

Pre-Millennial Return of Christ, Overview

Defending Doctrinal Distinctives

Defining Terms

Pre-millennialism:

The teaching that Christ will return before the 1000-year kingdom

Post-millennialism:

The teaching that Christ will return after the 1000-year kingdom

A-millennialism:

The teaching that Christ will return without a 1000-year kingdom

Pan-millennialism?

Why Eschatology Deserves Your Attention

1. With a proper and consistent hermeneutic, biblical eschatology is clear
2. The Bible is full of eschatological teaching
3. Your eschatological beliefs will impact how you live and what hope you have for the future
4. Proper eschatology further reveals the glory of God and enables greater worship

Calvary Statement of Faith (“The Second Coming and Millennial Reign”)

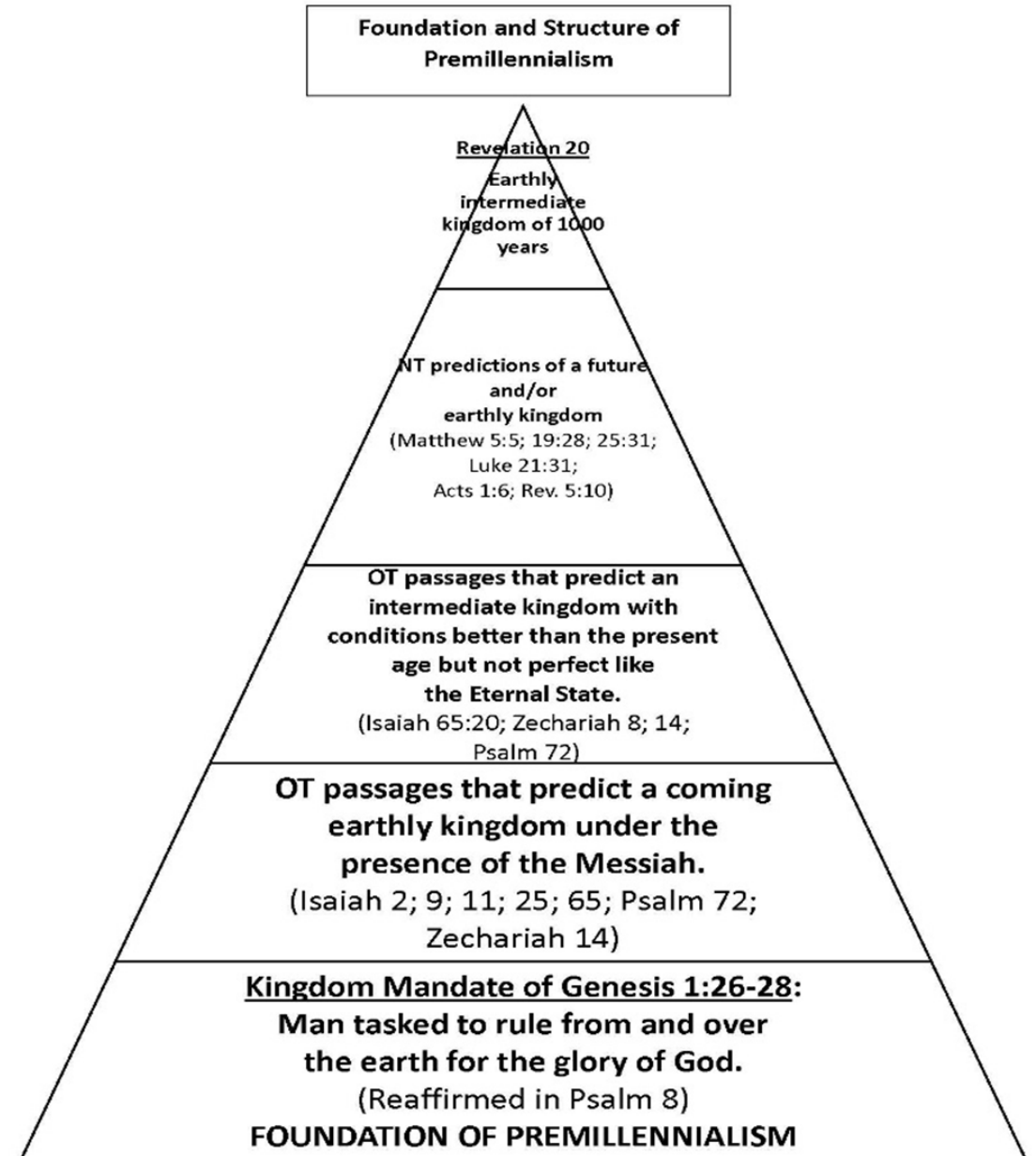
We teach that after the tribulation period, Christ will come to physically occupy the throne of David (Ezekiel 37:21-28; Matthew 25:31; Luke 1:31-33; Acts 1:10-11; 2:29-31; Hebrews 10:12-13) and establish His Messianic Kingdom for a thousand years on the earth (Revelation 20:1-7). This reign will be preceded by the overthrow of the Antichrist and the False Prophet (Revelation 19:20), and by the removal of Satan from the world (Daniel 7:17-27; Revelation 20:1-7).

Calvary Statement of Faith (“The Second Coming and Millennial Reign”), Part 2

a. We teach that the kingdom itself will be the fulfillment of God’s promise to Israel (Ezekiel 37:21-28; Zechariah 8:1-17) to restore them to the land which they forfeited through their disobedience (Deuteronomy 28:15-68). The result of their disobedience was that they were temporarily set aside (Matthew 21:43; Romans 11:1-26) but will again be awakened through repentance to enter into the land of blessing (Jeremiah 31:31-34; Ezekiel 36:22-32; Romans 11:25-29).

The (Dispensational) Pre-Millennialism Argument

1. Genesis 1 Kingdom Mandate
2. OT Prophecy of a Future, Earthly Messianic Kingdom
3. OT Prophecy of Imperfect Kingdom Conditions
4. NT Prophecy of a Future, Earthly Messianic Kingdom
5. Explicit Millennial Kingdom Revelation 20 Description



The Genesis 1:26–28 Kingdom Mandate

From the beginning, God commissioned man to rule from the earth over the earth on God's behalf for God's glory

The fall of mankind into sin (Genesis 3) would seem to have threatened the Kingdom Mandate, since man can no longer fulfill

The under-ruler's world was cursed with futility, pain, and death because of his sin, Genesis 3:17–19, Romans 8:20–21

Yet Psalm 8:4–6 reveals that God did not revoke the Kingdom Mandate—how can the mandate still be fulfilled?

Hebrews 2:5–8 reveals Jesus to be the only one who can, must, and will fulfill mankind's original Kingdom Mandate...

...confirming pre-millennialism!

The OT Prophecies a Future, Earthly Messianic Kingdom

Sampling Isaiah's and Zechariah's specific prophecies reveals a coming, earthly kingdom marked by worldwide dominion, peace, and prosperity on a restored earth with the Messiah himself reigning

Isaiah 2:2–4

Isaiah 9:1–7

Isaiah 11:1–16

Isaiah 25:6–9

Zechariah 14:1–21

These prophecies have not yet been fulfilled but fit pre-millennialism!

Objection: Couldn't these prophecies just be figurative?

The OT Prophecies Imperfect Conditions in the Future Kingdom

Isaiah 65:17–25

Zechariah 14:16–19

These prophecies reveal that the future, earthly Messianic kingdom will still contain imperfections like sin, death, and plague, though greatly mitigated

This fact is a great problem for figurative/eternal state interpretations

How to fit these prophecies with other prophecies describing perfect conditions in the Messiah's kingdom?

Answer: Christ's future, earthly kingdom has two phases: the millennial kingdom and then the eternal state

Only pre-millennialism is consistent with a two-phased, future Messianic kingdom!

The NT Prophecies a Future, Earthly Messianic Kingdom

Once again, a quick sampling:

Matthew 5:5

Matthew 19:28

Luke 21:31

Acts 1:6

Revelation 5:10

NT prophecy is consistent with OT prophecy and the Genesis 1 mandate: Christ will return before the promised kingdom to establish it on the earth and reign with his saints

Revelation 20 Explicitly Describes the Millennial Kingdom

Context of Revelation 19: The coming of Christ bodily to the earth to wage war against God's enemies

Revelation 20:1 continues the sequence of events ("Then I saw")

Revelation 20:1–10

Satan will be sealed away for 1,000 years

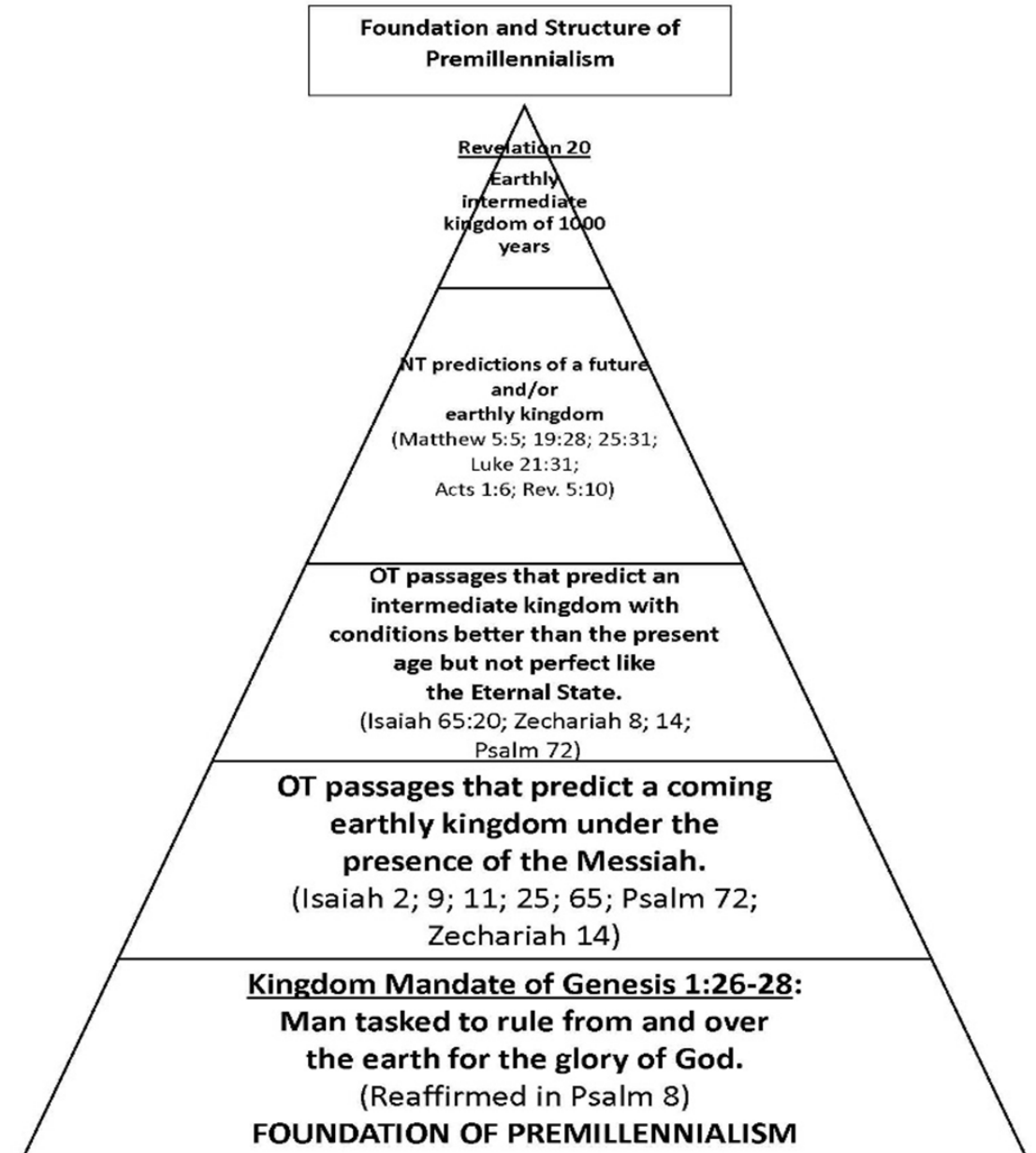
Then the resurrected saints will reign with Christ for 1,000 years

After 1,000 years, Satan will be released to stir up one, final human rebellion but will be crushed and thrown into the lake of fire

The sequence of events reported in Revelation 19–20 (followed by the final judgment and the transition to the eternal state) is pre-millennialism and is completely aligned with previous OT and NT prophecy

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Next Time:
Questions and Objections