

Eschatology, Session 7: Premillennialism; 8/6/2025

-Preview of study and calendar.

Session 8: Millennial Issues Part 2; 8/13/25

- Amillennial: now/not yet
- Postmillennial: hope of the nations

Session 9: Final Things; 8/20/25

- The Resurrection of the Dead
- The Great White Throne Judgement
- The Judgement Seat of Christ
- The New Heavens and New Earth

Review:

What is partial Preterism?

What difference does it make?

What does the dating of the book of Revelation have to do with any of this?

Resources:

Bruce Gore's [Apocalypse in Space and Time](#) 63 videos.

RC Sproul's [Last Days According to Jesus](#) 12 videos.

I. Introduction to Premillennialism

- Premillennialism teaches that Christ returns **before** (pre-) a literal 1,000-year reign (millennium) on earth (Revelation 20:1–6).
- Contrasts with postmillennialism (Christ returns after a figurative millennium of Christian influence) and amillennialism (no literal millennium; spiritual reign).
- **Two** main types: Historic (Classic) and Dispensational Premillennialism.

II. Premillennialism: Biblical References

- Revelation 20:1–6: Satan bound for 1,000 years; saints reign with Christ.
- Matthew 24:29–31: Christ's return after the Tribulation with angels and trumpet.
- 1 Thessalonians 4:16–17: The **rapture** and resurrection of believers.

- Isaiah 11:6–9: Peaceful conditions during Christ’s earthly reign.
- Zechariah 14:4–9: Christ’s return to Jerusalem, establishing global rule.
- Romans 11:26–29: seen as future and literal return of **Jews** to Christ.

III. Types of Premillennialism

1. **Historic** (Classic) Premillennialism:
 - Christ returns after the Tribulation; rapture occurs at the Second Coming.
 - Church endures Tribulation; millennium is a literal 1,000-year reign.
 - Focus on continuity with early church fathers (e.g., Justin Martyr, Irenaeus).
 - Key Proponents: Justin Martyr (100–165 AD), George Eldon Ladd (1911–1982).
2. Dispensational Premillennialism:
 - Pre-Tribulation rapture (church removed before seven-year Tribulation).
 - Israel-church **distinction**; millennium as a Jewish kingdom.
 - Subtypes: Pre-Tribulation (John Walvoord, Tim LaHaye), Mid-Tribulation, Pre-Wrath (Marvin Rosenthal).
 - Key Proponents: John Nelson Darby (1800–1882), Cyrus Scofield (1843–1921).

IV. The **Rapture**

- The rapture is a belief that Christ will gather believers to meet Him in the air, based on **1 Thessalonians 4:16–17**.
- In premillennialism, historic premillennialists see it as post-Tribulation, coinciding with the Second Coming.
- Dispensational premillennialists place it before (pre-Tribulation), during (mid-Tribulation), or late in (pre-wrath) the **Tribulation**, tied to a future 1,000-year reign.

V. Satan’s **Binding** and Release

- Key Points:
 - Binding: Satan is restrained for 1,000 years, preventing deception; Christ reigns with saints.
 - **Release**: After 1,000 years, Satan is freed briefly, deceives nations (Gog and Magog), and leads a rebellion, crushed by fire from heaven.
 - Purpose: Shows human sinfulness (even after Christ’s reign) and God’s final victory.
- Differences:
 - Historic: Emphasizes theological purpose (sin’s persistence); Gog/Magog symbolic or literal.
 - Dispensational: Literal rebellion, often tied to **Ezekiel 38–39** (e.g., Russia); detailed timeline.

VI. **Objections** to Premillennialism: It **ignores** most of church history and...

- Amillennial Critique: The 1,000 years is symbolic, not literal; Satan is bound now (John 12:31).
- Postmillennial Critique: The church will **usher in** the millennium through progress, not Christ's return.
- Preterist Critique: Revelation was **fulfilled** in 70 AD, not future.
- Practical Critique: Premill has produced fantastical and cataclysmic outcomes:
 - **Timelines** and wild speculation
 - Self-fulfilling prophecy and **negative** feedback loop. Negative outlook believing that things will continue to worsen.
 - Financial costs: over \$300 billion given to Israel since 1948. \$8.5-12.5 **Trillion** spent on middle eastern conflict. Current US debt is \$34.4 Trillion.
 - **Failed** foreign policy: Muslim nations hate the US because of our support of Israel. Zionism is the root cause of tension in the middle East. It is estimated that 5-6 million people have died, directly or indirectly, because of this ideology.

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VII. **Conclusion**

- Premillennialism believes in a **literal**, future-focused view of Christ's return and reign.
- Premillennialism minimizes the **literary** nature of both Christ's language in the Olivet Discourse and in other prophecies. This is in contrast to the majority opinion of church history.
- The motivation behind the literal hermeneutic is to **preserve** the Bible.
- American Evangelicalism and foreign policy have been widely influenced by Premillennial Dispensationalism.

Resources for Further Study

- George Eldon Ladd, *The Blessed Hope* (1956) – Historic premillennialism.
- John F. Walvoord, *The Millennial Kingdom* (1959) – Dispensational premillennialism.
- Robert H. Mounce, *The Book of Revelation* (1977) – Commentary with premillennial leanings.
- *Three Views on the Millennium and Beyond* (1999) -Overview of positions written by leading adherents.
- Gary Demar and RC Sproul, *End Times Fiction: A Biblical Consideration of the Left Behind Theology* (2001) -A critique of the popular fiction series based on dispy premill theology.