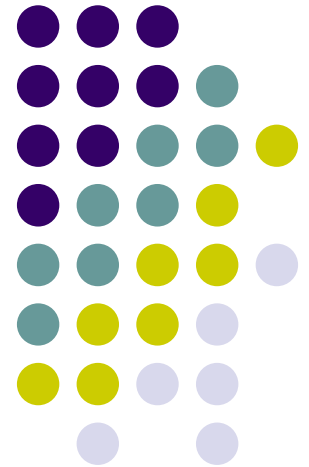


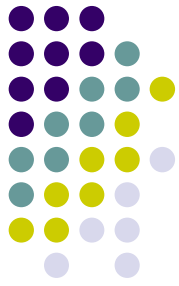
ISRAEL'S IMPROBABLE ALLIES

Christian Zionism and its Strategic Implications
for the US, Israel and the Palestinians

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March 13, 2008

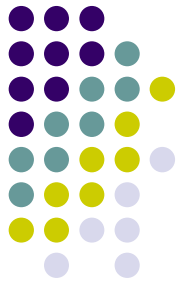


Three arguments



- Christian Zionism is not an epiphenomenon, but is *deeply rooted in both history and theology*.
- Christian Zionists have become important foreign policy actors on the Israel-Palestine issue, thanks to the help of both Jewish American organizations and Israeli political parties. Christian Zionists bring *substantial political assets to the pro-Israel community*.
- The Christian Zionist approach to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is contributing to the transformation of a *territorial conflict between two peoples into a transcendental fight between competing religious narratives*.

Evangelicals' five core beliefs



1. Inerrancy of the Bible	Bible-believing Christians
2. Personal conversion	Born-again Christians
3. Acceptance of Jesus as personal savior	Followers of Jesus Christ
4. Moral values	Value voters
5. Sharing the Gospel	Evangelicals



Three doctrines

Anti-replacement theology doctrine

Genesis 17:7-8: “I will establish my covenant as an **everlasting covenant** between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you. The **whole land of Canaan**, where you are now an alien, I will give as an everlasting possession to you and your descendants after you; and I will be their God.”

Leviticus 26:9: “I will look on you with favor and make you fruitful and increase your numbers, and I will **keep my covenant** with you;”

Prosperity doctrine

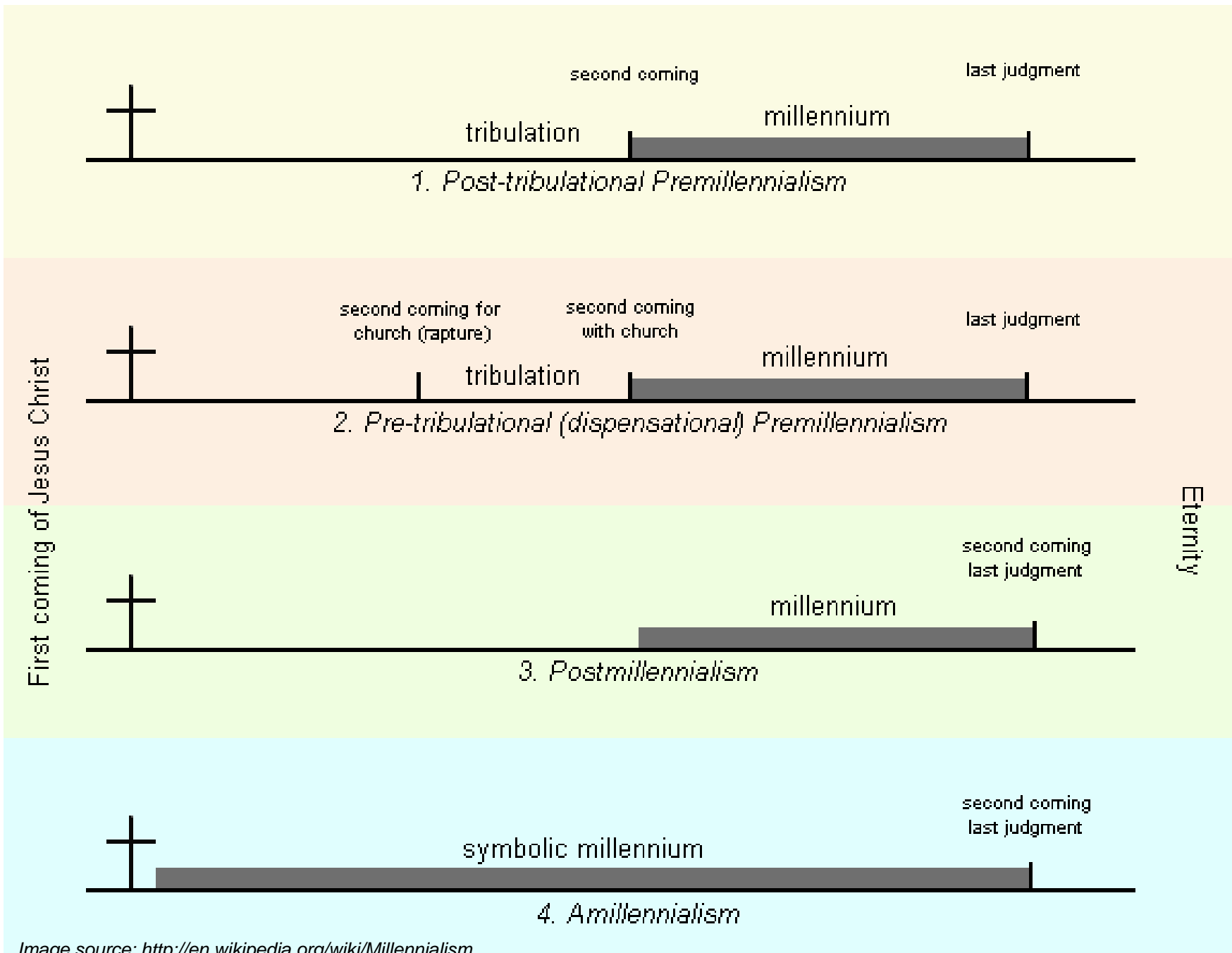
Genesis 12:3 : “I will **bless** those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.”

Psalms 122:6 “Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: May they **prosper** who love you”

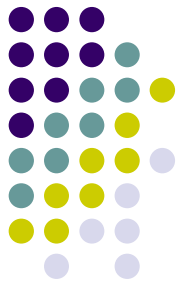
Prophecy doctrine

I Thessalonians, 4:17: “then we who are alive, who are left; shall be **caught up together with them in the clouds** to meet the Lord in the air.”

Comparison of Christian millennial teachings



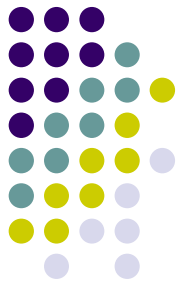
Political Christian Zionism - Important developments



From apathy to action

- **1948** : Israel as the fulfillment of biblical prophecies
- **1967**: Jerusalem, Judea & Samaria in the hands of Jews
- **Promotion of Christian Zionism**: Prophetic and apocalyptic literature
- **Provide aid and support to Israel** : International Fellowship of Christian and Jews ; Bridges for Peace; International Christian Embassy; Unity Coalition for Israel; CIPAC
- **After 9-11**: Second wind for the Christian Zionist movement; creation of Christians United for Israel lobby

Political Christian Zionism - Important developments



Evangelicals' political awakening

- Cultural supremacy followed by political separation
- Post-WWII rejection of “moral relativism”
- Moral Majority ; Christian Coalition ; Religious Roundtable
- G.O.P.'s “southern” political strategy: rise of Value Voters

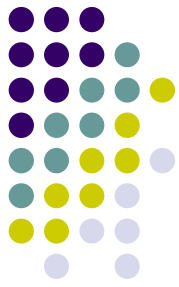
Israel and Jewish Diaspora become pro-Evangelical

- Embrace of Christian Zionist support by Israeli Right & settlers
- Three reactions: Enthusiasts, Pragmatists and Critics
- Political lobbying : Christians United for Israel

Categories	Efficiency factors for interest groups	Assets of Christian Zionism
Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Cohesion ● Assimilation ● Economic & political resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Wealthy, dedicated, active community ● Easy to mobilize
Interest groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Corporate professionalism ● Grassroots movement ● Influential Leaders ● Capacity to reach multiple entry points (Administration, Congress, media) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● From a Washington insiders movement to a massive constituent-driven movement ● Influential religious 'stars' ● Alternative Christian media

Categories	Efficiency factors for interest groups	Assets of Christian Zionism
Political environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Echoing American vital interests and general ideology ● Capacity to create bipartisan consensus ● Capacity to make coalitions with other groups ● Absence of groups with opposing views 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Evangelicals perceived as “patriots” ● Reinforces support within G.O.P. ● From Jewish lobbying to Judeo-Christian coalitions
Homeland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Positive image of the homeland ● No conflict of interest with the United States ● Strong ties with the homeland 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Increases Israel’s positive image ● Evangelical support encouraged by Israel

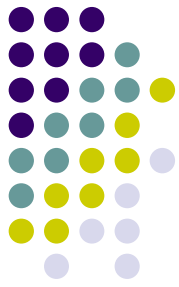
Consequences of Christian Zionist support



Benefits for Israel:

- **Political:** ensuring the continuing support of America
- **Financial:** securing aid to Israel; donations to Israel and to Israeli settlers ; tourism
- **Strategic :** Altering the global balance of “soft” power: towards a global network of pro-Israel transnational ?

Consequences of Christian Zionist support



Risks for Israel and the Palestinians:

- Radicalization of the political discourse: construction of a “**clash of civilizations**” narrative
- Transformation of the stakes of the conflict: from a territorial dispute to a **transcendental fight**
- Different nature of the bond: from ethnic & religious Diaspora attachment to a **loose religious link**