

# Welcome to **WHAT THE BIBLE Is ABOUT**

No one's education is complete without a knowledge of the Bible.

Over half the world's people consider the Bible to be part of their belief structure.



The Bible is not mere literature: it offers insight and wisdom to those seeking truth.

## What is the "Bible"?


# τὰ βιβλία

from *biblia* (Latin)

from earlier *tà biblía* (Koine Greek)

meaning "the books" or "library" or "book"

A collection of sacred texts or scriptures that Jews and Christians consider to be a product of divine inspiration and a record of the relationship between God and humans



**66** books by  
**40** authors  
(shepherds, kings,  
scholars, prophets,  
fishermen,  
a priest, a soldier,  
and a cupbearer)

from  
**3** continents  
**3** writing in  
**languages**  
over nearly  
**2,000** years

## The Unity of Scripture

Yet with a  
single, unified  
message  
of  
**God's**  
**nature,**  
His **love,**  
and His **plan**  
of salvation  
for fallen  
humanity.



**The Christian Bible  
consists of two  
'testaments'**

### A central Bible tenet

The **New Testament** is in the Old Testament **concealed**, the **Old Testament** is in the New Testament **revealed**.

### Some things to keep in mind

- The Bible purports to be a **message from God to us**. Don't expect it to be like "**just any old book**".
- **Science** can only study **observable** and **measurable natural things**. **God** of the Bible **isn't** similarly **limited**.

The **Bible** is full of **supernatural matters** like angels, fallen angels, spirits, and miracles. The lame walk, the deaf hear, and the blind see.

- "In the beginning, God..." **God** of the Bible **claims to be the Creator** of all things.
- **God is outside time**. He **alone** can declare "...**the end from the beginning**, and from ancient times **things that are not yet done**." (Isaiah 46:10)

We call this attribute "**prophecy**".

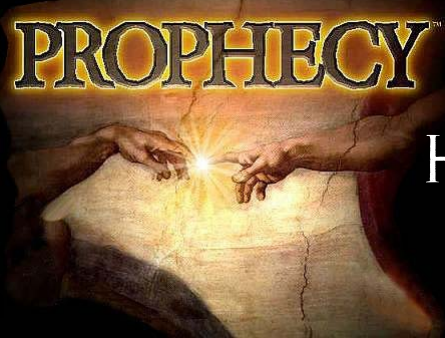
# WHAT IS PROPHECY?

Surely the Lord GOD **does nothing**,  
unless **He reveals His secret** to  
His servants the prophets.

Amos 3:7 NKJV

*It is the glory of God to **conceal**  
a thing: but the honour of kings is  
**to search out** a matter.*

Proverb 25:2 KJV



**GREEK CULTURE**

- προφητεία, *prophēteia*, G4394, “the gift of communicating and enforcing revealed truth”
- *prophētēs*, G4396 “an interpreter or forth-teller (predictor) of the divine will”

**HEBREW CULTURE**

- נְבוּאָה, *nevuah*, H5016, “a pattern or prediction (spoken or written)”
- נָבִיא, *navi*, H5030, literally means “spokesperson”; he speaks to the people as a mouthpiece of God, and to God on behalf of the people.

## Two different views of prophecy

### The Greek (Western) View

• Prediction ⇔ Fulfilment

#### PROPHECY (x2):

1. Zechariah 9:9. Messiah (“the King”) will ride into Jerusalem on an ass.
2. Daniel 9:25: Gabriel tells Daniel that the Messiah will enter Jerusalem 173,880 days after the commandment to rebuild Jerusalem. (N.B. Calculation omitted)

#### FULFILMENT:

- A. Jesus rode an ass into Jerusalem on 6 April 32 AD exactly 173,880 days after Artaxerxes Longimanus so ordered on 14 March 445 B.C.

### The Hebrew (Eastern) View

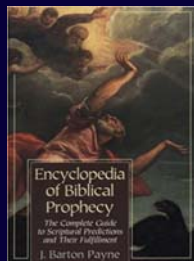
• Pattern(s) ⇔ Repeated

#### How Joseph’s life prefigures Jesus

1. Despised for his prophetic gift.
2. Betrayed by Jews into Gentile hands.
3. God turns the betrayal into salvation.
4. Betrayed by brother Judah(s) for silver.
5. Cloak taken as proof he was not in the pit.
6. Falsely accused at an unfair trial.
7. Condemned with two criminals, one who lives and one who dies.
8. Condemnation to exaltation in three days.
9. Upon exaltation, every knee bowed.
10. Upon exaltation married a Gentile bride.
11. Not recognised at first coming, at second coming Joseph’s brothers wept.
12. Joseph beloved of his father.

The richness and understanding that accompanies the rediscovery of the Midrashic hermeneutic is one of the most exciting aspects of studying the Old Testament.

## A tidbit on Prophetic Fulfilment



Per Payne, 8,352 verses (**27%**) out of 31,124 in the Bible are predictive.

The Bible has 1,817 separate predictions covering 737 topics.

The Old Testament is 28.5% predictive while the New Testament is 21.5% predictive.

**>80%**

of the predictions have come true; **all** except those of Christ's Second Coming and the End Times.

## How can God prophesy?

- "I am God and there is none like me, declaring the end from the beginning." (Isaiah 46:10)
- "The eyes of the LORD are in every place, beholding the evil and the good." (Proverb 15:3)

**Per the Bible, God is eternal. He is not constrained by time. He created time.**

**What do we know about time?**

- Einstein's Theory of **Special Relativity**  
Length, mass, velocity and time are *relative* to velocity of the observer.
- Einstein's Theory of **General Relativity**  
Four dimensions define the world we experience; there is no distinction between space (l, h, d) and time.
- **Time is not uniform**  
As a *physical* property; time *varies* with mass, acceleration and gravity - among other things.

**Which clock is correct?**

Two identical atomic clocks are calibrated; both are accurate to  $\pm 1$  second per million years.

The National Institute of Standards and Technology,  
Boulder, Colorado

The Royal Observatory  
Greenwich, England





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Two identical atomic clocks are calibrated; both are accurate to  $\pm 1$  second per million years.

The National Institute of Standards and Technology,  
Boulder, Colorado

$5 \mu\text{sec./yr}$   
**faster**

$1,646m_{\text{A.S.L.}}$

The Royal Observatory  
Greenwich, England

$5 \mu\text{sec./yr}$   
**slower**

$26m_{\text{A.S.L.}}$

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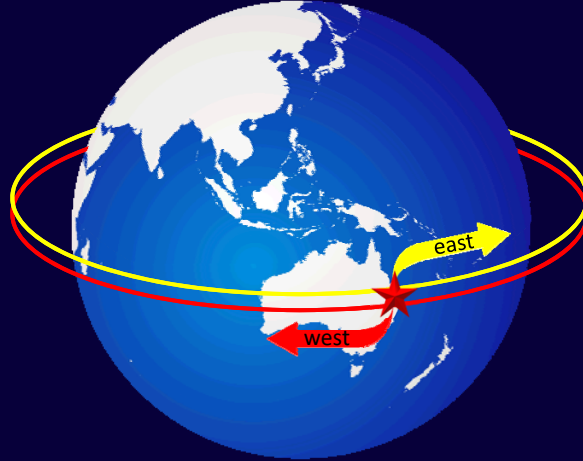
$26m_{\text{A.S.L.}}$

**Atomic Clocks run faster by  $10^{-16}$  sec./meter elevation.**

## Which aircraft arrives first?

True 1971  
experiment

Two identical aircraft take off at the same time from the same place and land at the same place.

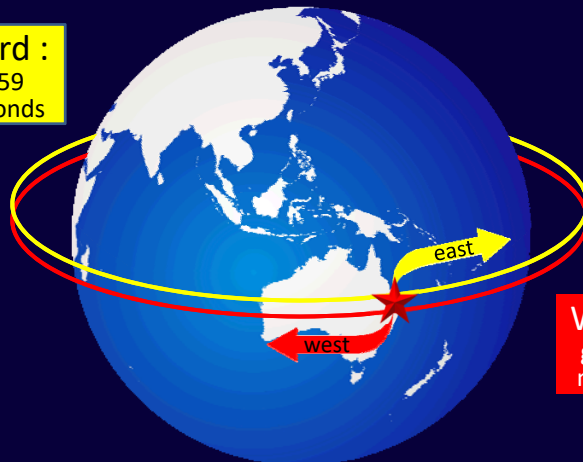


## Which aircraft arrives first?

True 1971  
experiment

Two identical aircraft take off at the same time from the same place and land at the same place.

Eastward :  
lost 0.059  
microseconds



Westward:  
gained 0.273  
microseconds

## A tidbit on Bible codes

- Codes are found throughout the Bible:



- Commonly used variations include:
  - Macrocodes**, hidden in plain sight.
  - Microcodes**, hidden behind original texts.

*"It is the glory of God to conceal a thing: but the honour of kings is to search out a matter."* (Proverb 25:2)

*"The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our sons forever, that we may observe all the words of this law."* (Deuteronomy 29:29)

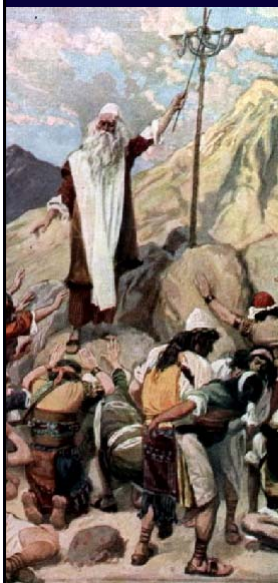
*"For nothing is hidden that will not become evident, nor anything secret that will not be known and come to light."* (Luke 8:17)

*"No longer do I call you slaves, for the slave does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I have heard from My Father I have made known to you."* (John 15:5)

## Bible Macrocodes

- Macrocodes are hidden meanings that transcend the plain meaning of a letter, word, clause or passage.
- Macrocodes can be anticipatory. They can present the structure of future events in advance, a property that makes the Bible truly unique.
- The Bible uses many types of macrocode:
  - Some reflect recurring historical patterns (“types”).
  - Some provide an underlying structure to the text. Numerology is one such form.

## Example Coding: Numbers 21:5-10



5. And the people spake against God, and against Moses, Wherefore have ye brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? for [there is] no bread, neither [is there any] water; and our soul loatheth this light bread.
6. And the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people; and much people of Israel died.
7. Therefore the people came to Moses, and said, We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD, and against thee; pray unto the LORD, that he take away the serpents from us. And Moses prayed for the people.
8. And the LORD said unto Moses, Make thee a fiery serpent, [brazen or bronze<sup>1</sup> serpent] and set it upon a pole: and it shall come to pass, that every one that is bitten, when he looketh upon it, shall live.
9. And Moses made a serpent of brass, and put it upon a pole, and it came to pass, that if a serpent had bitten any man, when he beheld the serpent of brass, he lived.
10. And the children of Israel set forward, and pitched in Oboth.

NOTE: 1. Throughout the Bible, bronze symbolises “judgement”.

### Example Coding: Numbers 21:5-10



**THE OLD TESTAMENT  
ENDED WITH NO ONE  
THE WISER ABOUT THIS  
WEIRD PASSAGE!**

5. And the people spake against God, and against Moses, Wherefore have ye brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? for [there is] no bread, neither [is there] any water; and we hate this wilderness serpents, and they bit the people; and much people of Israel died.

And Moses said unto the LORD, Let me go down, and I will speak unto the people, and they shall say, Let us be gone from thee; pray unto the LORD, that he take away the serpents from us. And Moses prayed for the people.

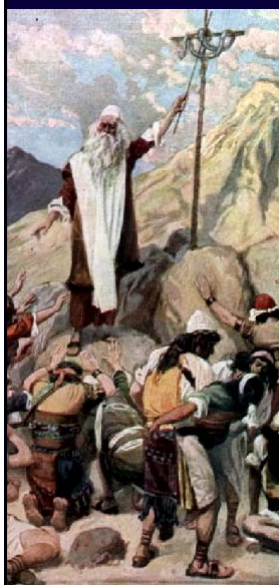
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NOTE: 1. Throughout the Bible, bronze symbolises "judgement".

### Until Jesus explained in John 3:14-15



14. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up:

15. That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life.



### Until Jesus explained in John 3:14-15



14. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life.

**FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD, THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON, THAT WHOSOEVER BELIEVETH IN HIM SHOULD NOT PERISH, BUT HAVE EVERLASTING LIFE.**

John 3:16

### A macrocode prophecy in Genesis 5

<u>Hebrew</u>	<u>Transliterate to English</u>	<u>English meaning</u>
אדם	Adam	Man (is)
שֵׁת	Seth	Appointed
אנוש	Enosh	Mortal
קִינֹן	Kenon	Sorrow (but)
מַהֲלֵאֵל	Mahalael	The Blessed God
יָרֵד	Jared	Shall come down
חֵנוֹךְ	Enoch	Teaching (refer to Hebrew root)
מֵתוּשֶׁלַח	Methuselah	His death shall bring
לָמֶךְ	Lamech	(the) Despairing
נֹחַ	Noah	Comfort, Rest

## Biblical numerology

- Until Arabic numerals were adapted from Indian numerals in the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> century AD, numerals were predominantly alphabetical.
- **Each letter stood for a number as well.**

Aleph	Bet	Gimel	Dalet	Hey	Vav	Zayin	Chet	Tet	Yud	Kaf	Lamed	Mem	Nun	Samech	Ayin	Pey	Tsaddi	Kuf	Resh	Shin	Tav
א	ב	ג	ד	ה	ו	ז	ח	ט	י	כ	ל	מ	נ	ס	ע	פ	צ	ק	ר	ש	ת
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	100	200	300	400

- Application of values to words and phrases can result in **complex numerical patterns**.
- Some believe that **patterns** of numbers in the Bible relate to **symbolic** attributes.

## Microcode example 1: The number 14

- Matthew's **genealogy** is built around the number **14**.
- David is the **14<sup>th</sup> name** listed, and Jesus is **14 names** later, using 14 to make the connection between David and Jesus very distinctive to 1<sup>st</sup> century Jews.

# WHY?

## WHAT'S SO SPECIAL ABOUT THE NUMBER 14?

- **David's** name in Hebrew (דָּוִד) (dalet+vav+dalet) has a value of 4+6+4, or **14**. To the first century Jew, the number **14** made the connection between **David and Jesus** obvious.

## Microcode example 2: HaMoyadim (Seasons)

"And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for **seasons** and for days, and years:" (Gen. 1:14)

- Leviticus 23 prescribes 70 holy days in a year:

52 days	7 days	1 day	1 day	1 day	7 days	1 day	70 days
Shabbat Sabbath	Pesach	Shavuot	Yom Teruah	Yom Kippur	Sukkot	Shmini Atzeret	

- The word translated "**seasons**" is HaMoyadim (הַמּוֹעֲדִים), which means "**appointed times**".
- Its ELS appears only once in Genesis, at an interval of 70, clustering precisely on the word "seasons" in 1:14, where the Hebrew calendar is established.
- Coincidence? The odds are about 1:70,000,000.

## Greek Isopsephy (ἰσοψηφία)

Letter	Value	Name	Transliteration	Letter	Value	Name	Transliteration
Α α	1	Alpha	a	Ν ν	50	Nu	n
Β β	2	Beta	b	Ξ ξ	60	Xi	x
Γ γ	3	Gamma	g	Ο ο	70	Omicron	o
Δ δ	4	Delta	d	Π π	80	Pi	p
Ε ε	5	Epsilon	e	(Ϟ)	90	Koppa	q
(Ϝ ϝ)	6	Digamma (later Stigma)	w	Ρ ρ	100	Rho	r
Ζ ζ	7	Zeta	z	Σ σ	200	Sigma	s
Η η	8	Eta	ē	Τ τ	300	Tau	t
Θ θ	9	Theta	th	Υ υ	400	Upsilon	y
Ι ι	10	Iota	i	Φ φ	500	Phi	ph
Κ κ	20	Kappa	k	Χ χ	600	Chi	ch
Λ λ	30	Lambda	l	Ψ ψ	700	Psi	ps
Μ μ	40	Mu	m	Ω ω	800	Omega	ō
				(Ϡ)	900	Sampi	ts

NOTE: Greek letters are uppercase (left) and lowercase (right).



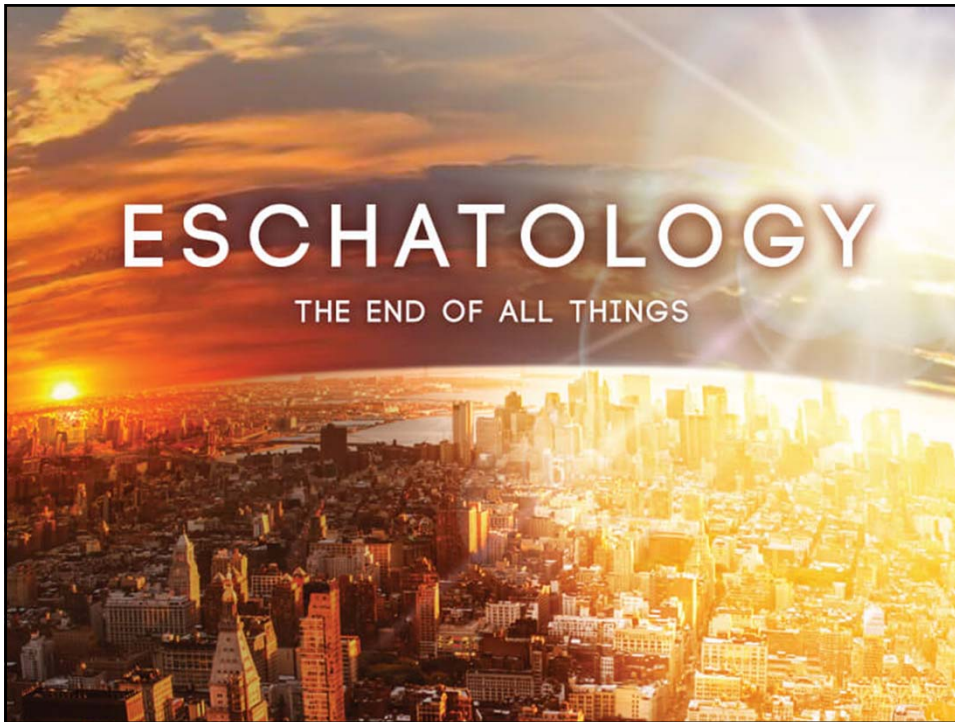


## CAUTION

- Real or not, Bible codes are not essential.
- Bible codes introduce no doctrine.

Christian belief is based on eyewitness testimony, fulfilled prophecy, archaeological and historical evidence, science, etc.

e.g., God validated Prophets by fulfilled prophecy.



# eschatology

noun. [ess-cat-[tol]-a-jee].

1. The branch of theology that is concerned with the end of the world or of humankind.
2. The study of last things.

Four main views  
of  
**PROPHECY**

# IDEALIST

Interprets Revelation  
**symbolically**, as **nonliteral**  
**depiction** of  
the **cosmic battle** between  
God and the satanic forces of evil.

# PRETERIST

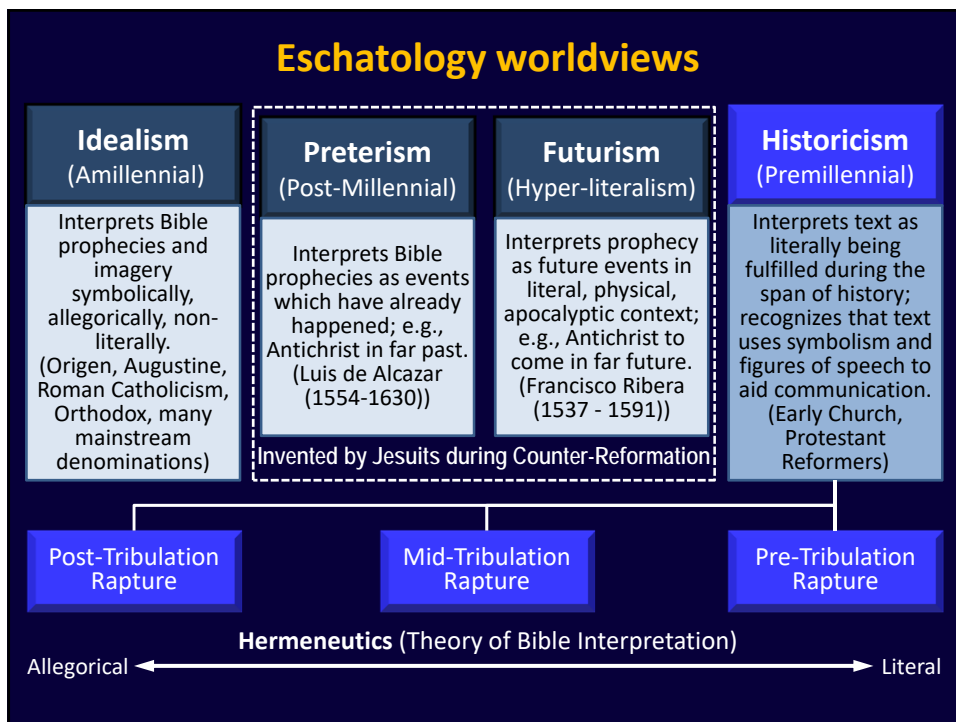
View the Book of Revelation as an  
overview of **past** church history,  
describing various times of  
persecution and tribulation  
**that have already happened.**

# FUTURIST

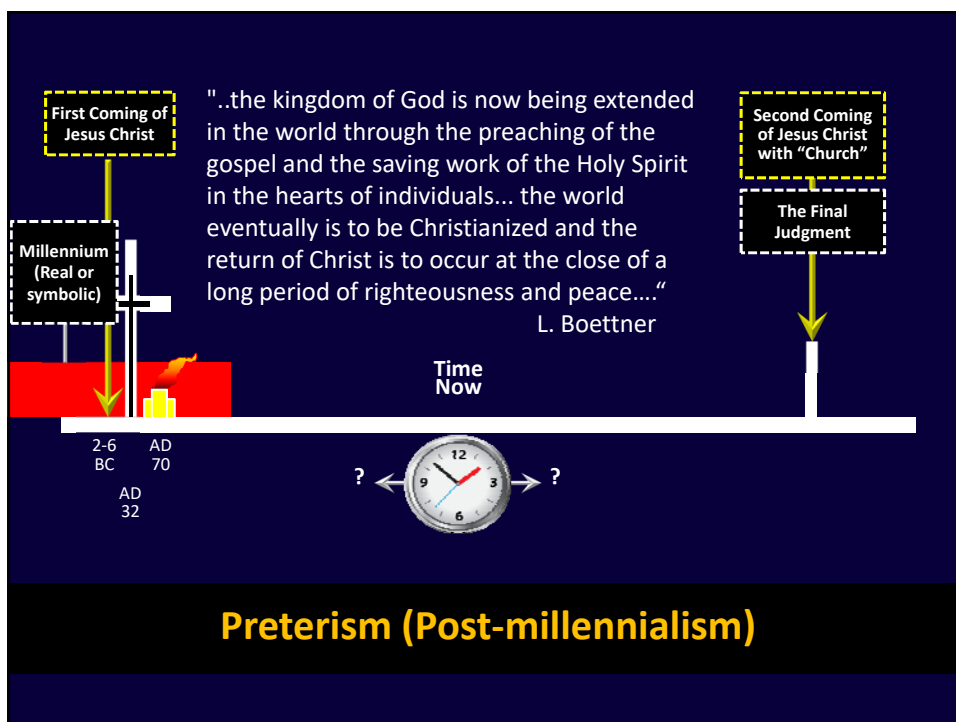
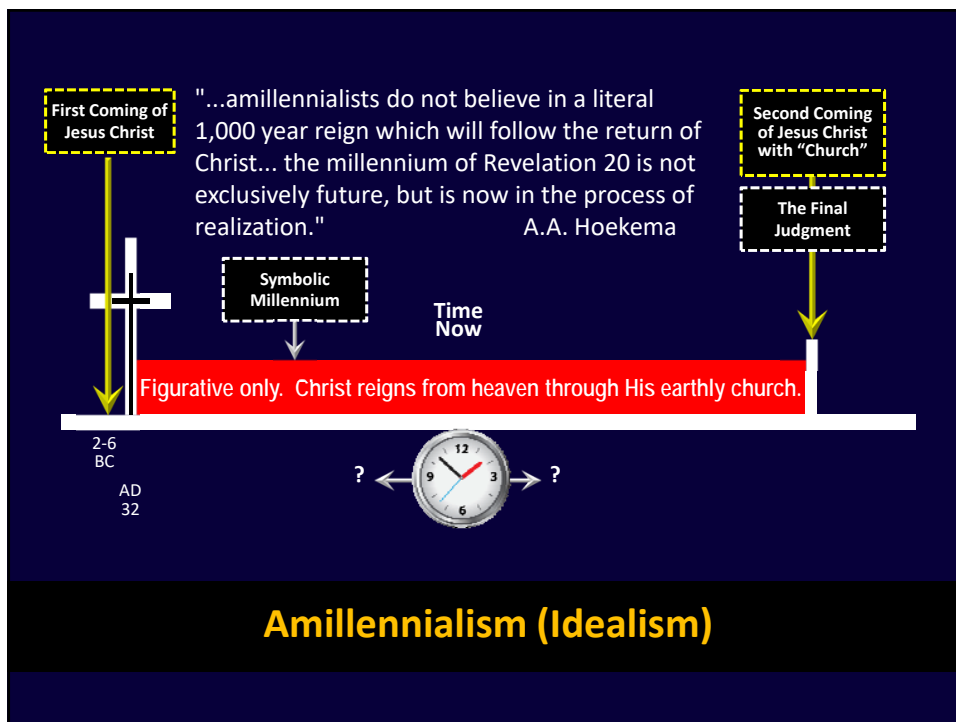
Understand Revelation 4-22 as a **hyper-literal prophetic account** of actual **future events**, specifically focused on the end of this age.

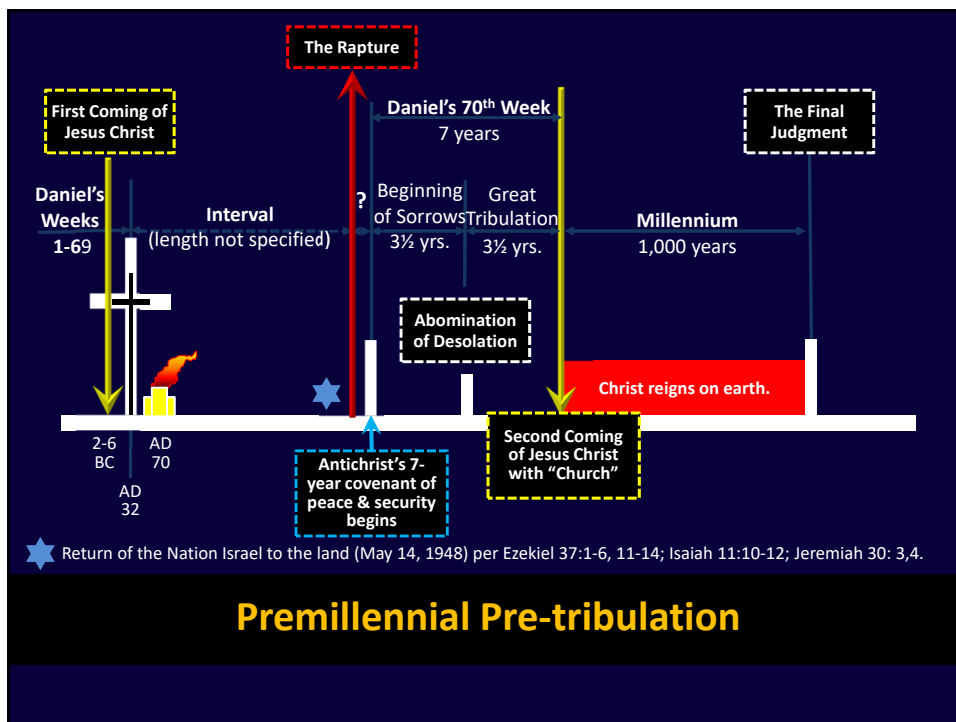
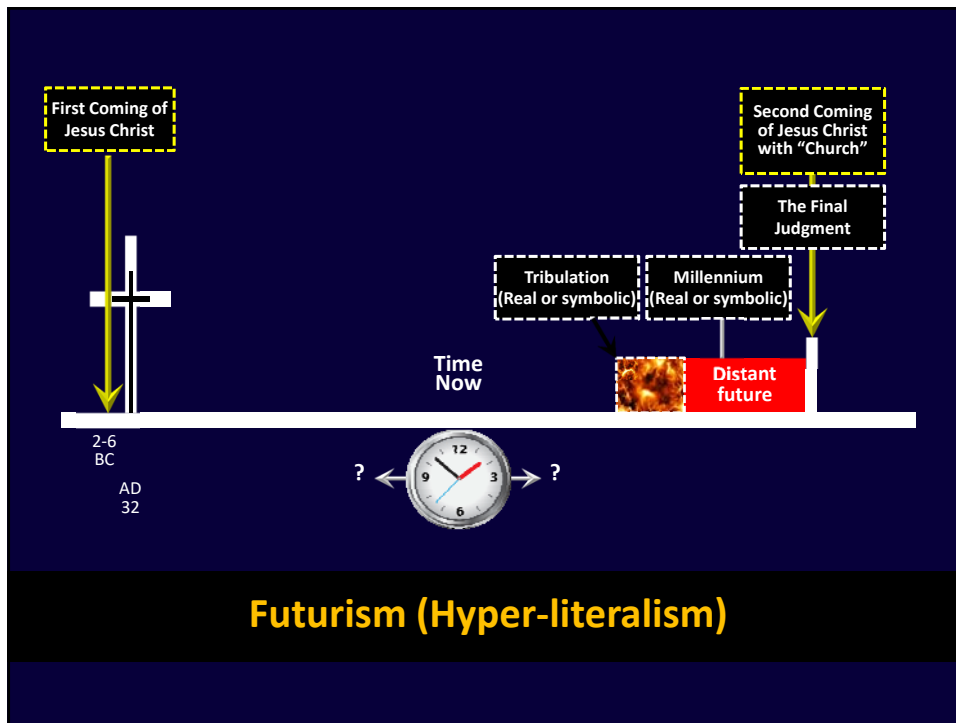
# HISTORIST

Interprets prophecy as **actual events during current span of history** (some fulfilled, some yet to be fulfilled), acknowledging some text as symbolic, **emphasis on literal interpretation.**

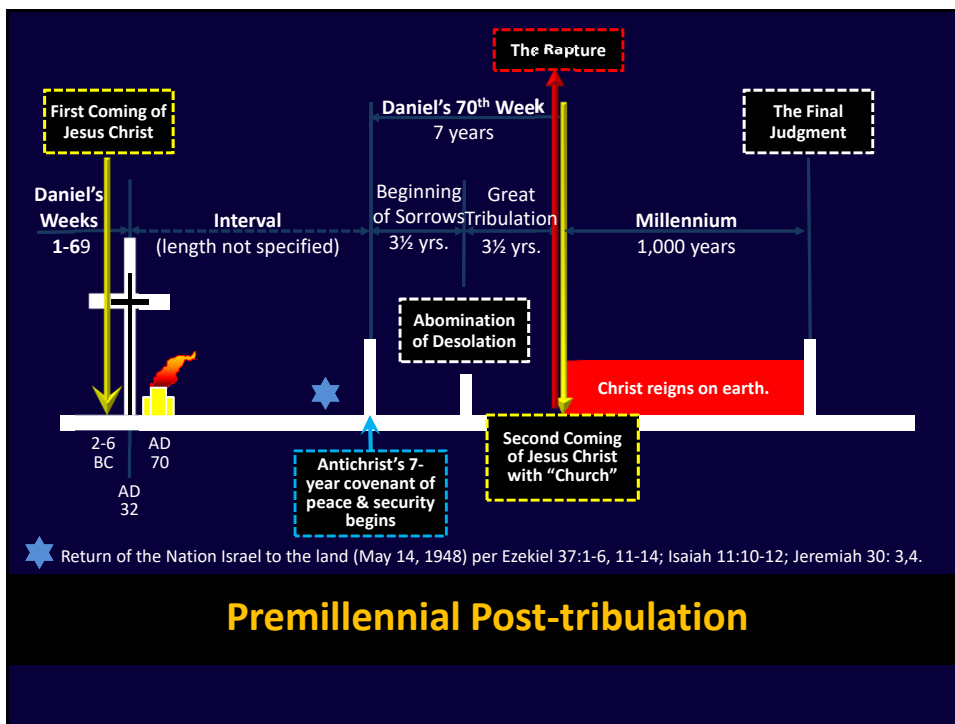
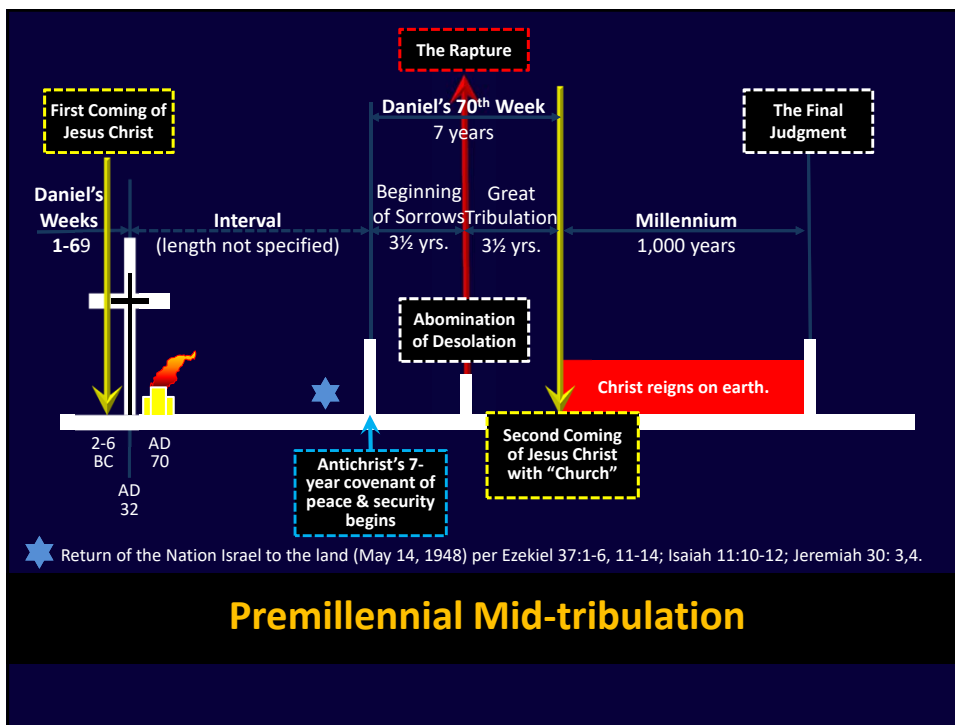


Let's look at what each teaches about what the Bible says









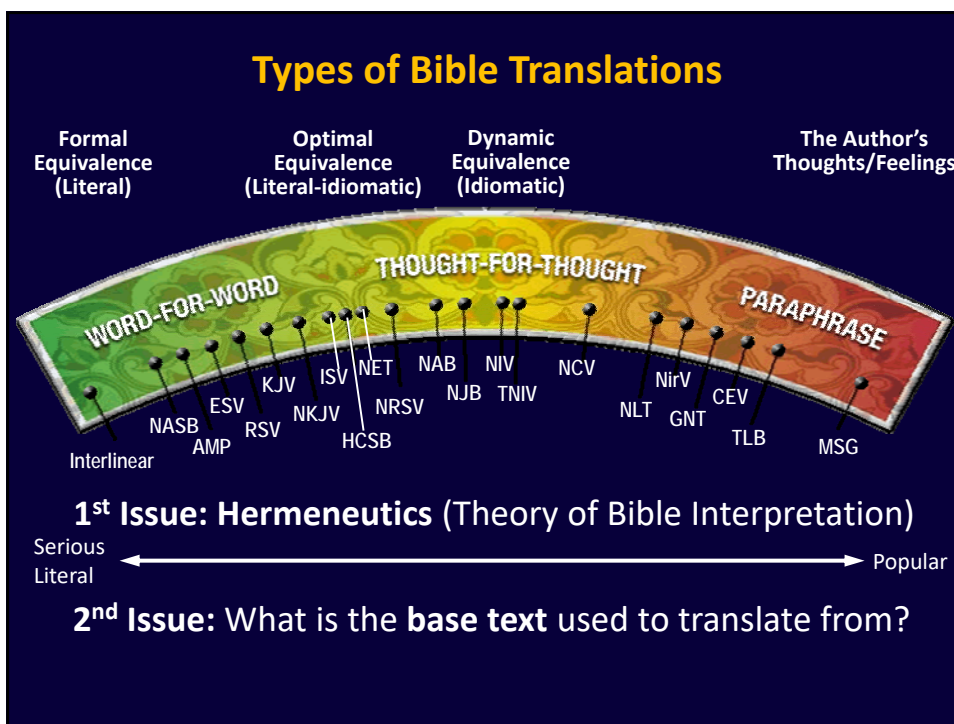
All positions agree that:

1. Jesus Christ was **crucified** per Scriptures, **buried**, and **rose again** the 3<sup>rd</sup> day per the Scriptures (*see 1 Corinthians 15:3-4*),
2. The Bible is the **inspired and authoritative word of God** (*see 2 Timothy 3:16*), and
3. Jesus came in the First Century and **He will come again** in a personal, visible, glorious, and objective second advent.

### Some major differences

	Amillennial	Preterist	Futurist	Premillennial
<b>Hermeneutics of the book of Revelation</b>	Progressive parallelism in Revelation (earth's history repeated 7 times). Context determines whether literal or figurative.	Interpret in terms of meaning to 1st century church—reassures Christ will prevail over Roman persecutors. Liberal hermeneutic.	Revelation 4-22 and parts of Daniel are future events in a literal, physical, global, apocalyptic context.	Read Revelation as written, literally where possible. Context determines whether literal or figurative.
<b>The Millennium</b>	Figurative (symbolic) only. Has to do with the "church age" between Christ's First and Second coming, in which Christ rules from heaven. We are in its last days.	Tribulation over. We are in a figurative "golden age" on earth where nations gradually adopt Christendom until the earth is filled with the glory of the Lord.	Whether literal or figurative, the tribulation will happen in the future under a future Jewish supernatural figure (not the pope).	A literal 1,000 year reign of Christ on earth as spoken of throughout the Bible, after the Tribulation (yet to occur) and before the End of All Things.
<b>Israel and the "Church"</b>	Old Testament Israel is the nation. New Testament Israel is the "Church"; Israel no longer has any spiritual significance.		Futurists exclude Jews from the New Covenant and remove salvation through faith from Jews. .	Israel and "Church" are separate entities with separate destinies in God's plan. Israel remains God's chosen.
<b>Satan</b>	Satan was bound at the Cross and is no longer able to deceive the nations.		.	Satan is real and rampant in the world.

	Amillennial	Preterist	Futurist	Premillennial
<b>The Kingdom</b>	Spiritual. Came with Jesus' ministry on earth.	Spiritual. Came with Jesus' ministry on earth.	Spiritual. Came with Jesus' ministry on earth.	Literal. Two kingdoms: kingdom of God eternal; kingdom of Heaven is Christ's reign on earth.
<b>Rapture</b>	No. A crazy idea.	No.	Generally, yes.	Of course. Read your Bible.
<b>First Coming</b>	Real and physical.	Real and physical.	Real and physical.	Real and physical.
<b>Second Coming</b>	Once to judge the earth and establish new heavens and new earth	Once to judge the earth and establish new heavens and new earth	Once to judge the earth and establish new heavens and new earth	Twice: comes in clouds to rapture saints and 7+ years later to reign.
<b>Judgments</b>	One judgment (White Throne) at the end.	One judgment (White Throne) at the end.	One judgment (White Throne) at the end.	1. Raptured believers. 2. Sheep and Goat at Millennium start. 3. White Throne at Millennium end.
<b>History</b>	Origen, later Augustine and embraced by Roman Catholic (Western) church by 400 AD. Mainstream Protestant churches today.	Tychonius (AD35) early proponent; revived by Jesuit Luis de Alcazar (1554-1630) to counter Reformation premillennialism. Replacement theology.	Jesuit Luis de Alcazar (1554-1630) developed to counter Reformation premillennialism. Refined by Jesuit Cardinal Roberto Bellarmino (1542-1621).	1. Earliest believers 1 <sup>st</sup> -4 <sup>th</sup> Centuries). 2. Isolated persecuted remnants. 3. Reformers (including Reform, Anabaptist, Baptist, etc.



### Bible Translations Referenced (Not in order)

<b>AMP</b>	Amplified Bible	<b>MSG</b>	The Message	<b>NJB</b>	New Jerusalem Bible
<b>CEV</b>	Contemporary English Version	<b>NAB</b>	New American Bible	<b>NKJV</b>	New King James Version
<b>ESV</b>	English Standard Version	<b>NASB</b>	New American Standard Bible	<b>NLT</b>	New Living Translation
<b>GNT</b>	Good News Translation; Good News Bible	<b>NCV</b>	New Century Version	<b>NRSV</b>	New Revised Standard Version
<b>HCSB</b>	Holman Christian Standard Bible	<b>NET</b>	New English translation	<b>RSV</b>	Revised Standard Version
<b>ISV</b>	International Standard Version	<b>NirV</b>	New International Reader's Version	<b>TLB</b>	The Living Bible
<b>KJV</b>	King James Version	<b>NIV</b>	New International Version	<b>TNIV</b>	Today's New International Version

# WHAT THE BIBLE Is ABOUT

Next Week

## The Throne Room of Heaven

Revelation Chapters 4-5