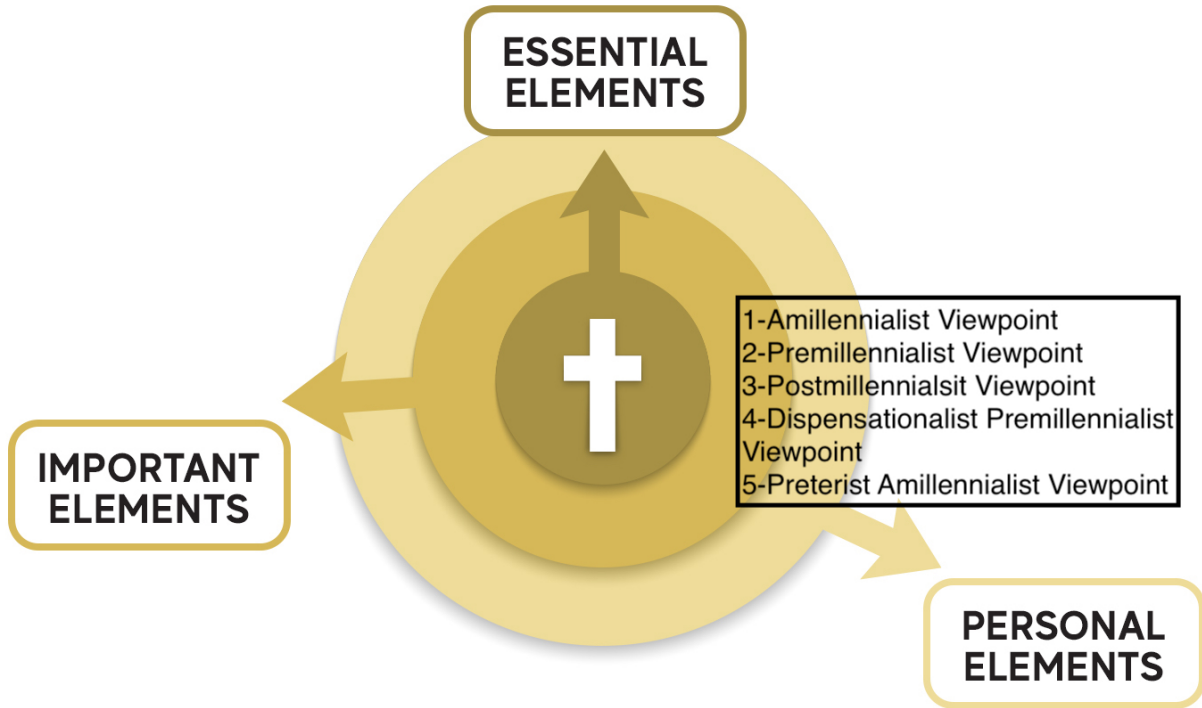
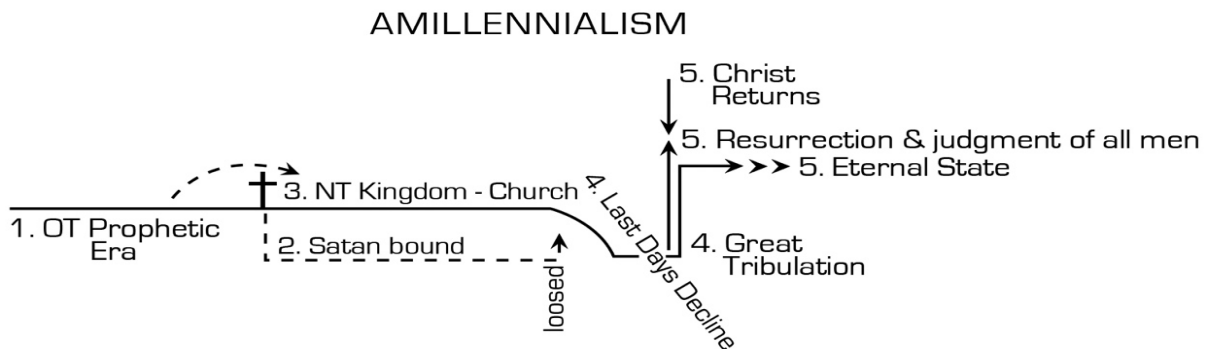


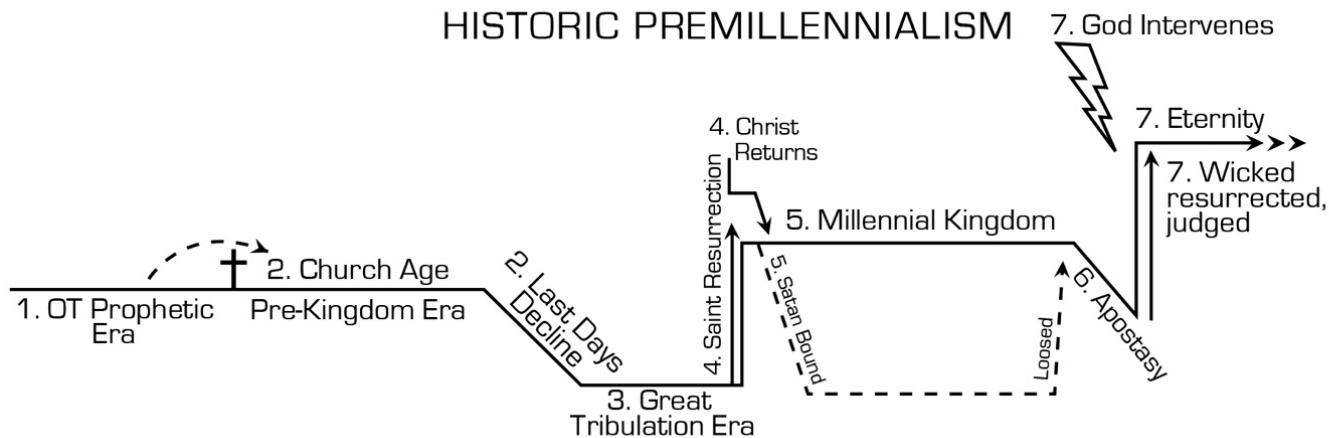
5 Important End Time Views



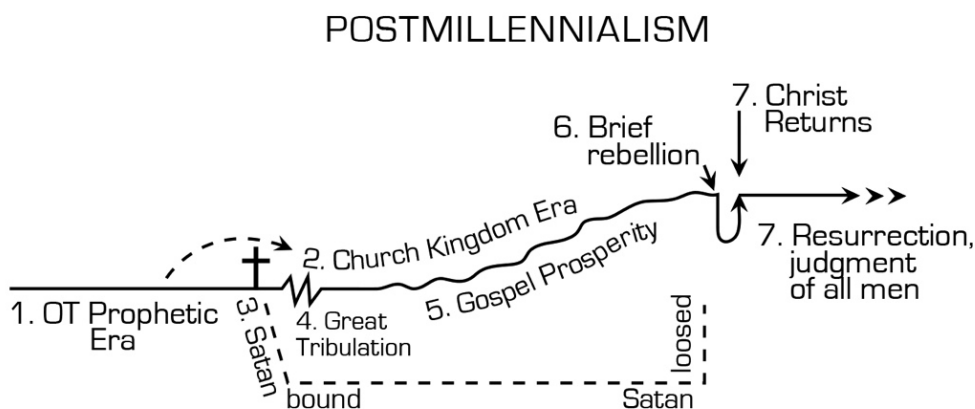
1. Historic Amillennialism— (pronounced ah-millennialism) These Christians believe that Jesus is currently reigning in heaven and on earth, through the church. The 1000 years are symbolic of a long, undefined time which began when Jesus rose from the dead, bound Satan, and the church was unleashed (Plato’s use). Because he is bound and demonic attacks can be thwarted, Satan cannot stop the church from expanding into the whole world. This reign will last until just before the end, when Satan is unleashed. Augustine, the famous Christian writer in the 400s championed this view — and it was adopted by Roman Catholics and initially by most Protestants. Christ is ruling in heaven — with the dead— and through the church. But the world itself is full of turmoil and evil - there will be growing wickedness and tribulation in the world. Jesus’ return will save his followers from annihilation at the hands of evil forces. His second coming will usher in the final judgment and then the full consummation of his kingdom.



2. Historic Premillennialism — (pronounced pre-millennialism) These Christians believe that when Jesus returns to the earth, he will personally usher in a literal 1000 year period of peace and prosperity on earth. At the end of the 1000 year reign, there will be a final judgment of all people who have ever lived. Before the return of Jesus and his 1000 year reign, there will be growing wickedness and tribulation in the world. Jesus' return will save his followers from annihilation at the hands of evil forces. Then again, after the 1000 reign, there will be growing wickedness, as Satan is once more allowed to deceive the nations. But then God will institute the final judgment and Satan will be finally defeated. This view was popular in the early church and is a widely held view by many Evangelical Scholars today.

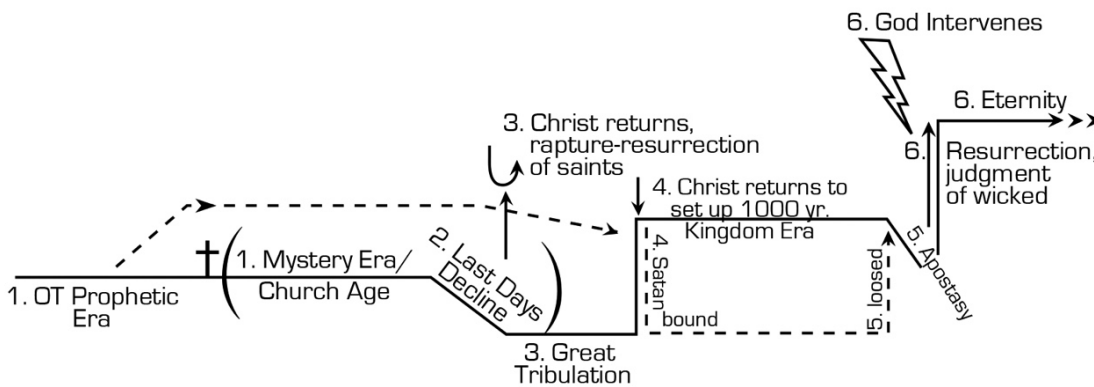


3. Postmillennialism — These Christians believe we will experience a golden age of earthly peace in the future, before Jesus returns. It may be 1000 years, but that number most likely is symbolic and signifies a long period of "good times on earth." Despite setbacks along the way, the Church will gradually convert the world through the preaching of the gospel — most people in the world will become Christians, there will be peace on earth, and life will get better and better. At the end of this "golden age," Christ will return, the dead will be raised, the final judgment will be pronounced, and the new heavens and the new earth will be revealed. This is the favorite view of liberal Protestants, but it was also the view of early Puritans like Jonathan Edwards.



4. Dispensational Premillennialism — Starting in around 1840, there we are group of Christians who believed that there is a distinction between God’s dealings with Israel and the Church. They advocate that history should be divided up into different periods called “dispensations.” In each of these dispensations God deals differently with people. So, many Old Testament promises do not apply to the church (as the other perspectives believe), but they will apply to Israel at the end of time, when God focuses back on that dispensation. Based upon a unique (and new) understanding of Daniel 9, they came to believe that seven years before the full second coming of Jesus (they believe the second coming will be in two parts) there will be a partial coming where Jesus secretly removes (raptures) Christians before the tribulation that will come. At this point God’s attention will be focused on Israel. This because a popular view among fundamentalists, Pentecostals/Charismatics, and many popular writers in the USA – Hal Lindsey’s Late Great Planet Earth, The Left Behind Series, etc., and is strongly promoted at Dallas Theological Seminary.

DISPENSATIONAL PREMILLENNIALISM



5. Preterist Amillennialism — Big Idea – vast majority of prophecy is complete; it is just symbolic imagery about events in the past – Revelation is all about the first century or two. Everything is fulfilled in the past, prophecy and Revelation is just about ancient symbols and imagery of things that we fulfilled back in the first century or the Old Testament period. But *preteristic* amillennialists (like historic amillennialists) believe that Jesus is currently reigning in heaven and on earth, through the church. The 1000 years are symbolic of a long undefined time which began when Jesus rose from the dead, bound Satan, and the church was unleashed. The only outstanding expectation is the second coming of Jesus, the resurrection of the dead, the final judgment, and heaven and hell. Again, Old Testament prophecy was fulfilled in the past in ancient Israel or in the church (except for the shadowy references to heaven and hell). The book of Revelation was written to describe events in the first century and references to the tribulations, the anti-Christ, and Israel were all symbolic or metaphorical images to things fulfilled in the past.



***Extreme Preterism** – a small number of amillennialists are hyper-preterists. Sadly, they take the view that the second coming and the resurrection of the dead have already occurred (they were spiritual events tied to the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem in 70 A.D. Extreme preterism is heretical because it denies the historic understanding on the 5 key essentials – a future second coming, a future resurrection of the dead, a future final judgement, and a future hell and New Heaven and New Earth. These five doctrines are embedded in the essentials of New Testament doctrine and they are imbeded in the earliest Christian faith statements: 1) the apostles creed and 2) the Nicene creed.