

OF THE WORLD TO COME - HANDOUT
BASICS OF THE FAITH
AUGUST 13, 2017

Hermeneutical principles to remember (from How to Study the Bible teaching in April):

1. Not all passages of Scripture are equally clear. 2 Peter 3:16
2. The Bible should be interpreted according to its literal sense. The natural meaning of a passage is to be interpreted according to the normal rules of grammar, speech (including figures of speech), syntax and grammatical-historical context.
3. The Analogy of Faith: The teaching of the whole Bible determines specific interpretations. (Biblical Road Map).
4. Analogy of the Scriptures: We should interpret unclear, difficult or ambiguous passages of Scripture by comparison with clear and unambiguous passages that refer to the same teaching or event.
5. Didactic (explicit) interprets narrative (both explicit and implicit).
6. Christ is the principal end of the whole of Scripture. Luke 24:27

Add:

Before coming to the details of eschatology we need to understanding the general truths taught in Scripture – these are summarized in our statement of faith.

XVII. Of the World to Come

We believe that the end of this world is approaching¹: that at the last day, Christ will descend from heaven², and raise the dead from the grave to final retribution³; that a solemn separation will then take place⁴; that the wicked will be adjudged to endless punishment, and the righteous to endless joy⁵ and that this judgment will fix forever the final state of men in heaven or hell, on principle of righteousness⁶.

1 - 1 Pet. 4:7; 1 Cor. 7:29-31; Heb. 1:10-12; Matt. 24:35; 1 John 2:17; Matt. 28:20; 13:39-40; 2 Pet. 3:3-13

2 - Acts 1:11; Rev. 1:7; Heb. 9:28; Acts 3:21; 1 Thess. 4:13-18; 5:1-11

3 - Acts 24:15; 1 Cor. 15:12-59; Luke 14:14; Dan. 12:2; John 5:28-29; 6:40; 11:25-26; 2 Tim. 1:10; Acts 10:42

4 - Matt. 13:49, 37-43; 24:30-31; 25:31-33

5 - Matt. 25:35-41; Rev. 22:11; 1 Cor. 6:9-10; Mark 9:43-48; 2 Pet. 2:9; Jude 7; Phil. 3:19; Rom. 6:32; 2 Cor. 5:10-11; John 4:36; 2 Cor. 4:18

6 - Rom. 3:5-6; 2 Thess. 1:6-12; Heb. 6:1-2; 1 Cor. 4:5; Acts 17:31; Rom. 2:2-16; Rev. 20:11-12; 1 John 2:28; 4:17

We believe that the end of this world is approaching

1 John 2:17 *And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.*

Matthew 13:38-40 *The field is the world, and the good seed is the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, 39 and the enemy who sowed them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. 40 Just as the weeds are gathered and burned with fire, so will it be at the end of the age.*

Matthew 12:32 *And whoever speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come.*

Mark 3:29 *but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin”—*

that at the last day, Christ will descend from heaven

Hebrews 1:1-2 *Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, 2 but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world.*

John 6:44 *No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day.*

John 12:48 *The one who rejects me and does not receive my words has a judge; the word that I have spoken will judge him on the last day.*

Acts 1:11 *and said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”*

Acts 3:19-21 *Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out, 20 that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus, 21 whom heaven must receive until the time for restoring all the things about which God spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets long ago.*

Psalms 110:1 *The LORD says to my Lord: “Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your footstool.”*

and raise the dead from the grave to final retribution

Daniel 12:2 *And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.*

Acts 24:14-15 *But this I confess to you, that according to the Way, which they call a sect, I worship the God of our fathers, believing everything laid down by the Law and written in the Prophets, 15 having a hope in God, which these men themselves accept, that there will be a resurrection of both the just and the unjust.*

that a solemn separation will then take place

Matthew 13:49-50 *So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous 50 and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.*

Matthew 25:31-33 *“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. 32 Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. 33 And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left.*

that the wicked will be adjudged to endless punishment, and the righteous to endless joy

Matthew 25:31-46 *“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. 32 Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. 33 And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. 34 Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. 35 For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, 36 I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.’ 37 Then the righteous will answer him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? 38 And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? 39 And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?’ 40 And the King will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.’ 41 “Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. 42 For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, 43 I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.’ 44 Then they also will answer, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?’ 45 Then he will answer them, saying, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.’ 46 And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”*

Question 41: What benefits do believers receive from Christ at death?

Answer: At death the souls of believers are made perfect in holiness, and immediately pass into glory. Their bodies rest in their graves till the resurrection.

Scripture: Hebrews 12:23; Philippians 1:23; 2 Corinthians 5:8; Luke 23:43; 1 Thessalonians 4:14; Isaiah 57:2; Job 19:26.

Question 42: What benefits do believers receive from Christ at the Resurrection?

Answer: At the resurrection, believers are raised up in glory; they shall be openly acknowledged and acquitted in the Day of Judgment, and made perfectly blessed in the full enjoyment of God to all eternity.

Scripture: Philippians 3:20, 21; 1 Corinthians 15:42, 43; Matthew 10:32; 1 John 3:2; 1 Thessalonians 4:17.

Question 43: What shall be done to the wicked at death?

Answer: The souls of the wicked shall at death, be cast into the torments of hell, and their bodies lie in their graves till the resurrection and judgment of the great day.

Scripture: Luke 16:22-4; Daniel 12:2; John 5:29; Revelation 20:11-15.

Question 44: What shall be done to the wicked at the Day of Judgment?

Answer: At the Day of Judgment, the bodies of the wicked, being raised out of their graves shall be sentenced, together with their souls, to unspeakable torments with the devil and his angels forever.

Scripture: Daniel 12:2; John 5:28, 29; 2 Thessalonians 1:9; Matthew 25:41; Revelation 20:14-15.

and that this judgment will fix forever the final state of men in heaven or hell, on principle of righteousness

Wayne Grudem, *Bible Doctrine*:

“When referring to this place, Christians often talk about living with God “in heaven” forever. This is not wrong, but in fact the biblical teaching is richer than that: It tells us that there will be a new heavens *and a new earth* – an entirely renewed creation – and we will live with God there”

Prophesied in the OT:

Isaiah 65:17 “*For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth, and the former things shall not be remembered or come into mind.*”

Isaiah 66:22 “*For as the new heavens and the new earth that I make shall remain before me, says the LORD, so shall your offspring and your name remain.*”

Looked forward to in the NT:

2 Peter 3:10-13 *But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed. 11 Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, 12 waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! 13 But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.*

Romans 8:19-21 *For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. 20 For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope 21 that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.*

Revealed to John:

Revelation 21:1 *Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more.*

Revelation 21:2-7 *And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. 4 He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.” 5 And he who was seated on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.” 6 And he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment. 7 The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son.*

BASIC DIAGRAM OF THE WORDING OF THE CONFESSION:

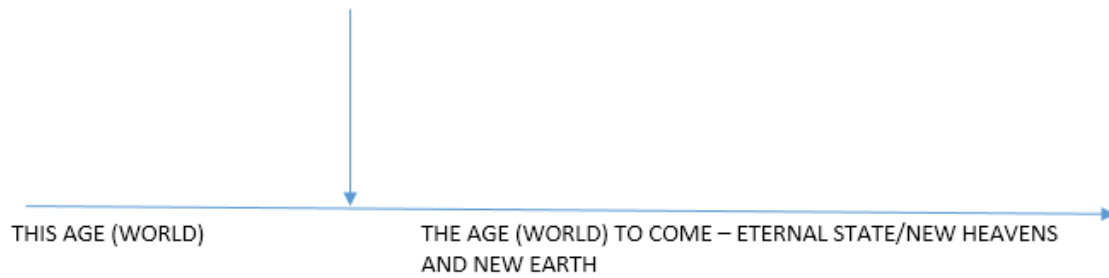
LAST DAY –

END OF THIS WORLD (AGE):

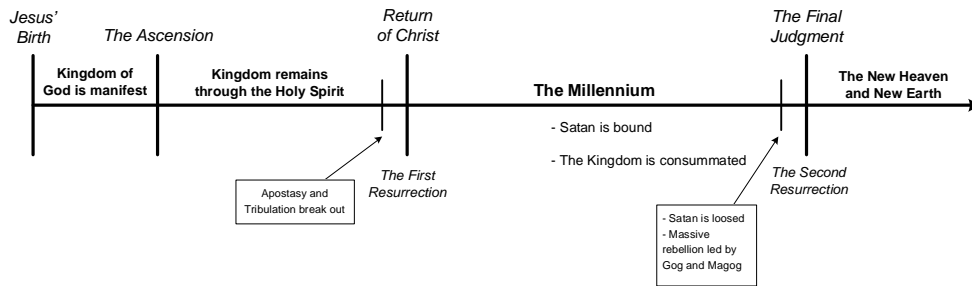
CHRIST DESCENDS FROM HEAVEN, AND

DEAD ARE RAISED FROM THE GRAVE TO FINAL RETRIBUTION
(JUDGEMENT), AND

A SOLEMN SEPARATION WILL THEN TAKE PLACE...WICKED TO ETERNAL
PUNISHMENT AND RIGHTEOUS TO ENDLESS JOY



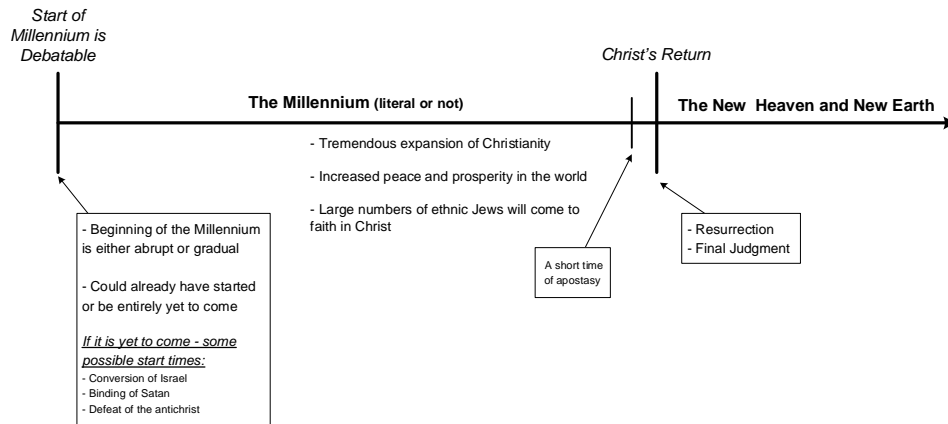
Historic Premillennialism



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Historic Premillennial Theologians:
 George Eldon Ladd, John W. Montgomery, J. Barton Payne, R. Laird Harris, Henry Alford, Theodore Zahn, James Boice

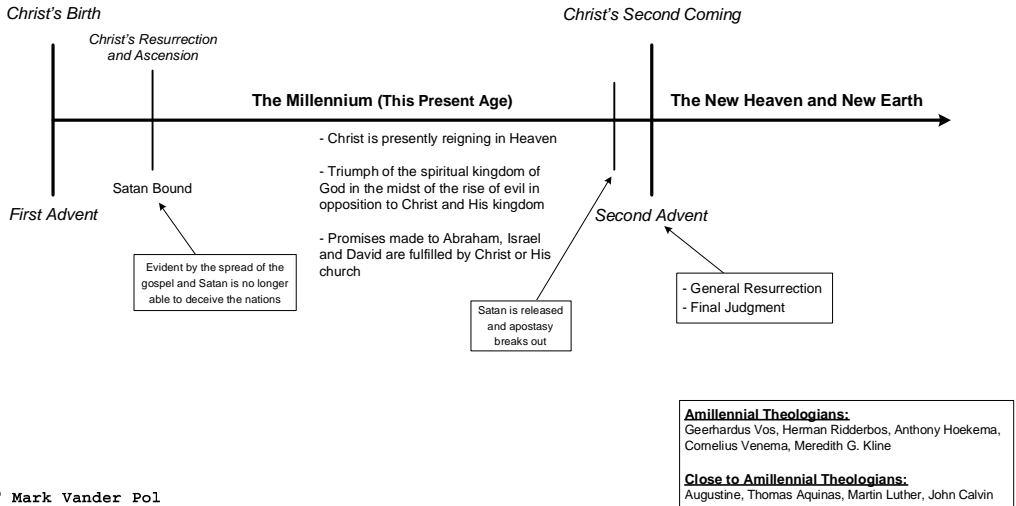
Postmillennialism



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Postmillennial Theologians:
 Charles Hodge, A.A. Hodge, B.B. Warfield, John Jefferson Davis

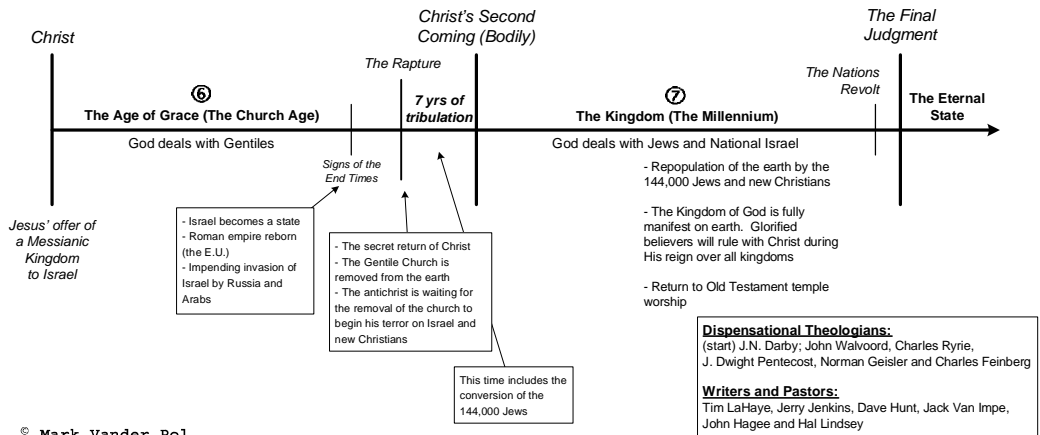
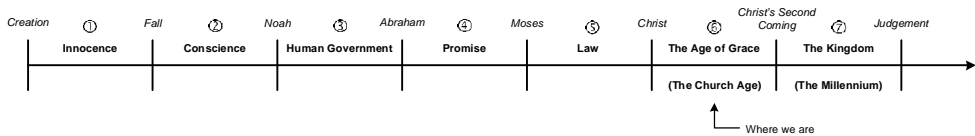
Amillennialism



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Dispensationalism

Overview - The Seven Dispensations



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