

Article 9: Christ's Return

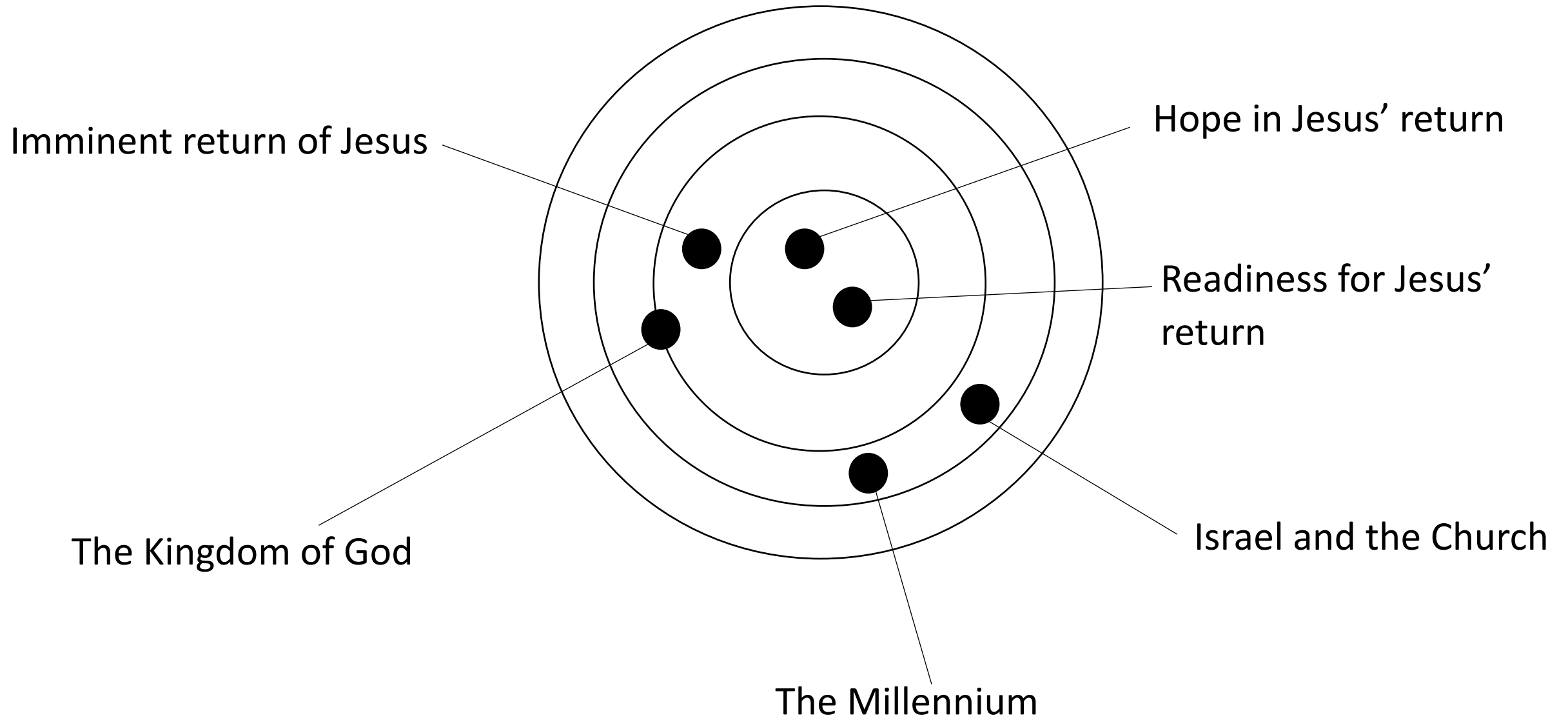
We believe in the personal, bodily and glorious return of our Lord Jesus Christ. The coming of Christ, at a time known only to God, demands constant expectancy and, as our blessed hope, motivates the believer to godly living, sacrificial service and energetic mission.

Article 10: Response and Eternal Destiny

We believe that God commands everyone everywhere to believe the gospel by turning to Him in repentance and receiving the Lord Jesus Christ.

Article 10: Response and Eternal Destiny

We believe that God will raise the dead bodily and judge the world, assigning the unbeliever to condemnation and eternal conscious punishment and the believer to eternal blessedness and joy with the Lord in the new heaven and the new earth, to the praise of His glorious grace. Amen.



Revelation 19:11-12

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.

Revelation 19:13-14

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.

Revelation 19:15-16

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. ¹⁶ On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords.

Revelation 19:17-18

¹⁷ Then I saw an angel standing in the sun, and with a loud voice he called to all the birds that fly directly overhead, “Come, gather for the great supper of God, ¹⁸ to eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of captains, the flesh of mighty men, the flesh of horses and their riders, and the flesh of all men, both free and slave, both small and great.”

Revelation 19:19

¹⁹ And I saw the beast and the kings of the earth with their armies gathered to make war against him who was sitting on the horse and against his army.

Revelation 19:20

²⁰ And the beast was captured, and with it the false prophet who in its presence had done the signs by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped its image. These two were thrown alive into the lake of fire that burns with sulfur.

Revelation 19:21

²¹ And the rest were slain by the sword that came from the mouth of him who was sitting on the horse, and all the birds were gorged with their flesh.

Revelation 19:11-21

- Jesus coming on a white horse leading the armies of heaven to battle
- Jesus capturing the beast and false prophet the slaughter of “the rest”

Revelation 20:1-2

¹ Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding in his hand the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain. ² And he seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years,

Revelation 20:1-2

¹ Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding in his hand the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain. ² And he seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years,

Revelation 20:3

³ and threw him into the pit, and shut it and sealed it over him, so that he might not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were ended. After that he must be released for a little while.

Revelation 20:4

⁴ Then I saw thrones, and seated on them were those to whom the authority to judge was committed. Also I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for the testimony of Jesus and for the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.

Revelation 20:5-6

⁵ The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended. This is the first resurrection. ⁶ Blessed and holy is the one who shares in the first resurrection! Over such the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ, and they will reign with him for a thousand years.

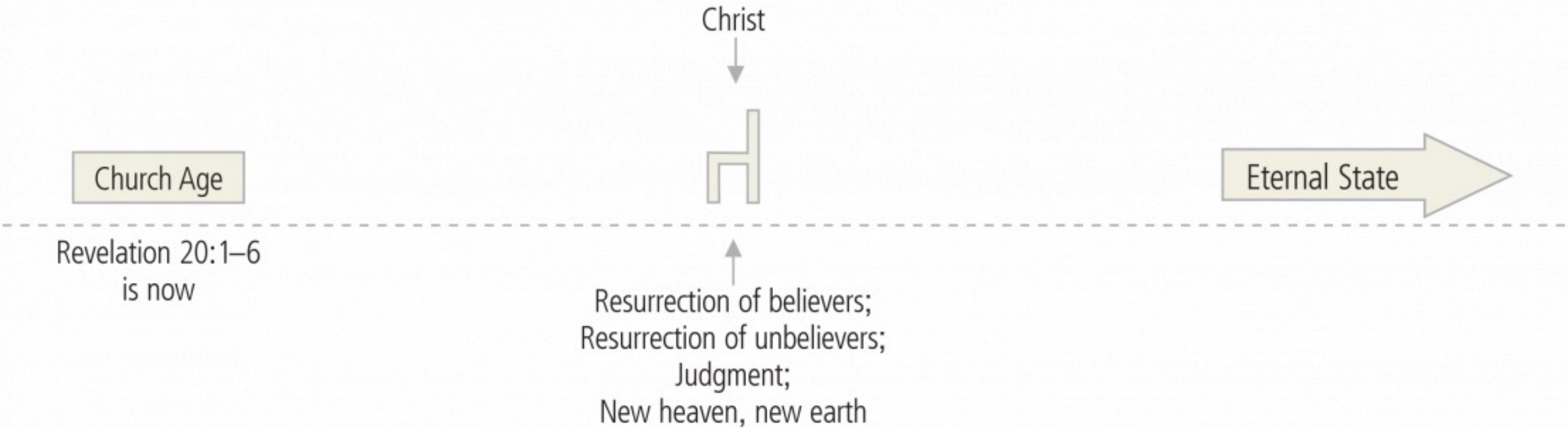
Revelation 20:7-8

⁷ And when the thousand years are ended, Satan will be released from his prison ⁸ and will come out to deceive the nations that are at the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them for battle; their number is like the sand of the sea.

Revelation 20:9-10

⁹ And they marched up over the broad plain of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city, but fire came down from heaven and consumed them, ¹⁰ and the devil who had deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

Amillennialism



-ESV Study Bible, from Logos Bible Software

Amillennial View

- The present Church Age is a "spiritual kingdom" where Christ is reigning with the saints in heaven.
- This kingdom began when Jesus ascended and was seated in heaven.
- Belief in one resurrection of all people.

Revelation 20:4

⁴ Then I saw thrones, and seated on them were those to whom the authority to judge was committed. Also I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for the testimony of Jesus and for the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands. **They came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.**

Amillennial View

- Satan has been spiritually bound at the cross.
- There will be one resurrection for judgement at the time of Christ's return.
- No special “7-year tribulation” period.
- Read Revelation as the same events from different “angles”.

Matthew 12:28-29

²⁸ But if it is by the Spirit of God that I cast out demons, then **the kingdom of God has come upon you.** ²⁹ Or how can someone enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man? Then indeed he may plunder his house.

Amillennial View

- Satan has been spiritually bound at the cross.
- There will be one resurrection for judgement at the time of Christ's return.
- No special “7-year tribulation” period.
- Read Revelation as the same events from different “angles”.

Borrowed language from Ezekiel

“he called to all the birds that fly directly overhead,
“Come, gather for the great supper of God” (Rev.
19:17)

“Speak to the birds of every sort and to all beasts of
the field: ‘Assemble and come, gather from all
around to the sacrificial feast that I am preparing for
you” (Ezek. 39:17)

Borrowed language from Ezekiel

“to eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of captains, the flesh of mighty men, the flesh of horses and their riders, and the flesh of all men, both free and slave, both small and great.” (Rev. 19:17)

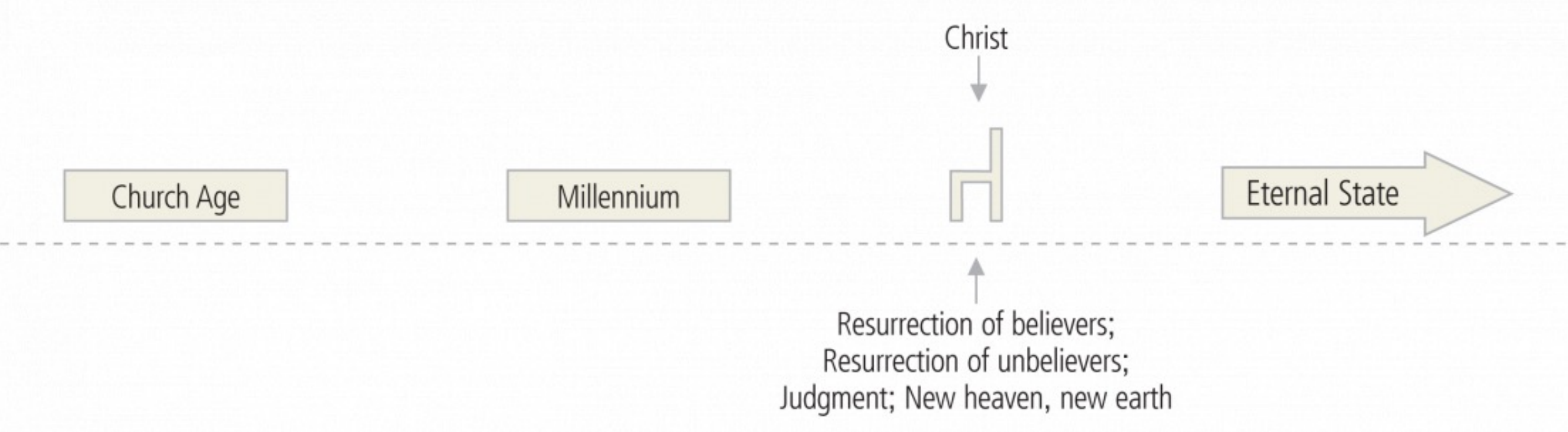
“You shall eat the flesh of the mighty, and drink the blood of the princes of the earth... 20 And you shall be filled at my table with horses and charioteers, with mighty men and all kinds of warriors,’ declares the Lord GOD.” (Ezek. 39:18-20)

Borrowed language from Ezekiel

“and will come out to deceive the nations that are at the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them for battle” (Rev. 20:8)

“Son of man, set your face toward Gog, of the land of Magog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal, and prophesy against him.” (Ezek. 38:2)

Postmillennialism



-ESV Study Bible, from Logos Bible Software

Daniel 2:35

³⁵ Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold, all together were broken in pieces, and became like the chaff of the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away, so that not a trace of them could be found. **But the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.**

Daniel 2:44

⁴⁴ And in the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that shall never be destroyed, nor shall the kingdom be left to another people. **It shall break in pieces all these kingdoms and bring them to an end, and it shall stand forever,**

Daniel 2:45

⁴⁵ just as you saw that a stone was cut from a mountain by no human hand, and that it broke in pieces the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold. A great God has made known to the king what shall be after this. The dream is certain, and its interpretation sure.”

Matthew 13:31-32

³¹ He put another parable before them, saying, “The kingdom of heaven is like a grain of mustard seed that a man took and sowed in his field. ³² It is the smallest of all seeds, **but when it has grown it is larger than all the garden plants and becomes a tree**, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.”

Readings of Revelation

Futurist: fulfillment will happen exclusively in the future in relation to us.

Historicist: fulfillment have been gradually fulfilled starting with the time of John and through the future.

Idealist: events in Revelation are symbolic of the struggle between good and evil.

Preterist: many of the events were fulfilled in the first-century AD, but some are left for today.

-Barry Cooper, Postmillennialism, Ligonier Ministries

When do the events of Revelation occur?

Idealist

1st Century

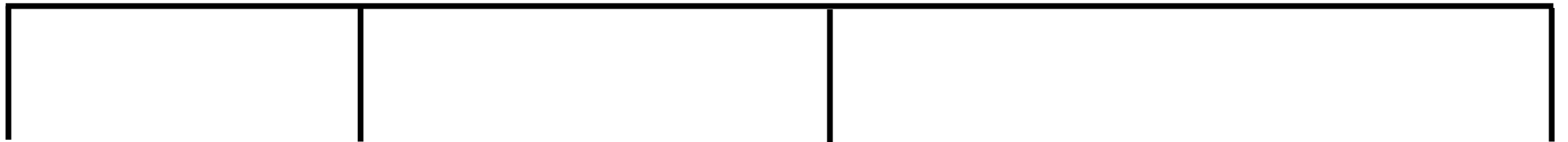
Future

Full Preterist

Partial
Preterist

Historicist

Futurist



Amillennial View
No Millennium

Kingdom of God is going on now, only in a spiritual sense.

1: return of Christ, resurrection

Postmillennial View

Millenium not clearly different from the Church age.

Kingdom of God is going on now in a physical sense in the world.

1: last battle, return of Christ, resurrection.

