



## **Amillennial or Premillennial What Is It To Be?**

**“And I saw thrones... and they lived and reigned with Christ one thousand years.”** *(Revelation 20:4)*

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## The Golden Rule Of Interpretation

Created By Dr. David L. Cooper

Trying to understand what the Bible is saying can be difficult. Here is a way that has helped many people. It is known as *Dr Cooper's Golden Rule* and is reproduced below. It is the rule that we will follow in this series.

***“When the plain sense of scripture makes common sense, seek no other sense; therefore, take every word at its primary, ordinary, usual, literal meaning unless the facts of the immediate context, studied in the light of related passages and axiomatic (i.e. self-evident or unquestionable) and fundamental truths indicate clearly otherwise.”***

**“A. Seek the plain, literal meaning of the scriptures.**

**“B. Seek the figurative meaning only when the facts demand such an interpretation.**

**“C. Study every statement of the scriptures in context.**

“Then study the facts of the context in the light of related passages and axiomatic (*i.e. self-evident or unquestionable*) fundamental truths.

*“No prophecy of scripture is of private (special) interpretation (2 Peter 1:20)*

*“The sum of thy word is truth (Psalm 119:160)*

“1. *The Golden Rule of Interpretation* is one of the most important principles governing us in our interpretation of the Scriptures.

“2. If we follow this rule, we shall never go very far wrong; **but if we fail to follow it, we shall never go right.**”

C. H. Spurgeon agrees,

*“I wish never to learn the art of tearing God’s meaning out of His own Words. If there is anything clear and plain, the literal sense and meaning of (the) passage, (it’s) a meaning not to be spirited or spiritualised away. (C. H. Spurgeon Sermon No. 582 on-line source)*

(“Cooper’s Golden Rule” source: <http://www.messianicassociation.org/ezine19-dc.hermeneutics.htm>)



# Amillennial or Premillennial What Is It To Be?

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## Introduction: The Millennium



“To be, or not to be:  
that is the question.”

*And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season. (Revelation 20: 1-3)*

“*To be or not to be, that is the question*” is a famous Shakespearian line that has nothing at all to do with this subject. However, whether or not we believe in *Amillennialism* or *Premillennialism*, has an infinite amount to do with how we interpret the Bible. So the question becomes is there “*To be or not to be*” a Millennial when Christ rules on the earth? How we answer that question is highly important, as it defines how we understand the Scriptures, and how we thus interpret them.

“*The Single Paged Papers*” unashamedly take the Premillennial view. There are many however who take what is known as an *Amillennial view*.

**Amillennial** simply means “*no millennium*” and claims that Jesus will not rule personally on the earth. Instead, they teach that the thousand year reign of Christ on earth that is mentioned six times in Revelation 20 is being fulfilled now. In effect, the rule of Christ that exists in our world right now is, for us, about as good as it’s going to get.

On the other hand **Premillennialism** asserts that Jesus will return to the earth (the second coming) **before** the millennial begins, that is where the term “pre” comes from. It simply means Christ returns before the millennium. He will then set up His righteous Kingdom and rule the earth with fairness and true justice from Jerusalem. His rule will extend for one thousand years according to the simple statements of Revelation 20. This understanding comes entirely from a literal understanding of the Scriptures. All instruction books are understood literally, as they must be, for otherwise how could we understand what they mean? The Holy Bible is the very best of all Instruction Books.

These views totally affect the understanding of the Scriptures for several reasons. **Premillennial teaching affirms**

- That Christ will physically reign on the earth for one thousand years.
- Israel will be the Premier Nation on the earth.
- Promises made to Israel will be fulfilled to that Nation in Christ’s Millennial Reign.
- That the Second Coming of Christ will be achieved in two distinct parts.

- That there will be more than one resurrection.
- That there will be a final judgment (the Great White Throne judgment).
- After this judgment the eternal state will begin.

**Amillennialism presents their position** based on a non-literal understanding of the Bible. They claim

- Christ will not physically reign on the earth.
- Israel has no future, or present place at all being replaced by the Church.
- Israel is thus irrelevant.
- Promises made to Israel now belong to the Church, or in some cases they just expire or “*fall to the ground*” and are lost.
- There is only one general resurrection,
- And one final judgment.

This section of the *Single Paged Papers* will examine these claims and you may prayerfully make your own judgment.

### Diagrams

In the Addendum that follows are two diagrams that seek to **very fairly** show both of these positions.

It is worthy of note that there are other positions held by some groups, but we will not discuss them for these are the major ones.

### As always

- don’t believe me
- or any other person.
- Please seek the Lord as honestly as you can and ask Him to lead you into **His Truth**.
- He will, for it is His faithful promise to do so.

**“But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all truth...”** (John 16:13)

- **Trust** that verse,
- **depend** on that verse,
- **truly seek Him** for
- **“He will guide you into all truth.”**

**“And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”** (John 8:32)

# Consistency Of Interpretation

Are we supposed to interpret the Bible literally or non-literally, and does it matter? The Lord God must be the very best communicator in the universe. He is fluent in all human languages and dialects past and present. He even understand us when we don't speak at all. He is the Supreme communicator hearing our faintest cry. So how does the Lord God speak to us? Through His Word. *"For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."* (Heb 4:12)

If God is the **Great Communicator**, and knows our every thought, why then do many suppose that He would present His Word in a way that only a highly educated person could understand it? Such an idea fails logic, doesn't it? Many heralded Theologians seem to delight in being *"hard to understand."* They write for the *"intelligentsia"* and not for the average person. On examination, some of their writings show an inconsistency of interpretation. Sometimes they take the Word of God *"literally"* and sometimes they take it *"non literally."* It seems that they alone know when God is speaking literally or non literally? Let's see how they interpret some prophecies. Here is a one about the first coming of the Lord.

*"But you, Bethlehem Ephratah, though you be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of you shall He come forth unto Me that is to be Ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting."* (Micah 5:2)

One Theologian comments: *"the Messiah should be born in Bethlehem, of which this is a prophecy..."* (Source: <https://www.biblestudytools.com/commentaries/gills-exposition-of-the-bible/micah-5-2.html>)

Another writes

*"Micah 5:2 makes a couple of predictions. First, the birthplace of this future "ruler of Israel" would be Bethlehem Ephrathah. Since there were two locations known as Bethlehem at the time of Micah's writing, the addition of Ephrathah is significant. It specifies the Bethlehem in Judah, the portion of Israel in which the capital, Jerusalem, was located."* Source: (<https://www.gotquestions.org/Micah-5-2-Messianic.html>)

He adds some helpful info and it seems as if they understand this prophecy literally, as they should.

Let's look at another prophecy

*"And His feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south."* (Zech 14:4)

One commentator quotes this Scripture and writes *"And His feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives." By this manner of speech the Prophet shows God's power and care over His Church, and how He will, as it were, by a miracle save it. 'And the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst of it toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south.'* So that out of all the parts of the world they will see Jerusalem ... **and (by) this He means of the spiritual Jerusalem, the Church.**" (My emphasis. <https://www.biblestudytools.com/commentaries/geneva-study-bible/zechariah/zechariah-14.html>)

Another Theologian argues

*Our view is that God in the person of Christ has already touched His feet down upon the mount of Olives. Not only was Jesus a frequent guest in the home of Mary, Martha, and Lazarus at Bethany on mount Olivet ... That event, with all of its implications, is a sufficient fulfilment of the wonder foretold here. Of course, there was no physical earthquake; but the spiritual earthquake which occurred in that event was surpassingly great enough to qualify as the fulfilment. 'Shall be cleft in the midst ... A very great valley ...' We see in this (verse) the grand cleavage of the entire human race as achieved in the preaching of the gospel of Christ. 'The very great valley' that separates between them is that 'impassable gulf' dividing the saved from the lost (Luke 16:26). All of the speculation about Jesus returning the second time to stand upon the mount of Olives, belittles what He did in the first advent when there He planted His feet before ascending into heaven. **The passage needs no further fulfilment.**" (My emphasis. Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/bcc/zechariah-14.html>)*

As you have seen in these few examples, the first coming of Christ is interpreted in a literal manner meaning that the words are understood in the normal way. However that approach is abandoned when it comes to Christ's second coming. It is hard to imagine that an ordinary everyday human would interpret these verses in the way described by these "Theologians."

Why do Theologians add confusion and not light?

One reason is that the literal approach does not fit in with the many theories developed by these "Theologians." The main one is that these teachers believe that Israel has been replaced by the Church and to interpret literally just will not fit that man-made theory. *"Replacement Theology"* is **the** curse of the modern day Church. Is it any surprise that Jesus asked *"When the Son of man comes, shall He find faith on the earth?"* (Luke 18:8)

# Some Differences: The Church And Israel

The Bible presents Israel and the Church as two different entities. If you take the Bible as the literal Word of God then it is beyond all question that there are many incompatible differences between the Church and Israel. Despite that, many argue that the Church REPLACES Israel. Let us examine some differences and you be the judge whether or not they can be the same thing. (For more info see <https://www.thesinglepagedpapers.com/replacement-theology>)

## 1. The nation of Israel: a kingdom of priests.

*“And you shall be unto Me a kingdom of priests, and a holy nation.”* (Ex 19: 6) Israel was chosen to be a “kingdom of priests.” Israel needed a Priest for their worship. The priest is a “go-between,” through whom the way of the Lord and the Word of the Lord is revealed. Israel is described as “a kingdom of priests.” Israel became the Priest for all mankind. It was through Israel that the Saviour came, and through the Jewish people also came the Word of God. God said to Abraham *“In blessing I will bless you, and in multiplying I will multiply your seed as the stars of the heaven...And in your seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed...”* (Gen 22: 17-18) And they were!

**2. The members of the Church are priests** by right. *“But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood...”* (1Peter 2:9) We do not need a Priest for Christ is our Advocate. *“But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come..”* (Heb 9:11)

## 3. Israel Is The Wife Of Jehovah, The Church Is The Bride of Christ

Israel is the “wife of Jehovah” whereas the Church is the “bride of Christ.” God speaking to Israel said: *“For your Maker is **your husband**; the Lord of hosts is His name; and your Redeemer the Holy One of Israel; The God of the whole earth shall He be called. For the Lord has called you as a woman forsaken and grieved in spirit, and a wife of youth, when you was refused, says your God. For a small moment have I forsaken you; but with great mercies will I gather you.”* (Isaiah 54:5-7)

As most believers know, the Church is the “Bride of Christ.” *“Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave Himself for it; ...that He might present it to Himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.”* (Eph 5: 25-27) *“Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to Him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and His wife has made herself ready. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.”* (Rev 19:7-8)

## 4. Three Entities

The Bible plainly declares that there are three separate entities, the Jews, the gentiles and the

Church. Here it is... *“Whatsoever you do, do all to the glory of God. Give none offence, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the church of God.”* (1 Cor 10:31-32)

## 5. Israel is a Party in the Covenants

Israel was one of the “parties” in the Covenants of God. *“In the same day the Lord made a covenant with Abram (Abraham), saying, Unto your seed (Israel) have I given this land, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates.”* (Gen 15:18)

**6. The church is a “beneficiary” of those Covenants, and NOT a party to them.** *“And in you (Abraham) shall all families of the earth be blessed.”* (Gen 12:3)

**7. Second Coming for the Church** will happen at the rapture. *“For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.”* (1 Thess 4:16-17)

**8. For Israel:** The rapture will take the whole world by surprise and then fierce trouble comes for Israel *“Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob's trouble, but he shall be saved out of it.”* (Jer 30:7) A second “holocaust” (The Jewish people say “Shoah”) finally make Israel turn to their Messiah. They at last recognise whom Jesus really is, and they turn to Him. Here is that moment. *“And it shall come to pass in all the land, says the Lord, That two-thirds shall be cut off and die, But one-third shall be left in it: I will bring the one-third through the fire, I will refine them as silver is refined, And test them as gold is tested. **They will call on My name, And I will answer them. I will say, This is My people; And each one will say, The Lord is my God.**”* (Zech 13: 8-9)

After that conversion the Lord fights for Israel *“For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle...Then shall the Lord go forth, and fight against those nations ... And His feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, and the Lord my God shall come, and all the saints with Him.”* (Zech 14:3-5)

**9. All Jews are Jewish by natural birth.**

**10. Membership of the Church requires a spiritual birth,** *“Verily, verily, I say unto you, except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”* (John 3:3)

There are more examples that could be given and all show that Israel is an entirely different entity to that of the Church.

## “The Simplicity That Is In Christ”

*But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtlety (cunning), so your minds should be **corrupted from the simplicity** that is in Christ. (2 Corinthians 11:3)*

The Gospel is a simple thing to understand and even children grasp it easily. Many an old saint came to truly know the Lord in their early childhood. Jesus said of children “*Suffer little children to come unto Me, and forbid them not, for of such is the kingdom of heaven.*” (Matt 19:14) That truly is the case. You don’t need a degree in Theology to understand the Bible. The Holy Spirit has promised to “*guide us into all Truth*” (John 16:13) and He does. Jesus was “*out and about*” amongst the common man for we read “*the common people heard Him gladly.*” (Mark 12:37) Paul teaches us that those who preach must do so with simplicity. He says “*he that exhorts, (preaches)... let him do it with simplicity.*” (Romans 12:8) Further Paul says “*For our rejoicing is this, the testimony of our conscience, **that in simplicity** and godly sincerity, not with fleshly wisdom, but by the grace of God, we have conducted ourselves in the world, and more abundantly towards you.*” (2 Cor 1:12)

We are encouraged in the Scriptures to be “*simple*” and not to exhibit “*fleshly (worldly) wisdom*” but that is not the way with many people. The tragedy is that mankind loves to complicate matters, “*academia*” delights to be obscure and thrills to be incomprehensible to the “common” person. An acquaintance once said of a preacher, “*I couldn’t understand a word he said so it must have been good.*” I heard that sermon also and it was unfathomable. Education in many cases creates snobbishness and, sadly, this attitude has inevitably worked its way into many Bible Colleges and many pulpits now suffer from this curse. However many parishioners love it, as it does not threaten them.

Here are Old Testament examples illustrating this complicating desire. God gave the Law to Moses (the *Torah*) and it contains 613 easily understood commands. These are easily understood Laws that, if followed, would create a very fair society. Some are: “*Not to entertain the idea that there is any God but the Eternal, Not to blaspheme, Not to cherish hatred in one’s heart, Not to take revenge, Not to leave a beast unaided that has fallen down beneath its burden, Not to reap the corner of the field or orchard and to leave it for the poor, Not to wrong the stranger in speech (who doesn’t understand you), That a bridegroom shall be exempt for a whole year from taking part in any public labor, such as military service, and similar duties*” and so on in this jowly manner. (For a complete list see: <http://www.jewfaq.org/613.htm#Court>)

But what did the Pharisees do with them? They created the *Mishnah* which built “*a fence*” around God’s Commands. Their intention was to keep people away from temptation, but the inevitable

happened and the laws created by the Pharisees (the *Mishnah*) replaced the *Torah*. In that way the Laws created by the Pharisees became the standard “*to live by*” **replacing** the Commandments of God. That is why the Lord Jesus had such trouble with the Pharisees stating that they taught, “*for doctrines the commandments of men. For laying aside the commandment of God, you hold the tradition of men ... you reject the commandment of God, that you may keep your own tradition.*” (Mark 7: 7-9)

It is much the same with *amillennialism* and *premillennialism*. *Amillennialism* appeals to those with an intellectual bent. *Amillennialism* offers a very intellectualised interpretation of the plain words of the Scriptures, an explanation that befuddles the average person. People hearing it say “*I couldn’t understand a word he said so it must have been good,*” but it is not good. “*He that exhorts, (preaches)... let him do it with simplicity.*” (Romans 12:8) Further Paul speaks against intellectualism viz “*that in simplicity and godly sincerity, not with fleshly wisdom...*” (2 Cor 1:12)

A friend had completed four years in a Bible College. Graduation day was coming and he was to fly to his mission-field the following morning. Then he was told that the College would not graduate him because he would not agree with the College on certain matters. He passed the exams, but was banned being dubbed “*too evangelical.*” He flew off anyway (still unordained) and, after many decades of missionary work, he is now a Pastor in Australia.

That is how it is for many. The pressure to conform is strong. Many go to Bible College when young and not really understanding very much, and so they are very pliable in the hands of the lecturers. Only one view is really presented. All other views are said to be “*anathema*” and contrary views are laughed at and put down. It soon becomes obvious that there is only one “*safe way to believe*” and so our young person is fashioned into the “*College mould*” and soon becomes “*set*” in that way.

If there really is “*simplicity in Christ*” then we must surely take His words as being clear and simple. Is there to be a Millennial? Revelation, in simple words says that believers “*shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.*” (Rev 20:6) God Himself is the Author of those words for we read, “*The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto Him, to show unto His servants things which must shortly come to pass...*” (Rev 1:1, 19) What college, or teacher, or preacher, has the right to say that the revelation from God Himself needs reinterpreting?

## “On Earth Peace”

*“For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord...And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.” (Luke 2:11 -14)*

This message from the angels is renewed every Christmas time in Australia when we sing Charles Wesley’s carol. It begins *“Hark the herald angels sing, Glory to the newborn King! Peace on earth and mercy mild.”* Later in the carol Christ is addressed in these words *“Hail the heaven born Prince of Peace!”* Where did Wesley get the *“Prince of peace”* from? From here: *“For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given: and the government shall be upon His shoulder: and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.”* (Isaiah 9:6)

These are truly wonderful thoughts, but are these much loved words true? Did the coming of Christ bring *“peace on earth”*? What did Jesus Himself say? *“Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword”* (Matt 10:34) Luke records that Jesus said *“Do you suppose that I am come to give peace on earth? I tell you, No; but rather division.”* (Luke 12:51) The words of Jesus have the indelible stamp of authenticity upon them, for we all know that the coming of Christ did not bring *“peace on earth.”* Rather it brought trouble in the world, *“a sword”* and trouble in many a home, *“division.”*

So how do we marry these rather startling contradictions together, *“peace on earth”*, a *“sword”* and *“division”*? They are incompatible concepts, **but they are not contradictory, but they do require Christ reigning on the earth.** In His first coming He came as the suffering servant. *“He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from Him; He was despised, and we esteemed Him not.”* (Isaiah 53:3) But in His second coming He comes as the *Lion of Judah*, the all-conquering Saviour of mankind, and the *KING of Kings and LORD of Lords*. That fact was announced by the ancient prophets... *“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of you shall He come forth unto Me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.”* (Micah 5: 2) *“... behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed...”* (Rev 5:5) and He will prevail and overcome all who oppose Him. He is not coming as the suffering Servant this second time.

Rather in Christ’s second coming He is revealed as the all-conquering Hero and righteous Judge. *“And He shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any*

*more.”* (Isaiah 2:4) Here we see described the *“Prince of Peace”* ruling in Majesty over the whole earth. Here we have easy to understand words explaining the result of the Rule of King Jesus on the earth. But not every commentator describes Isaiah 2:4 like that viz...

*“Perhaps the most difficult portion of this prophecy to understand is the last portion of it which speaks of beating swords into plowshares and spears into pruning hooks, which is often misunderstood to teach that war shall pass away as an instrument of national policy and that universal peace on earth shall prevail. This is totally in error...What we actually have, therefore, is a statement of the way it will be among the citizens of the kingdom of God, **or the church of Messiah.** (My emphasis. Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/bcc/isaiah-2.html>)*

The plain words of Scripture are denied and worse, contradicted. Here is another commentator.

*“Nation shall not lift up’ ... - This is a remarkable prediction of universal peace under the gospel. The prediction is positive, that the time will come when it shall prevail. But it has not yet been fully accomplished. We may remark, however, in relation to this ... that the tendency of the gospel is to promote the arts, and to produce the spirit of peace...Nothing remains to be done to make peace universal but to send the gospel abroad through every land. When that is done, the nations will be disposed to peace; and the prophet, therefore, has predicted the universal prevalence of peace “only” when all nations shall be brought under the influence of the gospel.” (My emphasis Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentary/isaiah/2-4.html>)*

Again this view adds to the Scriptures for nowhere are we told that the Gospel shall bring worldwide peace, or even universal acceptance. In three parables Jesus dismisses the idea that the Gospel will be universally believed. Jesus closing the parable of the fishing net said, *“When it was full, they drew to shore, and sat down, and gathered the good into vessels, but cast the bad away. **So shall it be at the end of the world: the angels shall come forth, and sever the wicked from among the just,** And shall cast them into the furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.”* (Matt 13: 48-50) According to the Lord Jesus Himself the idea that the world will be converted by the Church is defeated by the *Sower Parable*, the *Tares Parable* and the parable of the *Fishing Net* as they all end in judgment of the wicked who are cast out.

Christ is the *Prince of Peace* and His rule alone will bring peace. In His Millennial Reign Christ will *“rule with a rod of iron”* and His righteous and just rule is what it takes to bring *“peace on earth.”*

# Mary Had A Little Lamb

## The False Teaching Of Amillennialism

*“Mary had a little lamb, its fleece was white as snow, and everywhere that Mary went the lamb was sure to go.”* (Sarah Josepha Buell Hale 1788-1879)

This famous children’s poem recently underwent a full examination by the noted theologian, the Very Rev Veritas Slack. His explanation brought to life all sorts of hidden meanings, not normally noticed by those who insist on a literal understanding of the poem. He referred to this non-scholarly literal approach as being “a crude literalism”, or “child like and immature” and, as you will see, that simplistic approach totally misses the real meaning of this internationally well known rhyme.

The Very Rev Veritas Slack explains, “It is quite obvious from the context that Mary is a generic name for women. She represents all women. There is not now, and there never was a Mary as in the poem. It is a purely symbolic name and a clear reference to all womanhood. We are told that Mary ‘had’ a little lamb but, in the original Greek, the word interpreted ‘had’ should be ‘**was**.” The Very Rev Veritas Slack goes on, “This failed interpretation has caused great confusion and so I made a more careful study of the original Greek. I discovered that the Codex Sinaiticus, had a much more accurate rendition that should have been interpreted as ‘Mary **WAS** a little lamb.’

“So that discovery led me to a much deeper understanding of this beloved poem and to the inescapable conclusion that Mary was a baby lamb, indeed a pure lamb. That purity is enforced even further when we are told that ‘her fleece was white as snow.’ This revelation emphasises the purity of her womanhood. Absolutely nothing stained her character, inwards or outwards, she was innocent and pure for all to see, indeed she was ‘as white as snow.’

“Everywhere that Mary went’ she automatically and unconsciously released this purity. This is emphasised in the phrase, ‘everywhere that Mary went the lamb was sure to go.’ Her purity was exuded in her every step, in her every breath, because her lamb-like qualities went with her and were inevitably shed abroad. So we come to understand that this little poem is teaching that all women are pure and lovely and lamb-like in all their ways.” The Rev Slack emphasised that “**This poem has nothing at all to do with sheep**, as the crude literalists maintain. Such a child-like approach to the text will always fail to gain a proper understanding of it. It is high time that we abandon a crude and unscholarly approach and rightly divided this ancient text, and all other ancient texts for that matter.”

Are we listening to someone like the Very Rev Veritas Slack? The Bible clearly says that Christ will reign on the earth for 1000 years and here it is ...

*“Blessed and holy is he that has part in the first resurrection: on such the second death has no*

*power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.”* (Rev 20: 6)

How does a different “Very Rev Veritas Slack” understand these simple words? Here he is...

*“To reign with Christ” does not signify to reign with Him, but to be in His kingdom, or in heaven. By ‘a thousand years’ is not meant a thousand years, but it signifies some time... ‘they shall reign with Christ a thousand years’, signifies that they were already in heaven, while the rest of the dead who did not yet live again were in the world of spirits. But these things cannot be comprehended by those who do not know that by numbers, in the Revelation, are not meant numbers, but things. I can assert that the angels do not understand any number naturally, as men do, but spiritually; yea, that they do not know what a thousand years are, except that it is some interval of time, small or great, which cannot be otherwise expressed than by some time.”* (Source: <http://www.biblemeanings.info/Bible/Revelation/ch20.v6-m.htm>)

This writer boldly claims “I can assert that the angels do not understand any number naturally, as men do, (and) that they do not know what a thousand years are...” Such comments are beyond our understanding, for how can anyone “assert” what the angels may or may not comprehend? This “teacher,” like many others, corrects the Bible.

Another “Very Rev Veritas Slack” writes, “Revelation 20:1-7, (is) a passage which should be interpreted symbolically. It is ridiculous to suppose that the devil could be caught and tied with a literal chain and imprisoned in a pit with no bottom in it!”

But that is what the plain words of our Holy Bible do clearly say. We are not called to judge the Holy Scriptures; we are to believe them. He says

*“Neither the 1,000 years here nor the 1,260 days there (in Rev 12) should be literalised. Both refer to the same period of time, all the time between the two Advents of Christ.”* (<https://www.studydrive.org/commentaries/bcc/revelation-20.html>)

Here the Bible is “corrected” again. The word of God is “a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path” (Ps 119:105) but if that “light” needs the special lens of “education” to even see by its light, then it is not much good to we commoners, is it? St Paul asks us: “If the trumpet give an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself to the battle?” (1Cor 14:8)

The Word of God **does NOT** give an uncertain sound, it speaks plainly and was written for us, the common man. We do not always profit from the confusion that many “*intellectualised Theologians*” seek to thrust upon us.

# Amillennialist's Claim That Satan Is Now Bound

Amillennialist doctrines are built on a *non literal* understanding of the plain words of the Scriptures. Despite this, *amillennialism* is a common viewpoint these days and many of the major denominational groups adhere to it. It is the basis of much of the theology of the Roman Catholic Church, the Anglican Church (that is the *Church of England* or *Episcopalian* Church), the Presbyterian Church, and even by some Baptist Churches and others.

"Reformed" Churches or "Calvinistic" Churches follow the amillennial viewpoint. The Churches of Christ approve this view viz

*"But since the early 20th century, the generally accepted eschatological teaching of the Churches of Christ has been that of Amillennialism..."* (<http://www.bufordcoc.com/spiritual-growth/article-archive/110-pulpit-minster/2020-the-why-series-why-do-churches-of-christ-possess-an-amillennial-eschatology.html>)

So it seems that we are surrounded "by a cloud of witnesses" these days all of whom promote this view. We must boldly and fairly proclaim that many sincere and godly believers are to be found within those Churches. In many cases it is the only view that they have heard as no other view is given any recognition except in a derogatory manner.

Amillennialism rejects the idea of a future millennium in which Christ will reign on earth prior to the eternal state beginning. Amillennialism asserts that

- Jesus is presently reigning on earth from heaven.
- He is seated at the right hand of God.
- The Church through its evangelistic efforts of spreading the good news **is** Christ's Kingdom,
- and thus the millennial began at Pentecost.
- Concluding that Satan is now bound.

This means that the millennium described in Revelation 20:1-6 is describing the conditions of the world as we know it. That means that we are, right now, enjoying the glorious reign of Christ. That reign covers all of this world's sad history between the two comings of Christ. The binding of Satan, according to the Holy Bible, is described as follows

*And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, and cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled...* (Revelation 20:1-3)

Amillennialist's claim that the reality of these verses is now being realised and have been since

Pentecost. Satan is bound **now** and Christ's Kingdom exists **now** and is being fulfilled daily. Simply put, Revelation basically describes the present age, and outlines the conditions in heaven and on earth during this period between the two comings of Christ.

A well-known amillennial theologian Anthony Hoekema says "We conclude, then, that the binding of Satan during the Gospel age means that, first, he cannot prevent the spread of the gospel, and second, he cannot gather all the enemies of Christ together to attack the church." (Anthony Hoekema, "Amillennialism," *The Meaning of the Millennium: Four Views*, page 162)

According to the amillennial view, Satan is unable to deceive "the nations as he did before the first coming of Christ, but he is still active and able to do harm in this age." (Anthony Hoekema, *ibid* p. 161.)

William Cox says "Satan's binding refers (in figurative language) to the limiting of his power." (His brackets. William E. Cox, *Amillennialism Today* (Phillipsburg: Presbyterian and Reformed, 1966), p. 59.)

We must consider, whether or not, Satan is now

- "bound with a great chain,
- "resides in the bottomless pit,
- the door of which is "sealed shut" and
- "the Nations are no longer being deceived."

It is frankly impossible to believe that Satan is not highly active in our world. Admittedly human nature is very sinful and that accounts for much of the trouble in our world. "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked" (Jeremiah 17:9). This fact is willingly conceded, but to claim that Satan is now bound defies logical belief and also directly denies Scripture which warns "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walks about, seeking whom he may devour..." (1 Pet 5:8) Satan is active and not bound.

Hoekema says that Satan, "cannot gather all the enemies of Christ together to attack the church" but history denies that statement. The Church is daily being attacked by Islam. As this is being written 55 Christians have been killed this very week in Nigeria by Islamist terrorists. That Satan is now bound is, quite frankly, nonsense!

Hoekema admits that a "normal" reading of Revelation would lead one to the conclusion that the millennium follows the second coming when he says, "If, then, one thinks of Revelation 20 as describing what follows chronologically after what is described in chapter 19, one would indeed conclude that the millennium of Rev 20:1-6 will come after the return of Christ." (Hoekema p159)

Wise words, so why doesn't he and the Church believe the plain words of the Holy Scriptures?

# What Is The True Role Of The Church Today?

## The Church Has Confused Its Role With The Role Of Israel

Churches today are active in all sorts of enterprises, many of which have nothing at all to do with the true role of the Church. An on-line dictionary partly defined the Church as an *“ecclesiastical organisation, power and affairs as distinguished from the state.”* If that is so, then it is not describing the New Testament Church which should be a *separated body, a called out people.* So what is that *“calling out”* according to the Scriptures. The role of the Church is essentially spiritual and, by extension, evangelical. We are to be *“His witnesses.”* St Paul urges us to be *“filled with all the fulness of God.”* (Eph 3:19) We are to walk *“with all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love...”* (Eph 4:2) St Paul says that we are given gifts *“For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ...”* (Eph 4:12) We are to *“put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness”* and to put away *“lying, (and to) speak every man truth with his neighbour.”* (Eph 4: 22-27) Some believers are called to be *“evangelists; and some pastors and teachers.”* We don't have to guess what our task may be, for our instructions are clear. They state that we are to work *“For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.”* (Eph 4:11-13)

The Bible teaches that the Church has a spiritual role in the world, not a political one. We are to be like Christ *“who gave Himself for us.”* In fact the Church is not to be *“conformed to this world.”* Paul lists the *“gifts”* of the Church. They are *“preaching, teaching, giving, showing mercy, abhorring evil, expressing brotherly love, being fervent in spirit, serving the Lord, hoping, patient, prayerful, giving hospitality in humility, honesty, not seeking revenge but rather doing good to those who make themselves our enemies”* and more. (See Rom 12)

But what has happened to the organised Church? Is it today merely an *“ecclesiastical organisation, exercising power, and involved in worldly affairs”* as the dictionary says? Some of the organised Church **is of this world** and sees her mission to improve this world. Here is an extreme example. The female homosexual minister of one Sydney Church declares that, *“(our) congregation, is united in its focus on social justice.”* (Source: <http://www.smh.com.au/nsw/gay-ministers-show-a-uniting-front-to-lead-congregations-20110821-1j4rf.html>). Where in St Paul's list will you find *“social justice”* as a goal of the New Testament Church? We have become so used to the Church as a *“mover and shaker”* in social justice that it seems OK to many. Such a role may be true in the practice of the modern Church but that is not the role of the Church according to the plain reading of the Bible. God does not talk

about *social justice* as a role for the Church. The role of the Church has become confused due to the prevalence of *“Replacement Theology”* in our Bible Schools and thus in our pulpits. As *“Israel is replaced”* in their minds, the role of the Church is confused with that of Israel under the rule of their Messiah. The Church is **not to be** *“conformed to this world.”* Jesus said, we are to be a *“witness to all nations.”* (Matt 24:14) The Lord is continually calling out *“a people for His name”* (Acts 15:14) and we see the results of that as some are being converted. Our mission, according to Jesus is that we *“shall be witnesses unto Me ... unto the uttermost part of the earth.”* (Acts 1:8)

Instead of carrying out this holy mission some of the Church reads, *“with righteousness shall He judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth”* (Is 11:4) and this motivates *“social action”* to bring it to pass. The Church reads *“Of the increase of His government and peace there shall be no end”* (Is 9:7) and this leads many faithful to join and/or support *“peace movements.”* *“They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain, says the Lord.”* (Is 65:25) Seeing this promise the Church forms an environmental arm.

All of these great ideals, world peace, fairness to all and so on, are based on promises made to Israel, not to the Church. They are earthly promises made about the rule of Christ on the earth. These promises will come to pass and will reach their fulfilment in the Millennial Reign of Christ, ruling from Jerusalem. They are NOT intended to be the goals and ambitions of the Church. St Paul makes it clear that to Israel belong *“the adoption, and the glory, and the covenants, and the giving of the law, and the service of God, and the promises.”* (Rom 9:4)

The promise to Israel is that in the reign of their Messiah *“they shall build houses, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and eat the fruit of them. They shall not build, and another inhabit; they shall not plant, and another eat ... and mine elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands. They shall not labour in vain, nor bring forth for trouble; for they are the seed of the blessed of the Lord, and their offspring with them.”* (Isaiah 65: 21-23) Social justice will then be a reality.

The Church takes unto themselves these promises thanks to the totally false and wicked doctrine of *“Replacement Theology.”* It is wicked because it denies and even contradicts the plain words of God. The aim of the Church is to be His witnesses. It is not to bring to pass the earthly promises made to Israel. When Jesus returns He will establish His Kingdom and these holy promises will be realised.

# The Millennium Really Is Coming

*The disciples asked Him Lord, will you at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel? And He said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons ... and while they watched, He was taken up; and a cloud received Him out of their sight... As He went up, behold, two men stood ... in white apparel; saying, Why do you stand gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, who is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as you have seen him go into heaven. (Acts 1:7-11 selected)*

Despite the many naysayers the Millennial reign of Christ on the earth really is coming. Here is some evidence for it. The very last question Jesus was asked was "Lord, will you at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?" Our Lord did not deny that He would restore the Kingdom, He just said it was not the right time yet. "It is not for you to know the times or the seasons." The Kingdom of Israel must be restored otherwise many remaining promises will not be fulfilled and Jesus said "the Scriptures (promises) cannot be broken." (John 10:35) The angels then described the moment when Jesus would return to the earth saying that He will return "in like manner" as they saw Him depart.

**From where did He depart?** The Mount of Olives (Acts 1:12) and Zechariah tells us the He will return to that same spot. "And His feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east..." (Zech 14:4) **He is coming back to Israel with great glory.** "And they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory." (Matt 24:30) **Who will see Him?** "Every eye shall see Him, and they also which pierced Him..." (Rev 1:7)

**What will He do?** "When the Son of man shall come in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then shall He sit upon the throne of His glory" (Matt 25:31) **Whose throne is it?** "He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God shall give unto Him the throne of His father David." (Luke 1:32) **Over whom does He rule?** "Behold, the days come, says the Lord, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, **and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth...** He shall be called, The Lord Our Righteousness." (Jer 23:5-6) Here we see that our Saviour will reign over the entire earth.

**From where will He rule?** "At that time they shall call Jerusalem the throne of the Lord; and all the nations shall be gathered unto it, to the name of the Lord, to Jerusalem: neither shall they walk any more after the imagination of their evil heart." (Jer 3:17). **Who will rule with Him?** "And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, **shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High,** whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey Him." (Dan 7:27)

**How widespread is His rule?** "And His dominion shall be from sea even to sea, and from the river even to the ends of the earth." (Zech 9:10) **The nations still exist:** "And there were great voices in

heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of His Christ; and He shall reign for ever and ever." (Rev 11:15) This time comes after the great tribulation when the earth is devastated by war and thus we read "And it shall come to pass, that every one that is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem (to attack it) shall even go up every year to worship the King, the Lord of hosts". (Zech 14:6)

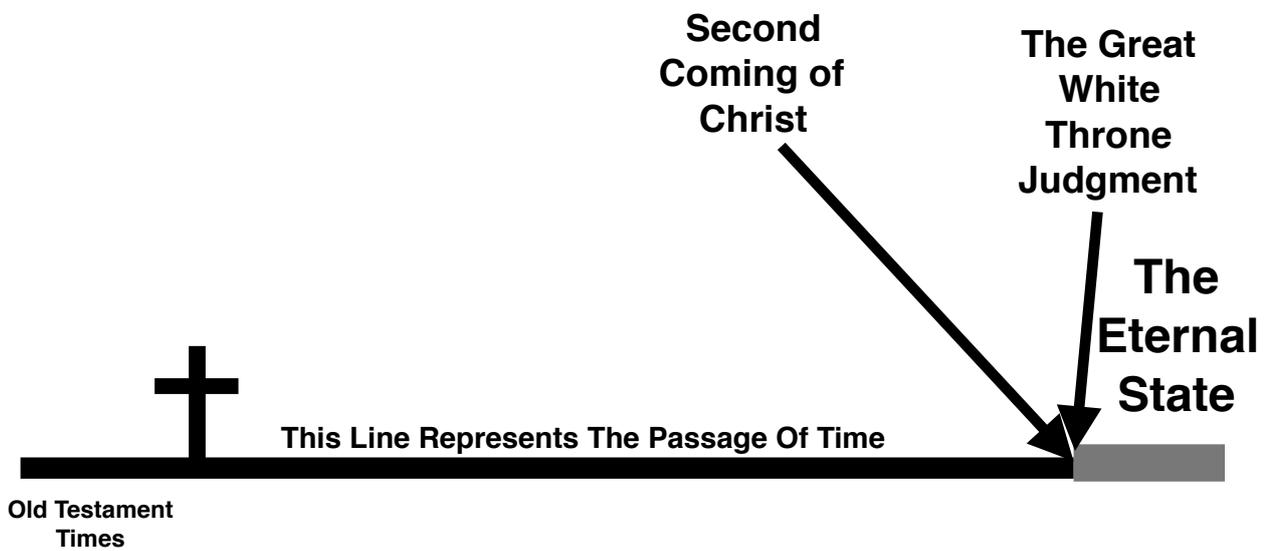
**Will the Lord be glorified in Israel?** "When the Lord shall build up Zion, He shall appear in His glory." (Ps 102:16) "And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it." (Isaiah 40:5) **What will happen to Israel?** "The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them; and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose. It shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice even with joy and singing: the glory of Lebanon shall be given unto it, the excellency of Carmel and Sharon, they shall see the glory of the Lord, and the excellency of our God." (Is 35:1-2) **How widespread will His glory be?** "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." (Is 11:9)

**The Lord will regather Israel.** "I will accept you with your sweet savour, when I bring you out from the people, and gather you out of the countries wherein you have been scattered; and I will be sanctified in you before the heathen. And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I shall bring you into the land of Israel..." (Ez 20:41-42) "And I will bring again the captivity of my people of Israel, and they shall build the waste cities, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and drink the wine thereof; they shall also make gardens, and eat the fruit of them. And I will plant them upon their land, and they shall no more be pulled up out of their land which I have given them, says the Lord your God." (Amos 9:14-15)

**Who shall be Premier Nation of the earth?** "At that time will I bring you again, even in the time that I gather you: for I will make you a name and a praise among all people of the earth, when I turn back your captivity before your eyes, says the Lord." (Zeph 3:20) These are but a few of the promises God made to Israel. Under Amillennialism they are explained away, so why did God bother making them? Premillennialism accepts them as written, for they show the glory of the Millennial Kingdom that is to come and teach our Lord Jesus Christ will rule from Jerusalem. They also show that Israel HAS NOT been replaced by the Church.

# Diagram of Amillennialism Timeline

NO scale is implied

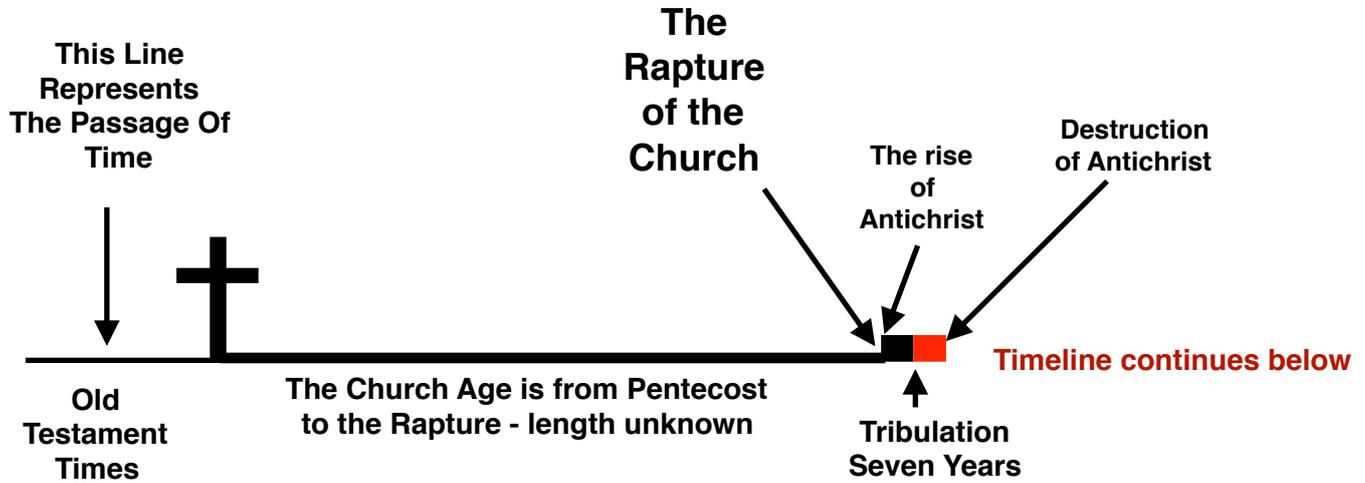


The above seeks to present a completely fair example of the Amillennial view shown in a diagrammatical form.

# Diagram of Premillennialism Timeline

NO scale is Implied

This is the viewpoint taken by *The Single Paged Papers*



The Tribulation is composed of two equal periods of 3 1/2 years.  
The latter 3 1/2 years is "the time of Jacob's trouble."

*"And these are the words that the Lord spoke concerning Israel and concerning Judah. For thus says the Lord; We have heard a voice of trembling, of fear, and not of peace. Ask you now, and see whether a man does travail with child? wherefore do I see every man with his hands on his loins, as a woman in travail, and all faces are turned into paleness? Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob's trouble, but he shall be saved out of it."*

(Jeremiah 30: 4-7)

