

PRE  
**MILLENNIAL**  
ISM

A STUDY OF THE PREMILLENNIAL THEORY

# 1000 PREMILLENNIALISM

before

1,000 years

doctrine

**Rapture Tribulation Antichrist Armageddon**

This interpretation teaches that the age will end in judgment at the second coming of Christ, who will restore the kingdom to Israel and reign for at least 1,000 years.  
(New Unger's Bible Dictionary)



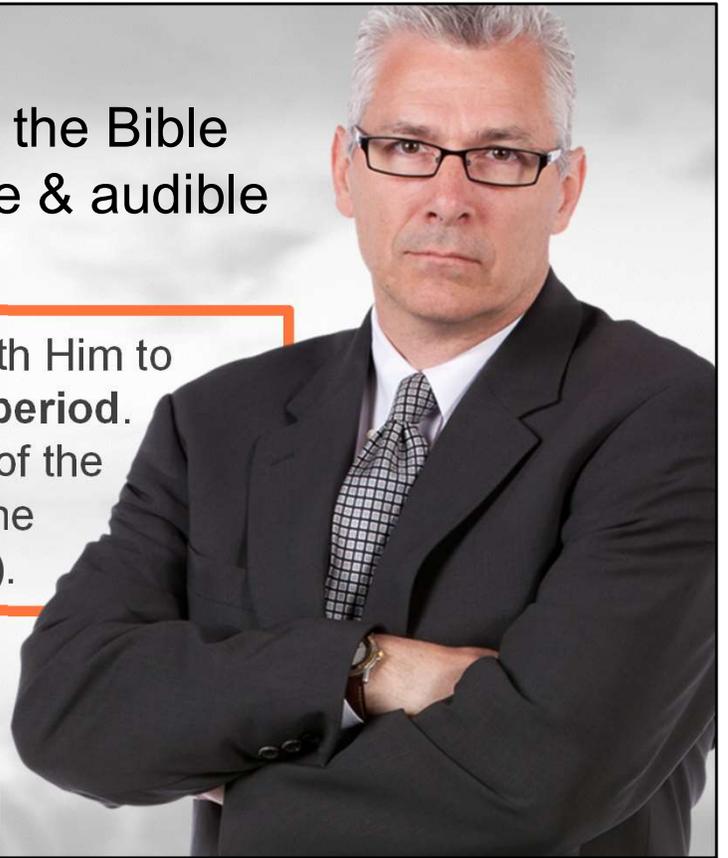
Premillennialism

- Premillennialism is not a new eschatological theory. It can be traced back as far as Irenaeus (130-202 AD).
  - Note Unger's definition of Premillennialism
  - Though the **1000 YEARS** is emphasized in the name, the true focus of premillennialism is the restoration of Israel.
  - A question we'll consider in the course of our study is whether God has plans to re-establish Israel, since that is at the core of the doctrine.
- We'll get to that, but before doing so, let's familiarize ourselves with the basic tenets of the doctrine.
- There are a few different versions of premillennialism being peddled today, but there are some things that are fairly common to all who hold to the theory (rapture, 7 year tribulation, Armageddon, Antichrist, restored temple & restored national Israel).

- ❖ There IS NO secret rapture in the Bible
- ❖ The resurrection is both visible & audible (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17)

Jesus will secretly take His people with Him to heaven prior to a **7-year tribulation period**. Some link this rapture with the rising of the dead saints, which is deemed to be the “first resurrection” (Revelation 20:5-6).

# RAPTURE



## • RAPTURE

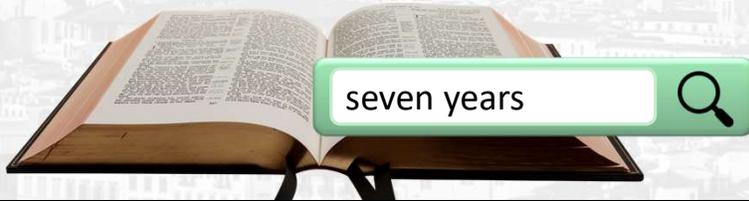
- In our opposition to the doctrine of the rapture, let's be sure we don't use straw-man arguments.
  - Some will point out that the word “rapture” is not used in the Bible. How about “Bible”? Or “trinity”?
  - The Greek word *harpazo* (rendered “caught up,” “taken away”) appears multiple times (Mt 11:12; 13:18; Jn 6:15; 10:12, 28; Ac 8:39; 23:10; 2 Cor 12:2, 4; 1 Thes 4:17; Jude 1:23; Rev 12:5), though only once with regard to end time events.
- The problem with a secret rapture where the Lord takes just the elect from the earth is that **THE BIBLE** says nothing about it.
- The one time *harpazo* is used with regard to end time events is 1 Thes 4:17. It's **NOT A SECRET** event in that text.
- As we look at the tenets of premillennialism, we're going to keep **A RUNNING TALLY** of how many times the Lord returns. If nothing else revealed this doctrine to be false, this would.

- The tally begins at 2:
- 1) His coming in the flesh as the Messiah;
- 2) His coming to extract His own people from the earth before a 7-year tribulation period.

The tribulation is a future seven-year period of time when God will finish His discipline of Israel and finalize His judgment of the unbelieving world. ... Throughout Scripture, the tribulation is referred to by other names such as the Day of the Lord (Isaiah 2:12; 13:6-9; Joel 1:15; 2:1-31; 3:14; 1 Thessalonians 5:2); trouble or tribulation (Deuteronomy 4:30; Zephaniah 1); the great tribulation, which refers to the more intense second half of the seven-year period (Matthew 24:21); time or day of trouble (Daniel 12:1; Zephaniah 1:15); time of Jacob's trouble (Jeremiah 30:7).

- [gotquestions.org/tribulation.html](http://gotquestions.org/tribulation.html)

# 7 YEAR TRIBULATION



- The rapture supposedly precedes a 7-year tribulation period.
- What do you suppose a **SEARCH IN THE BIBLE** for “seven years” yields?
  - Gen 29 – Jacob serving Laban seven years for Rachel, followed by another seven.
  - Gen 41 – Pharaoh’s dreams (seven years of plenty followed by seven years of famine)
  - Deut 15 – the year of release at the end of every seven years (debts)
  - Jdg 6 – Israel oppressed for seven years by Midian in the time of Gideon
  - 1 Kgs 6 – seven years for Solomon to build the temple
  - 2 Kgs 8 – famine for seven years in Elisha’s day.
  - 2 Kgs 11 – Joash’s age when he became king in Judah
  - There are a few more references to “seven years,” all just as significant to the supposed tribulation period to come as these were.

- There is absolutely no reference in the Bible to a 7-year tribulation period as part of any end-times theology.
- Quote from **GOTQUESTIONS.ORG** – sounds like he knows what he's talking about, got verse references too!!
  - Isaiah 2 is about the Lord judging Judah at the hand of Babylon.
  - Isaiah 13 is about the Lord judging Babylon at the hand of Persia.
  - Joel 1:15 is about the Lord judging Judah at the hand of Babylon.
  - Joel 2:1-31 is about the Lord judging Judah at the hand of Babylon.
  - Joel 3:14 is about the Lord judging Egypt & Edom, the enemies of Judah.
  - 1 Thessalonians 5:2 is about the final judgment.
  - Deuteronomy 4:30 is about the troubles the Lord would bring on Israel in attempt to turn them back to Him.
  - Zephaniah 1 is about the trials upon Judah prior to the Babylonian captivity.
  - Matthew 24:21 is about the Roman siege of Jerusalem in 70 AD.
  - Daniel 12:1 refers to the Roman occupation of Judea (ch. 11 had the oppression under Antiochus Epiphanes)
  - Zephaniah 1:15 is about the desolation at Jerusalem at the hands of the Babylonians.

- Jeremiah 30:7 is a reference to the Babylonian captivity.

# 7 YEAR TRIBULATION

70 WEEKS OF DANIEL



483 years



7 years



- The **70 WEEKS** from Daniel 9:23-27 is used in support by premillennialists to support the tribulation theory.
  - They interpret it as “70 weeks of years” and then reinterpret that to mean “70 sevens of years”, thus equating Daniel’s 70 weeks to 490 years.
  - The idea is that 69 “sevens of years” (**483 YEARS**) pass between the decree to rebuilt the temple (Cyrus, Ezra 1:1-4; Isaiah 44:28) and the crucifixion of Christ.
  - They will then tell us that the final week (uhh, 7 years) is the **TRIBULATION PERIOD** (v 24, 26-27), after which the Lord will set up His kingdom on earth to reign for 1000 years.
- There are some problems with the theory.

$$536 - 483 = 53 \text{ BC}$$

Decree  
of Cyrus

69 sevens  
of years

**Oops!!**



## 7 YEAR TRIBULATION

70 WEEKS OF DANIEL



- The tribulation period, in their theory, doesn't occur immediately after the crucifixion.
  - They have an unspecified gap period.
  - Unspecified in that they don't know how long it will be (though there are many false prophets who have tried to pinpoint the beginning of the tribulation).
  - And unspecified in that Bible prophecy doesn't speak about any gap between the 69<sup>th</sup> week & the 70<sup>th</sup> week.
- Another problem, they confidently declare that the 483 years (from the decree to rebuild Jerusalem to the crucifixion) is correct.
  - **IT IS NOT.**
  - The decree to rebuild the temple **MADE BY CYRUS** was in 536 BC.
  - So, they don't use the decree made by Cyrus, but defer to an edict made by Artaxerxes in 445 BC (Nehemiah 2:7-8)

$$445 - 483 = 38 \text{ AD}$$

Edict of Artaxerxes 69 sevens of years

**Oops again!!**



## 7 YEAR **TRIBULATION**

70 WEEKS OF DANIEL



- But the math still doesn't work.
- Another calculation is needed, we're told, to convert from lunar years to solar years.
- So, we take the 483 years (a manufactured number) and multiply by 360 days and then divide by 365 days, which gives us 476 solar years.

$$445 - 476 = 31 \text{ AD}$$

Edict of Artaxerxes 69 sevens of years

Closer, but still not there



## 7 YEAR TRIBULATION

70 WEEKS OF DANIEL



- Well, that's closer. But, it is generally believed that Jesus died in 33 AD, not 31 AD.
- And, the calculation to bring the Jewish calendar and the solar calendar in line is unnecessary.
- The Jewish calendar already has a way of keeping up with the solar calendar.
  - A leap year in the Jewish calendar has 13 months in it, and occurs 7x in every 19 year cycle.
  - By using this system, the Jewish calendar deviates from the solar calendar by 1 day in 216 years!
- BTW, the 360 days used in their calculation was also a manufactured number:
  - 354.37 lunar days plus 365.24 solar days divided by 2,
  - To give us 360 days in a Jewish year (which is inaccurate).
  - A Jewish year has 353, 354, or 355 days in it, unless it is a leap year (383, 384, 385).
  - There is no calculation which makes the Jewish year 360 days long.
- So, they have multiplied a manufactured number by an inaccurate representation of the Jewish calendar and divided by 365, and it still doesn't work!!
- One more set of figures used to support the 7 year tribulation period come from the book of Revelation.

42 months persecution against the church

1260 days preaching of the gospel

3 ½ days until the resurrection

**CHURCH = TEMPLE | ALTAR | WORSHIPERS**

## 7 YEAR TRIBULATION

*REVELATION 11:1-3; 12:6; 13:5*

42 months + 1260 days = 7 years



- Revelation 11:1-3 reveals a couple of time frames – 42 months & 1260 days. (12:6 also mentions 1260 days; 13:5 also mentions 42 months)
  - If you **ADD THOSE TOGETHER**, you get 7 years!!
  - Why interpret them as literal time frames? It's a figurative book (1:1)
  - And even if they were literal time frames, **ON WHAT BASIS** do they add these together?
  - The text doesn't say they are to be added together.
  - Nor does the text say these are about a 7-year tribulation period.
- It's difficult to jump into the midst of the book of Revelation to explain a text but let me do so briefly here.
  - “Three Old Testament images are used to represent **GOD'S KINGDOM, THE CHURCH**. It is described as the temple (1 Corinthians 3:16-17; Ephesians 2:21; etc); the altar (we are to be a living sacrifice, Romans 12:1-2), and the worshipers,

which in the Old Testament were distinct from the temple and the altar, but in the New Testament are one and the same.

- The act of measuring is found in Zechariah 2:1-5. There, it is identified with God's protection of His people.
- A fourth image is added, the outside court, which is not measured, for it is given to the Gentiles. If what is measured are the faithful of God who have His seal upon them, then these who "tread the holy city underfoot" are the unfaithful. Gentile is used accommodatively of non-Christians.
- Physical Jerusalem is called the holy city (Nehemiah 11:1; Isaiah 52:1; Matthew 4:5), but this is not physical Jerusalem. It is possible the city had already been destroyed before the book was written. And even if it was still standing, this letter is to churches in Asia, not Judea. The holy city is a fourth description for the church (cf. Hebrews 12:22-23). "
- The 42 months (11:2), the 1260 days (11:3) and the 3 1/2 days (11:9, 11) are all the same image.
  - The **42 MONTHS** is the time the Gentiles trample the city (persecution against the church).
  - The **1260 DAYS** is the time the witnesses prophesy (preaching of the gospel).
  - The **3 1/2 DAYS** is the time the Lord's witnesses are dead (martyred for Christ).

They are resurrected & taken into heaven after 3 ½ days.

- These events are concurrent, not consecutive.
  - The church has been persecuted from the beginning and will continue to be persecuted until the end.
  - The gospel has been proclaimed by God's people from the beginning and will continue until the end.
  - The Lord's people have been put to death for the faith from the beginning and will continue to be until the end.
- Does the image involve tribulation? Absolutely. But it doesn't fit the 7-year tribulation of premillennialism.
  - They have the church raptures (taken away).
  - In this text, God's people are still present!

Most Bible prophecy/eschatology experts believe the Antichrist will be the ultimate embodiment of what it means to be against Christ. In the end times/last hour, a man will arise to oppose Christ and His followers more than anyone else in history. Likely claiming to be the true Messiah, the Antichrist will see world domination and will attempt to destroy all followers of Jesus Christ and the nation of Israel. (via gotquestions.org)

The Antichrist is **never mentioned** in Revelation or Daniel!  
The antichrist is **only mentioned** in 1 John & 2 John.



# ANTICHRIST

- During this 7-year tribulation period, an evil world power is to rise up – the Antichrist.
- Notice the quote from gotquestions.org
- The way premillennialists speaks about the Antichrist, you'd think there would be references to him throughout the Bible, especially in Revelation & Daniel (since they use these as support texts for their theory). **NOPE!**
- In fact, the antichrist is **ONLY MENTIONED** in 1 & 2 John. (1 John 2:18; 2:22; 4:3; 2 John 1:7)
  - 1 John 2:18 – “it is the last hour” (not it will be); not one Antichrist, but many antichrists.
  - 1 John 2:22 – denial that Jesus is the Christ; denial of the Godhead (these are examples of what John was facing)
  - 1 John 4:3 – denial that Jesus came in the flesh (Gnosticism); already come into the world!
  - 2 John 1:7 – “many deceivers (antichrists) have gone out into the world.” Again, denial of fleshly existence.

- A bit of a side note – how does the Premillennial Antichrist oppose the followers of Christ, when Jesus took them out of the world at the rapture????
  - The Premillennial theory affords those who are on the earth during the 7-year tribulation period a second chance.
  - They missed the rapture – they were not God’s people, and were not removed from the earth, but for some reason, they are given another chance to decide to serve Christ.
  - Why is no one else given a 2<sup>nd</sup> chance? The people in Noah’s day? Israel destroyed by Assyria? Judah destroyed by Babylon? Jerusalem destroyed by Babylon? All individuals who have died outside of Christ?
  - Also, how are they going to hear about Christ during the 7-year tribulation, since all true believers are gone??

- ❖ The imposing boastful king of Daniel 7:25 who oppresses the Jews and tries to “change the set times and the laws.”
- ❖ The leader who establishes a 7-year covenant with Israel and then breaks it in Daniel 9.
- ❖ The king who sets up the abomination of desolation in Mark 13:14 (cf. Daniel 9:27).
- ❖ The man of lawlessness in 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12.
- ❖ The rider of the white horse (representing his claim to be a man of peace) in Revelation 6:2.
- ❖ The first beast – the one from the sea – in Revelation 13. This beast receives power from the dragon (Satan) and speaks “proud words and blasphemies” (verse 5) and wages war against the saints (verse 7).

The Antichrist is **never mentioned** in Revelation or Daniel!  
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# ANTICHRIST



- The same site (gotquestions.org) indicates that the Antichrist is mentioned in these 6 places:
  - Daniel 7 – the king of Daniel 7 (the last of the 4 beasts spoken of there, is a reference to the Roman empire, who severely persecuted Christians, and even in the time of Domitian, sought to destroy Christianity completely, outlawing it.
  - Daniel 9 – refers to the Romans who brought an end to sacrifice at the temple, and eventually destroyed Jerusalem in 70 AD.
  - Mark 13:14 – refers to the Romans who destroyed Jerusalem (cf. Lk 21:20, Jerusalem surrounded by armies)
  - 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12 – the man of sin is an image used to represent apostates (see [lookinguntojesus.net/the-man-of-sin](http://lookinguntojesus.net/the-man-of-sin))
  - Revelation 6:2 – the rider on the white horse is Christ (cf. Revelation 19:11)

- Revelation 13 – the beast fits the description of the 4<sup>th</sup> beast mentioned in Daniel 7, which represented Rome. I don't believe we need to limit the scope of Revelation to the 1<sup>st</sup> century. The message finds application in every age of man – Satan is always looking for a beast to use against God's people (Communism, Islam, Evolution, Ecumenicalism, Post-truth era).
- Are the individuals on this list antichrist? Absolutely. They are against Christ. Are they the premillennial end-time false Messiah who rises up against the Christ? NO.

The Bible plainly forecasts the coming of yet another great war. It will be a war to eclipse anything the world has ever seen. It will embrace most of the nations of the world; and its focal point will be in the Middle East, where the armies of the world will some day deploy themselves, centering at Mount Megiddo. This great war has been called the battle of Armageddon. In the midst of this terrifying war that could destroy civilization the Lord Jesus Christ will return to this earth in glory and power to judge the nations of the world and set up His own glorious kingdom.

– Billy Graham (via [billygraham.org](http://billygraham.org))



COMING OF CHRIST COUNTER : 3

## THE BATTLE OF **ARMAGEDDON**

- At the end of the supposed 7-year tribulation period comes the battle of Armageddon.
- Billy Graham is perhaps the most famous preacher in the world, so we'll allow him to **TELL US ABOUT ARMAGEDDON.**
- He describes a literal battle to occur at a specific location at yet to be determined time.
- There have been a host of failed predictions about the battle of Armageddon.
  - Many thought the Crimean War in the mid-1800s was Armageddon. [extra - a military conflict fought from October 1853 to February 1856 in which the Russian Empire lost to an alliance of the Ottoman Empire, France, Britain and Sardinia. The immediate cause involved the rights of Christian minorities in the Holy Land, which was a part of the Ottoman Empire.]
  - In the 1980s, movements by Russia on Afghanistan & Iran were perceived as the beginning of Armageddon.

- In 1991, Louis Farrakhan, leader of the Nation of Islam declared the Gulf War would be the War of Armageddon.
- In 1994, Neal Chase, a Baha'i sect leader predicted New York would be destroyed by a nuclear bomb, and Armageddon would happen 40 days later
- In 2017, David Meade, a self-proclaimed Christian numerologist, predicted that Nibiru (a large planetary object) would collide with Earth on September 23, and that Armageddon would take place on that day.
- Troubles in the middle-East often give rise to Armageddon fearmongering.
- The formation of and activities of world organizations (ie. United Nations, European Union, NATO) likewise bring outlandish predictions of the end.
- All the above & things like them, are nothing more than junk religion, having no basis whatsoever in the Bible.
- We need to bring our "**COMING OF CHRIST COUNTER**" back, since Jesus comes to wage war in the battle of Armageddon.
  - This is now the 3rd coming of Christ.
    - 1 – His coming in the flesh to be crucified.
    - 2 – His coming to take His own away at the rapture.
    - 3 – His coming to battle against the Antichrist at Armageddon

16:13-14 – the dragon gathers his forces together  
16:15 – a word of encouragement for God’s people  
16:16 – the place of the battle is identified, Armageddon

**BOWL**  
#SEVEN  
*It is done!*



7 SEALS  
7 TRUMPETS  
7 BOWLS

- The effect sin has upon God’s creation
- God’s effort to provoke the wicked to repent
- God’s wrath upon those who do not turn to Him

COMING OF CHRIST COUNTER : 3

THE BATTLE OF  
**ARMAGEDDON**

- Armageddon is mentioned in the latter part of Revelation 16.
- We’re missing a lot of context to simply jump there (15 ½ chapters worth). So, here’s a very quick summary of the greater context.
  - **SEVEN SEALS** (6:1-8:1), display the effect sin has upon God’s creation;
  - **SEVEN TRUMPETS** (8:2-9:21; 11:15-19), show God’s effort to convict the wicked of their sin & provoke repentance;
  - **SEVEN BOWLS** (15:6-16:21), show God’s wrath upon the wicked, for they refused to turn to the Lord.
    - Bowl 1 (16:2), “...a foul and loathsome sore...” The devil is good at hiding the true nature of sin; God visits their sin upon them in all its putridity.
    - Bowl 2 (16:3) & bowl 3 (16:4) involve blood & more blood. The image is about returning upon the wicked what they did to the righteous (v 5-6).
    - Bowl 4 (16:8-9), further retribution upon the wicked for

the affliction of God's people. History speaks of Christians burned at the stake.

- Bowl 5 (16:10-11) shows a powerless enemy before God & His agents. Things are hopeless when an enemy soldier is able to walk straight into the throne room and pour out a bowl on the throne!
- Bowl 6 (16:12) is poured out on the great river Euphrates. The same image was used in 9:14 to indicate that God was the source of judgment against the wicked. It calls to mind God using Assyria & Babylon (both have the Euphrates running through them) against Israel & Judah respectively when they turned from God.
- Finally, we get to the immediate context of Armageddon.
  - **16:13-14**, the dragon (Satan) gathers together his forces for this final battle against God.
  - **16:15** is a word of encouragement from the LORD for his people to remain faithful. Don't get caught up with the apparent power of the wicked. We don't know the day or hour of his return, but we know He is trustworthy & will deliver His people.
  - **16:16**, the place of the battle is identified. Armageddon, lit. mount of Megiddo.
    - This was an importance place in the ancient world. It is mentioned 12x in the Bible.
      - It is where Barak had victory over the

Canananites;

- It is where Gideon had victory over the Midianites;
- It is where king Saul died at the hand of the Philistines
- Likely the most significant OT reference to Megiddo is the death of king Josiah. He confronted Pharaoh Necho, who was on his way to the Euphrates to aid the Assyrians who were in battle with the Babylonians. We don't know why Joshua withstood Necho. However, Josiah's death would be a crushing blow to Judah. He was the last good king in their history. He worked diligently to turn the Jews back to God, tearing down their high places & re-establishing the Passover. Not long after his demise, Babylon was on Jerusalem's doorstep, and eventually the city & temple would be destroyed and the people killed or taken captive.
- It might seem fitting then, a symbolic type of reciprocation or retribution, that the site which brought great sorrow and mourning among God's people by the death of their righteous king, would be used as a figure of the defeat of the enemies of God's people.

- The battle of Armageddon has been characterized by people as a huge, apocalyptic, age-ending battle. And certainly with the preparation seen on the devil's part, we should expect it to be a monumental event.
  - **BOWL 7** (16:17). Here is the battle!!
    - Read it – *“Then the seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air, and a loud voice came out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, ‘It is done!’”*
    - What's done? The battle of Armageddon. It's over. Finished. That's it. All done. Finito.
    - Despite all the preparations the dragon made, a word from the Lord and the battle is over. Satan and his armies are no match for God.
    - Time and again in Revelation, Satan and his cohorts are shown to be inferior to the Lord and fall before Him.
      - Dragon tried to get the Child (Messiah) – lost (ch. 12)
      - Dragon tried to get the woman (Israel) – lost (ch. 12)
      - Dragon tried to get the offspring (Christians) – lost (ch. 12)
      - Dragon created the beast – mortal wound (ch. 13)
      - Dragon created a 2<sup>nd</sup> beast – 666, less than God (ch. 13)
  - Armageddon is not the event the

premillennialists make it out to be. I wonder how any of them have actually read the Biblical account of the battle???

- Revelation 16 closes with the language of judgment (noises & thundering & lightning; a great earthquake; the nations falling, the island fleeing away, the mountains disappearing; hail falling to bring destruction). Similar images are used in 6:14; 11:19 & 14:8-10 to speak about the judgment.



At the second coming of Christ, these covenants will be fulfilled as Israel is regathered from the nations (Matthew 24:31), converted (Zechariah 12:10-14), and restored to the land under the rule of the Messiah, Jesus Christ. The Bible speaks of the conditions during the millennium as a perfect environment physically and spiritually. It will be a time of peace (Micah 4:2-4; Isaiah 32:17-18), joy (Isaiah 61:7, 10), and comfort (Isaiah 40:1-2). The Bible also tells us that only believers will enter the millennial kingdom. Because of this, it will be a time of obedience (Jeremiah 31:33), holiness (Isaiah 35:8), truth (Isaiah 65:16), and the knowledge of the word of God (Isaiah 11:9; Habakkuk 2:14). Christ will rule as king (Isaiah 9:3-7; 11:1-10). Nobles and governors will also rule (Isaiah 32:1; Matthew 19:28), and Jerusalem will be the political center of the world (Zechariah 8:3).

And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgement, so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation.  
(HEBREWS 9:27-28)

## MILLENNIAL REIGN OF CHRIST

- A quick summary of the 1000-year reign from gotquestions.org
- The covenants he refers to are:
  - The Abrahamic Covenant which promised Israel the land (Gen 12:1-3)
  - The Palestinian Covenant which promised Israel a restoration to the land (Deut 30:1-10)
  - The Davidic Covenant which promised Israel a king from David's line who would rule forever (2 Sam 7:10-13)
- The writer deems these “unconditional covenants.” The Bible doesn't call them “unconditional covenants,” that's a premillennialist term.
  - Let me pose **3 QUESTIONS**.
  - Did God keep His promises?
    - **JOSHUA 21:43-45** confirms that He gave the land to Abraham's descendants.
    - **EZRA 1** confirms that He restored the people to the land after the captivity.

- **ACTS 2:29-36** confirms Jesus is of the line of David & is ruling. (also 1 Cor 15:23-26)
- The idea that God must re-establish physical Israel in the land again and rebuild another physical temple reveals a lack of understanding of Biblical prophecy and of Israel's role in God's plan. In a subsequent study, we'll look at the big picture of God redeeming all nations. It does not involve a re-established Israel.
- Back to the quote on the screen.
  - Notice he refers to the millennial reign as the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming of Christ.
  - But **WE'VE BEEN COUNTING**, right. This isn't the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming, it's the 4<sup>th</sup>.
    - His coming in the flesh to die as the Lamb of God.
    - His coming to take His own in the rapture. (false)
    - His coming to defeat the Antichrist at Armageddon. (false)
    - His coming to set up the Millennial kingdom. (false)
    - There is yet one more coming – the final judgment.
    - Have you ever heard of the 5 comings of Christ?
    - Notice what the Bible says (**HEB 9:27-28**)

At the second coming of Christ, these covenants will be fulfilled as Israel is regathered from the nations (**Matthew 24:31**), converted (**Zechariah 12:10-14**), and restored to the land under the rule of the Messiah, Jesus Christ. The Bible speaks of the conditions during the millennium as a perfect environment physically and spiritually. It will be a time of peace (**Micah 4:2-4; Isaiah 32:17-18**), joy (**Isaiah 61:7, 10**), and comfort (**Isaiah 40:1-2**). The Bible also tells us that only believers will enter the millennial kingdom. Because of this, it will be a time of obedience (**Jeremiah 31:33**), holiness (**Isaiah 35:8**), truth (**Isaiah 65:16**), and the knowledge of the word of God (**Isaiah 11:9; Habakkuk 2:14**). Christ will rule as king (**Isaiah 9:3-7; 11:1-10**). Nobles and governors will also rule (**Isaiah 32:1; Matthew 19:28**), and Jerusalem will be the political center of the world (**Zechariah 8:3**).

# CONTEXTISKEY

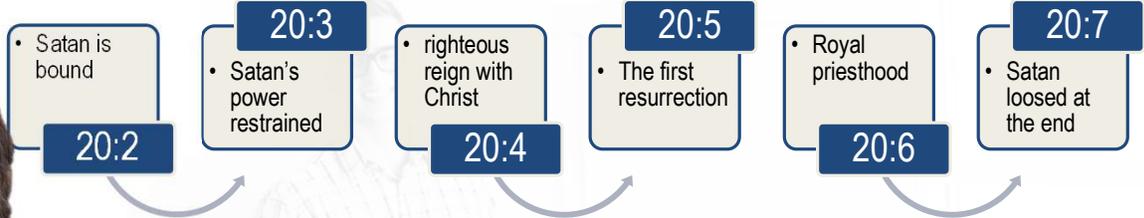
## MILLENNIAL REIGN OF CHRIST

- Look at all of those verse references in the text. It must be true, right? Since he's got so many references to support the doctrine.
- The problem is, these verses are yanked from their contexts; they are not about a millennial reign. Not one of them mentions a millennial reign.
- Matthew 24:31 is in the context of the destruction of Jerusalem at the hand of the Romans in 70 AD.
- Zechariah 12 foretells the death of the Messiah, the outpouring of the Spirit at Pentecost, and the mourning over the eventual destruction of Jerusalem (70 AD).
- Micah 4:1-4 describes the establishment of the church and people from all nations coming to peace with God through Christ (cf. Isaiah 2).
- The text out of Isaiah are about the messianic kingdom, the church. Isaiah doesn't mention a millennial reign; but he has a lot to say about the church established by Christ in the 1<sup>st</sup> century.
- Habakkuk 1 reveals that God would bring the Chaldeans

(Babylon) upon His people; Habakkuk 2 reveals God's would eventually destroy Babylon for their wickedness. The spread of the knowledge of God (2:14) is set in that context.

- Matthew 19:28 – Peter's question (v 27) is basically, what's in it for me.
  - The regeneration is the time of His reign, but it began in the 1<sup>st</sup> century (see Mk 9:1); it is not a future 1000-year kingdom.
  - He sits on His throne, and they also are given thrones (authority, see Mt 16:19; 1 Cor 12:28; Eph 2:20; 4:11; Rev 21:14).
- Zechariah 8:3, is about the restoration of Jerusalem as the city of God after the return from Babylon.
- In the midst of this explanation of the millennial kingdom, we're told only believers are there.
  - Ps 110:2 says of the Messiah, "rule in the midst of your enemies."
  - If no one is there but believers, how exactly does He rule in the midst of His enemies?

## COMING OF CHRIST COUNTER : 4



○ These are concurrent events

○ It is NOT a literal period of time

## MILLENNIAL REIGN OF CHRIST

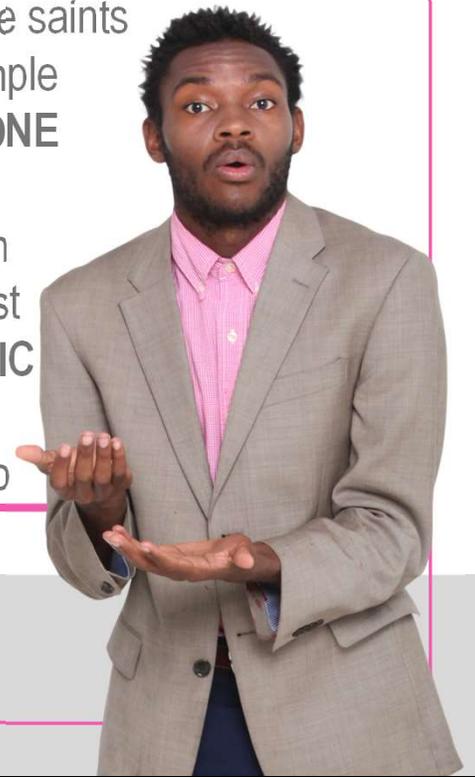
- There are 6 references to the 1000 years in Revelation 20.
- All of these things **HAPPEN CONCURRENTLY**.
  - Satan is bound for the 1000 years. Jesus defeated Him when He rose from the dead.
  - As such, his power is restrained for 1000 years. Quick decline & disappearance of demon possession.
  - The righteous reign with Christ for 1000 years. Christians, those who are redeemed in Christ.
  - The first resurrection, a reference to obedience to the gospel. When we are given life (risen from spiritual death).
  - Reign with Christ as priests of God for 1000 years. Established as a royal priesthood (cf. 1 Peter 2:9)
  - At the end of the 1000 years, Satan is loosed. How long? Long enough to be judged & cast into hell.
    - He goes out to deceive the nations, gathering them for battle (we've seen this picture before – he doesn't give up).

- He is cast into the lake of fire.
- It is not a literal **1000 YEARS**.
  - Numbers in Revelation are figures (1:1).
  - One – unity (Gen 2:24; Mt 19:4-6; 1 Cor 12:12)
  - Two – testimony, witness (Gen 41:32; Heb 10:28; Rev 11:3-4)
  - Three – complete, entire; often connected with Deity (3s everywhere; 3 day journey for Abraham in Gen 22; cupbearer & baker's dreams filled with 3s; 3 major feasts for the Jews; 3 days in the great fish; 3 days in the heart of the earth; Saul blinded 3 days; father, son, holy spirit)
  - Four – every direction, everywhere (Gen 2:10; Isa 11:12; Eze 37:9)
  - Seven – finish, perfect; associated with God (creation, 7 pair of clean animals in ark; 7 years work for Rachel; 7 years of plenty followed by 7 years of famine; 7 lamps on the lampstand; blood sprinkled 7x when sin offering made)
  - Six – seven has the idea of perfect, six is less than that, imperfect (number of a man – 666).
  - Three and a half – incomplete, associated with trials (Lk 4:25)
  - Ten – a complete set or short time (the plagues in Egypt; the woman's coins in Luke 15; 10 virgins in Mt 25; 10 days of trial for Smyrna)
  - Twelve – God's people (Jacob's 12 sons leading to 12 tribes; 12 apostles; 12 foundations in the New Jerusalem)

- Twenty-four – God’s people, both OT & NT (24 elders in Revelation)
- Forty – a complete, encompassing trial (40 days & night of rain; 40 years of wandering; 40 days fasting & temptation)
- One Hundred – a large quantity or long time (Pr 17:10; Ecc 8:12; Lk 15:4)
- One Thousand – all in quantity, or all the time (Ps 50:10; 90:4; 105:8)
  - 144,000 – all of God’s people (12x12x1000)
- Mark 9:1 says the kingdom would begin in the 1<sup>st</sup> century (cf. Ac 2:30-36; 1 Cor 15:25; Col 1:13; Heb 10:12-13). If the reign of Christ is a literal 1000 years, then it would have ceased in the 11<sup>th</sup> century (1033 AD).
- Notes of V 4-6:
  - these thrones are for those who reign with Christ (Eph 2 – made us sit together in heavenly places...)
  - John identifies characteristics of those who partake of His kingdom:
    - beheaded for their witness to Jesus
    - beheaded for their witness to the word
    - had not worshiped the beast or his image
    - had not received his mark on the forehead or hand
  - some of those pictured are deceased, and yet in Christ, they are alive & reigning with Him. Others

- are alive and are upon the earth (see Rev 5:10)
- the rest of the dead (v 5), those who were enemies of the Lord, do not live again until the 1000 years are complete (ie. Spiritual death; torments in hades).
  - these unrighteous dead, did not receive the “first resurrection” (spiritual life; obedience to the gospel; conquered by the one on the white horse)...
  - those who experienced the 1<sup>st</sup> resurrection are not overcome by the 2<sup>nd</sup> death (hell); they have eternal life!!

- The Bible is silent about a **SECRET RAPTURE** of the saints
- The Bible says nothing of a **REBUILT** Jerusalem temple
- Jesus said nothing of setting up an **EARTHLY THRONE**
- Jesus comes two times, not **FOUR OR FIVE TIMES**
- The **7-YEAR TRIBULATION PERIOD** is a fabrication
- There are many antichrists, **NOT A SINGLE** Antichrist
- The Bible account of Armageddon is **ANTICLIMACTIC**
- The 1000 year reign **IS A FIGURE**, not literal
- If the reign is literal, **IT ENDED** almost 1000 year ago



## A THEORY FRAUGHT WITH PROBLEMS

- **SECRET RAPTURE?** The closest thing to what is described as the rapture is done openly and appears to be the end (no indication in the texts of a tribulation period, war of Armageddon, and millennial reign to follow).
- **REBUILT TEMPLE?** The Bible speaks about the temple being rebuilt after the Babylonian captivity, which was done. It says nothing about it ever being built again after it was destroyed by the Romans in 70 AD.
- **EARTHLY THRONE?** Jesus never indicated He would set up an earthly throne. He confirmed to Pilate that He was a king, but said His kingdom is not from here.
- **CHRIST IS COMING**, but how many times? The Bible says He came the first time for sin (to be a sacrifice for sin) and will come a second time for salvation. The premillennial theory has him coming 4-5 times!
- **THE 7 YEAR TRIBULATION** is not found in the Bible at all. It is the result of manipulating numbers arbitrarily.

- **THERE ARE MANY** antichrists (folks who are opposed to Christ), not one. The Bible doesn't use the word to speak of a single world power who will rise up against the Lord.
- **ARMAGEDDON** is portrayed by the Premillennialists as a massive, destructive battle between the Antichrist leader (who doesn't exist) and the Lord. The Bible has a much more subdued account of what happens. Oh, and it's a figurative spiritual battle, not a literal battle.
- **NUMBERS IN REVELATION** are symbolic (1:1), just as the various images are. There is no more a 1000-year reign of Christ than there are just 144,000 people who will go to heaven.
- **IF THE 1000 YEAR REIGN** were literal, we missed the boat! The Bible reveals that Jesus began to reign in the 1<sup>st</sup> century, when He ascended victorious to heaven. A literal 1000 years would take us to 1033 AD.

PRE  
**MILLENNIAL**  
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A STUDY OF THE PREMILLENNIAL THEORY