



Week One: THE BASIS OF OUR PREMILLENNIAL ESCHATOLOGY (Doctrine of End Times)

Revelation 20:1-6 Are these 1000 years literal or figurative of an unknown amount of time?

Three major views on eschatology:

Amillennialism – no literal 1000 year reign of Christ on earth.

Postmillennialism – Christ will return after the gospel has “Christianized” the world.

Premillennialism – Christ will return and rule on earth for 1000 years.

A Future for National Israel - We believe God will keep His promises to Israel as a nation – Romans 11. We reject “replacement” theology that says the church has “replaced” Israel.

Some key passages supporting premillennialism

Daniel 2, 7, 9 – Four earthly kingdoms replaced by Christ’s global kingdom.

Zechariah 14 – The Lord will be king over all the earth.

Matthew 24 – specifically to Israel in the tribulation period – see vv 15ff.

1 Thessalonians 4 – rapture of the church age believers, dead and living, no unbelievers present.

2 Thessalonians 2 – Anti-Christ claims deity empowered by Satan in tribulation period.

Revelation – we hold to a futurist view (contra the “preterist” view).

Charles Spurgeon:

I am not given to prophesying, and I fear that the fixing of dates and periods has been exceedingly injurious to the whole system of Premillennial teaching; but I think I clearly see in Scripture that the Lord Jesus Christ will come-so far I go, and take my stand-that he will come personally to reign upon this earth. At his coming it appears clear to me that *he will gather together the Jewish people*, that Jerusalem shall become the metropolis of the new empire which shall then extend from pole to pole, from the river even to the ends of the earth. If this be a correct interpretation of prophecy, you may read the whole of this chapter through and understand it; you have the key to every sentence: without such a belief; I see not how to interpret the prophet’s meaning.
Sermon on Zechariah 2:1-5)

Why we hold to the pre-tribulation “rapture” (contra a post-tribulation rapture)

John 14:1-3 is a promise concerning the Father’s house, not a return to earth.

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 Church age believers changed, caught up, with the Lord, to heaven. If the rapture occurred at the end of the tribulation period, there would be no non-glorified believers to inhabit the millennial kingdom.

Revelation 3:10 has a global reference beyond the local church at Philadelphia

No mention of “church” in Revelation 4 ff.

The purpose of the tribulation period – judgment, redeeming Gentiles, and restoring Israel.

Saints are with Christ at His second coming in Revelation 20 (not “caught up” as He’s coming to earth).

The doctrine of imminency – we look for Christ to come at any moment – Titus 2:13, et al.

Why we believe the tribulation period is a future seven year period of time

Daniel's 70th week in 9:24-27 is a "week of years" or seven years, divided at midpoint.

Daniel 12:1 – unprecedented time of distress

Matthew 24:21 – unprecedented great tribulation.

Revelation 11:2 – 42 months

Revelation 11:3 – 1260 days

Revelation 12:6 – 1260 days

Revelation 12:14 – "time, times, and half a time

Revelation 13:5 – 42 months

Why we believe Christ will return before the 1000 years of Revelation 20

Revelation 19 precedes Revelation 20 (based on a futurist view of Revelation).

Why we believe Christ will reign on earth for 1000 years – Revelation 20:1-6

Christ will rule the earth and all believers, Gentile and Jewish, who physically survive the tribulation period will enter the millennium and reproduce. By the end of the 1000 years many offspring will have rejected Christ and Satan will incite them to a final rebellion – Revelation 20:7-10.

Why we believe the Great White Throne Judgment follows the millennium – Revelation 20:11-15.