

At this point it should be stressed that it is not the fact of this usage of "Kingdom of God" as referring to the Millennial Kingdom of Christ that is in dispute, or the fact of the reality to which the term refers. The question concerns rather the nature and the time of the Millennial Kingdom.

All of the millennial views hold to the reality of the Millennial Kingdom of Christ. The question is, is it a rule from heaven or upon earth? Does it include all men or only believers? Is it already present or is it still future? Is it a long period of indefinite length, or a definite period of one thousand years? Will Christ come before it, during it, or after it? Is there a sharp contrast between the Millennial Kingdom and the eternal state? These and many other questions have arisen concerning the nature and the time of the Millennial Kingdom of Christ. And on the basis of the answers to these questions, three major views of the Millennial kingdom of Christ have emerged in the history of the Church.

#### FIVE SCENARIOS OF REVELATION 20:4-6

Text: And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given to them. And I saw the souls (τὰς ψυχὰς) of those who had been beheaded because of the testimony of Jesus and because of the word of God, and those who had not worshipped the beast or his image, and had not receive the mark upon their forehead and upon their head; and they came to life (ἔζησαν) and reigned (ἔβασίλευσαν) with Christ (μετὰ τοῦ χριστοῦ) for a thousand years (χίλια ἔτη.) (5) The rest of the dead (οἱ λοιποὶ τῶν νεκρῶν) did not come to life (οὐκ ἔζησαν) until the thousand years (χίλια ἔτη) were completed. This is the first resurrection (αὕτη ἡ νάστασις ἡ πρώτη) (6) Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection (ἀναστήσει τῇ πρώτῃ); over these the second death (ὁ δεύτερος θάνατος) has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years (χίλια ἔτη)."

#### Scenarios:

##### Scenario 1



Comment: This scenario reads Revelation 20:4-6 in a *prima facie* fashion, taking each clause or phrase as referring to a distinct event in sequence. Problems: Are there really two one-thousand-year periods when Christ reigns in God's program? Also, the resurrection of non-Tribulation believers comes at