

Kingdom: God Reigns

Question and Answer

- Pre-Trib post-Trib mid Trib. I hold a pan-Trib position that it'll all pan out in the end. My view is so in Revelation 20, I think it says six times that there's a thousand year reign. It's called the millennial reign. And some will say, we need to take it literally it's a literal thousand years. Others will say we need to take it figuratively. And the truth is revelation has a lot of figurative language. Now, when it comes to interpreting the Bible we interpret the Bible literally but there's plain literal and figurative literal. So plain literal, you know Jesus loves the little children I get that, you know, figurative is, it would be better for someone who hurts one of those kids to have a millstone tied around their neck and they were thrown into the sea. That's he's using strong language to communicate a literal truth. And so the debate in Revelation 20 over the six times I think it says that there's a thousand years, is is that plain literal or figurative literal. And, and there is a whole Theology, let me, Oh I don't want to get into this. Let's do it. Okay. So there is a theology called dispensationalism and that is that God has two peoples. He has Israel and the church, and he generally works within through only one at a time. So in the old Testament, he worked through the nation of Israel in the new Testament. He works through the church and then they will say he will rapture the church and then have a great revival for Israel. that's, and that's kind of what dominates a lot of the Left Behind series and a lot of the big books that sell on the end times and eschatology and all of those things. I believe there is one people of God that the Old Covenant saints and the New Covenant saints are saved by faith in the person and work of Jesus Christ. And, and that's why we are grafted in with Israel as part of that same family. So I don't think that God has to work through two families. I believe there is one family. In addition, part of the problem that I see with this Theology, this is going to be really controversial and a bit shocking. The rapture is a very new concept in the history of Christianity, not saying it's false teaching it's definitely within the realm of possibility. But according to my research, this concept of the rapture where certain people are delivered right before Jesus comes back, it started at a prayer meeting for I think it was a Seventh-day Adventist Church, not long ago a woman gave a prophetic word about the rapture. Until that point, it wasn't taught in the history of the church. It was, it was an, it was a new insight. Some then took that within the Seventh-day Adventist, and they started looking at revelation. If you've been to a Seventh-day Adventist Church they're all about revelation and the end times. They keep doing eschatology conferences all the time. And they took that and started to interpret sections of Daniel and Matthew and other books of the Bible in it. I'm not saying it's false, but I'm saying it's new. And so there's, there's a debate is that thousand years literal? If it's pre-millennial the thousand year starts when Jesus comes back, if it's post-millennial you know, it's, it's a thousand years that is more of a, a figure of speech. And it means a long duration of time before the coming of Jesus. And what happens in eschatology historically, when things are going really good the mood tends to shift toward post millennialism. And that is that the gospel of Jesus Christ will march forward and Christianity will flourish. And as we reach the nations of Lusher in the coming of Jesus. So if everything's going pretty good, it's post-millennial. Pre-millennial is everything is getting darker. Everything is getting worse. The Anti-Christ is afoot. They're going to put a bar code on you. They're going to, you know run you through with a swizzle stick. It's going to be horrible. Just don't worry. They'll hunker down, you'll get raptured. And so as the world gets darker and harder and worse people become more fearful and they become more dispensational. And so you can even trace it historically, right? Like leading up to world war II, it's the end. And then it's like, no, it's the beginning. And, and

the, and the, and the and the Western nations are marching forward in the gospel. So a lot of this is based on cultural mode. I believe that there are open-handed, closed handed on this issue. I like to say, it's a pastor friend of mine. He says, "I'm on the welcoming committee not the planning committee." I don't know when he's coming, but I will blow my kazoo. And I will eat my cupcake. Right? Jesus says that "Who knows the hour or the day?" No one. And then there's always some guy who's like, "I do". No you don't. This is where we live by faith until our faith becomes sight. And it says in 1 Corinthians 13 that "Then we will know as we are fully known." So my thing is, whatever your, I believe in heaven, hell, resurrection, eternal life, judgment. I think those things are clear in scripture. Some of the nuances of when or why, or how or details I would say, I'm going to trust Jesus to sort that out. But at this church, we're not divisive on this issue. People hold different positions. We can dialogue. We can debate. We can discuss, but we need not divide because when we get to heaven, it's not going to be like, okay, all of you people who believed in the rapture over here, and all of you, people who didn't, you're over there, you know up in the bleachers, you don't get the good seats. You know, it, all of God's family will be together forever. So we shouldn't let things about eternity divide us now because we won't be divided then. That's kind of how I see it.