

DOCTRINE OF THE MILLENNIUM

- I.** Introduction and definition.
- A.** The term "millennium" means "1,000 years" and is derived from the Latin *mille*, a thousand and *annum*, year.
 - B.** Biblically it is applied specifically to the 1,000 years mentioned in Rev.20:2-7, and constitutes the final 1,000 years of human history.
 - C.** It begins some 75 days after the 2nd Advent (Dan.12:11-12 cp.Rev.19:20-20:2) and extends to the time just prior to the release of Satan (Rev.20:7).
 - D.** It is considered the bulk of time in the Day of the Lord (DOL) and is immediately preceded by judgment upon the earth. *See Doctrine of the Day of the Lord*
 - E.** The conditions that are predicted to exist just prior to this portion of the DOL will come to pass during the events of Daniel's 70th week. Isa.13:6-9; Eze.30:3; Joe.2:1,11,30-32; 1The.5:2 *See Doctrine of Daniel's 70th week*
 - F.** The Millennium is the time when Christ in coronation visibly and physically rules planet earth in righteousness and peace.
 - G.** It is to be distinguished from the day of God or the eternal state that does not begin until after the dissolution of the present heavens and earth (2Pet.3:10-12) and Great White Throne judgment (Rev.20:11-12; 21:1).
- II.** There are four major theological views of the return of Christ and the period known as the Millennium.
- A.** The non-literal view denying that Christ will return in a literal, bodily, personal way.
 - 1.** It sees the 2nd Advent as being fulfilled in the destruction of Jerusalem, or on the day of Pentecost, or in the death of the saint, or in any other "act of God".
 - 2.** This view disregards the literal interpretation of the Bible.
 - B.** The amillennial view.
 - 1.** The term literally means "no millennium".
 - 2.** This group believes that there will be no literal millennium on the earth following the 2nd Advent.
 - 3.** It was promoted by Augustine, after Origen had laid the foundation of "non-literal interpretation" of the Scriptures.
 - 4.** In his work "The City of God", Augustine set forth the idea that the visible Church was the Kingdom of God.
 - 5.** He taught that the millennium is to be interpreted spiritually as being fulfilled by the Church.
 - 6.** The binding of Satan took place during the earthly ministry of Christ. Luk.10:18
 - 7.** The new birth corresponds to the first resurrection.
 - 8.** The millennium must correspond to the Church Age.
 - 9.** He denied that the millennium would follow the 2nd Advent.
 - 10.** He taught that the church is the kingdom and that there would be no literal fulfillment of the promises made to Israel.
 - 11.** It is generally the position of liberal Protestants, the Roman Catholic Church and covenant theologians.
 - C.** The postmillennial view.
 - 1.** This view arose following the Reformation in an attempt to deal with the fact that amillennialism did not meet the facts of history.
 - 2.** The followers of this view hold to a literal 2nd Advent and a literal Millennium.

3. The two basic groups of postmillennialists include the Biblical and the evolutionary.
 - a. The Biblical finds its material in the Scriptures.
 - b. The evolutionary bases its proof on its confidence in man to achieve progress through natural methods.
 4. It is based on the figurative interpretation of prophecy, permitting wide latitude in explaining difficult verses.
 5. The Kingdom is spiritual and unseen, and fulfilled during the inter-advent period.
 6. The Church will essentially triumph in human history with the gospel bringing about the conditions of the Millennium.
 7. The return of the Lord is seen as the assuming of the Kingdom on earth, already basically in place.
 8. Some proponents view the Millennium as the Kingdom of Heaven.
 9. This view has fallen out of favor since:
 - a. WWII.
 - b. It fails to square with the facts of history.
 - c. A new trend toward amillennialism is growing.
 - d. Realism admits that man is incapable of bringing about the age anticipated in the Millennium.
- D.** The final and correct view is premillennialism.
1. This view holds that Christ will return to earth, literally and bodily, before the Millennium begins and that by His presence a kingdom will be inaugurated over which He will reign on earth.
 2. This kingdom on earth will last 1000+ years and all of Israel's covenants will be literally fulfilled.
 3. This position has exponents from the apostolic age until the present.
 4. It is based on the literal interpretation of the Word of God and sound exegetical principles.
 5. Two general positions of premillennialists include:
 - a. Historic premillennialism
 - 1) Believe that the world will not be converted before the Second Coming.
 - 2) Believe in the false doctrine of imminence, that Christ could come at any time during the Church Age.
 - 3) Do not have the rapture in their theology.
 - b. Pretribulational premillennialism.
 - 1) Differs from historic only slightly, in that it teaches that Christ may come at any time for His saints via the rapture.
 - 2) Followed by the event known as Daniel's 70th week.
 - 3) At the end of 7 years Christ will return publicly with His saints.
 - 4) Is correct, except for the imminent view of the rapture.

III. Synonyms for the Millennium.

- A. Thousand years. Rev.20:2-7
- B. Summer. Mat.24:32
- C. Marriage supper. Rev.19:9 cf. Mat.22:1-13
- D. Rest. Isa.14:3,7; Jer.50:34
- E. Kingdom. Dan.2:44, 7:22,27; Isa.9:7; Mat.25:1ff; 2Tim.4:1
- E. Day, that day, or day of the Lord. Zep.3:8-20; 1The.5:1-2; 2The.2:2; Heb.10:25
 1. A day is exactly one-seventh of a week.

2. God's timetable for the human race and the resolution of the angelic conflict is one prophetic week, or 7000 years. 2Pet.3:3-9
 3. From Adam to Abraham was approximately 2000 years.
 4. From Abraham to Christ was approximately 2000 years.
 5. From Christ to the present is approximately 2000 years.
 6. The final 1000 years is the Day of rest, the Millennium.
- F. The period of restoration. Acts 3:21
- G. The regeneration (new birth or new age). Mat.19:28

IV. The chronology of the Millennium.

- A. The marriage of Christ to the Church (the rapture) occurs initiating a period of consummation (7 years) fulfilled during Daniel's 70th week. Rev.19:7-8
- B. This in turn initiates the events bringing about the DOL.
- C. Just as many events can occur in a single day of human history, even so many events will occur in the DOL.
- D. Just prior to the day proper, the daystar (Venus, the morning star) arises. This is analogous to the return of Christ called the morning star. Rev.22:16
- E. Just prior to the dawning of the day will be the events of Daniel's 70th week. Isa.13:6-9; Joe.2:1,11,30
- F. Between the morning star and the rising of the sun is the darkest period of night; it is always darkest just before the dawn.
- G. The event that inaugurates the Millennium is the visible, bodily return of Christ to the planet to destroy His enemies at Armageddon. Rev.19:11-21
- H. His first action upon returning to the planet will be casting the Antichrist and the False Prophet into the lake of fire. Rev.19:20
- I. His next action is binding Satan for the duration of the day, 1000 years. Rev.20:1-3
- J. He then resurrects all dead saints from the Age of Israel including those who lived during Daniel's 70th week. Rev.20:4
- K. The primary event for the Church will be the wedding supper of the Lamb. Rev.19:7-9;
- L. At the end of the day, Satan will be released to deceive those that are negative to the gospel. Rev.20:7-9
- M. Satan is defeated and cast into the lake of fire, ending the Gog and Magog revolution. Rev.20:8-10
- N. The dissolution of the present heavens and earth occurs. Rev.20:11 cf. 2Pet.3:10-12
- O. The second resurrection occurs consisting of all unbelievers that must appear before the Great White Throne. Rev. 20:11-15
- P. A new creation is spoken into existence. Rev.21:1ff
- Q. Christ delivers the kingdom to the Father and the day of God begins. 1Cor.15:24-28

V. Christ and the Millennium.

- A. His Kingdom begins immediately following the 2nd Advent. Dan.2:44 cp.12:11-13; Mic.4:1-4; Rev.20:4
 - B. He will be the ruler of the entire world. Ps.2:8; Isa.9:6-7; Zec.14:9
 - C. He will rule from Mt. Zion in Jerusalem. Ps.2:6; Isa.24:23; 52:7-10
 - D. He will sit on the throne of David, fulfilling the Davidic covenant and exalting the tribe of Judah. Gen.49:10; 1Kgs.9:5; Isa.9:7; Luk.1:32
 - E. He will rule with +R in justice, characterized by the rod of iron. Ps.2:9; Isa.11:1-5, 16:5, 42:1-4; Rev.12:5 cp.2:27
1. This will result in lack of warfare between nations. Isa.2:2-4; Mic.4:2-4

- 2. Oppression and manipulation on a personal level, as well as on the national level, will be prohibited. Psa.72:1-4,12-15; Isa.25:3-5
- F. He will be exalted as per His SG3 reward. Isa.53:10-12; Phi.2:9-11; Rev.2:26-27

VI. The Church Age (C/A) believer in the Millennium.

- A. Based on the doctrine of positional truth, the believer shares the destiny of Christ. Rom.6:5, 8:16-17
- B. All C/A saints will return with Christ at the Second Advent. Rev.19:14
- C. Each believer will be assigned a position in the millennial kingdom based on his Ph₂ application of BD. Luk.19:12-27; Rev.2:26-27
- D. The twelve apostles will rule over the twelve tribes of Israel. Mat.19:27-29
- E. The believer in his glorified body will mingle with resurrected OT saints and those physically living in the Millennium. Mat.8:11
- F. Prize winning believers will rule over nations in civil government with Christ executing the rule of the rod of iron. Rev.2:26-27
- G. The wedding feast will also occur during this time. Isa.25:6; Mat.22:2-13, 25:1-13; Rev.19:7-9
- H. Principle: *If we endure, we shall also reign with Him.* 2Tim.2:12

VII. Israel in the Millennium.

- A. The Millennium is the time in history when the unfulfilled promises of the Abrahamic and Davidic covenants are fulfilled. Gen.13:14-17; 15:18; 17:8; 26:3-4; 28:13; 35:12; 2Chr.13:5 (*covenant of salt = everlasting preservation of purity*); 21:7; Psa.89:3-4; Jer.33:14-22 cp.23:5-6
- B. A New covenant with Israel will be realized during the Millennium. Jer.31:31-34
- C. In spite of the previous dispersions, this restoration is permanent. Isa.11:11-13; Jer.16:14-16; 23:3-8; 31:7-14,35-40; Eze.34:11-16,25-31; 37:1-28; Amo.9:13-15; etc.
- D. The enemies of Israel are reduced to nothing. Isa.41:8-16; 49:22-26
- E. The shame over their historic negative volition will be removed. Isa.54:4-8; 62:1-4; Eze.36:1-15
- F. The positive remnant will be forgiven and restored. Isa.30:18-22; Eze.36:24-28; Joe.2:32; Zec.8:11-12
- G. The negative will be purged from the land. Zep.1:12-18; 3:11-13; Mal.3:1-5; Mat.25:1-13
- H. Israel will enjoy unprecedented glory among the nations. Isa.49:22-23; 60:1-14
- I. The nation will experience a tremendous population explosion and longevity will be increased. Isa.49:19-20; 54:1-3; 60:22
- J. The territory of Israel will be expanded and divided among the tribes. Gen.15:18; Eze.47:13-23; 48:1-29
- K. Due to the lifting of certain aspects of the curse, the nation will enjoy unprecedented prosperity. Isa.35:1-10; 65:18-25
- L. The topography of the land will be changed at the 2nd Advent. Zec.14:4-11
- M. All OT saints will be resurrected at the beginning of the Millennium, including those that suffered martyrdom in Daniel's 70th week. Dan.12:2-3,13
- N. The temple will have been rebuilt and cleansed and the priesthood with its attendant sacrifices will be reinstated. Jer.33:17-18; Eze.40-44, 46; Dan.9:27 cp.12:11
- O. Israel will live in maximum peace, safety, physical and spiritual prosperity with the Lord in their midst. Zep.3:14-20

VIII. Gentile nations during the Millennium.

- A.** All unbelievers are purged at the beginning of the Millennium. Mal.4:1-3; Mat.25:31ff
- B.** Only believing Gentiles will survive the baptism of fire. Mat.3:10-12; 25:41
- C.** Each nation will continue to exist under the principles of nationalism, with the exception of the United States. Dan.7:3,12; Rev.19:15 cp.Rev.18
- D.** Each nation will be tested under perfect establishment rule to respond to the plan of God. Zec.14:16
- E.** Those nations that are positive will receive rain accordingly; those nations that manifest negative volition will be disciplined with drought, with rain representing their attitude toward BD. Zec.14:16-21 cp.Heb.6:7
- F.** Gentiles are to be evangelized and taught by the nation Israel. Isa.2:2-3; Mic.4:1-8
- G.** Zion will become the center of worldwide worship. Isa.2:2; Mic.4:2,8
- H.** World-wide prosperity will be the norm as exhibited by the following:
 - 1.** No war. Isa.2:4
 - 2.** Criminal activity is suppressed. Isa.14:3-6
 - 3.** Animals lose their ferocity. Isa.11:6-9
 - 4.** Increased longevity. Isa.65:20

IX. Satan, evil and sin during the Millennium.

- A.** Satan will be bound at the beginning of the Millennium and unable to interfere with mankind. Rev.20:1-3 cf. Isa.14:12-17
- B.** He will be released for a brief period after the 1000-year reign of Christ and immediately instigates a revolution against the Lord's rule. Rev.20:7-9
- C.** He will be summarily defeated and cast into his final abode, the lake of fire. Rev.20:10
- D.** At the beginning of the Millennium, only believers will inhabit the earth; all unbelievers will be removed during the judgment of the sheep and goats. Mat.25:31-46
- E.** However, these believers still possess the genetic STA that will be passed on to their progeny through procreation and will continue to reproduce and repopulate the earth.
- F.** Under the excellent conditions that will exist on the planet at that time population will increase dramatically as observed in the passages concerning Israel.
- G.** Even under the visible rule of Christ and almost perfect environment mankind will still have its share of negative volition. Rev.20:8b
- H.** Christ permits -V to the gospel and to Bible doctrine as long as criminal activity is not involved.
- I.** The Millennium starts with believers only, yet within 1000 years an incredible number of negative unbelievers populate the planet.
- J.** These, as is typical of -V, are deceived by Satan and join his rebellion only to be destroyed by a supernatural judgment of God. Rev.20:8a, 9
- K.** God allows this during this dispensation to demonstrate the fact that environment or social influence does not determine volitional response.