

Amillennialism: Overview

“Timing and nature of Jesus’ millennial kingdom reign.”

The *timing* of the Millennial Kingdom

Now: “The last days” of “this age” (Future: “the age to come”)

- Began at Jesus first coming and lasts until his second coming
 - We are in “the last days”
- The “millennium” of Rev 20 *figuratively* refers to the present age
- At the return of Jesus, this millennial age ends and “the age to come” begins

The transition from “this age” to “the age to come”

Events before the end:

- Expect things to deteriorate over the course of history (tribulation throughout; Mt 24:21-30)
- Some expect a great apostasy, great tribulation, & coming of Antichrist prior to the return of Christ (future tribulation)

The second coming of Christ

- Single, simple event (Mt 24:29-31)

Events at the end of the age / return of Christ:

- Satan will be released for one final counter-attack (Rev 20:3, 7)
- Jesus defeats Satan (Rev 20:9; 19:11-21)
- One *physical* resurrection of *all* people (Dan 12:2; Jn 5:29; Acts 24:15)
 - First resurrection of Rev 20: righteous to spiritual, intermediate state in heaven
 - Second resurrection of Rev 20: physical resurrection of both righteous & wicked
- *One* Judgment (Mt 25:31-46 = Rev 20:11-15)
- Eternal state of New Heavens & New Earth begins (Rev 21-22)
 - Earthly land, people, throne promises fulfilled in eternity

The *nature* of the Millennial Kingdom

Spiritual kingdom “now”

- Focus on Jesus Christ - the OT prophesied Redeemer
 - Redemption accomplished (Hebrews)
 - The kingdom is present in a person, Jesus Christ (Mt 3:2; Mk 1:15; Mt 12:28)
 - Not land, people (ethnic Israel), throne (of David)
 - The messianic age has begun...
- The first coming of Jesus introduced a new era:
 - Jesus is victorious over Satan, sin and death (Col 2:15; Mt 16:18)
 - Salvation blessings are experienced in an “already, but not yet” fashion
 - Inaugurated but yet not consummated eschatology
 - Present blessings are spiritual not material
- “this age” is marked by a spiritual battle between good (God) and evil (Satan)

Jesus

- Sits enthroned at the right hand of God (Heb 1:3)
- Reigns over his people, extending spiritual blessings of the New Covenant

Satan

- To be “bound” means he is restrained yet active (Rev 20:1-3; Jn 12:31-32; Mt 12:28-29)
- Will be released near end of this age for final rebellion (Rev 20:7)

God’s People

- The Church is true Israel
- The mission is to take the gospel message to all nations (Mt 28:18-20)

Relation of Church to the World

- Suffering & persecution for the church (Mt 24:21-30; 2 Tim 3:1-5, 12-13; 4:3-4)
- Church may strive for but not expect lasting prosperity, influence or dominance