

The Millennium and Premillennialism

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The word “premillennial” means “before the millennium,” and refers to the belief that Christ will return to this earth and establish His kingdom, in which He will then reign for one thousand years. Though there are many varieties of this position, the most well-known is that of **dispensational premillennialism**, a group that looks forward to a future dispensation in which Christ reigns on earth in an era of widespread peace prior to eternity. This handout is an attempt to compare some of the popular teachings of this view with that of the Scriptures. For a more detailed discussion, see http://www.christiancourier.com/articles/read/examining_premillennialism

Topic	Dispensational Premillennialism	Scriptures
The kingdom	Postponed due to unexpected rejection of Christ by Jews	Rejection Expected (Ps. 118:22; Matt. 21:33-46) Kingdom Established (Dan. 2:44; Mk. 9:1; Col. 1:13; Rev. 1:6, 9; 12:10)
The church	Interim solution until kingdom comes at the millennium	Church is eternal purpose of God (Matt. 16:18; Eph. 3:10, 11) Church is reason for sacrifice (Acts 20:28; Eph. 5:23-25)
The great tribulation	Terrible period of time prior to the millennium	Terrible time preceding fall of Jerusalem (Dan. 12:1; Matt. 24:21; Rev. 7:14)
The Anti-Christ	Evil individual to arise prior to the millennium (2 Thes. 2:3-12)	One who is against Christ, many have existed and do exist today (1 Jn. 2:18, 22; 4:3; 2 Jn. 7) Lawlessness already at work in first century (2 Thes. 2:7)
Armageddon	Final battle between good and evil, Christ vs. Anti-Christ and wicked nations (Rev. 16:14, 16)	Gathering place for battle of great day of wrath (Rev. 16:14, 16, see Armageddon handout) Fulfilled in first century (Lk. 21:20-24; Rev. 6:17)
Israel	Jews gradually all convert and are restored to Palestine	Land promise fulfilled after Exodus (Gen. 12:7; Jos. 21:43) The church is the true Israel (Rom. 2:28, 29; Gal. 3:28; 6:16)
Prophecy	Modern events are fulfilling Biblical prophecies, esp. of Daniel and Revelation	Majority of Biblical prophecy fulfilled Daniel prophecies fulfilled by 70 AD (Dan. 12:1, 7; cf. Matt. 24:21, 34; Lk. 21:20-22) Revelation prophecies mostly fulfilled by 70 AD (Rev. 1:1-3; 22:10; cf. Rev. 1:7; Matt. 24:30)
The rapture (“caught up”)	Secret gathering of saints during tribulation prior to millennium (Matt. 24:40, 41; 1 Thes. 4:17)	Christians gathered for protection before fall of Jerusalem (Matt. 24:15-34; Lk. 21:20-24; Rev. 7; 12:6, 14; 14:14-16) Everyone raised, Christians gathered to Christ at end of time (Jn. 5:28, 29; 1 Thes. 4:14-18)
Jerusalem	Place in which Christ will establish earthly kingdom at the millennium	No longer the city of God (Heb. 13:14; Rev. 18:21) Church is New Jerusalem, the bride of Christ (Rom. 7:4; 2 Cor. 11:2; Eph. 5:25; Rev. 19:7; 21:2, 9, 10)
The temple	Will be rebuilt and re-institute offerings and sacrifices at the millennium	True temple is where God dwells, the church (1 Cor. 3:17; 2 Cor. 6:16; Eph. 3:21), heaven (Heb. 9:24; Rev. 11:19) No physical temple in New Jerusalem (Rev. 21:22; cf. Acts 7:48; 17:24) Christ was ultimate sacrifice (Heb. 9:26; 10:12)
The thousand years	The millennium, a literal period of Christ's reign of widespread peace on earth when He returns	Figurative period of Christ's reign in this present time (1 Tim. 6:15; Heb. 1:3; Rev. 3:21; 17:14; 19:16) One thousand symbolic for complete power (10 x 10 x 10)
The first resurrection	Literal resurrection of the righteous dead to join those who are “raptured” prior to the millennium (Rev. 20:4-6)	Spiritual life after death (Rev. 20:4-6) Figurative, spiritual resurrection, new life for those in Christ (Rom. 6:3-11; Eph. 2:1; Col. 2:12, 13; 3:1; cf. Jn. 5:24, 25; Dan. 12:2, 3)
The new heavens and new earth	Renovated earth, all things will be restored as they were in Eden (Rev. 21:1, 5, 3)	New spiritual order, Christianity both now and forever in heaven (Rev. 21:1-6; Isa. 65:15-19; 66:21-23; 2 Pet. 3:10-13) Things of this world are temporary (Matt. 6:19, 20; Jn. 18:36; 1 Jn. 2:17)