

- d. A "great tribulation" will immediately precede the millennium. This will be a time of intense anguish, truly unlike anything previously occurring upon the earth. It may well involve cosmic phenomena, persecution, and great suffering.
- e. Christ's second coming will bring Satan and his demons under control, binding them for one thousand years. Without this control the conditions found in the millennium would be impossible. Near the end of the millennium however, Satan will be unbound briefly and will launch one desperate, final struggle. Then he and his demons will be utterly vanquished, and cast into the lake of fire prepared for them.
- f. The two resurrections of Revelation 20:4-6 are to be distinguished on the basis of their participants. Both resurrections are physical or bodily. Only believers are involved in the first resurrection, whereas the rest of the human race, the non-Christians, are not resurrected until the end of the millennium
- g. Premillennialism adopts a relatively literal method of interpretation in understanding Scripture, including predictive prophecy and the book of Revelation. This means that the words are taken literally whenever this does not lead to absurdity.
- h. During the millennium Jesus Christ will possess absolute control. The major forces opposing Him and His rule during the period between His ascension and His second coming will have been, for all practical purposes, eliminated. Satan will have been restrained. Antichrist and the false prophet will already have been destroyed by Christ at the beginning of the millennium. All human beings who are alive during this period will submit to the rule of the Messiah. In addition, there will be a worldwide peace. Swords shall be beaten into plowshares and spears into pruning hooks, and nation will not raise sword against nation. There will also be harmony within the creation. The curse upon "groaning and travailing" nature will be removed. Further, the saints will reign together with Christ.
- i. There will be a special status for Israel. National Israel is yet to be saved. Israel will turn to Christ and be saved. Not every single Israelite will be converted, but the nation as a whole will be. Through the agency of Israel, God will bless the whole world.

By way of evaluation of these views of the Millennial Kingdom of Christ, some pointed things can be said.

The Amillennial view adopts literal-historical principles of interpretation and applies them to predictive prophecies referring to Christ's first coming, Christ's death and resurrection, Christ's second coming, the resurrection of the dead, the final judgment, and the new heavens and earth; but when it comes to the Millennial kingdom of Christ and the future of Israel, it adopts a special set of figurative-spiritual (or figurative-symbolic) principles of interpretation and applies them to those predictions related to these realities. Even Anthony Hoekema's proposal that the Old