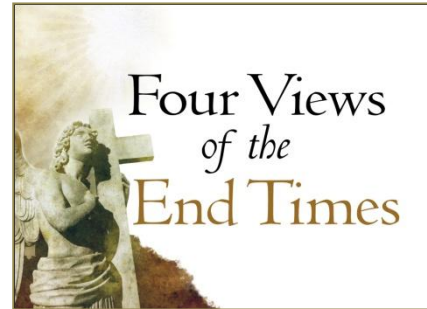


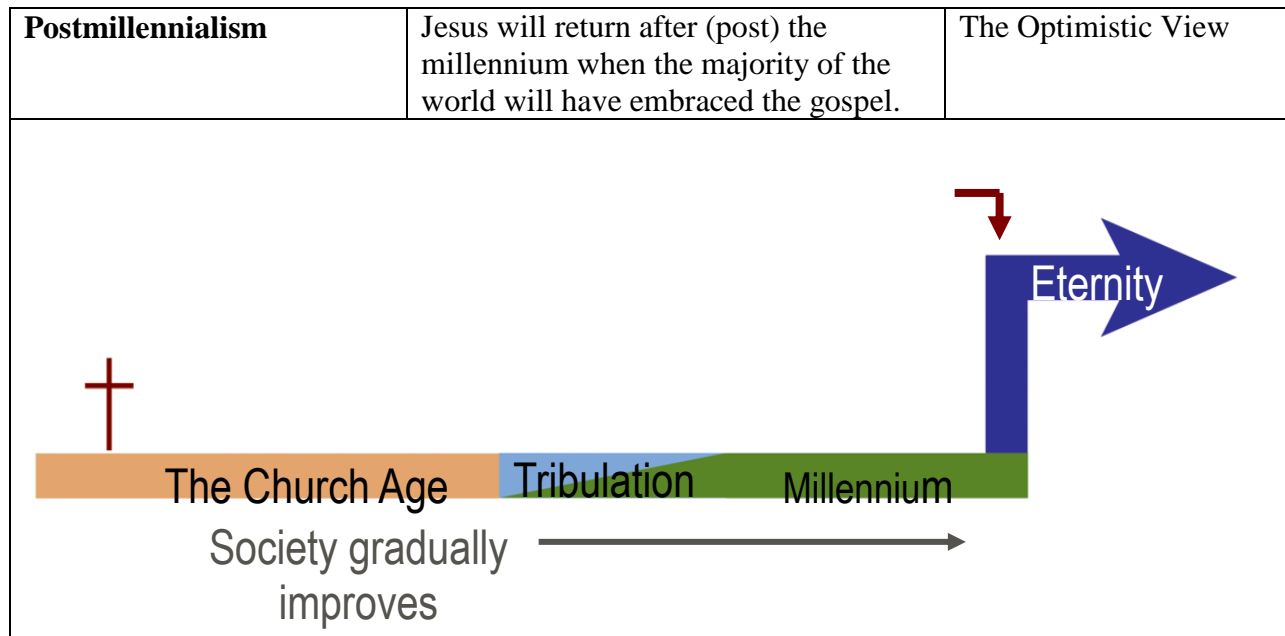
Postmillennialism

Building a Better World

Never Underestimate the Power of the Gospel!



The View:



Second

The Timing:

- Postmillennialism is the belief that the second coming of Christ will occur *after* the millennium.
- A period of great tribulation may precede the millennium.
- The millennial reign described in Revelation 20:1–6 represents a long time period when, through the preaching of the gospel, most of the world will submit to Christ.
- During this time, Satan will have no power over the earth, and evil regimes will collapse.
- When the church recognizes the fullness of its power through the Holy Spirit, the church will establish God’s kingdom on earth and usher in the millennium, a golden age.
- Some view the tribulation as a brief time of persecution that occurs immediately before the millennium.
- Others believe that “great tribulation” describes the seven years of the First Jewish-Roman War which culminated in AD 70 with the destruction of the Jewish temple.

- During the millennium, Christ will rule the earth through his Spirit and through his Church.
- Jesus will not, however, be physically present on the earth.
- The resurrection depicted in Revelation 20:4 represents the spiritual regeneration of people who trust Jesus Christ.
- These events will occur together immediately *after* the millennium:
 - The second coming of Christ
 - The final conflict between good and evil
 - The defeat of Satan
 - The physical resurrection of all people
 - The final judgment

What does this view emphasize?

- Postmillennialists place great confidence in the preaching of the gospel.
- They contend that the gospel will eventually spread in such a way that nearly everyone in the world will turn to Jesus Christ.
- Postmillennialists believe that this golden age is described in Bible passages such as Micah 4:3.
- Postmillennialists tend to emphasize the power of the gospel to transform societies and individual lives.
- Many Postmillennialists are Preterists—Revelation describes events that already happened around 70AD. They say Nero was the beast (666 for Neuron Caesar). The abomination of desolation happened when the temple was destroyed by Titus. The great pain, agony, and persecution of God’s people during this time was the great tribulation (Rev 13:16-18; Mark 13:1-2 measures out judgment).

Scriptural Support

- Every ethnic group will receive the gospel before the second coming (Matthew 24:14). Therefore, the great commission demands it and the power of Christ will make it happen (1 Cor 15:25; Ephesians 1:15-23).
- The first resurrection could refer to the spiritual resurrection (the regeneration or new birth) of persons who trust Christ (Romans 11:13–15).
- The second coming of Christ and the resurrection of all people, saved and unsaved, will occur at the same time (John 5:28–29).
- The Spirit of God in the heart of the believer is the millennium (John 14-16).
- Christ’s parable of the mustard seed and leaven shows how the gospel will extend and expand slowly until it covers the whole world (Mt. 13:31-33).
- All other views are too pessimistic. Only the postmillennial view provides for the true triumph of Christ through the church (Mt. 16:18).

- The Church is continuing to grow with over 2 billion adherents to Christianity.

Weaknesses

- The New Testament seems to describe events on earth as getting worse instead of better (Mt. 24; 1 Tim. 4:1-3; 2 Tim. 3:1-5; 2 Pet. 3:3-4).
- Scriptural support for this view is limited compared to the other views.
- This approach completely allegorizes Rev 20 and the thousand year reign and fails to deal adequately with this text as it approaches the end times.
- A majority of saved people in the world does not guarantee a golden age. The world actually seems to be getting worse, not better. Example—two world wars.

What are the Differences between Postmillennialism and Amillennialism?

1. According to Amillennialists, the millennial kingdom and the great tribulation occur at the same time. Postmillennialists believe that the millennium takes place after the great tribulation.
2. Amillennialists say that Jesus is reigning spiritually with the saints in heaven whereas postmillennialists believe that Jesus will reign spiritually through the gospel on earth.

Group Time

1. What do you think of this view of the end times? What strengths, weaknesses, or verses stand out to you as particularly important or meaningful?
2. Regardless of whether you agree with this view or not, it emphasizes an important truth—the gospel has great power and should not be underestimated! Look up these verses about the power of the gospel and summarize your thoughts—discuss what stands out to you (Romans 1:16; 1 Cor. 1:18; Eph. 2:1-10).
3. How has the power of the message of the gospel changed you or someone you know?