

# *The Millennium*



Examining scriptural support for  
the three Millennial views

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## The Majors vs. the Minors

In Christianity, "majors" refer to the core beliefs and doctrines that are essential to the faith, such as the nature of God, the Gospel, and salvation through Jesus Christ. "Minors" are less critical issues that do not affect one's standing with God, such as specific interpretations of scripture or practices, and are not salvation-related. These frequently include topics like eschatology, baptism methods and interpretations of creation. While they may be important, they do not affect one's standing with God.

It's perfectly fine for Christians to debate "the minors", but at some point they should be prepared to "agree to disagree" and move on. They are not critical to what's really important to Christians, i.e. salvation, and thus an exorbitant amount of time should not be devoted to them. Doing so can lead to unnecessary conflicts and divisions within the church, as minor disagreements can escalate into major confrontations.

In my personal opinion, I don't feel I even need to select a side. My main objective is to understand all sides of a debate, be it the age of the earth, end times timing, etc. and to be able to explain to someone what they are. And if they choose to, select a side.

So in this paper, we'll discuss the different views of the Millenium. Does Biblical scripture support one over the others? Let's take a look.

## Introduction

The Millennium in the Book of Revelation refers to the thousand-year period described in Revelation 20:1–6, where Christ reigns and Satan is bound. Three main theological views interpret this period differently:

**Premillennialism**, **Postmillennialism**, and **Amillennialism**. Below, is an outline of each view, along with key characteristics and the primary biblical passages used to support them.

### Premillennialism

Premillennialists believe Christ will return physically **before** the Millennium, establishing a literal 1,000-year reign on Earth with believers. This view often sees the Millennium as a time of peace and righteousness, with Satan bound and unable to deceive the nations until the period ends.

#### Key Points

- Literal interpretation of the 1,000 years.
- Christ's Second Coming precedes the Millennium.
- Satan is bound, and resurrected believers reign with Christ.
- After the Millennium, Satan is released, leading to a final rebellion, followed by the final judgment.

#### Supporting Bible Verses

- **Revelation 20:1–3**: "Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding in his hand the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain. And he seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years, and threw him into the pit, and shut it and sealed it over him, so that he might not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were ended."
- **Revelation 20:4–6**: "Then I saw thrones, and seated on them were those to whom the authority to judge was committed... They came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years... This is the first resurrection."
- **Revelation 19:11–16**: Describes Christ's return as a warrior-king, often linked to the establishment of the millennial kingdom.
- **Isaiah 11:6–9** (cross-reference): Describes a future time of peace, often associated with the Millennium by premillennialists: "The wolf shall dwell with the lamb..."

### Postmillennialism

Postmillennialists believe Christ will return **after** the Millennium, which is seen as a period (not necessarily a literal 1,000 years) of Christian influence and societal transformation through the spread of the Gospel. The Church's work leads to a "golden age" of righteousness before Christ's return.

#### Key Points

- The Gospel's success gradually ushers in a period of peace and godliness.
- The Millennium is often symbolic or a long, indefinite period.
- Satan's binding is seen as a restriction of his influence due to the Gospel's power.
- Christ returns after this period for the final judgment.

## Supporting Bible Verses

- **Revelation 20:2–3**: Interpreted as Satan’s binding occurring through the spread of the Gospel, limiting his ability to deceive nations: “And he seized the dragon... and bound him for a thousand years.”
- **Revelation 20:6**: “Blessed and holy is the one who shares in the first resurrection...” Seen as believers’ spiritual reign through the Church’s influence.
- **Matthew 13:31–33** (cross-reference): Parables of the mustard seed and leaven suggest the gradual growth of God’s kingdom, supporting a postmillennial view of Christian influence.
- **Psalms 22:27–28** (cross-reference): “All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord...” supports the idea of global Christianization.

## Amillennialism

Amillennialists believe there is no literal 1,000-year reign on Earth. The Millennium is symbolic, representing the current Church age, from Christ’s first coming ascension until His return. Satan’s binding is partial, limiting his deception, and believers reign spiritually with Christ now.

### Key Points

- The Millennium is symbolic of the present age, not a future literal period.
- Satan’s binding represents a restraint on his power, particularly in hindering the Gospel’s spread.
- Christ’s return occurs at the end of this age, followed immediately by the final judgment.
- The “first resurrection” is often spiritual (e.g., regeneration or believers’ souls reigning in heaven).

## Supporting Bible Verses

- **Revelation 20:1–3**: Satan’s binding is seen as occurring during the Church age, restricting his ability to deceive nations fully: “...so that he might not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were ended.”
- **Revelation 20:4–6**: The “reign with Christ” is interpreted as believers’ spiritual participation in Christ’s kingdom now, either on Earth (through faith) or in heaven (souls of the martyrs).
- **John 5:24–25** (cross-reference): “Whoever hears my word and believes... has passed from death to life,” suggesting a spiritual “first resurrection.”
- **2 Peter 3:8** (cross-reference): “With the Lord one day is as a thousand years...” supports a symbolic interpretation of the 1,000 years.

## Comparison Chart of Millennial Views

The following summarize the key differences and similarities among **Premillennialism**, **Postmillennialism**, and **Amillennialism** regarding the Millennium in Revelation 20:1–6, followed by a **Key Debates** section addressing major points of contention.

Event	Premillennialism	Postmillennialism	Amillennialism
Timing of Christ’s Return	Before the Millennium (Christ returns to establish the 1,000-year reign).	After the Millennium (Christ returns after a	At the end of the Millennium (no distinct future reign; return ends the Church age).

Event	Premillennialism	Postmillennialism	Amillennialism
		period of Christian influence).	
<b>Nature of the Millennium</b>	Literal 1,000-year earthly reign of Christ with resurrected believers.	Symbolic or indefinite period of Gospel-driven societal transformation.	Symbolic period, representing the current Church age.
<b>Satan's Binding (Rev 20:1–3)</b>	Literal binding; Satan is completely restrained from deceiving nations.	Symbolic binding; Satan's influence is curbed by the Gospel's spread.	Symbolic binding; Satan's power is limited, especially in hindering the Gospel.
<b>First Resurrection (Rev 20:4–6)</b>	Physical resurrection of believers to reign with Christ on Earth.	Spiritual or symbolic; believers' influence or conversion during the Church's growth.	Spiritual; either regeneration (new life in Christ) or souls reigning in heaven.
<b>Role of Israel</b>	Dispensational: Distinct role for national Israel. Historic: Less emphasis on Israel.	No distinct role; focus on the Church as the new Israel.	No distinct role; the Church fulfills Israel's promises.
<b>End of the Millennium</b>	Satan released, final rebellion, then judgment (Rev 20:7–15).	Christ returns, followed by final judgment; no major rebellion.	Christ returns, final judgment; Satan's release is a brief final opposition.
<b>Key Cross-References</b>	Isaiah 11:6–9 (peaceful kingdom); Rev 19:11–16 (Christ's return).	Matt 13:31–33 (kingdom growth); Ps 22:27–28 (global worship).	John 5:24–25 (spiritual resurrection); 2 Pet 3:8 (symbolic time).
<b>View of History</b>	Pessimistic (world worsens until Christ's return).	Optimistic (world improves through Gospel influence).	Neutral (spiritual battle persists until Christ's return).

## Similarities Between the Views

- All views agree Revelation 20:1–6 is the central text and that Christ ultimately triumphs.
- All acknowledge Satan's binding, though they differ on its extent and timing.
- All expect a final judgment and eternal state following the events of Revelation 20.

## Summary

**Premillennialists** hold that Christ will physically return before the Millennium, initiating a literal 1,000-year reign on Earth characterized by peace and righteousness. During this time, Satan is bound, preventing him from deceiving the nations until the Millennium concludes. This view emphasizes a future, tangible fulfillment of biblical prophecies regarding Christ's reign.

In contrast, **Postmillennialists** believe that Christ will return after the Millennium, which they interpret as a period of significant Christian influence and societal transformation brought about by the spread of the Gospel. This perspective envisions a "golden age" of righteousness and moral improvement, resulting from the Church's efforts before Christ's eventual return.

**Amillennialists**, on the other hand, reject the notion of a literal 1,000-year reign, viewing the Millennium as a symbolic representation of the current Church age that spans from Christ's first coming ascension to His return. They believe that Satan's binding is partial, limiting his ability to deceive, and that believers currently reign spiritually with Christ, emphasizing the ongoing spiritual realities rather than a future physical kingdom.

## My .02 Cents

So there you go. Which view do you tend to lean towards? Before choosing, however, I'd recommend studying the verses listed above yourself become coming to a conclusion. Me you ask? Personally, I think it's more important to understand all of the views rather than choosing one. Which I'd rather not do. That, by the way, was my primary motivations for writing this!

So although the timing and meaning of the millennium is fun to discuss and debate, not everyone is going to agree on it, so it's ok to agree to disagree on it with other Christians. And this topic certainly should not divide believers.