

DOCTRINAL
FOUNDATIONS
FOR THE
BELIEVER

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Lesson 1: The Doctrine of Scripture

**“All that I am I owe to Jesus Christ,
revealed to me in His divine book.”**

- David Livingstone -

The Text | 2 Timothy 3:16-17

Foundation Point 1 | The Bible is inspired by God.

Inspiration means breathed out or spoken by God.

- Read | 2 Peter 1:20-21

Foundation Point 2 | Inspiration was verbal.

Verbal inspiration means the very words of Scripture were/are inspired.

- Read | Psalm 119:89, Matthew 5:18, 24:35

Foundation Point 3 | Inspiration was plenary.

Plenary inspiration means all of it was/is inspired by God.

- Read | Proverbs 30:5, 2 Timothy 3:16

Verbal plenary inspiration means that every word of the original copies of the books of the Bible was spoken by God (breathed out) through the writers of Scripture.

Foundation Point 4 | The Bible is completely truthful.

Inerrancy means there were no errors in the original manuscripts.

- Read | Psalm 19:7-9, 119:86, John 17:17, Titus 1:2, Hebrews 6:18

Foundation Point 5 | The content of the original manuscripts of the Bible has been preserved for us today.

Preservation means what was originally written still exists today.

- Read | Psalm 119:89-90, 160, Isaiah 40:6-8, Matthew 5:18, 24:35

***Foundation Point 6* | The Bible is sufficient for our every spiritual need.**

Sufficiency means the Bible is fully capable of guiding us in all matters of faith and practice. It need not be supplemented.

- Read | Deuteronomy 4:2, Proverbs 30: 5-6, Revelation 22:18-19

***Foundation Point 7* | The Bible is clear and understandable.**

Perspicuity means the Bible is written in such a way that it can be properly understood and interpreted.

- Read | Matthew 12:3,5, 22:29,31-32

Important Points to Remember

- **If the Bible is God's Word...I need to read it.**
- **If the Bible is God's Word...I need to study it.**
- **If the Bible is God's Word...I need to obey it.**

Lesson 2: The Doctrine of God

“There is one only and true God, but in the unity of the Godhead there are three coeternal and coequal Persons.”

- B.B. Warfield -

The Text | Matthew 28:19

***Foundation Point 1* | There is only one God.**

- Read | Deuteronomy 6:4, Isaiah 46:9, 1 Corinthians 8:5-6

***Foundation Point 2* | The one God eternally exists in three distinct persons.**

- Read | Genesis 1:26, Isaiah 6:8, Matthew 28:19, Mark 1:9-11

***Foundation Point 3* | The word “Trinity” is not found in Scripture.**

- “Trinity” means three in one; a tri-unity.

***Foundation Point 4* | The three Persons of the Trinity are the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.**

The Father | Ephesians 1:3

***Foundation Point 5* | The Father is declared to be God.**

- Read | Galatians 1:1, Ephesians 4:6, Philippians 2:11

***Foundation Point 6* | God the Father shared glory with Christ the Son (and the Holy Spirit) in eternity past.**

- Read | John 17:5

***Foundation Point 7* | God the Father chose us to be saved in Christ.**

- Read | Ephesians 1:3-4

***Foundation Point 8* | God the Father predestined us to be adopted into God’s family.**

- Read | Ephesians 1:5-6

***Foundation Point 9* | God the Father gave authority to Christ the Son to save all those He chose.**

- Read | John 17:1-2

***Foundation Point 10* | God the Father was active in creation.**

- Read | Genesis 1

***Foundation Point 11* | God the Father sent the Son to accomplish the redemptive mission he planned.**

- Read | John 3:16, Galatians 4:4

***Foundation Point 12* | God the Father sent the Holy Spirit in Jesus' name.**

- Read | John 14:26

Lesson 3: The Doctrine of God Part 2

“There is one only and true God, but in the unity of the Godhead there are three coeternal and coequal Persons.”

- B.B. Warfield -

The Son | John 1:14

***Foundation Point 1* | The Son is declared to be God.**

- Read | John 1:1, 10:30, Colossians 1:19, Titus 2:13, Hebrews 1:3

***Foundation Point 2* | God the Son is eternal; he did not have a beginning and will never have an end.**

- Read | John 1:1-3, Colossians 1:15-17, Hebrews 1:2, Revelation 1:8, 17-18

***Foundation Point 3* | The Son has always been fully God.**

- Read | John 8:58, 10:30, 17:5, Philippians 2:6, Colossians 2:9

***Foundation Point 4* | God the Son was active in creation.**

- Read | John 1:1-3, Colossians 1:15-17, Hebrews 1:2

***Foundation Point 5* | God the Son became fully human in the person of Jesus Christ.**

- Read | John 1:14, Romans 8:3, Galatians 4:4

***Foundation Point 6* | As a man, Jesus Christ the Son had basic human needs and experienced temptation.**

- Read | Matthew 4:2, John 4:6, 11:35, 19:28, Hebrews 4:15

***Foundation Point 7* | Jesus Christ, the God-Man, offered himself as a perfect sacrifice for the sin of the world.**

- Read | John 3:16, Philippians 2:5-8, 1 John 2:1-2

***Foundation Point 8* | Jesus Christ, the God-Man is the only Savior and the one and only way to the Father.**

- Read | John 14:6, Acts 4:12

***Foundation Point 9* | Jesus Christ will return to earth and complete his saving mission.**

- Read | Matthew 24:30-31, 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, Revelation

Lesson 4: The Doctrine of God Part 3

“There is one only and true God, but in the unity of the Godhead there are three coeternal and coequal Persons.”

- B.B. Warfield -

The Holy Spirit | John 16:13-14

***Foundation Point 1* | The Spirit is declared to be God.**

- Read | Genesis 1:2, Acts 5:3-4, 1 Corinthians 2:10

***Foundation Point 2* | The Holy Spirit was active in creation.**

- Read | Genesis 1:2

***Foundation Point 3* | The Holy Spirit dwells inside of all believers in Jesus Christ.**

- Read | Romans 8:7-11, 1 Corinthians 6:19-20

***Foundation Point 4* | The Spirit seals all believers; he permanently “marks” them as God’s possession.**

- Read | 2 Corinthians 1:21-22, Ephesians 1:13-14, 4:30

***Foundation Point 5* | God the Spirit baptizes all believers into the body of Christ.**

- Read | Mark 1:8, 1 Corinthians 12:12-13

***Foundation Point 6* | The Holy Spirit gives spiritual gifts to every member of Christ’s body.**

- Read | Romans 12:3-8, 1 Corinthians 12, Ephesians 4:1-16, 1 Peter 4:10-11

***Foundation Point 7* | The Spirit fills believers; enabling obedience as he controls their lives.**

- Read | Acts 13:52, Galatians 5:22-23, Ephesians 5:18

Lesson 5: The Doctrine of Spiritual Gifts

Definition

Spiritual gifts are the skills or abilities given by the Holy Spirit to every individual believer for the edification of the church body. They are not natural talents or strengths. All men and women have talents and strengths that characterize who they are. Only born again believers in Jesus Christ possess spiritual gifts.

Foundation Point 1 | The Scripture speaks of two kinds of spiritual gifts, speaking gifts and serving gifts.

Read | 1 Peter 4:7-11

The Texts | Romans 12:3-8, 1 Corinthians 12:1-11, 27-31
Ephesians 4:1-16

1 Peter 4 differentiates between speaking gifts and serving gifts.

Ephesians 4 is a list of offices or positions that require certain spiritual giftedness in order to function effectively in them.

Romans 12 and 1 Corinthians 12 give a list of specific gifts.

The Serving Gifts

1 Peter 4 tells us that the serving gifts:

- are given to us.
- are to be used to benefit others.
- require good stewardship.
- require God's strength.
- are designed to glorify God.

The serving gifts as listed in Scripture are (10):

Serving	Faith	Helping
Giving	Healing	Administration
Leading	Miracles	
Mercy	Discernment	

The Speaking Gifts

1 Peter 4 tells us that the speaking gifts (along with the purposes of the serving gifts) involve proclaiming the word of God.

The speaking gifts as listed in Scripture are (10):

Prophecy	Word of Knowledge	Evangelist
Teaching	Tongues	Pastor-Teacher
Exhortation	Interpretation of Tongues	
Word of Wisdom	Apostleship	

The Sign Gifts

Some of the gifts were characteristic of apostolic authority and the foundation of the church, and are not in regular use today, or are used to a lesser degree. These are often called the "sign gifts". The sign gifts are:

Healing	Tongues
Miracles	Interpretation of Tongues
Prophecy	
Apostleship	

**In what ways are these gifts still functioning today?
In what ways are they not? Why not?**

Important Points to Remember

- **Identify the gifts as they are listed and described in Scripture.**
- **Identify your specific gift(s).**
- **Use your gift(s) for the benefit of the church.**

Lesson 6: The Doctrine of Man

“God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.”

- Genesis 1:27 -

The Texts | Genesis 1:27, Romans 5:12

***Foundation Point 1* | Mankind was made to glorify God.**

- Read | Psalm 86:8-10, Isaiah 43:7, Romans 11:36, 1 Corinthians 10:31

***Foundation Point 2* | Mankind was made in God's image.**

- Read | Genesis 1:26-27, James 3:9

***Foundation Point 3* | Adam's sin caused the entire human race to become guilty sinners before God.**

- Read | Romans 5:12-21

***Foundation Point 4* | Accordingly, all people are born with a sinful nature.**

- Read | Psalm 51:5, 58:3, Ephesians 2:1-3

***Foundation Point 5* | All people are also sinful in their behavior.**

- Read | Romans 3:10-18, 23, 1 John 1:8-10

***Foundation Point 6* | The truths of Points 3,4, & 5 mean that all people are completely unable to do any spiritual good on their own that would please God.**

- Read | Isaiah 64:6, John 6:44, Romans 8:7-8

***Foundation Point 7* | We call this total depravity; which means that every part of a person's being is tainted with sin.**

Lesson 7: The Doctrine of Salvation Part 1

“For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.”

- Ephesians 2:8-9 -

The Text | 1 Corinthians 15:3-4

***Foundation Point 1* | All people are in need of salvation because of their total depravity.**

- Read | The Doctrine of Man

***Foundation Point 2* | Salvation is made possible because Jesus Christ atoned for the sins of all who would ever believe.**

- Read | John 10:11-18, Acts 20:28, Ephesians 5:25-27, 1 John 2:1-2

***Foundation Point 3* | Salvation is received when a person recognizes their sinfulness before God and trusts in Christ alone as their Savior from that sin; believing that what Christ accomplished on the cross in his death, burial and resurrection is the only way for them to be saved.**

- Read | Acts 16:30-31, Romans 10:9-10, 1 Corinthians 15:1-4

***Foundation Point 4* | Salvation involves redemption from sin.**

- Read | Acts 20:28, 1 Corinthians 6:19-20, Ephesians 1:7

***Foundation Point 5* | Salvation involves a reconciliation of our broken relationship with God.**

- Read | 2 Corinthians 5:18-21, Colossians 1:19-20

***Foundation Point 6* | Salvation involves a propitiation of God's wrath.**

- Read | Romans 3:25, Hebrews 2:17-18, 1 John 2:2, 4:10

Lesson 8: The Doctrine of Salvation Part 2

**“In him we have redemption through his blood,
the forgiveness of our trespasses,
according to the riches of his grace.”**

- Ephesians 1:7 -

The Texts | Ephesians 1:7, Romans 8:29-30

***Foundation Point 1* | Before the creation of the world, God chose those whom he would save.**

This is the biblical doctrine of election.

- Read | Acts 13:48, Ephesians 1:3-4, 2 Thessalonians 2:13

***Foundation Point 2* | Before the creation of the world, God determined the eternal destiny of those he chose.**

This is the biblical doctrine of predestination.

- Read | Romans 8:29-30, Ephesians 1:5-6, 11

***Foundation Point 3* | When a person becomes a Christian, God makes their spirit, which is dead in sin, alive.**

This is the biblical doctrine of regeneration.

- Read | 2 Cor. 5:17, Ephesians 2:1-5, Colossians 2:12, Titus 3:5

***Foundation Point 4* | When a person believes in Jesus Christ as their Savior, God gives them a right standing before him.**

This is the biblical doctrine of justification.

- Read | Romans 3:21-26, 5:1, Titus 3:6

***Foundation Point 5* | Once a person is a believer in Jesus, it is their responsibility to become more like him through the power of the Holy Spirit.**

This is the biblical doctrine of sanctification.

- Read | Romans 6:19, Ephesians 5:1

Foundation Point 6 | Every believer's salvation is secure forever. They cannot lose it, and no one can take it from them.

This is the biblical doctrine of security.

- Read | John 10:27-30, Romans 8:38-39, Ephesians 1:13-14

Foundation Point 7 | All believers will one day be given perfect and immortal bodies when we spend eternity with the Lord Jesus.

This is the biblical doctrine of glorification.

- Read | 1 Corinthians 15:42-57, Philippians 3:20-21, 1 John 3:2

Lesson 9: The Doctrine of the Church

“I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”

- Matthew 16:18 -

The Text | Matthew 16:18

***Foundation Point 1* | When referring to a church building and the congregation that meets in it, what is being described is a local church.**

***Foundation Point 2* | When referring to all believers in Jesus throughout the world, what is being described is the universal church.**

***Foundation Point 3* | Jesus is the head (or master, ruler) of the universal church (and local church accordingly), which is his body.**

- Read | Ephesians 1:22-23, Colossians 1:18

***Foundation Point 4* | The universal church’s mission on earth is to worship Christ, and to make him and his gospel known in all the world.**

- Read | Matthew 28:19-20, Acts 1:8

***Foundation Point 5* | Included within the structure of a local church are two offices (or positions of importance): the office of elder and the office of deacon.**

- Read | 1 Timothy 3:1-7, 8-13

***Foundation Point 6* | The church participates in two ordinances: baptism and communion.**

***Foundation Point 7* | Baptism is for the new believer, and shows their confession of Christ as Lord by symbolizing his death, burial, and resurrection.**

- Read | Matthew 28:19-20, Romans 6:4

***Foundation Point 8* | Communion is a time when believers remember Christ's death on our behalf and proclaim it until he comes again. This is done by partaking of bread which symbolizes Christ's body, and wine (or grape juice), which symbolizes his blood.**

- Read | 1 Corinthians 11:17-34

***Foundation Point 9* | Characteristics of a biblical local church:**

- **preaches the word of God**
- **faithful to the biblical gospel**
- **faithful to biblical teaching**
- **celebrates baptism and communion**
- **emphasizes prayer**
- **promotes fellowship**
- **involved in proclaiming the gospel**

Lesson 10: The Doctrine of Last Things

“This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

- Acts 1:11 -

The Text | Acts 1:11

***Foundation Point 1* | Jesus promised that he would return to the earth for his people.**

- Read | John 14:2-3

***Foundation Point 2* | No one knows when Jesus is coming back; and he could return at any moment.**

- Read | Matthew 24:36-44, Mark 13:32-33

***Foundation Point 3* | The purpose of his return is to end redemptive history, revealing that he is the only Savior, Lord, and King of the universe.**

- Read | Revelation 20:11-15, 21:1-8

Timeline for the Return of Jesus Christ According to the Historic Premillennial Model

***Foundation Point 4* | At the present time, we are in the church age.**

***Foundation Point 5* | At the end of the church age, there will be a period of great tribulation, which includes the appearing of a powerful man who professes to be God – sometimes called the Antichrist.**

- Read | Matthew 24:15-22, Mark 13:14-23

***Foundation Point 6* | Christ will end the tribulation when he visibly and physically returns to the earth.**

- Read | Matthew 24:29-31, Mark 13:24-27, Revelation 19:11-21

***Foundation Point 7* | When Christ returns, all believers will meet him in the air and return with him to the earth in glory.**

- Read | 1 Corinthians 15:51-57, Colossians 3:4, 1 Thessalonians 4:15-18

***Foundation Point 8* | Upon Christ's return to the earth with all believers, he will set up his kingdom and reign for 1000 years. This is called the millennium.**

- Read | Revelation 20:1-6

***Foundation Point 9* | After the millennium, unbelievers will be raised from the dead; and Christ will judge Satan, his demons, and all unbelievers by consigning them to Hell forever. Believers, on the other hand, will enter into Heaven for all of eternity.**

- Read | Revelation 20:7-15, Revelation 21-22

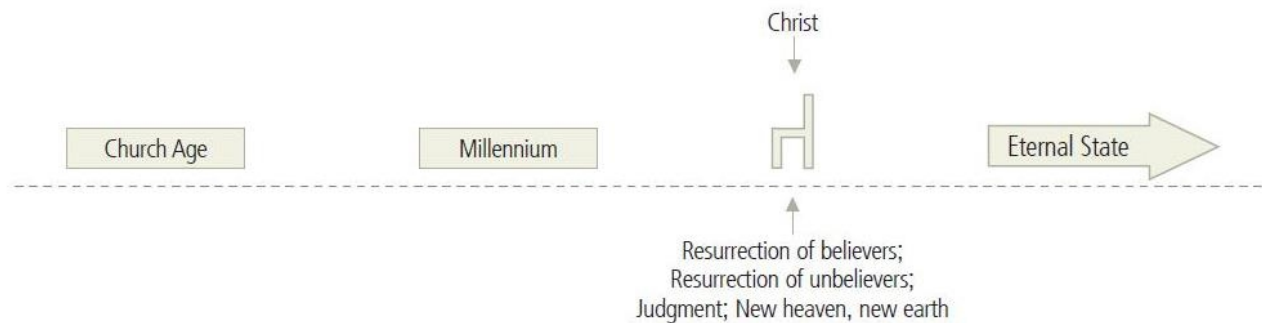
Lesson 11: The Doctrine of Last Things Part 2

Different Eschatological Models*

Postmillennialism

Interprets Revelation 20:1-6 as a period of great Christian influence, not necessarily a literal 1000 years, after which Jesus returns.

Postmillennialism
(Christ comes after the millennium)

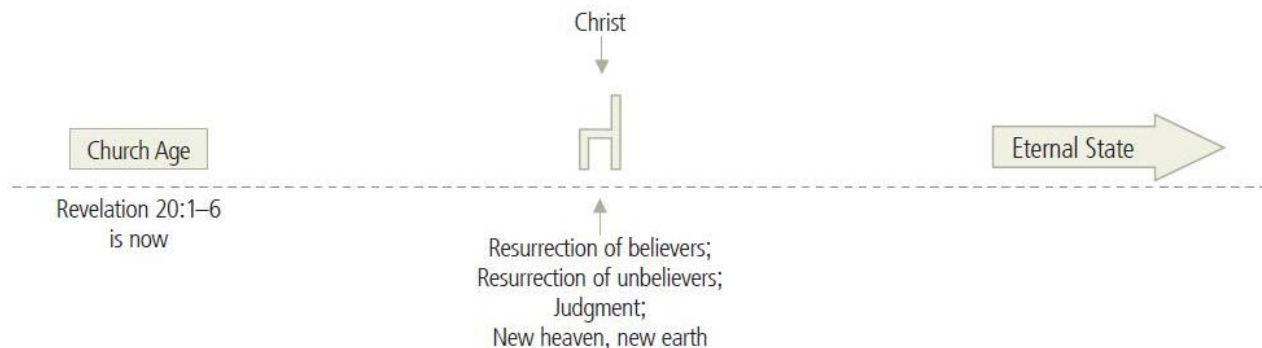


Arguments for Postmillennialism: Matthew 13:31-33, 28:18-20

Amillennialism

Interprets Revelation 20:1-6 as the present church age; during which Satan's influence is hindered while the gospel progresses. According to this view, there is no future millennium.

Amillennialism
(No future millennium)



Arguments for Amillennialism: Isolation of Revelation 20, Daniel 12:2, John 5:28-29, Acts 24:15

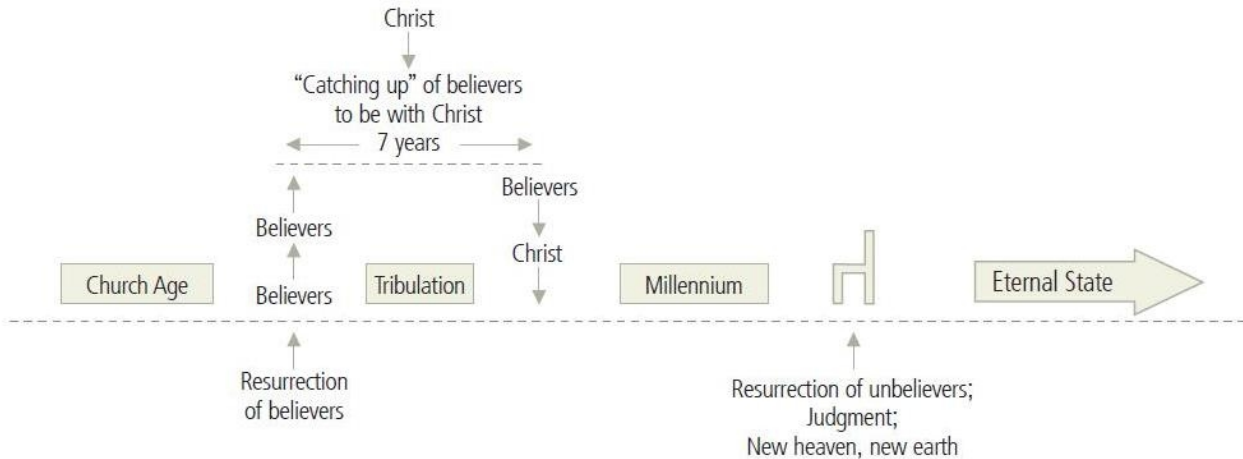
* Charts are taken from the ESV Study Bible

Premillennialism

Pretribulational Premillennialism interprets Revelation 20:1-6 literally, and teaches that a rapture of believers occurs *before* the tribulation.

Pretribulational Premillennialism

(Christ comes before the millennium and *before* the tribulation)

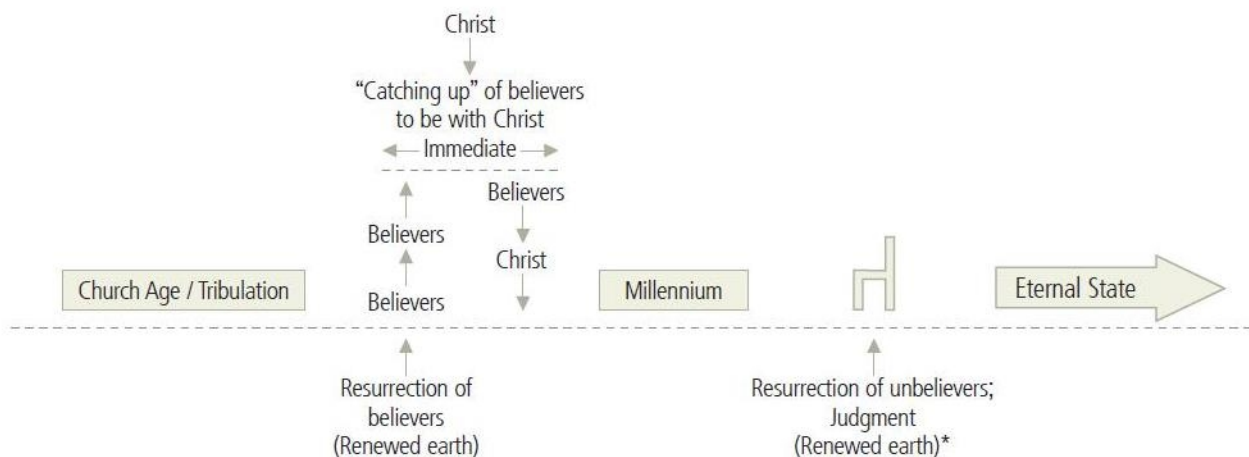


Arguments for Pretrib Premillennialism: 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17, Revelation 3:10

Historic Premillennialism interprets Revelation 20:1-6 literally, and teaches that believers will endure the tribulation with everyone else.

Classical Premillennialism

(Christ comes before the millennium but *after* the tribulation; the chair, in this and following illustrations, represents the judgment seat of Christ)



*Classical Premillennialists differ over whether the renewed earth will begin in the millennium or the eternal state.

Arguments for Historic Premillennialism: Isaiah 11:6-9 et al., Revelation 20

Lesson 12: The Doctrine of Last Things Part 3

“This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

- Acts 1:11 -

A Closer Look | Historic Premillennialism

***Foundation Point 1* | The church age ends with a unique period of worldwide peril, known as the tribulation.**

- Read | Matthew 24:15-22, Mark 13:14-23, Revelation 4-19

***Foundation Point 2* | During the tribulation, the man of lawlessness, also known as the Antichrist will appear to blaspheme God and deceive the nations into worshiping him.**

- Read | 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12, 1 John 2:18, Revelation 13

***Foundation Point 3* | At the end of the tribulation, Jesus Christ will raise his saints, meet them in the air, and physically return to the earth with them.**

- Read | Matthew 24:29-31, Mark 13:24-27, 1 Corinthians 15:51-57, Colossians 3:4, 1 Thessalonians 4:15-18, Revelation 19:11-21

***Foundation Point 4* | Upon Christ's return with believers to the earth, Satan will be bound, and the millennium will be established; which is a period of unparalleled peace under the earthly, kingly rule of Jesus Himself.**

- Read | Psalm 72:8-14, Isaiah 11:6-11, Revelation 20:1-6

***Foundation Point 5* | After the millennium, Satan will be released, attempt one last rebellion, and be defeated.**

- Read | Revelation 20:7-10

***Foundation Point 6* | Unbelievers will then be judged according to their works. All of them will be found guilty before God, and they will be cast into Hell forever.**

- Read | Revelation 20:11-15

***Foundation Point 7* | After the final judgment, believers will enter into the new heaven and new earth. There, God will dwell with us forever.**

- Read | Revelation 21-22

Important Points to Remember

- **All biblical Christians agree that Jesus Christ will one day physically return to the earth to end redemptive history.**
- **Regardless of what tribulational or millennial viewpoint is taken, the Bible is clear that Jesus Christ reigns victoriously forever.**
- **Scripture is also clear about the eternal destinations of both believers and unbelievers. Tribulational or millennial viewpoints do not affect the doctrines of eternal Heaven and eternal Hell.**
- **Though understanding what eschatological model you adhere to is very important (and indeed, should not be underestimated), humility is needed because of the difficulty of the subject matter.**