



Millennial Mistakes: The "Thousand Year Reign of Christ" by [John T Polk II](#)

*All Scriptures and comments are based on the **New King James Version**, unless otherwise noted.*

I. Introduction:

1. Some false doctrines cut across denominational lines: faith only; Decalogue; no church better than any; millennialism.
2. The Latin word "millennium" ("*mille*"=1000; "*annum*"=year) is not in Scripture, but the Greek "*chilias*" (meaning "1000") is! Sometimes it is called "chiliasm."
3. If this passage (**Revelation 20:4-6**) doesn't teach millennialism, then no passage in Scripture does, and all are false teachers who advocate the doctrine.
4. Confusion has been caused by faulty methods of Bible study:
 - a. assigning arbitrary dates ex. "**Revelation 19:19-21** (1918), **20:1-4** (2001);"
 - b. assigning arbitrary definitions ex. "**Revelation 17:16** (10 kings join Antichrist and destroy Babylon with fire, therefore it must refer to a Nuclear War!"
5. We shall let the Scriptures speak for themselves, after all, it is the Book of "**The Revelation of Jesus Christ**", which God gave Him to show His servants things which must shortly take place. And He sent and signified *it* by His angel to His servant John" (**Revelation 1:1**). The blessing is for those who **read, hear, and keep** its writings "for the time is near" (**Revelation 1:3**).

II. Discussion:

1. **The Twisted Text 2 Peter 3:16** (Millennialism contradicts other Scriptures)
 - a. **Twisters**
 - 1) So-called "Church Fathers"-Papias, Irenaeus, Tertullian, Justin, *et. al.*
 - 2) First notion in Scripture:
 - a) **2 Thessalonians 2:2** - "the Day of Christ had come"
 - b) **2 Timothy 2:17-18** - Hymenaeus and Philetus "saying that the resurrection is already past"
 - b. **Every part of Millennial doctrine is "antichrist" I John 4:1-3.**
They claim:
 - 1) **He failed to establish His kingdom**
 - a) Then there has been no observance of His supper! **Luke 22:27-30**
 - b) Then there has been no new birth into His kingdom! **John 3:3, 5**
 - 2) **He failed to sit on David's throne. The facts are:**
 - a) That Jesus died and was buried. **Acts 2:23-24**;

- b) That David's prophecy said Jesus would not be in the grave longer than 3 days before being raised out of it! **Acts 2:25-28** ("**Psalm 16:8-11**");
 - c) That Jesus was raised "to sit" on David's throne in heaven! **Acts 2:29-33**; If Jesus is not now on David's throne in heaven, as Peter and the Apostles preached on Pentecost, then Jesus Christ has never been raised from the dead!
- 3) He failed to overcome Satan**
- a) But Jesus said He came to do this. **John 12:31-33**;
 - b) John claimed Jesus accomplished this very thing! **I John 3:8**;
 - c) If He did not, then there has been NO CRUCIFIXION for our sins!
- 4) He will restore Moses' Law & the Jewish kingdom**
- a) But Jesus said the Jews would lose the kingdom. **Matthew 21:43, 45**
 - b) The animal blood of Moses' Law saved no one. **Hebrews 9:12**;
 - c) If Moses' Law made one righteous, Christ died in vain! **Galatians 2:21**
- 5) His will be an earthly kingdom**
- a) But that's the kind of kingdom they claim Jesus failed to establish when He came to the earth the first time!
 - b) That's the kind of kingdom Jesus denied He established. **John 18:36**;
 - c) Even the patriarchs sought "a heavenly" one. **Hebrews 11:14-16**
- c. **Tormented Text-** Why is it literal and not symbolic? *Millennialists claim:*
- 1) "These passages don't indicate symbolism"**
 - a) Wha-a-a-t? What other figures of speech here are to be taken literally, except the words "1000" and "reigned"?
 - b) God said through John that it WAS in signs. **Revelation 1:1**
 - 2) "The number '1000' is repeated many times, no other symbolic term is used to indicate so long a time"**
 - a) Solomon in the Old Testament used "1000" to symbolically indicate longer than anyone could possibly live. **Ecclesiastes 6:3, 6**
 - b) Peter certainly used it symbolically! **2 Peter 3:8**
 - 3) "If Lord intended literal 1000 years, how else could He have said it?"**
 - a) Did the Lord also intend "bottomless pit," "dragon," "beheaded," "smoke," to be literal because He used a definite expression?
 - b) What "hubris" for someone to refuse God the right to use words symbolically when He said He has?
 - c) Disciples of Jesus could recognize when Jesus used symbolic language. **John 16:25, 28-30**. Those who cannot recognize symbolic language are not Jesus' disciples. **John 9:40-10:6**

2. True to this Text

a. The Book of Revelation Repeats the Finality of God's Judgments Against:

- 1) **6:12-17** - mankind, great and small
- 2) **11:15-19** - those who destroy the earth
- 3) **14:6-20** - followers of the beast
- 4) **16:17-20** - cities of the nations
- 5) **18:21-24** - Babylon
- 6) **19:19-21** - beast, false prophet, the rest
- 7) **20:7-10** - the Devil/Satan

b. Symbols in Text (in the thousand years):

1) Satan bound and sealed

- a) by miracles **Matthew 12:28-29; Mark 16:17;**
- b) by resistance **Matthew 10:28; James 4:7;**
- c) by Bible **Matthew 4:1-11**
- d) "released for a little while" **v. 3, 7-10;**
 - i. only by God's permission;
 - ii. only to gather his people but then he and all his are damned.
 - iii. only for judgment and interment in Hell **Matthew 25:41**

2) Lived and reigned with Christ

- a) This is promised to every faithful Christian. **2 Timothy 2:12;**
- b) Living a Christian is finding one's life. **Matthew 10:39;**
- c) Christians reign now by overcoming worldliness.
1 Corinthians 6:1-2
- d) Saints who live with God are timeless. **2 Peter 3:8** (from **Psalm 90:4**)

3) "This is the first resurrection"

- a) Not *of* bodies, but of a *cause* **v. 4;**
- b) The church of Christ are those who are saved. **Acts 2:38-41;**
- c) This cause will never be destroyed by death. **Matthew 16:18**
- d) Obeying Jesus Christ IS a resurrection from death in sin. **John 5:24;**
Ephesians 2:5; Romans 6:3-8

4) "Second death" 20:10; 14-15

- a) It is final, eternal, and horrible;
- b) It is NOT intended for Christians, but for the disobedient
 - i. **Mark 16:15-16;**
 - ii. **2 Thessalonians 1:7-9**

c. The message is: Obey Jesus Christ, be faithful unto death, receive the crown of life, and not be lost with the Devil and his angels.

III. Conclusion:

1. It matters not, then, whether someone is "Pre-" or "Post-Millennial," for if there is no future "millennial" then their doctrine spun around that concept is false!
2. It matters whether someone believes Jesus Christ and NOT the false teachers who pervert His way.
3. Would you become a priest of God now? **Revelation 1:5-6; Acts 22:16**