

You may have read or heard preaching or teaching about Christ's millennial (thousand-year) reign on earth with his holy ones, prophesied in Revelation 20:4-6. You may even have heard Christians debate premillennialism, postmillennialism, and amillennialism, wondering what it all means. Surprising though it may seem, most Christians likely hold one of those three views, even while not knowing it. And our implicit view affects us, too. Daily. In important ways. Consider here how undiscerned millennialism may be affecting you.



First, get straight the three competing millennial-reign views. Each has to do with when Christ will return in his Second Coming. Those who hold that Christ will return *before* his thousand-year reign on earth are premillennials. Those who hold that Christ will return *after* his millennial reign are postmillennials. And those who hold millennialism to be a matter of spirituality, not a literal coming and literal reign on earth, are amillennials.

Got it? Hold that thought for a moment.

Now here's the surprising part that Christians generally have a millennial view without even knowing it. Those of us who see the world as in irreversible decline and are just waiting for Christ to come rescue us are holding a premillennial view. Right? If you're just waiting for rescue, then you're not preparing to participate in a thousand-year reign *before* his coming. You're just hanging on. By contrast, an earnest and hopeful, even joyous, seeking of his thousand-year reign now, without waiting for Christ to come first, would instead be postmillennialism. If, indeed, Christ will come *after* his thousand-year reign, we should be anticipating, celebrating, and promoting his thousand-year reign by, as Christ commands, making disciples of all nations. And if you don't give the question of Christ's Second Coming literal anticipation either way, believing the reign question to be instead in your spirit, heart, or head, then you're amillennial.

We naturally carry one or another of these attitudes about in our head, heart, or spirit. Which one are you? Are you the pessimist, waiting for Christ before getting any hopes up? Then you're probably premillennial. Or are you the optimist, discipling the nations to advance and participate in Christ's thousand-year reign, rather than waiting for Christ's return first? Then you're probably postmillennial. Or is it just spiritual talk to you, and you're trying to do your best without any literal thinking? You're probably an amillennial, then. Notice, now, how your view may be affecting you? Yes, the Bible gives clues as to which is the correct view, although earnest Christians of good faith disagree about those clues. Just know what your view may be doing, for better or worse, for you in following Jesus's parting command. Whether premil, amil, or postmil, go and disciple the nations.