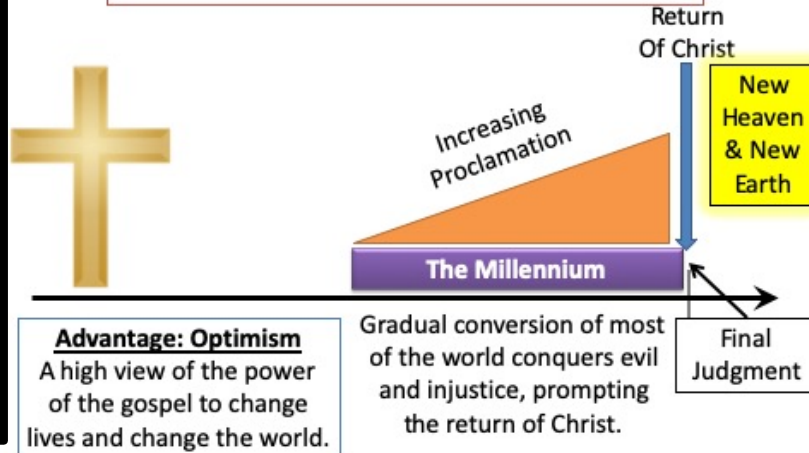


# Three views on the Millennium

## The Post-Millennial View:

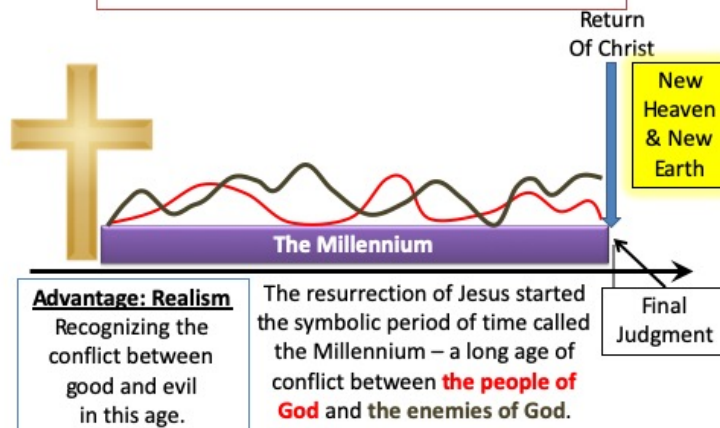
Bible believing Christians have different understandings of the Millennium and the Rapture. But all of us agree that Jesus is coming back soon to defeat all of His enemies and bring us home to be with Him forever!



The Post-Mil view was predominant from St. Augustine (350 AD) through the Reformation, the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Great Awakenings (17&1800s) and up until the World Wars of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century.

A key issue in this discussion is the relationship between Israel and the Church. Did the Church “replace” Israel in God’s plan of salvation? In what ways does the church fulfill God’s purposes for Israel? Are there promises to ethnic Israel that are still to be fulfilled in the future or was everything spiritually fulfilled in Christ?

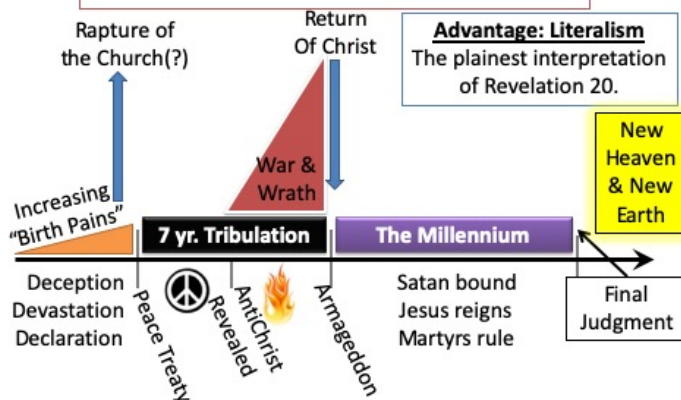
## The A-Millennial View:



The A-Mil view began to emerge during the Enlightenment and following, gaining acceptance in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> C. among Catholics, liberals and some evangelical denominations such as Methodist and Presbyterian.

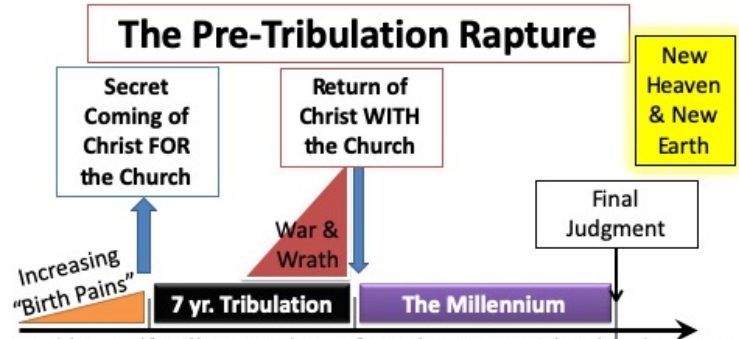
The Dispensational Pre-Mil view was a driving force in the early development of the EFCA. The “at any moment” return of Christ was a fire in the hearts of our founders that drove them to bold missions efforts but also led them to neglect things like church planting and the training of future pastors.

## The Pre-Millennial View:



The Pre-Mil position was primary in the early church, then fell out of favor until the early 20<sup>th</sup> C. when it was made popular by prophecy conferences, the Scofield Bible, etc.

This view sees a vital distinction between Israel and the Church. The Great Tribulation is a time during which God will purify Israel and bring judgment on the earth. Since there is “no condemnation” for Christians, the Tribulation is not for them and God will “rapture” believers away either before the tribulation begins (Pre-Trib) or before His wrath is poured out (Mid-Trib). The Millennium is primarily to fulfill God’s remaining promises to ethnic Israel.



“For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be **caught up together** with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.” **Thessalonians 4:15-17**

This position sees the church as the fulfillment of Israel. The Church makes up a “new people of God.” Some take this to mean that all of God’s purposes for and promises to Israel were fulfilled in Christ and the church, with nothing remaining in the future. Others still see a place for ethnic Israel in the future Millennial Kingdom.



“I have not come to abolish the law and the prophets but to fulfill them...” **Matthew 5:17**  
 “Everything had to be fulfilled that was written about me in the Law of Moses and the prophets.” **Luke 24:44**

The Church Revived & Refined, The World Condemned

Promises to Israel and the Church Fulfilled

## Article 9

We believe in the personal, bodily and **premillennial** [glorious] return of our Lord Jesus Christ. The coming of Christ, at a time known only to God, demands constant expectancy and, as our blessed hope, motivates the believer to godly living, sacrificial service and energetic mission.

## Theological Triage

