

## Lecture 34 – The Last Things: The Millennium

*I saw thrones on which were seated those who had been given authority to judge. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony for Jesus and because of the word of God. They had not worshiped the beast or his image and had not received his mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ a thousand years. (The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended.) This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy are those who have part in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him for a thousand years.*

*Revelation 20:4-6*

### Key Terms

Divine judgment, wars, natural phenomena, a-millennialism, pre-millennialism, historic pre-millennialism, dispensational pre-millennialism

### Lecture Objectives

- List and describe the three categories of “signs of the times”
- List, describe, and provide biblical rationale for each of the four major millennial positions
- Understand and describe the theological and Christian-life implications for each position

### Preview

Our study of the last things has taken us through issues that are generally agreed upon by evangelicals. This lecture, however, will center around a topic of no small amount of debate, the millennium of Revelation 20. We will endeavor to discuss graciously and objectively the four major millennial views: a-millennialism, post-millennialism, historic pre-millennialism, and dispensational pre-millennialism. Prior outline points have been listed for continuity.

### The Last Things: Signs of the Times

I. The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit

II. The Doctrine of Election

III. The Doctrine of the Church

IV. The Means of Grace

V. The Last Things

A. Introduction

B. Death and the intermediate state

C. Christ’s second coming

D. The signs of the times

1. Preliminary questions

2. Signs evidencing the grace of God

3. Signs indicating opposition to God

\*4. Signs indicating divine judgment

a. Wars

b. Natural phenomena

c. Earthquakes and famines

E. The Millennium of Revelation 20:4-6

1. A-millennialism

a. The Millennium: the present reign of the souls of deceased believers with Christ in heaven. No earthly reign, but a spiritual reign

- b. The binding of Satan means that he cannot prevent the spread of the Gospel during the present age
  - c. Timing of Christ's return: after the Millennium
  - d. The second coming: a single event
  - e. The resurrection: one general resurrection
2. Post-millennialism (Note: Dr. Peterson incorrectly mentions Richard Gaffin here. He meant to say Norman Shepherd)
- a. The Millennium: the present age will gradually merge into the Millennial age as an increasingly larger proportion of the world's inhabitants are converted through the preaching of the Gospel.
  - b. "b"- "e" are the same as the A-millennial position (with variations among some theologians for "b")
3. Historic Pre-millennialism
- a. The Millennium: Christ's reign on earth for a thousand years after his return and before the eternal state
  - b. The binding of Satan means that he will be unable to deceive the nations during the future Millennium
  - c. The timing of Christ's return: before the Millennium
  - d. The second coming: a single event
  - e. The resurrection: two, before and after the Millennium