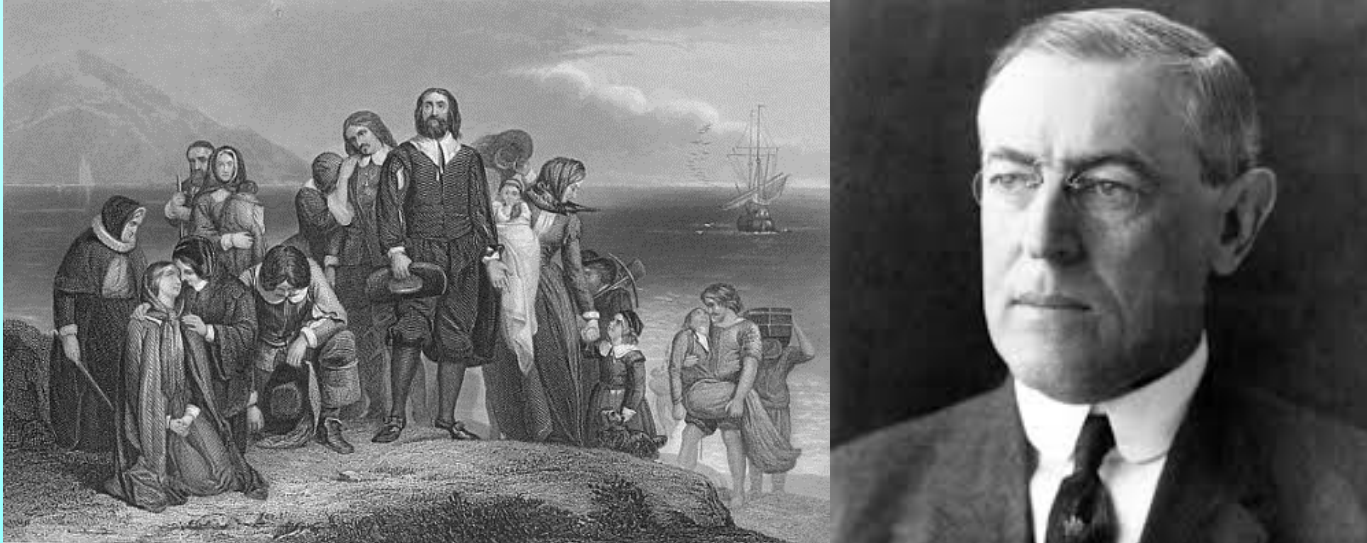


## WEEK TWO: POST-MILLENNIALISM



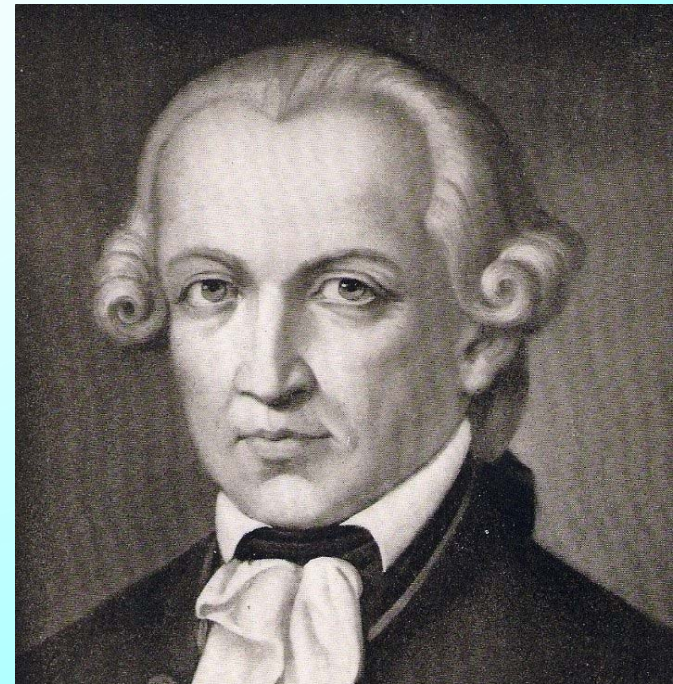
# POST-MILLENNIALISM



- What does post-millennialism mean? The gospel will be effectively preach such that the entire world will become ever increasingly “Christian”. The early form emphasized the work of the Holy Spirit.
- Very popular with the American Puritans.
- Has secularized forms too. For example, “liberal democracy” will continue to increase and increasing order will be brought to the globe. Whenever people evoke the term “individual rights” or “progress” they are evoking (more or less) a secularized post-millennial thought.
- In it’s American form, America becomes the “chosen nation” to bring about the good news of Jesus Christ to all. In it’s secular form, “we bring liberal democracy to the world”.

## POST-MILLENNIALISM AND TIME

- One popular way for progressive Christians to preach in this movement is hijacking Jesus words “on earth as it is in heaven”.
- Time is associated with the word progressive.
- In my opinion, has more in common with German philosophy than Scripture.



Kant



## SUPPORTIVE TEXTS

- Psalm 2 “Messianic Rule”: God’s through the Messiah over all people.
- Matthew 28:18-20 “Great Commission”: The Great Commission implies “gradual growth”.
- Matthew 13:13-32 “Mustard Seed”: Jesus famous parable also speaks about gradual growth of the kingdom of God.
- In the secular forms, liberal democracy gains more and more traction throughout the world.



# ARGUMENTS AGAINST POSTMILLENNIALISM



- Hope becomes “this worldly”. This worldly primary takes the form of moralism (popular in the last generation).
- People in this camp are very much into capturing and transforming culture.
- The results? The progressive mainline bought into this view. They have been progressively losing members.

# AMILLENNIALISM

- The prefix in the word “amillennialism” can be interpreted as “without millennium”. However, that is not the case. The term millennial becomes “spiritualized” so to speak.
- Standard view: Augustine Calvin, Luther, Zwingli, and the Roman Catholic Church (although some are post millennialists).
- Believes the genre of Revelation is “timeless truths” in it’s orientation (Koester).

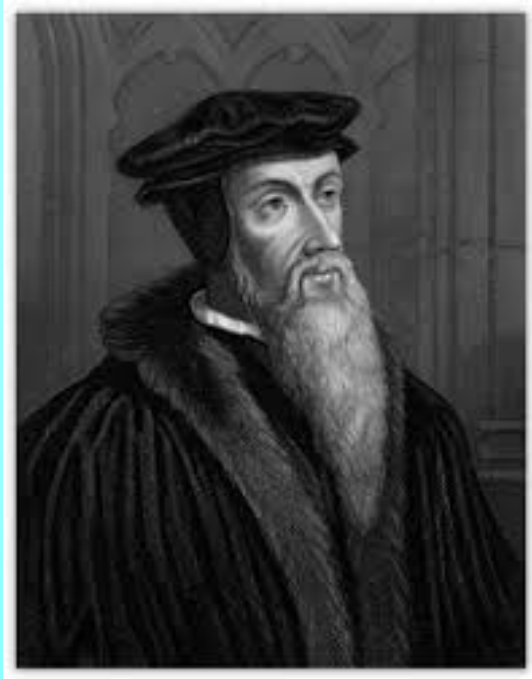


# RADICAL AUGUSTINIANISM

- God (as Trinity) is the beginning and the end. (Rev 1:8; 22:13). Post-Millennialism and Pre-Millennialism are in many ways “man-centered”.
- Augustine’s book *City of God* serves as a wonderful philosophical insight into the nature of people of God in a fallen world.
- The church (people of God) are always a people on a pilgrimage to the eternal city of God. The churches hope is rooted in God’s action.



# CALVIN AND AMILLENNIALISM



- “Believers live as citizens of two different kingdoms each with its own sources, ends, and means” (Michael Horton, *Systematic Theology*, 926).
- Believers patiently await for the return of the king.
- There is a profound tension in the believer’s heart between this world and the world to come.
- Calvin sometimes did not practice this theology well!



# AMILLENNIALISM AND TIME



- Time/culture is not getting progressively worse (Premillennialism) or better (Postmillennialism). It has always been bad and is more cyclical. We live in the “last days”.
- We do not need to endlessly speculate about the times we live in and if things are better or worse.
- Endless speculation can result in the church losing her mission. We should be radically God centered when we read Scripture.

# MARK 13



- Read together the entire passage.
- “Be prepared not to know” but then not know when Christ will come back.
- We are called to preach the gospel. There is urgency in the text that is often forgotten!
- The text is radically focused on God’s action. Not ours!

# REVELATION 20

- **20** Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding in his hand the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain. <sup>2</sup> And he seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years, <sup>3</sup> and threw him into the pit, and shut it and sealed it over him, so that he might not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were ended. After that he must be released for a little while.
- <sup>4</sup> Then I saw thrones, and seated on them were those to whom the authority to judge was committed. Also I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for the testimony of Jesus and for the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. <sup>5</sup> The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended. This is the first resurrection. <sup>6</sup> Blessed and holy is the one who shares in the first resurrection! Over such the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ, and they will reign with him for a thousand years.
- The Defeat of Satan
- <sup>7</sup> And when the thousand years are ended, Satan will be released from his prison <sup>8</sup> and will come out to deceive the nations that are at the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them for battle; their number is like the sand of the sea. <sup>9</sup> And they marched up over the broad plain of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city, but fire came down from heaven<sup>[4]</sup> and consumed them, <sup>10</sup> and the devil who had deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.
- Judgment Before the Great White Throne
- <sup>11</sup> Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. From his presence earth and sky fled away, and no place was found for them. <sup>12</sup> And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done. <sup>13</sup> And the sea gave up the dead who were in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them, and they were judged, each one of them, according to what they had done. <sup>14</sup> Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. <sup>15</sup> And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

## REVELATION 20 CONTINUED



- Judgement is positive and not negative!
- Judgement is inflicted on those who deify their leaders.
- Transformation of the world is in the “new creation” by God (Isa 65:17; Rev 21:1).



# REVELATION 20 CONTINUED

- Koester “The specter of judgement is designed to evoke readers’ repentance, not resignation. Those who show unrelenting opposition to God are warned of the prospect of unrelenting judgement” pg. 793 (Revelation: Yale Anchor Bible).
- With reference to 1,000 years, “the whole book (Revelation) encourages the reader to expect a predominance of symbolic over literal language.” G.K. Beale.
- The rich symbolism makes Revelation – along with Daniel – the hardest books in the bible to master.





# PASTOR DOUG'S PERSPECTIVE



- In the long run, I am very much an amillennialist because of it's relation to the doctrine of God. Who is God exactly?
- We always read “foggy” texts in light of “clearer” texts.
- Redemption, redemption, redemption. This is the major focus of the bible!
- Occam's **razor: The view with the least amount of speculation, the most likely!**
- God is the center, not us. We do not usher in the golden age, God does. God is the alpha and the omega.