

1. Three Views on The Millennium – Rev 20:1-7, 1000 Years

There are a variety of variants within and between these broad categories. I have merely presented an overview. Big ideas: Pessimillennial vs Optimillennial: What is the plan for your great-grandchildren? It is unfortunate that eschatology is held hostage to these seven symbolic verses in the most symbolic book of the Bible.

- a. **Pre-Millennial** – Also called Chiliasm, considered a heresy by some in the early church. Messiah will come and set up a literal 1000 year ‘millennial’ Kingdom. Until then the world will continue to deteriorate (a pessimistic outlook) until that day when Jesus comes to rescue it and becomes King of kings, seated on His throne in Jerusalem. After the millennium comes final judgement.
 - i. Classical Pre-Millennialism – Generally agrees with the above, considered more like Post-trib.
 - ii. Dispensational Pre-Millennialism – has the added features of a parenthesis (stopped prophecy clock), a 7-year tribulation, a pre-trib rapture, and two chosen peoples. There are at least 7 rapture views:
 1. Pre-trib rapture – rapture happens triggering the prophecy clock and a 7-year tribulation.
 2. Mid-trib rapture – rapture happens at last trumpet, the mid-point of the 7-year tribulation.
 3. Post-trib rapture – rapture happens after tribulation, similar to Classical Pre-Mill
 4. Pre-wrath rapture – rapture happens just before the ‘wrath of God’ is poured out.
 5. Partial rapture – only ‘our group’ or hardest working Christians will be raptured.
 6. Faith rapture – only those believing in the rapture will be raptured.
 7. Pan-Trib rapture – it will all pan out. People give up trying to understand.
 - b. **A-Millennial** – millennium is symbolic, Jesus is King of kings now and the world will continue to deteriorate until Jesus comes to save the day, end the millennium, and execute final judgement. There are a few “optimistic” A-mills, making it essentially a variant of post-mill (ii) below.
 - c. **Post-Millennial** – Jesus comes for final judgement after the millennium. There are basically two views:
 - i. There will be a literal 1000-year (chilastic) Christian “golden age” at the completion of the Great Commission, after which Jesus will come to execute final judgement. Called “Golden Age Postmillennialism.” Believed by many Puritans, formulated by Jonathan Edwards (1740), but is rare today. Generally, when critics speak against Postmillennialism, this is what they attack.
 - ii. The millennium is a symbolic long period of time (same as a-mill), Jesus is King of kings now and exercises that rule is through His Wife/Church, Rev 1:5. The world will come under the increasing influence of the Gospel as the nations are discipled, Mt 28:18-20. At the completion of the Great Commission Jesus comes to execute final judgement, separating sheep and goat nations (Mt 25:32, Rev 21:24). This is the majority report of Post-mills today.
- ### 2. Four Views on Biblical Prophecy, Particularly the Book of Revelation.
- a. **Idealist or Spiritual** – prophecy is just there to teach us lessons and there are many lessons one can learn. But there is no real connection to future history being laid out. This can become the default position because there are so many competing/conflicting ideas people give up trying to understand and settle for ‘lessons.’
 - b. **Historicist** – prophecy covers the span of history from the ascension of Jesus in Acts 1 to His return for final judgement, Rev 19. I heard one historicist preacher say he thought we were at the 5th seal, Rev 6:9-11. He expected a worldwide persecution of the church to break out any minute. That was around 1983.
 - c. **Preterist** – most, but not all, prophecy has already been fulfilled in the past, by 70 AD, the time of the Jewish temple’s destruction. Jesus’s next coming is for final judgment. Also called Partial or Orthodox Preterist.
 - d. **Futurist** – most prophecy (Mt 24, Mk 13, Lk 21, 2 Thes 2, Rev 4-19, Ezek 38-39, etc.) will yet be fulfilled sometime in the future. This is inherent in Classical Premill but is much more pronounced in Dispensationalism. Dispensationalists, the new kids on the block, often call the others heretical.

Mark 1: 14 Now after John was put in prison, Jesus came to 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, and believe the Gospel.”**

Problem verses: Mt 10:16-23, 16:28, 24:34, Mk 9:1, Lk 21:22, Act 2:16-17, Heb 1:1-2, 1Pt 1:20, Rv 1:1-7, 11:15, 22:10, and most verses on the next page.

Prophetic: Daniel 2:34-35, 44, 7:13-14, 9:1-2 (Jer 25:11, 29:10), 24-27

Correlations: (Dan 12:9 <-> Rev 22:10) (Mk 3:27 <-> Rev 20:2) (Dan 12:7 <-> Lk 21:24, Rev 11:2, 13:5)

Time and Related Passages

This Generation

Mt 11:16, 12:41-42
Mt 23:36, 24:34
Mk 8:12, 13:30
Lk 7:31, 11:29-32, 50-51
Lk 17:25, 21:32

Last Days/Hour

Acts 2:17
2 Tm 3:1, Heb 1:2
1 Pet 1:20, 2 Pt 3:3
Jam 5:3, 1 Jn 2:18

That/Last Day

Mt 7:22, 26:29
Mk 14:25, Lk 6:23, 10:12
Jn 6:39-54, 11:24, 12:48
1 Th 5:4
2 Tm 1:12, 18, 4:8
Heb 10:25

Soon/Immediately

Mt 21:19-20, Lk 2:49
Acts 5:10, 12:23
Rom 16:20

Shortly/little while

Rev 1:1, 6:10

End of the age/world

Mt 13:39-40, 49
Mt 24:3, 28:20
1 Cor. 10:11
2 Cor 4:4
Heb 9:26

At the door

Mt 24:33
Jam 5:9, Rev 3:20

Not die until

Mt 16:28, Mk 9:1, Lk 9:27

At/in hand/near

Mt 3:2, 4:17, 10:7
Mt 26:18, 45-46
Mk 1:15, 14:42
Lk 21:27, 31, Jn 7:2
Rm 13:12
Php 4:5, 2 Tm 4:6
Jam 5:8, 1 Pt 4:7, 17
Rev 1:3, 22:10

Whole/all world

Mt 24:14, Mk 16:15
Lk 2:1
Ac 2:5, 11:18, 22:15
Rom 1:8, 16:26
Col 1:6, 23, 1 Pt 5:9
1 Jn 2:2, 5:19

Antichrist

1 Jn 2:18, 22, 4:3, 2 Jn 1:7

Quickly

Mt 5:25, 28:7-8
Rev 2:5, 16, 3:11
Rev 11:14
Rev 22:7, 12, 20

Come/Coming/Clouds

Mt 10:23, 24:30, 26:64
Mk 13:26, 14:62
Lk 21:27
Acts 1:11, Heb 9:28
Rv 1:7, Is 19:1, Zeph 1:14-15

Some Related Passages

Dan 2:31-(35)-45
Dan 7:13-14, Lk 1:33
Dan 9:1-3, 24-27, Is 9:7
Mt 13:22, Lk 13:21
Mt 6:10, 28:18-20
Ps 97:5, Mic 1:3-4
Acts 2:19-20

Mt 3:2, 4:17

at hand/near

Mt 5:25

quickly

Mt 10:7

at hand/near

Mt 11:16

this generation

Mt 12:41-42

this generation

Mt 13:39-40, 49

end of age/world

Mt 14:42

at hand/near

Mt 16:28

not taste death until

Mt 23:36

this generation

Mt 24:3

end of age/world

Mt 24:14

whole world

Mt 24:34

this generation

Mt 26:18, 45-46

at hand/near

Mt 28:7-8

quickly

Mt 28:20

end of age/world

Mk 1:15

at hand/near

Mk 8:12

this generation

Mk 9:1

not taste death until

Mk 13:30

this generation

Mk 16:15

whole world

Lk 2:1

whole world

Lk 7:31

this generation

Lk 9:27

not taste death until

Lk 11:29-32, 50-51

this generation

Lk 17:25

this generation

Lk 21:27, 31

at hand/near

Lk 21:32

this generation

Jn 6:39-54

that day

Jn 7:2

at hand/near

Jn 11:24, 12:48

that day

Act 2:5

every nation

Act 2:17

last days

Act 11:18, 22:15

whole world

Rm 1:8

whole world

Rm 10:8, 13:12

at hand/near

Rm 16:20

soon

1 Cor. 7:29

time is short

Last updated 240703

1 Cor. 10:11

end of age/world

2 Cor 4:4

this age/world

Php 4:5

at hand/near

Col 1:6, 23

whole world

2 Tm 3:1

last days

2 Tm 4:6

at hand/near

Jam 5:8

at hand/near

Heb 1:1-2

last days

Heb 9:26

end of age/world

Heb 9:28

2nd coming

Heb 10:25

the day

Jam 5:3

last days

Jam 5:9

at the door

1 Pt 1:20

last days

1 Pt 4:7

at hand/near

1 Pt 4:17

time for judgment

1 Pt 5:9

whole world

2 Pt 3:3

last days

1 Jn 2:2

whole world

1 Jn 2:18

last hour, antichrist

1 Jn 2:22, 4:3

antichrist

1 Jn 5:19

whole world

2 Jn 1:7

antichrist

Rv 1:1

shortly, soon

Rv 1:3

in hand

Rv 2:5, 16

quickly

Rv 3:11

quickly

Rv 3:20

at the door

Rv 6:11

little while

Rv 10:6

no more time

Rv 11:14

quickly

Rv 12:12

short time

Rv 16:17

it is done

Rv 22:6

shortly, soon

Rv 22:7, 12, 20

quickly

Rv 22:10

near, at hand