

Watch or listen to the sermon on the website if you missed it. Turn to the back for an outline of the sermon.

**Ice Breaker:** Have you ever been put in charge of something and blown it? Share if you are willing.

In this discussion, keep in mind that our unity (at Crossroad Church) on this topic is the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message (p 4). As covenanted members of one body, we should graciously accept disagreement on those things not addressed explicitly in the Baptist F&M.

1. How have you historically viewed the cosmic battle of good and evil? That is to say, how have you understood the nature of the battle that rages in the unseen world between the Kingdom of God and the forces of evil.
  1. Specifically comment on how balanced or difficult of a battle it ultimately is and why you think, or thought, so.
2. Who was Israel’s first King and what bearing does that have on the millennial reign of Christ?
  1. Then consider how the Father sovereignly rules by authorizing others to rule in his name. In what ways did God authorize Adam (mankind) to reign? How about Christ?
  2. How did each of these rulers, authorized by God the Father, perform and what does this have to do with the scene of Revelation 20?
3. How does the certain rule of Christ over all bear upon my life now?
  1. Read Rom 14:7-19 together and consider it in your answer.
4. What is the significance of death itself being thrown into the lake of fire and the nature of the suffering in this place according to Rev 20:10, 14-15?
  1. What impact does this have on the idea of compassionate evangelism in your life?

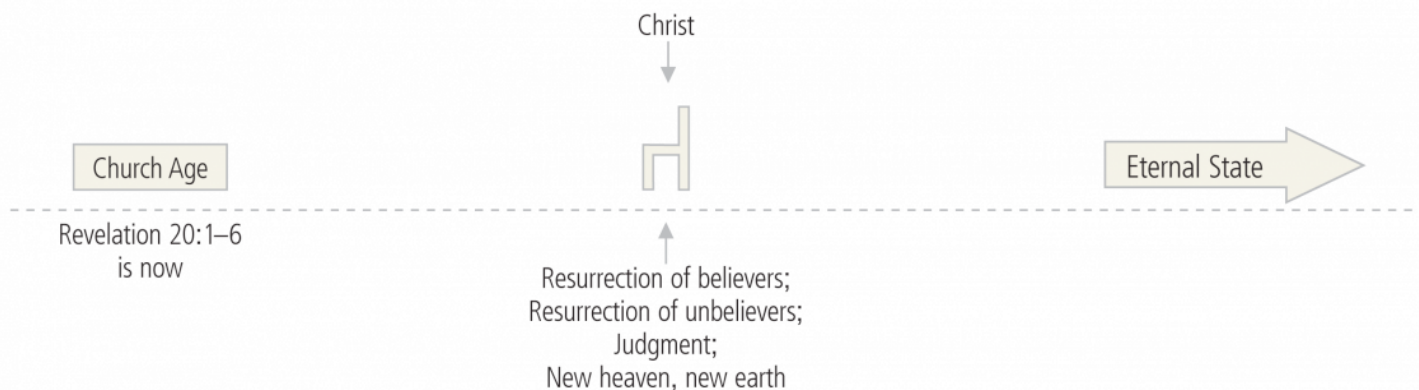
## Sermon Outline

- I. Satan will be removed from the earth. (vv 1-3)
- II. Jesus will reign on the earth as King. (v 4)
- III. The saints will rule the world with Christ. (vv 4-6)
- IV. Satan will be released for a brief time. (vv 7-8)
- V. God will destroy the final rebellion. (vv 9-10)
- VI. Jesus will judge all who have rejected Him. (vv 11-15)

## Four views on the millennium:

### Amillennialism (No future millennium)

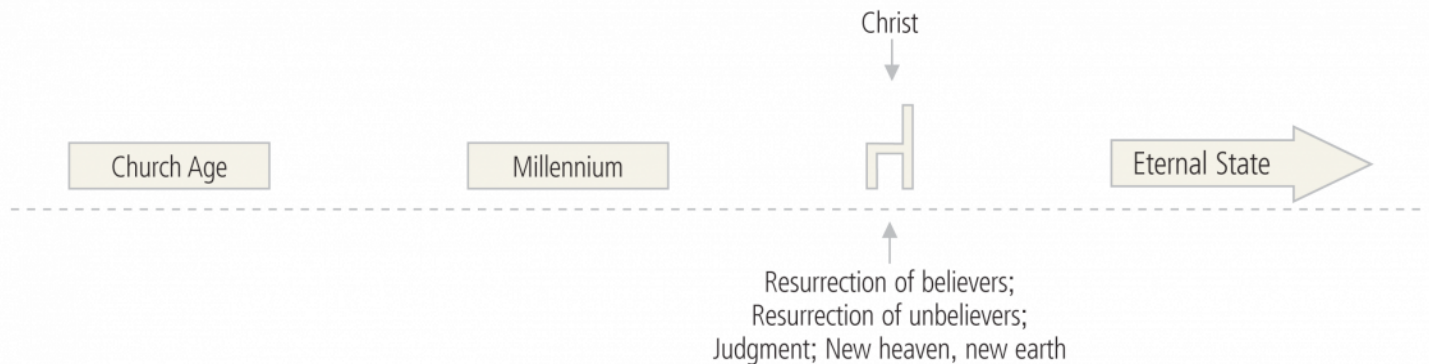
There will be no (a-) physical millennium. The millennium is the present, spiritual reign of Jesus with his people. Jesus may return to earth at any time. The tribulation occurs whenever Christians are persecuted or wars and disasters happen. Whatever kingdom there is, is now – it is heaven’s rule over the church. Revelation 20 is now being fulfilled in the church age and the expression “thousand years” is simply a figure of speech for a long period of time in which God’s purposes will be accomplished.



### Postmillennialism (Christ comes after the Millennium)

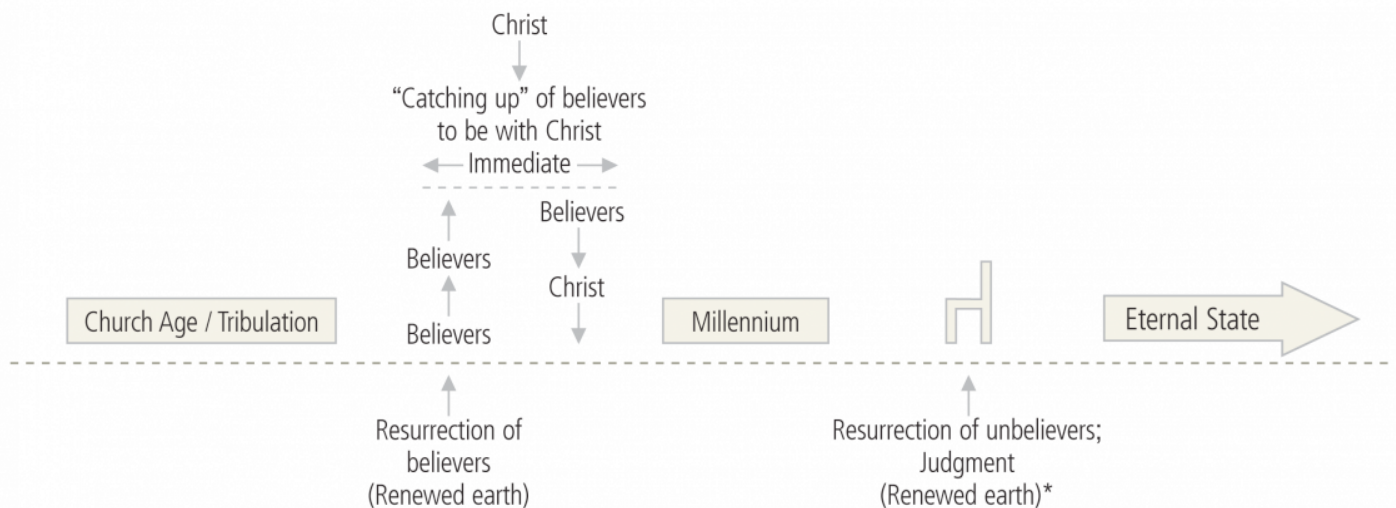
Jesus will return to earth after (post-) a millennium when the overwhelming majority of people throughout the world embrace the gospel. The great tribulation occurred either in the first-century AD, or will be a brief time of persecution immediately preceding the millennium. The “millennium” will last for a long period of time (not necessarily a literal one thousand years), and finally, at the end of this

period, Christ will return to earth, believers and unbelievers will be raised, the final judgment will occur, and there will be a new heaven and a new earth. Postmillennialists look for a utopian state on earth to be brought about through the efforts of the church, and during this golden age the church, not Israel, will experience the fulfillment of the promises to Abraham and David.



**Historical Premillennialism** (Christ comes before the millennium but after the tribulation)

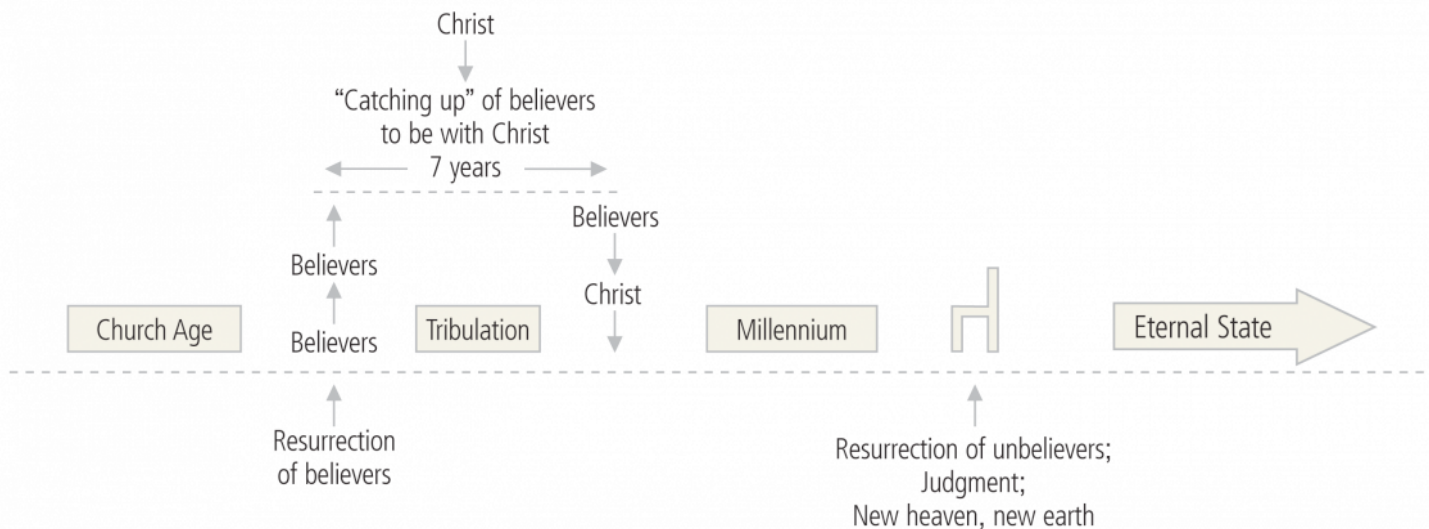
Christ will come back before the millennium. This viewpoint has a long history from the earliest centuries onward. Christians will remain on the earth through the tribulation. This tribulation may be a short, intense time of persecution that will occur near the end of time, or a long time-period, which has occurred throughout church history.



\*Classical Premillennialists differ over whether the renewed earth will begin in the millennium or the eternal state.

**Dispensational Premillennialism** (Christ comes before the millennium and before, or in the midst of, the tribulation)

God will rapture Christians from the world before (or midway into) the seven-year great tribulation. Jesus will return to earth after the great tribulation, but before (pre-) the thousand-year millennium described in Revelation 20. Christ will actually reign over the earth as King, and during the millennium the Jewish people will experience the fulfillment of the promises made to Abraham and David. The premillennial scheme is a result of interpreting the promises and prophecies of Scripture in a plain, normal or literal way. At the heart of the debate over millennial views is the issue of hermeneutics. All sides in the debate agree that interpreting Old Testament prophecy literally leads naturally to Premillennialism. Revelation 20 presents the fact that Jesus will reign on earth for a thousand years. If this chapter is taken literally, it is relatively simple to understand what is meant. However, because many Bible interpreters have rejected the idea that there will be a reign of Christ on earth for a thousand years after His second coming, this chapter has been given an unusually large number of diverse interpretations, all designed to eliminate a literal millennial reign.



### **The Baptist Faith and Message, 2000**

#### **X. Last Things**

God, in His own time and in His own way, will bring the world to its appropriate end. According to His promise, Jesus Christ will return personally and visibly in glory to the earth; the dead will be raised; and Christ will judge all men in righteousness. The unrighteous will be consigned to Hell, the place of everlasting punishment. The righteous in their resurrected and glorified bodies will receive their reward and will dwell forever in Heaven with the Lord.

*Isaiah 2:4; 11:9; Matthew 16:27; 18:8-9; 19:28; 24:27,30,36,44; 25:31-46; 26:64; Mark 8:38; 9:43-48; Luke 12:40,48; 16:19-26; 17:22-37; 21:27-28; John 14:1-3; Acts 1:11; 17:31; Romans 14:10; 1 Corinthians 4:5; 15:24-28,35-58; 2 Corinthians 5:10; Philippians 3:20-21; Colossians 1:5; 3:4; 1 Thessalonians 4:14-18; 5:1ff.; 2 Thessalonians 1:7ff.; 2; 1 Timothy 6:14; 2 Timothy 4:1,8; Titus 2:13; Hebrews 9:27-28; James 5:8; 2 Peter 3:7ff.; 1 John 2:28; 3:2; Jude 14; Revelation 1:18; 3:11; 20:1-22:13.*