

What Lutherans Believe

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

Keith Chuvala, Keith@BackToTheBibleCatechism.com

The End Times

Eschatology:

- From the Greek ἔσχατος (eschatos) meaning "last" and -logy meaning "the study of", first used in English in the mid-1800's

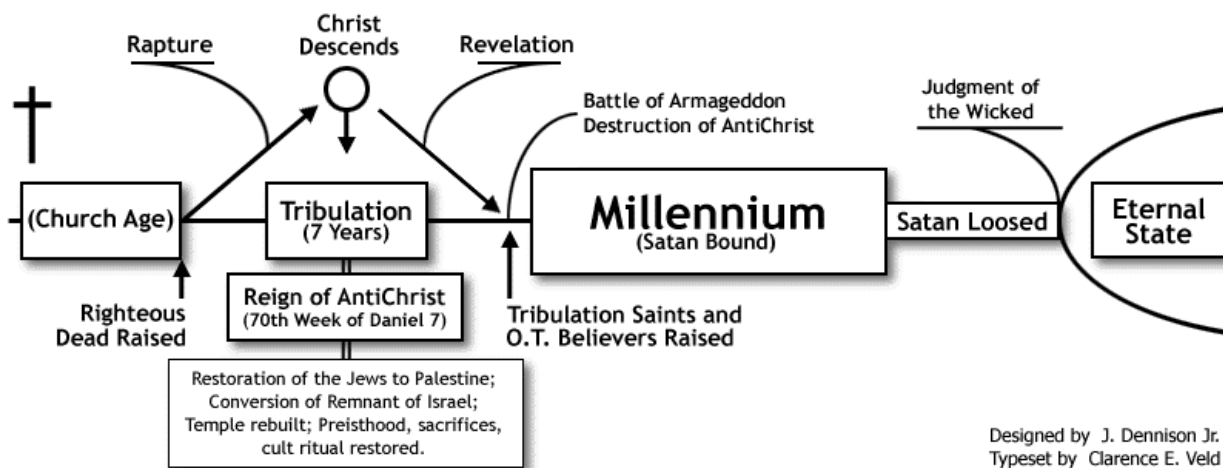
Millennialism (a.k.a. Chiliasm): Read Revelation 20

- **Premillennialism:**
 - Jesus will physically return to the earth (i.e., His Second Coming) before the Millennium, a literal thousand-year period of peace. The doctrine is called "premillennialism" because it holds that Jesus' physical return to earth will occur prior to the inauguration of the Millennium.
 - Based principally upon a literal interpretation of Revelation 20. Premillennialism is often used to refer specifically to those who adhere to the beliefs in an earthly millennial reign of Christ as well as a rapture of the faithful coming either before ("Dispensationalist") or after ("Historic") a Great Tribulation that will precede the Millennium.
 - The most popular adaptation of Premillennialism in modern America is so-called "Dispensational Premillennialism", discussed in detail below.
 - **Postmillennialism (a.k.a. "Reconstructionism"):**
 - Sees Christ's Second Coming as occurring after the Millennium. Postmillennialism holds that Jesus Christ established his kingdom on earth through his preaching and redemptive work in the first century and that he equips his church with the gospel, empowers her by the Spirit, and charges it with the Great Commission to disciple all nations. Therefore "the Millennium" is now.
 - Postmillennialism expects that eventually the vast majority of people living will be saved. Increasing gospel success will gradually produce a time in history prior to Christ's return in which faith, righteousness, peace, and prosperity will prevail in the affairs of men (and of nations.)
 - Postmillennialism was the dominant Protestant theology in the 19th century, but has been largely supplanted by pre-millennialism.
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- **Amillennialism (the Lutheran view):**
 - Rejects the idea of a future millennium in which Christ will reign on Earth prior to the eternal state beginning, but rather holds that:
 - Jesus is presently reigning from heaven, seated at the right hand of God the Father
 - Jesus is and will remain with the church until the end of the world, as He promised at His Ascension
 - “The millennium” began at Pentecost, per Acts 2:16-21, where Peter quotes the prophet Joel 2:28-32 on the coming of the kingdom, to explain what is happening
 - Therefore the Church and its spread of the good news is indeed Christ's Kingdom and forever will be
 - Amillennialism cites scripture references to the kingdom not being physical, e.g.:
 - Matthew 12:28, where Jesus cites his driving out of demons as evidence that the kingdom of God had come upon them
 - Luke 17:20–21, where Jesus warns that the coming of the kingdom of God cannot be observed, and that it is among them
 - Romans 14:17, where Paul speaks of the kingdom of God being in terms of the Christians' actions
 - Amillennialism regards the "thousand year" period in Revelation as a figurative duration for Christ's reign, as in Psalms 50:10, where the "thousand hills" on which God owns the cattle are all hills, or in 1 Chronicles 16:15, where the "thousand generations" to whom God will be faithful are all generations.
 - Amillennialism teaches that the binding of Satan described in Revelation has already occurred; he has been prevented from "deceiving the nations" by the spread of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. This is the first binding he suffered in history after his fall from heaven. Nonetheless, good and evil will remain mixed in strength throughout history and even in the church, as indicated by Jesus' parable of the Wheat and Tares.

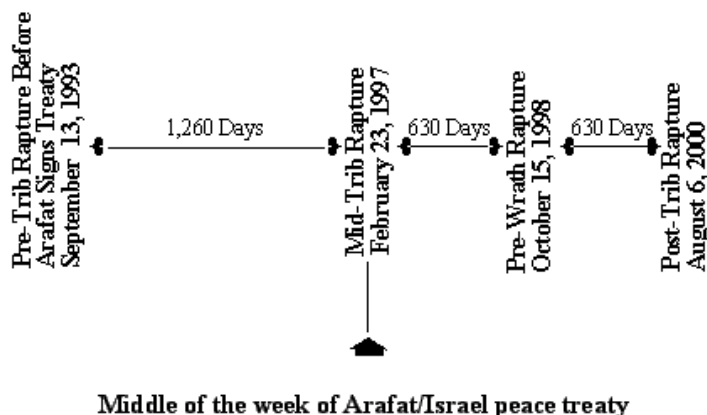
Dispensationalism:

- This is a fairly modern teaching, first developed by John Nelson Darby ca. 1830; it was unheard of before then. It views Israel as distinct from the Christian church, and is very focused on the history and future of the Hebrew nation. The Dispensations are:
 - Innocence - Adam
 - Conscience - After man sinned, up to the flood
 - Government - After the flood, man allowed to eat meat, death penalty instituted
 - Promise - Abraham up to Moses and the giving of the Law
 - Law - Moses to the cross
 - Grace - The cross to the Millennial Kingdom
 - Millennial Kingdom - A 1000 year reign of Christ on earth centered in Jerusalem

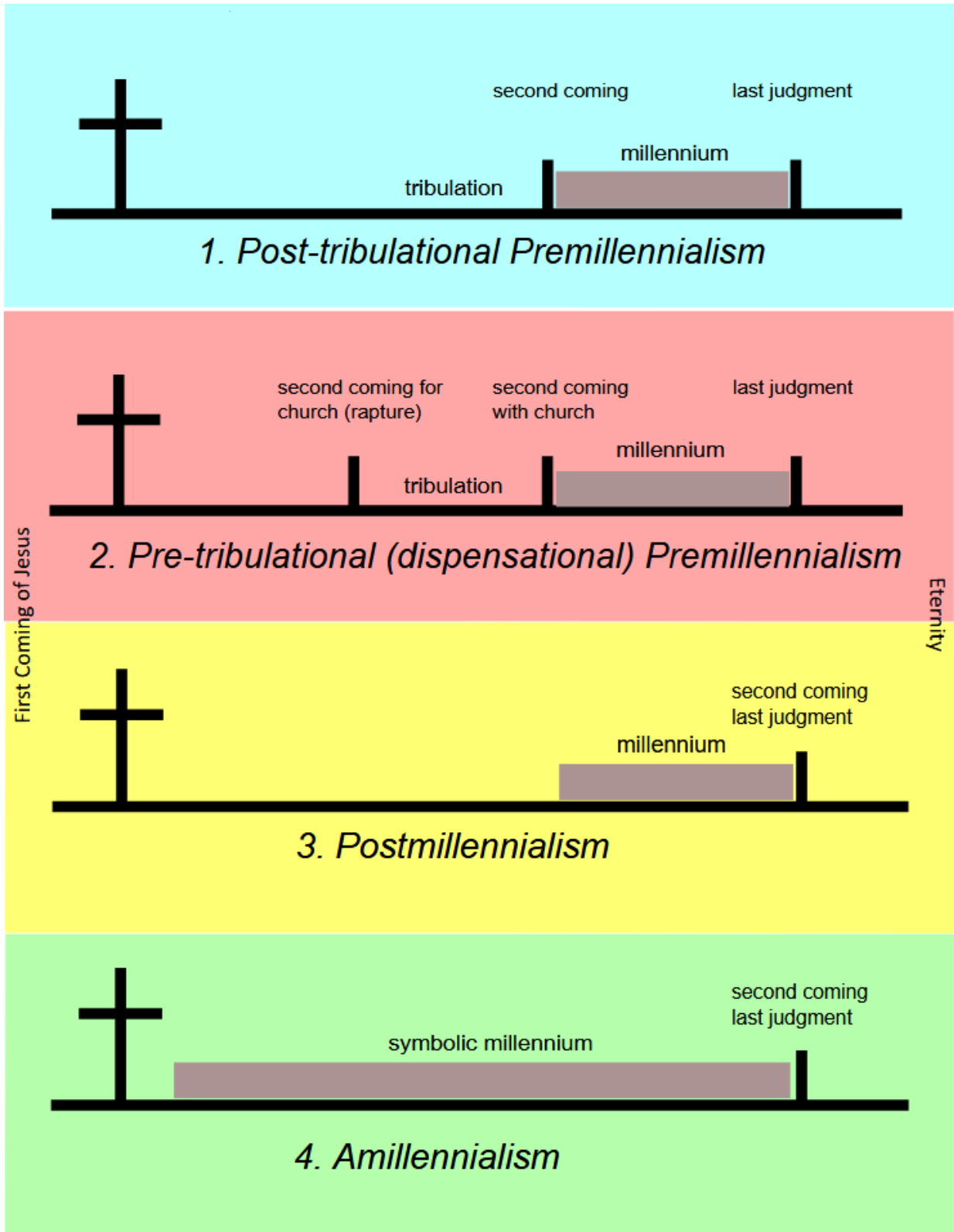


Many of the groups (and individuals) that have attempted to peg a specific date, or a date range, to the end of the world, or to a pre-millennial rapture, come from the premillennial dispensationalist camp. Thus far all have been quite wrong in their predictive accuracy! One example:

Dispensational 70th Week Applied to the Covenant of Arafat with old Israel On Monday, September 13, 1993



A Visual Comparison of the “Millennialisms”



Selected Relevant Scripture Verses

<i>1 Corinthians 15:12-57</i>	<i>Genesis 3:17</i>
<i>1 John 3:2-3</i>	<i>Hebrews 9:28</i>
<i>1 Peter 1:13-15</i>	<i>Isaiah 19:2;</i>
<i>1 Peter 1:4-5, 7; 5:4</i>	<i>Isaiah 2:1-4; 42:6-7; 49:6; 52:10</i>
<i>1 Peter 4:13</i>	<i>Joel 2:30-31</i>
<i>1 Thessalonians 4:13-17</i>	<i>John 15:18-20; 16:33</i>
<i>1 Thessalonians 5:1-3</i>	<i>John 18:36</i>
<i>1 Thessalonians 5:6</i>	<i>John 5:27-29; 6:39-40, 44, 54</i>
<i>1 Timothy 6:14</i>	<i>Jude 14,21</i>
<i>2 Chronicles 15:6</i>	<i>Jude 14-15</i>
<i>2 Corinthians 5:10</i>	<i>Luke 13:1-5</i>
<i>2 Peter 3:10-13</i>	<i>Luke 13:3, 5</i>
<i>2 Peter 3:11-12</i>	<i>Luke 17:22-24; 21:27,35</i>
<i>2 Peter 3:13-14</i>	<i>Luke 21:12-19</i>
<i>2 Thessalonians 1:6-10</i>	<i>Luke 21:28</i>
<i>2 Thessalonians 1:7</i>	<i>Luke 21:9-11, 25-26</i>
<i>2 Thessalonians 2:8</i>	<i>Mark 13:10</i>
<i>2 Timothy 4:1,8</i>	<i>Mark 13:24-26; 14:62</i>
<i>Acts 1:11</i>	<i>Mark 13:32-33</i>
<i>Acts 10:42; 17:31</i>	<i>Mark 13:7-8</i>
<i>Acts 8:35</i>	<i>Mark 13:9-13</i>
<i>Amos 9:11-12</i>	<i>Matthew 13:39-43,49; 16:27</i>
<i>Daniel 12:1-2</i>	<i>Matthew 24:30-31</i>

Selected Relevant Scripture Verses

Matthew 24:14

Matthew 24:27,30

Matthew 24:33, 42-44

Matthew 24:36

Matthew 24:6-8

Matthew 24:9

Matthew 25:14-30

Matthew 25:31-46

Matthew 28:19-20

Matthew 5:10-12

Revelation 1:7

Revelation 12:10-11

Revelation 19:11-14

Revelation 20:11-15

Revelation 21:1-4

Revelation 22:20

Revelation 3:10; 7:3-4

Revelation 9:20-21; 16:9

Romans 13:12-14

Romans 2:16

Romans 8:19-22

Titus 2:1-13

Zechariah 14:3