

Making Room on the Millennium

A Presentation of the BFC Study Committee on the Millennium

November 1, 2025

9:30am Session – Statement of Intent & Definition of Terms

We Were Tasked to Make Room

At the 2024 BFC Conference, a study committee was formed to reply to the following motion:

Whereas, there is a growing concern as to whether or not our premillennial doctrine is an essential conviction necessary to participate and serve in our churches, and

Whereas, churches seeking pastors are increasingly finding otherwise qualified candidates who do not hold to our premillennial convictions and therefore cannot serve among us, therefore be it

Resolved, that the Moderator appoint a committee of seven ordained pastors who will study Articles of Faith 24-27 with a view to possibly revising, moving, or removing our statements on the millennium and who will bring recommendations to the next BFC Conference.

This committee met throughout 2024-2025 and presented a report to the 2025 BFC Conference.

Report: <https://bfc.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/Report-of-the-Committee-to-Examine-Articles-24-through-27.pdf>

Presentation to Conference: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZZof-WG4GiU&t=6908s>

At the 2025 BFC Conference, “**Resolved**, that Conference encourages the committee to bring to the 2026 BFC Conference proposed changes to the Articles of Faith consistent with the sentiments of the committee’s 2025 report.”

Statement of Intent

The intent of the committee is to help Conference amend the Articles of Faith so that the denomination would allow both premillennial and amillennial viewpoints to be held and taught in the BFC. The committee does not think that postmillennial viewpoints should be held and taught within the BFC and the committee’s proposed changes would (we believe) prevent postmillennialism from being held and taught.

The intent of today’s presentation is to:

- Introduce our reasoning as well as our initial draft of changes to the Articles of Faith.
- Help pastors and delegates to prepare for First Reading at the 2026 BFC Conference
- Help elders back home to prepare to vote as an elder board on amending the Articles of Faith after First Reading.
- Help laypeople to understand the changes to our doctrine and how those changes may affect church life.

Terms

Eschatology – the study of the end times. Eschaton is the Greek word for final event, end.

The Millennium – The Bible speaks of Christ establishing a kingdom of justice and peace, the effects of the curse will be restrained. When, where, and how this kingdom will exist is a matter of debate among Christians.

Premillennialism – the Kingdom will begin when Christ returns to the earth. The “pre” is Christ returns before the millennium begins.

Historic Premillennialism – Christ returns to earth to set up His Kingdom on earth for 1,000 years. Many here believe that He does so immediately after the Tribulation (post-trib rapture), but not all.

Dispensational Premillennialism – a thorough ordering of the events before, during, and after the millennium, emphasizing God’s future plans for national Israel. Christ raptures the Church before the tribulation since the trib is “the Day of Jacob’s trouble).

The BFC has welcomed both historic premillennialists as well as dispensational premillennialists into its ranks since 1896.

Amillennialism – There is no literal 1,000 physical reign of Christ from earth. Instead He is reigning over both heaven and earth from His heavenly throne already. The “a” means “no”.

Postmillennialism – the Kingdom is established by the Church in its worldwide success. Christ returns after the 1,000 year reign of His Church’s earthly governance of mankind, hence the “post”.

The pre and the post speak of when Christ returns related to the Kingdom. The a speaks to the lack of an earthly reign.

Preterism – all of the “end times” prophecies of the old and new testaments were speaking of the fall of Jerusalem by Rome in 70 AD. From our vantage point, they have all already occurred and we are not waiting for any prophetic events to happen.

The Day of the Lord – The Bible uses this phrase to speak of many unrelated things. It was used to speak of God sending Babylon to destroy the Temple in the 6th century BC. It was also used to speak of Christ’s return for His Church. It was narrowly used to speak of a

24-hour-day, but also used to speak of a season or period of time. We can rightly use this phrase to speak about a happy future, or a devastating one.

Key Texts

Revelation 20 is the one place that identifies the length of the millennium, namely 1,000 years, but also what happens (and doesn't happen) during it. Jesus returns to earth in the previous chapter (19), and He ushers us into a New Heavens and New Earth in the next chapters (21-22).

Zechariah 14 also speaks of both Jesus returning to earth in battle (like Rev 19) and setting up a just, peaceful worldwide kingdom (like Rev 20).

Isaiah 11 prophecies the sprig from Jesse will reign over the earth with a rod and peace will result, even the lion will lie down with the lamb.

Isaiah 65 re-echoes that peaceful time. The curse's effects are diminished, the one dying at 100yo will be thought as young when they died. Troubling for all camps, v17 calls this "new heavens and a new earth".

Matthew 5 many consider the blessing promises of the beatitudes to be realized during the Millennium ("they shall inherit the earth", "theirs is the kingdom of heaven"). This is NOT overtly stated.

The Amendment Process (Article 701)

701-1 BFC Conference may propose to the churches amendments or changes in the Articles of Faith of the BFC by a two-thirds majority of those voting.

701-2 After the approval of a first reading of the proposed change, the pastor and delegate of each Particular Church shall be responsible to inform their Board of Elders of the proposed change.

701-3 The Board of Elders of each church shall vote on the proposed change, and an affirmative vote by a majority of the total number of elders shall be required for approval.

701-4 Before BFC Conference can consider a second reading of the proposed amendment of change in the Articles of Faith, approval of the proposed change must be reported within 24 months to the Secretary of BFC Conference by the Board of Elders of at least two-thirds of the churches.

701-5 The amendment will be declared to be in effect when approved by two-thirds majority of those voting on a second reading of the amendment at any one of the three succeeding BFC Conferences.