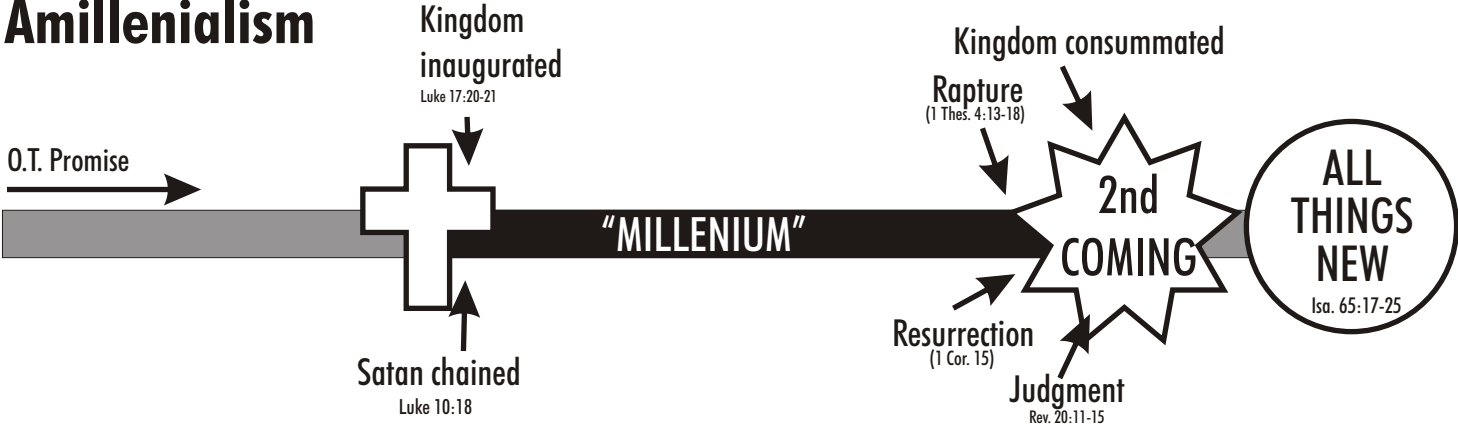


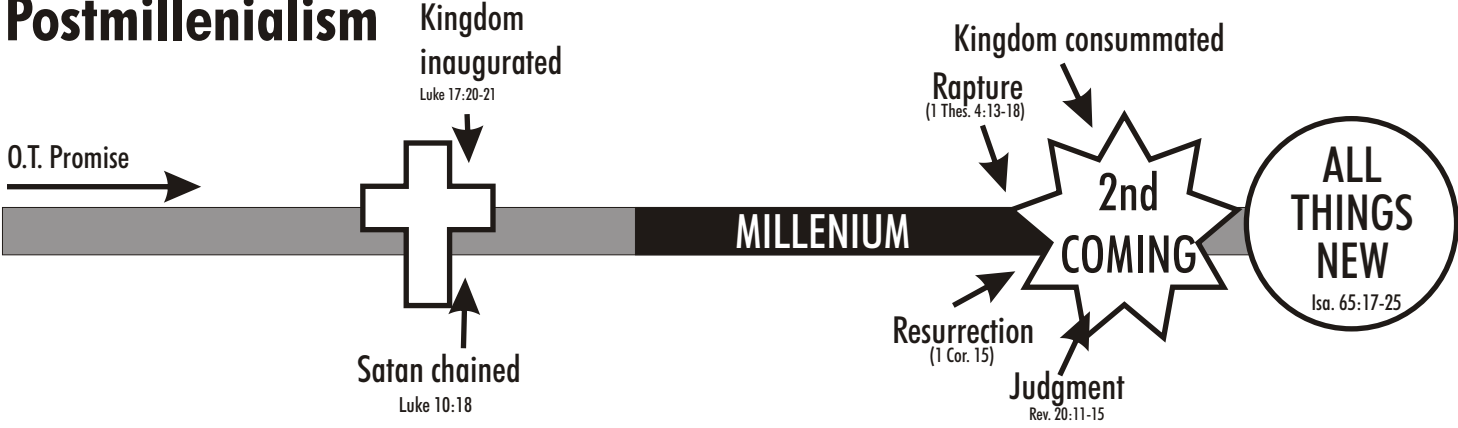
FOUR VIEWS OF THE MILLENNIUM AND THE SECOND COMING OF JESUS CHRIST

Randal K. Young

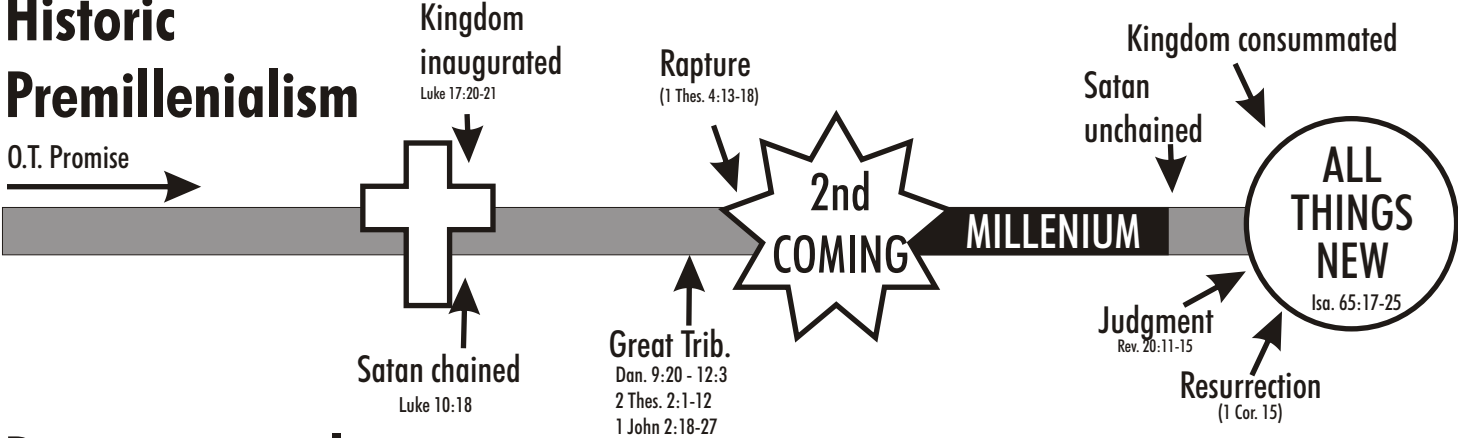
Amillennialism



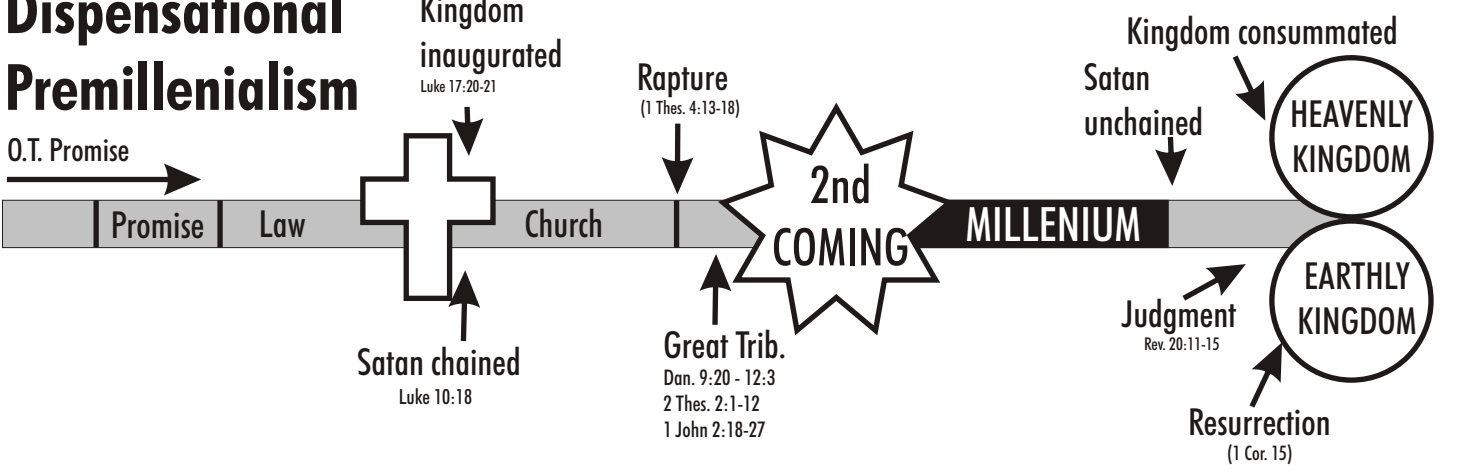
Postmillennialism



Historic Premillennialism



Dispensational Premillennialism



Four Views of the Millennium

THE TEXT: Revelation 20:1-15

- The Binding of Satan (Rev. 20:1-3)
- The Millennial Reign (Rev. 20:4-6)
- The Destruction of Satan (Rev. 20:7-10)
- The Final Judgment (Rev. 20:11-15)

AMILLENIALISM

Description:

- The millennium is not taken to be a literal 1,000 year period.
- The millennium is the period of Christ's reign on earth during the entire length of time between the first and second coming of Christ. The millennium, then, is happening right now.
- Chapters 19 & 20 of Revelation are not in chronological sequence. Therefore, 20:1-3, the binding of Satan, happened at the time at the first coming of Christ, not the a future event.

Biblical grounds:

1. "Progressive Parallelism" -- seven sections of Revelation that occur at the same time.

- Chap. 1-3: Letters addressed to the church of all time.
- Chap. 4-7: Seven seals
- Chap. 8-11: Seven trumpets of judgment
- Chap. 12-14: Woman and dragon refers to birth of Christ and the battle between Satan and the church.
- Chap. 15-16: Seven bowls of wrath
- Chap. 17-19: Fall of Babylon represents current fall of secularism and godlessness.
- Chap. 20-22: Satan overthrown.

If all seven sections of Revelation are happening in parallel, rather than chronologically, then the binding of Satan (Rev. 20:1-3) occurred at the first coming of Christ, while the millennial kingdom is happening NOW.

2. Matt 16:27, 25:31-32, Jude 14-15, Rom 8:17-23, 1 Cor 15:22-28, 50-58, 1 Thes 1:4-10, 4:13-18, 2 Pet 3:3-15, and 2 Thes 1:7-10 indicate that the final judgment and the second coming occur together and that there is no millennial gap between them.

3. Christ already bound Satan during His first coming -- Rev. 12:7-9, Matt 12:29, Luke 10:17-18, John 12:31-32

4. The Kingdom of God is already present (while also awaiting future consummation) -- Matt 12:28, Luke 17:20-21, Rom 14:17, 1 Cor 4:19-20, Col 1:13-14.

5. Rev. 20:4, the first resurrection, does not refer to a literal resurrection because John 5:28-29, Daniel 12:2, and Acts 24:15 speak of only one resurrection (the second

resurrection in Rev 20:4). Also, Col 2:12, Rom 6:4, Col 3:1, and Eph 2:4-6 speak of the conversion experience as a "raising up." Therefore, the first resurrection in Rev. 20:4 should be understood as the conversion experience of a Christian.

Adherents:

- Augustine of Hippo
- Most of the church after fourth century and through medieval times.
- Most preachers (but not all) in the Reformed/Presbyterian, Lutheran, Methodist, Anglican, Mennonite, Eastern Orthodox, and Roman Catholic churches, and some Baptist churches as well.

POSTMILLENIALISM

Description:

- Christ comes after the millennium.
- Very similar to amillennialism, except that the millennium begins somewhere between the first and second coming, rather than at the first coming. The millennium is a "golden era" of peace and righteousness, where social economic, political, and racial conditions will largely conform to Christian principles. sin and unbelief, however, will still be present.
- Millennium is not necessary a precise 1,000 years.
- Millennium occurs at the end of the period between the first and second coming. It immediately precedes the second coming.
- At the end of the millennium, there will be a short period of apostasy, before the second coming of Christ.

Biblical grounds:

1. Num 14:21, Ps 2:8; 22:27-29; 47; 72; 86:9; Is 2:2-4; 11:6-9; 25:6-9; 65; 66; Jer 31:31-34; Ezek 34:26ff; Dan 2:35,44; 7:27; Mic 4:1-4; Zech 9:9ff; 13:1; 14:9 speak of a "golden era," with no indication that it is to occur after the coming of the Messiah.

2. see amillennialism

Adherents:

- Most preachers during 1700's, including Jonathan Edwards and the Puritans.
- Some Presbyterians, and theologians such as Gary North and Greg Bahsen.
- Some "Third Wave" neo-charismatic churches.

PREMILLENIALISM

Description:

- Christ will return before a literal, 1,000 year millennium.
- Before the millennium, the signs of the times will occur, e. g. the evangelization of the nations, the great tribulation, the great apostasy, the Anti-Christ, etc.
- Believers will be raptured (i.e. caught up and meeting Christ in the air), and glorified, after the great tribulation, during the second coming.

- During the millennium, Christ will reign on earth. It will be a "golden era" of peace, righteousness, and prosperity.
- After the millennium, the new heaven and new earth will come.
- The Kingdom of God has already been inaugurated with Christ's first coming.

Biblical grounds:

1. There is nothing in Revelation 19 & 20 which indicates a break in chronological sequence. Chapters 18-20 appear to present a connected series of visions.
2. The elaborate manner in which the binding of Satan is described in 20:1-3 implies a complete cessation of Satan's influence rather than merely a curbing of his activities. In the early church (cf. Acts), Satan's activities did not cease. Therefore, the binding of Satan must be a future event.
3. Rev. 20:4 says that there is a first resurrection BEFORE the beginning of the millennium. Obviously, this hasn't happened in our world yet. Therefore, the millennium has not taken place yet.

Adherents:

- Most Christians during the first three centuries.
- Anabaptists and extremist sects during the Reformation (1500's).
- Charles Spurgeon, George Eldon Ladd, Albert Mohler, Francis Schaeffer, Gordon Clark, Wayne Grudem, James Montgomery Boice, and other evangelical theologians.

DISPENSATIONAL PREMILLENIALISM

Description:

1. The millennium is the seventh and last dispensation of a thousand years which occurs between the second coming of Christ and the final judgment.
2. The seven dispensations are:
 - Age of Innocence (Gen. 1:28 - 3:6)
 - Age of Conscience (Gen. 3:7 - 8:14)
 - Age of Human Government (Gen 8:15 - 11:32)
 - Age of Promise (Gen 12:1 - Ex. 18:27)
 - Age of Law (Ex. 19:3 - Acts 1:26)
 - Age of the Church
 - Age of the Kingdom, the Millennium (Rev. 20:4)
3. At the beginning of the millennium, Christ will rule from a throne in Jerusalem. Jews will be restored in their own land. Satan will be bound. Christians who died during the tribulation will be resurrected (the "first resurrection").
4. Unlike Historic Premillennialism, most Dispensationalists believe in a pre-tribulation rapture. Also most Dispensationalists do not believe that the Kingdom of God has been inaugurated yet.
5. for further details see diagram on the board

Biblical grounds:

(see Historic Premillennialism)

Adherents:

Many Christians from nearly all denominations, including Jerry Falwell, C. I. Scofield, Ray Comfort, Tim La Haye (*Left Behind* series), and John MacArthur.

THE HISTORY OF MILLENIAL VIEWS

33-300	Historic Premillennialism
300-1700	Amillennialism
1700-1850	Postmillennialism
1850-today	Dispensational Premillennialism