

# End-Times Terminology

*Below is a list of some terms that might come up when talking about the end-times. The list is not meant as an introduction, and is not exhaustive at all. Also, rather than list terms in an alphabetical order, I've tried to group them according to various attributes such as time, Jesus coming back, etc. I've also tried to take out any editorial bias leaning toward one view or another.*

## What is Eschatology?

**Eschatology** is a Christian term that means the study of the end times. Probably more obscure theological text has been written on this topic than on any other belief in Christendom.

- **Last Days** -- The entire period between the first and second advents of our Lord Jesus Christ. Since Jesus ascended into heaven from the Mount of Olives, 40 days after His resurrection, we have been living in the "last days." Eschatology is the body of knowledge concerning the "last things," or the end of the age and the future.

**The Book of Revelation:** The last book of the New Testament is Revelation.

**Apokalupsis (Apocalypse)** -- Greek word for "revelation," or "unveiling," or "uncovering." The visible appearing of Jesus to the world in full power and splendor. Also refers to the appearance of the antichrist on the stage of history following the rapture (2 Thessalonians 2).

## There are various views of timing associated with the end times.

**Millennium – 1000 years** The Biblical teaching based on Revelation 20 that Christ will literally, physically reign on earth following the present age, for one thousand actual calendar years. This is a literal plain teaching of the Word of God.

**Premillennial** -- The belief that Christ returns visibly and bodily at the beginning of the thousand-year reign of Christ on the earth. He will rule the nations from Jerusalem. God will resume salvation work for Israel as a nation immediately after the departure or "rapture" of the true church.

**Postmillennial** -- The belief that Christ will return at the end of the present age to take over the earth. Meantime, He is assumed to reign on earth through the church now. Postmillennialists do not necessarily believe in a literal millennial age. Satan was defeated at the cross and is now bound, hence the final triumph of the church in history is assured.

**Amillennial** -- The belief that there will no literal 1000 year reign of Christ. Thus Revelation 20 is taken symbolically, not literally, by adherents of this view. Amillennialists generally believe that Israel has been permanently set aside for all time and that God's current plan of salvation involves only the church.

**Preterism** -- is a belief that the events prophesized in the New Testament have already happened. The great war of Armageddon in the book of Revelation occurred in the late 60's and early 70's CE when the temple in Jerusalem was destroyed, many Jews were killed and the rest were driven from Palestine.



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**Everyone agrees that there will be a time of great suffering and trial during the end times.**

**The Tribulation:** This is a 7 year interval when a world religious-political leader called the Antichrist takes power.

- The first half of the tribulation period is marked by apparent world peace. The onset of the Great Tribulation is marked by failure of this peace treaty and the desecration of the Third Temple in Jerusalem by the "man of sin."

**Everyone agrees that Christ will come back for his own. The question is when?**

**Rapture** -- The event when Jesus Christ will return "for" His own.

- **Second Coming** -- The time when Jesus Christ will return "with" His own at the end of the tribulation period. This will be a victorious return when Christ and the Saints shall fight at the Battle of Armageddon and conquer the Devil's trio: The beast, the false prophet, and the Antichrist

Various views of when

1. **Pretribulation** --. The Rapture happens just before the Tribulation, so that believers will not have to experience any of its disruption and pain.
  - The teaching that Jesus comes for His bride, the true church, at the beginning of the tribulation period. This is the "pretribulation rapture."
2. **Midtribulation** -- The Rapture happens 42 months into the Tribulation.
  - The belief that Jesus raptures the church half-way through the seven-year tribulation period.
3. **Posttribulation** -- The faithful experience the full horrors of the entire Tribulation and are raptured only at the end of the 7 years
  - Belief that Jesus will come for His people at the end of the tribulation period, but prior to the Millennium.



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## Other terms that might come up

**Day of the LORD** -- An extended period of time during which God openly intervenes in human affairs both in regard to judgment and blessing.

**Dispensationalism** -- Teaching that history is divided into various time periods during which God moves in the world in certain distinctive ways. Hence, "dispensation of innocence," "dispensation of government," "dispensation of law," "dispensation of grace," and "kingdom economy," etc. The Greek word means "economy" or "administration." Several different schools of Dispensationalism exist.

**Dominion Theology** -- Teaching that the church is responsible for taking over the world in the name and power of Christ. Associated with "reconstructionism," also known as "theonomy."

**Epiphaneia** -- Greek word meaning "A shining-forth," refers to the visible appearance of Jesus at the close of the age. Used in 1 Tim. 6:14, 2 Tim. 4:1,8; Matt. 24:27, 2 Thessalonians 2:8; Titus 2:13. The words parousia and epiphaneia are combined in 2 Thessalonians 2:8, translated "his appearing and his coming."

**Great White Throne of Judgment** -- This will be the judgment of the dead, the unsaved throughout history. Revelation 20:11-15 gives vivid detail of the events that will happen. The record books will be opened and the wicked shall be judged according to their works. All who's names are not found (and none will be) in the Lamb's book of life will be cast into the lake of fire.

**Judgment Seat of Christ** -- The judgment of all believers. The Greek word for "seat" is "bema." The bema was the raised area or chair where the judge sat. This judgment takes place after the rapture during the tribulation period.

**Parousia** -- Greek word meaning "coming alongside and remaining with" someone. Describes the Second Coming of Jesus for His own. Used in Matthew 24:3,27,37,39; 1 Thessalonians 4:15, 5:23, 2 Thessalonians 2:1, James 5:7, 8; 2 Peter 1:16, 3:4; 1 Corinthians 15:23.

**Replacement Theology** -- Teaching in some circles today to the effect that the church has replaced Israel permanently in the plan of God. Usually associated with an amillennial view of eschatology.

