

Eschatology Series

Session 2: What the future looks like - the Millennial Kingdom

Glossary:

Millennium is taken from the Latin words *Mille* (thousand) and the word *annum* (year)

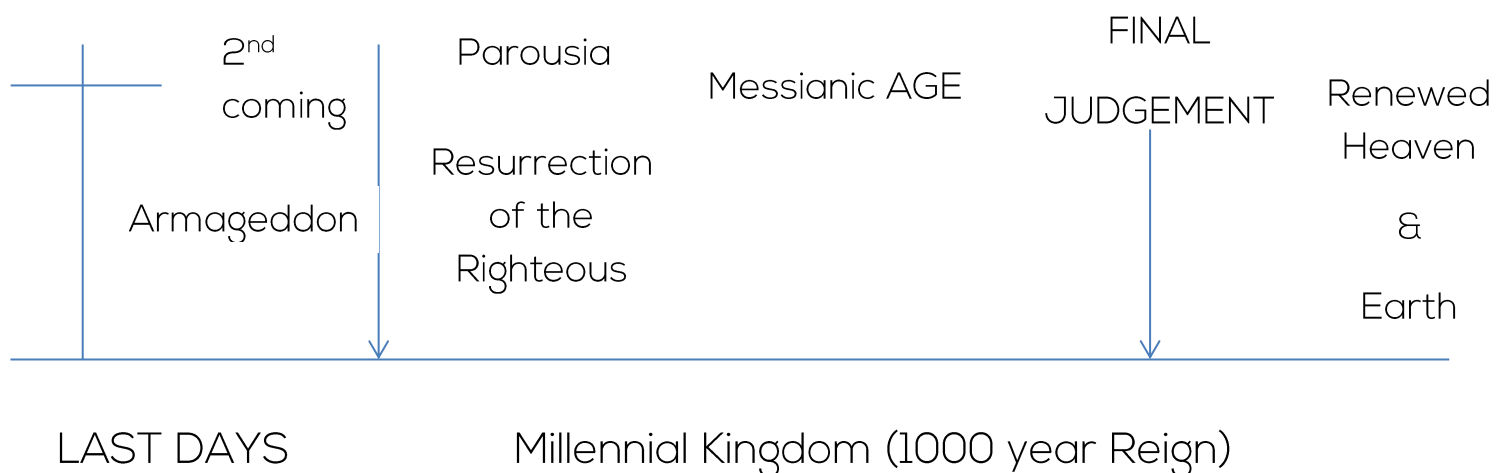
Revelation 20:4-6

N.B. The Greek word for thousand is **chilias** so sometimes the millennium is referred to as Chiliasm.

Writing about chilias, Vine comments 'one thousand is ALWAYS used in the PLURAL'

Many commentators see the thousand years as a long period of the time (AGE)

Isaiah 2:1-4, 11:6-9, 35:1-10, 65:19-25



3 main views regarding the millennium:

1. **A** millennialism – This view believes there is no millennium. They believe all spiritual activity is in heaven. Basic assumption is that the supernatural realm cannot affect the natural (Plato).

Therefore belief in miracles, physical resurrection does not happen.

The apocalyptic and prophetic scriptures are neglected. There is no special place for Israel which has been replaced by the Church.

It started at the time of Augustine and the Council of Ephesus which condemned as heretical the pre-millennial belief.

Today it is held by liberal Christians who emphasise social action and find the doctrine of the second coming irrelevant and not the Blessed Hope Titus 2:13 of the early church.

2. **Post** millennialism – They do believe in a Millennial Age. This view believes things will get better and better as the world becomes Christianised. At the end of long periods of blessing the Church will usher in the Parousia through preaching the gospel and bringing about social and political reform.

Modern day postmillennialists are Kingdom now believers, Dominion theologians and Restoration teachers.

They believe the 2nd Coming ushers in the general resurrection, the final judgement and the eternal kingdom

3. **Pre** millennialism – This was the historic view of the early Church. They believed the Scriptures taught that this present age will get worse and worse. It believes trials and tribulations will come worldwide. It also believes that Israel will feature as the key place on earth for the fulfilment of prophecy before the Lord's return. Following signs and wonders, including Armageddon the Parousia takes place. The righteous believers are resurrected and rule with Christ for a thousand years. A universal reign takes place Revelations 2:26, 5:10, 11:15