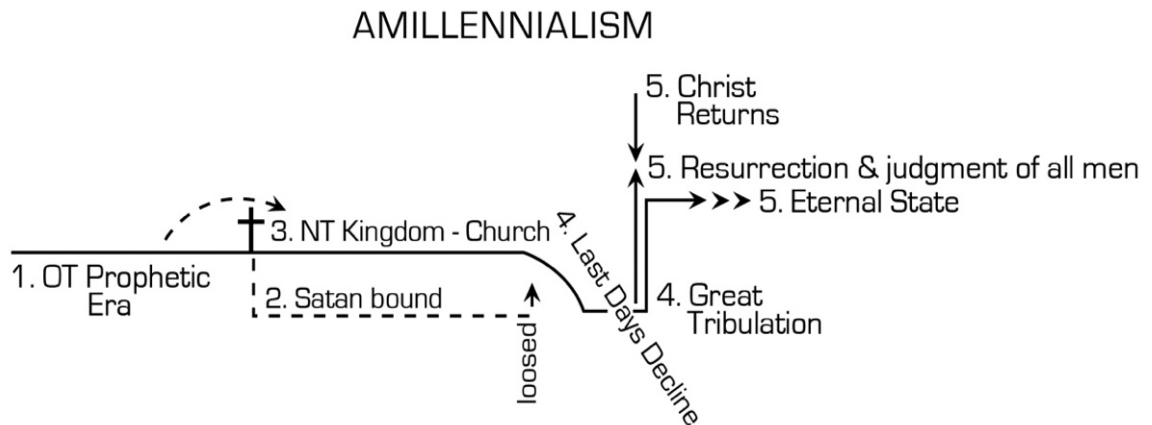


Historic Amillennialism

We 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 – 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.



I. Important and/or Personal Beliefs about the End

1. The *Exact Time* of Jesus' Return *is Unknowable* (like thief at night) – "Now, brothers and sisters, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. (1 Thessalonians 5: 1-2)
2. The *Season* of Jesus' Return *is Knowable* – "When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near." (Luke 21:28)

II. In History, Most Leaders Thought – It is Going to Happen Now – and yet they were wrong.

III. There are things I see possibly being fulfilled now ... they make me think ... *It is Going to Happen Soon (30 years?)*

1. *The Gospel is being proclaimed to the whole world* and then the end will come (Matt. 14:24).

And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

2. *Jerusalem will no longer be under Gentile Control* – since 1967 - A sign of the end (Luke 21:24-28)

- Luke 21:24-28 – They [Jews] will fall by the sword and will be taken as prisoners to all the nations. Jerusalem will be trampled on by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled. “There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars. On the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea. People will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world, for the heavenly bodies will be shaken. At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

3. *There is an Increase in wickedness and a lack of love* – is it what is expected at the end (2 Tim. 3:1-5; Revelation 20:7-11)?

2 Tim. 3:1-5 - But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. ² People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, ³ without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, ⁴ treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God— ⁵ having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with such people.

4. *There is an Apostasy* from the faith in Western Civilization and it will likely spread to second and third world countries (where Christianity is expanding) – are we seeing the seeds of apostasy that will spread everywhere before the end, except Israel (2 Thessalonians 2:-12)?

Concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered to him, we ask you, brothers and sisters, ² not to become easily unsettled or alarmed by the teaching allegedly from us—whether by a prophecy or by word of mouth or by letter—asserting that the day of the Lord has already come. ³ Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness^[a] is revealed, the man doomed to destruction. ⁴ He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God.

⁵ Don't you remember that when I was with you I used to tell you these things? ⁶ And now you know what is holding him back, so that he may be revealed at the proper time. ⁷ For the secret power of lawlessness is already at work; but the one who now holds it back will continue to do so till he is taken out of the way. ⁸ And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will overthrow with the breath of his mouth and destroy by the splendor of his coming. ⁹ The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with how

Satan works. He will use all sorts of displays of power through signs and wonders that serve the lie, ¹⁰ and all the ways that wickedness deceives those who are perishing. They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. ¹¹ For this reason God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie ¹² and so that all will be condemned who have not believed the truth but have delighted in wickedness.

5. *The Demonic is Unleashed when the Millennium Ends* – are we seeing the start of a releasing of demonic forces on the world (Revelation 9; 20:7-8)?

When the thousand years are over, Satan will be released from his prison and will go out to deceive the nations in the four corners of the earth—Gog and Magog—and to gather them for battle. In number they are like the sand on the seashore. (Revelation 20:7-8)

The fifth angel sounded his trumpet, and I saw a star that had fallen from the sky to the earth. The star was given the key to the shaft of the Abyss. ² When he opened the Abyss, smoke rose from it like the smoke from a gigantic furnace. The sun and sky were darkened by the smoke from the Abyss. ³ And out of the smoke locusts came down on the earth and were given power like that of scorpions of the earth. ⁴ They were told not to harm the grass of the earth or any plant or tree, but only those people who did not have the seal of God on their foreheads. ⁵ They were not allowed to kill them but only to torture them for five months. And the agony they suffered was like that of the sting of a scorpion when it strikes. ⁶ During those days people will seek death but will not find it; they will long to die, but death will elude them. (Revelation 9:1-5)

6. *Jewish Conversions* - There is the start of significant conversion of Jewish people in Israel, with a focus on Jerusalem – is it what we many expect at the end (Romans 11; Zachariah 12:10-13:1; 14:1ff; Revelation 20:7-11)?

Romans 11 -25-27 - I do not want you to be ignorant of this mystery, brothers and sisters, so that you may not be conceited: Israel has experienced a hardening in part until the full number of the Gentiles has come in, and in this way all Israel will be saved. As it is written “The deliverer will come from Zion; he will turn godlessness away from Jacob. And this is^[1] my covenant with them when I take away their sins.” (Romans 11:25-27)

Zachariah 12:10-13:1 - I will gather all the nations to Jerusalem to fight against it; the city will be captured, the houses ransacked, and the women raped. Half of the city will go into exile, but the rest of the people will not be taken from the city. ³ Then the LORD will go out and fight against those nations, as he fights on a day of battle. ⁴ On that day his feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, east of Jerusalem, and the Mount of Olives will be split in two from east to west, forming a great valley, with half of the mountain moving north and half moving south. ⁵ You will flee by my mountain valley, for it will extend to Azel. You will flee as you fled from the earthquake^[a] in the days of Uzziah king of Judah. Then the LORD my God will come, and all the holy ones with him. ⁶ On that day there will be neither sunlight nor cold, frosty darkness. ⁷ It will be a unique day—a day known only to the LORD—with no distinction between day and night. When evening comes, there will be light. ⁸ On that day living

water will flow out from Jerusalem, half of it east to the Dead Sea and half of it west to the Mediterranean Sea, in summer and in winter. (Zachariah 14:2-8)

“On that day a fountain will be opened to the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, to cleanse them from sin and impurity. (Zachariah 13:1)

7. *Persecution of True Disciples* - There is an emerging World-wide persecution of Biblical Disciples (Faithful Christians) by a Beast-like Empire, that is like the old Roman Empire (universal power) – is it the first part of what will emerge at the end (Revelation 13 and 17)?

Revelation 13: 5-The beast was given a mouth to utter proud words and blasphemies and to exercise its authority for forty-two months. ⁶ It opened its mouth to blaspheme God, and to slander his name and his dwelling place and those who live in heaven. ⁷ It was given power to wage war against God’s holy people and to conquer them. And it was given authority over every tribe, people, language and nation. ⁸ All inhabitants of the earth will worship the beast—all whose names have not been written in the Lamb’s book of life, the Lamb who was slain from the creation of the world.^[b]

⁹ Whoever has ears, let them hear. “If anyone is to go into captivity, into captivity they will go. If anyone is to be killed with the sword, with the sword they will be killed.” This calls for patient endurance and faithfulness on the part of God’s people.

... ¹⁶ It also forced all people, great and small, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hands or on their foreheads, ¹⁷ so that they could not buy or sell unless they had the mark, which is the name of the beast or the number of its name.

IV. Watch for Future Events ...

1. *Anti-Christ and Anti-CHRIST* - There have been anti-Christ in history (Hitler, etc.), but there will be a focal Anti-Christ Political Entity at the end (Daniel 7, Rev. 13:5-8, 1 John 2)

2. *False Prophets and False PROPHET* - There will be many false teachers and a major false prophet-teacher-religion, which will focus on supporting the Anti-Christ (Rev. 13:11-18).

3. *Persecution of Disciples (WORLD WIDE)* - There will be an intense persecution of the true followers of Jesus by the Beast-False prophet until Jesus intervenes (Revelation 7:14; 13:7; 17: 12-14; Daniel 7:21-22)

4. *OUTER SPACE* - There will be disruptions in the sun, moon, and stars and shaking (Luke 21: 25-26)

5. *Oceans and Global Warming* - The Oceans/Seas will be “roaring and tossing” (Luke 21:25) and terrible disruptions of life on the earth (Revelation 6).

6. *WEATHER TRIALS* - There will be significant war, famines, plagues (Revelation 6; 8)

7. *SEVERE SUFFERING* - There will be great human suffering that God will cut short (Matthew 24:21-22)

V. ATTITUDES AND POSTURE FOR DISCIPLES OF JESUS

1. *Embrace Tough Faith for the End Times* – the book of Revelation – and apocalyptic sections of the Bible – prepare us for hard times at the end. This should not shock you, be tough, God said this would happen. God will intervene and his people will win after the trials.

2. *Faithfully Follow Jesus* (follow the lamb wherever he goes)

Revelation 14:4-5 - These are those who did not defile themselves with women, for they remained virgins. They follow the Lamb wherever he goes. They were purchased from among mankind and offered as firstfruits to God and the Lamb. No lie was found in their mouths; they are blameless.

Revelation 17: 14 - They will wage war against the Lamb, but the Lamb will triumph over them because he is Lord of lords and King of kings—and with him will be his called, chosen and faithful followers.”

Revelation 12:10-11 - Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say: “Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Messiah. For the accuser of our brothers and sisters, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down. They triumphed over him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death.

3. *Endure Persecution Patiently* (do not take up arms)

Revelation 13: 9 – 10 Whoever has ears, let them hear. “If anyone is to go into captivity, into captivity they will go. If anyone is to be killed with the sword, with the sword they will be killed.” This calls for patient endurance and faithfulness on the part of God’s people.

4. *Help the Church to be Faithful in Trials.*

Revelation 14:12 -This calls for patient endurance on the part of the people of God who keep his commands and remain faithful to Jesus.