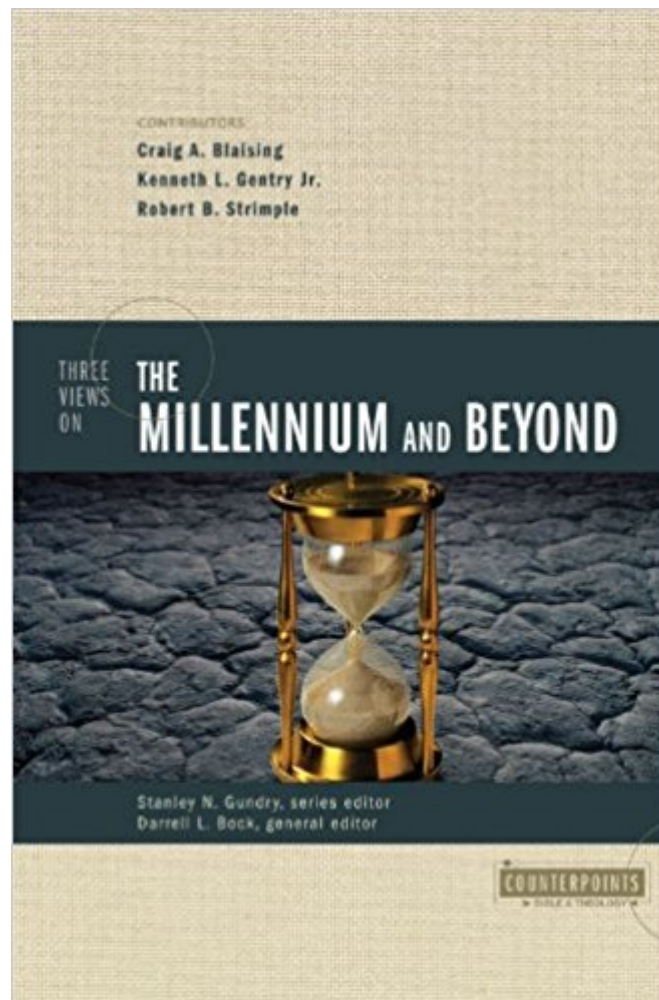




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Three Views On The Millennium And Beyond (Counterpoints: Bible And Theology)



Synopsis

Are these the last days? Could Jesus return at any time to establish his thousand-year reign on earth? What is the nature of Christ's millennial kingdom referred to in the book of Revelation? What must happen before Jesus returns, and what part does the church play? Three predominant views held by evangelicals seek to answer these and related questions: premillennial, postmillennial, and amillennial. This book gives each view a forum for presentation, critique, and defense. Besides each contributor's personal perspective, various interpretations of the different positions are discussed in the essays. *Three Views on the Millennium and Beyond* lets you compare and contrast three important eschatological viewpoints to gain a better understanding of how Christianity's great hope, the return of Jesus, is understood by the church. The Counterpoints series provides a forum for comparison and critique of different views on issues important to Christians. Counterpoints books address two categories: Church Life and Bible and Theology. Complete your library with other books in the Counterpoints series.

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Customer Reviews

I enjoyed reading this book. Eschatology is the area of theology that I am probably weakest in. While I had a basic knowledge related to the three main positions in relation the the Millenium, I can now better understand the differing views. This book is also helpful, even if you've already made your choice on where you stand on this point, to better grasp why others believe what they believe. For those seeking to get a better handle on eschatology and the millennium I definitely recommend this read. It was a bit technical in some parts and I found myself getting a bit bogged down in places, which is why I gave it 4 stars, but in a book of this nature that could be unavoidable.

Not a work as an end in itself, but Three Views on the Millennium should spur one's desire for further study. I appreciated the format's critiquing approach, in which its authors reviewed and commented clearly and extensively. This is worthwhile introductory look at such an important subject.

Very informative.

Excellent source of information.

The Zondervan Counterpoints series has been useful in providing a dialogue on many Biblical questions. Within this volume the contributors examine the nature of the millennium and the various views held by believers - postmillennialism, amillennialism, and premillennialism. The outline of the book is very clear. Each contributor makes a case for his view and then the other contributors are given an opportunity to respond. Rather than make a conclusion, the reader is left to ponder the issue and arrive at the solution he finds most tenable. While the book seeks to provide a clear exposition of each position, the chapters tend to be somewhat uneven. Rather than each author answering the question according to a clearly provided outline, they each touch on what seems important to their own position. So one chapter makes great use of Old Testament prophecy that another ignores. Another chapter goes into detail on the history of interpretation while the others don't even speak to this subject. If they had all agreed to speak on the same points, then the book would be quite strong. However, certain issues are raised and leave you wondering how the divergent contributors would respond. In addition, before this book can be of help it is useful to have

some background knowledge on the different viewpoints concerning the book of Revelation as well as the variant positions on the rapture. Finally, it should be noted that this book reads like a theological textbook. Its purpose is to address theological truths and so the reader should be aware of what to find when the cover is opened. It contains solid material, but could have used better organization.

Ken Gentry did a nice job trying to scripturally present the post-millennial position. He expressed confidence in the presence and sovereignty of God with the church as they share the gospel throughout the world. Robert Strimple try defending the amillennial position, but since the word "amillennial" means "no millennium", he didn't really have anything to defend, he spent most of his time picking apart the pre-millennial position. Craig Blaising got off to a less than blazing start, choosing to focus on the history of millennial interpretation for the first part of his essay. Then he comes back strong scripturally. I was disappointed he did not try to show how a literal millennium fulfills God's promises to Israel. Each presenter had an opportunity to rebuff the other presenter, and they all made good points. I thought it was a little facetious that they criticize the premillennialist for only having Revelation 20, but in reality, if it wasn't for Revelation 20, there would be no need for this book at all. Everyone would be out of a job :-)) I came away from the book with a renewed appreciation for the post-millennial position, but came away more convinced than ever that the pre-millennial interpretation is probably the right one.

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