**Views of the Millennium**

Why **MUST** there be a future, literal, earthly millennial kingdom?

* The Purposes of Creation
* The Promises of the Covenants

2 Samuel 7:8-17; Isaiah 2:2-4; Isaiah 11:1-9; Daniel 2:44

1. **Pre-millennialism**: Christ’s 2nd coming precedes a future, literal, earthly millennial kingdom
2. The church does **NOT** equal (or replace) Israel. The church does not and cannot fulfill the covenants.

**2 Samuel 7:10** Moreover I will appoint a place for **my people Israel**, and will plant them, that **they** may dwell in a place of **their** own, and move no more; neither shall the children of wickedness afflict **them** any more, as beforetime,

**2 Samuel 7:12** And when thy days be fulfilled, and thou shalt sleep with thy fathers, I will set up **thy seed** after thee, which shall proceed out of **thy bowels**, and I will establish **his** kingdom.

**2 Samuel 7:14-16** I will be his father, and he shall be my son. **If** he commit iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men, and with the stripes of the children of men: (15) **But** my mercy **shall not depart away** from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away before thee. (16) And **thine house and thy kingdom shall be established for ever** before thee: **thy throne shall be established for ever**.

1. Christ’s crucifixion was part of God’s plan, purposes, and promises all along – not “plan B” when Israel rejected their Messiah

**Genesis 3:15** And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; **it shall bruise thy head, and** **thou shalt bruise his heel**.

1. The body of Christ, the church, is God’s plan for His promise to Abraham that “all the nations of the earth shall be blessed” (Genesis 18:18; 22:18; 26:4) – not a reaction to permanently setting aside His people, Israel
2. The next event on the prophetic calendar is the rapture of the church, Christ’s bride, to meet Christ in the air.
3. The 7-year Tribulation follows as God restores His chosen people and once again works in and through them after temporarily setting them aside
4. Meanwhile, church age believers will experience the judgment seat of Christ (2 Corinthians 5:9-10) and the Marriage Supper of the Lamb (Revelation 19:6-9)
5. After pouring out His wrath on the wicked, Christ returns the earth to destroy/remove the wicked and establish His Millennial reign upon the earth – sitting on the throne of David
6. Satan is bound but is released after 1,000 years to attempt a final revolt only to face the Great White Throne judgment and be cast into the lake of fire
7. The new heaven and new earth are established and eternity begins

**Note**: This is a pre-tribulation timeline of events

1. **A-millennialism**: There is no future, literal, earthly millennial kingdom. A spiritual or heavenly kingdom is a “present reality” (according to Jay Adams)
2. The church is equal to Israel (or replaces - called replacement theology). This is just as critical to their system as an allegorical-symbolic interpretation of biblical prophecy. The entire system falls apart without this doctrine.
3. The Jews rejected and crucified the promised Messiah and are, therefore, rejected by God and permanently set aside. God no longer deals directly with national Israel.
4. The millennial kingdom is a “present reality” (either a spiritual kingdom on earth or a heavenly kingdom)
5. The church, spiritual Israel, replaces God’s chosen nation and becomes the fulfillment of God’s OT promises
6. The rapture and 7-year tribulation are largely ignored or overlooked
7. The “millennium” ends with the 2nd coming and/or rapture
8. This is immediately followed by a general resurrection and judgment of all people
9. Christ then establishes His eternal kingdom
10. **Post-millennialism**: Christ’s 2nd coming occurs after a (future?) literal, earthly millennial kingdom
11. The church replaces Israel just as in the a-millennial system
12. Israel rejects the Messiah and is permanently set aside
13. The church, spiritual Israel, replaces God’s chosen nation and becomes the fulfillment of God’s OT promises
14. By fulfilling the Great Commission, the church will eventually bring about the millennial kingdom (some believe this to be future, others the entire church age)
15. Once the church establishes the kingdom by “Christianizing” the world, then Christ’s coming closes the age and is followed by eternity

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|  | **Pre-millennial** | **A-millennial** | **Post-millennial** |
| **Interpretation method** | Literal/grammatical | Allegorical/symbolic | Allegorical/symbolic |
| **The church** | Distinct from Israel | Replaces Israel | Replaces Israel |
| **OT covenants and promises** | Fulfilled by Christ | Fulfilled by “spiritual” Israel | Fulfilled by the church |
| **Location or realm** | Earth through national Israel | In our hearts or in heaven | On earth in culture |
| **Nature of millennium** | Literal and physical | Spiritual or heavenly | Cultural reformation |
| **Timing** | Future | Present | Uncertain |
| **Duration** | 1,000 years | A long period of time | Indefinite period of time |
| **Christ’s 2nd coming** | Precedes the millennium | Concludes the present age | Follows the millennium |