAMENT IMAGES DESCRIBING BABYLON, TYRE & BOM
 (ISAIAH 13, 23, 39, 47; EZEKIEL 26-27)

19b-20 THE FINAL BATTLE

THE FINAL BATTLE I (ch. 19)
 JUSTICE
 THE PARTIES VINDICATED
 THE MARTYRS REDEEMED
 FOR 1,000 YEARS
 THE FINAL BATTLE II (ch. 20)
 THE DRAGON, BABYLON & ALL UNBELIEVERS ARE ETERNALLY QUARANTINED

THE POINT:
 JESUS CIVIL RETURN AS A KING TO DEAL WITH EVIL & VINDICATE HIS FOLLOWERS

21-22 THE MARRIAGE OF HEAVEN & EARTH

THE BRIDE OF THE LAMB
 ALL HUMANITY
 I AM MAKING ALL THINGS NEW (ch. 3)

ALL CREATION
 GOD'S TEMPLE
 THE LAMBS

HUMANITY RULES AS GOD'S IMAGE
 (GENESIS 1:26-28)

KALEIDOSCOPE OF OLD TESTAMENT PROMISES
 NEW HEAVEN & EARTH (ISAIAH 65:17)
 NEW GARDEN OF EDEN (GENESIS 2, EZEKIEL 47)
 NEW JERUSALEM (ISAIAH 2, ZEPHANIAH 3)

This is the outline of the chiasm:

1.  A: Prologue 1:1-1:11
2.  B: First Septet – Seven Churches 1:12-3:22
3.  C: Second Septet – Seven Seals 4:1-8:1
4.  D: Third Septet – Seven Trumpets 8:2-11:19
5.  E: Fourth Septet – Seven Visions 12:1-15:1
6.  D': Fifth Septet – Seven Bowls of Wrath Containing the Seven Plagues 15:2-16:17
7.  C': Sixth Septet – Seven Condemnations of Babylon 16:18-19:10
8.  B': Seventh Septet – Seven visions of the victory of Christ's Kingdom 19:11-22:5
9.  A': Epilogue 22:6-22:21

The introduction to section E, the middle part of the Revelation chiasm, is itself another chiasm:

1.  Ea: The Bride reflecting the glory of her husband 12:1
2.  Eb: The Child of the woman 12:2
3.  Ec: The Dragon tries to devour the Child 12:3-12:5
4.  Ed: The woman flees to the wilderness 12:6
5.  Ee: Dragon war in heaven 12:7-12:9
6.  Ef: Victory of Christ & His people over the dragon 12:10-12:11
7.  Ee': Dragon war on earth 12:12-12:13
8.  Ed': The woman flees to the wilderness 12:14
9.  Ec': The Dragon's mouth & the earth swallows the serpents flood 12:15-12:16
10.  Eb': The rest of the offspring of the woman 12:17a
11.  Ea': The church reflecting the word of Christ 12:17b

HERMENEUTICS OF REVELATION

- Grammatical/Literary:
 - What is symbolic versus literal?

¹² Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking to me, and on turning I saw seven golden lampstands, ¹³ and in the midst of the lampstands one like a son of man, clothed with a long robe and with a golden sash around his chest. ¹⁴ The hairs of his head were white, like white wool, like snow. His eyes were like a flame of fire, ¹⁵ his feet were like burnished bronze, refined in a furnace, and his voice was like the roar of many waters. ¹⁶ In his right hand he held seven stars, from his mouth came a sharp two-edged sword, and his face was like the sun shining in full strength. ¹⁷ When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he laid his right hand on me, saying, "Fear not, I am the first and the last, ¹⁸ and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades. ¹⁹ Write therefore the things that you have seen, those that are and those that are to take place after this. ²⁰ As for the mystery of the seven stars that you saw in my right hand, and the seven golden lampstands, the seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.
(Rev 1:12–20)

HERMENEUTICS OF REVELATION

- Grammatical/Literary:
 - What is symbolic versus literal?

² Then I saw another angel ascending from the rising of the sun, with the seal of the living God, and he called with a loud voice to the four angels who had been given power to harm earth and sea, ³ saying, “Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees, until we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads.” ⁴ And I heard the number of the sealed, 144,000, sealed from every tribe of the sons of Israel. (Rev 7:2–4)

HERMENEUTICS OF REVELATION

- Grammatical/Literary:
 - What is symbolic versus literal?

Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding in his hand the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain. ² And he seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years, ³ and threw him into the pit, and shut it and sealed it over him, so that he might not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were ended. After that he must be released for a little while.

⁴ Then I saw thrones, and seated on them were those to whom the authority to judge was committed. Also I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for the testimony of Jesus and for the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. ⁵ The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended. This is the first resurrection. ⁶ Blessed and holy is the one who shares in the first resurrection! Over such the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ, and they will reign with him for a thousand years. (Rev 20:1–6)

HERMENEUTICS OF REVELATION

- Grammatical/Literary:
 - How much does the OT govern the interpretation of Revelation?

¹¹ Then I saw heaven opened, and behold (Ezk 1:1), a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True (Dt 32:4; Is 43:10-13; 65:16), and in righteousness he judges (Is 11:3-5) and makes war (Ps 96:13; 98:9). ¹² His eyes are like a flame of fire (Dan 7:9-12; 10:5-6), and on his head are many diadems (Is 62:2-3), and he has a name written that no one knows but himself (Is 65:15). ¹³ He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood (Is 63:2-3), and the name by which he is called is The Word of God (Jn 1:1). ¹⁴ And the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses. ¹⁵ From his mouth comes a sharp sword (Is 11:4; 49:2) with which to strike down the nations (Ezk 38-39), and he will rule them with a rod of iron (Ps 2:9). He will tread the winepress (Is 63:3; Joel 3:12-13) of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty. ¹⁶ On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords (Dt 10:17; Ps 45:3; 136:2-3; Dan 4:37). (Rev 19:11–16)

OVERVIEW OF REVELATION

OVERVIEW OF REVELATION

- **Ch. 1: Introduction and First Vision**
 - **Opening**
 - **Vision of Jesus**
- **Chs. 2-3: Letters to the 7 Churches of Asia Minor**
 - **Depiction of Jesus**
 - **Word of Correction**
 - **Word of Encouragement**
 - **Reward for Endurance**

OVERVIEW OF REVELATION

- **Chs. 4-5: Throne of God & the Lamb**
 - **Heavenly Vision**
 - **Heavenly Population**
 - **“Who can open the scroll?”**
 - **Answer:**
 - **John hears “The Lion of Judah”**
 - **John sees “Lamb who was slain”**
- **Chs. 6-16: 3 Sets of 7 Divine Judgments**
 - **“3” is the number of “completeness” or “fullness”**
 - **“7” is the number of “perfection” or “completion”**

OVERVIEW OF REVELATION

- **Ch. 6-8a: Seven Seals**
 - **(1) Horseman of Conquest (White Horse)**
 - **(2) Horseman of War (Red Horse)**
 - **(3) Horseman of Famine (Black Horse)**
 - **(4) Horseman of Death (Pale Horse)**
 - **(5) Death of Martyrs**
 - **(6) Day of the Lord: Cosmic Upheaval and Wrath**
 - ***Interlude: 144,000 Servants Sealed & Preserved***
 - **(7) Silence in Heaven, then Trumpets Introduced**

OVERVIEW OF REVELATION

- **Ch. 8b-11: Seven Trumpets**
 - **(1) Earth & Vegetation Struck (1/3 Destroyed)**
 - **(2) Sea Struck (1/3 Destroyed)**
 - **(3) Freshwater Struck (1/3 Destroyed)**
 - **(4) Heavens Struck (1/3 Darkened)**
 - **(5) First Woe: Demonic Locust Creatures from Abyss**
 - **(6) Second Woe: 4 Angels and Army (1/3 of Humanity Destroyed)**
 - ***Interlude: Two Witnesses Testify, are Killed, then Vindicated***
 - **(7) Kingdom Announced and Temple Opened**

OVERVIEW OF REVELATION

- **Ch. 12-14: Seven Signs/Symbols**
 - **(1) Woman Clothed with the Sun & Male Child (Jesus)**
 - **(2) Great Red Dragon (Satan)**
 - **(3) Beast from the Sea (Persecution of Christ & Church)**
 - **(4) Beast from the earth (False Prophet: Counterfeit Religion; Marked by “666” on Head & Hands)**
 - **(5) The Lamb & His 144,000 on Mount Zion (Preservation)**
 - **(6) Three Angelic Proclamations (Worship the Creator; Babylon has Fallen; Wrath Upon Worshipers of Beast)**
 - **(7) The Final Harvest of the Earth**

OVERVIEW OF REVELATION

- **Ch. 15-16: Seven Trumpets**
 - **(1) Sores Afflict Those Marked by the Beast**
 - **(2) Sea Becomes Blood**
 - **(3) Freshwater Becomes Blood**
 - **(4) Sun Scorches the Unrepentant**
 - **(5) Beast's Kingdom Darkened & People Suffer**
 - **(6) Euphrates Dried & Armies Arrayed for Armageddon**
 - ***Interlude: None***
 - **(7) Final Judgment: "It Is Done"**

OVERVIEW OF REVELATION

- **Ch. 17-20: Fall of Babylon, the Beast, False Prophet, “Marked”**
 - **Babylon Falls**
 - **Marriage Supper of the Lamb**
 - **Rider on the White Horse**
 - **Destruction of Kings of Earth**
 - **Destruction of Beast**
 - **Destruction of False Prophet**
 - **The Millennium**
 - **Martyrs Vindicated**
 - **Satan Bound**
 - **Final Battle, Great White Throne Judgment, Lake of Fire**

OVERVIEW OF REVELATION

- **Ch. 21-22: Marriage of Heaven & Earth- “New Creation”**
 - **New Heavens & New Earth**
 - **Effects of Sin/Evil Undone**
 - **All Things Made New**
 - **The “New Jerusalem”**
 - **The “River of Life” and the “Tree of Life”**
 - **Throne of the Lamb**
- **Conclusion**
 - **The Promises of the Book**
 - **The Blessing of the Book**
 - **The Curse of Altering the Book**
 - **“Surely I am coming soon.” Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!**

OVERVIEW OF REVELATION

7 Vision Summary Outline:

- (1) Christ Among His 7 Churches**
- (2) Heavenly Throne & 7 Seals**
- (3) 7 Trumpet Judgments & Church's Prophetic Witness**
- (4) Conflict Between Kingdoms: Trinity vs. Anti-Trinity**
- (5) 7 Bowls**
- (6) Final Judgment of Babylon, Beasts, Satan, Unbelievers**
- (7) Salvation of God's People and the New Heavens & New Earth**



THE MILLENNIUM

PRELIMINARY COMMENTS ON MILLENNIUM

- **“A Thousand Years” (Gk: chilioi) shows up 5x in the course of 6 verses of 1 chapter.**
- **The major eschatological positions all orient around the handling of this one small passage.**
- **This should foster humility and charity regarding our particular view and the views of others who differ (insofar as they pursue Biblical fidelity).**
- **A General Guiding Principle for Interpretation:**
 - **Use the majority and clear teachings of the NT to understand Revelation 20**
 - **Do not use Revelation 20 as the lens to interpret the NT**

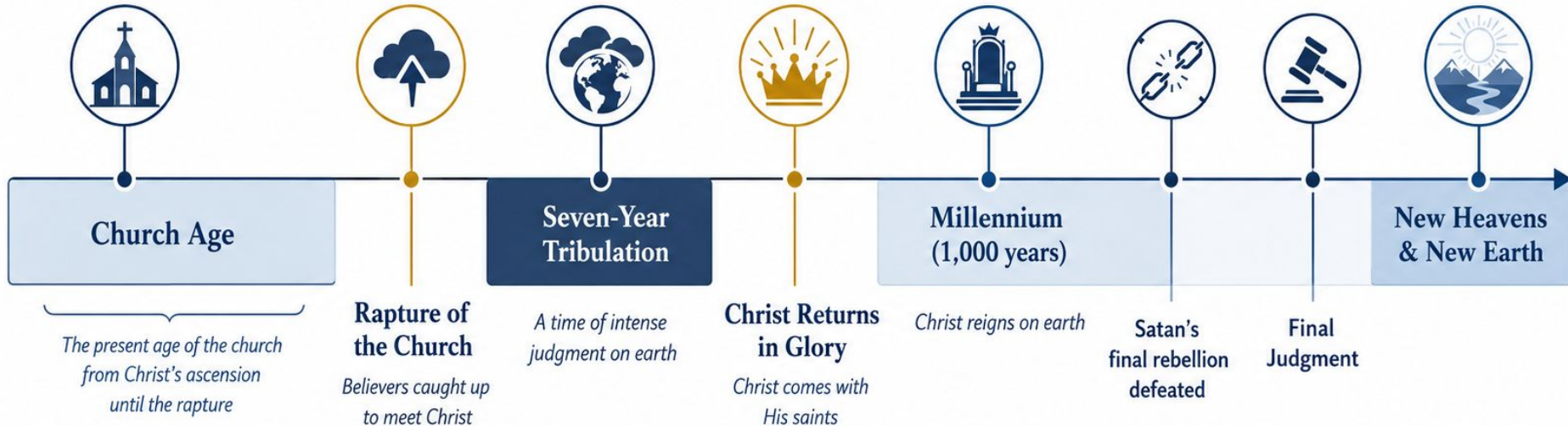
THE “MILLENNIUM” TEXT

*Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding in his hand the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain. ² And he seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years, ³ and threw him into the pit, and shut it and sealed it over him, so **that he might not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were ended. After that he must be released for a little while.***

*⁴ Then I saw thrones, and seated on them were those to whom the authority to judge was committed. Also I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for the testimony of Jesus and for the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands. **They came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.** ⁵ **The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended. This is the first resurrection.** ⁶ **Blessed and holy is the one who shares in the first resurrection!** Over such the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ, and they will reign with him for a thousand years. (Rev 20:1–6)*

Dispensational Premillennialism

Christ returns before a future millennium, with a prior rapture and a distinction between Israel and the church

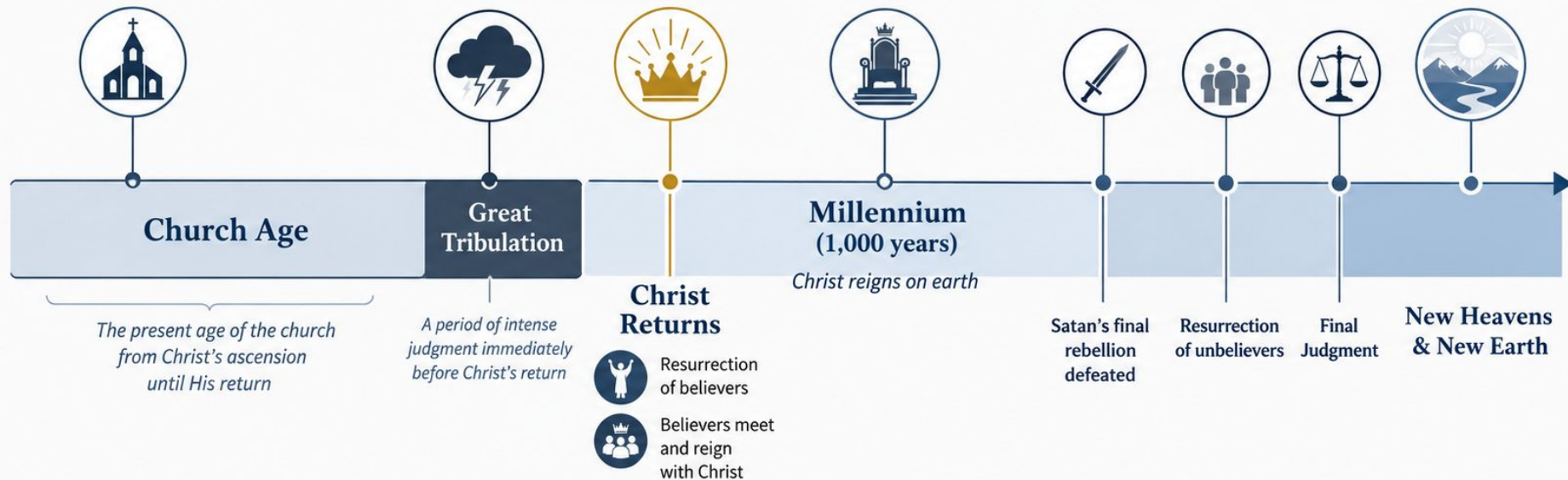


KEY TAKEAWAYS

- 1 The church is raptured before the tribulation.
- 2 Christ returns before the millennium begins.
- 3 This view usually maintains a distinction between Israel and the church.

Historic Premillennialism

Christ returns before a future earthly millennium

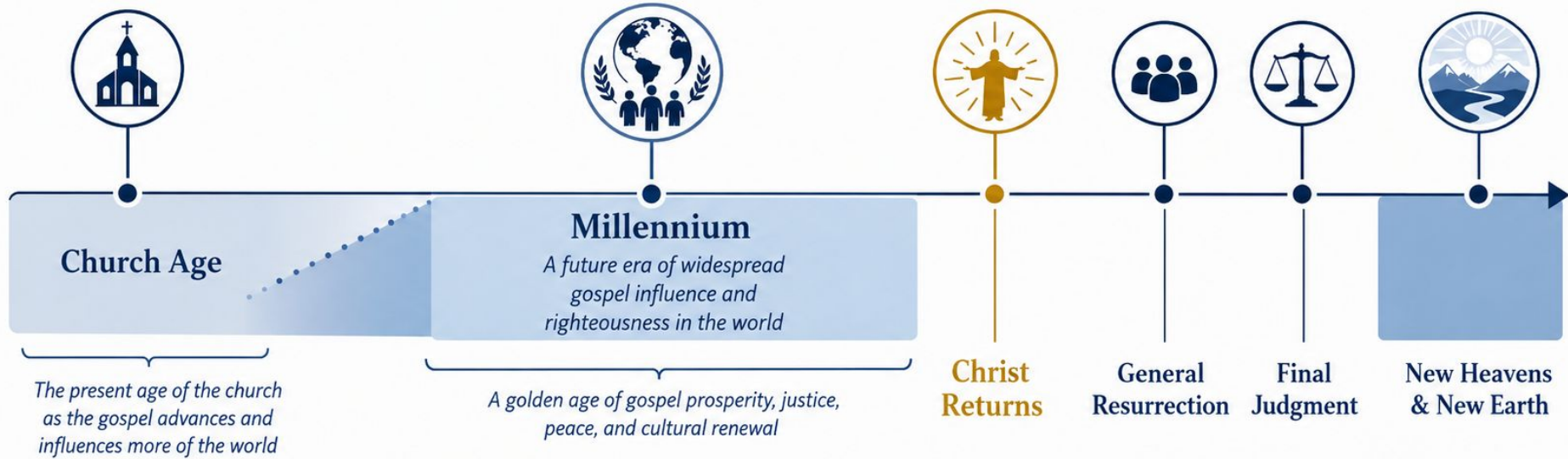


KEY TAKEAWAYS

- 1 The church experiences tribulation before Christ's return.
- 2 Christ returns before the millennium begins.
- 3 Believers are raised before the millennium; final judgment follows after it.

Postmillennialism

Christ returns after a long era of gospel prosperity

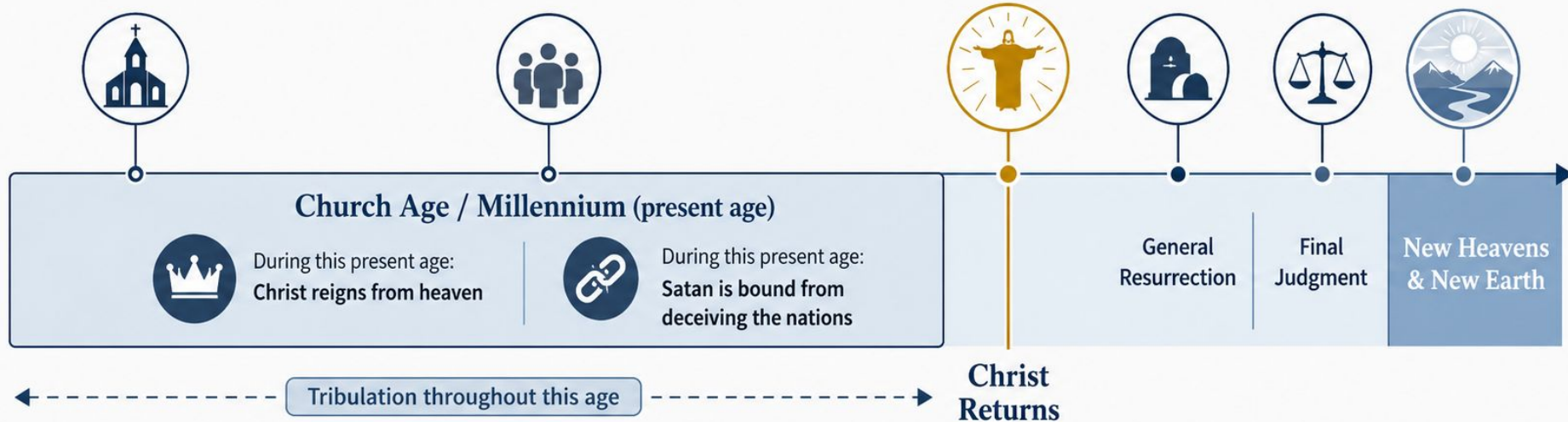


KEY TAKEAWAYS

- 1 The gospel progressively transforms many people and cultures.
- 2 The millennium occurs before Christ's return.
- 3 Christ returns once, followed by resurrection, judgment, and the eternal state.

Amillennialism

The “millennium” is the present church age, culminating in Christ’s return



KEY TAKEAWAYS

- 1 The millennium is not a future earthly kingdom after Christ’s return.
- 2 The present church age is the millennium in a spiritual sense.
- 3 Christ’s return brings resurrection, judgment, and the eternal state.

EVALUATION OF PREMILLENNIALISM

PROS

- Most straightforward sequential reading of Rev. 19-20
- Provides answers for OT prophecies seem neither fully present or fully eternal
- Leans upon a literal, Biblically serious, hermeneutic

CONS

- Largely, the NT presents one climactic consummation, not two distinct phases
- Holds inconsistent hermeneutic re: literal vs symbolic language
- Overly asserts a chronological reading that is difficult to defend

EVALUATION OF POSTMILLENNIALISM

PROS

- Interprets the Great Commission as a mission that will actually succeed
- Strongly emphasizes Christ's present victory over Satan
- Has Jonathan Edwards on its team...

CONS

- Large portion of NT indicates ongoing, even increasing, pain & trials
- Typically demands a pre-70 A.D. authorship of Revelation to accommodate preterist tendencies
- Most likely to become militant...

EVALUATION OF AMILLENNIALISM

PROS

- More consistent with dominant two-stage structure of NT (“This age” & “Age to come”)
- Hermeneutical consistency with recapitulation and symbolism of Revelation
- Connects Rev. 20 with Christ’s present glory and reign over cosmos

CONS

- “First resurrection” is more consistently connected to bodily resurrection
- Rev. 20’s “binding of Satan” sounds stronger than his present restriction
- Difficulty locating OT descriptions of glorious but still imperfect world (Is. 65:20-25; Zech 14)

AGREEMENT ON THE MILLENNIUM

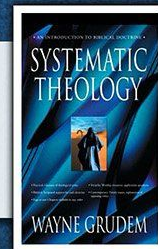
- **Premil & Amil:**
 - **Agree on increased suffering and tribulation for Church**
 - **Reject notion of “golden age” through Church’s success**
- **Amil & Postmil:**
 - **Agree the “millennium” precedes Christ’s second coming**
 - **Affirm that Christ is reigning now in heaven, and Satan is bound**
- **Postmil & Premil**
 - **Agree on an physical, earthly millennial kingdom**
 - **Emphasize OT promises find earthly fulfillment before the final eternal state**

PERSONAL ASSESSMENT

- **Most difficult to clearly and consistently defend in light of larger teaching of New Testament in particular and whole Bible in general:**
 - **Dispensational Premillennialism (Too much theology developed from too few verses)**
 - **Postmillennialism (Contradicts teaching on trials and pain)**
- **Most consistent and naturally discernable in light of the whole, unfolding narrative and teaching of Scripture:**
 - **Historic Premillennialism (Honors symbolism and recapitulation in Revelation)**
 - **Amillennialism (Honors NT's dominant teaching that when Christ comes, judgment and recreation comes)**

No matter what their differences on the details, all Christians who take the Bible as their final authority agree that the final and ultimate result of Christ's return will be the judgment of unbelievers and the final reward of believers, and that believers will live with Christ in a new heaven and a new earth for all eternity. God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit will reign and will be worshiped in a never-ending kingdom with no more sin or sorrow or suffering.

WAYNE GRUDEM
Systematic Theology



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***The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with all. Amen.
Revelation 22:21***