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# 2GOD'S STORY - UNDERSTANDING AND EXPLAINING THE MISSION OF GOD

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## **1.10 THE DESTINY OF THE NATIONS, LIVING MISSIONALLY IN THE LIGHT OF 'THE END'** **JOHN RISBRIDGER**

### **Believing in 'the End'**

#### **The importance of 'the End'**

*Group work:*

*Why is 'The End' important?*

*Eph 1:9-10 –*

*1 Thess. 4:14-18 –*

*Phil 3:19-20 –*

*2 Thess. 1:5-10 –*

*What should be our attitude towards 'the End'?*

*Rev. 22:20 -*

*Matt 24:44 –*

*Phil 3:20-21 –*

*How does our understanding of the end shape the way we live?*

#### **The pattern of 'the End' (Rev. 20:1-10)**

Overview:

A tethered foe (1-3)

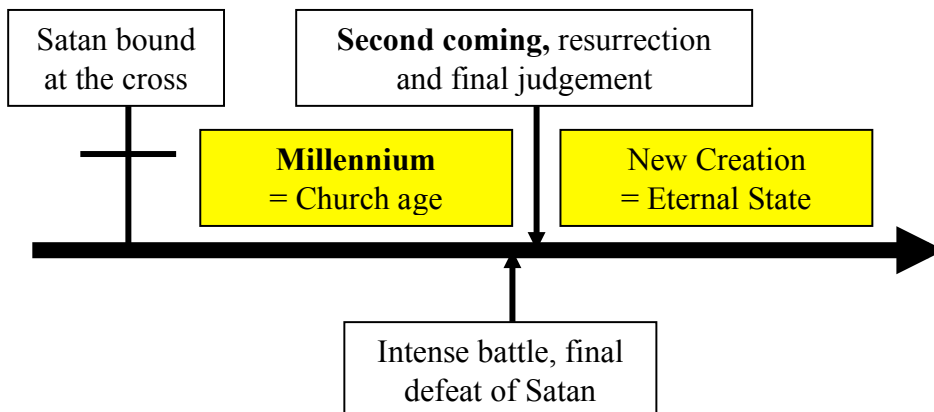
A glorious reward / reign (4-6)

A final victory (7-10)

**Three views of the 'thousand years (vv2,4 & 5)':**

Look at the passage to identify a key strength and weakness of each of these positions. Which do you find most convincing?

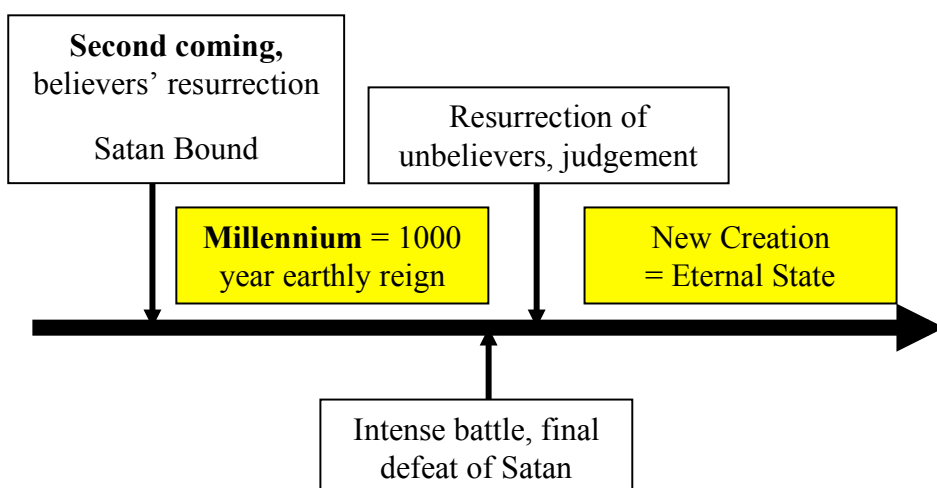
Amillennialism: millennium is *symbolic* for church age



Strengths:

Weaknesses:

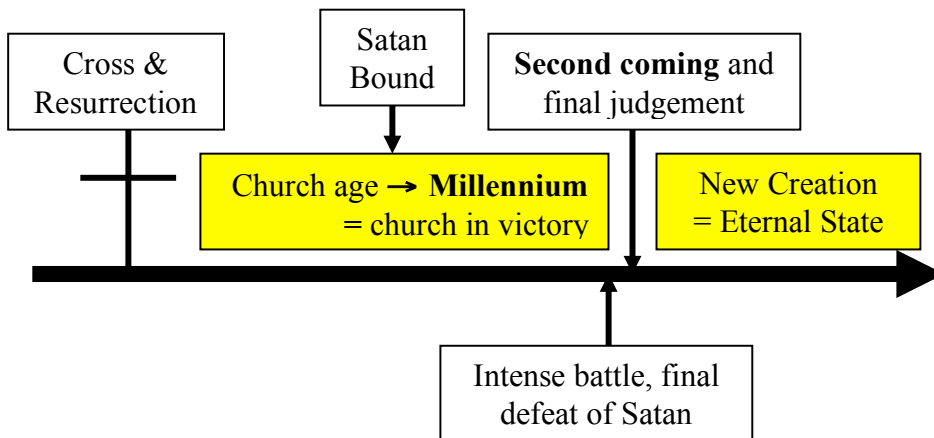
Premillennialism: second coming *before* (pre) millennium



Strengths:

Weaknesses:

## Postmillennialism: second coming *after* (post) millennium



Strengths:

Weaknesses:

### The nature of 'the End' (Rev. 21:9-22:7)

Its glory (11)

Its completeness (12-14)

Its holy vastness (15-17)

Its beauty and security (18-21)

Its God-centred life – worship (22-27)

Its God-centred life – fulfilment (22:1-5)

### Missional discipling and 'the End'

Groups:

Read 2 Tim 4:1-8 – how does 'the end' motivate Paul's ministry?

Read Acts 4:2; Acts 17:30-31; 1 Thess. 1:9-10 How does 'the end' shape the NT message?

Read Eph. 1:9-10 cf Eph 3:10 cf Eph 4:1. 1 Pet 4:7-11. How does 'the End' affect our lifestyle?