Three Eschatological Systems

Postmillennialism
Amillennialism
Premillennialism
Three Eschatological Systems

Comparison of Christian millennial teachings

1. Post-tributional Premillennialism

2. Pre-tributional (dispensational) Premillennialism

3. Postmillennialism

4. Amillennialism

Wikipedia,
Millennialism

1. What is the millennium?
    Rev 20:1-6

a. And I saw an angel coming down out of heaven, having the key to the Abyss and holding in his hand a great chain. 2 He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil, or Satan, and bound him for a thousand years. 3 He threw him into the Abyss, and locked and sealed it over him, to keep him from deceiving the nations anymore until the thousand years were ended. After that, he must be set free for a short time. 4 I saw thrones on which were seated those who had been given authority to judge. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony for Jesus and because of the word of God. They had not worshiped the beast or his image and had not received his mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ a thousand years. 5 (The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended.) This is the first resurrection. 6 Blessed and holy are those who have part in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him for a thousand years.

Notes:
Millennialism (from millennium, Latin for "thousand years"), or chiliasm in Greek, This belief is derived primarily from Revelation 20:1–6. Wikipedia.

MILLENNIALISM (MILLENARIANISM, CHILIASM)

Draft of article for the Merriam-Webster Encyclopedia of World Religions, 1999

Literally, millennialism refers to the belief, expressed in the book of Revelation, that Christ will establish a one-thousand year reign of the saints on earth before the Last Judgment. More broadly defined,millenialists expect a time of supernatural peace and abundance here on earth.
Postmillennialism

1. What is Postmillennialism?
   Rev 20:1-6
   a.______________________________

Notes:

In Christian end-times theology (eschatology), postmillennialism is an interpretation of chapter 20 of the Book of Revelation which sees Christ’s second coming as occurring after (Latin post-) the "Millennium", a Golden Age in which Christian ethics prosper.[1] ….

Postmillennialism holds that Jesus Christ establishes his kingdom on earth through his preaching and redemptive work in the first century and that he equips his church with the gospel, empowers her by the Spirit, and charges her with the Great Commission (Matt 28:19) to disciple all nations. Postmillennialism expects that eventually the vast majority of men living will be saved. Increasing gospel success ... Wikipedia.

Tree Eschatological Systems.doc
4/9/2017
2. What are the key tenants of Postmillennialism?
   Rev 20:1-6
   a.___________________________________________________________

Notes:

1. **Book of Revelation**: [covenant-historical] the majority of those prophecies were fulfilled in 70 A.D. at the destruction of the temple in Jerusalem. (Theonomists view) (Dominion Theologians)
   https://www.blueletterbible.org/faq/mill.cfm

2. **Millennium**: the millennium is an era (not a literal thousand years) during which Christ will reign over the earth (through the gradual increase of the Gospel).
   https://www.blueletterbible.org/faq/mill.cfm

3. **Satan**: Satan is bound at the crucifixion of Christ

4. **The Jew**: Replacement Theology

5. **The Rapture**: No Rapture

- Post millennialism did not really develop into a distinct system of eschatology until after the Reformation.
  *Charting the End Times: LaHaye & Ice: pg 130*

- Christ will come back when the Church has evangelized the earth

- Postmillennialism almost died out at the End of WW I

- Gave birth to social reforms ie, Temperance/Prohibition

- Song: We Have A Story to tell the Nations; Lead on, O King Eternal

We Have A Story to tell the Nations

Here is an obvious example I have mentioned before. H. Ernest Nichols’s “We’ve A Story to the Tell to the Nations” was written in 1896 and is still sung by many American Christian congregations—often on “missions Sunday.” The lyrics, however, clearly express *postmillennialism*—the belief that Christians, the church, will bring about the Kingdom of God on earth before the return of Christ.


1 We’ve a story to tell to the nations,
that shall turn their hearts to the right,
a story of truth and mercy,
a story of peace and light,
a story of peace and light.

Refrain:
For the darkness shall turn to dawning,
and the dawning to noonday bright,
and Christ’s great kingdom shall come on earth,
the kingdom of love and light.

2 We’ve a song to be sung to the nations,
that shall lift their hearts to the Lord,
a song that shall conquer evil
and shatter the spear and sword,
and shatter the spear and sword. [Refrain]

3 We’ve a message to give to the nations,
that the Lord who reigneth above
has sent us His Son to save us,
and show us that God is love,
and show us that God is love. [Refrain]

4 We’ve a Savior to show to the nations,
who the path of sorrow has trod,
that all of the world’s great peoples
may come to the truth of God,
may come to the truth of God. [Refrain]
Amillennialism

1. What is Amillennialism?
   Rev 20:1-6
   a.___________________________________________________________

Notes:

Amillennialism (Greek: a- "no" + millennialism) is the view in Christian eschatology which states that Christ is presently reigning through the Church, and that the "1000 years" of Revelation 20:1-6 is a metaphorical reference to the present church age which will culminate in Christ's return.

Amillennialism teaches that the thousand year reign of Christ mentioned in Revelation 20:1-6 is symbolic of the current church age, rather than a literal future 1000 year reign. It contends that the period described in Revelation 20 was inaugurated (i.e. began) at Christ's resurrection and will continue until His Second Coming.

http://www.theopedia.com/amillennialism
2. What are the key tenants of Amillennialism?

Rev 20:1-6

a.___________________________________________________________

Notes:

1. **Book of Revelation**: spiritualized and allegorized
   Dispensational Truth, Clarence Larkin

2. **Millennium**: The Church Age is the kingdom age (millennium) [a symbolic period of time]
   https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Premillennialism

3. **Satan**: Christ binds Satan during his earthly ministry at his first coming. His binding prevents Satan from stopping gospel proclamation.
   http://postmillennialism.com/summary-graphs-of-millennial-views/

4. **The Jew**: Replacement Theology

5. **The Rapture**: No rapture,
   Charting the End Times: LaHaye & Ice: pg 129

- Amillennialism came to dominate the church when the great church fathers and theologian Augustin (354-430 and Jerome (c. 345-419) abandoned Premillennialism in favor of Amillennialism.
  Charting the End Times: LaHaye & Ice: pg 129
- Most of the events in Revelation were accomplished by 70 AD.
- Christ reigns in the hearts of man and in heaven
- Song: Joy to the World; We're Marching To Zion
- Popularized by: St. Augustine, Calvin, JI Packer  Mike Horton, Anthony Hoekema
Joy to the World

1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
   Let earth receive her King;
   Let every heart prepare Him room,
   And heav’n and nature sing,
   And heav’n and nature sing,
   And heav’n, and heav’n, and nature sing.

2. Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
   Let men their songs employ;
   While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
   Repeat the sounding joy,
   Repeat the sounding joy,
   Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.

3. No more let sins and sorrows grow,
   Nor thorns infest the ground;
   He comes to make His blessings flow
   Far as the curse is found,
   Far as the curse is found,
   Far as, far as, the curse is found.

4. He rules the world with truth and grace,
   And makes the nations prove
   The glories of His righteousness,
   And wonders of His love,
   And wonders of His love,
   And wonders, wonders, of His love.
 Historic Premillennialism

1. What is Premillennialism?
   Rev 20:1-6
   a. ___________________________________________________________

Notes:
Premillennialism, in Christian eschatology, is the belief that Jesus will physically return to the earth to gather His saints before the Millennium, a literal thousand-year golden age of peace. This return is referred to as the Second Coming. The doctrine is called "premillennialism" because it holds that Jesus' physical return to earth will occur prior to the inauguration of the Millennium.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Premillennialism
2. What are the key tenants of Historic Premillennialism?
   Rev 20:1-6
   a.___________________________________________________________

Notes:
   1. Book of Revelation: literal interpretation
   2. Millennium: 1000 years after the 2nd coming of Christ
   3. Satan: Bound at the 2nd Coming of Christ for 1000 years
   4. The Jew: Israel and the Church will go through the Tribulation and into the Kingdom
   5. The Rapture: The righteous dead are resurrected at the 2nd Coming
   (AKA Post Tribulation Premillennialist)

① There will be 7 years of Tribulation as described by the book of Revelation
② The antichrist will make a 7 year agreement with Israel and break it after 3 ½ years.
③ Satan is currently active in the affairs of man but will be bound for a 1000 years as described in Rev 20:1-6
④ 2nd Coming of Christ to earth- before the beginning of 1000 year kingdom
⑤ At the end of millennium will be a Great White Throne judgement of the unrighteous dead and living.
⑥ Popularized by: Walter Martin, John Piper, John Warwick Montgomery, Charles Spurgeon,
3. Where did the doctrine of Premillennialism originate?

Rev 20:1-6

1. The first premillennialists were those who received God's revelation and wrote it down in the Bible.

2. "that there will be a millennium after the resurrection of the dead, when the kingdom of Christ will be set up in material form on this earth."
   
   Papias (a.d. 60-130) the bishop of Hierapolis in Phrygia, Asia Minor.

3. Polycarp the bishop of Smyrna, is also said to have been a premillennialist.
   Polycarp (a.d. 70-155),

4. Barnabas speaks of the second coming of Christ with the clear implication that He will set up the thousand year kingdom on earth,
   The Epistle of Barnabas (written between a.d. 120-150)

5. Justin Martyr states; there will be a resurrection of the dead, and a thousand years in Jerusalem,
   Justin Martyr (a.d. 100-165) in his Dialogue With Trypho

6. "John, therefore, did distinctly foresee the first 'resurrection of the just,' and the inheritance in the kingdom of the earth,"
   Irenaeus (a.d. 160-230)

7. But when the thousand years shall be completed, the world shall be renewed by God,
   Lactantius (a.d. 250-330) of North Africa.

CONCLUSION

It is generally recognized within the scholarly world of early church historians that premillennialism was the most widely held view of the earliest church tradition.

A Brief History of Early Premillennialism
Dr. Thomas Ice

8. Premillennialism began to die out in the established Catholic Church during the life of Augustine (A.D. 354-430).

9. Premillennialism (rebirthed) adopted among some Puritans during the Post-Reformation era.

10. The spread of premillennialism came in the late 1800's - early 1900's with the rise of U.S. Fundamentalism and Dispensationalism.
    John Nelson Darby (1800-1882)
    C.I. Schofield (1843-1921)

http://www.theopedia.com/premillennialism
Dispensational premillennialists hold that the second coming of Christ, and subsequent establishment of the millennial kingdom, is to be preceded by a seven-year-long period known as the “Tribulation,” the earthly activity of the Antichrist as well as the outpouring of God’s wrath on mankind. Dispensational premillennialists hold that the nation of Israel will be saved and restored to a place of preeminence in the millennium. Thus, Israel will have a special function of service in the millennium that is different from that of the Church or saved Gentiles.

https://www.gotquestions.org/dispensational-premillennialism.html
Dispensational Premillennialism

5. What are the key tenants of Dispensational Premillennialism?
Rev 20:1-6

Notes:
1. **Book of Revelation**: literal interpretation
2. **Millennium**: 1000 years after the 2nd coming of Christ
3. **Satan**: Bound at the 2nd Coming of Christ for 1000 years
4. **The Jew**: Israel becomes the focus of 7 years of Tribulation (Daniel’s 70th week)
5. **The Rapture**: There is a literal Rapture of the Church

- Rapture occurs, dead in Christ and living Christians will meet Christ in the air.
- Antichrist will establish a 7 year covenant with Israel (broken after 3 ½ years)
- Seven years of Tribulation
- Christ physically returns at end of Tribulation
- Antichrist & False prophet cast into Lake of Fire
- Satan is bound for 1000 years (loosed for a short time and end)
- 1000 millennial Kingdom establish by Christ
- Survivors of Tribulation will enter the Millennium with Christ
- **Song**: *Our Lord’s Return to Earth:*

Our Lord’s Return to Earth:

I am watching for the coming of the glad millennial day,
When our blessèd Lord shall come and catch His waiting bride away.
Oh! my heart is filled with rapture as I labor, watch, and pray,
For our Lord is coming back to earth again.
Refrain
Oh, our Lord is coming back to earth again.
Yes, our Lord is coming back to earth again.
Satan will be bound a thousand years; we’ll have no tempter then,
After Jesus shall come back to earth again.
Jesus’ coming back will be the answer to earth’s sorrowing cry,
For the knowledge of the Lord shall fill the earth and sea and sky.
God shall take away all sickness and the sufferer’s tears will dry,
When our Savior will come back to earth again.
Yes, the ransomed of the Lord shall come to Zion then with joy,
And in all His holy mountain nothing hurts or shall destroy.
Perfect peace shall reign in every heart, and love without alloy,
After Jesus shall come back to earth again.
Then the sin and sorrow, pain and death of this dark world shall cease,
In a glorious reign with Jesus of a thousand years of peace.
All the earth is groaning, crying for that day of sweet release,
For our Jesus shall come back to earth again.