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CHRISTIANITY IN CULTURE

Joining God in the Renewal of All Things

A SEMINAR WITH ED STETZER

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ED STETZER *Scholar in Residence*

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Restoration and Creation

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1. The Creation of the Heavens and the Earth

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1. The Creation of the Heavens and the Earth

These are the records of the heavens and the earth, concerning their creation. At the time that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens, no shrub of the field had yet grown on the land, and no plant of the field had yet sprouted, for the LORD God had not made it rain on the land, and there was no man to work the ground.

1. The Creation of the Heavens and the Earth

But mist would come up from the earth and water all the ground. Then the LORD God formed the man out of the dust from the ground and breathed the breath of life into his nostrils, and the man became a living being. (Genesis 2:4-7)

2. The Curse of Creation

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2. The Curse of Creation

And he said to the man, “Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree about which I commanded you, ‘Do not eat from it’:

The ground is cursed because of you.

You will eat from it by means of painful labor all the days of your life.

It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field.

(Genesis 3:17-18)

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2. The Curse of Creation

For the creation was subjected to futility—not willingly, but because of him who subjected it... (Romans 8:20)

3. The Old Testament Promise of a New Creation

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Isaiah 65:17-25

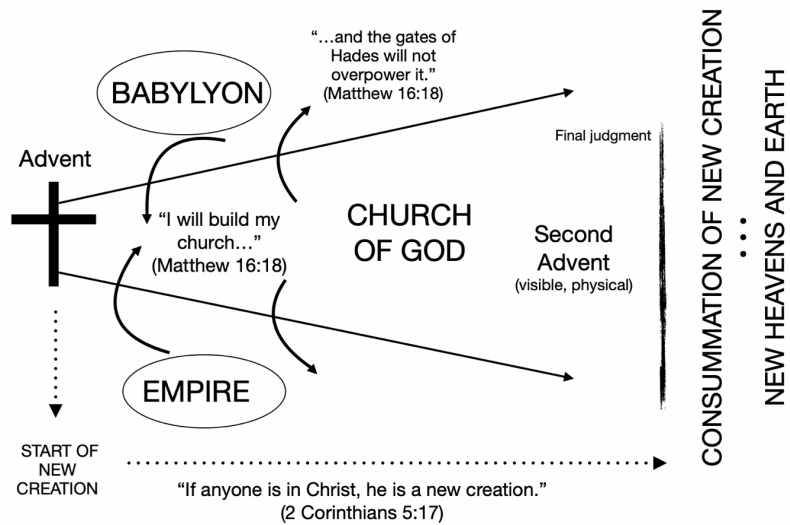
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3. The Old Testament Promise of a New Creation

Isaiah 65:17-25

If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, and see, the new has come!
(2 Corinthians 5:17)

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4. The Renewal of a New Heavens and a New Earth

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Revelation 21:1-5

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4. The Renewal of a New Heavens and a New Earth

Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven holding the key to the abyss and a great chain in his hand. He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years. He threw him into the abyss, closed it, and put a seal on it so that he would no longer deceive the nations until the thousand years were completed. After that, he must be released for a short time. (Revelation 20:1-3)

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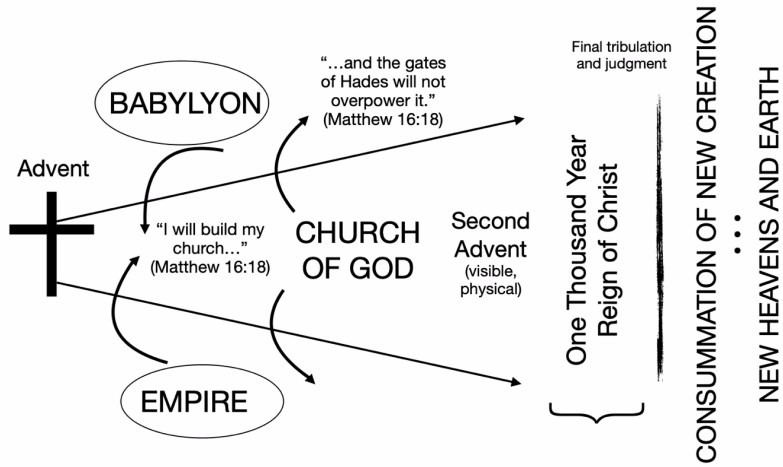
1. Historic Premillennialism
2. Dispensational Premillennialism
3. Postmillennialism
4. Amillennialism

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	Historic Premillennialism	Dispensational Premillennialism	Amillennialism	Postmillennialism
Literal or Symbolic Millennium	Literal	Literal	Symbolic	Symbolic
Time of Second Advent and Physical Return of Christ	Before ("pre") the millennium.	Two stages. Invisible, spiritual "return" before the seven year tribulation and visible, physical return after tribulation and before ("pre") the millennium.	After or "without" the "millennium" ("a" literally means "no" or "without," because the millennium symbolizes the time between Christ's first and second advent).	After ("post") the "millennium."
Character of Millennium	A literal 1,000 years after the physical, visible return of Christ, in which Christ rules in the world, though some still rebel and the final restoration has not yet occurred.	A literal 1,000 years after the invisible return of Christ in the rapture and the seven years of tribulation. During the millennium, Christ rules in the world, preceding the final restoration.	A symbolic 1,000 years (symbolizing a large amount of time) in which Christ rules over the world through the inauguration of the Kingdom in the Gospel before the physical, visible return of Christ.	A symbolic 1,000 years (symbolizing a large amount of time) of a "golden era" in which the gospel has saturated the world. The physical, visible return of Christ will happen after this "golden era."
Separate Invisible Rapture	No	Yes	No	No
View of Kingdom and New Creation	Inaugurated as spiritual and consummated as visible, physical in the 1,000 year reign of Christ.	Inaugurated as spiritual and consummated as visible, physical in the 1,000 year reign of Christ.	Inaugurated as spiritual and consummated as visible, physical in the new heavens and new earth.	Inaugurated as spiritual, becoming increasingly physical, visible in the golden era until consummated as visible, physical in the new heavens and new earth.
Mindset Toward Culture	More pessimistic (culture will mainly degrade until Christ returns).	Quite pessimistic (culture will hugely degrade before the Rapture).	Can be both optimistic or pessimistic, depending on other theological perspectives.	Optimistic, believing the gospel will change all the world before the second advent of Christ.
Israel and Church relationship	Some continuity and some discontinuity. The church is grafted into Israel, yet Israel has some distinct character. Others believe in more continuity, similar to the amillennial and postmillennial positions.	Strong discontinuity. Israel will be restored as Israel.	Continuity between Israel and the church as the one covenant people of God under diverse administrations of the covenant.	Continuity between Israel and the church as the one covenant people of God under diverse administrations of the covenant.
Well-known Proponents	George Eldon Ladd	The <i>Left Behind</i> series	Tim Keller	Douglas Wilson

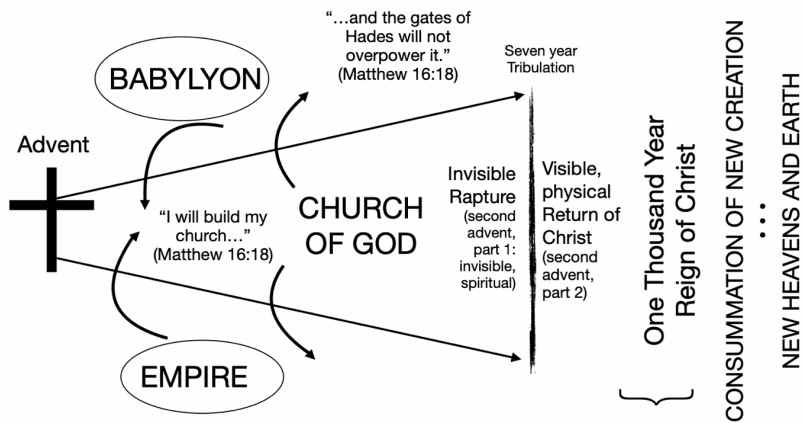
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HISTORIC PREMILLENNIALISM



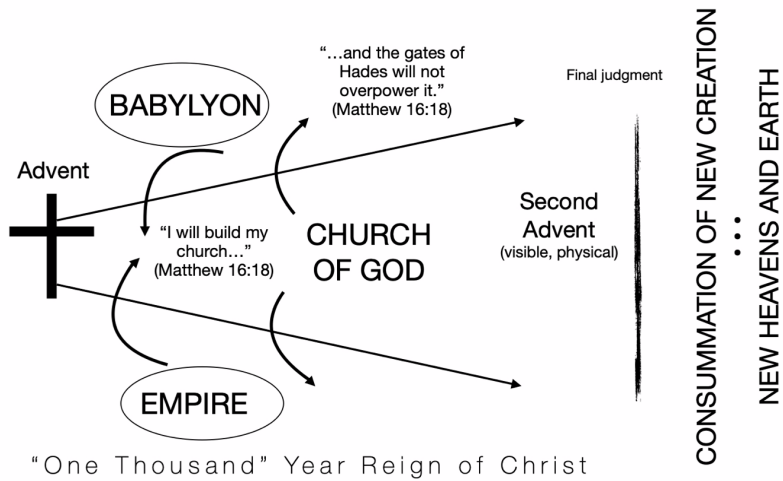
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DISPENSATIONAL PREMILLENNIALISM



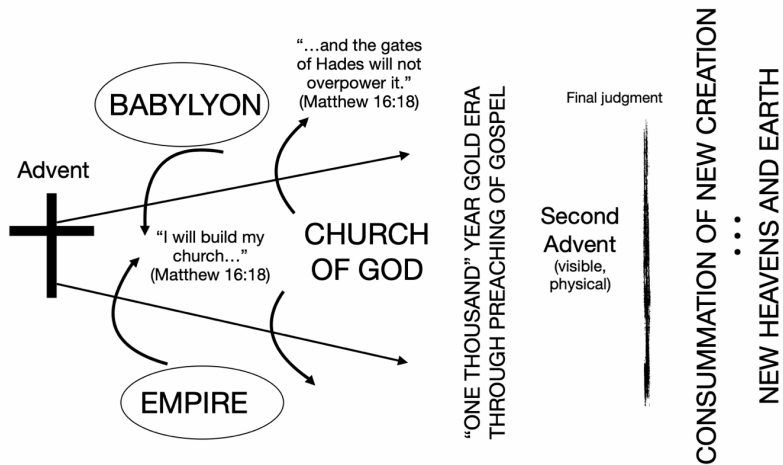
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AMILLENNIALISM



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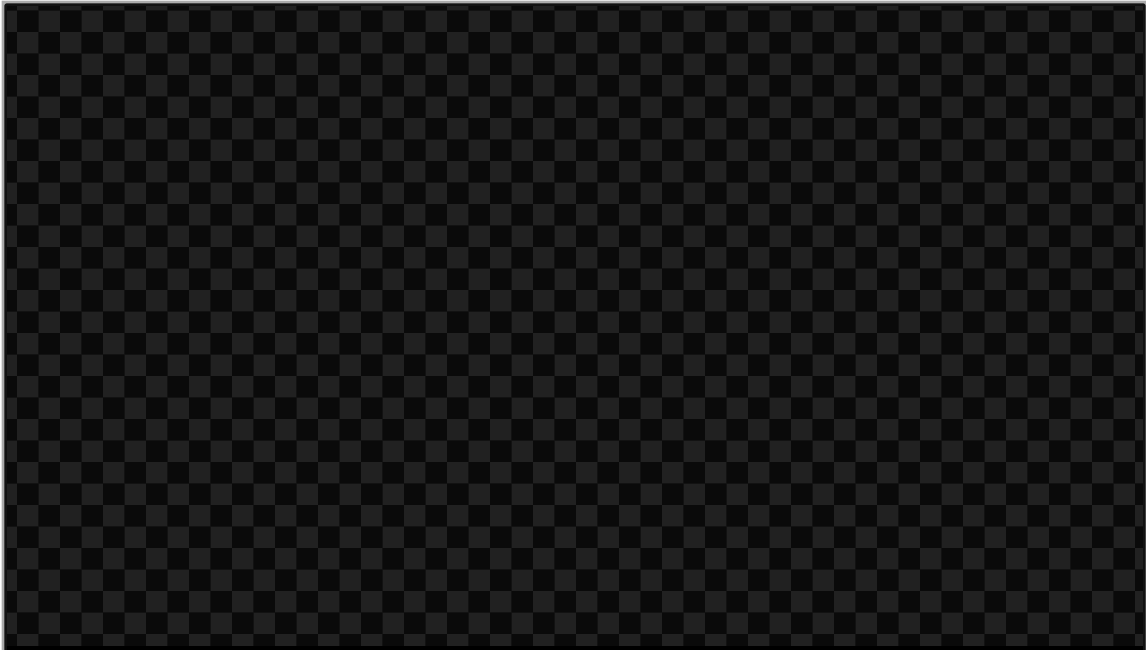
POSTMILLENNIALISM



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Implications of Restoration and Creation

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