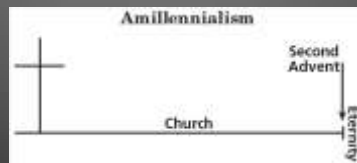


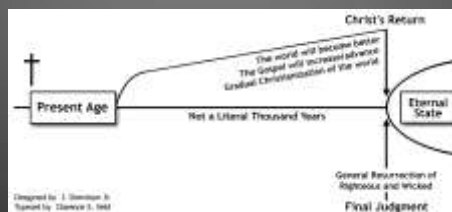
Millennial Views

- Christ will return physically and visibly, breaking into history with glory.
- An important question is how this relates to the millennium mentioned in Revelation 20:1-6.
- There are four major views that attempt to answer this question.
- Amillennialism.
 - It has the alpha privative, which means no millennium, but in reality they believe there is no future millennium.
 - They believe the present church age (between the two comings) is the millennium.
 - The next great event to which we look forward is the return of Christ.
 - The resurrection, judgment, and then the eternal state come next.



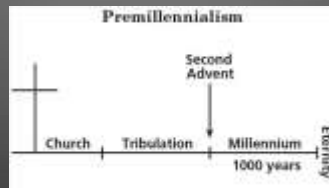
Millennial Views

- Post-Millennialism.
 - This refers to the return of Christ after the millennium.
 - We are in the church age, which will gradually yield into the millennium, a golden age of peace, prosperity and righteousness.
 - This will happen as the gospel reaches all the nations of the world. The church will have a leavening influence for good that will transform world societies.
 - After this time, then Jesus will return. It is not necessarily a literal 1,000 years (few post-millennialists that actually think it is a literal 1,000 years).
 - After Christ's return will be the resurrection, judgment, and eternal state.



Millennial Views

- Classic or historic premillennialism.
 - Christ returns before the millennium. This was the view of the early church, up to the time of Augustine. Yes, there were varieties of views (one church father mentions this fact, though we don't know much about them), but premillennialism was the dominant view.
 - Seven years before the return of Christ (possibly symbolic), there will be a Great Tribulation, where Satanic wrath will be poured out on the world, human evil against other humans will be at its highest level, and divine wrath will be poured out on the world. The church will be present through this tribulation period.
 - At the end of which, and before the millennium, Jesus will return and there will be the resurrection.



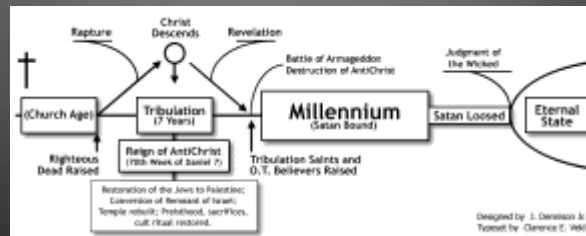
Millennial Views

- Historic premillennialism (cont.)
 - Premillennialists are divided over whether or not it is the resurrection of believers and unbelievers, or believers only, and whether there will be judgment at his time.
 - Following the return of Christ, Christians will come with Him and reign with Him 1,000 years.
 - Some see the 1,000 years as literal, others as symbolic.
 - At the end of it, there is one last effort of Satan and the enemies of Christ to defeat Christ and the people of God.
 - Satan and his forces are soundly defeated. Then judgment comes, and we enter the eternal state.



Millennial Views

- Pretribulational or dispensational premillennialism.
 - This gained traction in the 19th and 20th century.
 - It is still premillennial. The main difference is the church that exists right now has been promised exemption from divine wrath, therefore before the period of 7 years of tribulation, the church will be raptured out of the world.
 - The purpose of the Great Tribulation is not for the church, but to shape and test unbelievers.
 - The church is with Christ for the 7 years. At the end of the tribulation, Christ and the church returns with Him, and there is the establishment of the millennium. Then all the other premillennial stuff applies.



Great Tribulation

- Eschatology gets further complicated by relating the return of Christ to the Great Tribulation?
 - This requires that we define the tribulation itself!
 - Is it Daniel's 70th week? Is it a literal 7 years? Is it a metaphor for the entire church age? Is it a combination of the two?
- These questions are important.
 - For example, both the amillennialists and historical pre-millennialists believe Christ returns after the Tribulation. But many amillennialists define the Tribulation as the church age. Pre-millennialists define the Tribulation as a specific intense period right before Christ's return.
 - When both groups say that Christ returns after the Tribulation, they mean radically different things.
- When it comes to the two kinds of pre-millennialism (historic and dispensational), it gets further complicated.
 - The dispensationalists say Christ comes both before and after the Tribulation.

Rapture

- This also relates to the doctrine of the Rapture.
- Some say the “rapture” is not found in the Bible.
- In 1 Thessalonians 4:17, it says we will be “caught up” to be with Christ in the air.
 - In the Greek this is *harpazo*/ἁρπάζω, which means snatched up.
 - In the Latin vulgate it is *rapere*, which is where we derive the English word “rapture.”
- There are a few blatantly false rapture views.
 - Partial rapture says Christians with sin are left behind to be purified in the Tribulation (sounds like purgation).
 - Multiple rapture view claims Christ returns for each as they are ready (sin is purged).
 - These are highly Arminian, and fail to understand what Christ’s death accomplished. All sins are propitiated due to double alien imputation and penal substitutionary atonement. Double jeopardy is not possible.



Tribulation and Rapture

- If you believe in a rapture of the church and a distinct Tribulation prior to Christ’s return, then eschatology further complicates.
- Will the rapture happen before the Tribulation or after?
 - This sets apart historic and dispensational pre-millennialism.
 - Of course, there is more to it than just this. Both groups define the church and Israel differently; and both see the purpose of the millennium differently.
 - Both also see what happens in the tribulation differently.
- There are three proposed positions on the rapture.



Three Proposed Positions

- The two views— post-tribulationism and pre-tribulationism—have been the most dominant in this debate.
 - Post says the rapture and the revelation of Christ are the same and occur at the end of the 70th week of Daniel or the Tribulation.
 - Pre says the rapture and the revelation of Christ are distinct with the former happening prior to Daniel's 70th week or the Tribulation.
- A less popular third mediating position is mid-tribulationism.
 - It agrees the rapture and revelation of Christ are distinct, but the rapture happens at the mid point of the 70th week.
 - This view has complicated the debate forcing many to use more precise labels.
 - Precision = pre 70th week, mid 70th week, and post 70th week.
- Pre and Mid are distinctively dispensational.

