

This midweek study will explore different views on the millennial. Use the following main points, Scriptures, teaching/discussion ideas, and questions to help students gain a better understanding of the essential doctrine for this session.

Essential Doctrine: Millennial Views

There are three predominant views regarding ways to understand the Bible's teaching on the millennial reign of Christ. The premillennial view holds that the millennium is a literal 1,000-year reign of Christ on earth that will take place just after His return. The postmillennial view holds that the millennium happens during this church age, and Christ's return will take place afterward. The amillennial view holds that there is no literal millennial reign of Christ here on earth, but instead, it symbolically represents Christ's reign in the hearts of God's people during the church age.

1 Premillennialism affirms the millennium of Revelation 20 is still in the future (Rev. 20:1-15; Isa. 65:17-25).

► *What's the fancy word for a thousand years?*

If you need a hint, of the first word of the "fastest hunk of junk in the galaxy" in the *Star Wars* series.

► *Glance over Revelation 20. Where is the reference to a millennium?*

The three views we'll look at today are all about understandings of that millennium.

► *What do you think premillennialism means? (Hint: if we are "pre" the millennium, when will the millennium take place?)*

Read Revelation 20:1-3.

► *According to premillennialism, what are the initial events of the millennium?*

► *For whom is this bad news? For whom is it good news?*

Read Revelation 20:7-10.

► *What event happens at the end of the millennium? Where do these enemies come from? How is this last battle (often considered Armageddon) a bit anticlimactic (v. 9)?*

Read Revelation 20:11-15.

► *How does the millennium ultimately end?*

► *How does premillennialism motivate you to evangelism? To discipleship?*

2 Amillennialism interprets the millennium of Revelation 20 as the current inter-advental period (Rev. 20:1-15).

► *For the most part, would you interpret Revelation literally or figuratively?*

► *Any ideas on how people might interpret Revelation 20 figuratively or symbolically?*

► *Amillennialism is a bit of a misleading name. Usually, what does the prefix "a-" mean? So what would you expect amillennialism to mean?*

Amillennialism doesn't believe there is no millennium; instead, they believe we are in it now. The millennium isn't literally a thousand years; instead, it's a long period of time.

Read Revelation 20:1-3.

Amillenials think this section figuratively describes what happened when Jesus died and rose again.

► *How did Jesus' death bind Satan? How can Satan no longer deceive the nations? What unprecedented event happened to the nations in Acts that might correspond to verse 3?*

Read Revelation 20:11-15.

► *How does the amillennial interpretation of this section overlap with the premillennial interpretation? Do you see any significant differences?*

3 Postmillennialism overlaps with amillennialism, but holds to a generally-growing success of gospel multiplication (Rev. 20:1-15).

Postmillennialism, like amillennialism, believes we are currently in a figurative millennium.

► *What does the prefix "post-" usually mean? How is postmillennialism, a misleading name?*

Read Revelation 20:3-6.

► *What do you see in this section that would cause postmillennials to have a very positive view of the expansion of the church at this time?*

► *How might postmillennialism motivate you to evangelism? To discipleship?*

WRAP IT UP

► *Draw a chart or table of the millennial views as an illustration for a "Revelation 20 for Dummies" guidebook.*

► *Imagine a terrified Christian says, "I don't know which kind of millennial I am!" How would you comfort him or her?*