

Revelation - Chapter 20

“The Millennium”

Revelation 20:1-6



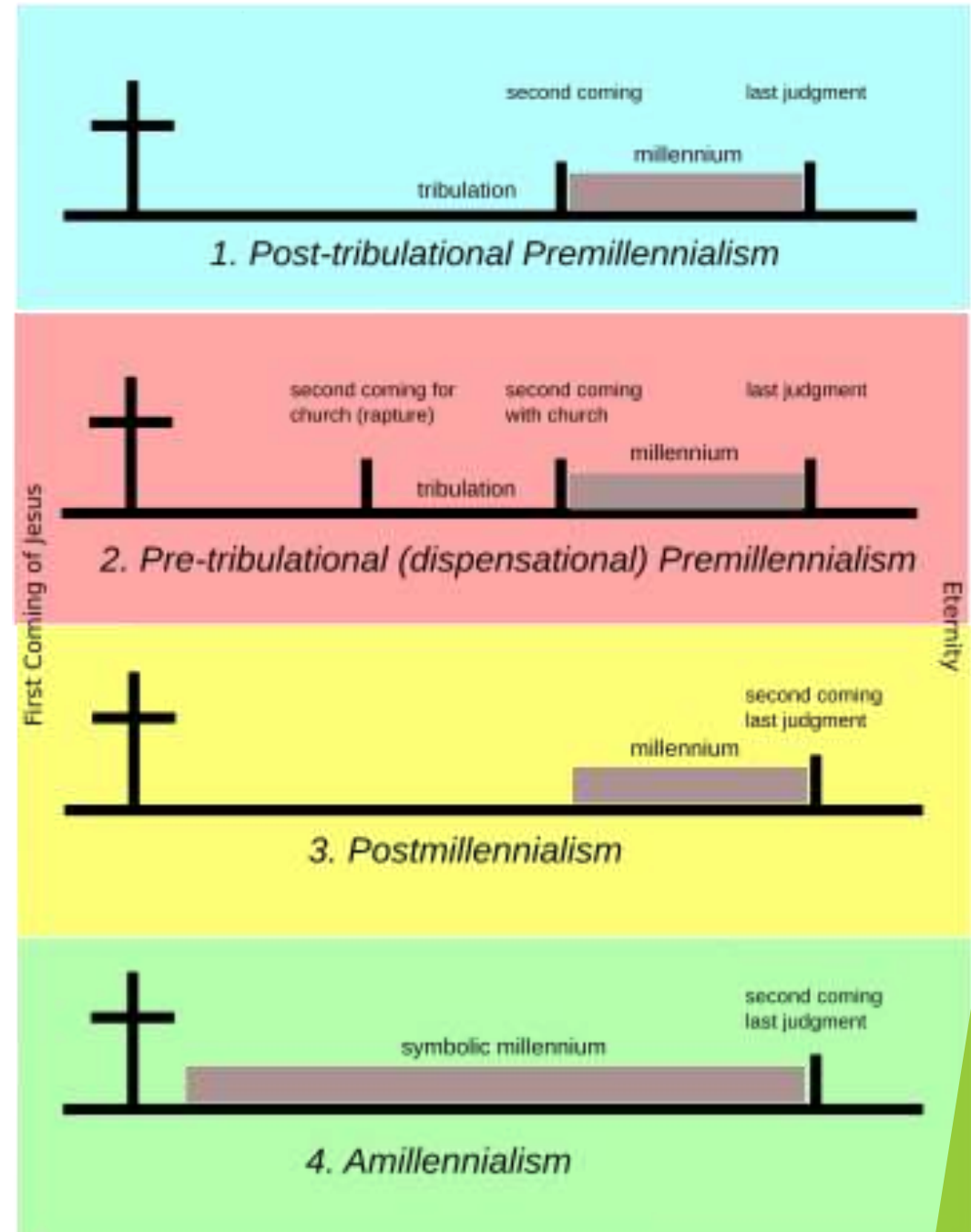
(1) Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. (2) He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; (3) and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished. But after these things he must be released for a little while. (4) And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. (5) But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. (6) Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.

(Revelation 20:1-6 NKJV)

The “Millennium”

- ▶ The word ‘millennium’ does not appear in most English translations.
- ▶ It means ‘a period of one thousand years’.
- ▶ Theologically it is a reference to the events in this chapter.
- ▶ This is probably the most disputed chapter in the entire Bible.
- ▶ It defines a person or groups “eschatological position” regarding the return of Christ.
- ▶ The expression “thousand years” occurs only five times.

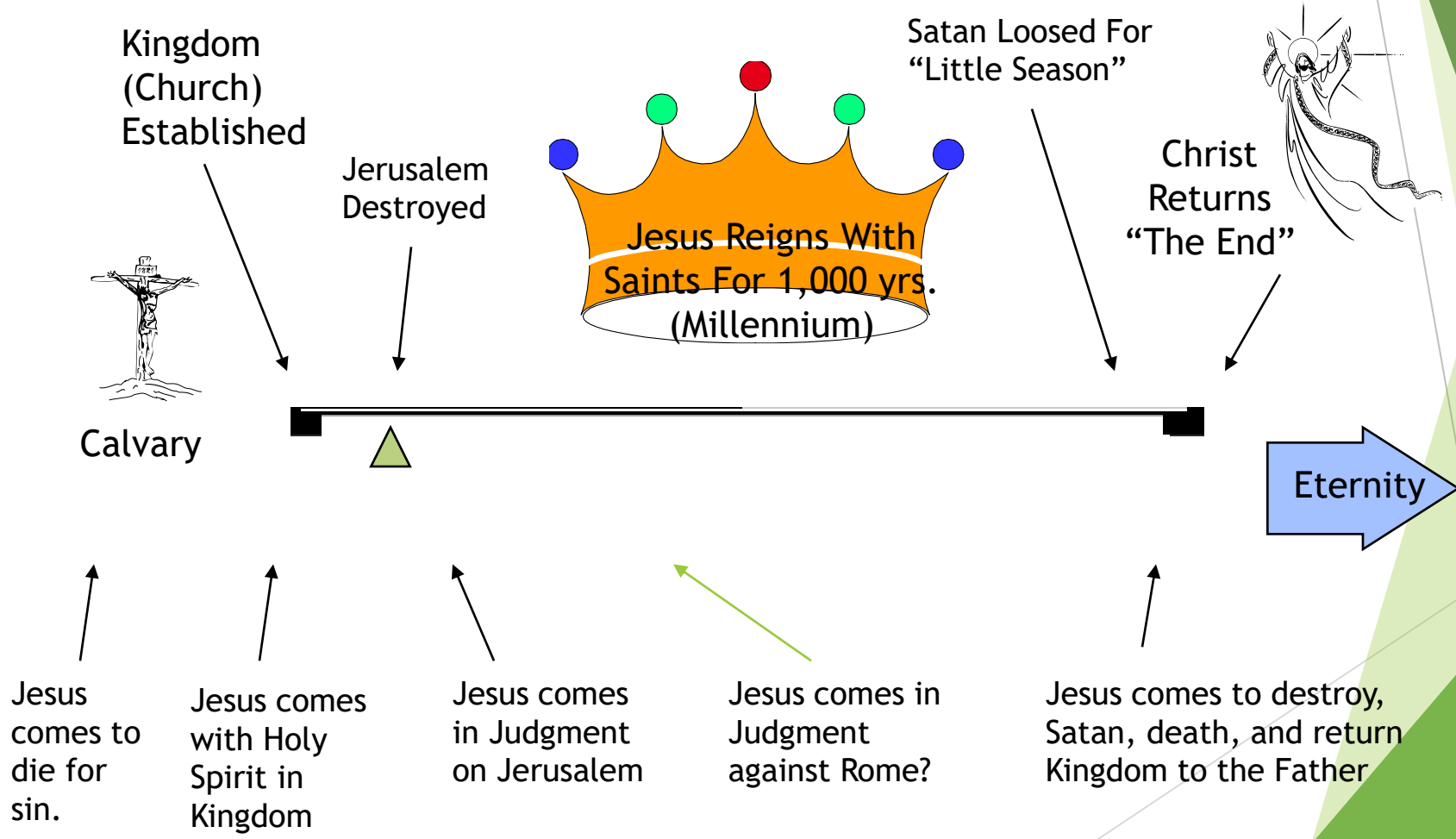
Comparison of Christian millennial teachings



The Doctrine of the “Last Things” and the 70 A.D. Doctrine

- ▶ I cannot go into detail regarding the sequence of events, and timing of these event at this time.
- ▶ I preached this here in September 5, 2011
- ▶ It deals with *Eschatology*, the doctrine of “last things”
- ▶ I will be presenting this lesson very soon as it addresses ‘millennialism’ and refutes the “70 A.D. doctrine”.
- ▶ Today, I will refer to one slide from that lesson.
- ▶ Premillennialists believe Christ will return **BEFORE** the millennium.
- ▶ Postmillennialists believe Christ will return **AFTER** the millennium.
- ▶ Amillennialists deny a **LITERAL** millennium.
- ▶ The question is **WHICH** coming of Christ is in view.

Biblical Sequence



The Dragon is Cast Into the Bottomless Pit (20:1-3)

- ▶ We have previously identified the Dragon (ch. 12)
- ▶ He is **positively identified** there and here in verse 2.
- ▶ He is seized, bound, cast into the bottomless pit, shut up, sealed for one thousand years. - vss. 2-3
- ▶ He will be released from his prison and will go out to deceive the nations. - vs. 7-8
- ▶ He *will be* cast into the lake of fire and brimstone - vs. 10



Where is Satan Today?

The Bottomless Pit (Abyss) The Lake of Fire (Hell)

- ▶ *and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished. But after these things he must be released for a little while.*
- ▶ *(Revelation 20:3 NKJV)*
- ▶ *The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.*
- ▶ *(Revelation 20:10 NKJV)*

The Lord Reigns with His Saints! (20:4-6)

- ▶ **And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.**
- ▶ **(Revelation 20:4-6 NKJV)**



What Occurs during the Thousand Years?

- ▶ Satan is bound for one thousand years (vs. 2).
- ▶ Satan is unable to deceive the nations during *the* thousand years (vs. 3).
- ▶ Those who were martyred for Jesus live and reign with Christ for one thousand years (vs. 4).
- ▶ The rest of the dead do not live until the thousand years were finished (vs. 5).

Satan is Released from the Abyss (20:7-10)

- ▶ Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison and will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle, whose number *is* as the sand of the sea. They went up on the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them. The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet *are*. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.
- ▶ (Rev 20:7-10 NKJV)





Why is Satan Released from His Prison?

- ▶ He must be released *for a little while*. - vs. 3
- ▶ He is *released*, he does not *escape*.
- ▶ He again deceives the nations - vs. 8
 - ▶ This likely means what it did in the first century, that human governments are used to persecute the saints.
 - ▶ They surround the camp of the saints and the beloved city.
- ▶ They are devoured by fire from God out of heaven - 10
- ▶ He is released to bring about the end of all conflict! - Psalm 2

The Parable of the Tares (Matthew 13:24-30)

THE PARABLE (24-30)

- ▶ The Kingdom of Heaven is like...
- ▶ A man sowed good seed...
- ▶ Did you not sow good seed?
- ▶ An enemy has done this
- ▶ Do you want us to gather them up?
- ▶ No, lest you also uproot the wheat with them
- ▶ First gather together the tares and bind them
- ▶ But gather the wheat into my barn

THE EXPLANATION (36-43)

- ▶ The Son of Man
- ▶ The good seeds are the sons of the kingdom
- ▶ The tares are the sons of the wicked one
- ▶ The tares are gathered and burned at the end of this age
- ▶ They will gather out of His kingdom all things that offend
- ▶ And will cast them into the furnace of fire
- ▶ Then the righteous will shine forth

The Judgement from the Great White Throne (20:11-15)



- ▶ Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire. (Revelation 20:11-15 NKJV)

The First Resurrection and the Second Death

- ▶ “Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.”
- ▶ (Revelation 20:6 NKJV)
- ▶ The first resurrection refers to the raising of saints who were martyred, the “first-fruits” (James 1:18; Revelation 14:4) they live and reign with Christ 1,000 years.
- ▶ The second death is eternal punishment in hell (vss. 12-15)

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