

ZOOM LESSONS ON END TIMES

DECEMBER 6-11, 2020 AT 6:30 USA/7:30 PM (AST) NIGHTLY
W/ JOSHUA WELCH AND WILEY DEASON

Sun, Dec 6 (Josh)—What Is Premillennialism?

Mon, Dec 7 (Josh)—Was Jesus Talking About the End of Time in Matthew 24?

Tues, Dec 8 (Josh)—What Was Jesus Talking About In Matthew 24 (pt 2)?

Wed, Dec 9 (Josh)—When Is the 1,000 Year Reign (Revelation 20)?

Thurs, Dec 10 (Wiley)—What Is Hell?

Fri, Dec 11 (Wiley)—What Is Heaven?

Hindsbury Road church of Christ in Barbados

ZOOM Meeting ID: 826 7382 6912, Passcode: 794356

EXAMINING PREMILLENNIALISM

When Is The 1,000 Year Reign of Christ?

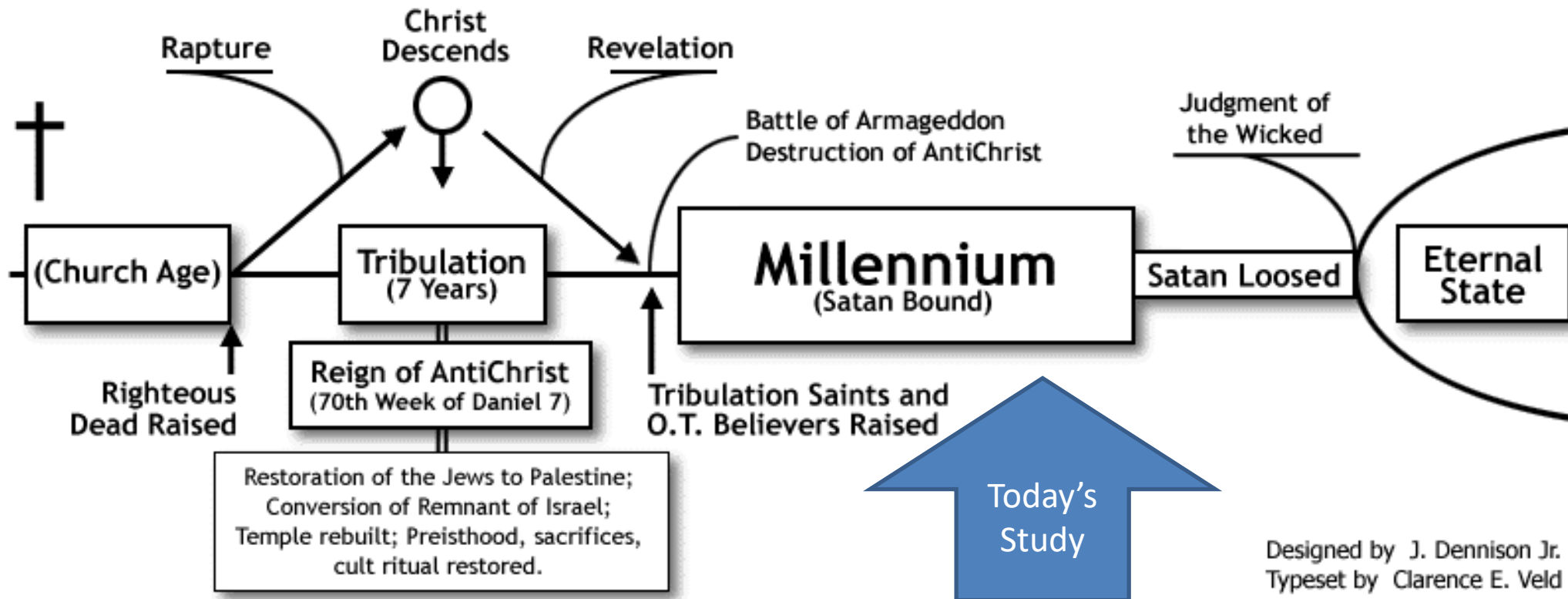


Premillennialism

“Pre”=before

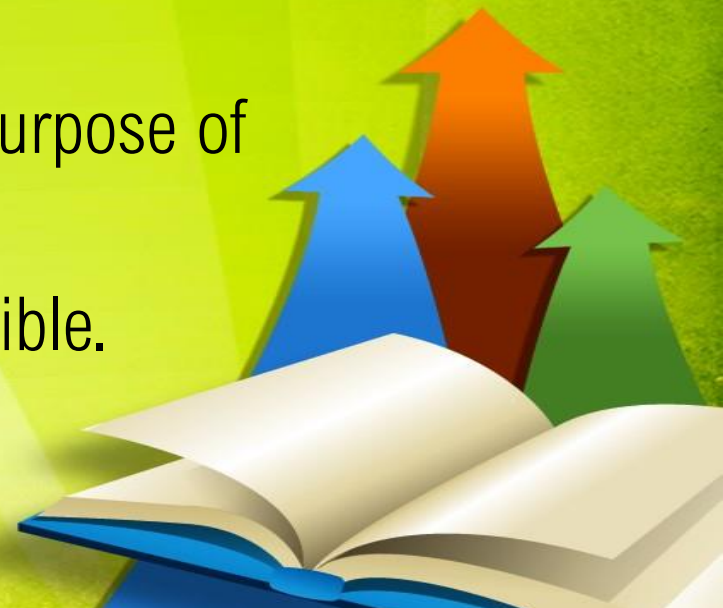
“Millennial”=1,000
Year Reign

“Ism”=a doctrine,
system or theory



ARMAGEDDON AND THE MILLENNIUM

- Revelation 20 is the bread and butter of premillennialism.
- It is exclusively from this passage that the 1,000 year reign of Christ is taught.
- Preceding this millennium, some believe, the battle of Armageddon will take place.
- So, it is important for us to determine...
 - What is the battle of Armageddon?
 - When is the 1,000 year reign?
- Whatever answers we give, they must be consistent with the purpose of Revelation (1:1-2; 22:6-10).
- They must also be logical and consistent with the rest of the Bible.



REVELATION 16:16

“And they gathered them together to the place called in Hebrew, Armageddon.”

This is the only time the New Testament speaks of “Armageddon.”



REVELATION 20:1-4

“Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. ² He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is *the* Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; ³ and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished. But after these things he must be released for a little while. ⁴ And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then *I saw* the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received *his* mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.”



REVELATION 20:5-10

“⁵ But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This *is* the first resurrection. ⁶ Blessed and holy *is* he who has part in the first resurrection. Over 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. Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison ⁸ and will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle, whose number *is* as the sand of the sea. ⁹ They went up on the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them. ¹⁰ The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet *are*. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.”

This is the only time the New Testament speaks of the “millennium.”

A FEW NOTS OF REVELATION 20

The second coming is NOT there.

Jerusalem is NOT there.

David's throne is NOT there.

A bodily resurrection is NOT there.

Christ reigning on earth is NOT there.

“For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book...” (Revelation 22:18).

REVELATION 16: FIGURATIVE OR LITERAL?

Frogs in
Mouths
(16:13)?



Islands and
Mountains
Gone
(16:20)?



Battle of
Armageddon
(16:16)?

ARMAGEDDON



SYMBOLIC PLACES IN THE BIBLE

Jerusalem A Symbol of the Church

- *“But you have come to Mt. Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem...to the general assembly and church of the firstborn...”* (Hebrews 12:22-23).

Babylon A Symbol of Seduction

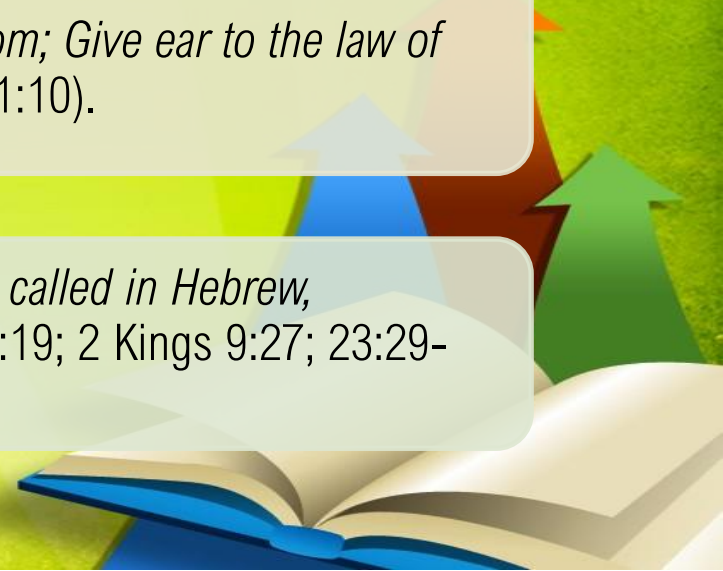
- *“And on her forehead a name was written: MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH”* (Revelation 17:5).

Sodom A Symbol of Corruption

- *“Hear the word of the Lord, you rulers of Sodom; Give ear to the law of our God, you people of Gomorrah...”* (Isaiah 1:10).

Armageddon A Symbol of Conflict

- *“And they gathered them together to the place called in Hebrew, Armageddon”* (Revelation 16:16; cp. Judges 5:19; 2 Kings 9:27; 23:29-30).



IS A LITERAL WORLD WAR EVEN POSSIBLE IN THE VALLEY OF MEGIDDO?



The valley of
Megiddo is 14
miles wide and 20
miles long!



FIGURATIVE OR LITERAL?



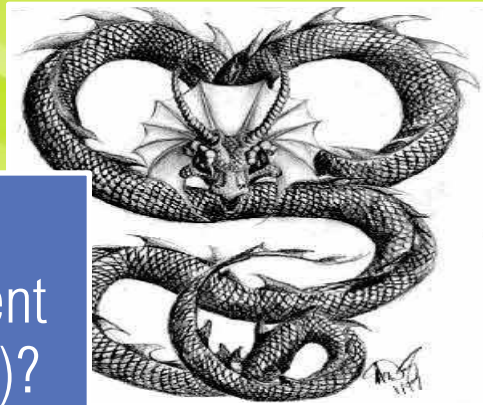
The Beast
(20:4)?



The Chain
(20:1)?



The Key
(20:1)?



The Serpent
(20:1)?



The Bride
(22:17)?

1,000
Years
(20:2-7)?

1000



1,000 IN THE BIBLE

Deuteronomy 1:11

- “May the Lord God of your fathers make you a thousand times more numerous than you are.”

Psalms 50:10

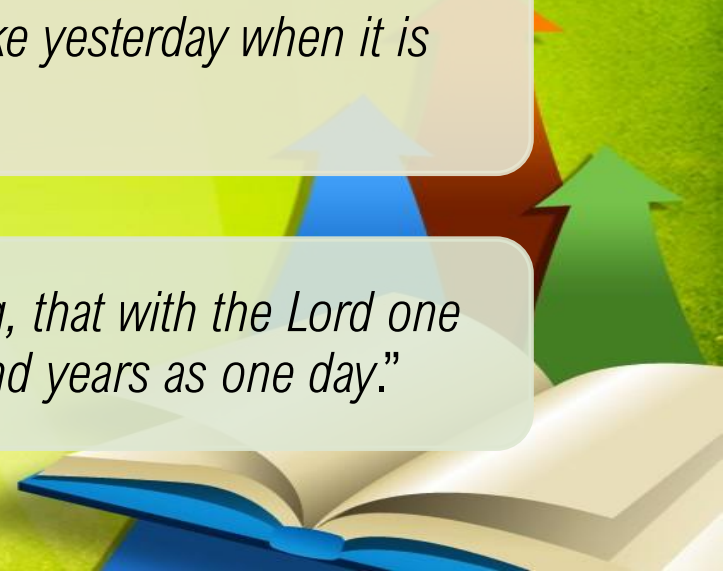
- “Every beast of the forest is Mine, and the cattle on a thousand hills.”

Psalms 90:4

- “For a thousand years in Your sight are like yesterday when it is past, and like a watch in the night.”

2 Peter 3:8

- “But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.”



PREMILLENNIALIST CONTRADICTIONS: TWO RESURRECTIONS IN REVELATION 20?

Some assume Revelation 20 implies two resurrections (20:4-5).

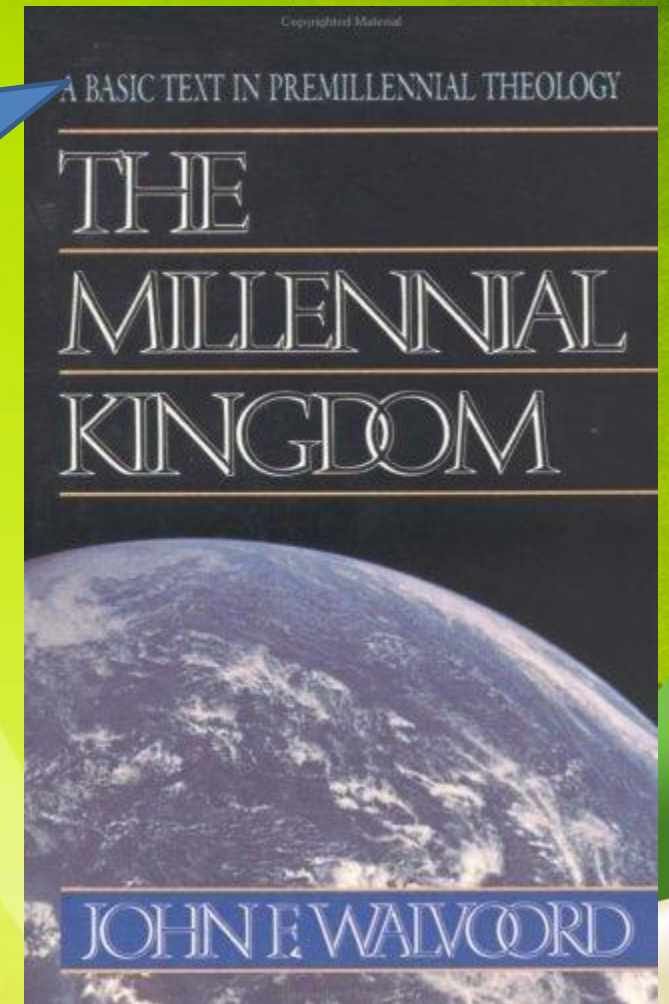
Yet, this would contradict other Biblical teaching (Matthew 13:29-30; John 5:28-29; Acts 17:).

Should we take a position on Revelation 20 that leads to a contradiction in other passages?



PREMILLENNIAL CONTRADICTIONS: GENTILES SUBSERVIENT TO JEWS IN THE MILLENNIUM?

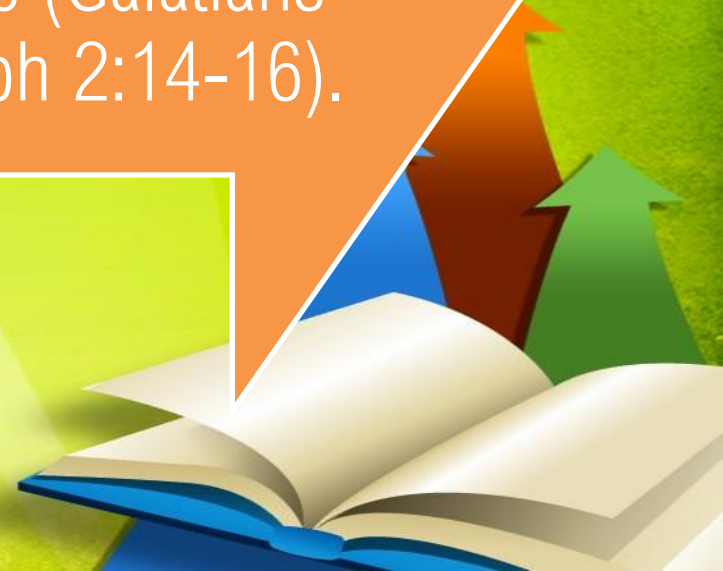
“In contrast to the present church age in which Jews and Gentiles are on an equal plane of privilege, the millennium is clearly a period of time in which Israel is in prominence and blessing....Outstanding in these Scriptures is the fact that, first, the Gentiles will share many of the spiritual and economic blessings of the millennial reign of Christ. Second, they will, however, occupy a subordinate role to Israel...” (Walvoord, *The Millennial Kingdom*, p. 302-304).



PREMILLENNIAL CONTRADICTIONS: GENTILES SUBSERVIENT TO JEWS IN THE MILLENNIUM?

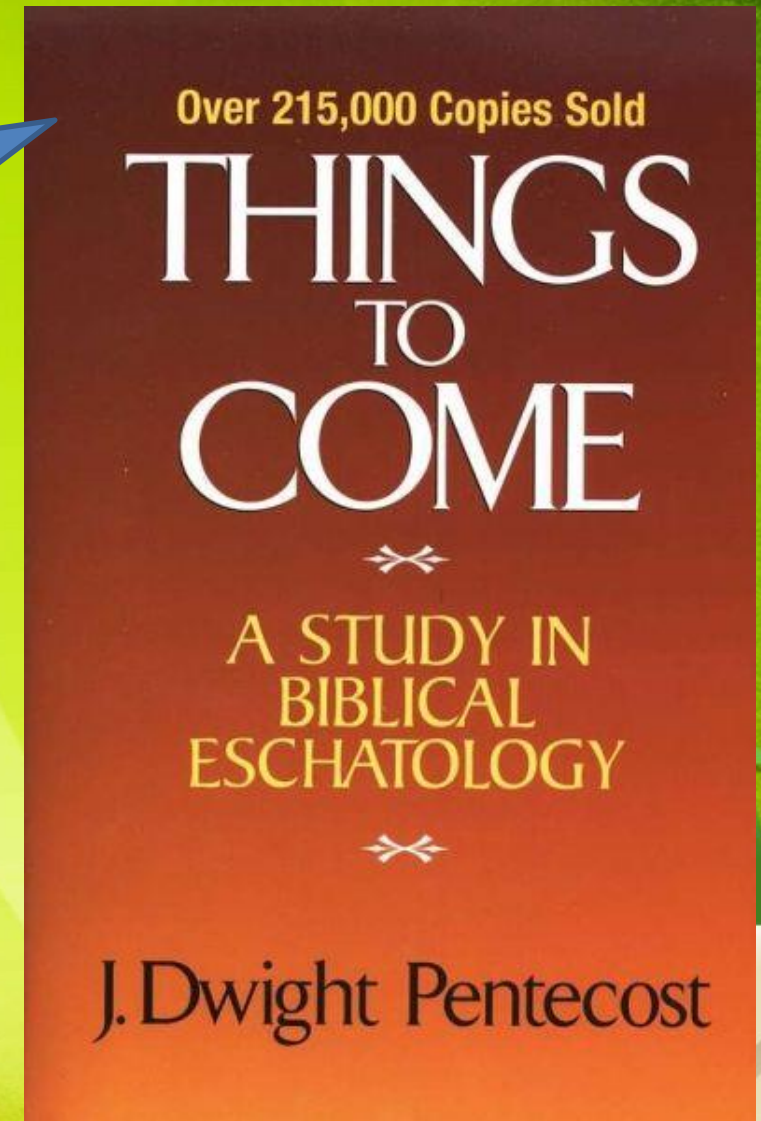
“Gentiles Will Serve
Jews In the
Millennium”

Jesus Came to End
Division Between Jew
and Gentile (Galatians
3:28-29; Eph 2:14-16).



PREMILLENNIALIST CONTRADICTIONS: ANIMAL SACRIFICE IN THE MILLENNIUM?

“In the millennial system we find the worship centers in an altar (Ezekiel 43:13-17) on which blood is sprinkled (43:18) and on which are offered burnt offerings, sin offerings, and trespass offerings (40:39). There is the re-institution of a Levitical order in that the sons of Zadok are set aside for a priestly ministry (43:19)” (J. Dwight Pentecost, *Things to Come*. P. 159).



PREMILLENNIALIST CONTRADICTIONS: ANIMAL SACRIFICE IN THE MILLENNIUM?

“Animal Sacrifices Will Be
Reinstated in the
Millennium”

Blood of bulls and goats
cannot take away sin
(Hebrews 10:4; Acts 15:10;
cp. Romans 7:1-4; Gal 5:1-
4).



WHAT IS THE MILLENNIUM?

1,000 Year Reign

- A figurative number representing completeness or fullness of time.
- Christ now reigns with His saints until the fullness of the age is complete (Eph 1:20-23; Revelation 1:5-6, 9-10; 3:21; 11:15).

Binding of Satan

- Christ has bound (limited) Satan's power over sin and death (cp. Matthew 12:28-29; Hebrews 2:14-15).
- How (see Revelation 12:10-11)?

First Resurrection

- The "first death" is that of the soul, the "first resurrection" is new life given to the soul (cp. John 5:24-25, 28-29).
- Matthew 16:18-19; Revelation 2:7, 10-11; Heb 12:28; contrast Revelation 6:9-10 to 20:4-6).

A KEY THEME OF REVELATION

The Persecuted
Saints

- Revelation 3:21; 6:9-11; 7:9-10; 7:13-14

The Life of the Soul

- Eph 2:1, 5-6
- Col 2:12-13

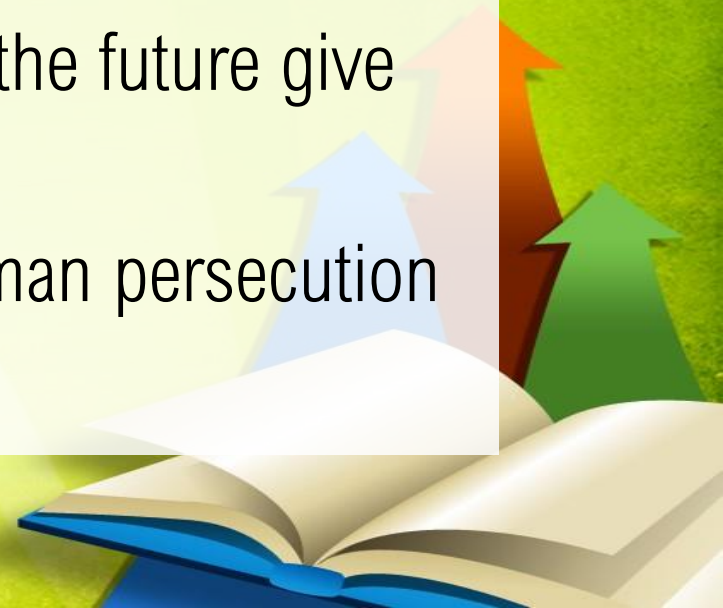
The Hope of the
Persecuted Saint!

- Rev 19:11-21
- Rev 20:1-6



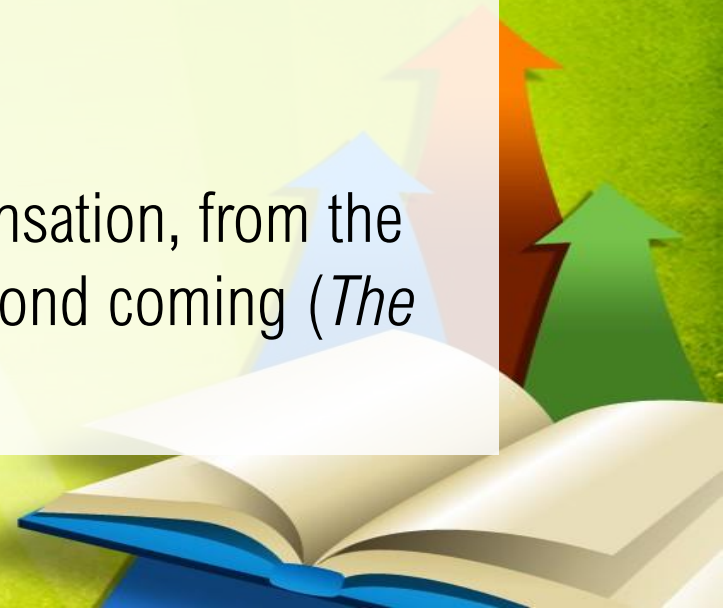
REMEMBER!

- Whatever our interpretation of Revelation 20, it should...
 - Keep in mind the symbolic language John claims he is using in Revelation 1:1.
 - Primarily refer to things which “*must shortly take place*” (Revelation 1:1,3; 22:6).
 - Keep in mind the hope being offered to those John is writing to in the first place (Revelation 1:4, 11).
- Does a thousand year earthly reign of Christ centuries in the future give any hope to these saints?
- Does the spiritual reign of Christ and victory over the Roman persecution give hope to these persecuted saints?



TWO QUOTATIONS

- R.C.H. Lenski,
 - “The 1,000 years cover the whole period from 12:2 to 20:6, from the appearance of Satan as the dragon (12:3) to his final judgment (20:7-10)...These 1,000 years thus extend from the incarnation and the enthronement of the Son (12:5) to Satan’s final plunge into hell (20:10), which is the entire New Testament period” (*The Interpretation of St. John’s Revelation*, 564-565).
- Anthony Hoekema,
 - “The period, as we saw, spans the entire New Testament dispensation, from the time of the first coming of Christ to just before the Christ’s second coming (*The Bible and the Future*, 230).



EXAMINING PREMILLENNIALISM



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Interested in reading and studying more on the subject of premillennialism?
- Consider the following books...
 - *Boles-Boll Debate* on Premillennialism (can be purchased at Faith and Facts Bookstore 1-800-42-FAITH)
 - *Welch-Schreiner Debate* on Premillennialism (can be purchased at Faith and Facts Bookstore 1-800-42-FAITH).
 - *God's Prophetic Word* by Foy E. Wallace (purchased via digital CD at Faith and Facts Bookstore).
 - *Nobody Left Behind* by David Vaughn Elliott (can be purchased online—look at web site at www.nobodyleftbehind.net/).

