

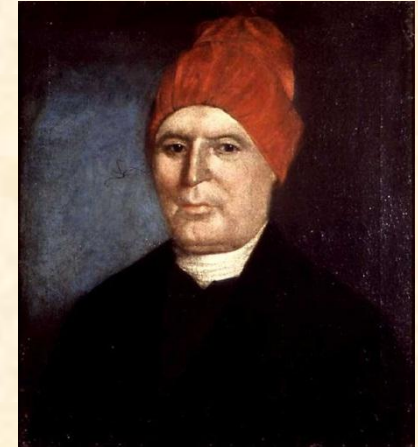
Session 6

March 20, 2011

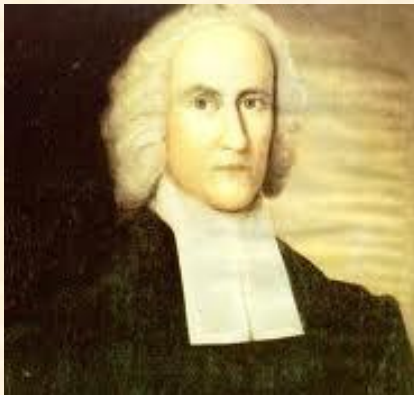
Postmillennialism



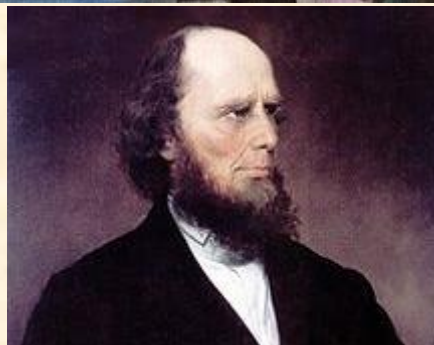
Daniel Whitby
1638–1726



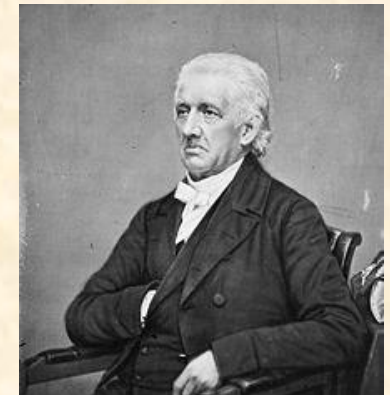
Samuel Hopkins
1721–1803



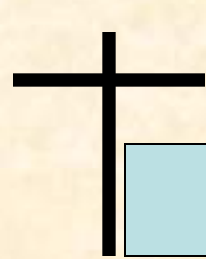
Jonathan
Edwards
1703–1758



Charles Finney
1792-1875



Lyman Beecher
1775-1863



Millennium in Heaven

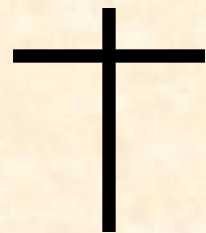


Symbolic Millennium



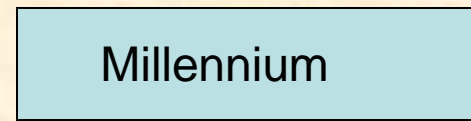
Last Judgment
New Heaven and Earth

Amillennialism



Millennium on Earth

Church Brings in Millennium



Millennium



Last Judgment
New Heaven and Earth

Postmillennialism

Key Ideas of Postmillennialism

- The Kingdom began with Christ's ministry and is progressing toward the millennium.
- The Church replaced Israel
- The kingdom is essentially redemptive and spiritual
- Christ's kingdom will exercise a transformational socio-cultural influence in history
- Most of humanity will be converted and peace and prosperity will flourish
- After an indefinite time Christ will literally return and introduce his eternal Kingdom

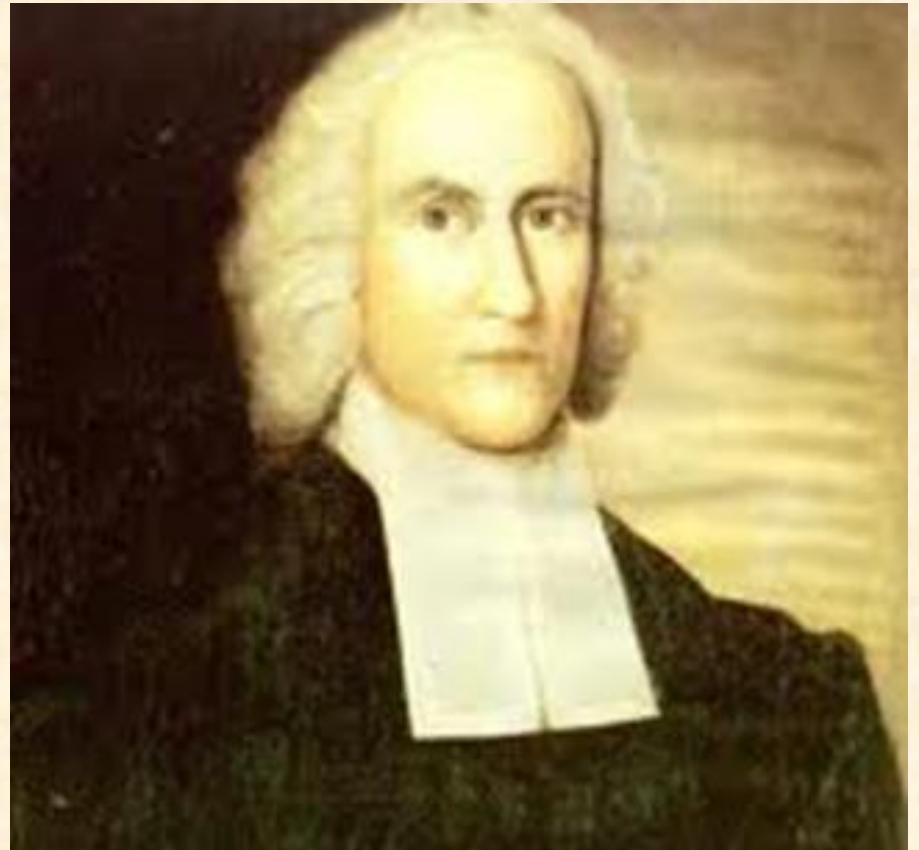
Early Postmillennial Influences

- No pre-Augustinian evidence of Postmillennialism
- Figurative Interpretation paved the way
- Conversion of Constantine and Christianity became the official religion
- Enthusiasm died with the rise of Islam
- Joachim of Fiore (1135 – 1202) reintroduced Millennial ideas
- Progressivism of the Enlightenment

Jonathan Edwards

1703–1758

" 'Tis not unlikely that this work of God's Spirit, that is so extraordinary and wonderful, is the dawning, or at least a prelude, of that glorious work of God, so often foretold in Scripture. ... **And there are many things that make it probable that this work will begin in America.**"



Jonathan Edwards

1703–1758

...much remained to be done: the fall of Satan's kingdoms (that is, the papacy and the Ottoman Turkish empire), the conversion of the Jews, and the spread of true Christianity "through the vast regions of the earth."

"This is a work that will be accomplished by means, by the preaching of the gospel,"



Samuel Hopkins

1721–1803

- Disciple of Jonathan Edwards.
- Wrote a treatise on the Millennium in 1793
- Social Activist,
prominent abolitionist
- Believed in Evangelism



Charles Finney

1792-1875

Father of Revivalism

"if the church will do her duty, the Millennium may come in this country in three years."

All of this would be jeopardized, Finney believed, if Christians succumbed to a belief in premillennialism.



The Decline of Postmillennialism

- Brutality of the Civil War
- Increase of Catholicism in America from Immigration
- Rise of Adventism and Dispensationalism
- Social problems from Industrialization
- World Wars
- Merging with the Social Gospel

Adventism

- Born into a Baptist family.
- Became a Deist.
- Believed he was spared from death during the war of 1812.
- Rejoined the Baptist Church and was converted.



William Miller
1782 - 1849

Adventism

- Was challenged by deists to prove the Bible.
- Determined that Postmillennialism was false.
- Adopted a day/year interpretation of Daniel 8:14
- Set the date for the return of Christ as Oct. 22, 1844



William Miller
1782 - 1849

Adventism

- Adventism became a major movement.
- Continued after the “Great Disappointment” of 1844
- Set the stage for interest in prophecy, the second coming and the rapture.



William Miller
1782 - 1849