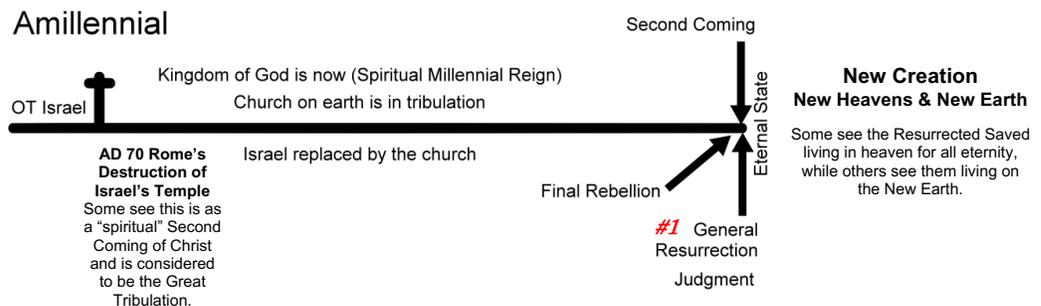


The Rapture & the Ultimate Goal of History • Part 4

Lesson 8 • 1 Corinthians 15:20-28, 51-53

How the 3 Views of the Ultimate End of History Handle 1 Corinthians 15:20-28

View 1 Only ONE bodily resurrection in the future of the saved and unsaved at the same time.



- 1) **AMILLENNIALISM** teaches that after Christ returns there is **NO** literal, physical kingdom for 1,000 years on the earth as predicted in Revelation 20:1-15, just the New Creation with its New Heavens and the New Earth.
- 2) Christ the First Fruits and **then one general resurrection** of the saved and unsaved at His Second Coming to the earth.
 - (15:23) *But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits after that those who are Christ's at His coming...*
 - = **ALL SAVED** (even though all the dead are resurrected at this time in one general resurrection)
 - = **SECOND COMING** when those alive will be raptured up meet Christ in the air and **immediately return** to the earth to conquer all enemies **and enter into the New Creation**.
 - (15:24) *then comes the end, when He hands over the kingdom the God and Father, when He has abolished all rule and all authority and power.*
 - = **"THE END"** is the end of this **present age** and the beginning of the age to come: the **NEW CREATION**.
 - OR
 - = **"THE END"** is the ultimate goal of all of history: the New Creation where God is all in all!
 - (15:25) *For [Christ] must reign until [God] has put all [Christ's] enemies under [Christ's] feet*
 - = The **"REIGN"** here is the **SPIRITUAL REIGN FROM HEAVEN** between His first coming and His second coming.

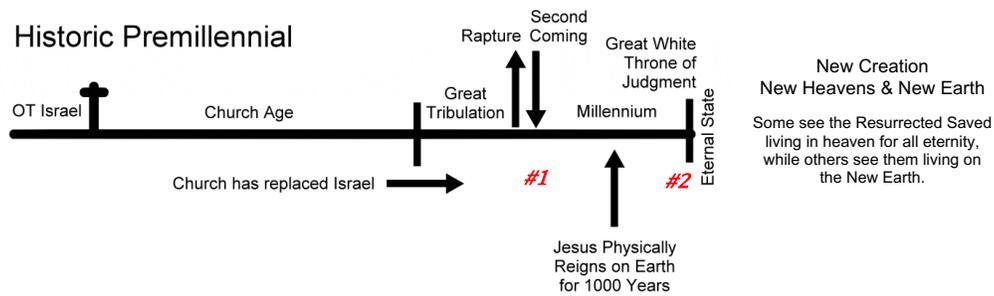
Problems for the Amillennial View in Relation to 1 Corinthians 15:20-28

⌘ The two time indicators: (v. 23) **"after that"** or **"then"** at His coming and (v. 24) **"then"** comes the end!

Where Is the "Now/Not Yet" in the Amillennial View of the Kingdom?

⌘ This view has practically all **"NOW"** and **VERY LITTLE** **"NOT YET"** except in the New Creation!

View 2 TWO bodily resurrections in the future: first all the saved and then later all the unsaved.



- 1) **HISTORIC PREMILLENNIALISM** teaches that Christ returns **BEFORE** there is a physical kingdom for 1,000 years (or very long time) on the earth as predicted in Revelation 20:1-15, after which is the New Creation with its New Heavens and the New Earth.
- 2) Christ the First Fruits and **then two resurrections**—all the saved **before** the Millennial Kingdom and then all the unsaved **after** the Millennial Kingdom

(15:23) *But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits after that those who are Christ's at His coming...*

= **JUST ALL SAVED** (OT & NT since the Church replaces Israel in this view as well)

= **SECOND COMING** when those alive will be raptured up to meet Christ in the air and **immediately return** to the earth to conquer all enemies **and enter into the Millennial Kingdom**.

(15:24) *then comes the end, when He hands over the kingdom the God and Father, when He has abolished all rule and all authority and power.*

= **"THE END"** is the end of this **present age** but more specifically the 1,000 **KINGDOM** and the beginning of the New Creation.

OR

= **"THE END"** is the ultimate goal of all of history: the New Creation where God is all in all!

(15:25) *For [Christ] must reign until [God] has put all [Christ's] enemies under [Christ's] feet*

= The **"REIGN"** here is the **ACTUAL REIGN ON EARTH** between His second coming and the end of His 1,000 KINGDOM and all the saved who have died (OT & NT) actually reign with Christ on earth in their resurrected, glorified bodies!

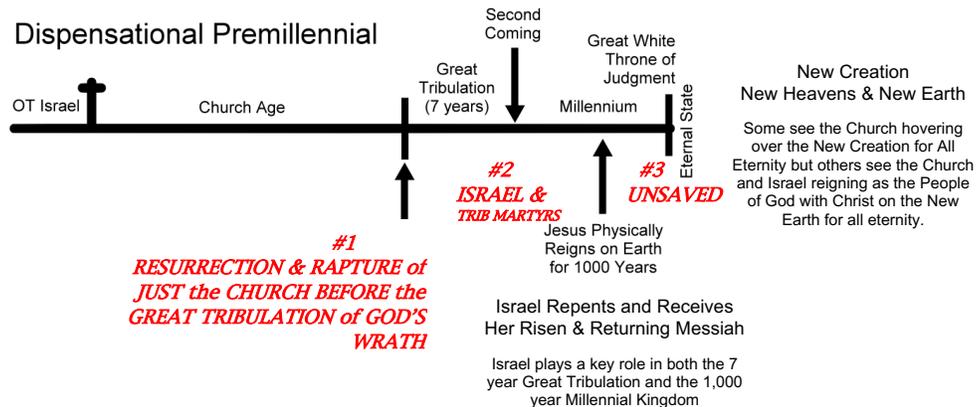
Problems for the Premillennial View in Relation to 1 Corinthians 15:20-28

- The two time indicators easily explained (v. 23 **"after that"** or "then" at His coming and v. 24 **"then"** comes the end and it makes sense of *Revelation 20:1-15* without doing damage to the meaning of the text.
- **BUT** Israel misses out on the literal fulfillment of all God's promises here on earth in the kingdom.
 - This view also has difficulty explaining the following passages:
 - 1) That the Church will be kept from the hour of God's wrath poured out on the earth! *1 Thess 1:10; 5:9; Rev 3:10*
 - 2) That the Marriage Supper of the Lamb and the Judgment Seat of Christ take place **before** the second coming in heaven! *Revelation 19*

Where Is the "Now/Not Yet in the Premillennial View of the Kingdom?"

- This view has a proper **BALANCE** between the "NOW" and the "NOT YET" aspect of the kingdom, but there is **VERY LITTLE** "NOT YET" for the nation of Israel.

View 3 **THREE resurrections in the future: first the Church, then Israel/Tribulation Martyrs, and finally the unsaved.**



- 1) **DISPENSATIONAL PREMILLENNIALISM** teaches that Christ returns **before** there is literal, physical kingdom for 1,000 years on the earth as predicted in Revelation 20:1-15, but He also comes to **resurrect and RAPTURE** the Church **before** the Great Tribulation.
- 2) Christ the First Fruits and **then three bodily resurrections**—all the Church who are in Christ **before** the Great Tribulation, then all of believing Israel/Tribulation Martyrs **before** the Millennial Kingdom, and then all the unsaved **after** the Kingdom.

(15:23) *But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits after that those who are Christ's at His coming...*

= **Just the saved WHO ARE THE CHURCH**

= **Not the second coming** to the earth but the **RAPTURE** of the church to heaven! *1Thessalonians 4:13-18; 1 Corinthians 15:50-52*

(15:24) *then comes the end, when He hands over the kingdom the God and Father, when He has abolished all rule and all authority and power.*

= **"THE END"** is the end of this **present age** but includes the entire Day of the Lord = The Great Tribulation (evening) + The Millennial Kingdom (morning) leading to the beginning of the New Creation.

OR

= **"THE END"** is the ultimate goal of all of history: the New Creation where God is all in all!

(15:25) *For [Christ] must reign until [God] has put all [Christ's] enemies under [Christ's] feet*

= The **"REIGN"** here is the **ACTUAL REIGN FROM HEAVEN TO EARTH** between the beginning of the Great Tribulation and the end of the MILLENNIAL KINGDOM and all the saved (ISRAEL & the CHURCH) actually reign with Christ on earth in their resurrected, glorified bodies! *Revelation 5:1-6:1, 16-17; 8:1-6; 11:15-19; 16:1, 17-21*

Problems for the Dispensational Premillennial View in Relation to 1 Corinthians 15:20-28

- The two time indicators easily explained (v. 23 **"after that"** or **"then"** at His coming and v. 24 **"then"** comes the end and it makes sense of *Revelation 20:1-15* without doing damage to the meaning of the text.
- Dispensational Premillennialism allows for the **most literal fulfillment of the kingdom here on earth for BOTH Israel and the Church.**
- This view can explain the passages that Historic Premillennialism struggles with...
 - 1) The Pretribulation Rapture of the Church explains how the Church will be kept from the hour of God's wrath poured out on the earth!
 - 2) The Marriage Supper of the Lamb and the Judgment Seat of Christ take place **before** the second coming in heaven, because the Church is raptured up to heaven and does not immediately return to earth.
- The biggest problem for this view in 1 Corinthians 15 is that you would never see a Pretribulation Rapture in this passage without **comparing scripture with scripture** and **fitting all the pieces of the whole counsel of God together!**

Where Is the "Now/Not Yet in the Dispensational Premillennial View of the Kingdom?"

- This view has a proper **BALANCE** between the "NOW" and the "NOT YET" aspect of the kingdom for **both** the Church and for Israel!

Ephesians 1:15-23

15 For this reason I too, having heard of the faith in the Lord Jesus which *exists* among you and your love for all the saints, **16** do not cease giving thanks for you, while making mention of *you* in my prayers; **17** that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him. **18** *I pray that* the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, **19** and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. *These are* in accordance with the working of the strength of His might **20** which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly *places*, **21** *far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come.* **22** *And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church,* **23** *which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.*

Ephesians 2:11-21

11 Therefore remember that formerly you, the Gentiles in the flesh, who are called "Uncircumcision" by the so-called "Circumcision," *which is* performed in the flesh by human hands — **12** **remember that you were at that time separate from Christ, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.** **13** *But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ...* **19** *So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household,* **20** having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner *stone*, **21** in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord, **22** in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.

Colossians 1:12-14

12 giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in Light. **13** **For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son,** **14** in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Hebrews 2:5-9

5 **For He did not subject to angels the world to come,** concerning which we are speaking. **6** But one has testified somewhere, saying, "What is man, that You remember him? or the Son of Man, that You are concerned about him? **7** "You have made Him for a little while lower than the angels; **You have crowned Him with glory and honor, and have appointed him over the works of your hands;** **8** **You have put all things in subjection under his feet."** For in subjecting all things to him, He left nothing that is not subject to him. **But now we do not yet see all things subjected to him.** **9** But we do see Him who was made for a little while lower than the angels, *namely*, Jesus, because of the suffering of death **crowned with glory and honor**, so that by the grace of God He might taste death for everyone.

2Timothy 1:9-12

9 who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity, **10** but now has been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, **who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel,** **11** for which I was appointed a preacher and an apostle and a teacher. **12** For this reason I also suffer these things, but I am not ashamed; for I know whom I have believed and I am convinced that He is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him **until that day.**

Revelation 3:21-22

'He who overcomes, I will grant to him to sit down with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne. 'He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'

Rising Up Will Get Us to the End God Intends for All of History But Each in Their Own Order! Are You Ready Regardless, Which View Is Right?

*Are you "in Christ"? Are you His blood-bought possession? If you died today would you be "asleep in Christ"?
Have you received the risen King as your Lord and Savior?*

If you are "in Christ" are you ready for greater suffering and persecution that all three views teach is coming?

Are you ready to be "caught up" at any moment and stand face-to-face and toe-to-toe with your risen King, who will judge how well we have submitted all things to His lordship and will test the works of lives by fire to see what ones are worthy of eternal reward and what ones are worthless and reveal a life wasted for the risen King?