

THE END

MILLENNIALISM / PREMILLENNIALISM



SUMMARY: Satan was bound near the end of the first century bringing on a millennium of indefinite length, he will be released for a short period of indefinite length, and then Jesus will return. We are in the millennium and do not have any idea when Jesus will return.

THE BIBLE TEACHES:

- A supernatural presence of God on the earth in the first century (i.e. Jesus)
- A supernatural presence of Satan on earth in the first century (See Matt. 4:3-11, 17:18, Luke 8:27-33 - pigs)
- The Devil prowled about like a roaring lion seeking someone to devour late during the first century after the resurrection (I Peter 5:8)
- That Satan would be bound for 1000 years (Rev. 20:2)
- That the beheaded who had not worshipped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their forehead, would be raised in a first resurrection and reign with Christ for the 1000 years (Rev 20:3)
- At the end of the 1000 years, Satan would be released for a short time of unspecified length (Rev 20:3)
- In answering a question regarding the end of the age (Matt. 24:3) Jesus said “one will be taken, and one will be left (Matt. 24:40-41, relates to second coming)
- Satan, the beast, and the false prophet would be thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone forever and ever. (Rev. 20:10)
- The earth and its works will be destroyed by intense heat (II Peter 3:10)
- There will be a new heaven and earth (II Peter 3:13, Rev. 21:1)

Observation today would tell us that Satan is more restricted in his activities (“bound?”) at this time with respect to his activities compared to the first century. Whereas the temptations of the Devil are all around us, we cannot say today that the Devil can personally take control of our lives.

Consider that at the end of the first century, the supernatural presence of God was effectively taken away when the Apostles and those they laid their hands on died. Was Satan restrained in the same time frame to keep a level playing field?

CONTEMPORARY MILLENNIAL BELIEF SYSTEMS

1. MILLENNIUMIST (AMILLENNIUMIST?)

- Binding of Satan while Jesus was on earth, at the end of the first century, or at the end of the Roman empire.
- Millennium is figurative for a long period of time.
- Continuous growth of good and evil in the world culminating in the second coming.

2. PREMILLENNIUMIST

- God's plan to set up the kingdom failed when Christ was crucified. (Second failure after the Garden of Eden)
- When Christ returns, dead believers are resurrected and the church is raptured, great tribulation for 7 years.
- Christ will return after tribulation for a 1000-year period of peace and righteousness.
- During the 1000-year reign, the Jewish nation will be converted, it will be Paradise on earth, the capital city will be Jerusalem, and the temple will be rebuilt.

3. POSTMILLENNIUMIST

- Could mean that there is no distinct millennium, or that it is already past.

4. AMILLENNIUMIST (POST MILLENNIALIST*)

- Would not believe in a millennium, Revelation is simply figurative.

* Terms used in a recent Bible class as typical, we are using "logical" names instead.

The following terms which are associated with premillennialism will be discussed from a scriptural and premillennialist basis:

1. Church Age

Scriptures: No mention of a "church age" in the Bible. Col. 1:13 clearly states that the kingdom was established at that time and Christians were added during the first century.

PREMILLENNIUMISM: A period started when God's plan to set up His kingdom in the first century failed when Jesus was killed. The church age is a temporary substitute period until the kingdom can be set up on the next try.

2. Last Days:

Scriptures: The Christian dispensation starting while Christ was on earth. We are in the last days now. Acts 2:17, I Peter 1:20, Hebrews 1:1-2 (foreknowledge)

PREMILLENNIUMISM: The short time just preceding and including the events which will be climaxed by the second coming of Jesus Christ. We are in the last days now, according to the theory.

3. Rapture:

Scriptures: Not a scriptural term.

PREMILLENNIUMISM: A snatching away of the faithful Christians before the 7-year Tribulation period. (I Thes. 4:16-17, Luke 17:34-36, Matthew 24:40-41 are used to attempt to support the belief. We attribute the events in these verses to be associated with the second coming of Christ before judgment day)

4. Tribulation:

Scriptures: The destruction of Jerusalem, A.D. 70, Matthew 24:9, 21

PREMILLENNIUMISM: A 7-year period at the end of the Church Age after the Rapture and before the kingdom is established, when the people not raptured will be tormented.

5. Anti-Christ:

Scriptures: Only mentioned 3 times in the Bible. It is the spirit of those who do not confess Christ. Many existed in the first century, and therefore exist today also. I John 2:18 (now, many), I John 4:3 (definition, now), II John 7 (definition)

Premillennialism: There will be 2 anti-christs:

- a. The Roman Anti-Christ will arise as ruler of the European Common Market and, without a fight, become the dictator of the world. He and his forces will defeat the Russians and fight the Red Chinese.
- b. The Jewish Anti-Christ, an ally of the Roman Anti-Christ, will bring all the world's religions into one, and will masquerade as the messiah.

6. Armageddon:

Scriptures: Figurative battle ending the Roman Empire that persecuted the Christians which Revelations was written to. (Mentioned only in Revelations 16:13-16)

PREMILLENNIUMISM: A literal battle between the army of the renewed Roman Empire and the Red Chinese forces (after the Romans defeat the Russians) with the center of the conflict being in the actual Valley of Megiddo (Armageddon) in Israel. At the height of the conflict with 1/3 of the world's population destroyed by nuclear bombs, Jesus will return to earth to set up His physical kingdom with those who joined him at the Rapture.

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Robotman



NOTE 1: The term Armageddon could reasonably be considered as a figurative term for a "Super Bowl" battle as the valley was the place Gideon routed the Mideonites; Saul and Jonathan were killed; and King Ahaziah and King Josiah were killed. It was Israel's Waterloo.

NOTE 2: Typical contemporary premillennialist prophecy says that this must happen before the generation that witnessed World War 1 passes away. If you were 5 in 1914 you would be 91 in 1996. Seven years of tribulation would take place before the Battle of Armageddon. If the Rapture happened in 1996, the person would be 98 at the Battle of Armageddon. This means that if the theory is correct, the Rapture must be imminent.

NOTE 3: The "end" has repeatedly been predicted before, and when the prophecy mentioned in NOTE 2 does not come true, others will follow with new prophecies to fit their present situation.