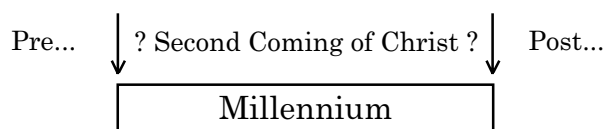


## MILLENNIUM

- I. Biblical references
- A. There are no usages of the word “millennium” in the Bible.
  - B. “Millennium” is a theological word derived from the Latin words *mille*, meaning “thousand,” and *annus*, meaning “year.”
  - C. The theological word “millennium” has been used to refer to the “thousand years” mentioned in Rev. 20:2-7.
    - Rev. 20:2 - “Devil and Satan, and bound him a thousand years”
    - Rev. 20:3 - “until the thousand years are fulfilled”
    - Rev. 20:4 - “they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years”
    - Rev. 20:5 - “until the thousand years were ended”
    - Rev. 20:6 - “reign with Him a thousand years”
    - Rev. 20:7 - “whenever the thousand years are ended”
  - 1. The Greek words used in these verses
    - a. *chilia ete* means “thousand years”
    - b. Term “chiliasm” also sometimes used as theological term for “thousand years,” but often carries pejorative sense.
  - 2. There are no other definite references to this period in the Bible.
  - 3. Some theological interpretations believe that other Biblical passages refer to the period of the millennium.
    - O.T. - Isa. 9:6; 11:1-12:6; 52:7-12; Jer. 33:17-22; Ezek. 37:25; Zech 9:9
    - N.T. - Matt. 19:28; 25:31-46; Lk. 14:14; I Cor. 15:22; I Thess. 4:13-18
  - D. Other Biblical references to “thousand years”
    - Ps. 90:4 - “a thousand years in Thy sight are like yesterday...”
    - II Pet. 3:8 - “one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day”
  - E. Primary questions to be considered
    - 1. Is the number of “a thousand” to be interpreted in a strict physical and temporal sense, or in a symbolic, figurative manner (as almost all of the other numbers in Revelation)?
    - 2. Is the period of time designated “a thousand years” in Rev. 20 to be interpreted as prior to or subsequent to, the second advent of Jesus Christ?

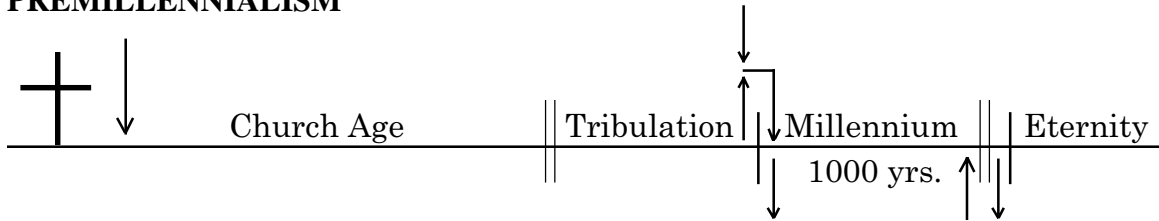


- II. Historical review of millennial thinking in Christian theology.
- A. Early church (c. 100-250) - millennium not emphasized. Variety of views.
  - B. Early reaction to view of earthly millennium.
    - 1. Origen (c. 185-254) attributed such thinking to heretic, Cerinthus
    - 2. Montanist heresy (c.175) had excesses of earthly millennial views.
    - 3. Rampant speculation to calculate end time.
  - C. Augustine (354-430) rejected his previous earthly millennial position and interpreted “1000 years” of Rev. 20 as symbolic of entire period from first coming of Christ to second coming of Christ.
    - 1. Council of Ephesus (431) condemned earthly millennium interpretation as heretical superstition.
    - 2. Became orthodox view of Church for centuries.
  - D. Reformation (sixteenth century) - Luther, Calvin, Zwingli, Anabaptists accepted symbolic interpretation of “1000 years.” Regarded Catholic Pope as Antichrist.
  - E. Seventeenth - nineteenth centuries - gradually revived earthly millennium view.

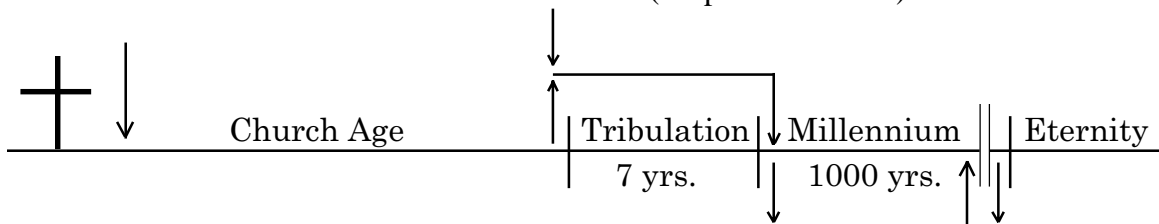
- F. Nineteenth & twentieth centuries.
1. J.N. Darby (Plymouth Brethren), followed by D.L. Moody, C.I. Scofield, H.A. Ironside (Dallas Theological Sem.), developed theological system of Dispensationalism incorporating earthly millennium and pre-tribulation rapture of Church. Became a primarily American theological phenomenon.
  2. Majority of theological community (Post-millennial and Amillennial) has regarded Dispensationalism as a modernist aberrational interpretation.

III. Millennial interpretations

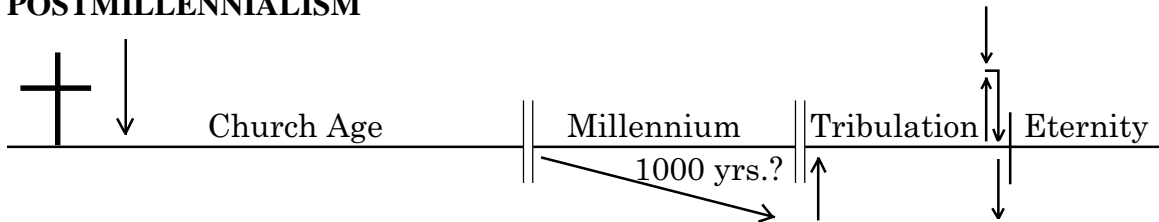
**PREMILLENNIALISM**



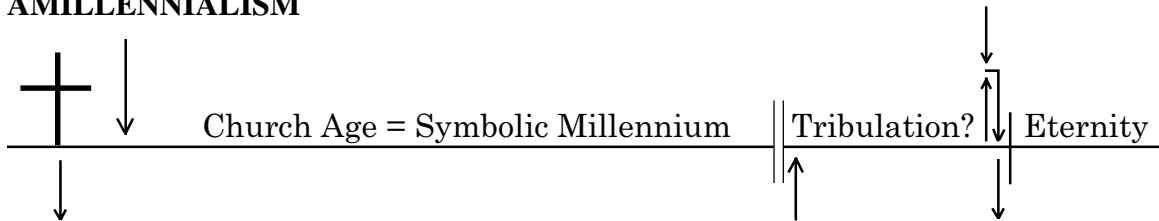
**PRETRIBULATION PREMILLENNIALISM (Dispensationalism)**



**POSTMILLENNIALISM**



**AMILLENNIALISM**



- A. All interpretations look forward to the "blessed hope and appearing of Jesus Christ (Titus 2:13)
- B. Most interpretations can trace their roots to early Christian interpretation.
- C. "...now I know in part; then I shall fully understand" (I Cor. 13:12)
- D. Must not make any interpretation a test of faith or fellowship.

IV. Conclusion

- A. Important to maintain Christocentric emphasis.
- B. New covenant teaching always maintains balance between the "already" and the "not yet" fulfilment of the work of Jesus Christ.

# PERSONAL PERSPECTIVE OF BALANCED MILLENNIAL INTERPRETATION

Already ← → Not Yet

