



# Understanding the Millennial Kingdom



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. He also subscribed to pre-millennialism. Justin Martyr also taught pre-millennialism. These men thought that there would be 6,000 years of human history with the another 1000 years being a Sabbath rest. They also believed that this Millennial Kingdom was necessary for God to fulfill His promises to Abraham. Pre-millennialism was the dominant view until the fourth century, after Constantine made Christianity the favored religion of the state. Augustine then made amillennialism a part of his theology.

## Arguments for each position

### Pre-millennialism



The promise to Abraham  
Genesis 12:1-3



The righteous reign of the branch  
Isaiah 11:1-16

Israel, Egypt, and Assyria  
Isaiah 19:16-25

Life in the millenium  
Isaiah 65:17-25

Worldwide dominion  
Ezekiel 37:1-28

The valley of dry bones  
Ezekiel 39:1-29

The division of the land  
Ezekiel 47:13-23

The surviving nations  
Zechariah 14: 8-19

Jesus judges the nations  
Matthew 25: 31-32

The tree of Israel  
Romans 11:11-24

### Amillennialism



#### Apocalyptic

They argue that the book of Revelation is apocalyptic literature, which is full of visions that cannot be understood. Consequently, allegorical interpretation is required.

#### Allegory

There is no actual millennial kingdom. All of the prophecies concerning the kingdom are allegorical and not literal. Traditionally, allegory is concerned with the divine meaning, rather than the human (or literal) meaning. Origen asserted that allegory is the first level of interpretation.

#### Supersessionism

Also known as replacement theology. Israel is replaced by the Church

#### Preterism

The idea that all prophecy has already occurred. For example: prophecies like the the destruction of Jerusalem, the Antichrist, the Great Tribulation and the Day of the Lord were fulfilled in 70 AD or during the persecution of Christians under the emperor Nero.

#### Realized Eschatology

The Church is the Kingdom of God,

**Apocalyptic can be understood, so allegory is not necessary. A literal interpretation of Revelation 20:1-10 is the only thing that makes sense.**

#### The Nations

Deuteronomy 4:15-19  
Jeremiah 10: 1-11

The nations worship created things rather than the Creator. Consequently, God will judge the nations for their unrighteousness.

#### The Kingdom of Israel

Deuteronomy 4:20

God chose Israel for Himself and demanded they they worship Him alone. God will fulfill His promises to Abraham by restoring the nation of Israel.

#### Inaugurated Eschatology

The Church is the ALREADY aspect of the Kingdom of God, while the Millennial Kingdom is the NOT YET aspect of the kingdom of God.

#### Prophecy

1. Spoken first, written later.
2. The author is a well known prophet.
3. Language is clear.
4. The meaning is understood by many.
5. Apocalyptic is a type of prophecy.

#### Apocalyptic Form

1. Literary in form.
2. Pseudonymous in authorship.
3. Symbolic in language.
4. The meaning is understood by a few.
5. Focused on unfulfilled prophecy.

#### Apocalyptic Content

1. The present day is evil.
2. The wicked are in power and God's people are oppressed.
3. Tribulation
4. The Day of the Lord
5. The righteous are rewarded and the wicked are punished.