

Millennialism



What is Millennialism?

- **Millennialism** is the belief, expressed in the book of Revelation, that Christ will establish a 1,000-year reign of the saints on earth (the millennium) before the Last Judgment. More broadly defined, it is a cross-cultural concept grounded in the expectation of a time of supernatural peace and abundance on earth.
 - Britannica

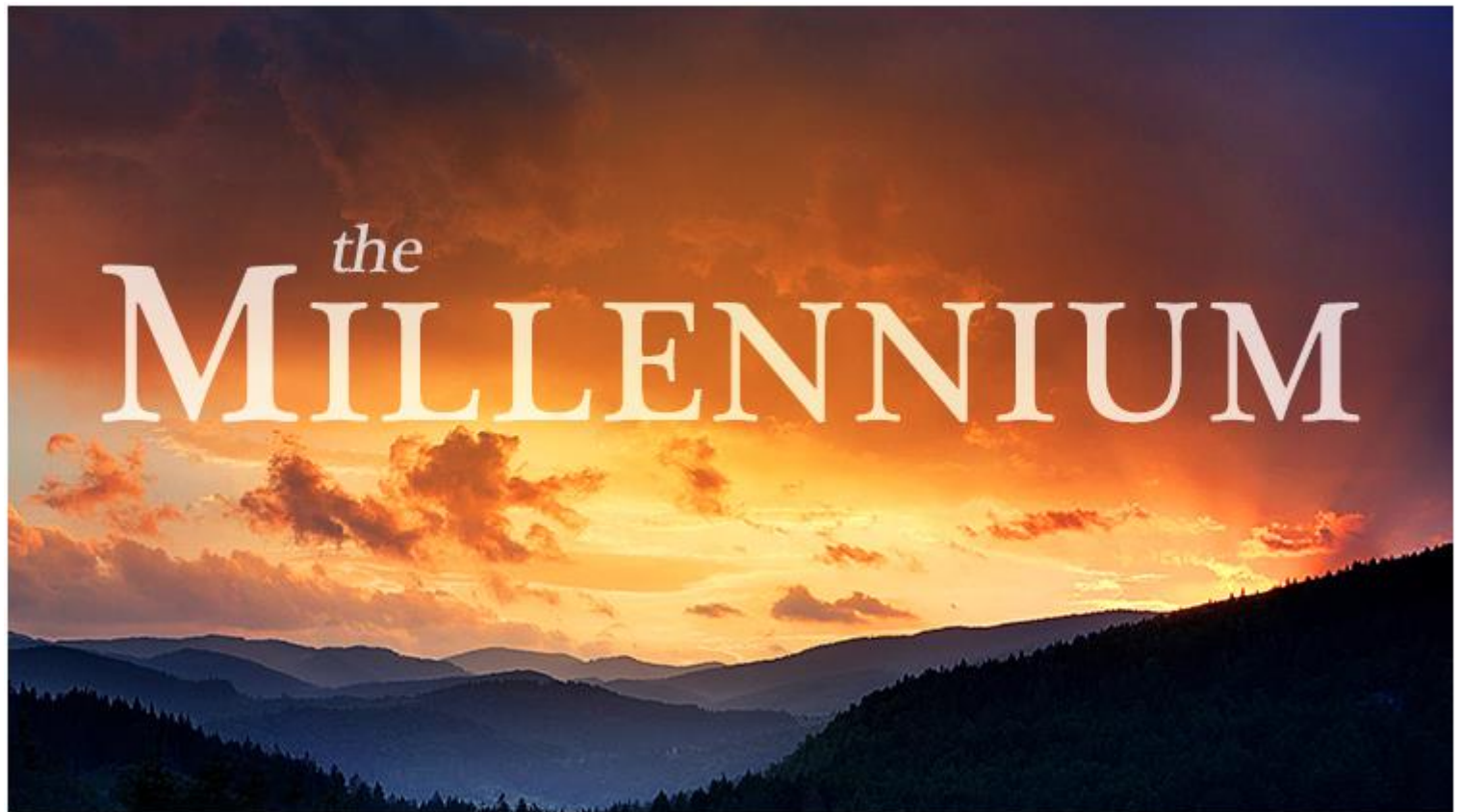
Why the interest in the Millennium?



- Grandparents beliefs
- I know little about the topic
- Is it taught in CoC?
- Is it taught in our Christian schools?
- Inquiring minds need to know
- Many calculations based on Daniel and Rev

What is the Millennium?

- Search internet for “What is the Millennium”
- First up – 7 answers to 7 questions by David Jeremiah



What is the Millennium?

“Can you imagine a world with no fear? No disease? No pain? No worry? That is what the Millennial Kingdom will be like. For a thousand years there will be peace – we will live in a perfect world with Christ as our ruler. It is something we can look forward to when our lives are difficult and when our world is filled with chaos, immorality and despair. As we go through hard times, we must remember our future with Christ. Here is a brief look at what the Millennial Kingdom will be like.”

What is the Millennium?

“The Millennium will be Christ’s 1000 year reign as King, following the Tribulation. David will be His vice president and will sit on the throne with Him. They will rule the world in righteousness and godliness. There will still be sin in the Millennium, but it will be dealt with immediately.”



What is the Millennium?

“Lifetimes will be extended, there will be peace in the animal kingdom – the lion will lay down with the lamb, and there will be peace among mankind – all the hostilities that have been a part of our world will be gone.”



"Peace" by William Strutt (1896). Based on Isaiah 11:6-9.

What is the Millennium?

“At the moment of the Rapture, every believer who is alive or deceased will be taken into heaven. We will remain there for about 7 years while the Tribulation is happening on earth. The Marriage Supper of the Lamb and Judgment Seat of Christ will take place during this time. Once the Tribulation is over, Christ will return to earth.”



What is the Millennium?

“When Christ returns to defeat the armies of the world that have formed against Him, we will return with Him. After the battle is over, the Bible says that all Christians are going to be part of the government. ‘And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years’ (Rev 20:4). We will stay on earth with Him and we will rule and reign with Him throughout the whole world.”



What is the Millennium?

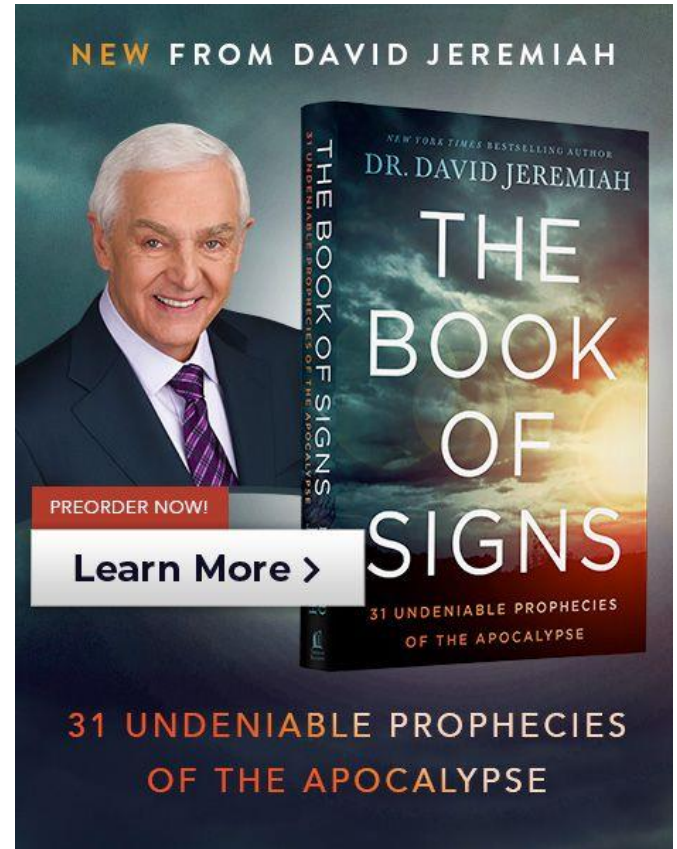
- Mr. Jeremiah answers seven questions ...
 - What is the Millennium?
 - Will believers today be on earth for the Millennium?
 - Will there be conflict in the Millennium?
 - Will there be death during the Millennium?
 - Will there be sin during the Millennium?
 - What is the purpose of the Millennium?
 - What is the purpose of the Book of Revelation?

New York Times Bestselling Author
DR. DAVID JEREMIAH



What is Millennialism?

- The views of Mr. Jeremiah are one of many variations of the Millennium popular today ... and back through time which center around the question ... Is it already here or is it coming?
- **WHEN** and **HOW?**

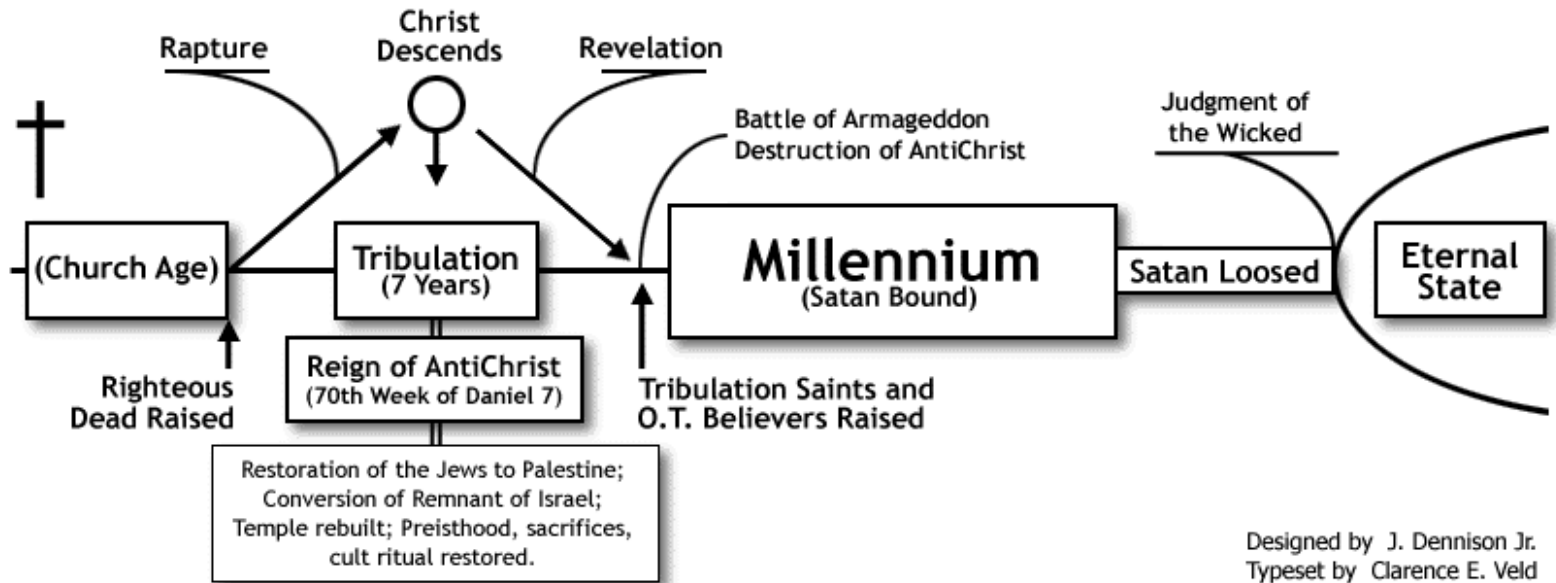


Thousands of books About It

What is Millennialism?

- Four major views today
 - Dispensational Premillennialism
 - Historical Premillennialism
 - Postmillennialism
 - Amillennialism
- What is Pre vs Post vs A?

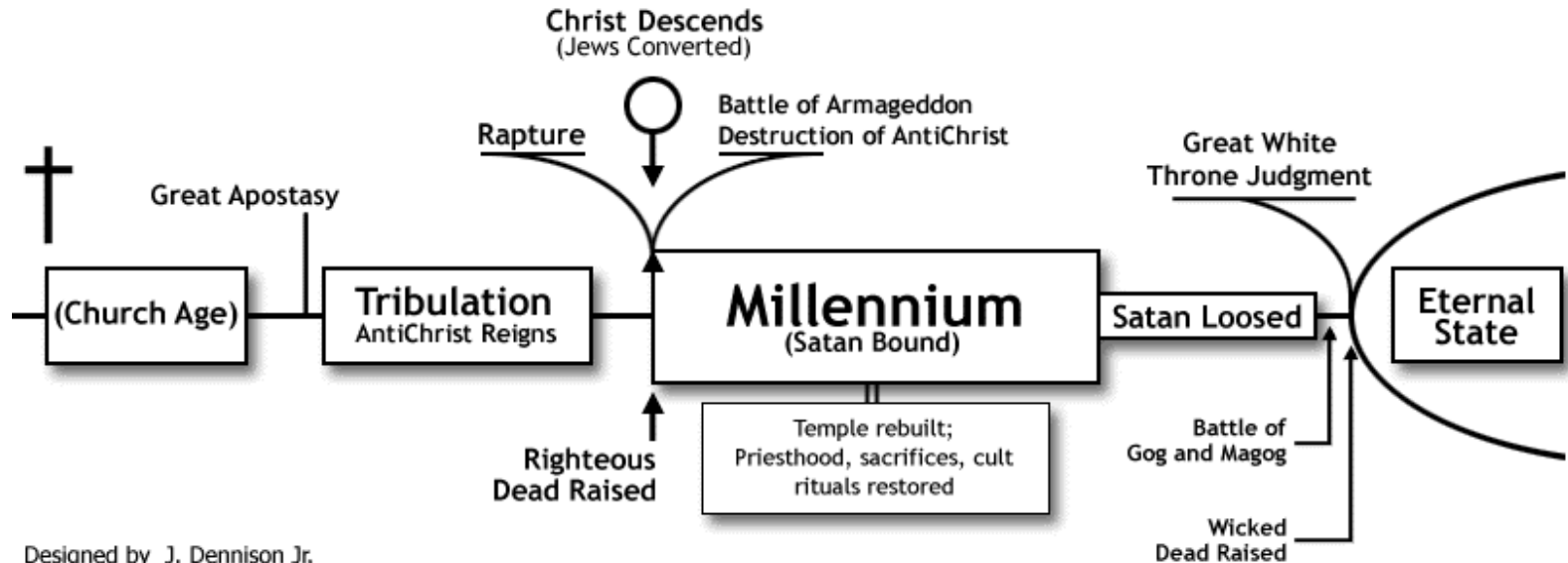
Dispensational Premillennialism



Bible organized into seven dispensations of responsibility, failure, judgment, grace

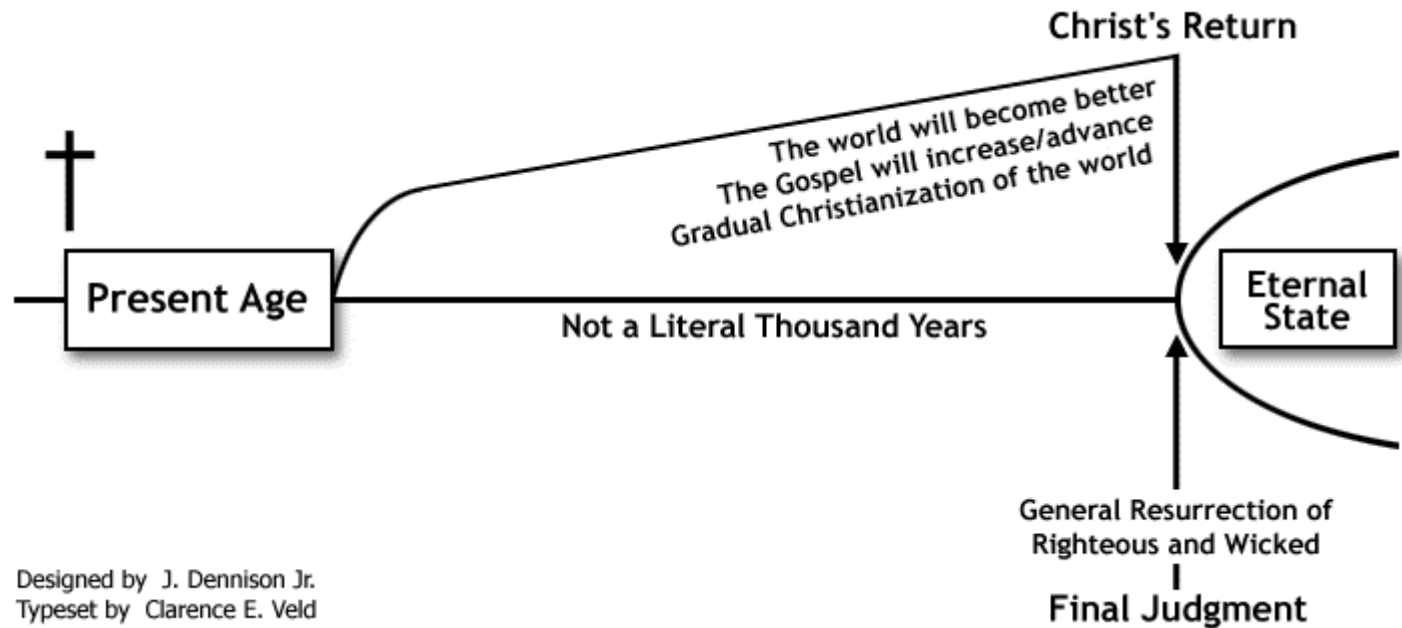
- Innocence (Genesis 1:1—3:7)
- Conscience (Genesis 3:8—8:22)
- Human Government (Genesis 9:1—11:32)
- Promise (Genesis 12:1—Exodus 19:25)
- Law (Exodus 20:1—Acts 2:4)
- Grace (Acts 2:4—Revelation 20:3)
- Millennial Kingdom (Revelation 20:4—6)

Historical Premillennialism



Designed by J. Dennison Jr.
Typeset by Clarence E. Veld

Postmillennialism



Designed by J. Dennison Jr.
Typeset by Clarence E. Veld

Amillennialism



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Millennialism

- Cross cultural – forms of millennialism exist in Judaism, Islam, Buddhism and Christianity

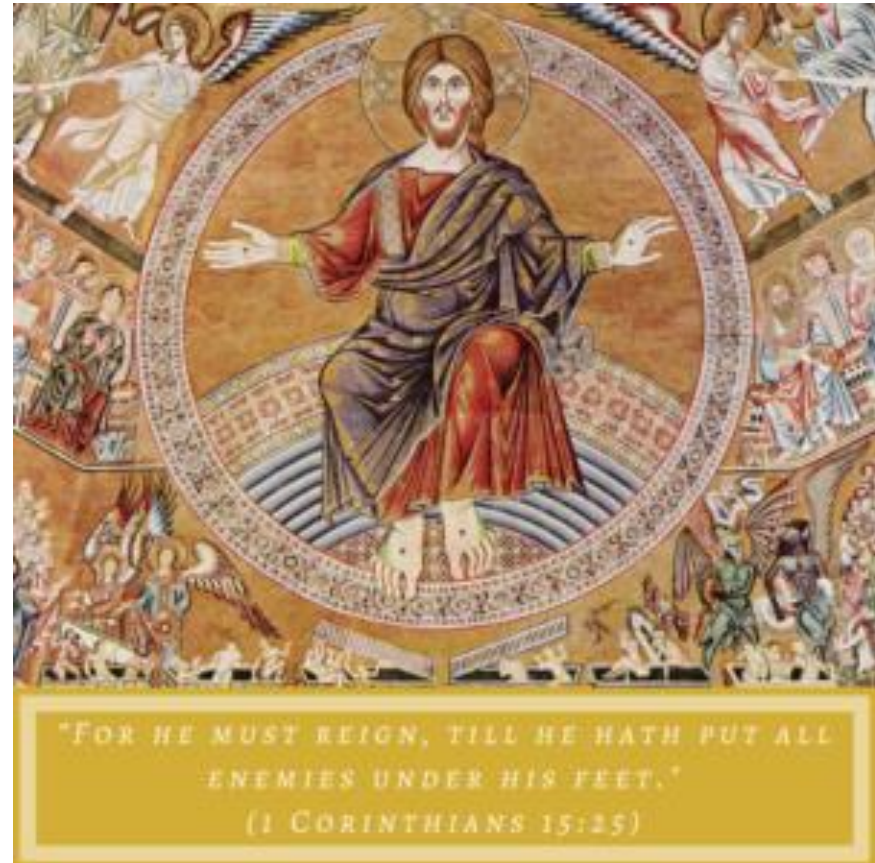
Millennialism

Millennialism, it must be stressed, is far more than simply believing that the millennium is near. It is a comprehensive way of looking at human history and an integrated system of salvation. It is a type of eschatology, a term derived from Greek for 'doctrine of the last things' or 'end times,' and used to refer broadly to people's ideas about the final events in individual human lives as well as the collective end of human history.

Grant Underwood, *The Millenarian World of Early Mormonism*, 2.

Millennialism

- Belief in an End Times when God judges the living and the dead
- God's goodness reconciles with evil in this world
- Imminent



Millennialism

- Idea has great appeal in every age
- A coming new world
- End to existing institutions of power
- Somewhat revolutionary in that it threatens those in authority



Millennialism

- Gives hope to the suffering
- To some it's a revolt against the present order and an attempt to bring about the promised kingdom of peace
- Driven by sense of imminence as it's coming soon, in our lifetime
- Yet Jesus said even he didn't know when he would return



The Day and Hour Unknown

- **Matthew 24:36** “But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷ As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸ For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; ³⁹ and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰ Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left. ⁴¹ Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left.

Millennialism

- Does the Bible speak of future events?
- Is there enough to accurately predict the second coming of Christ?
- Paul in Thessalonians tells what's going to happen at the second coming of Christ.
- Apocalyptic Literature in the Bible -
Relating to or predicting the end of the world
 - Main books are Daniel and Revelation

Millennialism

- **Apocalyptic literature** - literary genre that foretells supernaturally inspired cataclysmic events that will transpire at the end of the world. A product of the Judeo-Christian tradition, apocalyptic literature is characteristically pseudonymous; it takes narrative form, employs esoteric (Intended for or understood by only a small group, especially one with specialized knowledge or interests: *synonym: mysterious*) language, expresses a pessimistic view of the present, and treats the final events as imminent.
-Britannica

Millennialism

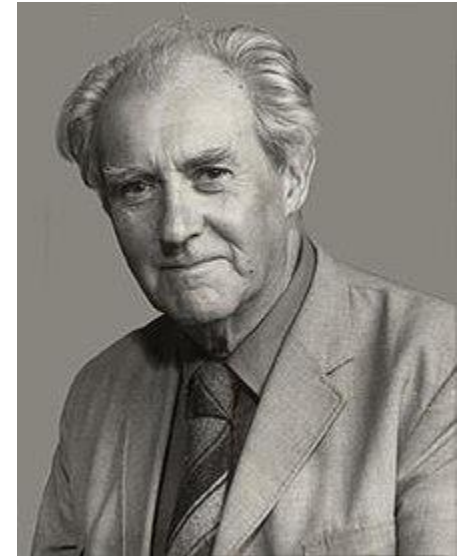
- No matter how often apocalyptic beliefs have proved wrong and no matter how much chaos has been caused by millennial efforts to establish God's kingdom on earth, apocalyptic expectations are repeatedly revived – why?

Millennialism

- And many people have died...
- Example I
 - Jewish revolts against Rome in the 1st and 2nd century resulted in **several hundred thousand deaths**

Millennialism

- British historian Norman Cohn argued that the messianic hope of the Jews was the oldest form of millenarianism known to us (Cohn 1962, 32).
- He cited Daniel 7 as ‘a millenarian manifesto which foretells how Israel will overthrow the Greek empire and thereafter dominate the whole world for all eternity.’
- The *Syriac Apocalypse of Baruch* (or 2 Baruch) ‘tells how the messiah will shortly break the power of Rome, exterminate all nations which have ever ruled over Israel and establish a kingdom which will last to the end of the world.’
- He even claimed that the party of the ‘zealots,’ who precipitated the revolts against Rome, ‘was a truly millenarian movement ... convinced of the imminent coming of a supernatural messiah’ (Cohn 1962, 32).



Millennialism

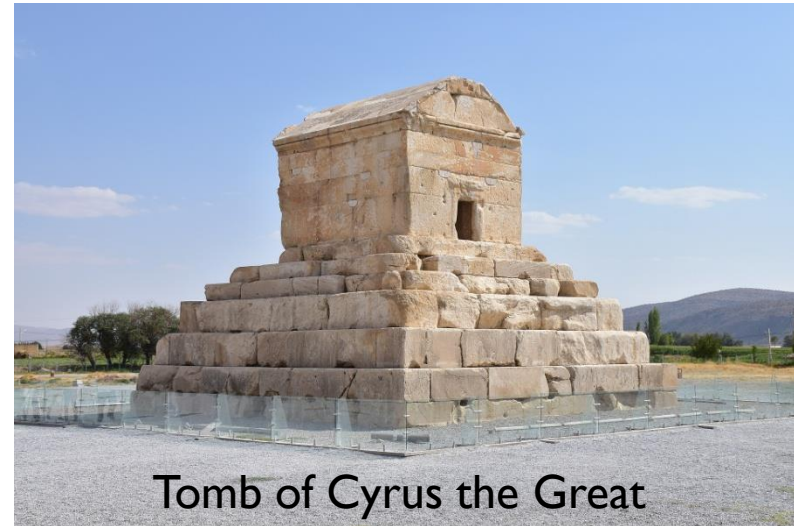


Jewish Revolt

- 66 CE—band of Jews revolt against Roman rule
- 70 CE—Romans stormed Jerusalem and destroy Temple Complex, leaving only western portion of the wall (Jew's holiest shrine)
- 73 CE—about a 1/2 million Jews killed by Romans
- 132 CE—Jews make second attempt at revolt, another 1/2 million Jews killed
 - Jewish political state ceased to exist (Romans exact complete control)
 - Jewish religion survived, though many driven into exile (dispersal of Jews called *Diaspora*)

Millennialism

- Jewish Encyclopedia -
The idea of the millennium is older than the Christian Church; for the belief in a period of one thousand years at the end of time as a preliminary to the resurrection of the dead was held in Parseeism.
 - Parsees were Persians who were Zoroastrian and pushed out of Iran by the Muslims in the 7th century to western India



Tomb of Cyrus the Great



Millennialism

- This concept is expressed in Jewish literature in ...
 - Enoch, xiii., xci. 12-17; in the apocalypse of the ten weeks
 - Baruch, xl. 3; "And his dominion shall last forever, until the world doomed to destruction shall perish"
 - II Esdras vii. 28-29; Neither here nor in later Jewish literature is the duration of this Messianic reign fixed. It is clear, however, that the rule of the Messiah was considered as a time gap before final judgment
 - Some regarded the Messianic rule as the period of the fulfillment of the prophecies, while others saw in it the time of the subjugation of the nations

Millennialism

- **Example 2 of ‘and many have died’ - Taiping Rebellion, (1850–64) led to 20 million deaths – Hong Xiuquan leader**



Millennialism

- Hong's visions convinced him he was the younger brother of Jesus, and he saw it as his duty to free China from Manchu rule
- Led a large-scale rebellion against the Qing dynasty.
- Hong preached the brotherhood and sisterhood of all people under God with common property
- Created a fiercely disciplined army of more than a million men and women who were considered equals
- They captured Nanjing in 1853 and renamed it Tianjing ("Heavenly Capital").
- Their attempts to capture Beijing failed, but an expedition into the upper Yangtze River valley scored many victories.

Millennialism



Millennialism

- Hong's version of Christianity alienated both Western missionaries and the Chinese elite.
- The leadership descended into power struggles that left Hong without competent help.
- In 1860 an attempt to take Shanghai was repelled by U.S.- and British-led forces, and by 1862 Chinese forces under Zeng Guofan had surrounded Nanjing. The city fell in 1864, but almost 100,000 of the Taiping followers preferred death to capture.
- The rebellion ravaged 17 provinces, took some 20 million lives, and left the Qing ineffective
- Both the Chinese communists and the Chinese Nationalists trace their origin to the Taipings.

Millennialism

Example 3 'and many have died' Remember 1978?

**An apocalyptic cult, 900 dead:
remembering the Jonestown
massacre, 40 years on**



Millennialism

- Each generation has their own devotees seeking the kingdom on earth – so how many generations is that?
- Irresistible to associate current historical events in every age to the imminent apocalypse
- Apocalyptic messages seen in every incident or coincidence
- End time promises free believers from fear of authorities and liberates them from all earthly inhibitions

Millennialism

Millennialism defined

Any religious movement that hopes for salvation that is:

(a) collective, to be enjoyed by all the faithful as a group;

(b) terrestrial, to be realized on this earth;

(c) imminent, to come soon and suddenly;

(d) total, to transform life on earth completely;

(e) miraculous, to be brought about by, or with the help of, supernatural agencies.

Millennialism

- Where did the idea come from?