

# Overview of the Bible (Lesson #13)

Today's topic: End Time Prophecy  
Recommended Reading: Chapters 77 - 92 of Ryrie's *Basic Theology*

## 1. In today's study of our *Overview of the Bible* series we'll be in Lesson #13A:

- Lesson #1: Basic overview and Authority of the Bible
- Lesson #2: A study of God and His Defining Attributes
- Lesson #3: The Bible: Inspired Word of God
- Lesson #4: Angels
- Lesson #5: The Devil
- Lesson #6: Demons
- Lesson #7: Mankind
- Lesson #8: Sin
- Lesson #9: Jesus Christ, Son of God and Savior of the World
- Lesson #10: Salvation overview (Justification, Sanctification, and Glorification)
- Lesson #11: The Holy Spirit
- Lesson #12: The Church
- **Lesson #13: End Time Prophecy**
- Lesson #14: Wrapping it all up and putting it all together...

## 2. How does the "world" view End Time activities? Consider the typical American in developing your answer (maybe someone who does not go to church).

In this particular lesson we will be addressing the Millennial Reign (aka "1,000 Year Reign") and Eternity. In addition to the debate surrounding The Tribulation, the Millennial Reign is a contested subject among Theologians. The Roman Catholics and Reformed Churches (i.e., Presbyterians and Lutherans) typically refute the 1,000 Year Reign; a viewpoint known as the amillennial position (the prefix "a" meaning "not"). Shown in **Figure 1** is a chart detailing the major positions held among Believers regarding End Times views, while **Figure 2** provides a graphical representation related to the Millennial Reign. The **premillennial position** assumes that Jesus will return before the 1,000 Year Reign, whereas the **postmillennial position** assumes that Jesus will return after the 1,000 Year Reign.

The position held by most Bible churches and taught at Dallas Theological Position is the premillennial position. However, it should be noted that we have brothers and sisters in Christ who hold to the other positions and use Scripture to support their positions. The postmillennial position was popular in the early 1900s, but after two world wars and the restoration of Israel as a recognized sovereign nation in the 1940s, its popularity has diminished significantly. Proponents of the postmillennial position teach that the Church will usher in the Kingdom based on our conversion of the nations and our ability to bring about change in the world.

As in everything we've discussed in this series, let's be careful picking sides (and when we do, make sure we're completely aligned with the God's position as presented in the Bible). If we are going to argue about something, let's pick something worth the investment of our energy; weighty matters like sharing the Gospel with a lost world that does not know Jesus and saving the lives of unborn children. The position I take is a premillennial position where Jesus returns prior to the Millennial Reign, literally rules on earth for 1,000 years, and that Satan is bound (i.e. restrained) during this time period. Provided below is further explanation as to why I hold to this position, along with thoughts related to eternity. I encourage you to study and seek the position you best believe is reflected in the Scripture.

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Further, review the information provided in **Figure 1** and **Figure 2**, and specifically the End Time Chart provided in **Figure 1**. Listed below are some of the distinct features of the premillennial view:<sup>1</sup>

- (Dispensational View) Israel and the church: views church and Israel as two distinct identities with two individual redemptive plans.
- Christ will return at the end of the Great Tribulation to institute a thousand-year rule from a holy city (the New Jerusalem). Those who come to believe in Christ during the Tribulation Period, including the 144,000 Jews, will go on to populate the earth during this time. Those who were raptured or raised previous to the Tribulation Period will reign with Christ over the millennial population.
- At the end of the Millennium, several important events occur including the binding of Satan, deceit of the nations, the "White Throne" judgment will occur after which Satan and all unbelievers will be thrown into the lake of fire. Jesus and His followers will proceed into eternal glory.
- Major proponents of the premillennial position include John Walvoord, Charles Ryrie, Louis Sperry Chafer, J. Dwight Pentecost, Norman Geisler, Charles Stanley, Chuck Smith, and Chuck Missler.

In summary, dispensational premillennialism holds that a seven-year tribulation will precede a thousand-year period (Revelation 20:1-6), during which time Christ will reign on the throne of David (Luke 1:32), bind Satan for one thousand years (Revelation 20:1-3), and raise the Old Testament and tribulation saints from the dead (Daniel 12:2; Revelation 20:4).

At this time, the Millennial Reign will begin and Christ will reign politically over the earth from His capital in Jerusalem (Isaiah 2:3). Throughout His reign, there will be no war (Isaiah 2:4) and even the animals will dwell in harmony (Isaiah 11:6-9). At the end of this era of peace, Satan will be released and instigate a colossal (but futile) rebellion against God (Revelation 20:7-9). After this fated battle, the White Throne Judgment will occur. Satan and the wicked non-believers will then be cast into the lake of fire (Revelation 20:10), while the righteous proceed into their eternal state in the realm of the new heaven and the new earth (Revelation 21:1).

#### References

- Pentecost, J. Dwight. *Things to Come*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1978.
- Ryrie, Charles. *The Basis for Premillennial Faith*. New York: The Loizeaux Brothers, 1953.
- Walvoord, John. *Every Prophecy of the Bible*. Colorado Springs: Chariot Victor Publishing, 1999.
- Walvoord, John. *The Revelation of Jesus Christ*. Chicago: Moody Press, 1966.
- Blaising, Craig A. "Premillennialism." *Three Views of the Millennium and Beyond*. Ed. Darrell L. Bock. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1999.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.blueletterbible.org/faq/mill.cfm>



<b>Four Views of the End Times</b>				
	Dispensational Premillennialism	Historical Premillennialism	Amillennialism	Postmillennialism
Will Jesus return physically?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
When will Jesus return?	After a 7-year tribulation; before the millennium.	After tribulation; before the millennium.	Anytime; a detailed time frame is not important.	After the millennium.
Do the rapture and second coming of Christ occur at the same time?	No, they are events separated by either 7 years (pre-tribulation rapture) or 3½ years (mid-tribulation rapture).	Yes	Yes	Yes
Will there be a great tribulation?	Yes	Yes	The tribulation occurs any time Christians are persecuted or wars and disasters occur.	Tribulation is either the first-century Jewish-Roman War or the ongoing conflict between good and evil prior to millennium.
Will Christians suffer during the tribulation?	Christians are either raptured before the tribulation (pre-tribulation rapture) or 3½ years into the tribulation (mid-tribulation rapture).	Yes, Christians will go through the tribulation and endure suffering and persecution for the cause of Christ.	Yes, Christians will suffer and endure persecution until Jesus returns; persecution will increase in the end.	Yes, Christians are called to share the gospel, and tribulation will occur when that gospel is opposed.
Will there be a literal 1,000-year millennium?	Yes, after the 7-year tribulation, Christ will return and reign for 1,000 years.	Yes, after the tribulation, Christ will return and reign for 1,000 years.	No, the millennium refers to the reign of Christ in the hearts of his believers.	No, the millennium refers to a period of peace when the gospel reaches all people.
Who is saved?	Christians only	Christians only	Christians only	Christians only
Is the modern state of Israel relevant to the prophecies in Revelation?	Yes	No	No	No
When was this view most held?	Became popular about 1860. Has increased in popularity.	The earliest view of the end times, emerging at the end of the first century.	Popularized in AD 400. Continues to be accepted today.	May have been popular as early as AD 300. Less popular today.

Figure 1: Chart showing four views regarding End Times

## Comparison of Christian millennial teachings

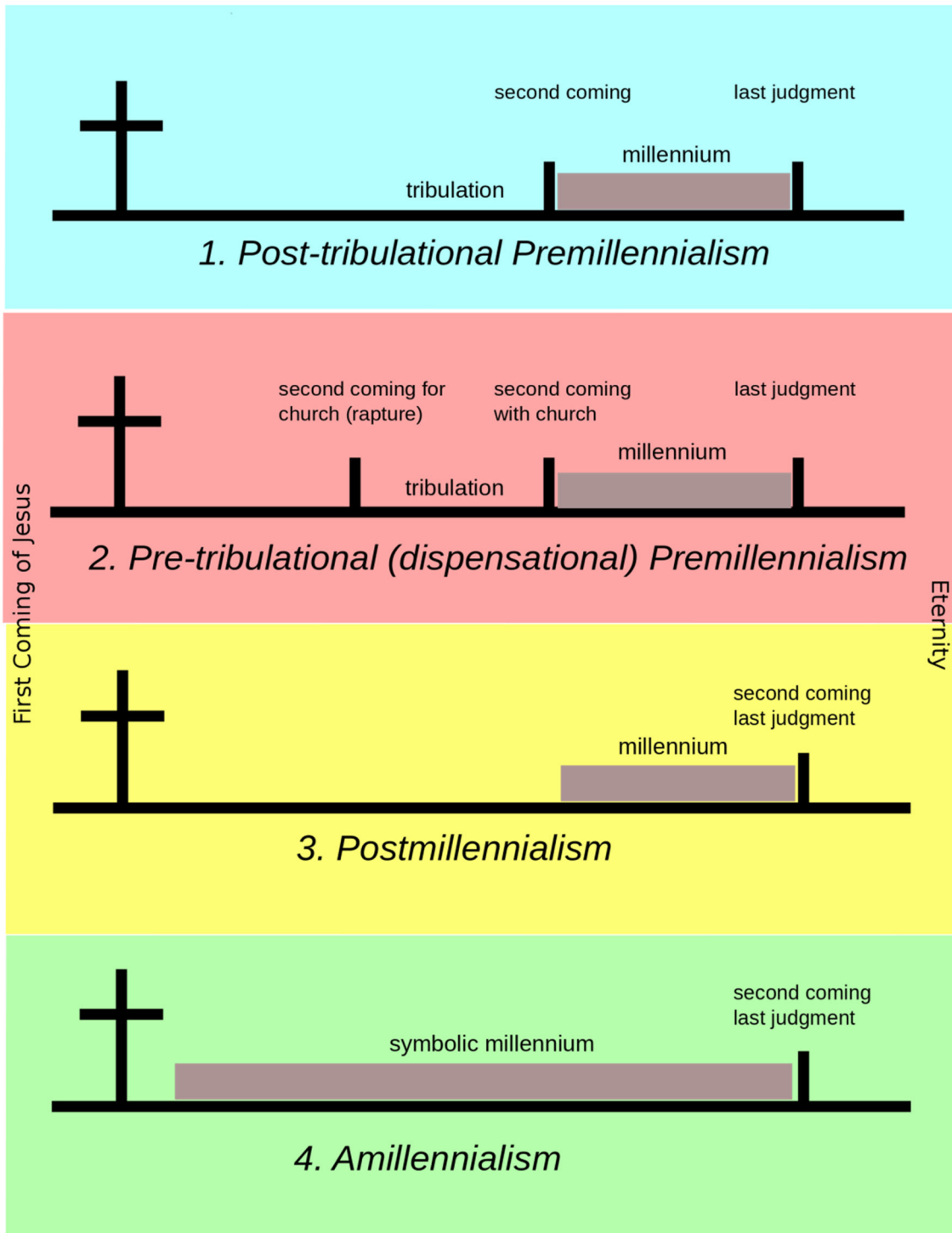


Figure 2: Four views regarding the timing of the Millennial Reign (pre, a-, and post)

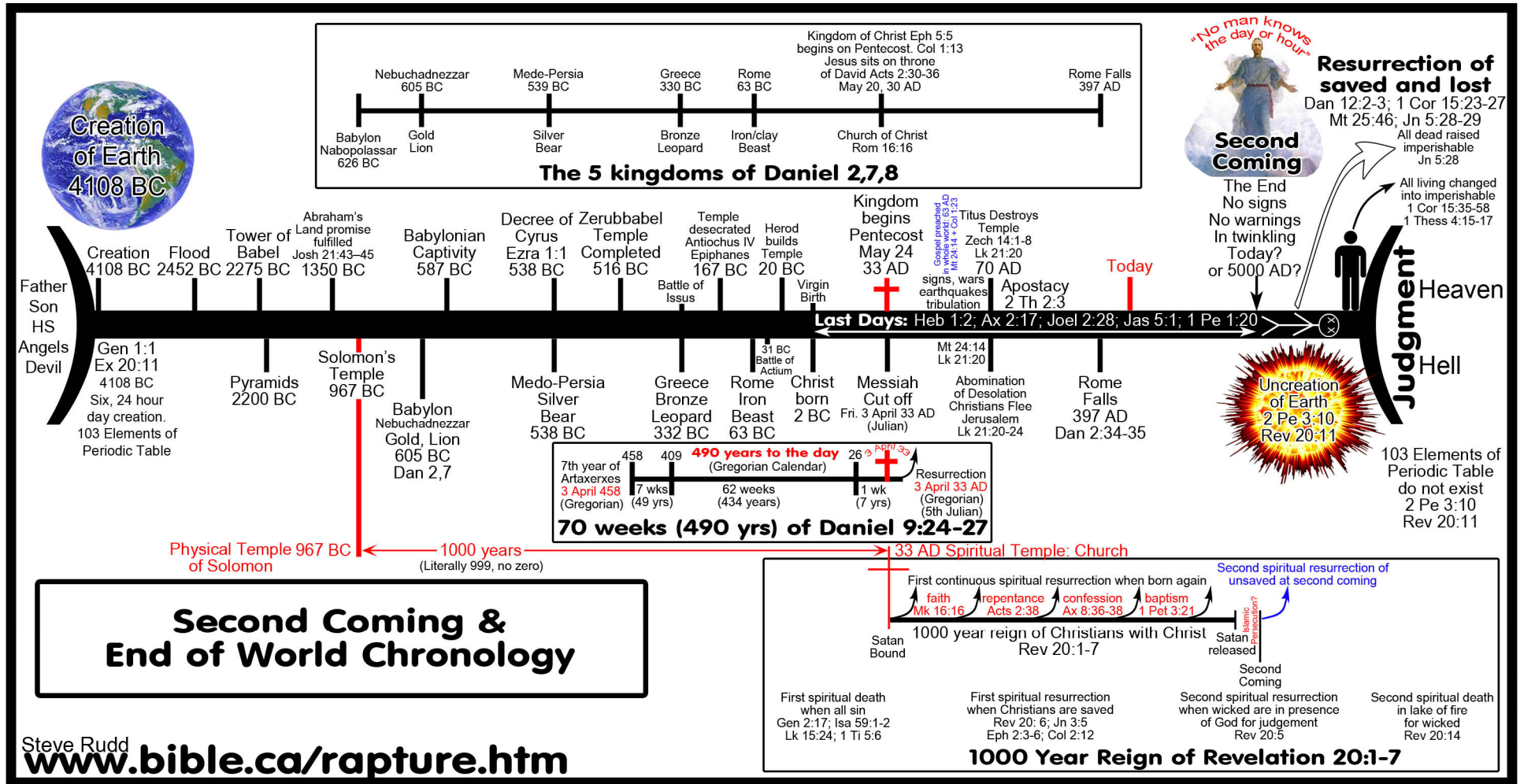


Figure 3: World history timeline in light of Biblical prophecy