

## The Millennium

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Twin City Fellowship

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## Revelation and The Kingdom

1. Timing
2. Location
3. Nature
4. Duration
5. Participants

Revelation 11:15b The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ; and He will reign forever and ever.

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## The Millennial Views

**Postmillennialism** The kingdom of God is brought about through teaching, preaching, evangelization, and missionary activities. The world is to be Christianized resulting in a long period of peace and prosperity called the Millennium. The church age therefore contains the Millennium. The 2<sup>nd</sup> coming follows after this period.

**Premillennialism** – The kingdom of God comes to Israel after the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming of Christ. Jesus will reign from Israel for a literal 1,000 year period in which the promises of God made to Israel in the O.T. are literally fulfilled.

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### The Millennial Views

**Amillennialism-** No 1,000 years. The view that there will be no literal millennium. This view maintains that the kingdom of God is now present through the Word, Spirit, and church. Proponents await the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming and the eternal states.

(Regarding Romans 11:25-29) "It is very doubtful, however, whether Scripture warrants the expectation that Israel will finally be re-established as a nation, and will as a nation turn to the Lord. Some Old Testament seem to predict this, but these should be read in the light of the New Testament" (Louis Berkhof, Systematic Theology, 699). Written in 1938!

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### Amillennial's Case

1. They assert that Satan has been bound during Jesus' earthly ministry.

Revelation 20:1-3 Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding the key of the abyss and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold of the dragon, the serpent of old, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; and he threw him into the abyss; and shut it and sealed it over him, so that he would not deceive the nations any longer; **until the thousand years were completed**; after these things he must be released for a short time.

2 Cor 4:4... god of this world has blinded the minds...

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### Amillennial's Case

2. They claim that the "coming to life" in Revelation 20:4-5 means that the saints came into "heavenly existence in the presence of Christ." They also see the first resurrection (20:5) as referring to the "spiritual birth."

Revelation 20:4c-5b ...and they came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were completed. This is the first resurrection.

Zao = no were else in the N.T. means "to come into the presence of Christ"

Anastasis = 41 of 42 usages in N.T. is for physical resurrection.

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### Amillennial's Case

3. They claim scripture speaks elsewhere of only one resurrection:

John 5:28-29 The hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice and come forth, those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of judgment.

First and Second Comings of Christ in same O.T. texts

Isaiah 61:1-2 The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on Me, because the LORD has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to captives and freedom to prisoners; to proclaim the favorable year of the LORD and the day of vengeance...

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4. The promises in the Abrahamic covenant were conditional, and therefore, because Israel sinned, the promises went to the church.

Genesis 15:7-8-9, 12, 17-18 "I am the LORD who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess it." So He said to him, "Bring Me a three year old heifer, and a three year old female goat, and a three year old ram, and a turtledove, and a young pigeon...Now when the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram...It came about when the sun had set, that it was very dark, and behold, there appeared a smoking oven and a flaming torch which passed between these pieces. On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram saying, To your **descendants** I have given this land, from the river of Egypt as far as the great river...

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### Amillennial's Case

Romans 11:28-29 From the standpoint of the gospel they are enemies for your sake, but from the standpoint of God's choice they are beloved for the sake of the fathers; **for** the gifts and the calling of God are **irrevocable**.

According to the gospel	enemies	because of you
According to election	beloved	because the fathers

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### Premillennial Evidence

1. Came to life (Zao) means just that! Rev 20:4-5
2. Resurrection is physical in both first and second resurrections. Rev 20:5-6 (cf. 1 Cor 15:52-56)
3. The thousand years is taken straight forwardly. Rev 20:4, 5, 6, 7.
4. The O.T. promises of a kingdom entail Messiah reigning on David's throne from Israel (cf. previous lecture)
5. The O.T. has promises of a kingdom that far exceeds what we experience today, but that still has death associated with it. (Eternal States do not!)
6. There will be no sea in the Eternal States, but there will be during the Millennial Kingdom.
7. The Millennium will have no war!

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### Differences In The Epochs

	War	Death	Sea
<b>Now</b>	yes	yes	yes
<b>Millen.</b>	no	yes	yes
<b>Eternal</b>	no	no	no

The Millennial Kingdom will have death, but life spans will be very long. There will also be seas, but they will be restored (Ezekiel 47:8).

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### No More War

Isaiah 2:4 And He will judge between the nations, and will render decisions for the many peoples; and they will hammer their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not lift up sword against nation, and never again will they learn war.

Present age	Millennium	Eternal States
↑	↑	↑
War and Death	No War But Death Still Exists	No War or Death

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### Long Life: But Death Still Exists

**Millennium** Isaiah 65:19-20 I will also rejoice in Jerusalem and be glad in My people; and there will no longer be heard in her the voice of weeping and the sound of crying. No longer will there be in it an infant who lives but a few days, or an old man who does not live out his days; for the youth will die at the age of one hundred and the one who does not reach the age of one hundred will be thought accursed.

**Eternal States** Revelation 21:4 and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be and death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away.

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### The Evidence From The Sea

Zechariah 14:8 And in that day living waters will flow out of Jerusalem, half of them toward the eastern sea and the other half toward the western sea; it will be in summer as well as in winter.

Ezekiel 47:8 These waters go out toward the eastern region and go down into the Arabah; then they go toward the sea, being made to flow into the sea, and the waters of the sea become fresh.

Revelation 21:1 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer any sea.

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### Why This Kingdom Matters

Genesis 13:15 For all the land which you see, I will give to you and to your seed forever.

2 Samuel 7:13 He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of His kingdom forever.

2 Samuel 7:24 For You have established for Yourself Your people Israel as Your own people forever...

Isaiah 60:21 Then all your people will be righteous, they will possess the land forever.

Ezekiel 37:28 And **the nations will know that I am Yahweh** who sanctifies Israel, when My sanctuary is in their midst forever.

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## 2<sup>nd</sup> Thessalonians 2

### It's the Antichrist, Stupid

Once again, recently, I had an ex-pretribber write me and share his encouraging epiphany of how the Truth was under his nose all this time in 2 Thessalonians 2. Paul makes it explicitly clear that the Church will see the revelation of Antichrist. This text is the most commonly cited when I read prewrath "testimonies."

How someone reads the following passage and concludes that the rapture occurs *before* the revelation of Antichrist is a lesson in how Tradition prevents many believers from seeing the Truth.

[http://www.prewrathrapture.com/2009/11/its\\_the\\_antichriststupid.php](http://www.prewrathrapture.com/2009/11/its_the_antichriststupid.php)

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2<sup>nd</sup> Thessalonians 2:1-2 Now we request you, brethren, with regard to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, that you not be quickly shaken from your composure or be disturbed wither by a spirit or a message or a letter as if from us, to the effect that the **day of the Lord** ~~has come~~

- Coming of our Lord and gathering = 1<sup>st</sup> Thess 4:17

Day of The Lord .....→



- enest hken = perfect tense "is present" Louw-Nida

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### The Importance of The Thessalonians' Fear

"Another problem is encountered if the parousia that initiates the day of the Lord is considered only the single event of Christ's return to earth following the tribulation. If Paul had given oral or written instruction to this effect, the false claim that the day of the Lord was already present could hardly have alarmed these Christians. According to this scheme, the day of the Lord could not begin without Christ's personal reappearance. His continued absence was obvious to all" (Robert Thomas, *Expositor's Bible Commentary*, 318).




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2 Thess 2:3 Let no one in any way deceive you, for **it will not come** unless the apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction,

- it will not come = assumed to be “the day of the Lord” not the rapture!!
- οτι εαν μη ελθῃ ἡ ἀποστασία πρῶτον...
- “Circumstances here justify a present tense in the apodosis, however, the carry-over thought from ἐν ἐστὶ ἡ κεν... Other NT combinations of εαν...πρῶτον (Matt 12:29; Mark 3:27; John 7:51; Rom 15:24) reveal preference elsewhere for a present tense apodosis under similar circumstances” (Thomas,323)

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The Beginning of The Day of The Lord

Apostasy first      4<sup>th</sup> Seal ¼ of Earth Killed

Greater and Greater Tribulation

Man of Lawlessness

**1<sup>st</sup> Seal: Rev 6:2** I looked, and behold, a white horse, and he who sat on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him, and he went out conquering and to conquer. (“It means the rise of sinister figures in Rev 6:2,4,...” TDNT 2:679)

**1 Thess 5:2-3** ...the day of the Lord will come just like a thief in the night. While they are saying, “Peace and safety!” then destruction will come upon them...

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**1 Thess 5:3 continued:** ...suddenly like labor pains upon a woman with child, and they will not escape.

**Matthew 24:8** But all these things are the beginning of labor pains.

**Isaiah 13:6-8** Wail, for the day of the LORD is near! It will come as destruction from the Almighty. Therefore all hands will fall limp...They will be terrified, pains and anguish will take hold of them; They will writhe like a woman in labor...

(Habben, Rosenthal, and Van Kampen all have Matthew 24:8 prior to the 6<sup>th</sup> seal!!)

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