

Midweek Study

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FOUNDATIONS

of Our Faith

Welcome to Your Future

Article 10: Last Things¹ - God, in His own time and in His own way, will bring the world to its appropriate end. According to His promise, Jesus Christ will return personally and visibly in glory to the earth; the dead will be raised; and Christ will judge all men in righteousness. The unrighteous will be consigned to Hell, the place of everlasting punishment. The righteous in their resurrected and glorified bodies will receive their reward and will dwell forever in Heaven with the Lord.

Isaiah 2:4; 11:9; Matthew 16:27; 18:8-9; 19:28; 24:27,30,36,44; 25:31-46; 26:64; Mark 8:38; 9:43-48; Luke 12:40,48; 16:19-26; 17:22-37; 21:27-28; John 14:1-3; Acts 1:11; 17:31; Romans 14:10; 1 Corinthians 4:5; 15:24-28,35-58; 2 Corinthians 5:10; Philippians 3:20-21; Colossians 1:5; 3:4; 1 Thessalonians 4:14-18; 5:1ff.; 2 Thessalonians 1:7ff.; 2; 1 Timothy 6:14; 2 Timothy 4:1,8; Titus 2:13; Hebrews 9:27-28; James 5:8; 2 Peter 3:7ff.; 1 John 2:28; 3:2; Jude 14; Revelation 1:18; 3:11; 20:1-22:13.

6 Core Truths

1) History will be brought to a purposeful end.

- God is sovereign, and His ultimate plan will be carried out, according to the Bible.

2) Jesus will return visibly to the earth.

- Matthew 24:27,30: "For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be... Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory."
- Acts 1:11: "This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven."
- Revelation 1:7: "Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him."

3) The dead will be raised, both believer and unbeliever.

- The believers' glorified body will be like Christ's glorified body. 1 Corinthians 15:52: "For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed."
- John 5:28-29: "Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves 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 condemnation."
- Daniel 12:2: "And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, Some to everlasting life, Some to shame and everlasting contempt."

¹ From the *Baptist Faith and Message 2000*, <https://bfm.sbc.net/bfm2000>.

4) Jesus Christ will judge every person.

- You are saved by grace (not works). However, for those who are not saved, they will be judged based on their works, which will be revealed as deserving of punishment.
- Believers at the Judgment Seat of Christ - 2 Corinthians 5:10: "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ..."
- Unbelievers at the Great White Throne Judgment - Revelation 20:12: "And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened."

5) Hell is the final abode for unbelievers.

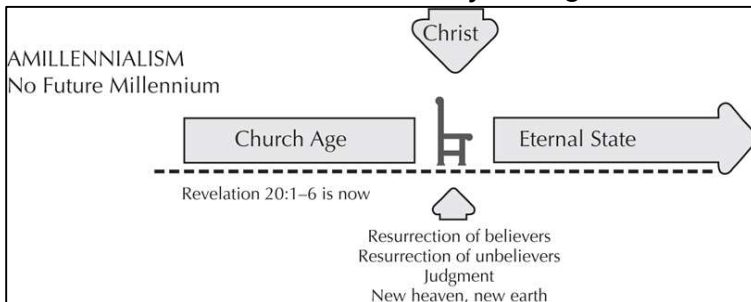
- Matthew 25:46: "And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."
- Luke 16:19-26 The Rich Man and Lazarus

6) Heaven is where the righteous will receive their reward and dwell with the Lord forever.

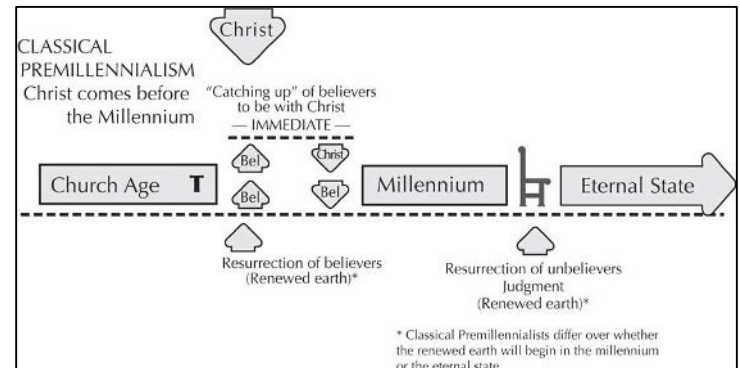
- Revelation 21:3-4: "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them..."

Different Views on the Millennium²

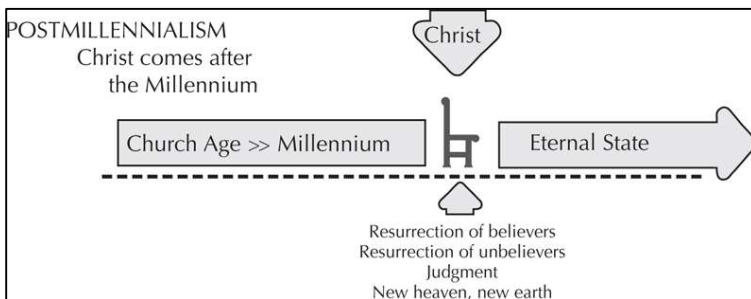
Amillennialism: No literal thousand-year reign.



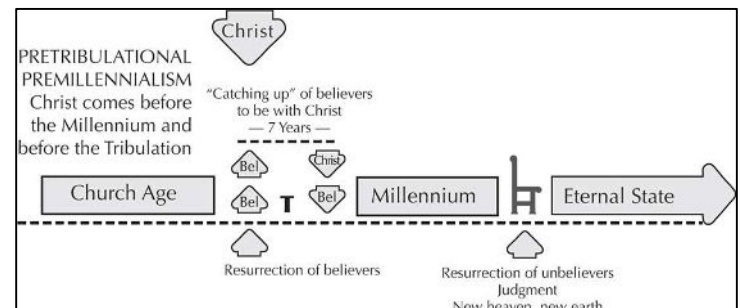
Premillennialism: Christ returns before the millennium.



Postmillennialism: Christ returns after millennium.



Pretribulational Premillennialism



Application:

- 1) **Always be ready for Christ's return.** (See Luke 12:40 and Matthew 24:44)
- 2) **Believers, live today with the Judgment Seat of Christ in mind.** (See Romans 14:10 and 2 Cor. 5:10)
- 3) **Work while you wait.** "Occupy" till He comes. (see Luke 19:13, 1 Thess. 4:11-12 and 2 Thess. 3:10-12)

² Charts from Wayne Grudem, *Systematic Theology, Second Edition*. (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Academic, 2020), 1369–1374.