

ISAIAH 65:11-25

The Guys in the Van

NIV
HOLY
BIBLE
LARGE PRINT

pg. 701



**“I revealed myself to those who did not
ask for me; I was found by those who
did not seek me. To a nation that did
not call on my name, I said, ‘Here am I,
here am I.’**

Isaiah 65:1, NIV



Archaeology Nerd Moment





“Now let my lord send his servants the wheat and barley and the olive oil and wine he promised, and we will cut all the logs from Lebanon that you need and will float them as rafts by sea down to Joppa. You can then take them up to Jerusalem.”

(2 Chronicles 2:15–16, NIV)

“Send to Joppa for Simon who is called Peter... Then Peter began to speak: “I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right.”

(Acts 10:32, 35)

**Persist in Evil + Rejecting God's call of love
= Terrible judgement**

There is a great contradiction between those who...

**Persist in doing evil
Despise the gospel**

Vs

**Those who repent
Receive the gospel**

Matthew 21:28-32



The Two Sons

What do you think? There was a man who had two sons. He went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work today in the vineyard.' 'I will not,' he answered, but later he changed his mind and went.

Then the father went to the other son and said the same thing. He answered, 'I will, sir,' but he did not go. Which of the two did what his father wanted? "The first," they answered...

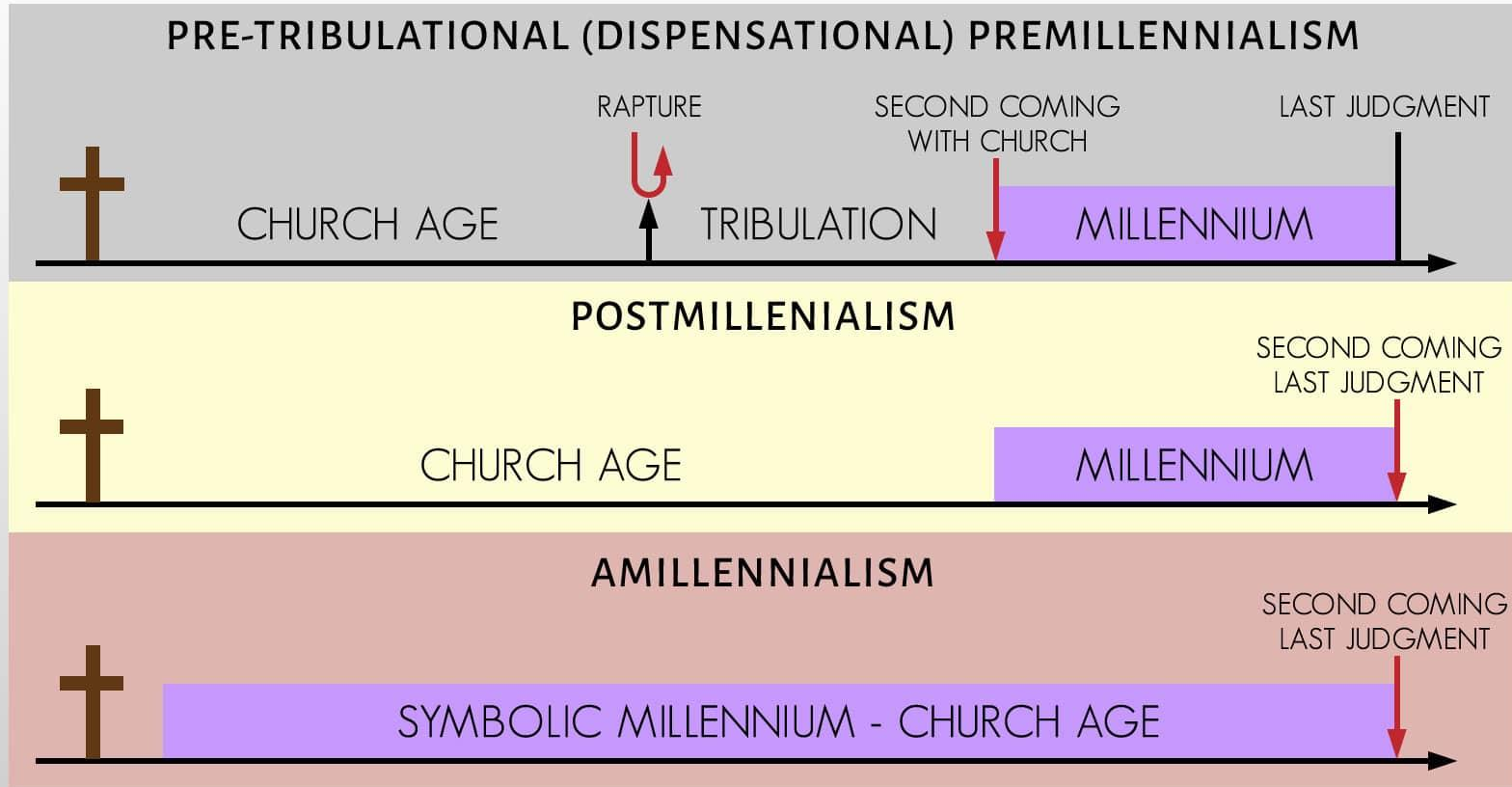
Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you to show you the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes did. And even after you saw this, you did not repent and believe him.”

(Matthew 21:28–32, NIV)

Persist in Evil and reject God vs those who
repent and accept God's love.



Comparison of Christian Millennial Teachings



Don't Persist in Evil and reject His call of love.
Repent and accept His love.

*I will destine you for the sword, and all of you
will fall in the slaughter; for I called but you
did not answer, I spoke but you did not
listen... (Isaiah 65:12)*

Before they call I will answer; while they are still speaking I will hear. (Isaiah 65:24, NIV)

Summary of Isaiah 65:11-25

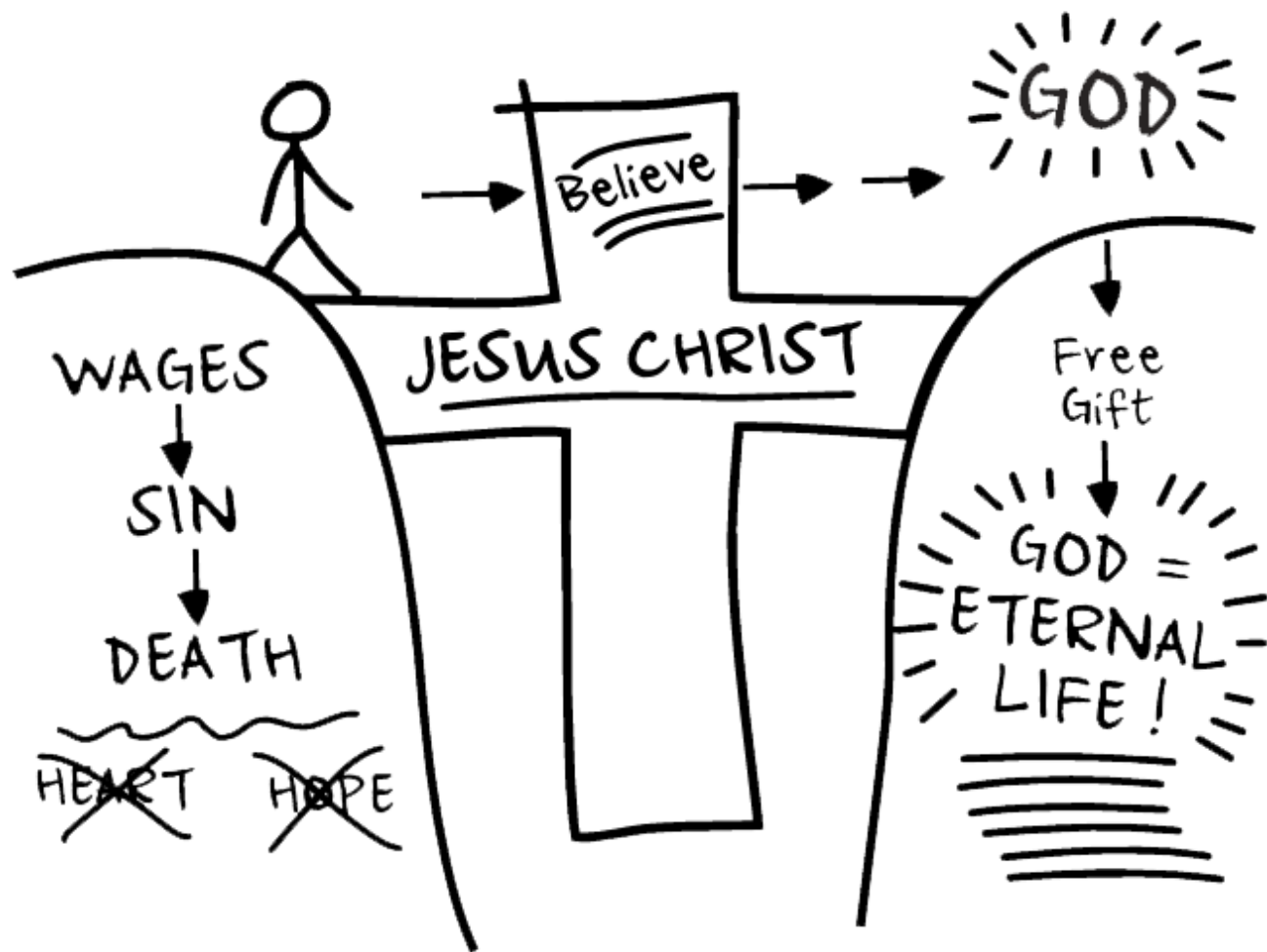
- For those who forsake God and choose their own paths, severe judgment awaits. Their fate will be death, and their names will become a curse.

Summary (continued)

- In contrast, God's unexpected servants (the guys in the van) will be given a new name and enjoy His blessings of a new heaven and a new earth where there is no more weeping, but instead there will be prosperity, longevity, peace, and relationship with God.

So what do we do?

1) Don't persist in doing evil, and do not despise the gospel.



2) What do I do if someone I love is not repenting or receiving the gospel?

Never stop praying, preaching, plodding forward.

Matthew 21:28-32



The Two Sons

What do I do if someone I love is not
repenting or receiving the gospel?

...but also realize, you might have to move
forward to share with others and trust God!

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me; I was found by those who did not seek me.
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‘Here am I, here am I.’
(Isaiah 65:1)*

Home Group Questions:

1. How can you apply the lessons from Isaiah 65 to evangelize to those who do not know God?
2. How can you cultivate an expectation for God's promised new creation in your daily life? In what ways has rebellion against God changed in our modern context compared to the time of Isaiah?
3. How does the promise of God's intimate relationship with His people in the new creation affect your perspective of your relationship with God now?
4. How can Christians reconcile the reality of God's impending judgment with His love and mercy?
5. How does the metaphor of the new wine in a cluster (v.8) speak to you about the remnant of believers in today's world?
6. How can you use the lessons from Isaiah 65 to encourage others in their faith journey?
7. How does understanding God's divine justice shape your understanding of events in the world today?
8. How do you relate with God's grief over the unfaithfulness of His people as described in Isaiah 65?