

Doctrine of Eschatology

The Millennium

1. The Amillennial position argues that the thousand years of Revelation 20:1-6 is not a literal thousand years but a designation of the complete reign of Christ, whose reign is a present reality.
2. Amillennialism teaches that the Age of the Church is the same as the Age of the Kingdom of God.
3. The Kingdom of God began with the public ministry of our Lord Jesus Christ.
4. The Amillennial position is supported by appealing to the near time passage of John, who spoke of the kingdom of heaven as being “at hand”.
 - *Matthew 3:2 And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.*
5. Jesus said that what John proclaimed, He was fulfilling.
 - *Mark 1:14 Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, 15 And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.*
6. The Amillennial position is based on the idea that the kingdom of God is not something that is wholly in the future, but is a present reality.
 - *Luke 17:21 Neither shall they say, Lo here! Or, lo there! For, behold, the kingdom of God is within you.*
7. It is possible that God will yet deal with national Israel in mercy and grace, but not with a separate agenda and program. Then, all Israel shall only be saved, Jew and Gentile, by being in Christ.
 - *Romans 11:26 And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob.*
8. God does not have one plan of redemption for the Jews, and another plan of redemption for the Gentiles. Salvation, from Adam to the last soul saved, is by grace, through faith, alone.
9. The Amillennial position believes that the Christian community will have a positive impact on the world.
10. The purpose of the church is to make the invisible church, visible (John Calvin).
11. It is the task of the church to be witnesses to the nations of the earth because the church is in the kingdom age. However, the fullness of the kingdom age has not been consummated.

12. Some, who hold to the Amillennial position, do believe there will come a time when the church apostatizes, or falls away from the faith.

Special Note.

This terrible and unworthy view of the church is also held by Dispensationalist.

13. In contrast, an appeal can be made to the idea that the church will be preserved by the Lord.

- *Ephesians 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; 26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, 27 That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.*

14. At the end of an indefinite period of time, the Lord shall return, destroy the forces of evil, and renovate the heavens and the earth.

15. The Dispensational form of the Premillennial eschatology teaches that Christians are not now in the Kingdom Age, but in the Church Age, which represents a parenthesis between the Old Testament era, and the Kingdom Era, which is in the future.

16. When Jesus comes, He will appear in two phases, or stages. The first stage is called the Rapture, and the second phase, or stage of His coming is called the Second Advent Proper.

17. Classical Dispensationalist believe that the Sermon on the Mount is not intended for the Church, but is to be regulated to the Millennial Kingdom, following the return of Christ after the Rapture and Great Tribulation period.

18. Dispensationalists also believe in two plans of salvation in redemptive history, one for Israel, and another for the church.

19. Dispensationalism postulates the emergence of the Antichrist, the rebuilding of the Temple, the reinstatement of Old Testament sacrifices, and the battle of Armageddon. This will be followed by a thousand year reign of Christ, after which Satan will be released.

20. The main tenet of Dispensational theology is that the church is not the new Israel. The church is a different institution from Israel, despite the teaching of Paul to the Galatians.

- *Galatians 3:7 Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham.*

21. The Post Millennial position is that the church and Israel are the same.

22. Of all the positions, the Post-millennial position is the most optimistic. It believes the church shall permeate all of society which shall be influenced by the gospel, and then Christ shall return in glory.

- 23.** The kingdom of God is a kingdom of spiritual redemption. The thousand reign of Christ shall usher in a major victory for Christianity.

Special Note.

World War I began to shatter the hopes and dreams of many Post-millennialists. This was followed by World War II, the Korean War, and all the conflicts since then, to the present hour, with the rise of Islam.