

# Pre-Millennial Return of Christ, Questions

Defending Doctrinal Distinctives

# Defining Terms

Pre-millennialism:

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

Post-millennialism:

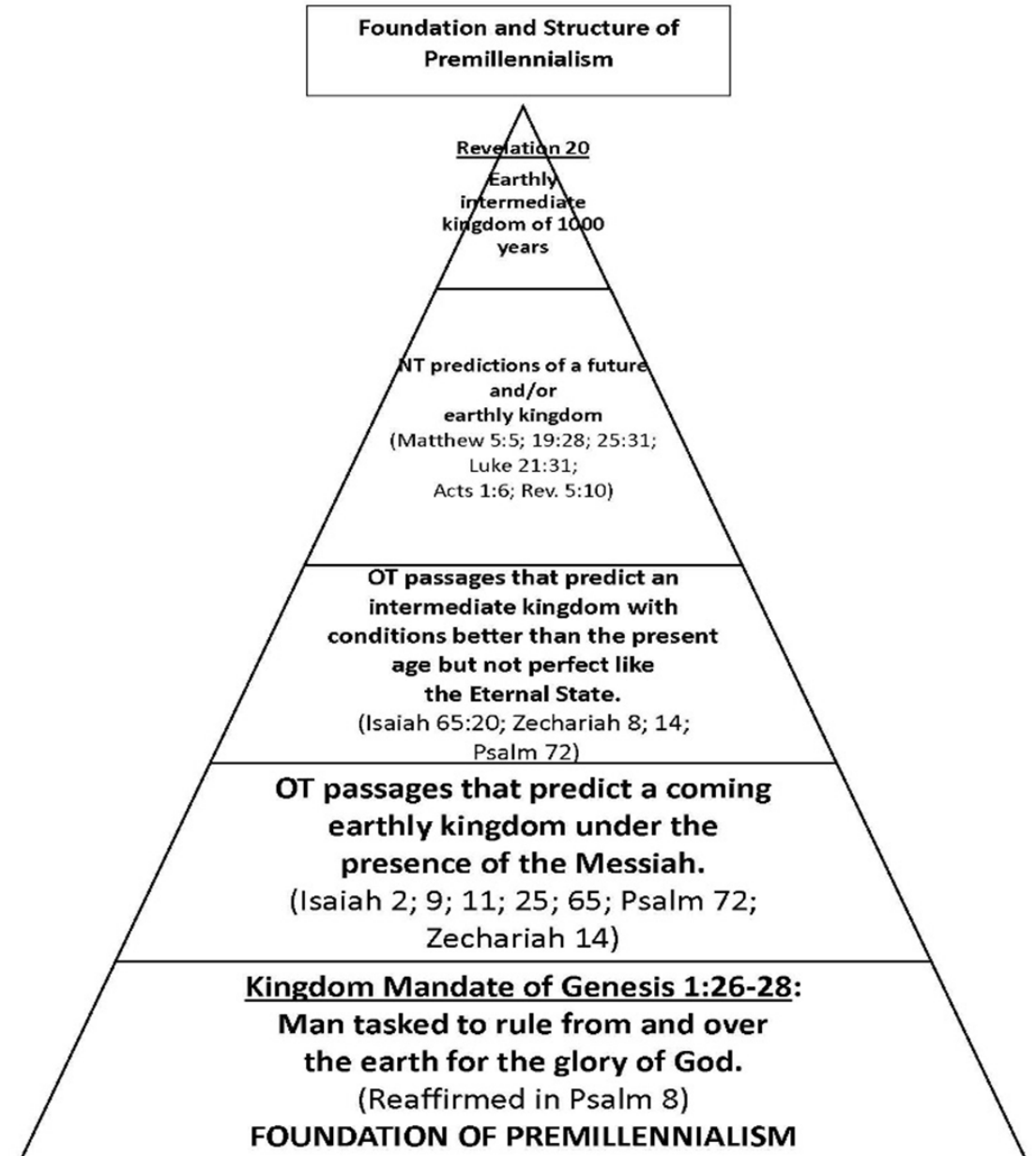
The teaching that Christ will return after the 1000-year kingdom

A-millennialism:

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

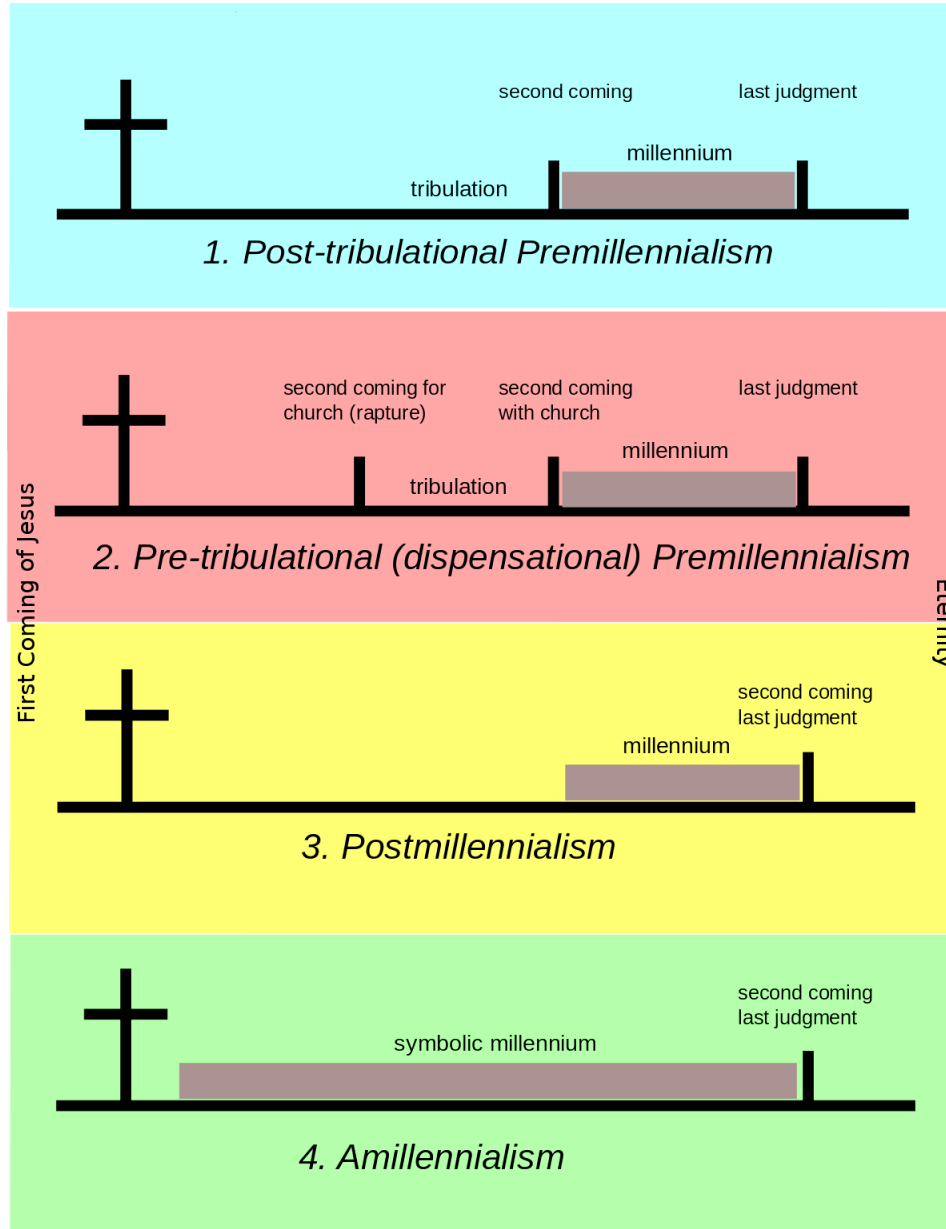
# The (Dispensational) Pre-Millennialism Argument

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



1. What is the difference between historic and dispensational premillennialism?

# Comparison of Christian millennial teachings



# 1. What is the difference between historic and dispensational premillennialism?

Historic premillennialism = post-tribulational rapture premillennialism

Agrees that Jesus will return before earthly, Messianic, 1000-year kingdom.  
However...

Revelation tribulations will take place in the church age and get worse before Christ's return

The church will go through the world's final judgments (not raptured away)

All Israel will be saved but as part of the church and will have no special role in the millennial kingdom

Where do the terms "historic" and "dispensational" come from?

## 2. Isn't dispensational premillennialism a relatively new teaching?

Must be careful with arguments from church history (Romans 3:4)

Early church: historic premillennialism -> amillennialism (fourth century)

Medieval and Reformation church: amillennialism

Modern church:

- Postmillennialism emerges (eighteenth century)

- Dispensational premillennialism emerges (nineteenth century)

Takeaways:

- Historically, eschatology greatly affected by culture/circumstances

- Disp. premillennialism only view with consistent literal hermeneutic

- Disp. premillennialism unfortunately has gained some bad associations

### 3. What is a “leaky dispensationalist,” and do the Calvary elders fit that label?

Leaky dispensationalist = dispensational premillennialist who does not necessarily adopt the whole dispensationalist theological system

Calvary’s doctrinal makeup is rare: Reformed in soteriology but Dispensational in eschatology

We always want to beware of accidental loyalty to theological systems or church traditions over the Bible

# 4. Are the church and Israel really separate?

Supersessionism (assumed in amillennialism): The church supersedes Israel as “the people of God” and becomes the new spiritual “Israel”

1. The church is never called “Israel” in the NT (cf. Gal 6:16; Rm. 9:6)
2. The NT affirms a future for the nation of Israel (Mt. 19:28/Lk 22:30; Mt 23:37–39/Lk 13:34–35; Lk 21:24; Acts 1:6–7)
3. The NT explicitly affirms that the covenants and promises still belong to the nation of Israel (Rom. 9:3–4)
4. The doctrine of election ensures Israel’s continuing role in God’s plans (Dt. 7:7–8; Rm 11:1–2a)
5. The NT explicitly affirms a salvation future for national Israel (Rm. 11:26)
6. Using certain Israelite descriptions for the church does not automatically make the church Israel (1 Pt 2:9–10; Gal 3:27, 29; Rm 4:9–12)

# 5. Doesn't premillennialism represent a cosmic step backwards for God's plans?

1. We must let God be God and let him teach us what he is going to do and why instead of imposing on his word what we think is proper
2. Beware Christian Platonism's (especially Platonic Dualism's) influence on your eschatological expectations
3. Even if we don't immediately or fully understand why God restores Israel and certain Israelite institutions, the Bible is plain that God will
4. The Bible is clear that restored Israel will have many differences compared to what Israel was in the OT (e.g. Ezekiel 40–48)

Additional Questions?

Next Time:  
Eternal Punishment, Overview