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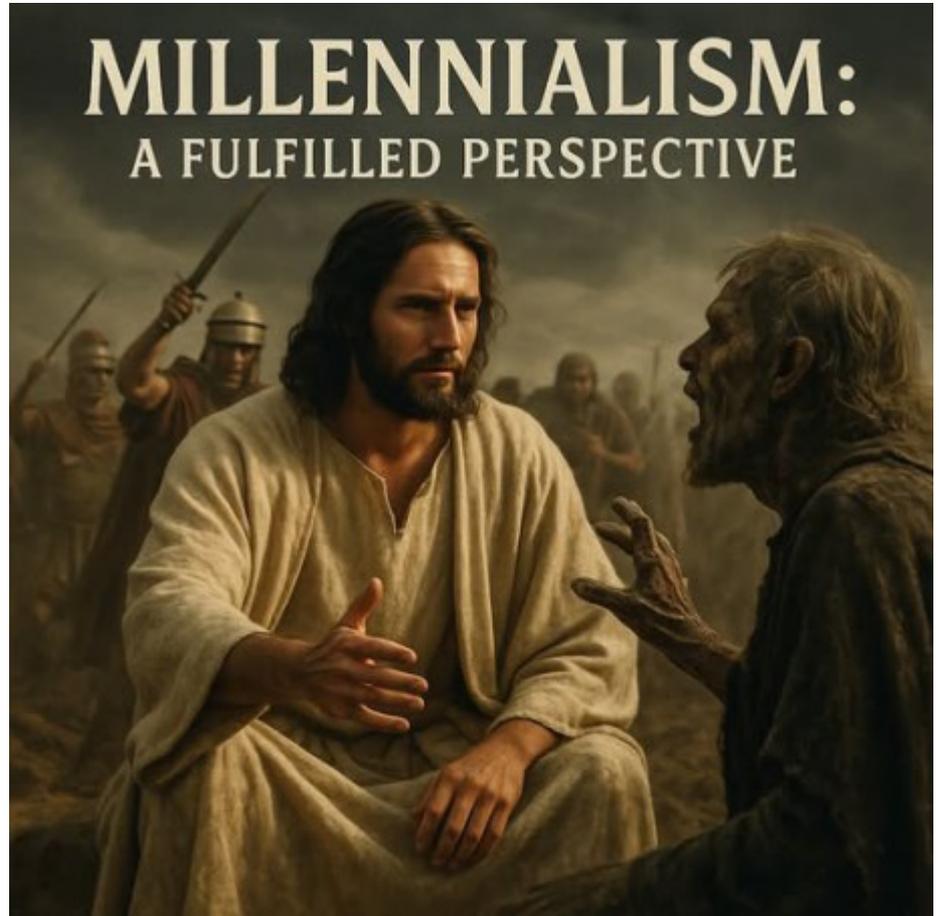
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Millennialism: A Fulfilled Perspective



By Dan Maines

Millennialism: A Fulfilled Perspective

Revelation 20 and the Thousand Years

† The word millennialism comes from Revelation 20, where John describes a thousand years of Christ's reign and the binding of Satan. Many picture a literal thousand years in our future, yet scripture itself points to a symbolic period.

† Christ has always reigned as Lord, was raised from the dead and exalted to the Father's right hand (Acts 2:30-36), and His victory over the last enemy, death, was made clear in the judgment on Jerusalem in AD 70, with His kingdom continuing

without end.

† Time statements like "things which must soon take place" (Revelation 1:1-3) and "this generation will not pass away" (Matthew 24:34) ground the prophecy in the first century, not in some far off era.

† These verses set the framework for understanding the thousand years as the fullness of Christ's reign during that covenantal transition.

Why the Thousand Years Are Symbolic

† In Hebrew thought, "a thousand" often stands for a complete, immeasurable amount rather than an exact count. Psalm 50:10 says God owns the cattle on a thousand hills, meaning all hills, not exactly one thousand.

† Second Peter 3:8 reminds us that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years and a thousand years like one day, showing that "thousand" can express God's timelessness, not a set duration.

† John's vision in Revelation 20 fits this biblical pattern, describing the fullness of Christ's reign during the period between His resurrection and the judgment on Jerusalem, not a calendar measured millennium.

† The point isn't to reduce real events but to highlight the total victory and complete authority of Jesus over every enemy during that covenantal age.

Premillennialism

† Premillennialism holds that Jesus will return before the millennium to defeat His enemies and rule on earth.

† It often includes expectations of a rebuilt temple and a worldwide tribulation, yet Jesus declared that the temple standing in His day would be left desolate within that generation (Matthew 24:2, 34).

† The New Testament consistently locates His kingdom as a spiritual reign, not a future earthly monarchy (John 18:36), and He already sits at the Father's right hand (Hebrews 1:3).

† The idea of a revived Levitical system contradicts the finality

of the cross and His once for all sacrifice (Hebrews 10:12-14), making this view incompatible with fulfilled scripture.

Postmillennialism

† Postmillennialism expects a long era of worldwide gospel success before Christ returns.

† While it rightly celebrates the power of the gospel to transform nations, it misplaces the "last days," which scripture assigns to the Old Covenant era (Hebrews 1:1-2, 1 Corinthians 10:11).

† The apostles preached that the kingdom was already present and advancing in their day (Colossians 1:13), spreading like leaven through the dough (Matthew 13:33).

† The victory of Christ was complete at the cross and revealed in AD 70, not dependent on a future golden age of universal peace.

Amillennialism

† Amillennialism sees the thousand years as symbolic of the church age, with Christ reigning from heaven while Satan's power is restrained.

† This rightly recognizes the present reign of Christ (Ephesians 1:20-22) and the symbolic nature of Revelation's language.

† Yet it often leaves the "end of the millennium" as a future climax, overlooking the first century fulfillment of Jesus' time statements and the full removal of the Old Covenant.

† The fall of Jerusalem marked the final defeat of the Old Covenant system, the "last enemy" opposing the gospel, and the gospel had indeed reached the known world by then (Colossians 1:23).

Full Preterism, the Fulfilled View

† Full Preterism teaches that the thousand years represents the time between Christ's resurrection and the judgment on Jerusalem in AD 70.

† During this period, Christ reigned, the gospel advanced to "all nations" (Matthew 24:14), and Satan's power to deceive was restrained so the mission could be completed.

† Revelation 20's final scenes, the release of Satan, the last judgment, and the New Jerusalem, describe the covenantal transition as the Old Covenant age closed.

† The "new heaven and new earth" (Revelation 21:1) is the everlasting New Covenant where God dwells with His people and the barriers of sin and law are forever removed.

Scripture Anchors

† Revelation 20:1-10 shows the binding of Satan so the gospel could reach the nations before the end of the Old Covenant.

† 1 Corinthians 15:20-28 describes Christ reigning until every enemy, including the power of death bound to the Law, was defeated, in light of Isaiah 25:8 and Hosea 13:14, and made manifest through the gospel.

† Matthew 24 records Jesus' prophecy of Jerusalem's fall, fulfilled in that generation as He promised (Matthew 24:34, Luke 21:20-22).

† Luke 1:33 assures us that His kingdom has no end, and Psalm 110:1 explains His session at the right hand while enemies are made a footstool.

Historical Witness

† Augustine in The City of God argued that the thousand years is symbolic of Christ's present reign, long before modern debates began.

† J. Stuart Russell in The Parousia demonstrated that Revelation's prophecies match first century events and time statements with remarkable accuracy.

† Early church writers testified to the dramatic fulfillment of Jesus' words in the destruction of Jerusalem, confirming that these prophecies weren't left hanging for thousands of years.

† Josephus, Tacitus, Suetonius, Eusebius, and Clement of Rome all recorded events surrounding the Jewish war and the fall of Jerusalem, giving historical support to the New Testament's timing and fulfillment.

How This Applies Today

† We now live in the unshakable kingdom (Hebrews 12:28) and enjoy the blessings of Christ's eternal reign.

† Our hope isn't in a future earthly millennium but in the finished work of Jesus, who reigns forever.

† The cross and the AD 70 judgment prove that no power of darkness can overcome His rule, giving us confidence and peace.

† We proclaim a finished redemption and a kingdom without end, calling others to live in the reality of His completed work.

Verification Notes

† Christ's everlasting rule, Psalm 145:13, Daniel 7:13-14, Matthew 28:18, Luke 1:33, Acts 2:33-36, Psalm 110:1.

† Death defeated, Isaiah 25:8, Hosea 13:14, 2 Timothy 1:10, Hebrews 2:14-15, 1 Corinthians 15:54-57.

† Near and at hand fulfillment, Matthew 16:27-28, Matthew 24:34, Luke 21:20-22, Revelation 1:1-3, Revelation 22:6.

† Gospel to the nations by the first century, Matthew 24:14, Romans 16:26, Colossians 1:6, Colossians 1:23.

† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †

Source Index

† Revelation 20:1-10, 1 Corinthians 15:20-28, Matthew 24:1-34, Luke 1:33, Psalm 110:1, Isaiah 25:8, Hosea 13:14, Matthew 16:27-28, Luke 21:20-22, Revelation 1:1-3, Revelation 22:6, Colossians 1:6, 1:23, Romans 16:26, Hebrews 2:14-15, 12:28, Ephesians 1:20-22, John 18:36, Augustine, The City of God, J. Stuart Russell, The Parousia, Anthony Hoekema, The Bible and the Future, J. Dwight Pentecost, Things to Come, Josephus, The Jewish War, Tacitus, The Histories, Suetonius, The Twelve Caesars, Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History, Clement of Rome, First Epistle to the Corinthians

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