# cid:2f11d321-f118-45d2-b456-50aba4d51520@fpcsat.org

# The Millennium

**Read Rev. 20:1-8**

The standard millennial positions (each being a system of eschatology in its own right) may be summarized briefly as follows:

* *Premillennialism* teaches that there will be a future, literal, earthly millennial kingdom, and that it will begin when Christ returns. The *pre-* indicates that Christ will return *before* the millennial kingdom is established.
* *Amillennialism* teaches that there will be no literal millennial kingdom. The prefix *a-* indicates a simple negation.
* *Postmillennialism* teaches that Christ will return *after* *(post-)* the millennial kingdom concludes.

Amillennialism (or the Millennium is now): “A-Mil”

1. The church age is the kingdom era prophesied in the Old Testament, as the New Testament church becomes the Israel of God.
2. Satan was bound during Jesus’ earthly ministry, restraining him while the gospel is being preached in the world.
3. *Insofar as Christ presently rules in the hearts of believers, they will have some influence on culture while living out their faith.*
4. Toward the end evil’s growth will accelerate, culminating in the great tribulation and a personal antichrist.
5. “Christ will return to end history, resurrect and judge all men, and establish the eternal order. The eternal destiny of the redeemed may be either in heaven or in a totally renovated new earth.”

Dispensational premillennialism: “Pre-Trib, Pre Mil”

1. Christ offered to the Jews the Davidic kingdom in the first century. They rejected it, and it was postponed until the future.
2. The current church age is a “parenthesis” unknown to the Old Testament prophets.
3. God has separate programs for the church and Israel.
4. The church will ultimately lose influence in the world and become corrupted or apostate toward the end of the church age.
5. Christ will return secretly to rapture his saints before the great tribulation.
6. After the tribulation Christ will return to earth to administer a Jewish political kingdom based in Jerusalem for one thousand years. Satan will be bound, and the temple will be rebuilt and the sacrificial system reinstituted.
7. Near the end of the millennium, Satan will be released and Christ will be attacked at Jerusalem.
8. Christ will call down judgment from heaven and destroy his enemies. The (second) resurrection and the judgment of the wicked will occur, initiating the eternal order.

Historic premillennialism: “Pre Mil”

1. The New Testament era Church is the *initial* phase of Christ’s kingdom, as prophesied by the Old Testament prophets.
2. The New Testament Church may win occasional victories in history, but ultimately she will fail in her mission, lose influence, and become corrupted as worldwide evil increases toward the end of the Church Age.
3. The Church will pass through a future, worldwide, unprecedented time of travail. This era is known as the Great Tribulation, which will punctuate the end of contemporary history.…
4. Christ will return at the end of the Tribulation to rapture the Church, resurrect deceased saints, and conduct the judgment of the righteous in the “twinkling of an eye.”
5. Christ will then descend to the earth with His glorified saints, fight the battle of Armageddon, bind Satan, and establish a worldwide, political kingdom, which will be personally administered by Him for 1,000 years from Jerusalem.
6. At the end of the millennial reign, Satan will be loosed and a massive rebellion against the kingdom and a fierce assault against Christ and His saints will occur.
7. God will intervene with fiery judgment to rescue Christ and the saints. The resurrection and the judgment of the wicked will occur and the eternal order will begin.

Postmillennialism: “Post Mil”

1. The messianic kingdom was founded on earth during the earthly ministry of Christ in fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy. The New Testament church becomes the transformed Israel, the “Israel of God” of which Paul speaks in Galatians 6:16.
2. The kingdom is essentially redemptive and spiritual rather than political and physical.
3. The kingdom will exercise a transformational socio-cultural influence in history.
4. The kingdom of Christ will gradually expand in time and on earth. This will be accomplished not without Christ’s royal power as King but without his physical presence on earth.
5. The fifth feature is that the Great Commission will succeed. This expectation includes the ***virtual*** Christianization of the nations.
6. An extended period of spiritual prosperity may endure for millennia, after which history will be drawn to a close by the personal, visible, bodily return of Christ. His return will be accompanied by a literal resurrection and a general judgment, ushering in the final and eternal form of the kingdom.

I believe that “A-Mil” and “Post-Mil” Positions are virtually the same, but there are some differences.

* In A-Mil, the 1000 years is either discounted or figuratively understood. Some Post-Mils believe this, others that the Millennium will begin with the fulfillment of the great commission.
* Both positions assert that the tribulations have already occurred historically c. 70 AD with the fall of Jerusalem. (Preterist)
* A-mil, pessimistic, Post-Mil optimistic

**Advocates of Millennial Views**

***Dispensational Premillenialists***

***Gleason L. Archer***

***Donald G. Barnhouse***

***Lewis Sperry Chafer***

***J. N. Darby***

***M. R. DeHaan***

***Charles L. Feinberg***

***Norman L Geisler***

***Harry A. Ironside***

***Walter C. Kaiser***

***Hal Lindsay***

***J. Dwight Pentecost***

***Charles Caldwell Ryrie***

***John F. Walvoord***

***Tim LaHaye***

***David Jeremiah***

***Historical Premillennialists***

***W. J. Erdman***

***Frederic L. Godet***

***Irenaeus***

***Justin Martyr***

***George Eldon Ladd***

***Papias***

***J. Barton Payne***

***Tertullian***

***R. A. Torrey***

***Theodor Zahn***

***Amillennialists***

## Jay E. Adams

***G.C. Berkouwer***

***Louis Berkhof***

***William Hendrickson***

***Anthony A. Hoekema***

***Abraham Kuyper***

***Bruce K. Waltke***

***Edward J. Young***

***Postmillennialists***

***Oswald T. Alllis***

***Athanasius***

***Augustine***

***Greg. L Bahnsen***

***John Calvin***

***Robert Lewis Dabney***

***Jonathan Edwards***

***Eusebius***

***A.A. Hodge***

***Charles Hodge***

***J. Marcellus Kik***

***J. Gresham Machen***

***George C. Miladin***

***Lain H. Murray***

***John Murray***

***Gary North***

***John Owen***

***R. J. Rushdoony***

***W. G. T. Shedd***

***Augustus H. Strong***

***J. H. Thornwell***

***B. B. Warfield***

***R.C. Sproul***