

Introducing Amillennialism

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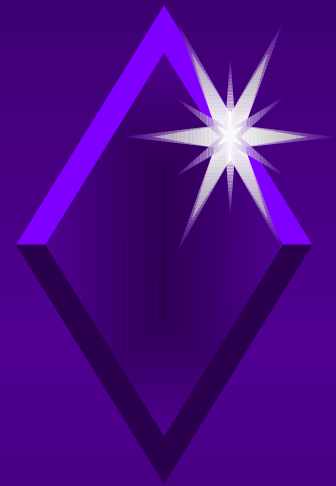
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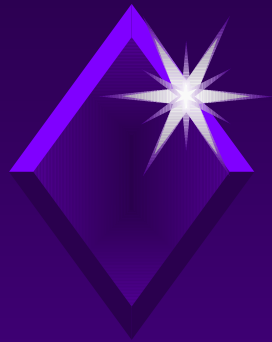
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A. Millennial Positions



OT Eschatological Prophecy

Isaiah 65:17-25

When is it fulfilled?



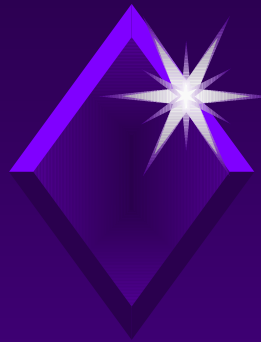
Today

Consummation

? Another Time?

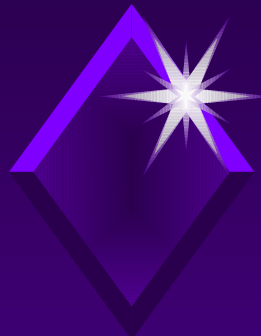
A big, tough question.





A Silver Age





Dating the Silver Age



Dating 1



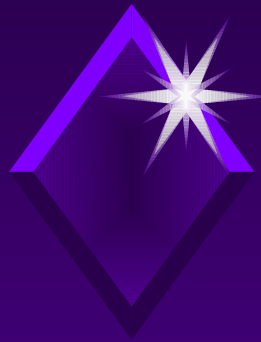
Dating 2



First Coming



Second Coming



Millennial Positions

◆ Premil

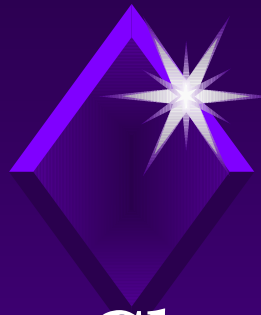


◆ Postmil



◆ Amil





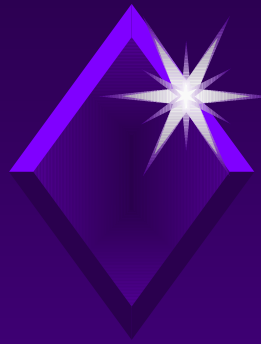
Two Premillennialisms

◆ Classic premillennialism



◆ Dispensational premillennialism



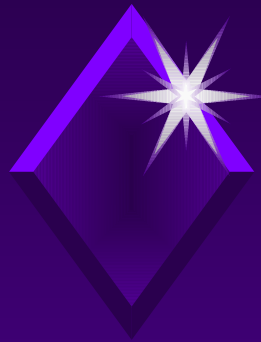


Amillennialism



Simple.

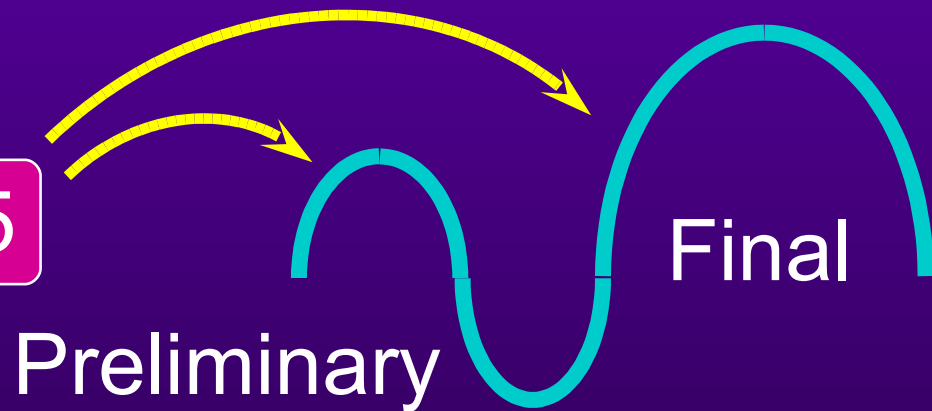




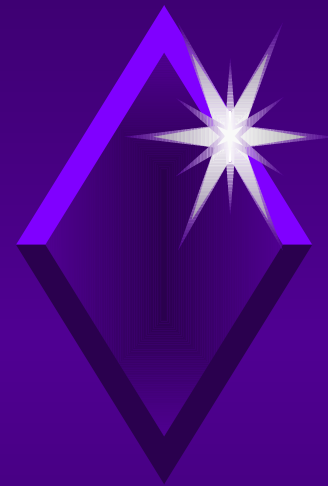
Two-Stage Fulfillment



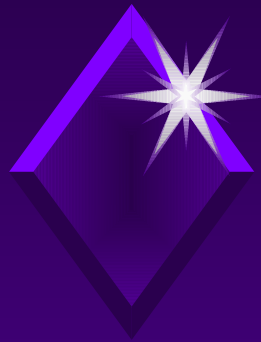
Isa 65:17-25



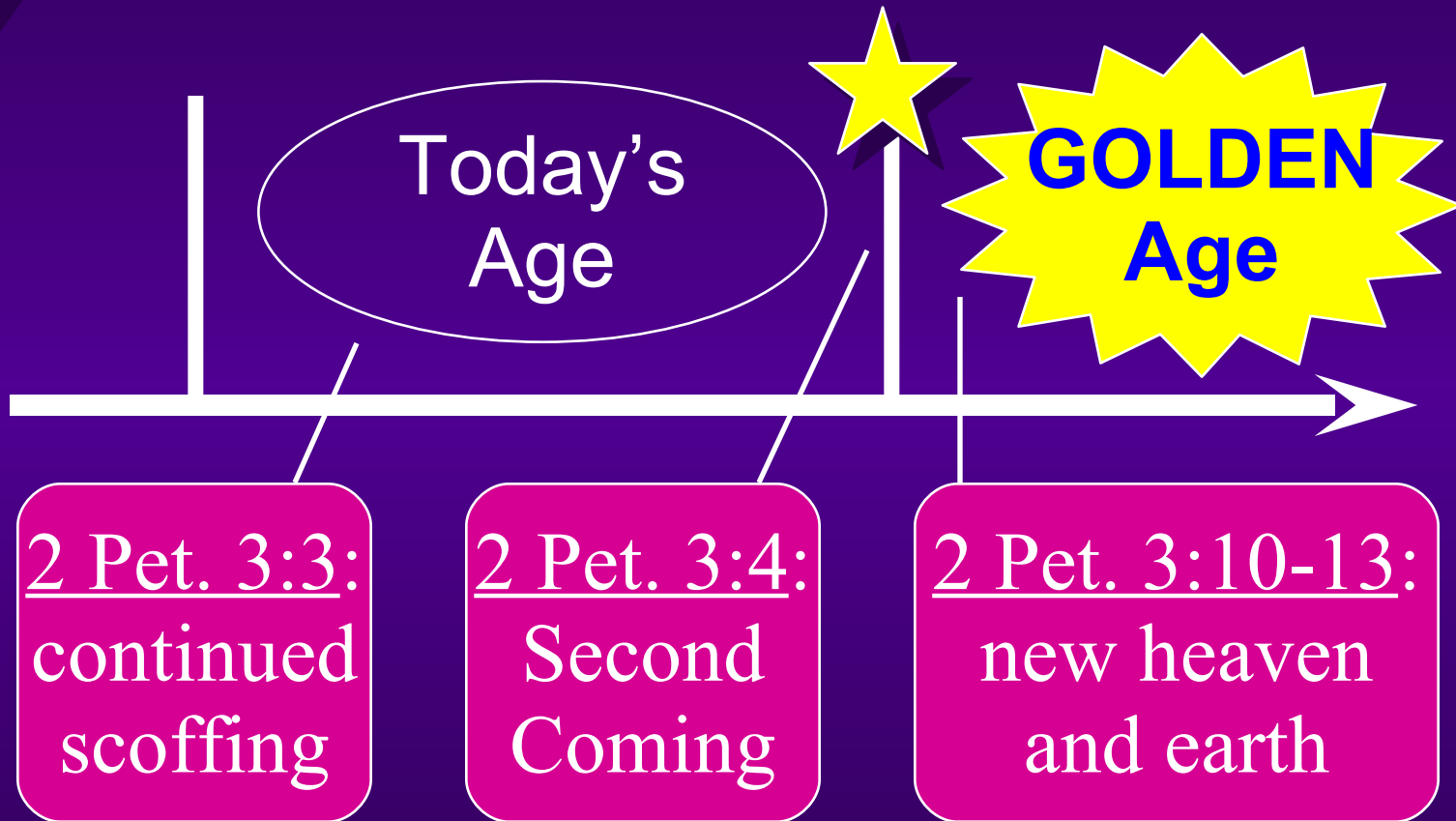
Isa. 65:17, “new heaven and new earth,” already points to the golden age.

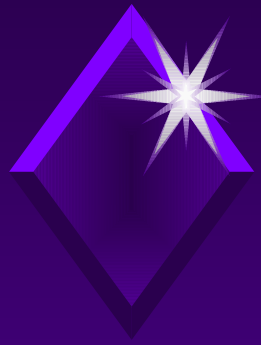


B. Evaluating Millennial Positions



Support for Amillennialism



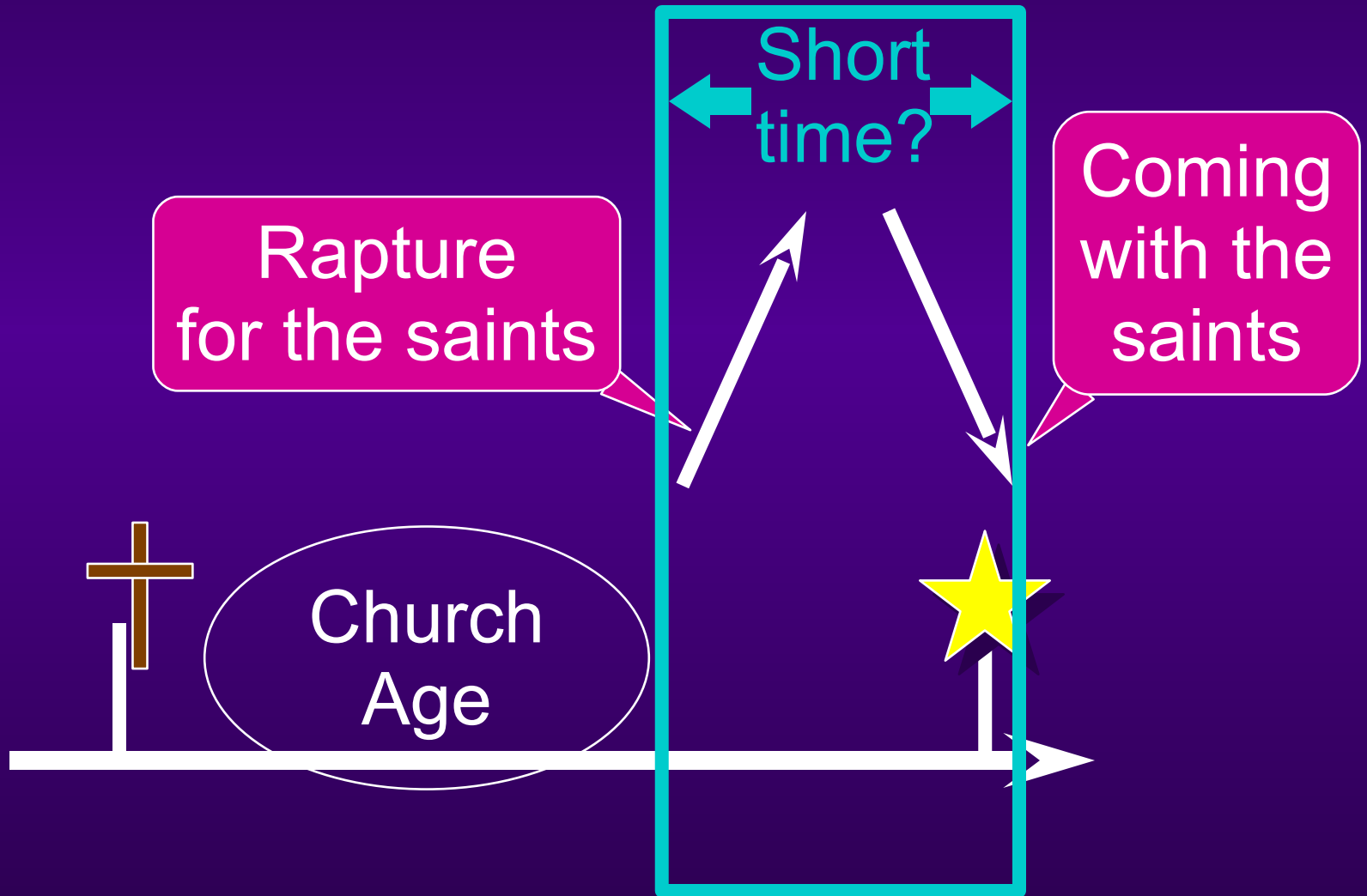


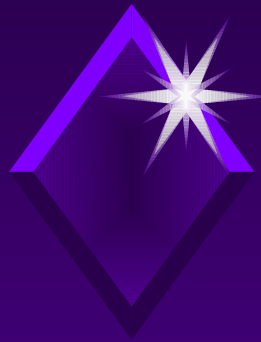
Strongest Arguments for the Millennial Positions

- ◆ Premil
- ◆ Postmil
- ◆ Amil
- ◆ Zechariah 14
- ◆ Parables of growth
- ◆ 2 Thessalonians 1



Unified Second Coming?

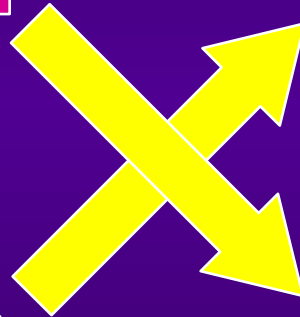




Reversal in 2 Thess 1:6-7

Unbelievers
bring trouble

Believers
have relief

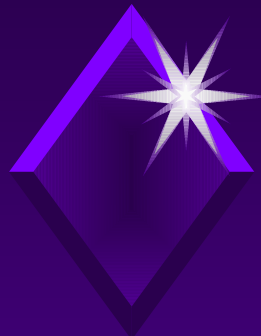


Believers
are troubled

Unbelievers
are troubled



Symmetric



Simultaneous Comfort and Trouble

Comfort
for saints

Trouble
for troublers



When the Lord Jesus
is revealed (1:7).



Simultaneous





Meaning of Comfort and Trouble

Comfort
for saints

Trouble
for troublers

||

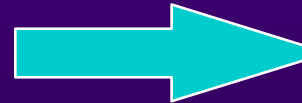
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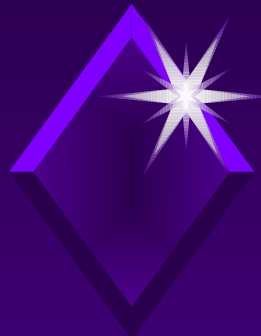
Rapture
of saints

Destruction
(hell), v. 9



Simultaneous





Dual Destinies in 2 Thess 1

Unbelievers
bring trouble

Believers
have relief

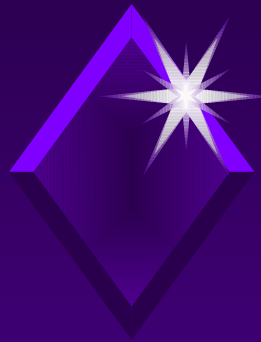
◆ = Resur-
rection glory



Believers
are troubled

Unbelievers
are troubled

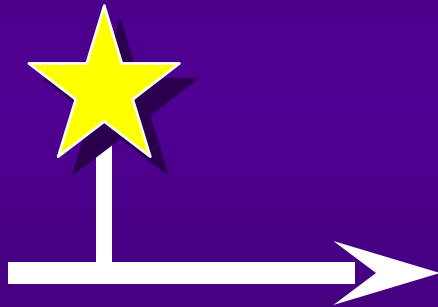
◆ = Punish-
ment in hell



A Third Group in 2 Thess 1?

Believers
have relief

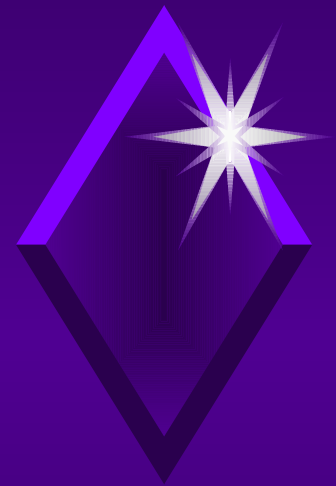
◆ = Resurrection
glory



Who will populate
a millennium??

Unbelievers
are troubled

◆ = Punishment in
hell



C. Revelation 20:1-10



Favorite Passages for Millennium

Premillennialists:

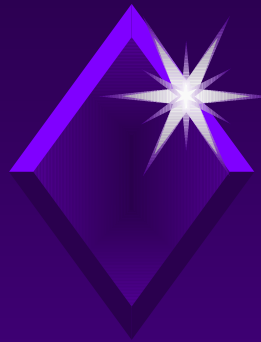
Rev. 20:1-10
as favorite

It appears to
describe a
silver age.

Amillennialists:

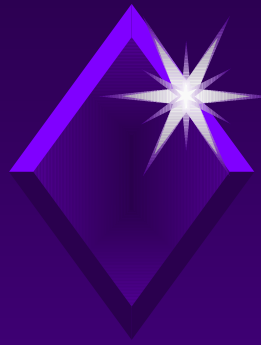
John 5:28-29;
2 Pet. 3:7
as favorite

General judgment
moves from this age
directly to golden age.



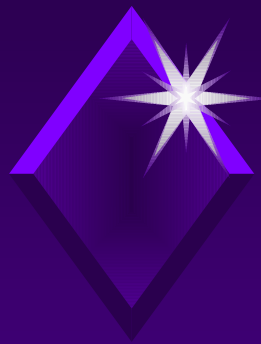
Premil points from Rev. 20:1-10

- ◆ **Chronological order (from 19:11 to 20:15)**
- ◆ **The first resurrection (20:4-6)**
- ◆ **Binding of Satan (20:2)**
- ◆ **Straightforward reading**



Reply to Premil Points

- ◆ **Chronology**
- ◆ **First resurrection**
- ◆ **Binding of Satan**
- ◆ **Straightforward**
- ◆ **Recapitulation**
- ◆ **Disembodied existence (20:4; cf. Rev. 6:9)?**
- ◆ **Not material chain. See Rev. 12:7-9, Luke 10:18, 11:20-22; Jude 6.**
- ◆ **Already/ yet-to-come**



Already and Yet to Come for Rev 20

Already

Yet to Come

◆ **Prophecy**

**Down
payment**

**Full
inheritance**

◆ **19:11-21**

War now

Final war

◆ **Binding**

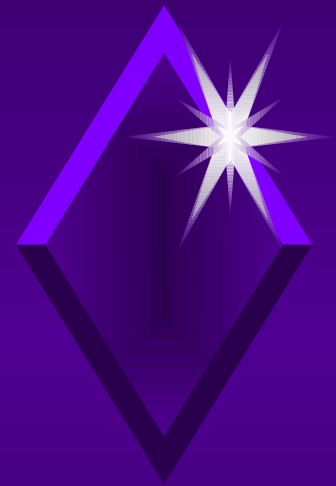
**Luke 10:18;
11:20-22**

**Future
triumph**

◆ **New life**

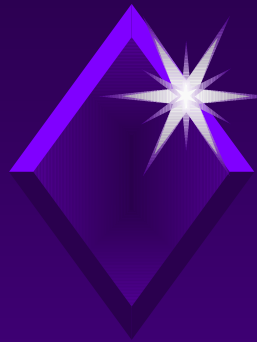
**Regeneration
Col. 3:1;
Eph. 2:5-6**

**Bodily
resurrection**



D. Chronological Order

in Rev. 19:11-20:15



Premils' View of Order of Events

19:11-21

Last
battle;
Second
Coming

20:1-10

Reign of
1000
years

20:11-15

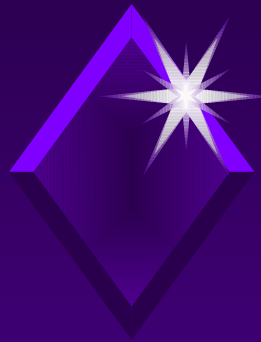
Last
Judgment

21:1-22:5

New
World

Events in
succession

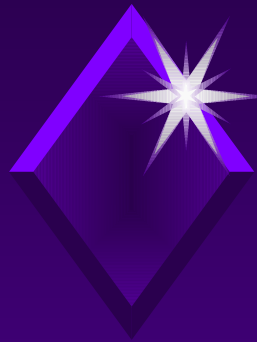
Events in
succession



Premillennialism

1000 years
= millennium





View 20:1-10 as Recapitulation

19:11-21

Last
battle;
Second
Coming

20:1-6

20:7-10

1000
years

Last
Battle

20:11-15

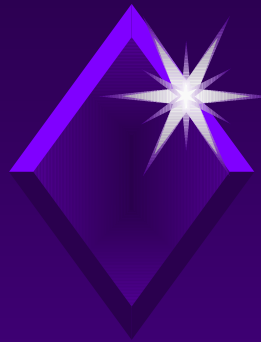
Last
Judgment

21:1-22:5

New
World



Cycling through the
same period



Manner of Recapitulation

last
battle

19:11-21

1000 years
triumph by faith

last
battle

20:1-6, 7-10

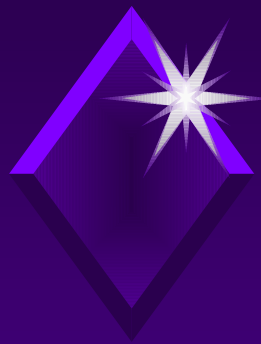


Today



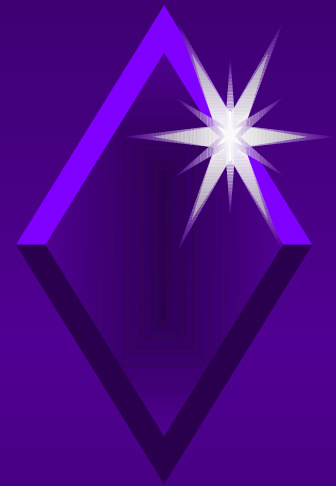
Gold



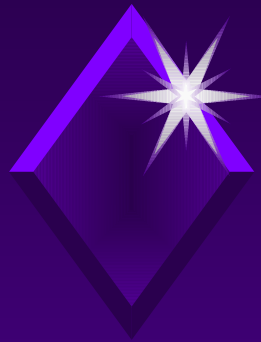


Evidence for Recapitulation in Rev. 20

- ◆ Nations of 20:3 perished in 19:19-21.
- ◆ Vanishing sky in 6:14 same as 20:11.
- ◆ In 15:1 the bowls include all wrath, thus including the wrath of 20:9-10.
- ◆ The final battle occurs in 16:14,16; 17:13-14; 19:19-21; 20:7-10.
- ◆ Imagery from Ezekiel 38-39 occurs in both 19:11-21 and 20:7-10.



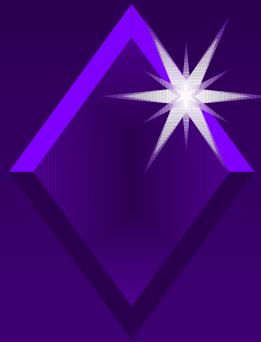
E. The First Resurrection



Is First Resurrection of Body?

- ◆ Other places in the New Testament use the word “resurrection” for bodily resurrection.
- ◆ It is a remedy for martyrs (20:4).
- ◆ Many say, “Context does not tell us that this use is figurative.”

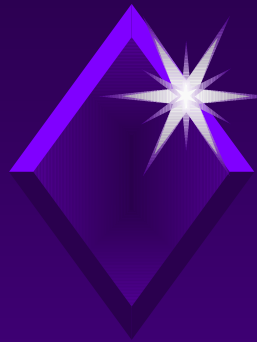
But let's look at the context.



First and Last

Rev 20-22 concerns first and last things:

- ◆ **New heaven and earth are last.**
- ◆ **22:1-5 returns us to Eden.**
- ◆ **19:5-8 returns to an Edenic marriage.**
- ◆ **“First” and “second” in 20:1-15 match this theme.**
- ◆ **“Second death” in 20:14-15 is last.**



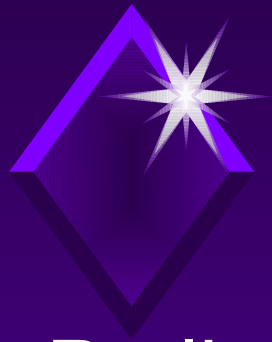
First and Second in Rev 20:1-10

First death

- ◆ **First is Preliminary:**
 - ◆ Luke 18:30; Matt 12:32
- ◆ **Bodily death**

Second death

- ◆ **Second is Final:**
 - ◆ 1 Cor 15:45; Heb 9:28
- ◆ **Spiritual**
- ◆ **With bodily resurrection**



Contrasts in Rev 20:1-10

Preliminary:

First death

Body

First resurrection

?

Final:

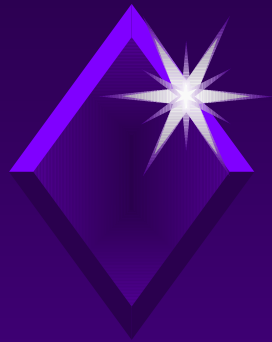
Second death

Spiritual

Second resurrection

Body

Paradoxical: with
bodily resurrection



The First Resurrection

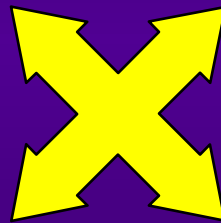
First death

Body

Second death

Spiritual

Paradoxical: with
bodily resurrection



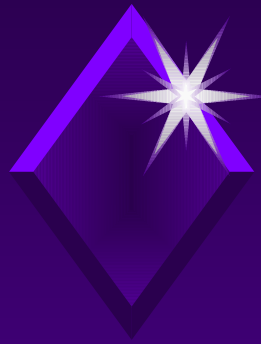
First resurrection

Spiritual

Paradoxical: with
bodily death

Second
resurrection

Body



Klinian Symmetries

The Righteous have:

- ◆ **One death**
- ◆ **Two
resurrections**

The Wicked have:

- ◆ **Two deaths**
- ◆ **One resurrection**

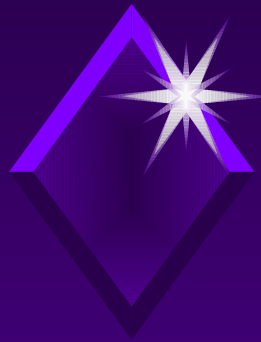


Practical Question for Rev 20:1-10

- ◆ **Martyrdom threatens the church.**
- ◆ **Persecutors eliminate martyrs.**
- ◆ **Do persecutors win?**



We need
reassurance.



Exhortation from Rev 20:1-10

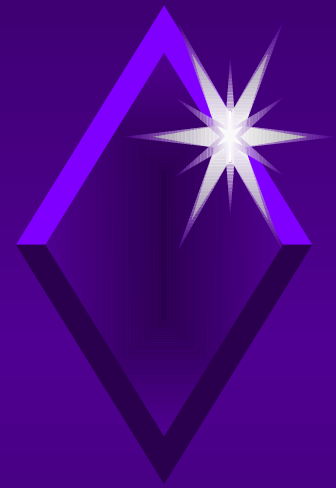
- ◆ **Christ is the pattern.**
- ◆ **Martyrdom leads to victorious resurrection.**
- ◆ **Rev 20:1-10 applies the pattern to Christians.**
- ◆ **Message: victory through perseverance in Christ.**

Christ
raised

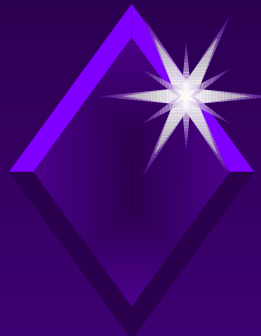


Christians
raised

◆ **in Christ**

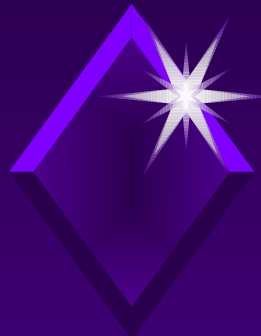


F. Other Issues



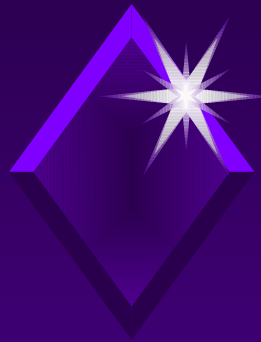
Binding of Satan

- ◆ Satan is a spirit being; “binding” not physical.
- ◆ Jesus’ work limits (“binds”) Satan: Luke 10:18; 11:22; John 12:31; Rev. 12:9.
- ◆ “Binding” keeps Satan from deceiving the nations.
- ◆ Christ frees the nations from Satan’s deceit, Matt. 28:18-20.



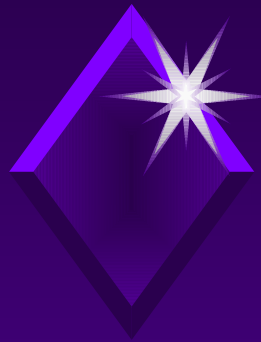
Binding of Satan

- ◆ Satan is a spirit being, so that “binding” does not first of all involve physical holding.
- ◆ Jesus’ work limits (“binds”) Satan and his agents: Luke 10:18; 11:22; John 12:31; Rev. 12:9.
- ◆ The “binding” of Rev. 20:2 keeps Satan from deceiving the nations.
- ◆ The authority of Christ frees the nations from Satan’s deceit, Matt. 28:18-20.



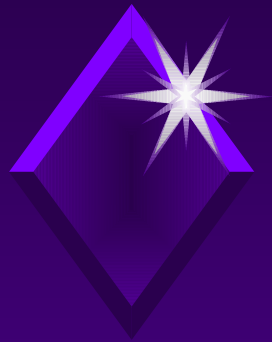
Revelation As Not Literal

- ◆ John literally saw the visions.
- ◆ But what he saw was visionary,
symbolic.
- ◆ To read literally is mistaken.



Revelation As Not Literal

- ◆ John literally saw the visions.
- ◆ But what he saw was visionary, symbolic. The Beast symbolizes persecuting power.
- ◆ To read literally what is intended symbolically does not really honor the Author.

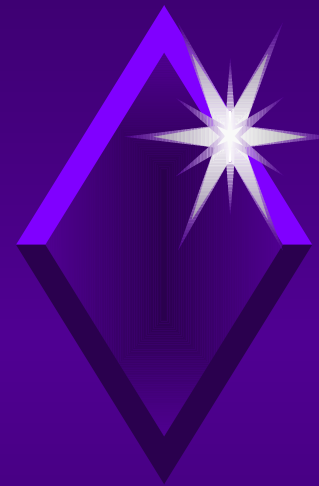


G. Attitudes

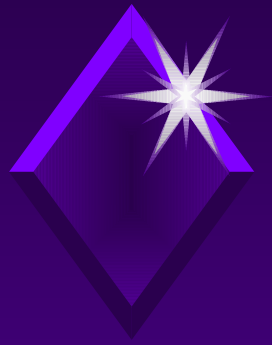
- ◆ **God is more interested in major biblical teachings.**
- ◆ **“The haughtiness of man shall be humbled, and the lofty pride of men shall be brought low, and the LORD alone will be exalted in that day,” Isa 2:17.**



God is wiser
than I.

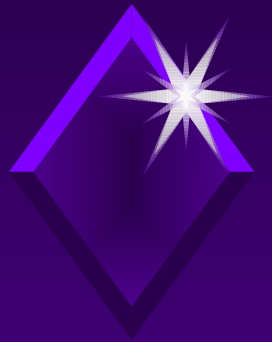


H. Extra Thoughts



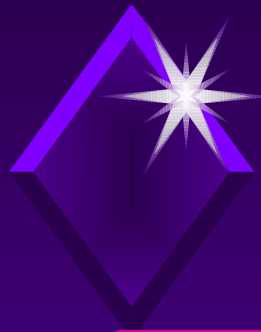
The Issues

- ◆ **Dispute just on Rev 20?**
- ◆ **Involving many texts**
- ◆ **Ignore wrong views?**
- ◆ **No, some biblical texts appear to support each position.**
- ◆ **Central issue?**
- ◆ **Fulfillment of OT prophecy**



The Issues

- ◆ Is the dispute just on Rev 20?
- ◆ Ignore wrong views?
- ◆ Central issue?
- ◆ Complex issue, involving many texts
- ◆ No, some biblical texts appear to support each position.
- ◆ Fulfillment of OT prophecy



Origin of Term “Millennium”

Rev. 20:2-7

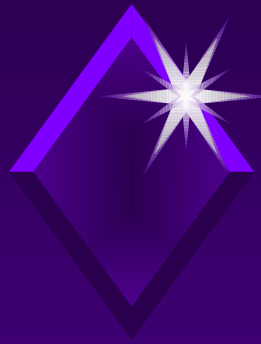
1000 years

millennium

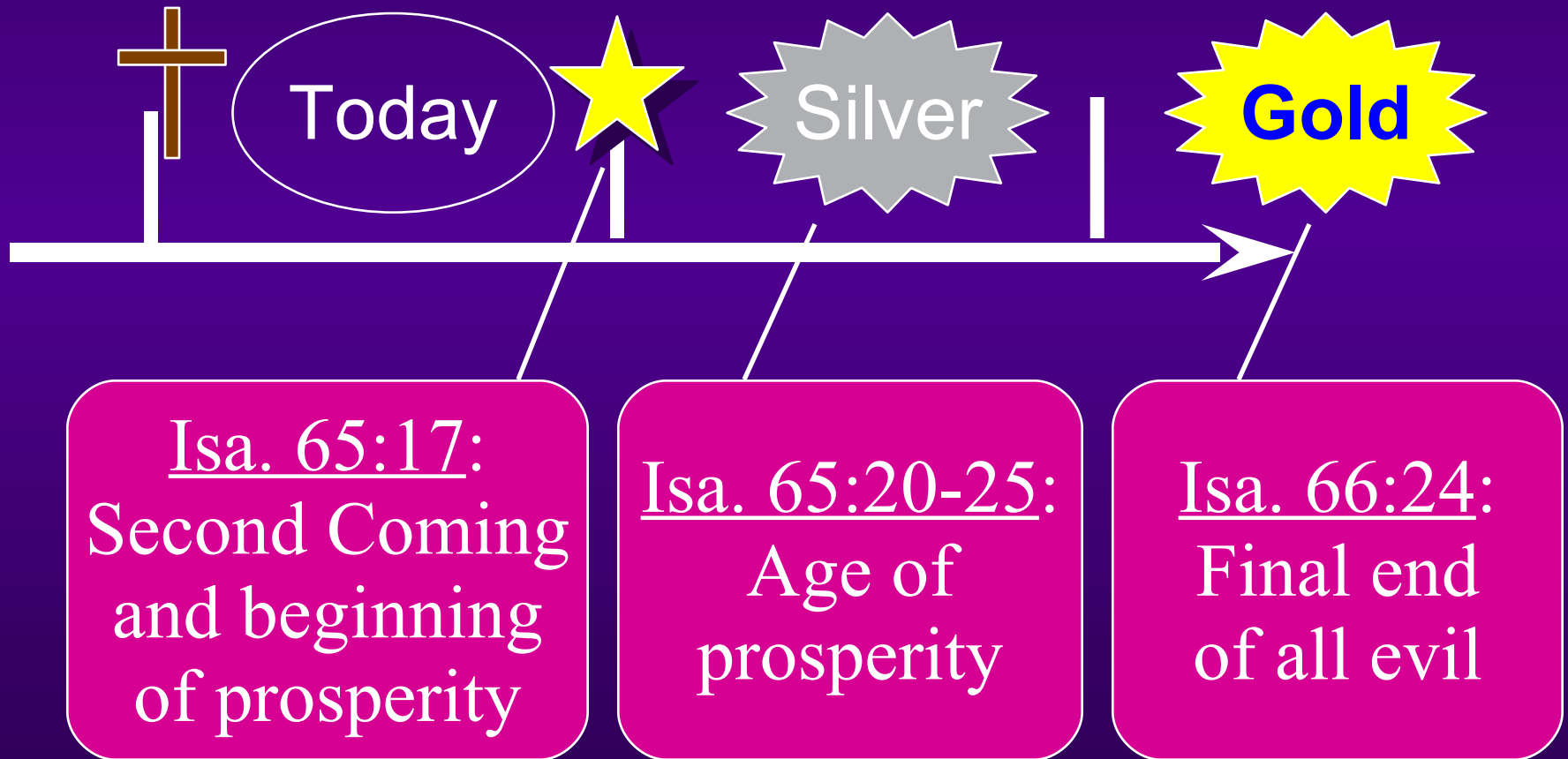
silver age

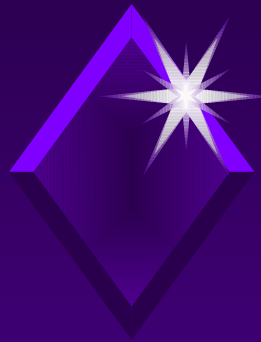
date Coming

- ◆ Rev 20:2-7 speaks of “1000 years.”
- ◆ “1000 years” in Latin is “millennium.”
- ◆ The 1000 years may be a silver age.
- ◆ Premillennial indicates the Second Coming is before Silver.



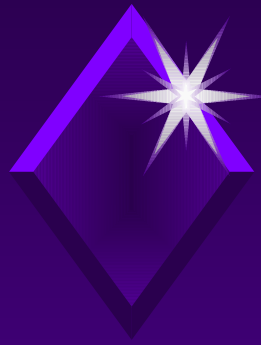
Premillennialism



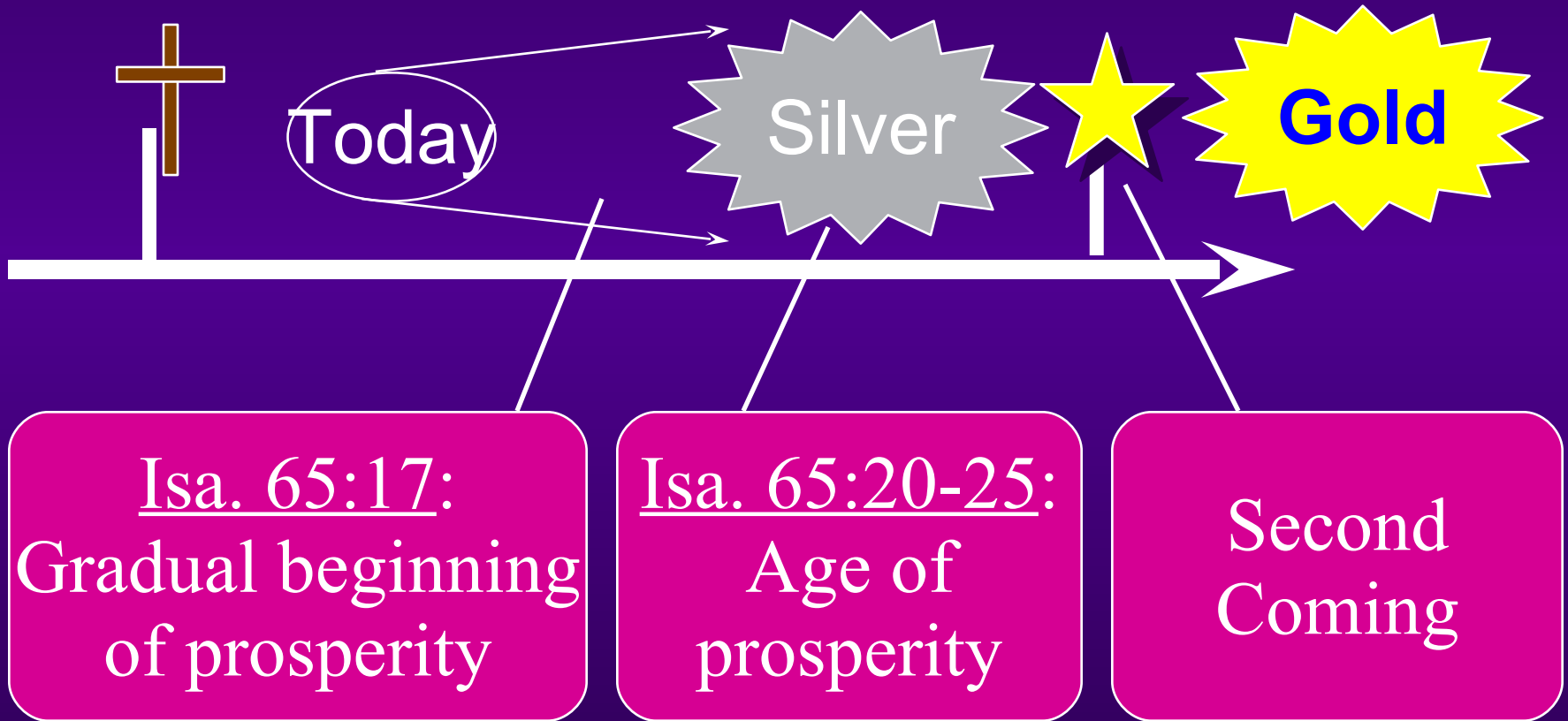


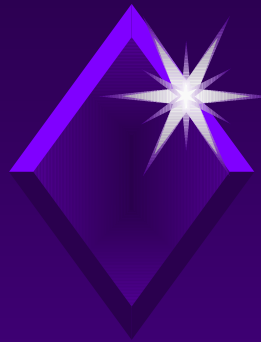
Support for Premillennialism



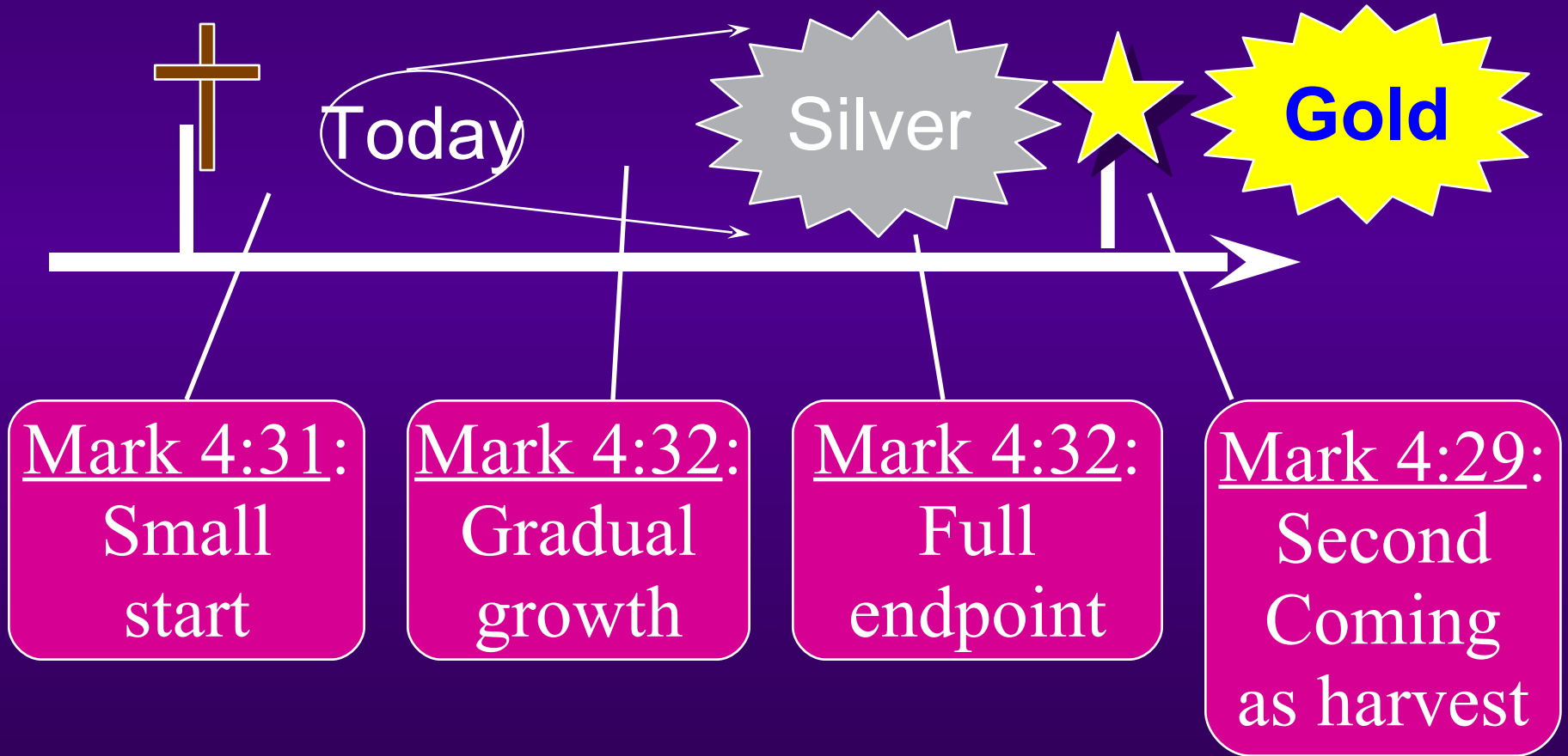


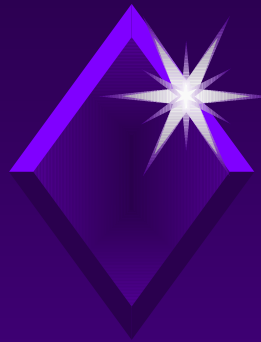
Postmillennialism





Support for Postmillennialism





No Silver Age

Today's
Age

**GOLDEN
Age**

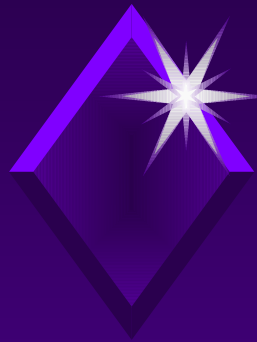
= Age of Triumph
of Faith



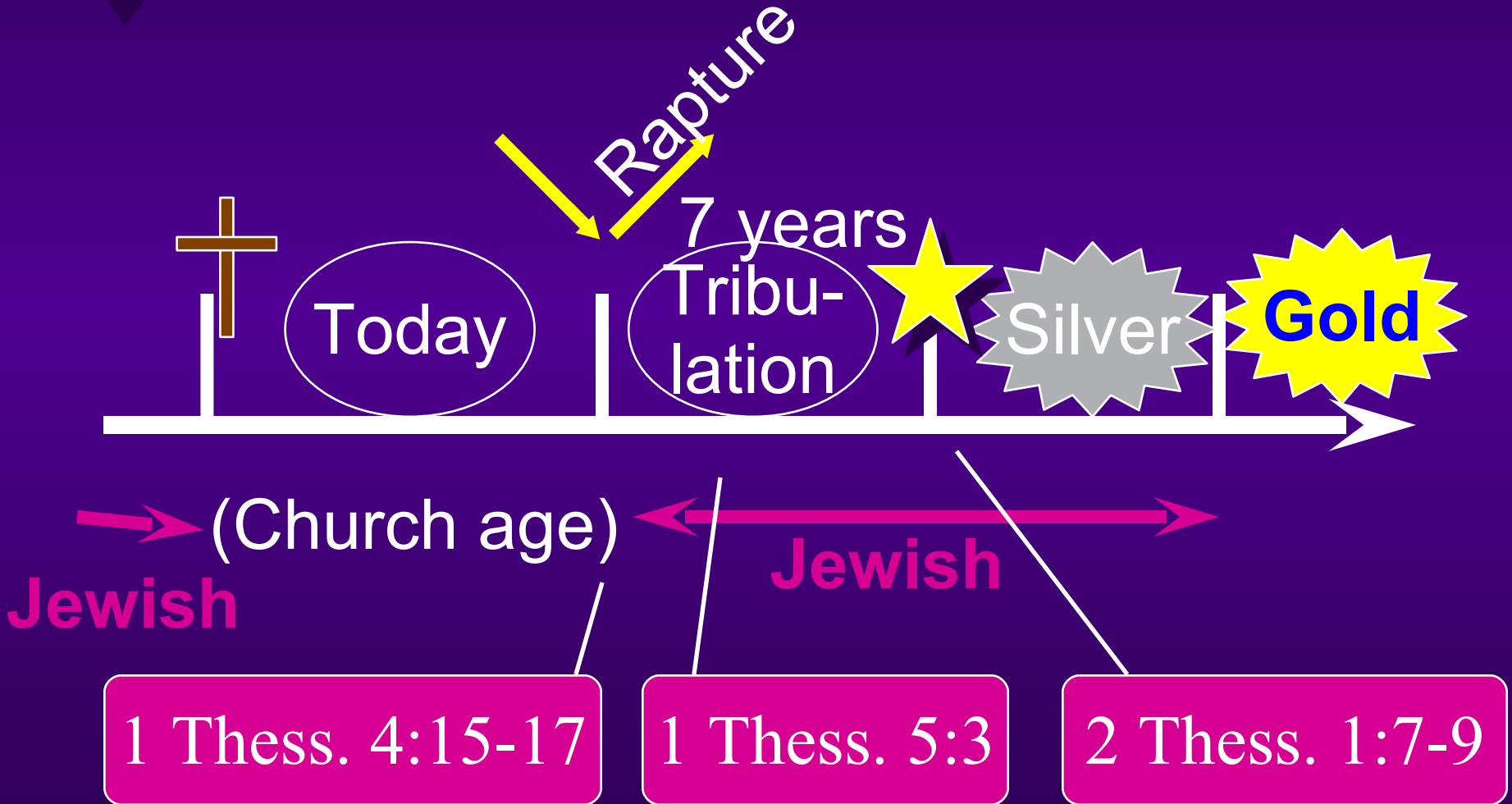
First Coming

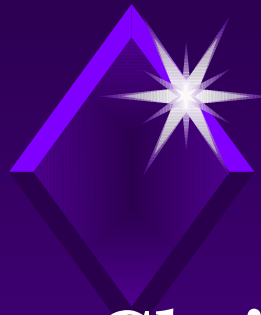


Second
Coming



Dispensational Premillennialism



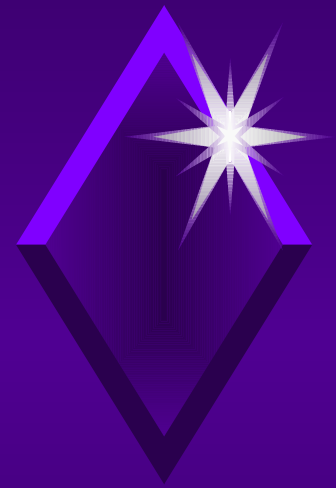


Agreements and Disagreements

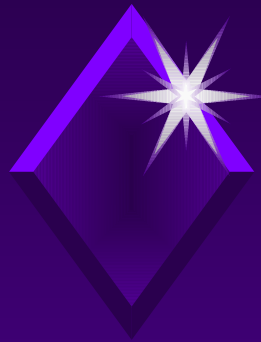
- ◆ **Christ will appear**
- ◆ **He will reign**
- ◆ **A new world**
- ◆ **What is next after his appearing?**
- ◆ **What is just before his appearing?**
- ◆ **Order of events**
- ◆ **Three main positions: premillennialism, postmillennialism, amillennialism**

Some things
are sure.



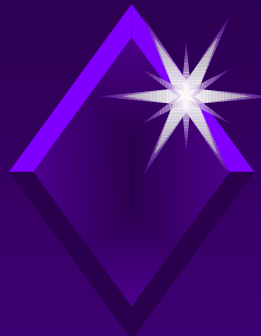


B. Distinctives of the Positions



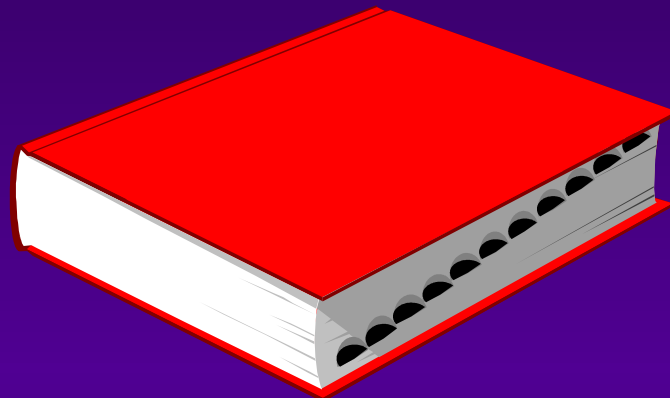
Biblical Insights of the Positions

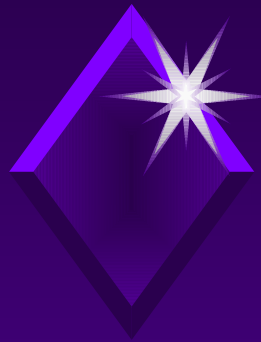
- ◆ **Each view has some strength**
- ◆ **Each view shares something with others**



Amil Distinctive

- ◆ Premil and postmil share a more straightforward reading of the OT
- ◆ Amil is more venturesome: love poetry to Jerusalem





Premil Distinctive

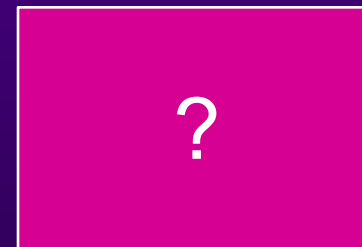
◆ **Amil and Postmil:**
Second Coming
power and glory
leads immediately
to consummation



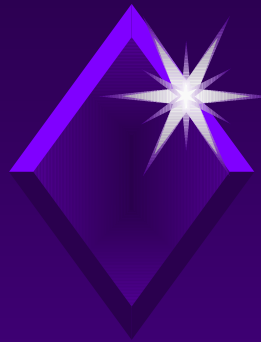
Consum-
mation

◆ **Premil has an**
extra box for
awkward texts

Today

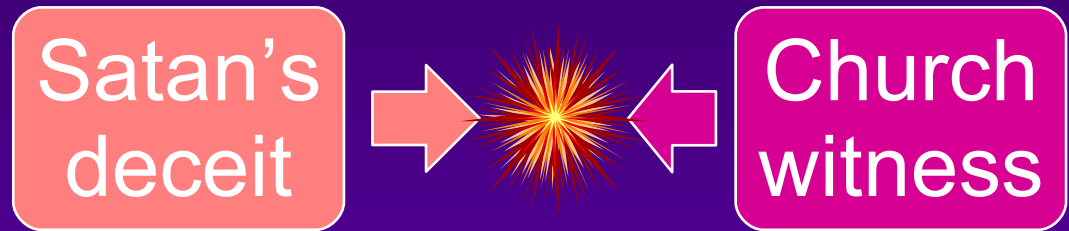


Consum-
mation



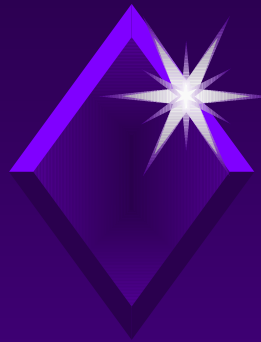
Postmil Distinctive

◆ Premil and amil:
continued struggle
of good and evil



◆ Postmil:
expect conversions



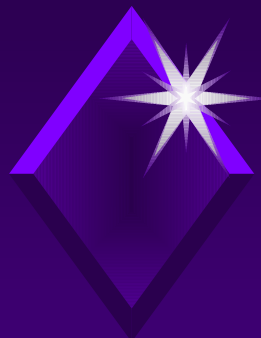


Lessons from the Positions

- ◆ Premil
- ◆ Postmil
- ◆ Amil
- ◆ Christ is larger than now; long for Second Coming
- ◆ Christ reigns now; therefore we are optimistic.
- ◆ Christ reigns now.

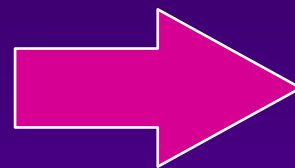
They all
sound good.





Premil to Amil Transition

Fewer problems with silver leads to gold.

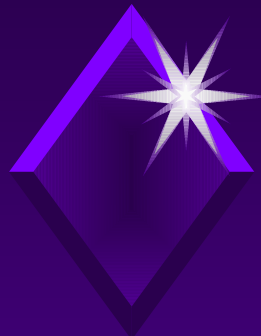


◆ Premil



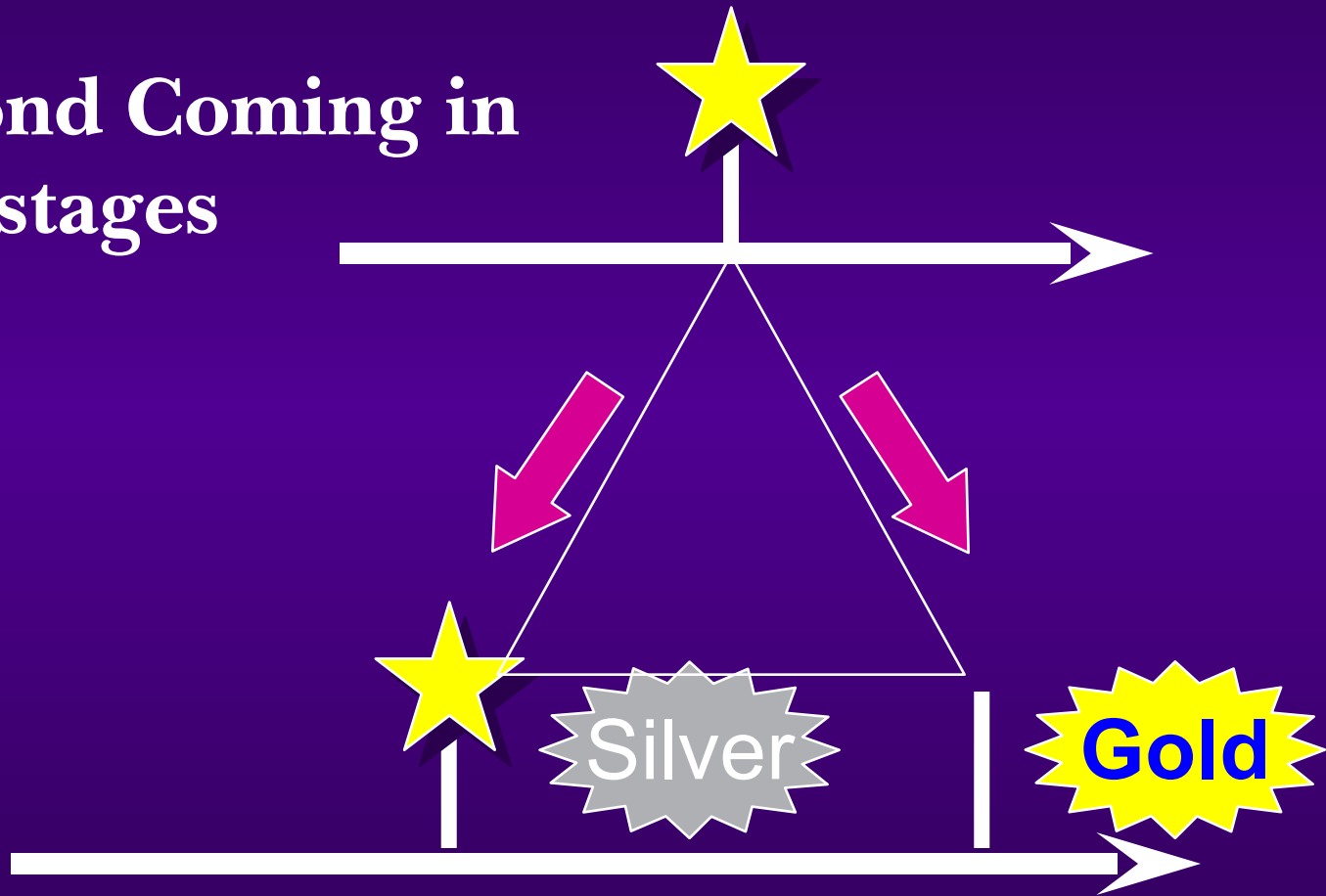
◆ Amil

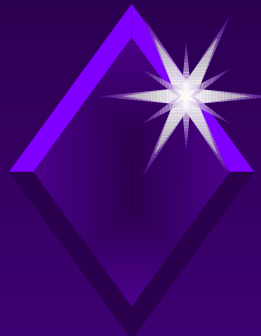




Amil to Premil Transition

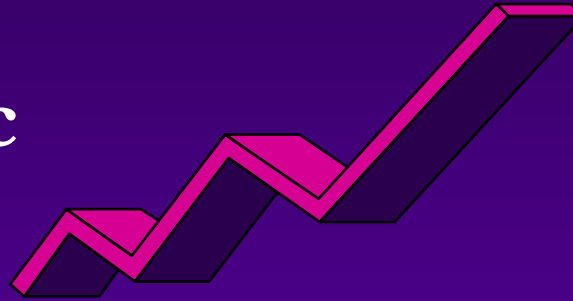
- ◆ **Second Coming in two stages**





Amil to Postmil Transition

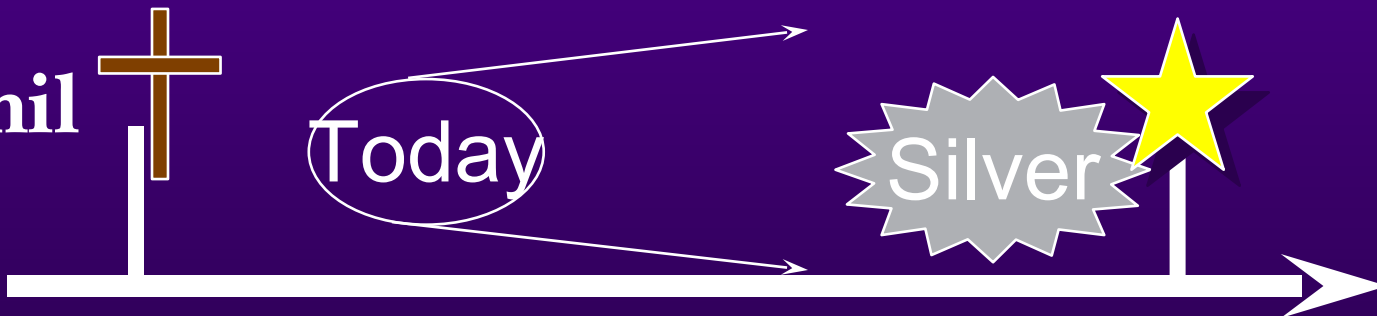
◆ Become optimistic

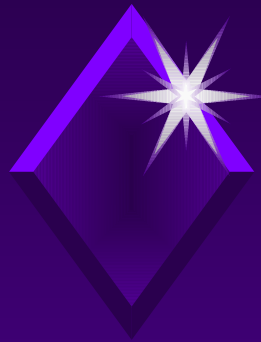


Amil



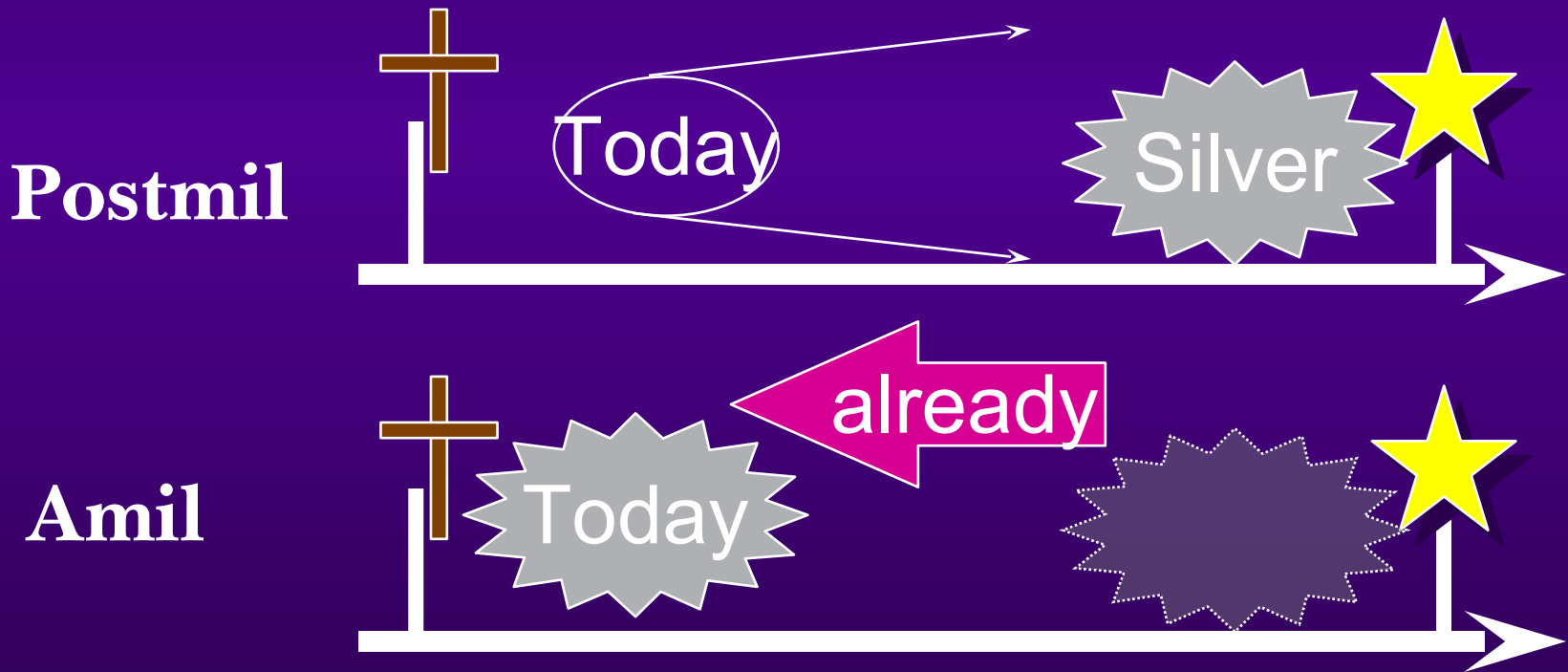
Postmil

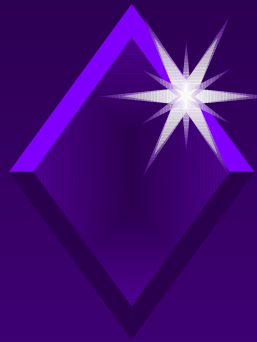




Postmil to Amil Transition

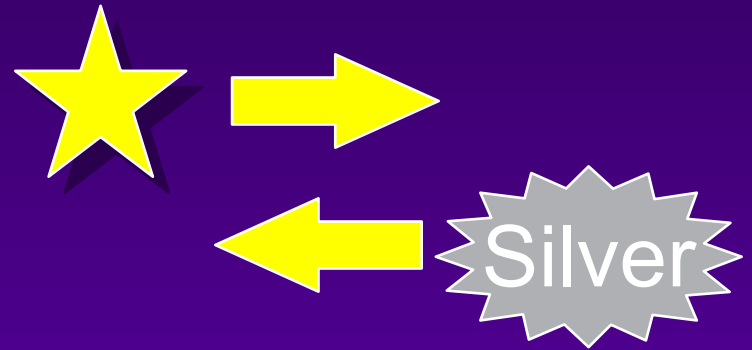
- ◆ **Optimism becomes present triumph**





Premil to Postmil Transition (or back)

◆ **Change the timing**



◆ **Premil**



◆ **Postmil**

