


THREE VIEWS OF HOW THE END TIMES DEVELOP AND CLIMAX

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A-Millennialism

"A" is a deprivative prefix. It simply means "none". However, put to the plain text of scripture in Revelation 20 the a-millennial hermeneutic is not just "none" but a replacement symbolic or metaphorical time-period of unknown duration—a re-working of scripture. This heretical view first surfaced in Alexandria in the last decade of the 2nd century being crafted by Clement of Alexandria and developed by Origen his pupil who was effectively countered by Nepos but promoted his heretical hermeneutic thereafter in his writings. His view on the millennium was popularised by Augustine. Those who adopt this theory dismiss any real "millennium" when Christ reigns on earth. Subscribers to the theory consider that we are living in Revelation 20 1-6 now and await at "one single point" the resurrection of believers and unbelievers one judgment and the appearance of a new heaven and earth. It is essential if this view is not to perish through conflict with what scripture actually says to render the "thousand years" of the millennium a non-fact and turn it into a symbol of the temporal extent of the Church age. It also becomes unthinkable that Christ will rule on earth on the throne of David and fulfil the Abrahamic and Davidic covenants. A millennial believer is committed to the view that Jesus bound Satan by his first coming and ministry and that the gospel has ensured that nations are no more deceived. What is taught in Revelation 20 is not *abatement* of deceit but an *absolute end* to it—which we clearly have not arrived at over a period of 2000 years. It would be easier to argue that we are going "through the mill" than to claim we are in a tranquil millennium. There are some things that are not in the remit of the Church. Its end is to be withdrawn in line with its name "ecclesia" ceding to the Kingdom of God. The a-millennial view is that Christ's kingdom is fully realised in the church. It would take a lot of de-mythologizing added to Origen's allegories to purport that ancient covenants are dropped and multiple prophecies will never be fulfilled and the gates of Jerusalem will never open to the King of Kings.

Post Millennialism

"Post" means "after." The post-millennial view stems from *Daniel Whitby* (1638-1725) who argued that the millennium would result from the preaching of the gospel and Christianizing of the world. This view is highly optimistic that a good world will result from the work of the church—mighty revival and finally an absence of war and conflict. The ebullient optimism of this view springs (a) from the "great commission" which is believed in itself to show the power to do all this is latent (b) from the parables of "growth" which see the mustard seed of the gospel message as growing to be a tree whose life power influences transforms and rules the whole world. Essentially this view runs step; by step with an evolutionary view of the liberal Christian writers of the mid 20th century who concluded that the world was getting better and better. Does not the fact that the Anti-Christ, the worst person in history, will appear at the end of this era not deal a death blow to Whitby's theory?

Pre-Millennialist

"Pre" means "before" and under this view Christ comes before the critical introductory events of the millennium and "catches up" His church to heaven. Both living believers and those who have died will be united at this bridegroom like wedding event of the church and taken to the bridegroom's home—in this case heaven and be judged and rewarded. A conflict featuring Israel and her allies at war with Russia and Iran and their allies will event in "fire" on Russia and those who have lived carelessly in Western Coastlands. At this time a draconian and prejudicial economic system will be devised to restrict trade to those who acknowledge one called "the beast." This time is known as "the time of Jacob's trouble" which brings this modern state to its knees though by divine providence mighty prophetic figures will appear in Israel as in ancient time and as Daniel predicted Michael will stand up to defend Israel. A peace formula will be brokered by a figure as yet unaccounted for—the Antichrist and broken in the middle of the 70th week of Daniel (7 years) and a series of military engagements thereafter will ensue which will only end when the LORD Jesus Christ returns in power to defeat many nations who gather to Armageddon with a view to putting an end to Israel. After all these and many

more terrible events of these perilous days a period of unparalleled peace will be ushered in under the iron rod of Christ's rule. The judgement of the nations will occur as this new era begins.

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