

LG leader training

Devotion & Prayer

Upcoming Calendar & Logistics

- **2/1/26:** Consider Redeemer part 1
- **2/4/26:** First Wednesdays, 6-7:30 p.m.
- **2/8/26:** Consider Redeemer part 2
- **2/15/26:** LG Leader Training – special training
- **2/20-21/26:** Lead Conference – Email Linda Yoho, lindsay@redeemerrockford.church, and she will share the needs request.

LG Teaching Time – Leading discussions on eschatology and Israel for the glory of God and good of your group (20 minutes)

Field Guide Articles XVII and XVIII.

Primary end times' doctrines:

You must _____ of Redeemer's primary doctrines to be a Missional Partner.

Secondary doctrines: You do not have to affirm these to be a Missional Partner, you can still be in process on them or disagree but not stir division over the issue. To be an _____ you must affirm these doctrines.

Tertiary (third level) doctrines: These doctrines are _____ on the level of elder/pastor. The elders/pastors can have different views on these issues, as can Missional Partners. Form biblical convictions, discuss if productive, agree to disagree and serve together on mission.

Four views on the millennium and end times

1) Classic Dispensational Premillennialism

Core conviction: God has **two distinct peoples with two distinct destinies:** Israel and the Church. Classic Dispensationalists emphasize a literal interpretation of Revelation and certain Old Testament texts that others interpret figuratively.

Israel & the Promises

- Ethnic/national Israel remains **permanently distinct** from the Church.

- OT promises to Israel (land, kingdom, nationhood) must be fulfilled **literally, nationally, and territorially**. God's promises to Abraham and his offspring were unconditional; therefore, the Jews will still receive back the land described in Genesis 15:18. Establishment of the modern state of Israel in 1948 is a key fulfillment of an end times prophecy.
- The Abrahamic, Davidic, and New Covenants are **Israel's covenants**, not the Church's.

Fulfillment

- Promises to Israel are **largely future**.
- Fulfillment occurs in a **future millennial kingdom** after Christ's return.
- Israel will be restored to the land, converted nationally, and ruled by Christ from Jerusalem.

Millennial view

- Jesus will come back to earth after a seven-year tribulation and will rule during a thousand-year millennium of peace on earth.
- God will give the nation of Israel the land described in Genesis 15:18 (from the river of Egypt to the river Euphrates—the full extent of Solomon's kingdom).
- Most dispensational premillennialists believe in a pre-tribulation rapture (based on Rev 4:1-2) where Christ removes Christians from the earth before the great tribulation begins.

Hermeneutic

- **Strong literalism** (OT meaning controls NT usage).
- NT cannot "reinterpret" OT promises.

2) Historical Premillennial Interpretation (Pastors John and Alex)

Core conviction: There is **one people of God**, but Israel still plays a **future role** in redemptive history. Revelation contains some symbolic language.

Israel & the Promises

- Now that Christ has come, ethnic Israel merges with the church: there is one people of God. Those in union with Christ are part of the church--the new people of God--Jew & Gentile alike.
- OT promises may have **typological and expanded fulfillment**, but Israel still matters.
- Romans 11 is key: a future conversion of Israel is expected.
Rose Guide to End Times Prophecy: "The true Israelites in every age have been those who trust in Jesus as the divine Messiah-King (Rom 9:6-8, Gal 6:16). Before Jesus arrived on earth, people trusted in Jesus by looking expectantly for a Messiah who was yet to come (Heb 11:13, 39-40). Most references to 'Israel' in Revelation refer symbolically to the church" (pp. 344-345).

Fulfillment

- Some promises fulfilled **in Christ and the Church**.
- Others fulfilled **at Christ's return and during the millennium**.
- Land promises often viewed as **transformed**, not merely geographic. This means some land promises are fulfilled in an expanded way in the millennium and new heavens/new earth.

Rose Guide to End Times Prophecy: "God's promise to give Abraham all the land from the Nile River to the Euphrates (Genesis 15:18) was made to the offspring of Abraham—one, particular offspring whose name is Jesus (Galatians 3:16). During the millennium, Jesus will reign from Jerusalem not only over the land promised to Abraham but also over the whole earth" (p. 344).

Millennial view

- Christians will remain on earth during the great tribulation, which will purify the church.
- Jesus will come back to earth and will rule during a thousand-year millennium of peace on earth. Some believe in a literal millennium, others believe it is figurative, covering a long amount of time.

Hermeneutic

- Grammatical-historical with **more openness to typology** than dispensationalism.
- NT has interpretive authority over OT.

3) Postmillennial Interpretation

Core conviction: Christ reigns **now**, and through the gospel and Spirit the world will experience **widespread conversion, righteousness, and peace before Christ's return**. Christ returns **after** ("post-") this long era of gospel triumph.

Israel & the Promises

- There is **one people of God**.
- Israel's role in redemptive history is **fulfilled in Christ**.
- Ethnic Israel may experience a **future large-scale conversion** (often affirmed, especially from Romans 11), but:
 - Not a restored national covenant
 - Not a territorial land program
- Israel is not replaced but **fulfilled and expanded**.

Fulfillment

Postmillennialism emphasizes **historical fulfillment within this age**, not just at the end.

- OT promises of peace, justice and knowledge of the Lord are fulfilled **progressively in history** through:
 - The advance of the gospel
 - The discipling of the nations (Matt 28:18–20)
- The land promise is typological, Christological, and universalized. The Old Testament land parameters point forward to the reign of Christ over all the earth.
- Many postmillennialists say that the land promise fulfillment has begun and will continue as Christ's reign expands through history, culminating in the new creation.

Millennial view

- The millennial reign described in Revelation 20:1-6 is symbolic and represents a long period of time.
- The millennium is the present church age, which is characterized by gospel expansion and victory. Satan is bound in the sense that he cannot stop the nations from being disciplined.

Hermeneutic

- Strongly **Christ-centered**
- OT prophetic language often read as:
 - Poetic
 - Idealized
 - Describing historical gospel success rather than a future millennial state
- NT interpretation governs OT expectation
- The kingdom is **already inaugurated** and will be **historically victorious**

4) Amillennial Interpretation (Pastors Garrett and Brenden)

Core conviction: Holds that the millennium is the church age and consists of the spiritual reign of Jesus in the hearts of His followers. Argues that the life, death, and resurrection of Christ conquered Satan by enabling people to be saved: Satan cannot stop this from happening.

Israel & the Promises

- Most references to Israel in Revelation refer symbolically to the people of God on earth (compare Romans 9:6-8 and Galatians 6:16).
- Ethnic Israel has **no separate covenantal future** apart from Christ.

Millennial view

- The millennium is symbolic for the church age. The Bible frequently uses the number 1,000 figuratively (Psalm 50:10, 90:4, 105:8; 2 Peter 3:8) and the genre of Revelation (apocalyptic) often uses numbers symbolically.
- The first resurrection of Revelation 20:5 is not a physical resurrection but is either 1) spiritual resurrection that occurs at regeneration or 2) spiritual life that believers experience with God in the intermediate state.
- Many amillennialists believe that Revelation consists of seven sections that are not successive time periods, but instead contain apocalyptic, symbolic language to describe the entire time from Jesus' first coming until His second coming.
- Christians are not spared from the great tribulation: this idea represents disasters, wars, and persecutions that have occurred throughout church history.

Progressive Covenantalism (A baptistic view) different from classic covenantalism.

God's promises unfold through **covenants** that increasingly (progressively) unfold God's plan of **redemption**, all fulfilled in **Christ**, which forms **one people of God**.

Israel & the Promises

- Israel is **central** to redemptive history but **not an end in itself**.
- Israel functions **typologically**, pointing forward to Christ.

Fulfillment

- All promises are **fulfilled in Christ** and extended to all who are united to him.
- Land → new creation
- Seed → Christ (and those in him)
- Kingdom → inaugurated now, consummated later
- Romans 11 allows for **future Jewish salvation**, but within the Church—not alongside it.

Hermeneutic

- **Christ-centered biblical theology**
- Heavy emphasis on **typology, escalation, and fulfillment**
- NT has decisive interpretive priority