

REASONS FOR THE PRE- TRIBULATION POSITION

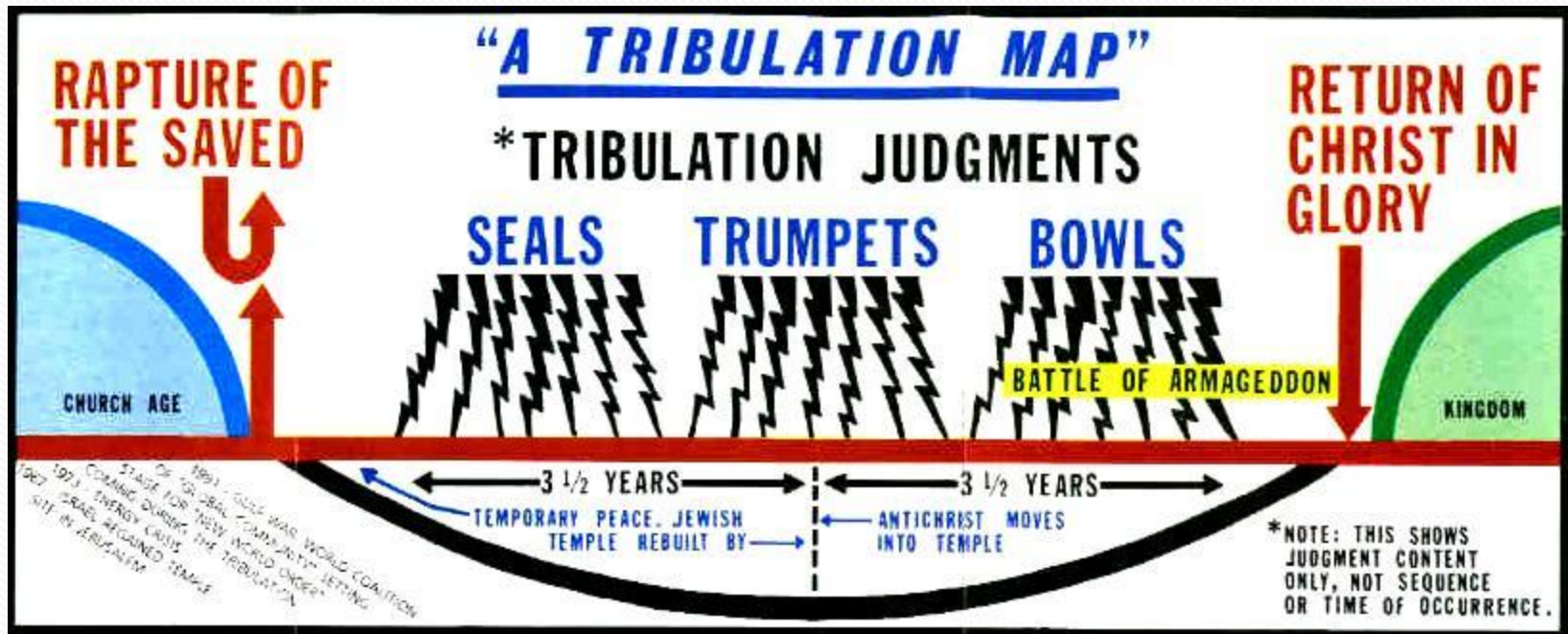
Tri-City Baptist Church

April 3, 2011

The Second Coming of Christ is a Fundamental of the Faith

- All true Christians agree that Jesus Christ is coming again.
- They agree that He is returning personally, literally, physically, visibly and with glory!
- The second coming is grounded in the Resurrection of Christ.
- Christians differ in regard to the manner and time of Christ's return (i.e. the events that precede or follow His return).

Pre-Tribulation Prophecy Chart



The Second Coming and the 7-Year Tribulation Period

- There are three primary eschatological views regarding the Second Coming and the Tribulation.
 1. The Pre-Tribulation Rapture
 2. The Mid-Tribulation Rapture
 - * The Pre-Wrath Position
 3. The Post-Tribulation Rapture/Revelation

THE REVELATION OF CHRIST – His Return to Earth to Judge the Nations

- Revelation 19:11-15

(19:11) And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.

(19:12) His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself.

(19:13) And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God.

(19:14) And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean.

(19:15) And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, **that with it he should smite the nations:** and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.

The Old Testament Prediction of Christ's Return to Judge the Earth

- Zechariah 14:2-4

(14:2) For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and half of the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city.

(14:3) Then shall the LORD go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle.

(14:4) 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 . . .

The Judgment of the Nations

(Matthew 25:31-46)

(25:31) 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:

(25:32) And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats:

(25:33) And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left.

(25:34) Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:

(25:41) Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:

(25:46) And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.

Christ will Return to Restore the Kingdom to Israel – 1000 Years

- Acts 1:6-11

(1:6) When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, **Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?**

(1:7) And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power.

(1:9) And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight.

(1:10) And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel;

(1:11) Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.

The Second Coming and the Millennium – the Kingdom

- There are three primary eschatological views regarding the Second Coming and the Millennium.
- The differences in views is largely determined by one's method of interpreting the Bible.
- Those who use an allegorical method generally uphold an amillennial or postmillennial view.
- Those who apply a literal hermeneutic embrace a premillennial view.

REVELATION 20:1-5

(20:1) And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.

(20:2) And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, **and bound him a thousand years,**

(20:3) 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.

(20:4) And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; **and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.**

(20:5) But the rest of the dead lived not again **until the thousand years were finished.** This is the first resurrection.

REVELATION 20:6-10

(20:6) Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and **shall reign with him a thousand years**.

(20:7) **And when the thousand years are expired**, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison,

(20:8) And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea.

(20:9) And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them.

(20:10) And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

The Millennial Views

- The basic issue is whether Christ will return before a literal thousand-year reign on the earth.
- Premillennialists say yes, Christ will return bodily and reign over the whole world.
- Amillennials say no, there will be no literal thousand-year reign, that related predictions are to be understood spiritually as being fulfilled in the church of this present age.
- Postmillennialists say no, they stress that the church will Christianize the world and will usher in a millennial era, after which Christ will literally return to earth.

Comparison of the Three Views

	Pre-Millennialism	Amillennialism	Postmillennialism
Literal Millennium	YES	NO	NO
Resurrection before Millennium	One	None	None
“Thousand years” of Revelation 20	Future	Present	Present
Resurrection(s)	Two specific	One general	One general
Consistent literal interpretation	YES	NO	NO
Unconditional OT covenants	YES	NO	NO
Distinctions Between Church and Israel	MANY	NONE	NONE

Comparison of the Three Views

	Pre-millennialism	Amillennialism	Postmillennialism
Messianic Kingdom	Future	Present	Present
Rapture/Revelation	Separate Events	Same event	Same event
Binding of Satan	In the future during the millennium	In the present	In the present
Moral Progress	Not inevitable, things getting worse	Not inevitable	In the present, church is Christianizing the world
Final Judgment	Two events	One event	One event
	(1) Judgment Seat of Christ after Rapture	One Judgment at the same time for	One Judgment at the same time for
	(2) Judgment of the	both the living and	both the living and

REASONS FOR PREMILLENNIALISM

1. It best explains the unconditional land-promise to Abraham and his descendants (Genesis 12, 14-15).
2. It provides the best understanding of the unconditional Davidic covenant that his descendent would reign forever (II Samuel 7).
3. It is needed to fulfill numerous OT predictions about a messianic age (Isaiah 9, 60, 65).
4. It explains Jesus' promise that He and His apostles would reign on thrones in Jerusalem (Matthew 19:28).

REASONS FOR PREMILLENNIALISM CONTINUED (Norman Geisler)

5. It is supported by Jesus' response to the disciples' question about restoring the kingdom to Israel (Acts 1:5-7).
6. It upholds Paul's affirmation about Christ reigning until death is defeated (I Corinthians 15:20-28).
7. It is consistent with the Romans 11 promise that Israel will be restored.
8. It maintains a literal interpretation of Christ and the resurrected saints reigning "a thousand years" (Revelation 20:1-6).

Papias (60 to 130 AD)

- He was taught directly by the Apostle John. He was a friend of Polycarp, who was also a disciple of John.
- Papias was a bishop/pastor of Hierapolis in Phrygia, Asia Minor. His writings not preserved, but Irenaeus and Eusebius refer to his writings.
- Irenaeus writes of the earth's dramatic changes in the millennium and writes, "And these things are borne witness to in writing by Papias, the hearer of John, and a companion of Polycarp, in his fourth book."
- Eusebius, bishop/pastor at Caesarea and the "Father of church history," wrote concerning Papias in his work *Ecclesiastical History* (III, 39), "Among other things he says that a 1000 years will elapse after the resurrection of the dead and there will be a corporal establishment of Christ's kingdom on this earth."

Justin Martyr (c. 100 – c. 165)

- “I and others, who are right-minded Christians on all points, are assured that there will be a resurrection of the dead, and a thousand years in Jerusalem, which will then be built, adorned, and enlarged as the prophets Ezekiel and Isaiah and others declare.”

Irenaeus (c. 125 – c. 202)

- “The predicted blessing, therefore, belongs unquestionably to the times of the kingdom, when the righteous shall bear rule upon their rising from the dead; when also the creation, having been renovated and set free, shall fructify with an abundance of all kinds of food, from the dew of heaven, and from the fertility of the earth and that all animals feeding only on the productions of the earth should in those days become peaceful and harmonious among each other, and be in perfect subjection to man.”

Lactantius (c. 240 – c. 320)

- “The dead will rise again, not after a thousand years from their death, but that, when again restored to life, they may reign with God a thousand years.”

More Lactantius Quotes

- Jesus “. . . will be engaged among men a thousand years, and will rule them with a most just command.”
- “About the same time (i.e. the 1000 years) also the prince of the devils, who is the contriver of all evils, shall be bound with chains, and shall be imprisoned during the thousand years.”
- “... throughout this time (i.e. the 1000 years) beasts shall not be nourished by blood, nor birds by prey; but all things shall be peaceful and tranquil.”

Ephraem of Syria (c. 306 -373)

Pretribulational Poem

“Why therefore do we not reject every care of earthly actions and prepare for the meeting of the Lord Christ? All saints and the Elect of the Lord are gathered together before the Tribulation which is about to come and are taken to the Lord, in order that they may not see at any time the confusion which overwhelms the world because of our sins.”

Philip Schaff – Church Historian in his Eight-volume set, *History of the Christian Church*

- **"The most striking point in the eschatology of the ante-Nicene age is the prominent chiliasm, or premillennialism, that is the belief of a visible reign of Christ in glory on earth with the risen saints for a 1000 years, before the general resurrection and judgment. It was indeed not the doctrine of the church embodied in any creed or form of devotion, but a widely current opinion of distinguished teachers, such as Barnabas, Papias, Justin Martyr, Irenaeus, Tertullian, Methodius, and Lactantius."**

J.C. I Gieseler – Church Historian

- He wrote the following when referring to early Christian literature which was produced between 117 and 193 AD, "In all these works the belief in the millennium is so evident, that no one can hesitate to consider it as universal in an age, when certainly such motives as it offered were not unnecessary to animate men to suffer for Christianity."

The 6000 year theme to ponder

- The time between creation and Abraham
- The time between Abraham and Christ = c. 2000 years
 - The Birth of a Nation
 - The History of Israel
 - The History of Apostasy
 - The Rejection of their Messiah by crucifying Him
- The time between Christ and the rapture = Will it be equal to Israel's history?
 - The Birth of the Church
 - The History of the Church
 - The History of Apostasy
 - The Rejection of their Messiah by accepting Antichrist
- The 7-year Tribulation Period (Revelation 4-19)
- The 1000 Year Reign of Christ on the Earth = the Millennium (Revelation 20)
- The Eternal Age to follow the Millennium (Revelation 21-22)

The Epistle of Barnabas 120-150

AD (non-canonical), in Egypt

- This epistle presented a view which appears to have been popular among Jews and Christians. It declared that just as God labored for six days in creation, so the present earth would labor in its turmoil for 6,000 years. Then it asserted that just as God rested on the seventh day after His six days of labor, so the present earth would enjoy 1,000 years of rest after its 6,000 years of labor.
- This 1000-year rest will begin, "When His Son, coming again, shall destroy the time of the wicked man, and judge the ungodly, and change the sun, and the moon, and the stars." In other words, the 1000 years of rest will begin in conjunction with the Second Coming of Christ.
- The epistle further stated that after the earth's seventh day (1000 years of rest), there will be an "eighth day, that is, a beginning of another world." It would appear that this "eighth day" is a reference to the future eternal state with the new eternal earth after the 1000-year millennium.

Edward Gibbon (1737-1794) wrote *The History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*

- "The ancient and popular doctrine of the millennium was intimately connected with the second coming of Christ. As the works of the creation had been finished in six days, their duration in their present state, according to a tradition which was attributed to the prophet Elijah, was fixed to 6000 years. By the same analogy it was inferred, that this long period of labor and contention, which was now almost elapsed, would be succeeded by a joyful Sabbath of a 1000 years; and that Christ, with the triumphant band of the saints and the elect who had escaped death, or who had been miraculously revived, would reign upon earth till the time appointed for the last and general resurrection. The assurance of such a millennium was carefully inculcated by a succession of fathers from Justin Martyr and Irenaeus, who conversed with the immediate disciples of the apostle, down to Lactantius, who was preceptor to the son of Constantine."

The Rejection of Premillennialism in the Eastern (Greek) Church

- The rejection began with some leaders of the Greek church in the east as early as 170 AD. A church group known as the Alogi rejected the book of Revelation altogether, "denounced the Apocalypse of John as a book of fables."
- They rejected the book of Revelation and its premillennial teachings.

The Rejection of Premillennialism in the Western Church (Rome)

- **First** was the Montanistic controversy which raged around 160-220 AD. The Montanists were very controversial and were heretics. They were also premillennial. Premillennialism began to be discredited through guilt by association.
- A **second** factor, was the Greek church was fearful that the premillennial teaching of Christ's second coming and His crushing of the Roman power to take over the world would be "a source of political danger," and that it would bring even greater persecution.
- **Third**, some thought the teaching of Christ's glorious kingdom would draw attention away from their organizational structure and programs.
- **Fourth**, there was a strong anti-Semitic spirit in the eastern church. The church increasingly called Jews "Christ-killers." Because the premillennial view of an earthly, political kingdom ruled by a Jewish Messiah motivated the Jews for centuries, the belief was increasingly stigmatized as "Jewish" and consequently "heretical."
- **Fifth**, a new theology, known as Alexandrian theology, developed in the Greek church. This new theology, a mixture of Greek philosophy with Christian doctrine, was formed by Origen (185-253 AD) and other church scholars in Alexandria, Egypt. This led to the rejection of a literal kingdom to a metaphysical kingdom.
- **Sixth**, Origen developed a new method of interpreting the Bible called the allegorical or spiritualizing method, which stands in contrast to the literal, historical-grammatical method.

Noted change in Eschatology

Augustine – *City of God*

- The early Augustine was premillennial, but he changed his view when he overreacted to a chiliastic (i.e. millennialist) cult (i.e. the Donatists).
- Augustine would also depart from the literal hermeneutic for an allegorical approach. Amillennialism and Postmillennialism is based on the allegorical approach to interpreting the Bible.
- Augustine's teaching on Amillennialism became the official position of the Roman Catholic Church

Invitation

Dear Jesus,

I believe you came the first time to die for my sins. I believe in my heart that God raised You from the dead. I believe you are coming again to rule this earth. Today, I want you to come and rule my heart.

I pray in Jesus' name, Amen.

NEXT WEEK'S SERMON BEGINS AFTER THIS – PART II – I WILL EDIT THOUGH AND SEND NEW NOTES

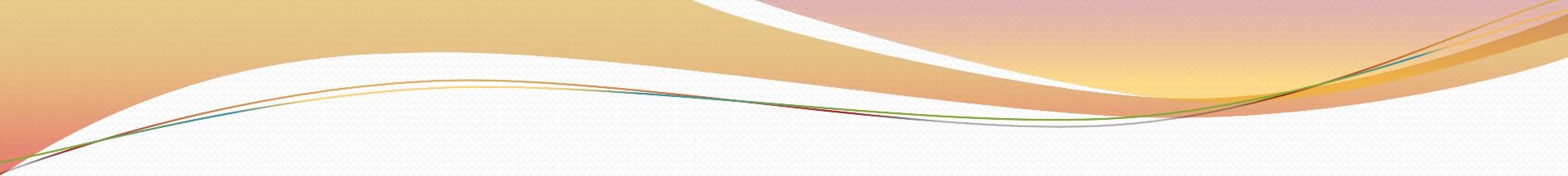
- NEXT WEEK'S SERMON BEGINS AFTER THIS – PART II – I WILL EDIT THOUGH AND SEND NEW NOTES NEXT SUNDAY

Pre-Tribulation Prophecy Chart



Hermeneutics

- Define hermeneutics (Dr. at BJU notes – get those from Matthew class)
- Keys to interpreting the Bible
- Today, terrible hermeneutics, inconsistent, biased
- Distinction of the church and Israel – the dispensation of the church

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- IF YOU ARE NOT A PREMILLENNIALIST THE RELATIONSHIP OF CHRIST'S RETURN TO THE TRIBULATION IS A MUTE POINT.
 - ONLY PREMILLENNIALISTS WOULD HAVE A VIEW OF THE TIMING OF CHRIST'S RELATIONSHIP PRIOR TO THE MILLENNIUM
 - PRE TRIB – THEY ARE ALL PREMILLENNIALISTS
 - MID TRIB – THEY ARE ALL PREMILLENNIALISTS
 - POST TRIB – THEY ARE ALL PREMILLENNIALISTS

The Progressive Nature of God's Work and His Revelation

- Tabernacle, Temple, Millennial Temple, New Jerusalem
- Regenerated, in-dwelling Holy Spirit, Millennial conditions, eternal conditions
- Earth's present conditions, millennial conditions, eternal conditions
- Old Testament books, New Testament books – the capstone: the Book of Revelation
- Justification, Sanctification, Glorification
- Bronze, silver, then gold in tabernacle

Focus of Christ's Teaching on the Kingdom Age vs. Time of the Gentiles

- Church is part of the kingdom



Christ's Focus on the Revelation in the Gospels



Paul's Focus on the Rapture in the Epistles

The “Mystery” of the Church

- The mystery of being “In Christ” – Ephesians 5, mystery of our union.
- Ephesians 3:5
- I Corinthians 15:51 – “Behold I shew you a mystery”

The Template of the Book of Revelation

- Revelation 1:19 (past, present, future)

Chapter 1 – past

Chapters 2-3 present church age

Chapter 4:1 – John taken to heaven parallels some aspects of rapture

Chapter 4 – the throne and crowns

Chapters 4-19 – the Tribulation

Chapter 19 – the Revelation

Chapter 20 – the Millennium

Chapter 20 – the White Throne Judgment at end of millennium

Chapters 21-22 – the eternal age

Pattern of Judgment in Scripture

- The Flood – Noah's family
- Sodom and Gomorrah – Lot's family
- Ezekiel 9 – believers in Jerusalem – mark of the T on the head
- Judgment of the Nations – believers first, enter the millennium?



Ambassadors are Removed before
war



Explicit teaching of Scripture not to
go through the Tribulation



The Marriage of the Bride

- Church the bride of Christ

The Resurrection of Israel on earth
The Resurrection of the church in
air

Only the pre-tribulation position accounts for all of the prophetic details

- The caught up of I Thessalonians
- The marriage of the lamb in heaven
- The return of saints with Christ at Revelation
- The glorified saints ruling with Christ in millennium

If Pre-Tribulation Position is True how why would Satan attack it, how attack

- Distract thoughts from physical Israel with covenant theology – subtle from conservative believers, our brothers, closest to us
- Get away from immanence – discourage with wrath or persecution themes
- Not looking for Jesus will effect your hope, your work, your purity
- Use Proverbs 5 – strategy of the harlot, the good master is not home and won't be home
- Focus on signs that he can conjure up to get man to focus on his chosen messiah - antichrist

Doctrine of Immanence

- Judge standing at the door about to enter.
- Looking for the blessed hope
- I John 3:2-3
- II Peter 3:10-11

The Marriage of the Lamb in heaven before the Marriage Supper on earth

Pattern of Jewish Wedding

- John 14
- Groom betrothed to his beloved – gives her an earnest, down payment = Holy Spirit
- Groom goes back to Father's house to build a house/mansion for his bride. Ascension
- Groom returns to bride's home and takes her to her father's home for the marriage. = Rapture
- Groom and bride consummate marriage
- Groom and bride enjoy with guests the marriage supper = the millennium
- Groom and bride enjoy honeymoon = the eternal age
- Book written by Jewish friend FBFI

The Different Positions

- Pre-tribulation position
- Mid-tribulation position – ??? Pre-wrath
- Post-tribulation position
- No rapture, no millennium, just Christ's revelation at the end of the world and judgment of all believers and unbelievers
- No rapture, only His return after the millennium and the judgment of all people

- Lactantius lived from approximately 240 to 320 AD. He was trained in rhetoric. By 290 AD, he had been appointed by Emperor Diocletian to teach rhetoric at a school in Nicomedia. He became a Christian around 300 AD and suffered greatly under the persecution by Emperor Galerius.
- After Emperor Constantine granted freedom to the church and declared himself to be a Christian, he appointed Lactantius to be the personal teacher of his son.
- Through his writings in defense of Christianity, he became known as "the Christian Cicero." Jerome designated him the most learned man of his time.
- Lactantius wrote, "And as God labored six days in building such great works, so His religion and the truth must labor during these 6000 years, while malice prevails and dominates. And again, since He rested on the seventh day from His completed labors and blessed that day, so it is necessary that, at the end of the 6000th year, all evil be abolished from the earth, and that justice reign for a 1000 years, and that there be tranquility and rest from the labors which the world is now enduring for so long."
- Lactantius understood the coming tribulation period: "As the end of this age is drawing near, therefore, it is necessary that the state of human affairs be changed and fall to a worse one, evil growing stronger, so that these present times of ours, in which iniquity and malice have advanced to a very high peak, can be judged." He was convinced from the Scriptures that Rome would be destroyed. Lactantius believed that at His second coming Christ will war against and judge the Antichrist, "then the dead will rise again, ... so that they may reign with God for a 1000 years after being restored to life."
- He said of Jesus, "When He shall have destroyed injustice and made the great judgment and restored to life those who were just from the beginning, He will stay among men for a 1000 years and will rule them with just dominion."
- Lactantius described conditions of the future kingdom: "Then, those who will be living in bodies will not die, but will generate an infinite multitude during those same 1000 years, ... Those who will be raised from the dead will be in charge of the living as judges. At this same time, also, the prince of demons who is the contriver of all evils will be bound in chains, and he will be in custody for the 1000 years of the heavenly power whereby justice will reign on earth, lest any evil be exerted against the people of God ... the holy city will be set up in the center of the earth in which the Founder Himself may abide with the just who are its rulers."
- Lactantius asserted that at the end of the 1000 years Satan would be set loose to lead a final revolt. God will crush the revolt and judge Satan forever. The unjust will be resurrected to everlasting sufferings. Heaven and earth will change drastically.

- **THE REJECTION OF PREMILLENNIALISM IN THE WEST**
- The Western or Latin church remained strongly premillennial longer than the Greek church in the east. This was due to two major reasons: most of the western theologians "escaped the influence of Greek speculation" and the western church always recognized the apostolic authorship and canonicity of the Book of Revelation.
- A change however began to develop after the fourth century. Two major factors, the first being Alexandrian theology began to influence church leaders such as Jerome and Ambrose. Jerome (345-420 AD) declared that he had been delivered from "Jewish opinions," and he ridiculed the early premillennial beliefs. The second reason was the teaching of Augustine (354-430 AD), the bishop/pastor of Hippo. Augustine had been a premillennialist in his early days; however, he rejected that view in favor of a new one which he developed, which would become known as amillennialism.

- Several things prompted Augustine to change. **First**, the political situation of the church had changed radically around this period in his life. The persecution of the church had stopped, and the state had become the servant of the church. It appeared that the church was becoming victorious over the Gentile world dominion. He concluded the premillennial view was obsolete. In his book, *The City of God*, he became the first person to teach the idea that the organized universal church is the messianic kingdom and that the millennium began with the first coming of Christ. Augustine wrote, "The saints reign with Christ during the same 1000 years, understood in the same way, that is, of the time of His first coming, and, therefore the church even now is the kingdom of Christ, and the kingdom of heaven. Accordingly, even now His saints reign with Him." The **second** factor for rejecting premillennialism was Augustine's ascetic style of life, a reaction to his strongly self-indulgent, immoral lifestyle before his conversion. This led him to reject, "as carnal any expectations of a renewed and purified world that the believers could expect to enjoy." The **third** factor was Greek philosophy which taught the inherent evil of the physical or material and the inherent goodness of the totally spiritual. He would write, "But, as they assert that those who then rise again shall enjoy the leisure of immoderate carnal banquets, furnished with an amount of meat and drink such as not only to shock the feeling of the temperate, but even to surpass the measure of credulity itself, such assertions can be believed only by the carnal. They who do believe them are called by the spiritual chiliasts, which we may literally reproduce by the name millenarians."
- In order to avoid the implications of the millennial passages of the Bible, Augustine applied Origen's allegorical method of interpretation to the prophets and the Book of Revelation. For example, according to Augustine the abyss in which Satan is confined during the millennial reign of Christ (Revelation 20:1-3) is not a literal location or place. Instead, he said, "By the abyss is meant the countless multitude of the wicked whose hearts are unfathomably deep in malignity against the Church of God." His interpretation of Satan's being cast into the abyss was as follows: "He is said to be cast in thither, because, when prevented from harming believers, he takes more complete possession of the ungodly." He said that the binding and shutting up of Satan in the abyss "means his being unable to seduce the Church." Augustine was convinced that this binding of Satan in the abyss is a reality during this present church age.
- Augustine's teachings became the "official doctrine of the church."

Ephraem of Syria (c. 306 -373)

Pretribulational Poem

“Why therefore do we not reject every care of earthly actions and prepare for the meeting of the Lord Christ? All saints and the Elect of the Lord are gathered together before the Tribulation which is about to come and are taken to the Lord, in order that they may not see at any time the confusion which overwhelms the world because of our sins.”