



The Millennial Reign of Christ

The second coming of Christ includes the rapture of all true believers—which is traditionally called the “blessed hope” of the church (see *What We Believe*, lesson 13)—followed by the visible return of Christ with His church to reign on earth for one thousand years. This *Millennial Reign* will bring the salvation of national Israel, and the establishment of universal peace under His kingship.¹

The following writing from W.W. Menzies provides some deeper insight into this fundamental truth:

The Early Church looked forward to Christ’s return to establish His kingdom and reign in Jerusalem as the true and final Heir of David’s throne. They accepted

¹ “The Millennial Reign of Christ,” The Assemblies of God, <https://ag.org/Beliefs/Statement-of-Fundamental-Truths#14> (Accessed August 30, 2017).

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as literal Jesus' promise that the twelve apostles would sit on twelve thrones judging and ruling the twelve tribes of a restored Israel (Matt. 19:28).

Paul commends the Thessalonians because they “turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven” (1 Thess. 1:9–10). They could identify with singing the new song of Revelation 5:9–10, which celebrates not only redemption by the blood of the Lamb, but also the fact that Christ had made them kings and priests who would reign on the earth.

As time went on, the hope of some believers grew cold. But there continued to be those in the early centuries who emphasized Christ's millennial reign on earth. They were sometimes called “Chiliasts,” from the Greek word *chilia*, “one thousand.”²

² Menzies, W. W. (1993). [Bible Doctrines: A Pentecostal Perspective](#). (S. M. Horton, Ed.) (p. 232). Springfield, MO: Logion Press.



The word *millennium* comes from two Latin words, *mille*, “**one thousand**,” and *annual*, meaning “**one year**.” In regards to this particular fundamental truth of the Assemblies of God, we believe:

1. The Second coming of Christ includes the **rapture** of the saints (our blessed hope).
2. It also includes the visible return of Christ with His church to reign on the earth for **1,000** years.

Zechariah 14:5 (ESV) And you shall flee to the valley of my mountains, for the valley of the mountains shall reach to Azal. And you shall flee as you fled from the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah. Then the LORD my God will come, and all the holy ones with him.

Revelation 1:7 (ESV) Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who



pierced him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even so. Amen.

3. The *Millennial Reign* will bring the spiritual salvation of the nation of **Israel**.

Romans 11:26–27 (ESV) ²⁶ And in this way all Israel will be saved, as it is written, “The Deliverer will come from Zion, he will banish ungodliness from Jacob”; ²⁷ “and this will be my covenant with them when I take away their sins.”

Ezekiel 37:21–22 (ESV) ²¹ then say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I will take the people of Israel from the nations among which they have gone, and will gather them from all around, and bring them to their own land. ²² And I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel. And one king shall be king over them all, and they shall be no longer two nations, and no longer divided into two kingdoms.



4. The Millennial Reign will be marked by a worldwide, universal peace.

Isaiah 11:6–9 (ESV) ⁶ The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them. ⁷ The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. ⁸ The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den. ⁹ They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

Micah 4:3–4 (ESV) ³ He shall judge between many peoples, and shall decide disputes for strong nations far away; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore; ⁴ but they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree, and no one shall make them afraid, for the mouth of the LORD of hosts has spoken.



5. The Millennial Reign will be a time when many of God's **promises** to Israel will be fulfilled. Thus, the millennium is about the Father's and the Bible's **integrity**.
- a. The divine **covenants** made with Israel are vital.
 - b. The unconditional promises to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, and David are still valid, even though it is easy to **switch** all the promises over to the church.
 - c. In the beginning, God ruled directly over Israel through a form of government called a **theocracy**.
 - d. God himself **directed** the political fortunes of Israel through judges and prophets.
 - e. When Israel rebelled against God's rule He allowed them to have a King over them which led to the nation's **demise**.

- f. Israel turned away from God when He sent his **Son** into their midst and they did not receive him.

John 1:11–12 (ESV) ¹¹ He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. ¹² But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God,

- g. Because Israel rejected Jesus, God included the Gentiles to fulfill His purpose through the **church**.
6. The rapture of the Church will **not stop** God from fulfilling his promises. It will confirm He is a promise keeper.
7. The **Antichrist** will play a key role in bringing Israel back to God.



8. For a short time, Israel will make a **treaty** with the antichrist but will eventually recognize him as a **false** messiah.

1 John 4:3 (ESV) and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already.

9. After the Church is raptured, God will use Israel to **fight** the antichrist.

10. During the Battle of **Armageddon**, the heavens will roll back and reveal the most spectacular event in human history.

Revelation 19:11–15 (ESV) ¹¹ Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war. ¹² His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on his head are many diadems, and he has a name written that no one knows but himself. ¹³ He is

clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God. ¹⁴ And the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses. ¹⁵ From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty.

11. At that moment God will keep His word and the entire world will **completely** become the Kingdom of our Lord and Christ.
12. Next, the Lord will direct an angel to cast Satan into a place of holding for a thousand years. These thousand years is referred to as the *Millennial Reign*.
 - a. People who believe the Millennium will take place before the rapture are **post**-millennialist.



- b. People who believe there will not be a real millennium are called “a-millennialists.”

They believe that **some** of the promises of God are literal and some are not. In other words, they **spiritualize** the teaching of the Millennium.

13. The Millennium world will be different

- a. there will be literal **world-peace** (**Micah 4:3**)
- b. humans and animals will live in harmony with themselves and each other (**Isaiah 11:6-9**)
- c. **all nations** will acknowledge and serve God (**Psalm 72:11**)
- d. human **life spans** will increase (**Isaiah 65:20**)
- e. the **glory** and **knowledge** of the Lord will fill the earth.



14. The truth of the Millennial Reign teaches us that God is really in **control** and His **promises** can be trusted.





GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

Do some research on the three main views of the Millennial Reign of Christ.

- Pre-millennialism
- Post-millennialism
- A-millennialism

1. What did you discover?

2. Where do the Assemblies of God stand on this doctrine?



According to this study:

1. When will Satan be bound and shut away for 1,000 years? What ultimately will happen to him?
2. What will happen to the present world as we know it when Jesus returns in glory?
3. What will the conditions be like during the Millennium?