

- **In general there are three viewpoints, each with a number of variations.**
 - The most recent view is what is known as ***postmillennialism***.
 - Postmillennialists expect Christ's visible return to the earth *after* the Millennium. They look for teaching and preaching to usher in a thousand years of peace and righteousness before Christ's return. Some postmillennialists believe that this "Golden age" has already begun. The physical return of Christ will follow the Millennium.
 - According to this view the thousand years represent the triumph of the gospel in this age.
 - The gospel will spread with such influence that Christ will, in effect, be reigning over the world through the work of the church and the preaching of the gospel.
 - A second major view is ***amillennialism***,
 - Amillennialism interprets Christ's Millennial reign in a spiritual sense. While believing in Christ's literal return, they reject a literal thousand year reign on earth. Some see Christ's reign to have begun in His life or at the time of His resurrection.
 - Amillennialism denies that there is any literal Millennium or reign of Christ on earth.
 - Amillennialism teaches that the reign of Christ is a spiritual reign in the hearts of believers.
 - Both the Amillennial and Postmillennial views must interpret Revelation 20 in a nonliteral sense.
 - A third form of interpretation is ***premillennialism***,
 - *Premillennialism*, teaches that Jesus will return to the earth before the Millennium. Interpreting Revelation 20 literally we believe that Jesus will return to the earth and reign over the earth for a 1,000 yrs.
 - This view point is developed as a result of a literal view of scripture as a whole.
 - i. Daniel 7:13-14 "I was watching in the night visions, And behold, One like the Son of Man, Coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, And they brought Him near before Him. Then to Him was given

dominion and glory and a kingdom, That all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, Which shall not pass away. And His kingdom the one. Which shall not be destroyed.

- b. Arguments for this position are based on the natural sequence of events in Revelation 19 and 20, viewing them as sequential.

II. Scripture teaches that Jesus will reign on the earth upon the throne of David.

1. 2 Samuel 7: When your days are fulfilled and you rest with your fathers, I will set up your seed after you, who will come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. I will be his Father, and he shall be My son... And your house and your kingdom shall be established forever before you. Your throne shall be established forever."
2. Isaiah 9:6-7 For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. 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.
3. Luke 1:32-33 He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end."

III. We reign with Christ.

1. Thyatira Rev. 2:26-27 And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations--"He shall rule them with a rod of iron-- as I also have received from My Father;
2. Matthew 19:28 So Jesus said to them, "Assuredly I say to you, that in the regeneration, when the Son of Man sits on the throne of His glory, you who have followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.
3. 1Cor. 6:1-3 Dare any of you, having a matter against another, go to law before the unrighteous, and not before the saints? [2] Do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world will be judged by you, are you unworthy to judge the smallest matters? [3] Do you not know that we shall judge angels? How much more, things that pertain to this life?

4. Rev. 3:21 (Laodicea) To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.

IV. Israel will take its place as the head of the nations.

1. With Jesus upon the throne of David, Jerusalem will be the capitol city of the world.
2. Isaiah 2:1-5 Now it shall come to pass in the latter days That the mountain of the Lord's house Shall be established on the top of the mountains, And shall be exalted above the hills; And all nations shall flow to it. [3] Many people shall come and say, "Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, To the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, And we shall walk in His paths." For out of Zion shall go forth the law, And the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. [4] He shall judge between the nations, And rebuke many people; They shall beat their swords into plowshares, And their spears into pruning hooks; Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, Neither shall they learn war anymore. O house of Jacob, come and let us walk In the light of the Lord.
3. Jeremiah 3:17 At that time Jerusalem shall be called The Throne of the Lord, and all the nations shall be gathered to it, to the name of the Lord, to Jerusalem. No more shall they follow the dictates of their evil hearts.
4. Zeph. 3:20 I will give you fame and praise among all the peoples of the earth
5. Isaiah 62:1-3 For Zion's sake I will not hold My peace, And for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, Until her righteousness goes forth as brightness, And her salvation as a lamp that burns. The Gentiles shall see your righteousness, and all kings your glory. You shall be called by a new name, Which the mouth of the Lord will name. You shall also be a crown of glory In the hand of the Lord, And a royal diadem In the hand of your God.
6. Ezekiel 37:24-28 "David My servant shall be king over them, and they shall all have one shepherd; they shall also walk in My judgments and observe My statutes, and do them. [25] Then they shall dwell in the land that I have given to Jacob My servant, where your fathers dwelt; and they shall dwell there, they, their children, and their children's children, forever; and My servant David shall be their prince forever. [26] Moreover I will make a covenant of peace with them, and it shall be an everlasting covenant with them; I will establish them and multiply them, and I will set My sanctuary in their midst forevermore. [27] My tabernacle also shall be with them; indeed I will be their God, and they shall be My people. [28] The nations also will know that I, the Lord, sanctify Israel, when My sanctuary is in their midst forevermore." ' '

V. Descriptions of the conditions of the Millennium.

1. Time of great peace and safety.

- A. Isaiah 2:4 They shall beat their swords into plowshares, And their spears into pruning hooks; Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, Neither shall they learn war anymore.
- B. Zech. 8:2-8 "Thus says the Lord of hosts: 'I am zealous for Zion with great zeal; With great fervor I am zealous for her.' [3] "Thus says the Lord: 'I will return to Zion, And dwell in the midst of Jerusalem. Jerusalem shall be called the City of Truth, The Mountain of the Lord of hosts, The Holy Mountain.' [4] "Thus says the Lord of hosts: 'Old men and old women shall again sit In the streets of Jerusalem, Each one with his staff in his hand Because of great age. [5] The streets of the city Shall be full of boys and girls Playing in its streets.' [6] "Thus says the Lord of hosts: 'If it is marvelous in the eyes of the remnant of this people in these days, Will it also be marvelous in My eyes?' Says the Lord of hosts. [7] "Thus says the Lord of hosts: 'Behold, I will save My people from the land of the east And from the land of the west; [8] I will bring them back, And they shall dwell in the midst of Jerusalem. They shall be My people And I will be their God, In truth and righteousness.'
- C. Psalm 72:7 In His days the righteous shall flourish, and abundance of peace.
- D. Isaiah 32:17-18 The work of righteousness will be peace, and the effect of righteousness, quietness and assurance forever. [18] My people will dwell in a peaceful habitation, In secure dwellings, and in quiet resting places,

2. The earth will be restored to something like the Garden of Eden.

- A. Isaiah 11:6-10 "The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, The leopard shall lie down with the young goat, The calf and the young lion and the fatling together; And a little child shall lead them. [7] The cow and the bear shall graze; Their young ones shall lie down together; And the lion shall eat straw like the ox. [8] The nursing child shall play by the cobra's hole, And the weaned child shall put his hand in the viper's 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, Who shall stand as a banner to the people; For the Gentiles shall seek Him, and His resting place shall be glorious."

- 1. Romans 8:19-21 For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly,

but because of Him who subjected it in hope; because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.

3. We will be worshipping Jesus.

- A. Zech. 8:20-22 "Thus says the Lord of hosts: 'Peoples shall yet come, Inhabitants of many cities; The inhabitants of one city shall go to another, saying, "Let us continue to go and pray before the Lord, And seek the Lord of hosts. I myself will go also." Yes, many peoples and strong nations Shall come to seek the Lord of hosts in Jerusalem, And to pray before the Lord.
- B. Isaiah 2:3 Many people shall come and say, "Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, To the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, And we shall walk in His paths." For out of Zion shall go forth the law, And the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.
- C. Isaiah 12:4-6 And in that day you will say: "Praise the Lord, call upon His name; Declare His deeds among the peoples, Make mention that His name is exalted. [5] Sing to the Lord, For He has done excellent things; This is known in all the earth. [6] Cry out and shout, O inhabitant of Zion, For great is the Holy One of Israel *in your midst!*"
- D. Zeph. 3:14-17 Sing, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O Israel! Be glad and rejoice with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem! The King of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; in that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: "Do not fear; Zion, let not your hands be weak. The Lord your God in your midst, The Mighty One, will save; He will rejoice over you with gladness, He will quiet you with His love, He will rejoice over you with singing."

1. The Millennial Reign.

- a. Believers will join in the reign of Christ.
 - i. Fulfillment of Rev. 5:10 And have made us kings and priests to our God; and we shall reign on the earth."
 - ii. Those martyred during the tribulation period will also reign with us.
- b. The *rest of the dead* is a reference to all unbelievers.
- c. Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection.
 - i. All believers from all time have part in what is called here as the first resurrection.
 - ii. It is called *the first resurrection* because the second resurrection is all the unbelievers who will stand before God in judgment. verses 12-13
 - 1. John 5:28-29 the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice and come forth--those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.

- d. Over such the second death has no power.
 - i. Standing before God in judgment is the second death.
 - ii. As believers the second death has no power over us.
 - 1. The second death is a very powerful thing, how is it that it can have no power over us?
 - a. John 5:24 "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.
 - b. John 3:16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.
 - c. John 3:18 He who believes in Him is not condemned;
 - d. John 6:47 Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me has everlasting life.
 - e. John 8:51 if anyone keeps My word he shall never see death."
 - f. John 11:26 And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die.
 - i. It is the second death that Jesus is referring to here. Through faith in Him it no longer has power over us.
 - 2. But they shall reign with Him.
 - a. Rom. 5:17 those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.
2. Satan is released and leads a rebellion.
 - a. Who does Satan lead in rebellion?
 - b. The question has been raised as to whether this war is the same one discussed in Ezek. 38-39, where Gog and Magog are also mentioned.
 - i. These are two different battles, for the *description* of them is different.
 - 1. Ezek. 38:22 I will bring him to judgment with pestilence and bloodshed; I will rain down on him, on his troops, and on the many peoples who are with him, flooding rain, great hailstones, fire, and brimstone.
 - 2. Ezek. 38:21 I will call for a sword against Gog throughout all My mountains," says the Lord God. "Every man's sword will be against his brother.
 - 3. Also: the clean up from the battle will take seven years (Ezek 39.9)
 - ii. Why then is the expression "Gog and Magog" used by John?
 - 1. In Ezek. 38 Gog and Magog were both were in rebellion against God and were enemies of Israel.
 - 2. Certainly the armies here come in the same spirit of antagonism against God that is found in Ezekiel 38.
3. Satan is cast into the lake of fire.
 - a. Matt. 25:41 the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels:
 - i. Hell is eternal: The beast and false prophet are, *they*...
4. The Great White throne Judgment.
 - a. All mankind is guilty before God.

- i. Rom. 3:19-20 Whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. ...for by the law is the knowledge of sin.
 - 1. Rom. 3:23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,
 - 2. Gal. 3:22 But the Scripture has confined all under sin
 - 3. Rom. 3:10 There is none righteous, no, not one;
- b. We must repent of sin.
 - i. 2Pet. 3:9 God is not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.
 - ii. Acts 26:20 ..we should repent, turn to God, and do works befitting repentance.
 - iii. Who will stand in this judgment
 - 1. Rev. 9:20-21 those who did not repent of the works of their hands... they did not repent of their murders or their sorceries or their sexual immorality or their thefts.
 - 2. Rev. 16:11 They blasphemed the God of heaven and did not repent of their deeds.
 - 3. Rev. 2:21 (Thyratira) *I gave her time to repent of her sexual immorality, and she did not repent.*
 - 4. Rev. 2:16 (Pergamos) Repent, or else I will come to you quickly and will *fight against them with the sword of My mouth.*
 - 5. John 3:19-21 light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. But he who does the truth comes to the light.
 - iv. Believe the gospel.
 - 1. Rom 5:8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
 - 2. 1John 4:9 In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him.
 - 3. 1John 5:11-12 This is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.
 - 4. John 5:23 all should honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him.
 - 5. Rom. 10:9-10 that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.
 - a. John 5:24 "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.

