

Midweek Bible Study

Survey of Millennial Views

Rev. 20:1-10

Introduction

Rev. 20:1-10 is arguably the most debated single passage in Revelation.

Before we can dive into exegesis and exposition, we need to do a survey of millennial views so that as we exegete we can keep the issues more clearly before us (we will be referring to the different positions).

This is not a defense of one view against others, but simply a survey.

The term “millennium”

1. Latin term for 1,000 years (mille, thousand; annus, year)
2. Greek term χίλια ἔτη (chilia eta)
3. Millennialism or Chiliasm

What is the Millennial Question?

1. How do we understand the phrase “one thousand years”?
2. What is the relationship of Christ’s Second Coming to the Millennial period?
Will His return inaugurate the millennial period?
Will His return consummate the millennial period?
3. How do we arrive at a conclusion?

Is There a Historical Orthodox Position?

The Major Views

1. **Premillennialism**

2. **Dispensational Premillennialism**



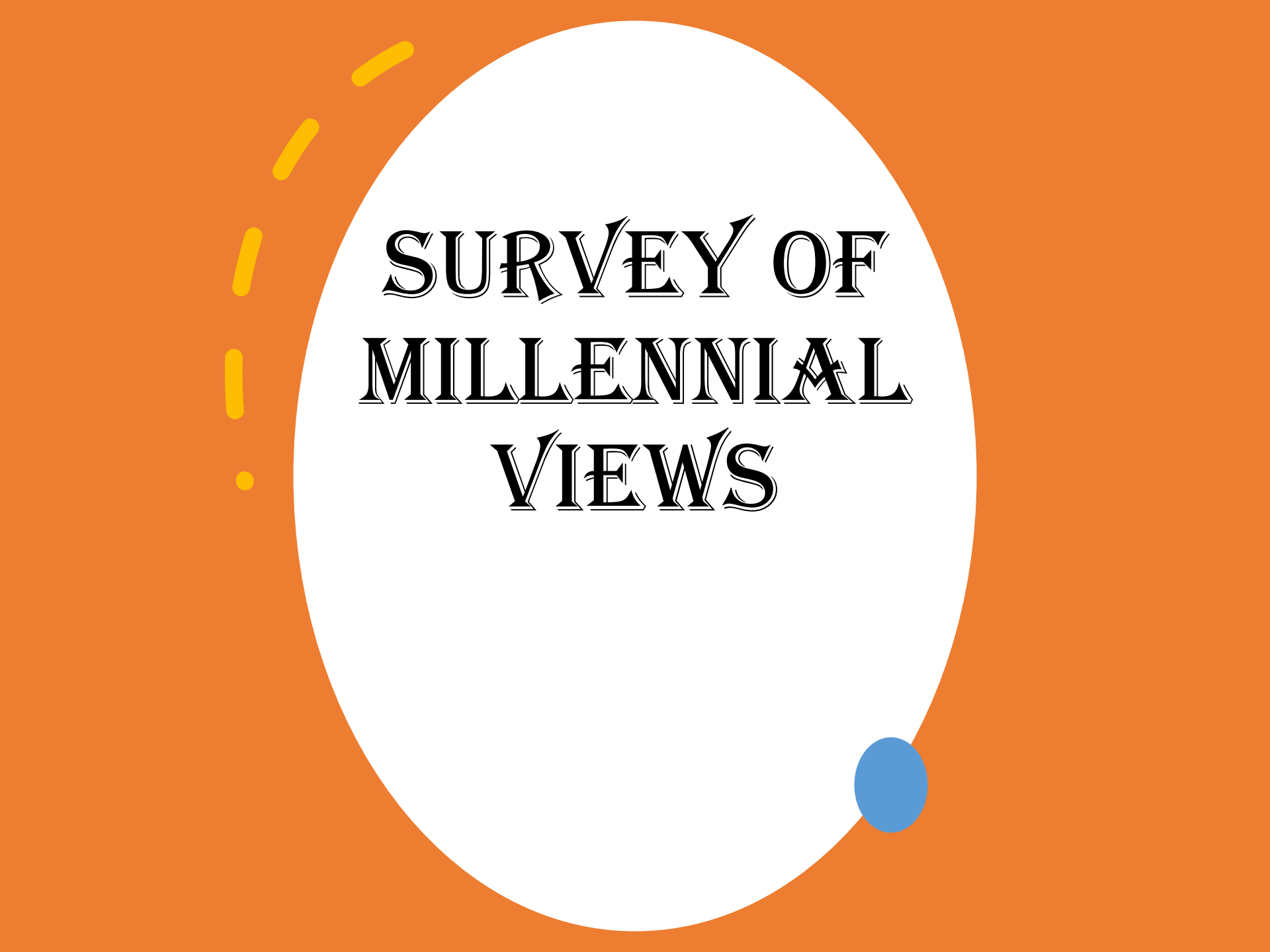
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3. **Post-Millennialism**

*Note on Reconstructionism

- ## 4. **Amillennialism** (historically probably not a whole lot of difference. In one sense amillennialism is post-mil.)





SURVEY OF MILLENNIAL VIEWS

Historic Premillennialism

- Church age ends with a tribulation period
- Tribulation period ends with the Second Coming of Christ
- Christ establishes an earthly kingdom for 1,000 years
 - Satan is bound
- The final rebellion, Satan is loosed
- Great White Throne Judgment
- Eternal State – New Heavens and New Earth

Dispensational Premillennialism

- Church age ends with the rapture of the church
- A seven-year tribulation period begins
- The Tribulation period ends with the Second Coming of Christ
- Christ establishes an earthly kingdom for 1,000 years
 - Satan is bound
- The final rebellion, Satan is loosed
- Great White Throne Judgment
- Eternal State – New Heavens and New Earth

Post-millennialism

- The Church sees the advancement of Christ's Gospel and Kingdom
- At some point, the Kingdom advances to such a degree that the Millennium is inaugurated (literal or symbolic)
- Once the kingdom has advanced through the whole world, Christ will return.
- Final Resurrection, Judgment
- Eternal State – New Heavens and New Earth

Amillennialism

- Christ establishes His kingdom in His resurrection, ascension, Pentecost
- Christ's reign is from His first coming to his second coming. (We are in the millennium, or Christ reigns now).
- Satan is bound
- At the end of this present age, Satan is loosed, tribulation escalates, Antichrist, etc
- Second Coming, Final Resurrection, Judgment
- Eternal State – New Heavens and New Earth