



God's Story Understanding and explaining  
the Mission of God

**The destiny of the nations – living  
missionally in the light of 'the End'**

Believing in 'the End'

First  
coming of  
Christ

Second  
coming of  
Christ

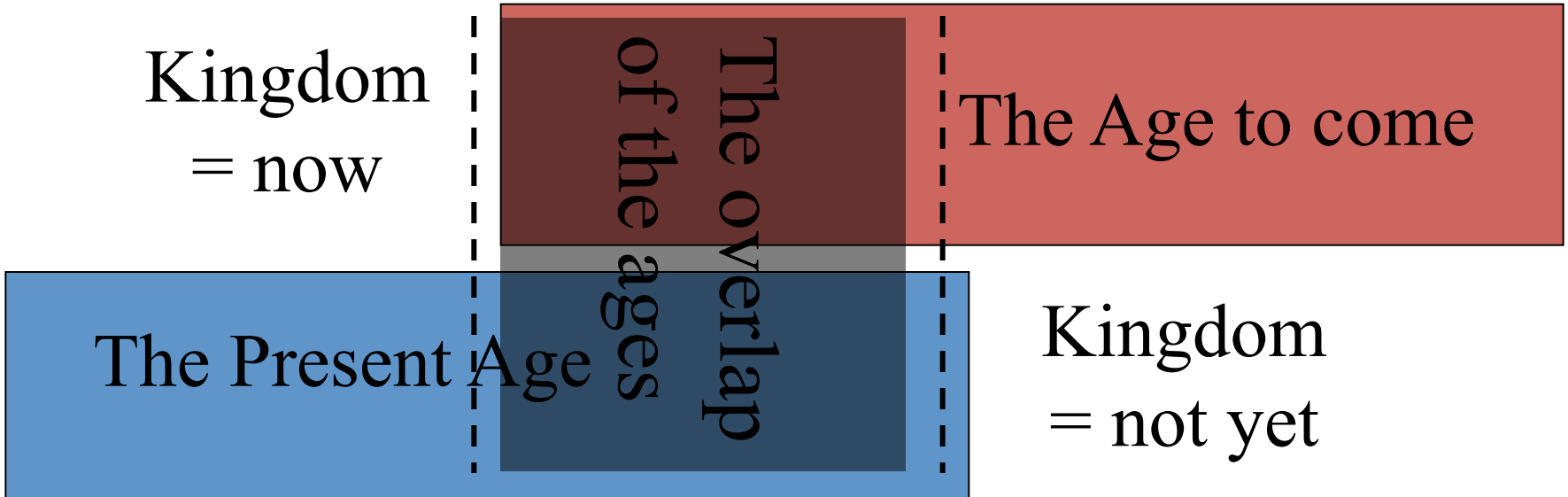
Kingdom  
= now

The Age to come

The Present Age

Kingdom  
= not yet

The overlap  
of the ages



# The importance of 'the End'

- *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 it?*
  - Rev. 22:20
  - Matt 24:44
  - Phil 3:20-21

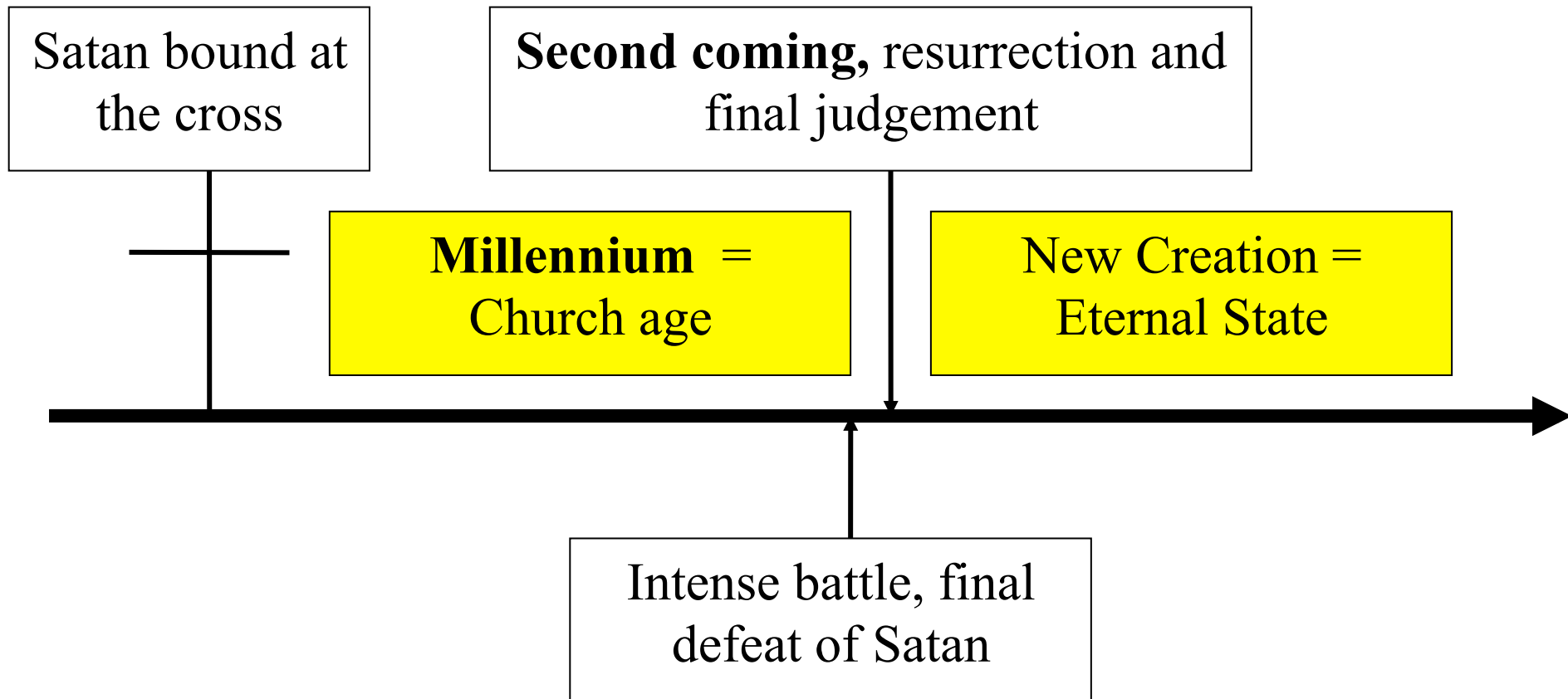
# The importance of 'the End'

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

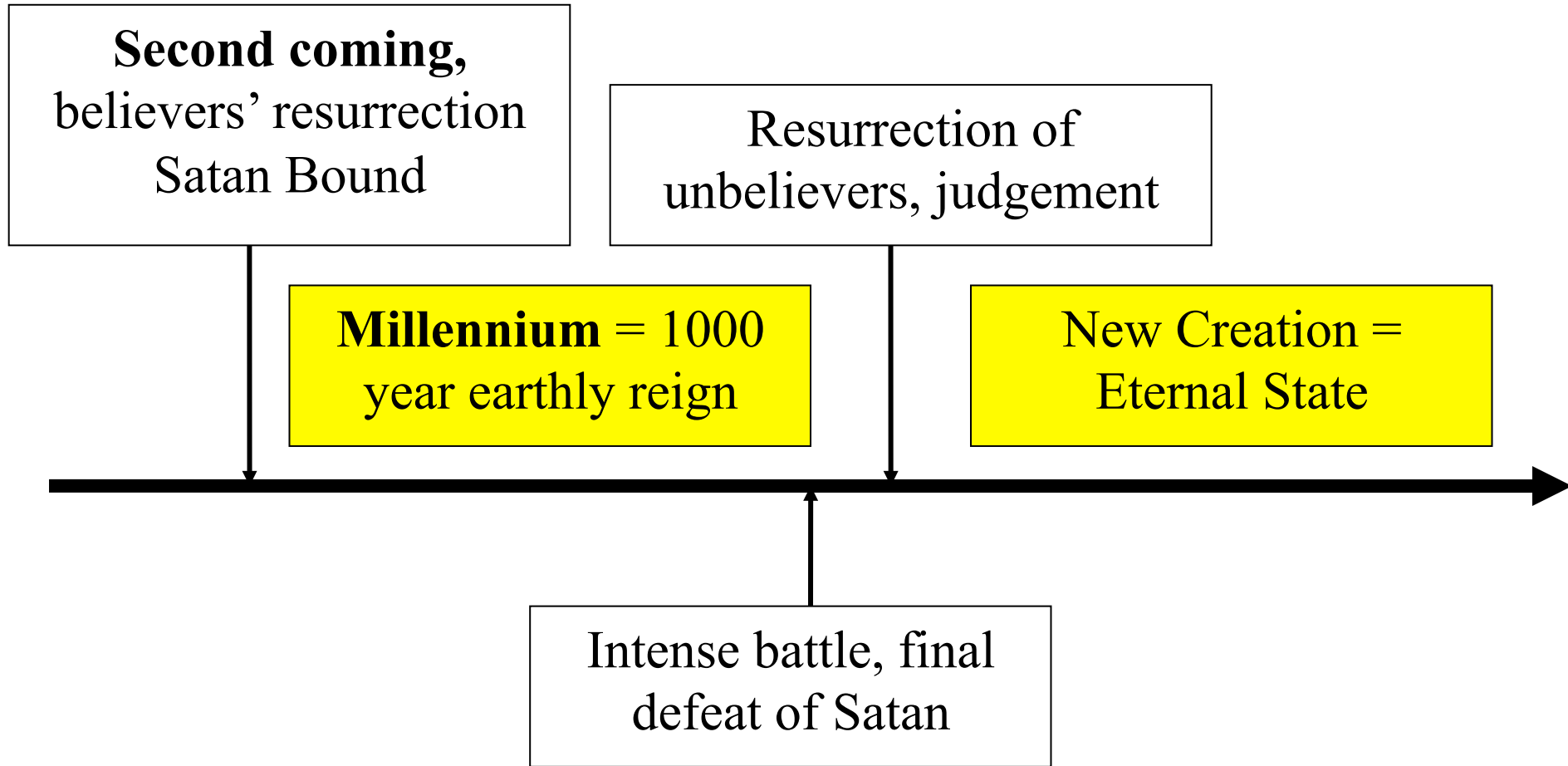
# The pattern of 'the End' (Rev 20:1-10)

- Overview:
  - A tethered foe (1-3)
  - A glorious reward (4-6)
  - A final victory (7-10)
- But what about the '1000 year reign'?

# Amillennialism: millennium is *symbolic* for church age

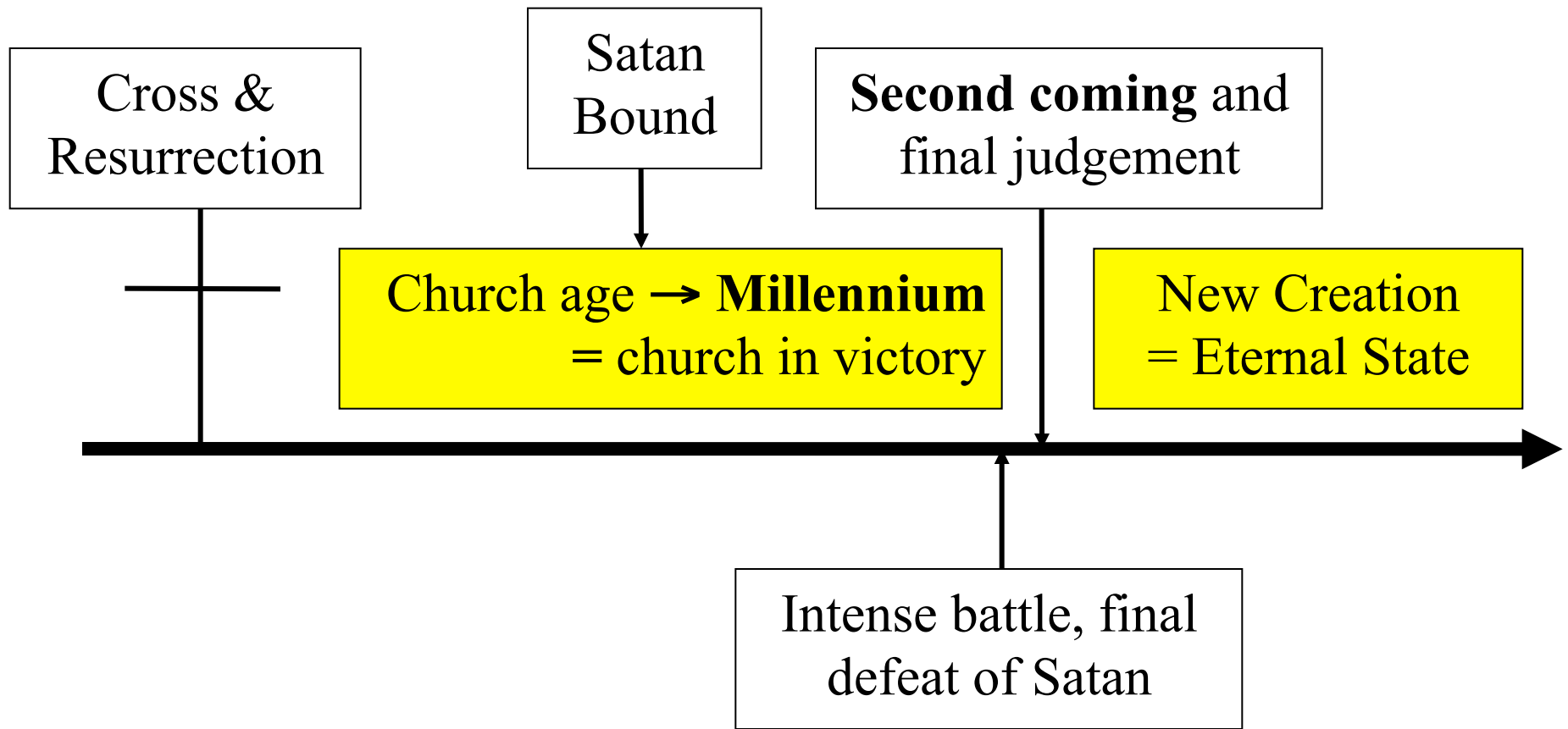


# Premillennialism: second coming *before* (pre) millennium





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



# The nature of 'the End'

# Boeing 767





# Parallels

## Boeing 767

- Impressive machine
- But needs a proper pilot
- Pilot must be in communication with air traffic control
- Otherwise a dangerous machine

## Planet earth

- Created 'very good'
- But needs a wise ruler
- Ruler must bear God's image and depend upon him
- Otherwise the earth may turn and destroy them



# The nature of 'the End' (Rev. 21:9-22:5)

- Its glory (11)
- Its completeness (12-14)
- Its holy vastness (15-17)
- Its beauty and security (18-21)
- Its God-centred life: worship (22-7)
- Its God-centred life: fulfilment (22:1-5)

# Missional disciplinemaking and 'the End'

- How does 'the end' motivate Paul's ministry?
  - 2 Tim 4:1-8
- How does 'the end' shape the NT message?
  - Acts 4:2; Acts 17:30-31; 1 Thess. 1:9-10
- How does 'the End' affect our lifestyle?
  - Eph. 1:9-10 cf Eph 3:10 cf Eph 4:1. 1 Pet 4:7-11