

3 views on The Millennium

In Revelation 20:1-10 one reads about Jesus Christ ruling the world for 1000 years. Jesus will rule from his throne in Jerusalem. Papias was a hearer of John the Apostle and held to a pre-millennial view of history. Irenaeus was a student of Polycarp, who was John's disciple. Irenaeus also held to pre-millennialism. The Church father, Justin Martyr also subscribed to pre-millennialism. These men thought that there would be 6,000 years of human history, followed by another 1000 years of Christ reign. These last 1,000 years represent a sabbath rest. These men believed that this millennial reign of Christ was necessary for God to fulfill His promises to Abraham. Pre-millennialism was the dominant view until Augustine changed his position from premillennialism to amillennialism. Augustine systematized amillennialism because Christianity became the favored religion of the state, by his time.



Premillennialism

Christ returns and judges the world. He then establishes His righteous kingdom for 1000 years.

- Genesis 12: 1-3
- Genesis 15: 5
- Isaiah 11: 1-16
- Isaiah 65: 17-25
- Ezekiel 37: 1-28
- Ezekiel 39: 1-29
- Ezekiel 47: 13-23
- Zechariah 14: 8- 19
- Matthew 25: 31-32
- Romans 11: 11-24



Amillennialism

SUPERSESSIONISM-- Israel is replaced by the Church

PRETERISM- the idea that all prophecies like the destruction of Jerusalem, the Anti-Christ, the Great Tribulation and the Day of the Lord were fulfilled in 70 AD or during the persecution of Christians under the emperor Nero.

ALLEGORY- there is no literal kingdom. All prophecies concerning the kingdom are just figurative.



Postmillennialism

A 19th and 20th century minority position. It suggests that Christ will return after the Church transforms the whole world into the kingdom of God.

The millennium is a golden age, in which Christian ethics prosper.

Post-millennialism was a dominant theological belief among American Protestants who subscribed to either the Social Gospel or Christian Reconstructionism