

Fundamentals
of the
Christian Faith

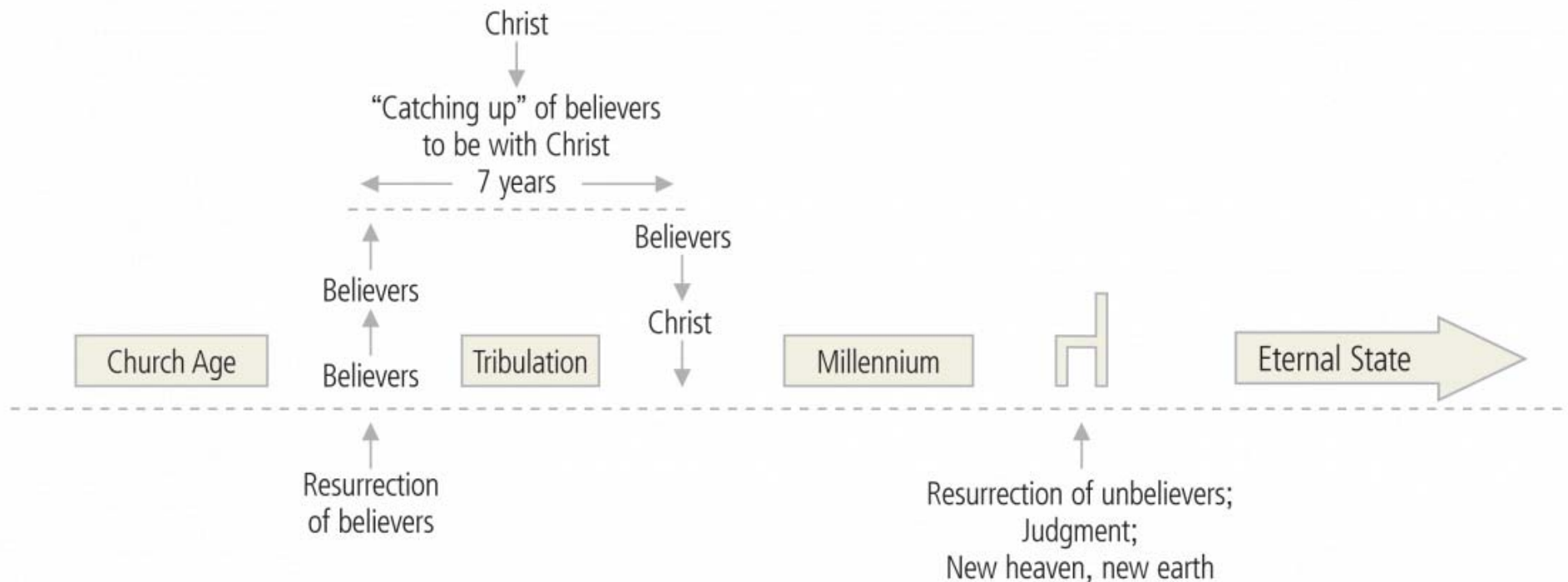
The Last Things

August 26, 2018
Selected Scriptures

**“Scripture unfolds *the story* of the kingdom,
and God’s glory is *the reason* for the story...the
covenants are the instruments through which
the kingdom program unfolds.”¹**

¹ Schreiner, Thomas R. *The King in His Beauty: a Biblical Theology of the Old and New Testaments*. 2013.

There will be a 1,000 year reign of Christ, on the earth, after the 2nd coming, and before the Eternal State



A common misconception

“A millennial doctrine cannot be based on Old Testament prophecies but should be based on the New Testament alone...The only place in the Bible that speaks of an actual millennium is the passage in Revelation 20:1-6.”²

² Ladd, George E. "Historic Premillennialism," in *The Meaning of the Millennium: Four Views*. 1977.

1 The Foundation of Premillennialism

★ The kingdom mandate of Gen. 1:26-28 (unfallen creation)

- Man assigned to rule *from* and *over* the earth

★ Psalm 8:6-8 (fallen world)

- Explains Gen. 1:26-28
- Even in a fallen world, man still possesses the right to rule over the earth

1 The Foundation of Premillennialism

★ Hebrews 2:5-8 (fallen world)

- Quotes Psalm 8:6
- Man still possesses the right to rule the earth. But, this does not occur in this age

★ Ephesians 1:22 (Heaven)

- Quotes Psalm 8:6
- With ascension, Jesus possesses right to rule the earth

1 The Foundation of Premillennialism

★ 1 Corinthians 15:25-27 (Millennial Kingdom)

- Quotes Psalm 8:6
- Jesus, as ultimate Man (“Last Adam”), will fulfill man’s mandate to rule the earth after His return

★ Rev. 2:26-27; 3:21; 5:10 (Millennial Kingdom)

- In the Millennial Kingdom, Jesus will share His rule over the earth with His people

① The Foundation of Premillennialism

★ Revelation 22:5 (Eternal State)

- God and Jesus are on the throne, and the saints reign forever in the Eternal State**

② OT predicts a coming earthly kingdom under the Messiah

★ Isaiah 2:2-4

- Jerusalem as the capital city
- Nations stream to Jerusalem to know the ways of God

★ Isaiah 9:6-7

- The government shall be upon His shoulder
- There will be no end to His kingdom

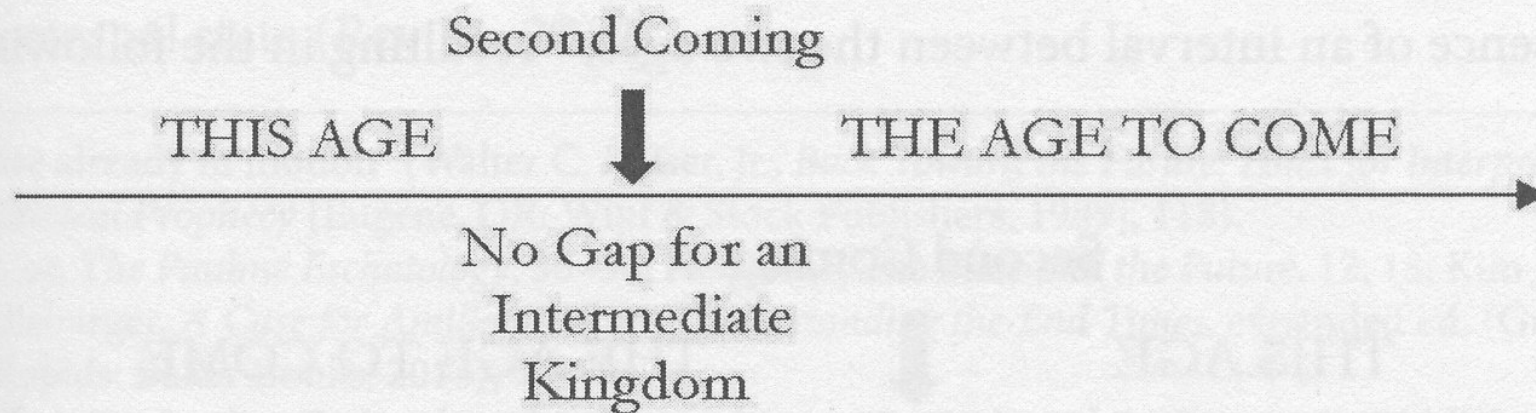
- **Matthew 12:32 “either in this age or in the age to come”**
- **Mark 10:30 “now in the present age...and in the age to come”**
- **Luke 18:30 “at this time and in the age to come”**
- **Luke 20:34-35 “this age...that age”**
- **Ephesians 1:21 “not only in this age but also in the one to come”**

There are 2 ages:

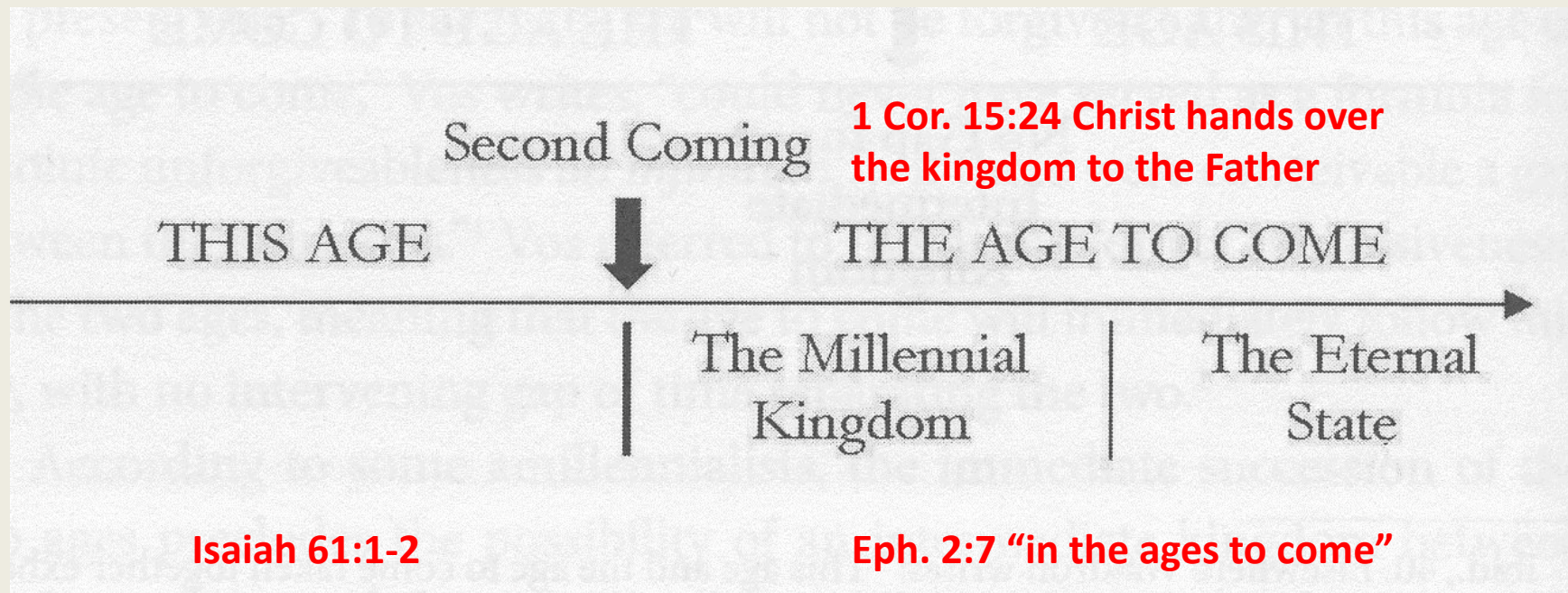
(1) This age – life before the 2nd coming

**(2) The age to come – new heavens and new earth
with perfect conditions**

Amillennialism



Premillennialism



**③ OT predicts an intermediate kingdom
with conditions better than the present age
but not perfect like the Eternal State**

★ Micah 4:1-4

- “in the last days” (4:1)
- Jerusalem is the center of Messiah’s earthly kingdom (4:2)
- “He will judge between many people” (4:3)

**③ OT predicts an intermediate kingdom
with conditions better than the present age
but not perfect like the Eternal State**

★ Isaiah 11:1-9

- The Branch rules and judges the nations (11:4)
- Peace between animals (11:6-7)
- Peace between humans and animals (11:8)
- “the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD” (11:9)

③ OT predicts an intermediate kingdom with conditions better than the present age but not perfect like the Eternal State

★ Isaiah 65:17-25

- “new heavens and a new earth” (65:17)
 - The former things not remembered (65:17)
- Long life (65:20)
 - Birth (65:23) and Death (65:20)
- The animal kingdom will exist in harmony (65:25)

**③ OT predicts an intermediate kingdom
with conditions better than the present age
but not perfect like the Eternal State**

★ Zechariah 14

- **The 2nd coming (14:4)**
- **The Lord is King over all the earth (14:9)**
- **Nations disobey and rebel against the Lord (14:16-19)**

**There must be an intermediate kingdom
because the Bible describes
the presence of sin and death
in the eschatological kingdom**

A matter of hermeneutics...

OT Expectation

Salvation and restoration of the nation Israel in an earthly kingdom of God under the Messiah with land and physical blessings for Israel as the basis for bringing blessing to the nations. **The OT is premillennial!**

All kingdom passages harmonize and compliment each other. The New Testament does not reinterpret or transcend the Old Testament expectations.

“Amillennialists hold that the promises made to Israel, David, and Abraham in the Old Testament are fulfilled by Jesus Christ and his church during this present age...If the New Testament writers spiritualize OT prophecies by applying them in a nonliteral sense, then the OT passage must be seen in light of the NT interpretation, not vice versa...the promised restoration of Israel pointed ahead to the church”³ **The NT reinterprets the OT**

³ Riddlebarger, Kim. *A Case for Amillennialism: Understanding the End Times*. Baker Books, 2003.

④ NT predicts a future earthly kingdom

★ Matthew 5:5

- Believers will inherit the whole earth**
- Ethnic Jewish believers still inherit a particular portion of land**

④ NT predicts a future earthly kingdom

★ Matthew 25:31

- Jesus sits on His Davidic throne after the 2nd coming
- At this time, the apostles will judge/rule the 12 tribes of Israel (Matt. 19:28)

④ NT predicts a future earthly kingdom

★ Luke 21:31

- At the 2nd coming, the kingdom is near
- Jesus offered the kingdom to Israel (Matt. 4-10)
- Israel rejected the offer (Matt. 11-12)
 - The kingdom of heaven suffers violence (11:12)
 - Pharisees blaspheme the Holy Spirit (12:22-32)
- Jesus revokes the offer of the kingdom until the 2nd coming (Luke 21:31)

④ NT predicts a future earthly kingdom

★ Revelation 5:10

- Saints are destined to rule with Christ
- This reign is future “they will reign with Christ”
- This reign is earthly “upon the earth”

5 Earthly intermediate kingdom of 1,000 years

★ Revelation 20 reveals the length of Christ's intermediary earthly kingdom

- Sequence of events**

- “and I saw” the 2nd coming (19:11)

- “and I saw” the millennium (20:1)

- “and I saw” a new heaven and a new earth (21:1)

- Christ and saints reign for 1,000 years (20:4)**

- ① The Foundation of Premillennialism**
- ② OT predicts a coming earthly kingdom under the Messiah**
- ③ OT predicts an intermediate kingdom with conditions better than the present age but not perfect like the Eternal State**
- ④ NT predicts a future earthly kingdom**
- ⑤ Earthly intermediate kingdom of 1,000 years**

Premillennialism must be true because...

- * There must be a successful reign of Adam and the Last Adam *from* and *over* the realm where God tasked the first Adam to rule
- * There needs to be a time in history in which all aspects of the biblical covenants and promises are fulfilled