

the gospel.

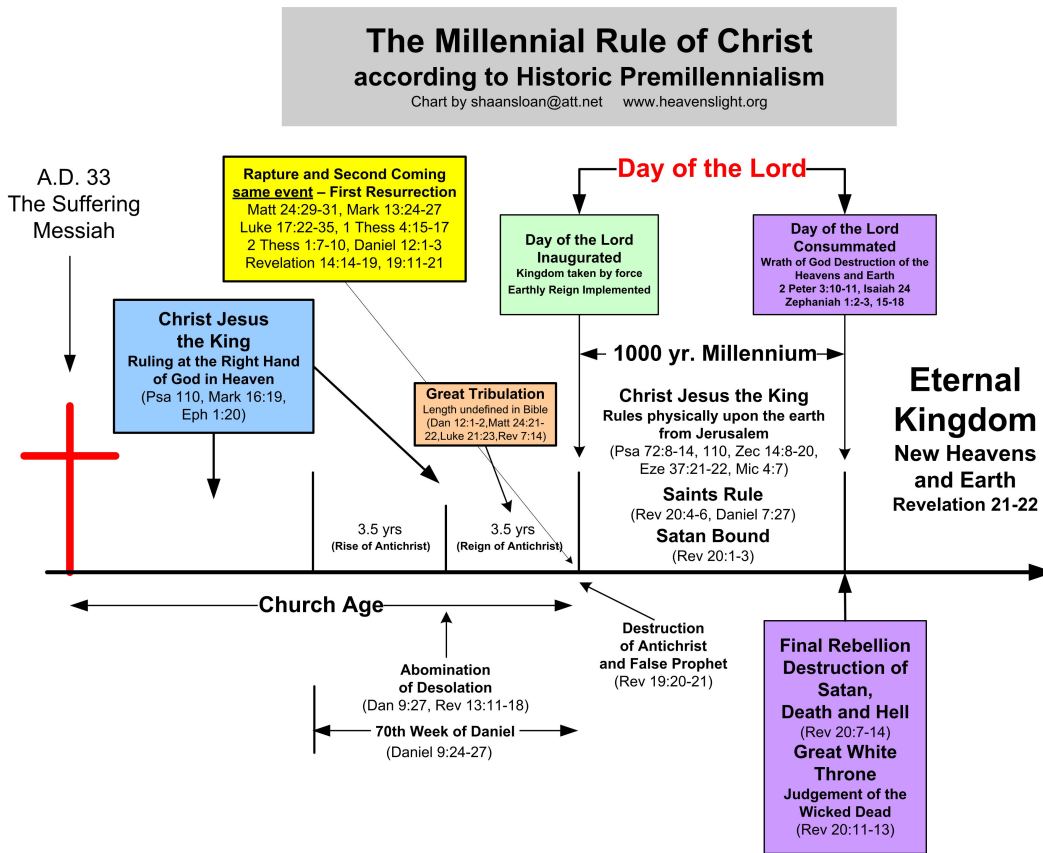
In this text there is a difficulty for Premillennialism which I shall here undertake to explain. The judgment pictured here seems to be *final* in its scope for the *entire* world of unbelievers. This would favor an Amill or PostMill view, as Christ would simply culminate the ages at this time by the great white throne judgment of Revelation 20:11-15. However, a plain reading of Revelation 19:11 thru 20:10 shows a 1000 year period of Christ reign upon the earth with His “*priests*,” those who had part in the first resurrection (see pgs 50-52 above). During this final 1000 year reign is also depicted a final rebellion of the nations of mankind when “*Satan will be released from his prison*” (Rev 20:7-10). Several things are clearly implied from this text. First, there are unbelieving nations upon the earth during the Millennial Kingdom, for they will be gathered and deceived by Satan for the final rebellion (Rev 20:8). Second, this means that all the nations of unbelievers cannot be totally destroyed at the Second Coming, for they would cease to exist therefore in the Millennial Kingdom. Third, it is clear from these matters therefore that some amount of unbelievers must be survivors of the awful events of the Second Coming upon the unbelieving world, and enter into the Millennial Kingdom to populate the earth. Fourth, it is over these nations whom Christ and His priests “*reign with Christ for 1000 years*” (Rev 20:4-6).

On this basis then, the difficulty of the judgment pictured in 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9 apparently being *final* in its scope for the *entire* world of unbelievers, is resolved by the idea that the “*day of the Lord*” is only *inaugurated* at the Second Coming, but the full scope of the events of it cannot take place (see notes below from pgs 54-55) until the Great White Throne judgment at the end of the Millennial Kingdom, when the judgment pictured in 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9 shall be fully *consummated*. There is then a **conflation** (see *Grudem pg 1129* for an explanation of conflation), of prophetic events pictured here in this passage where events spoken of have several stages of fulfillment in the course of history. In this case the judgment pictured in 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9 is *inaugurated* at the Second Coming, but not *consummated* until the Great White Throne judgment, when all the unbelieving world will be finally banished from God’s presence forever. Therefore, “*when the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire*” He will indeed come and destroy all governmental powers (*the kings of the earth...Rev 19:11-21*) and the demonic rulers of the world at that time (*Antichrist and false prophet...Rev 19:11-21*), and all the wicked nations of unbelievers who persecute and oppress the saints will be EITHER destroyed in the trumpet and bowl judgments (Rev 8-18) OR subdued under Christ’s establishment of His Millennial Kingdom.

**Notes from pgs 54-55....** It is obvious that **the full scope of the events of the day of the Lord cannot all happen immediately upon the Second Coming** of Christ, for the whole earth will be destroyed (Zeph 1:2-3, 14-18, 2 Pet 3:10) and this will not take place until the end of the Millennial Kingdom. This is made clear in the chronology of events given in Revelation 20:1-15. Therefore the Day of the Lord actually has its *inauguration* at the Second Coming, but its full *consummation* is not completed until the end of the Millennial Reign of Christ, when He hands over the Kingdom to God the Father having subdued all His enemies, including death, the last enemy to be destroyed according to 1 Corinthians 15:26.

**1 Corinthians 15:22-26** - 22 For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all shall be made alive. **23 But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, after that those who are Christ's at His coming, 24 then comes the end,** when He delivers up the kingdom to the God and Father, when He has abolished all rule and all authority and power. **25 For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet. 26 The last enemy that will be abolished is death.** NASB

The chart below depicts this concept by viewing a chronology of events spanning from before the Second Coming of Christ until after the consummation of the ages and the Eternal State have begun. Notice the boxes in the upper right explaining the *inauguration* and *consummation* of the “*Day of the Lord*.”



Therefore when we read of the events concerning the Second Coming, it must be understood that there is yet still another stage to the unfolding of God’s eternal plan for the creation, according to Revelation 20:1-15, that will not be fully consummated until after the final rebellion of nations.

**Revelation 20:7-10** - 7 And when the thousand years are completed, Satan will be released from his prison, 8 and will come out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together for the war; the number of them is like the sand of the seashore. 9 And they came up on the broad plain of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city, and fire came down from heaven and devoured them. 10 And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are also; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever. NASB

It is after this final rebellion of the nations and destruction of Satan, that the world of unbelievers will stand in judgment before the great white throne, and the present heaven and earth will be destroyed for ever, and the New Heavens and Earth created by God which will in fact never again be tainted by sin, world without end.

**Revelation 20:11-15** - 11 And I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them. 12 And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds. 13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them; and they were judged, every one of them according to their deeds. 14 And death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. 15 And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire. NASB