

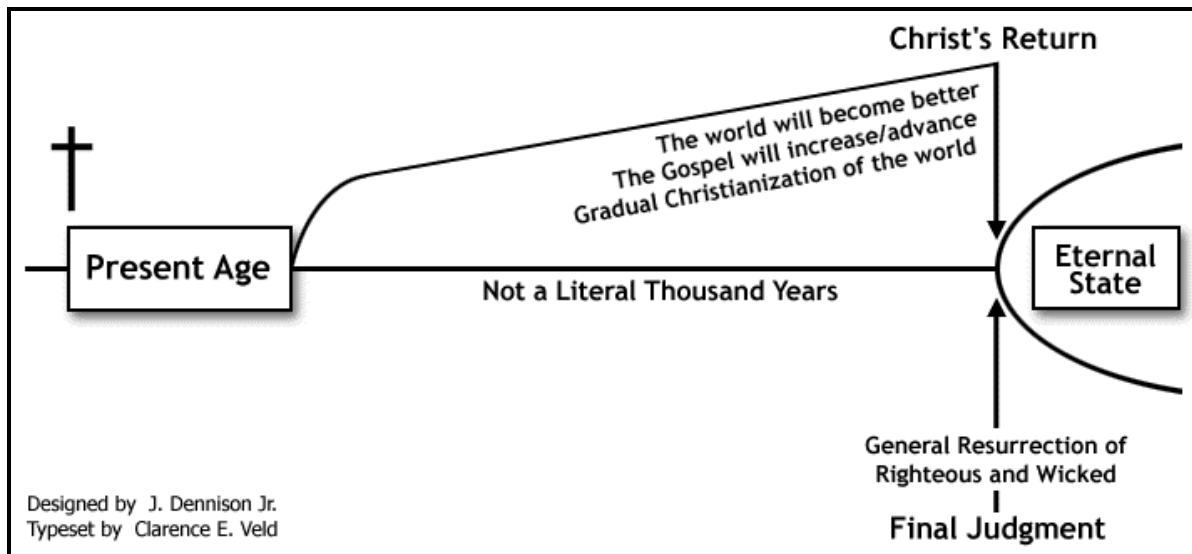
DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES ON THE MILLENNIUM

The word millennium means “one thousand years.” When Christians discuss their views on the millennium, they are referring to their interpretation of Revelation 20:1-10. Revelation 20:4b-5a 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.)” What are we to make of this?

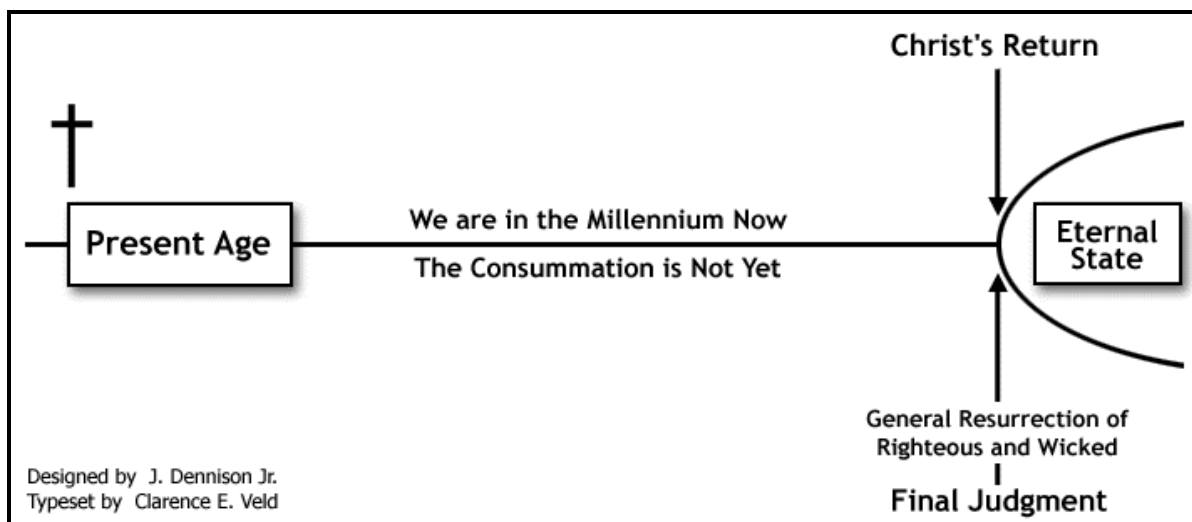
A multitude of interpretations of how Revelation 20 interacts with the rest of biblical eschatology have been advanced. The differences between the various interpretations depend more on the interpreter’s hermeneutical and theological presuppositions than on the strict text of the ten much debated verses.

This morning we will briefly discuss the main tenets of the four major views on the time and nature of the millennium: dispensational premillennialism, historic premillennialism, postmillennialism, and amillennialism.

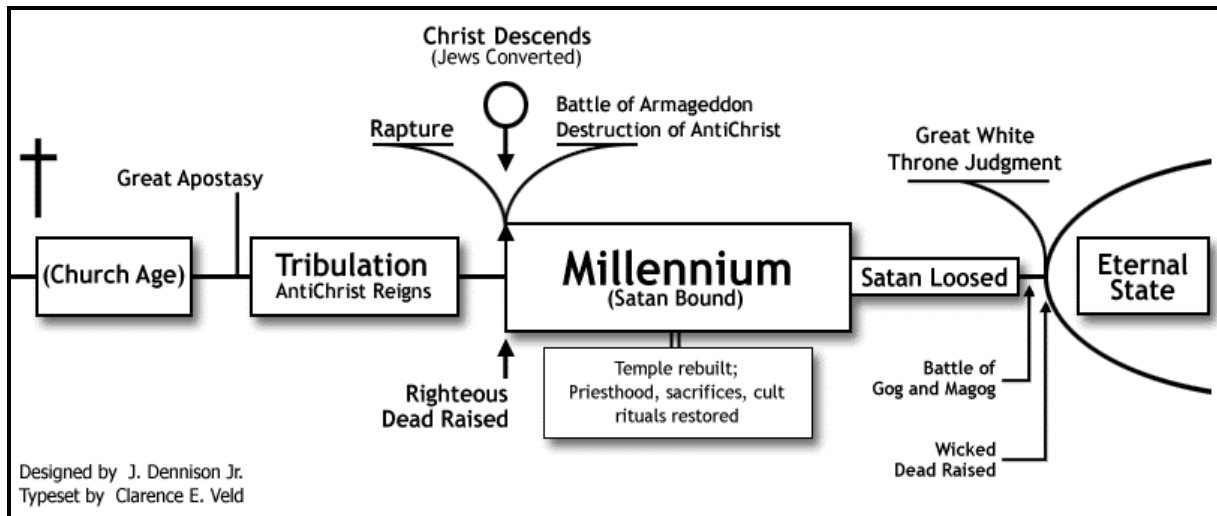
I. Postmillennialism



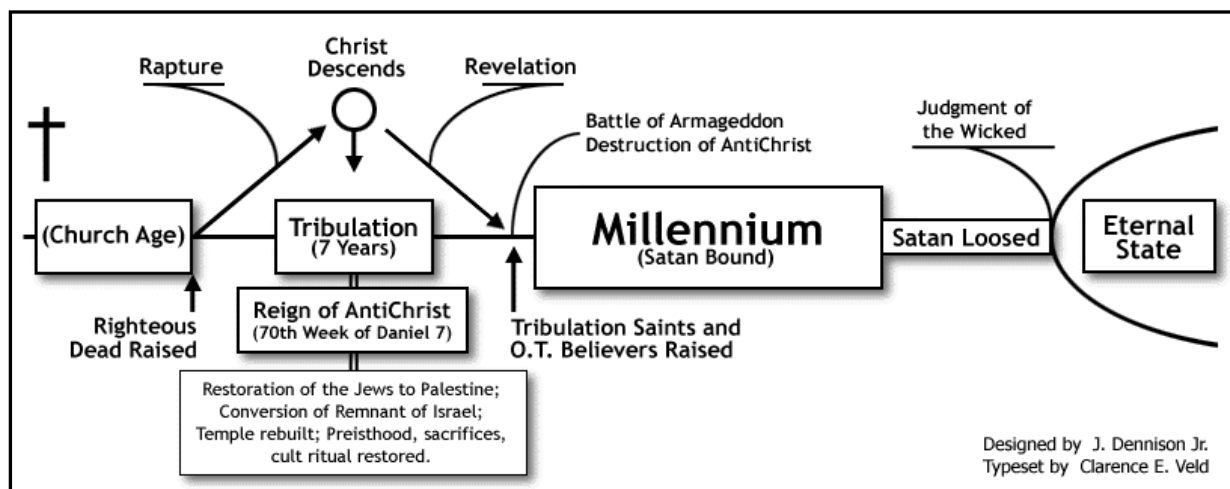
II. Amillennialism (“Realized” or “Inaugurated” Millennialism)



III. Historic (Classic) Premillennialism



IV. Dispensational Premillennialism (Pretribulational Premillennialism)



Definitions of millennial views from [A New Systematic Theology of the Christian Faith](#) by Robert Reymond:

“The Latinized word ‘millennium,’ meaning ‘a thousand years,’ derives its theological bearing from the six references in Revelation 20:1-7 to ‘a [the] thousand years.’ Premillennialists argue that between this present age and the eternal state a thousand-year reign of Christ will occur, ushered in by Christ’s return. That is to say, Christ’s reign will occur *before* (‘pre’) this thousand-year period commences. Postmillennialists, on the other hand, contend that the spread of the gospel will eventually ‘Christianize’ the world, ushering in a ‘golden age of righteousness’ on the earth. This golden age, still in the future (which may or may not be literally a thousand years long), is said to be the thousand-year period alluded to in Revelation 20. It will be terminated with the great apostasy referred to in 2 Thessalonians 2:3, which apostasy will be addressed by Christ himself at his second coming. In other words, according to postmillennial teaching Christ will return *after* (‘post’) the ‘millennium.’ Amillennialists view the thousand years of Revelation 20 as referring both to this age and to the intermediate state of the souls of martyred Christians during this age between their death and resurrection, which latter event occurs at Christ’s return.”