The Millennium and Revelation 20:1-10

Victory through Perseverance

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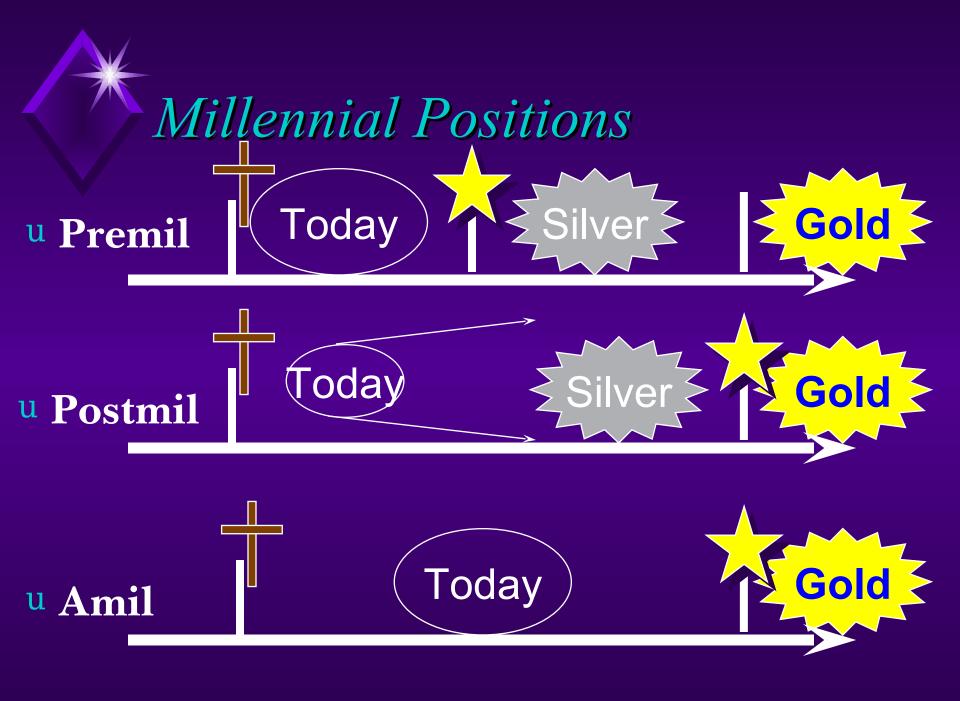
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The Millennium: Basic Points

- A. There are Three Millennial Positions
- B. Each Have Some Strengths
- C. 2 Thess 1:5-10 favors amillennialism
- D. Revelation 20:1-10 recapitulates
- E. The First Resurrection is spiritual, when Christians go to be with the Lord





Lessons from the Positions

Premil

Postmil

Amil

- Christ is larger than now; long for Second Coming
- Christ reigns <u>now</u>; therefore we are optimistic.
- Christ reigns now.

They all sound good.





A Third Group in 2 Thess 1?

Believers have relief

= Resurrectionglory



Who will populate a millennium??

Unbelievers are troubled

= Punishment in hell



Manner of Recapitulation

last battle

19:11-21

1000 years triumph by faith

last battle

20:1-6, 7-10







The First Resurrection

First death

Body

Second death

Spiritual

Paradoxical: with bodily resurrection

First resurrection

Spiritual

Paradoxical: with bodily death

Second resurrection







- Dispute just on Rev 20?
- Ignore wrong views?

- Involving many texts
- No, some biblical texts appear to support each position.

Central issue?

Fulfillment of OT prophecy



OT Eschatological Prophecy

Isaiah 65:17-25

When is it fulfilled?

Today

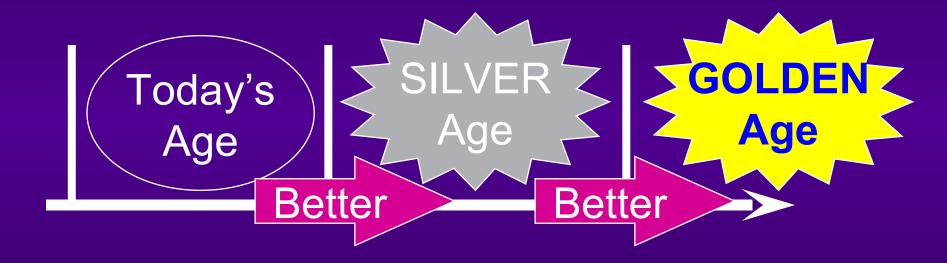
Consummation

? Another Time?



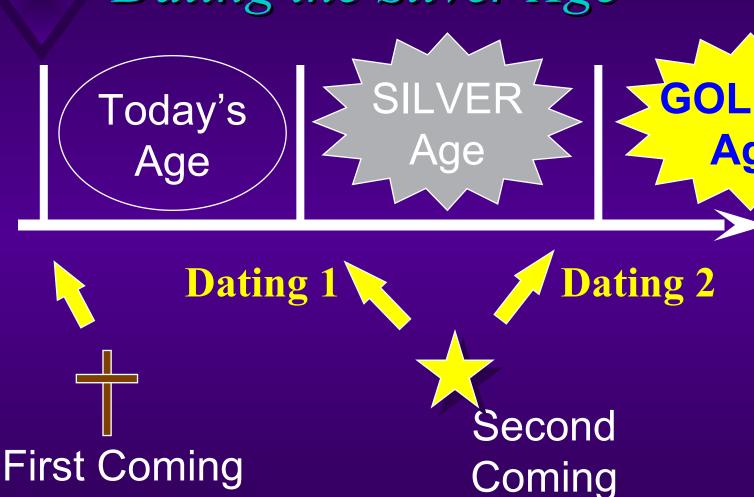
A big, tough question.





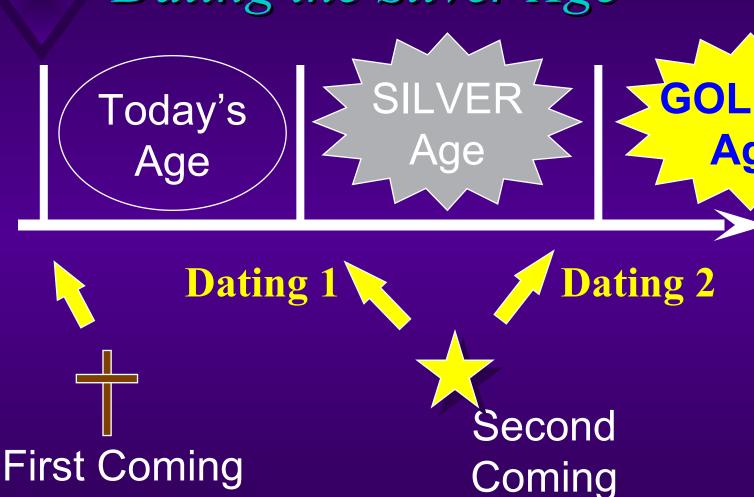


Dating the Silver Age





Dating the Silver Age





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 <u>before</u> Silver.



Premillennialism



Isa. 65:17:
Second Coming and beginning of prosperity

Isa. 65:20-25:
Age of prosperity

Isa. 66:24: Final end of all evil



Support for Premillennialism



Zech. 14:1-5: Second Coming Zech. 14:8-9: renewal of earth

Zech. 14:16-19: some evil left



Postmillennialism



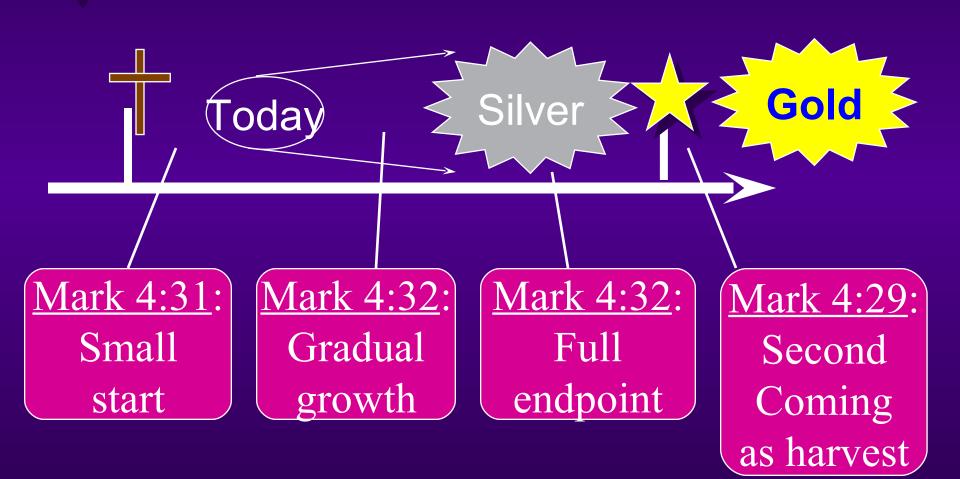
Isa. 65:17:
Gradual beginning of prosperity

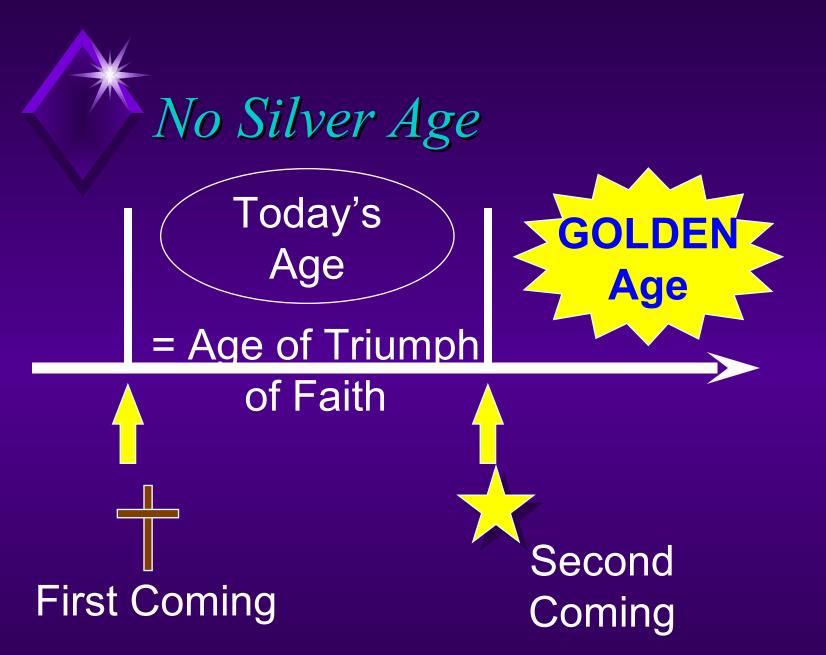
Isa. 65:20-25:
Age of prosperity

Second Coming



Support for Postmillennialism







Amillennialism

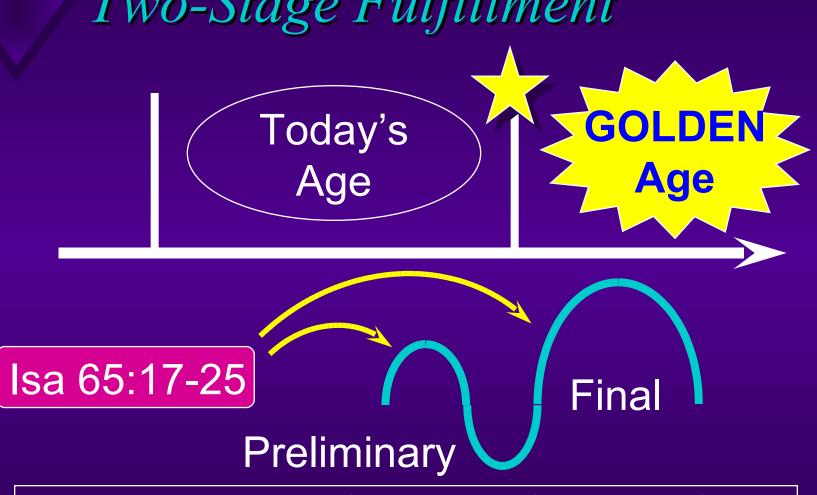


Simple.





Two-Stage Fulfillment



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



Support for Amillennialism

Today's Age GOLDEN

2 Pet. 3:3: continued scoffing

2 Pet. 3:4: Second Coming 2 Pet. 3:10-13: new heaven and earth



* Two Pre

Two Premillennialisms

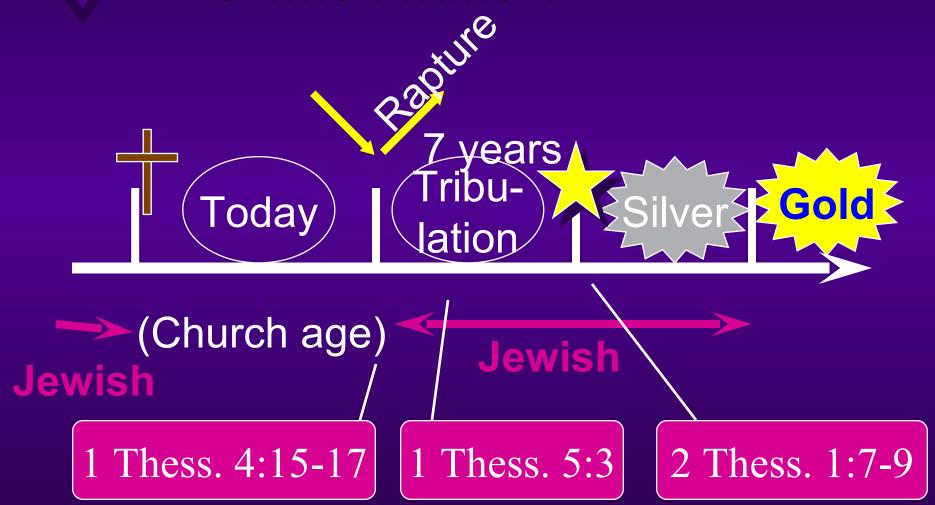
Classic premillennialism



Dispensational premillennialism



Dispensational Premillennialism





- He will reign
- A new world

Christ will appear • 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.



Strongest Arguments for the Millennial Positions

- Premil
- Postmil
- Amil

- Zechariah 14
- Parables of growth
- 2 Thessalonians 1



Lessons from the Positions

Premil

Postmil

Amil

- Christ is larger than now; long for Second Coming
- Christ reigns <u>now</u>; therefore we are optimistic.
- Christ reigns now.

They all sound good.





B. Revelation 20:1-10

Favorite Passages for Millennium

Premillennialists:

Amillennialists:

Rev. 20:1-10 as favorite

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

It appears to describe a silver age.

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



- 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



C Chronological Order

in Rev. 19:11-20:15



Premils' View of Order of Events

19:11-21

20:1-10

20:11-15

21:1-22:5

Last battle; Second Coming

Reign of 1000 years

Last Judgment New World

Events in succession

Events in succession



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

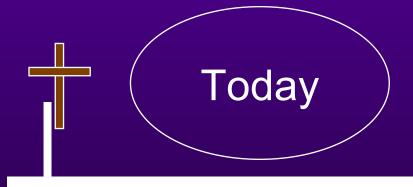
last battle

19:11-21

1000 years triumph by faith

last battle

20:1-6, 7-10





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 <u>all</u> 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.





D. The First Resurrection



Rev 20-22 concerns first and last things:

- New heaven and earth are <u>last</u>.
- 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 <u>last</u>.

First and Second in Rev 20:1-10

First death

- First is <u>Preliminary</u>:
 - ◆ Luke 18:30; Matt 12:32
- Bodily death

Second death

- Second is <u>Final</u>:
 - ◆ 1 Cor 15:45; Heb 9:28
- Spiritual
- With bodily resurrection



Contrasts in Rev 20:1-10

Prelim-inary:

First death

Body

First resurrection

?

Final:

Second death

Spiritual Paradoxical: with bodily resurrection

Second resurrection

Body



The First Resurrection

First death

Body

Second death

Spiritual

Paradoxical: with bodily resurrection

First resurrection

Spiritual

Paradoxical: with bodily death

Second resurrection

Body

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



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

God is wiser than L

