

# ***Amillennialism***

# Outline

1. So What? Why Does it Matter Anyway?
2. Postmillennialism
3. **Amillennialism**
4. Premillennialism
5. What's Daniel Talking About?
6. When Are, or Rather Were, the 'Last Days'?
7. Coming(s) of Christ / Which Generation?
8. Israel?
9. Olivet Discourse
10. Revelation
11. So What is Going to Happen?
12. How Then Should We Live?



# Preterism

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- From Latin *praeter*, meaning “past” or “beyond”, signifying that a majority of Bible prophecy was fulfilled by first century events
- Interprets Bible prophecies, especially Daniel, Olivet Discourse, and Revelation, as events fulfilled in the first century A.D.
- Holds that the Christian Church is the fulfillment of ancient Israel and the promises made to Abraham

**This is not a presupposition, but an exegetical conclusion**

# History of Preterism

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- **Adherents contend it is the view of Jesus and His apostles**
- **Roman Catholic theologians advocated in 16<sup>th</sup> century in response to Reformation**
- **Numerous Protestant theologians have espoused since then**
- **Rise in number of adherents over past half century, especially among Reformed Postmillennialists**

# Partial / Full Preterism

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- **Full Preterism (a.k.a. Hyper Preterism) – all biblical prophecies regarding Messianic Kingdom, including those about final coming, fulfilled by first century A.D. events**
- **Partial Preterism – many biblical prophecies regarding Messianic Kingdom were fulfilled by first century A. D. events. Still future events to be fulfilled**
  - **Final coming of glorified Christ**
  - **Resurrection of the dead**
  - **Final judgement**
    - **Separation of righteous and wicked**

# Why We Are Partial Preterists

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- **Nature of Resurrection of Jesus**
  - **Visible physical bodily resurrection**
  - **Points forward to our own resurrection**
- **Paul's description of resurrection bodies in I Cor 15**
  - **Sown in corruption, raised in incorruption**
  - **Sown in dishonor, raised in glory**
  - **Sown in weakness, raised in power**
  - **Sown a natural body, raised a spiritual body**
  - **Death swallowed up in victory**

# Hinge Points

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- **Does Scripture indicate the Gospel will have a positive effect in history?**
  - **Are things to get better (Post-mil), get worse (Pre-mil), or stay the same (A-mil)?**
- **Does Scripture anticipate a golden age of peace, righteousness and prosperity?**
  - **Is that golden age to precede or follow the return of Christ?**
- **I acknowledge difficulty of theologians through time attempting to interpret apocalyptic language from perspective of their own time in history**

**We are advocating accepting what Scripture objectively says, not what we subjectively see**

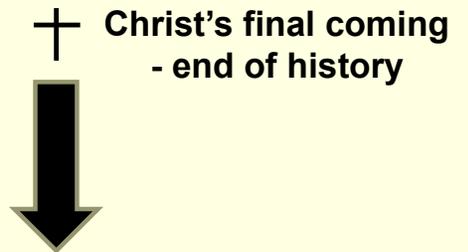
# Amillennialism

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- Holds that the Bible does not predict a 'Millennium' or period of world-wide peace and righteousness on this earth before the end of time
  - Parallel development of good and evil (God's kingdom and Satan's kingdom) in the world, continuing until final coming of Christ
  - At final coming the resurrection and judgment will take place, followed by the eternal order of things

Good and Evil Parallel Development

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# Amillennialism

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- **Differing Amillennial views of the Millennium**
  - **Christian Era or Church Age**
  - **Particular part of this Christian Era**
  - **Spiritual or heavenly millennium, rather than a reign of Christ on earth**
    - **Reign of saints with Christ in the intermediate state**

# Representative Theologians

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**Augustine\***

**Dr. Louis Berkoff**

**Dr. Albertus Pieters**

**Floyd Hamilton**

**Dr. Abraham Kuyper**

**John Calvin\***

**Dr. Geerhardus Vos**

**Dr. George Murray**

**Dr. William Rutgers**

**William Hendriksen**

**\*If you remember from last week Augustine and Calvin both listed as representative theologians for Postmillennialism – their positions over time provided ample support for both positions**

# Historical Adherents

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- **Had as many advocates among the Early Church Fathers of the second and third centuries as did Chiliasm (Premillennialism)**
  - **Chiliasm – belief that Christ will return to earth in visible form and establish a kingdom to last 1000 years, after which world will come to an end**
- **Prevalent view in Reformed circles**
  - **View of Lutheran and Continental Reformed Churches**
  - **Although, Post-mil has been predominant view in American Reformed theology**
    - **American theologians of late 19<sup>th</sup> / early 20<sup>th</sup> century predominantly Post-mils**
    - **Considerable number Amils after 1930s**
      - **Mainly countering Pre-millennial Dispensationalist arguments**
    - **Resurgence in Post-millennialism latter part of 20<sup>th</sup> century**

# Key Tenets

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- **World will continue much as it is now, with a parallel development of both good and evil - Kingdom of God and Kingdom of Satan grow side by side**
- **Like Postmillennialism, holds that Christ does not establish an earthly, political kingdom**
- **Amillennialism sees no basis in Scripture for holding to a period of peace, prosperity, and righteousness before the Lord's return**
  - **Amillennialism agrees with Premillennialism that the Scriptures do not promise the conversion of the world through the preaching of the Gospel**
- **Possibility of such a millennium after second advent expressly excluded in the Scripture (In agreement with Postmillennialism)**

# Key Tenets

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- **Believes in coming of Antichrist before Christ's final coming**
- **Agrees with Postmillennialism that the coming of the Christ ushers in the last judgment and eternal state.**
- **Like Premillennialism, Amillennialism maintains that the second coming of Christ is 'imminent'**
  - **Consequence of not expecting gospel to have positive effect in history**

**Historically main thrust of Amillennialism has been much stronger against Premillennialism than Postmillennialism**

# Key Tenet Summary

	Post-Mil	A-Mil	Pre-Mil
Christ does not establish earthly political kingdom	X	X	
Scripture precludes Millennium after final coming of Christ	X	X	
Do not believe Scripture promises conversion of world through preaching of Gospel*		X	X
Coming of Christ ushers in last judgement and eternal state	X	X	
Final coming of Christ 'imminent'		X	X
Coming of Antichrist prior to Christ's final coming		X	X

\*Key difference in Post- and A- Mil views is belief in the success of the Gospel in history

# Claims Kingdom Eternal, not Temporal

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- **Isa 9:7** - Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth ***even for ever***. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.
- **Da 7:14** - And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is ***an everlasting dominion***, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed.
- **Lu 1:33** - And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom ***there shall be no end***. But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom.

# Claims Kingdom Eternal, not Temporal

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- Heb 1:8 - But unto the Son he saith, *Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever*: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom.
- Heb 12:28 - Wherefore we receiving a kingdom *which cannot be moved*, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear:
- II Pet 1:11 - For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into *the everlasting kingdom* of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

# Kingdom is Eternal, and Temporal

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- **The Kingdom is eternal, but that does not preclude it from having a temporal dimension**
  - **Verses quoted have time clues, and speak to results of Messiah's work in first century establishing His Kingdom**
  - **These verses speak of this world, not the next**
    - **Speaks of nations**
    - **Judging people with righteousness**
    - **People dying after 100 years of age**
    - **Hostile and antagonistic forces reconciled**
    - **Impulses and resources for war converted to peaceful means**
- **Jesus declared that the Kingdom of God/Heaven had come**
  - **Where His will is done on earth as in Heaven**
  - **His Kingdom not of this world, but unarguably for this world**

**A-mils and Pre-mils see Kingdom of Heaven / Kingdom of God as future events**

**Post-mils see those beginning with Christ's Resurrection and Ascension to right hand of God**

# Millennial Prophecies

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Isa 2:2-4 - And it shall come to pass in the last days, that **the mountain of the LORD'S house shall be established in the top of the mountains**, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it. 3 And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. 4 And **he shall judge among the nations**, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

# Millennial Prophecies

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**Mic 4:1-5 - But in the last days it shall come to pass, that *the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established in the top of the mountains, and it shall be exalted above the hills; and people shall flow unto it.* 2**

**And many nations shall come, and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, and to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for the law shall go forth of Zion, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. 3 And *he shall judge among many people, and rebuke strong nations afar off; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.* 4 But they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree; and none shall make them afraid: for the mouth of the LORD of hosts hath spoken it. 5 For all people will walk every one in the name of his god, and we will walk in the name of the LORD our God for ever and ever.**

# Millennial Prophecies

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- **Isa 11:1-10** - And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots: 2 And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD; 3 And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the LORD: and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears: 4 But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked. 5 And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins. 6 The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. 7 And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. 8 And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den. 9 They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea. 10 And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse, which shall stand for an ensign of the people; to it shall the Gentiles seek: and his rest shall be glorious.

# Millennial Prophecies

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- **Isa 65:17-25 - For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind. 18 But be ye glad and rejoice for ever in that which I create: for, behold, I create Jerusalem a rejoicing, and her people a joy. 19 And I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and joy in my people: and the voice of weeping shall be no more heard in her, nor the voice of crying. 20 There shall be no more thence an infant of days, nor an old man that hath not filled his days: for the child shall die an hundred years old; but the sinner being an hundred years old shall be accursed. 21 And they shall build houses, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and eat the fruit of them. 22 They shall not build, and another inhabit; they shall not plant, and another eat: for as the days of a tree are the days of my people, and mine elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands. 23 They shall not labour in vain, nor bring forth for trouble; for they are the seed of the blessed of the LORD, and their offspring with them. 24 And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear. 25 The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, and the lion shall eat straw like the bullock: and dust shall be the serpent's meat. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain, saith the LORD.**

# Why We Are Not Amillennial

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- **Ignores large sections of Scripture which clearly show Messianic Kingdom starting small and continuing to grow until it fills the entire earth**
- **Ignores obvious improvements in world over time since the cross**
- **Ignores the clear promise of victory for Christ and His Church in history**
  - **Matt 16:18 - And I say also unto you, That you are Peter, and *upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.***
  - **Mt 28:18-20 - And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, *All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.* 19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.**
  - **Heb 10:12-13 - But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, *sat down at the right hand of God,* <sup>13</sup> *from that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool.***
- **Hence rejecting idea that the Holy Spirit and preaching of the Gospel have any real discernable impact on this world**
  - **Do you expect it to have a real effect on you? Do the math**