

Present Crisis??

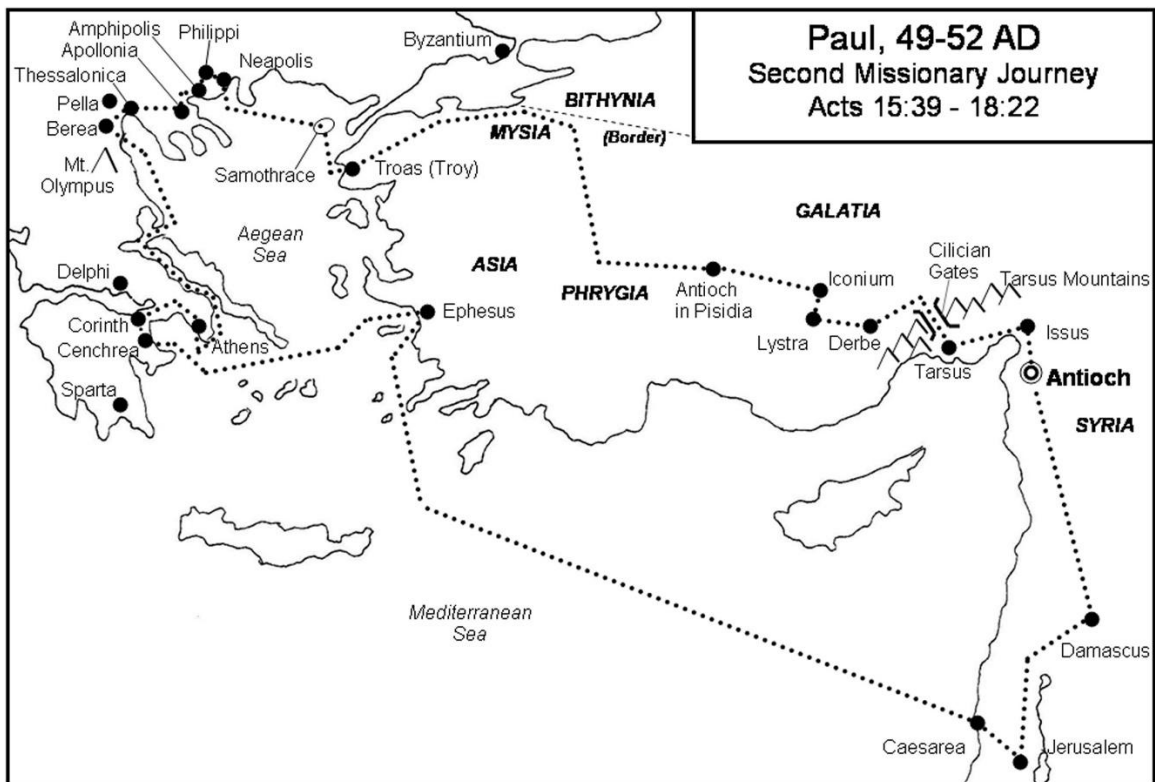


1. Spiritual growth (Christian maturity)

- a. John 1:14, 16-18 – **“The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.... From the fullness of his grace we have all received one blessing after another. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God, but God the One and Only, who is at the Father’s side, has made him known.”**
- b. Ephesians 4:17-25 – **“Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds. They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart. They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity. But that is not the way you learned Christ!— assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.”**
- c. Hebrews 5:11-6:3 – **“We have much to say about this, but it is hard to explain because you are slow to learn. In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God’s word all over again. You need milk, not solid food! Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. But solid food is for the mature who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil. Therefore let us leave the elementary teachings about Christ and go on to maturity, not laying the foundation of repentance from acts that lead to death, and of faith in God, instruction about baptisms, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. And God permitting we will do so.”**

2. Ephesus

- a. Acts 19:1-10 – taught in synagogue until driven out and then taught in Hall of Tyrannus for two years until the culture rioted.
- b. Revelation
 - i. Ephesus in Revelation 2:1-7
 1. 2:5 – “Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first. If not, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent.”
 - ii. Laodicea in Revelation 3:14-22
 1. 3:15 – “I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were either cold or hot! 16 So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth.”
 2. 3:20 – “I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me.”



3. Wheat and Weeds
 - a. Matthew 13:24-30
4. Fourth Generation
 - a. Teeth like knives (Elite)
 - b. Devour the poor (Middle Class)
5. Deception (Actors planned intentions with victims playing roles to deceive public): Media, Government, Science Institutions, Health Organizations, Universities and Academia

Awake and Watching

1. We are to be "watching" for the Lord's return.
2. "Watching" means:
 - a. we should be living in a way that would please the Lord when he returns:
 - b. we should be comparing our world events with Biblical prophecies to see if our current historical situation lines up with the prophecies that speak of Jesus' return.
3. The reason we are told to be looking for the Lord's return is to keep us alert so we are not surprised by the events that surround the day of his return.
4. In Scripture the opposite of "alert" would be conditions such as:
 - a. "drowsy"
 - b. "asleep"
 - c. "drunk"

It will be good for those servants whose master finds them watching (*grégoreó*) when he comes. I tell you the truth, he will dress himself to serve, will have them recline at the table and will come and wait on them. It will be good for those servants whose master finds them ready, even if he comes in the second or third watch of the night. (Luke 12:37-38, NIV)

Blessed are those servants whom the master finds awake (*grégoreó*) when he comes. Truly, I say to you, he will dress himself for service and have them recline at table, and he will come and serve them. If he comes in the second watch, or in the third, and finds them awake, blessed are those servants! (Luke 12:37-38, ESV)

5. Jesus commands his disciples on a couple of occasions to be watching for his return.
6. The word he uses in Luke 12:37 above is the Greek word **gregoreo** which means “to watch”.
 - a. It is used in the New Testament in reference to “keeping awake” and being “spiritually alert” (W.E. Vine, Vine’s Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words, MacDonald Publishing Company, McLean, Virginia, page 1,224).
 - b. So **gregoreo** means:
 - i. “to watch”
 - ii. “to stay awake”
 - iii. “to be vigilant”
 - iv. It is a word that has both ethical and religious overtones.
 - v. The word indicates the proper attitude of a believer.
 - vi. The present imperative tense of Matthew 24:42 indicates a constant vigil (Rogers, Cleon L., Jr., and Rogers, Cleon L., III, The New Linguistic and Exegetical Key to the Greek New Testament, 1982, pages 55 and 480).
7. Later, in the final days of his ministry, Jesus says the same thing again to his disciples, and Paul refers to the same event in the same way with the same wording in 1 Thessalonians 5:4-6.

Matthew 24:42-43 –

NIV - Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come.

But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into.

ESV - Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into.

grégoreó = “to watch, be vigilant, stay awake”

Matthew 24:42

	1127 [e]	3767 [e]	3754 [e]	3756 [e]	1492 [e]	4169 [e]	2250 [e]	3588 [e]	2962 [e]	4771 [e]	2064 [e]
	Grégoreite	oun	hoti	ouk	oidate	poia	hēmera	ho	kyrios	hymōn	erchetai
42	Γρηγορεῖτε	οὖν ,	ὅτι	οὐκ	οἴδατε	ποιᾶ	ἡμέρα	ὁ	κύριος	ὑμῶν	ἔρχεται .
	Keep watch	therefore	for	not	you know	on what	day	the	Lord	of you	comes
	V-PMA-2P	Conj	Conj	Adv	V-RIA-2P	IPro-DFS	N-DFS	Art-NMS	N-NMS	PPro-G2P	V-PIM/P-3S

But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. (ESV)

1 Thessalonians 5:6

grēgorēó = "to watch, be vigilant, stay awake"

néphó = "be sober, be self-controlled, be watchful"

686 [e]	3767 [e]	3361 [e]	2518 [e]	5613 [e]	3588 [e]	3062 [e]	235 [e]	1127 [e]	2532	
ara	oun	mē	katheudōmen	hōs	hoi	loipoi	alla	grēgorōmen	kai	nēphōmen
6 ἄρα	οὖν	μὴ	καθεύδωμεν	ὥς	οἱ	λοιποί	, ἀλλὰ	γρηγορῶμεν	καὶ	νήφωμεν .
So	then	not	we should sleep	as	the	others	but	we should watch	and	we should be sober
Conj	Conj	Adv	V-PSA-1P	Adv	Art-NMP	Adj-NMP	Conj	V-PSA-1P	Conj	V-PSA-1P

8. **Agrupneo** means to be "sleepless" and to be "watchful".a. **Agrupneuo** is a compound word made from:i. **agreuo** meaning "to chase"ii. **hupnos** meaning "sleep"

(W.E. Vine, Vine's Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words, MacDonald Publishing Company, McLean, Virginia page, 1,224).

iii. **Agrupneo** means "to chase sleep away, to be watchful, to be alert, to be on the lookout for, to be vigilant (Rogers, Cleon L., Jr., and Rogers, Cleon L., III, The New Linguistic and Exegetical Key to the Greek New Testament, 1982, page 97).iv. Rogers and Rogers refer to Lohannes P. Louw and Eugene A. Nida in their edited addition of Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament Based on Semantic Domains, New York: United Bible Societies, 1989, page 5 in their Greek Linguistic and Exegetical Key when they cite: "To make an effort to learn of what might be a potential future threat" as the meaning and intention of the Greek word **agrupneo** that we translate "awake".

Mark 13:33 –

NIV – Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come.ESV – Be on guard, keep awake. For you do not know when the time will come.

blepó = "to see, to perceive, to look at"

agrupneó = "be watchful, stay awake, be vigilant" from ἀ (a, "not") and ὕπνος (hypnos, "sleep")

Mark 13:33

991 [e]	69 [e]	3756 [e]	1492 [e]	1063 [e]	4219 [e]	3588 [e]	2540 [e]	1510 [e]	
Blepete	agrypneite	ouk	oidate	gar	pote	ho	kairos	estin	
33 βλέπετε ;	ἀγρυπνεῖτε ;	οὐκ	οἴδατε	γὰρ	πότε	ὁ	καιρός	ἐστίν .	
Take heed	watch	not	you know	for	when	the	time	is	
V-PMA-2P	V-PMA-2P	Adv	V-RIA-2P	Conj	Conj	Art-NMS	N-NMS	V-PIA-3S	

Luke 21:36 –

NIV – Be always on the watch, and pray that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man.

ESV - But stay awake at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are going to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.

agrupneó = "be watchful, stay awake, be vigilant" from ἀ (a, "not") and ὕπνος (hypnos, "sleep")

Luke 21:36

69 [e]	1161 [e]	1722 [e]	3956 [e]	2540 [e]	1189 [e]	2443 [e]	2729 [e]	1628 [e]	3778 [e]
agrypneite	de	en	panti	kairō	deomenoi	hina	katischysēte	ekphygein	tauta
36 ἀγρυπνεῖτε	δὲ	ἐν	παντὶ	καιρῷ	, δεόμενοι	ἵνα	κατισχύσητε	ἐκφυγεῖν	ταῦτα
Watch	also	at	every	season	praying	that	you may have strength	to escape	these things
V-PMA-2P	Conj	Prep	Adj-DMS	N-DMS	V-PPM/P-NMP	Conj	V-ASA-2P	V-ANA	DPro-ANP

3956 [e]	3588 [e]	3195 [e]	1096 [e]	2532 [e]	2476 [e]	1715 [e]	3588 [e]	5207 [e]	3588 [e]	444 [e]
panta	ta	mellonta	ginesthai	kai	stathēnai	emprosthen	tou	Huiou	tou	anthrōpou
πάντα	τὰ	μέλλοντα	γίνεσθαι	καὶ	σταθῆναι	ἔμπροσθεν	τοῦ	Υἱοῦ	τοῦ	ἀνθρώπου
all	that	are about	to come to pass	and	to stand	before	the	Son	-	of Man
Adj-ANP	Art-ANP	V-PPA-ANP	V-PNM/P	Conj	V-ANP	Prep	Art-GMS	N-GMS	Art-GMS	N-GMS

Notice the same word "STAND" (*stathēnai*) is used in Revelation 6:17 with the appearance of the Son of Man at the sixth seal:

Revelation 6:17 (sixth seal)

Same word "STAND" as Jesus uses in Luke 21:36

3754 [e]	2064 [e]	3588 [e]	2250 [e]	3588 [e]	3173 [e]	3588 [e]	3709 [e]	846 [e]	2532 [e]	5101 [e]	1410 [e]	2476 [e]
hoti	elthen	hē	hēmera	hē	megalē	tēs	orgēs	autōn	kai	tis	dynatai	stathēnai
17 ὅτι	ἦλθεν	ἡ	ἡμέρα	ἡ	μεγάλη	τῆς	ὀργῆς	αὐτῶν	, καὶ	τίς	δύναται	σταθῆναι
because	has come	the	day	-	great	of the	wrath	of Them	and	who	is able	to stand
Conj	V-AIA-3S	Art-NFS	N-NFS	Art-NFS	Adj-NFS	Art-GFS	N-GFS	PPro-GM3P	Conj	IPro-NMS	V-PIM/P-3S	V-ANP

9. "No one knows that day and hour." (Matt. 24:36);

"You do not know when the time will come." (Mark 13:33)

"It is not for you to know the times or seasons" (Acts 1:7)

a. Indeed, not only do we not know the day or hour of Christ's return, we have not even been given the ability to perceive it. It is a mystery kept with God the Father:

"But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only." (Matthew 24:36, ESV; also, Mark 13:32)

"He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority." (Acts 1:7, ESV)

b. What we have to realize is that there is a difference between attempting to identify the exact date of Jesus' return and being alert to prophecies recorded in the Bible to which we are commanded to give our attention. This is the difference between attempting to predict the future and comparing biblical prophecy with current world events.

c. We are told to "watch" and "be awake" so we do not fall away from the Truth (as Jesus said, many shall "fall away and will betray one another and hate one another", Mt. 24:10) or become

intoxicated by the pleasures and the worries of the world (as Paul commanded: “let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be awake and sober. For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night”, 1 Thess. 5:6-7).

- d. In other words, we are not to be predicting, but we are to be watching! We are not be ignorant of the Lord’s return; instead, we are to understand it.
- e. The scholars of Scripture of 30 AD even rejected the prophesied Messiah and had him crucified as a blasphemer. Yes, you know that is right! The prophecy gurus and authorities of Scripture completely misunderstood the prophecy they had lectured on when it became an actual historical event

10. We should study.

- a. We should be watching for the Lord’s return.
- b. We should compare prophecy with current events.
- c. We should create and compare eschatological models.
- d. We definitely should have an opinion!
- e. To deny any of these things is to deny the command in scripture to be alert, to be watching, to be ready...even if it is later than we anticipate!

11. The alternatives are wrong:

- a. Ignoring or being ignorant concerning the teaching of the Lord’s return puts you in the category of the “sleeper” (1 Thessalonians 5:1-7; Matthew 25:1-13)
- b. The believer who is consumed with worldly living, false philosophies and their temporal life is drunk on the world and not spiritually sober (1 Thessalonians 5:1-7; Matthew 24:45-51)
- c. The believer (*Is such a title even possible?*) who denies the Lord will return, is the false teacher Peter warned was coming (2 Peter 3:3-5; 16)

12. Be a “Watcher”:

So, the problem is not with those who are watching, comparing events with scripture, forming an opinion, and making charts. This group is clearly awake, alert and watching. This group is centered. They are the balanced group. They are living in the world, but still watching and waiting.

13. Do not be a “Knower”:

The problem comes when someone in that group of watchers and waiters becomes overconfident and, in their arrogance, begins to reject others who are also watching. In other words, a group of watchers can fellowship together, but once one of the watchers becomes a “knower” and establishes his model as “authoritative”, then we begin to have a conflict.

14. “Knowers” do not like “watchers.” Watchers are alert and studying, but they are not drunk on the world or on a particular eschatological model.

15. You can be committed to your idea, but you cannot be dogmatic. Why?

- a. Because these events have not happened yet.
- b. These events are mysteries.
- c. Jesus even told his own disciples they would be surprised when it all came together.
- d. Even Daniel, the great prophet whose prophecies are always used by both prophecy “watchers” and prophecy “knowers” was still asking questions at the end of his vision. Even after seeing the

vision that many of us study, Daniel himself said,

“I heard, but I did not understand. So I asked, ‘My lord, what will the outcome of all this be?’”
(Daniel 12:8).

If Daniel, who wrote the book, was still confused and asking questions at the end of the book, then I had better be smart enough to know when to stop saying, “I know the answer”.

- e. So, I need to teach what I can, diagram what I understand, but be willing to tolerate other watchers, encourage the students and not get drunk on my own teaching!
 - i. When I speculate on the things that are not clear or when I create a diagram of the mystery, I need to have enough courage to say, “I do not know, but here is my speculation. Here is my model. Use it if it is useful, but make corrections when you have more insight.”

16. Jesus even begins his eschatological teaching in Matthew 24 by saying:

“Watch out that no one deceives you!”.

Likewise Paul, in 2 Thessalonians 2:3 says, concerning the Lord’s return:

“Don’t let anyone deceive you in any way.”

17. A Correct Eschatological Basis

- a. We still do have to begin to make some distinction between right and wrong biblical eschatology.
- b. If we are going to be “watchers” we will eventually need to classify the wide variety of eschatological teachings as:
 - i. doctrinal statements,
 - ii. correct interpretations,
 - iii. possible scenarios,
 - iv. speculation,
 - v. imaginative creations,
 - vi. defective interpretations,
 - vii. deception
 - viii. denials of the Truth.

18. An example of what I would consider a doctrinal statement would be:

“We believe in the deity of Jesus Christ and in his personal return to earth in power and glory.”

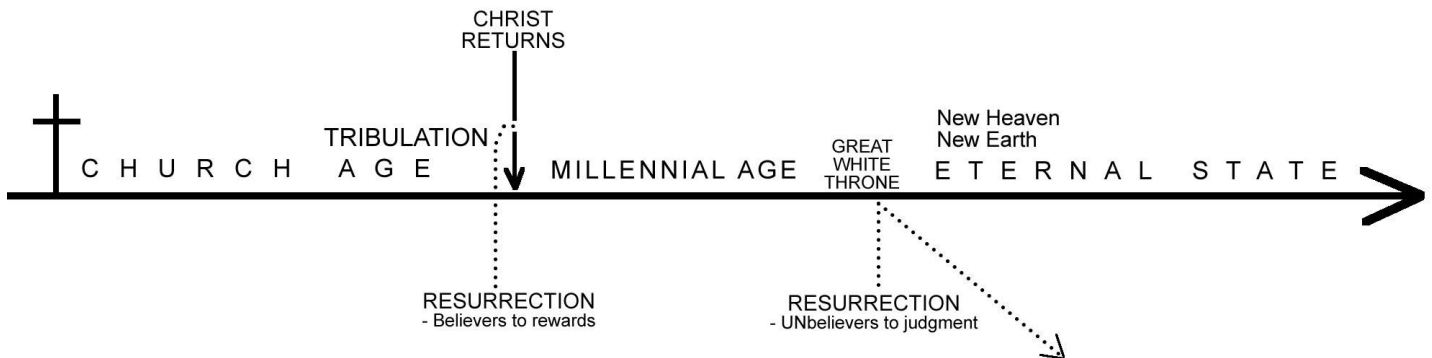
- a. That statement is supported by Scripture, but does not speculate on the date of his return to earth.
- b. This doctrinal statement does not include an interpretation of scriptural evidence concerning how Jesus returns to earth in power or glory.
- c. Also, this statement can be used in a variety of eschatological models amid a wide range of sequences of events.

19. An example of what I would consider to be a denial of the Truth would be similar to Peter’s warning of the words of false teachers:

“Where is this ‘coming’ he promised? Ever since the fathers died everything goes on as it has since the beginning.” (2 Peter 3:4)

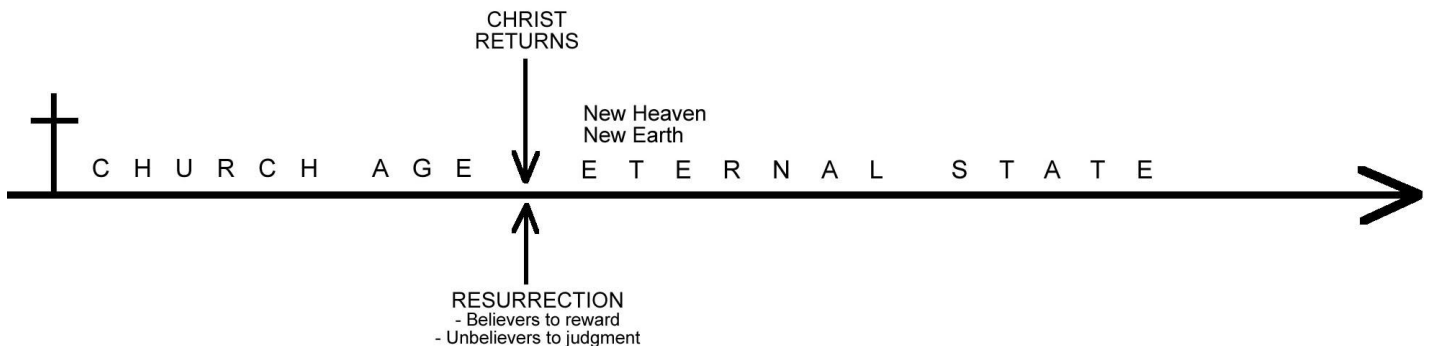
PREMILLENNIALISM

- CHILIASM (*chilioi* = "a thousand")
- CLASSIC PREMILLENNIALISM
- HISTORIC PREMILLENNIALISM



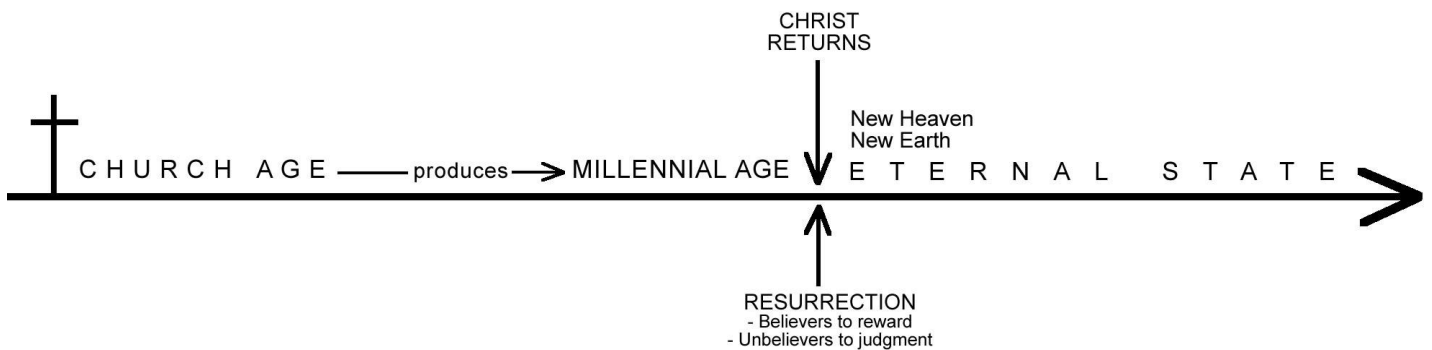
- The general order of events held by Christian writers from 90-200 AD including disciples of the Apostles: Clement of Rome (98 AD), Papias (60-130 AD), Justin Martyr (150 AD), Irenaeus (150-202 AD), Tertullian (160-240), Hippolytus (170-235), Methodius (died 311), Lactantius (250-325),
- The early church understood this sequence of events:
 - Church,
 - future period of Tribulation,
 - a literal man in the future as Antichrist who persecutes the church during Tribulation,
 - Second Coming of Jesus in power/Glory to take his church after a period of great suffering,
 - A literal 1,000-year (millennial) reign of King Jesus on earth with physically resurrected saints,
 - Fulfillment of OT promises given to Jews during this earthly kingdom age
 - A general resurrection to judge unbelievers

AMILLENNIALISM



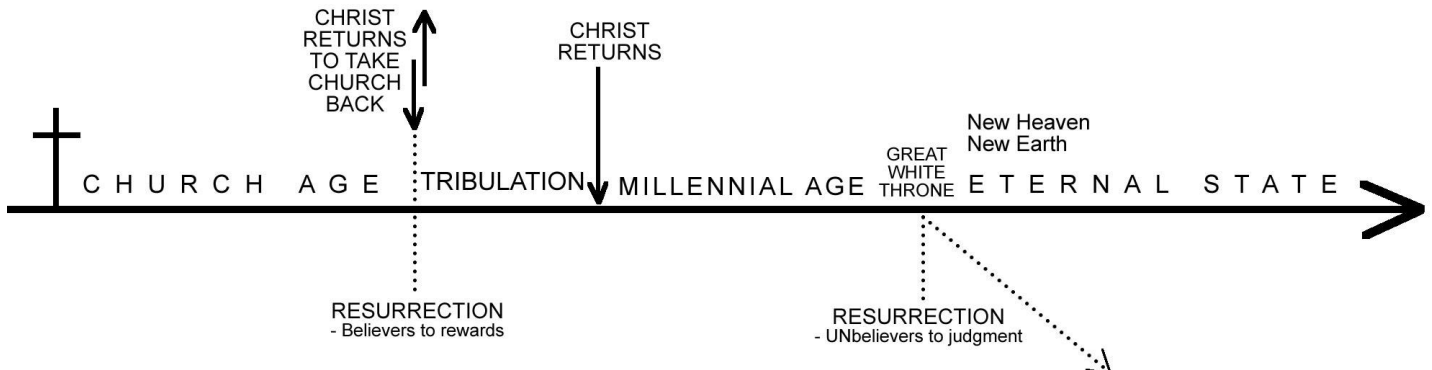
- John 5:25-29, Jesus said to Jews who opposed him: **"Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming, and is now here, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live... for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment."**
- Acts 24:14-15, Paul says to Governor Felix: **"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, having a hope in God, which these men themselves accept, that there will be a resurrection of both the just and the unjust."**

POSTMILLENNIALISM



- Romans 16:25-27: “Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith— to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen.”

PRETRIBULATIONAL PREMILLENNIALISM



PREWRATH PREMILLENNIALISM

