

Understanding End Time Terminology

Lesson 2

The Four Key Perspectives

- The Reign of Jesus. The right answers are in bold and underlined.
 - The only point of consensus.
 - Divisional question: **physical reign*** or spiritual?
- Three Perspectives on how God will fulfill his promises to Abraham and Israel
 - **Dispensational**
 - Covenantal
 - New Covenantal
- Four approaches to interpreting apocalyptic literature
 - **Futurist**
 - Historicist
 - Idealist
 - Preterist
- Four views of the end times
 - Amillennial
 - Postmillennial
 - **Dispensational Premillennial**
 - Historical Premillennial

One Word Describes Christ's Reign

- Millennium
 - From Latin mille [thousand] and annum [year]
 - The reign of Jesus that John describes in [Rev 10:1-6](#)

Fulfilling Promises To Abraham & Israel

- Three Perspectives on how God will fulfill his promises to Abraham and Israel
- **Dispensational**
 - God has two plans with two people, the church and Israel. God will fulfill his promises to Abraham and Israel by giving to ethnic Jews the land that he promised to Abraham.
- **Covenantal**
 - God has one plan with one people, with one covenant of grace that extends from the fall of humanity to the end of time. God's work with Israel was preparatory for his work with the church.
- **New Covenantal**
 - God has one purpose that he has worked out through multiple covenants. God's work with Abraham and Israel was a temporary picture of what God had already purposed to do in Jesus. God's promises to Abraham find their fulfillment in Jesus.

Interpreting Apocalyptic Literature

- Four approaches to interpreting apocalyptic literature
- **Futurist**
 - Apocalyptic texts in the Bible are predictive prophecy about events that, even now, have not yet occurred.
- **Historicist**
 - Apocalyptic texts in the Bible are symbolic retellings of certain epochs of history.
- **Idealist**
 - Apocalyptic texts in the Bible are idealized expressions of struggles between good and evil that occur in every age.
- **Preterist**
 - Apocalyptic texts in the Bible are symbolic descriptions of events that happened near or soon after the time when the text was written. In other words, they happened soon after Jesus' death and resurrection.

Views of The End Times

- Four views of the end times
- ***Amillennial***
 - This interpretation takes a non-literal view that the 1,000 years mentioned in [Rev: 20](#) means what we call the Church Age. Or that period of time ranging from Jesus' resurrection and the resurrection of his Saints at His return. This means there will be no future, earthly millennium. The millennium is the present spiritual reign of Jesus with his people. Jesus will return physically to earth at the end of the millennium.
- ***Postmillennial***
 - This interpretation is a variant of the Amillennial interpretation by subscribing to the belief that the Gospel will permeate and transform the world into a reign of peace before Christ's return. Essentially, the Millennium is a spiritual reign of Jesus on earth through the widespread proclamation and acceptance of the gospel. Jesus will return physically to earth at the end of the millennium. While this belief does have followers, it is in the minority and not well supported scripturally. One could even say the opposite is revelation of Scripture.
- ***Dispensational Premillennial***
 - The millennium will be a future, physical one thousand year reign of Jesus on earth, following a time known as "the great tribulation." Jesus will return to rapture Christians from the earth before God pours out his wrath on the earth.
- ***Historical Premillennial***
 - The millennium will be a future, physical one-thousand year reign of Jesus on the earth after all times of tribulation have ended. Christians endure the great tribulation.

Eschatological Terms

- ***Abomination of Desolation.***

This involves a desecration of the temple by the man of sin. It could also include an image set up in the temple. It is a prominent and pivotal incident that will instantly be spotted for what it is by believers. [Matthew 24:15](#), [2 Thessalonians 2:3-4](#)

- **Allegory**

- A Story that is told to explain or teach something, especially a story with an underlying meaning that is different than the surface meaning.

- **AMillennial Interpretation**

- This interpretation takes a non-literal view that the 1,000 years mentioned in Rev: 20 means what we call the Church Age. Or that period of time ranging from Jesus' resurrection and the resurrection of his Saints at His return. This means there will be no future, earthly millennium. The millennium is the present spiritual reign of Jesus with his people. Jesus will return physically to earth at the end of the millennium. (One of four views of the end times.)

- **Antichrist**

- The antichrist is the title popularly ascribed to the devilish world ruler of the end times ([1 John](#), [2 John](#), [1 John 2:18](#))

- **Armageddon**

- Location for final Battle of Church Age/Tribulation in which the Antichrist fails in his attempt to physically battle Jesus.

- **Beast, The little horn, the antichrist, the man of lawlessness**

- The antichrist is the title popularly ascribed to the devilish world ruler of the end times (. [1 John](#), [2 John](#), [1 John 2:18](#),

Eschatological Terms (2)

- **Compression**
 - Events thought to be separated in time are compressed together.
- **Covenantal**
 - God has one plan with one people, with one covenant of grace that extends from the fall of humanity to the end of time. God's work with Israel was preparatory for his work with the church. (This is one of three perspectives on how God will fulfill his promise to Abraham and Israel.)
- **Covenantal, New**
 - God has one purpose that he has worked out through multiple covenants. God's work with Abraham and Israel was a temporary picture of what God had already purposed to do in Jesus. God's promises to Abraham find their fulfillment in Jesus. . (This is one of three perspectives on how God will fulfill his promise to Abraham and Israel.)
- **Crowns**
 - The location of the crowns appears to denote their sphere of authority. The crowns located on heads infer their authority over world empires. The crowns located on horns infer authority over confederate nations.
- **Day Of The Lord, The day, that day, at that time, The day of Christ, The day of God's wrath, the day of judgment, The great day of God Almighty**
 - OT: God comes in awesome power to punish the wicked, restore Israel, and establish His Everlasting kingdom.
 - NT: that day and at that time encompasses Jesus coming on the clouds of heaven and glory, gathering his elect to himself, destroying his enemies and inaugurating his reign over the earth. ([Mark 12:26-27](#), [2 Thessalonians 2:2-3](#), [Revelation 6:17](#), [Revelation 11:15](#). **End of Church Age – Beginning of Millenium.**)
- **Dispensational**
 - God has two plans with two people, the church and Israel. God will fulfill his promises to Abraham and Israel by giving to ethnic Jews the land that he promised to Abraham.. (This is one of three perspectives on how God will fulfill his promise to Abraham and Israel.)
- **Dispensational Premillennial**
 - The millennium will be a future, physical one thousand year reign of Jesus on earth, following a time known as “the great tribulation.” Jesus will return to rapture Christians from the earth before God pours out his wrath on the earth. (One of four views of the end times.)

Eschatological Terms (3)

- **End of the age** **The End,**
 - Jesus used the end and the end of the age to refer to the events that would usher in his all-righteousness kingdom in which everything evil is expelled. End of Church Age – Beginning of Millenium.
- **Foreshadows**
 - A current action is but an example of a more extreme future action.
- **Futurist**
 - Apocalyptic texts in the Bible are predictive prophecy about events that, even now, have not yet occurred. (One of four approaches to interpreting apocalyptic literature.)
- **Heads**
 - Symbolizes kings or kingdoms
- **Historical**
 - Apocalyptic texts in the Bible are symbolic retellings of certain epochs of history.
- **Historicist Premillennial**
 - The millennium will be a future, physical one-thousand year reign of Jesus on the earth after all times of tribulation have ended. Christians endure the great tribulation. (One of four views of the end times.)
- **Horns**
 - Symbolizes confederate kings or confederate kingdoms
- **Idealist**
 - Apocalyptic texts in the Bible are idealized expressions of struggles between good and evil that occur in every age..

Eschatological Terms (4)

- **The last day**
 - Jesus used the last day to identify that point in time when the saints will be raised. (believers resurrected. ([John 6:39-40](#), [44](#))
- **The last days, The last hour, The last times**
 - OT: Refers to the coming reign of God on Earth ([Isaiah 2:2-4](#)) ([**Millennium**](#))
 - NT: Generally refers to the period between the resurrection and the return of Christ. ([**The Church Age.**](#) ([Acts 2:17-21](#)), ([Hebrews 1:1-2](#))
- **Mark of the beast**
 - During the beast's reign, all mankind will be required to worship the beast's image or die, and to wear his name or number (666) in order to buy or sell anything. [Rev 13:14-18](#) . The mark requires everyone to make a choice between Christ or the Devil.
- **Meshing**
 - Be aware that in eschatological passages prefiguring persons or events can sometimes merge into fulfilling persons or events making it difficult to ascertain who or what is which.

Eschatological Terms (5)

- **Metaphor**
 - An implied comparison between two different things; also something concrete used to represent an idea, quality or condition.
- **Millennium, The 1,000 Years**
 - The reign of Jesus that John describes in [Rev 10:1-6](#)
- **Post Tribulation Position**
 - Those embracing this position believe the church will be raptured when Christ appears at the end of the Tribulation period to establish His earthly reign. They believe that Christ's coming will happen once and for all, they do not believe the Scriptures teach the church will be secretly and silently "caught-up" to Jesus before the tribulation begins or that the church will be rescued from tribulation distress. This is a growing belief by many pastors, seminarians and evangelicals today.
- **PostMillennial Interpretation**
 - This interpretation is a variant of the Amillennial interpretation by subscribing to the belief that the Gospel will permeate and transform the world into a reign of peace before Christ's return. Essentially, the Millennium is a spiritual reign of Jesus on earth through the widespread proclamation and acceptance of the gospel. Jesus will return physically to earth at the end of the millennium. While this belief does have followers, it is in the minority and not well supported scripturally. One could even say the opposite is revelation of Scripture. (One of four views of the end times.)
- **Prefigures**
 - Someone or something who represents something even greater. Antiochus IV Epiphanes prefigures the end-time beast.

Eschatological Terms (6)

- **PreMillennial Interpretation**
 - This interpretation takes a literal view that the 1,000 years mentioned in Rev: 20 means 1,000 years. The millennium will be a future, physical one thousand year reign of Jesus on earth, following a time known as “the great tribulation.” Jesus will return to rapture Christians from the earth before God pours out his wrath on the earth.
- **Preterist**
 - Apocalyptic texts in the Bible are symbolic descriptions of events that happened near or soon after the time when the text was written. In other words, they happened soon after Jesus’ death and resurrection.
- **Pre-tribulation Position**
 - Those embracing this position believe the church will be ‘raptured’ (caught up to be with Jesus) before the seven-year tribulation begins. The Pre-Trib position began around the early 1800s with the dispensational teachings of J. W. Darby (Plymouth Brethren). It was largely promoted by the Schofield Bible and Dwight Moody. It is widely accepted in today’s evangelical circles.
- **Rapture**
 - Embodies the biblical concept of believers being caught up to the Lord. [1 Thessalonians 4:13-17](#), [1 Corinthians 15:51-52](#), [Philippians 3:20-21](#), [1 Corinthians 15:49](#), [1 John 3:2](#)
- **Symbolic**
 - Something that stands for or represents something else.

Eschatological Terms (7)

- **Tribulation**

- The concept of a seven year period of tribulation (great distress) is derived primarily from the “70 ‘sevens’” (480 years) of prophecy of [Daniel 9:24-27](#). However the great tribulation of [Revelation 7:14](#) refers to the last half of the 70th seven (The final 3 ½ years) during which begins when the beast erects an image in the temple called the “abomination that causes desolation.” Compare [2 Thessalonians 2:4](#). [Revelation 7:14](#) is the sole instance in the Bible in which tribulation is used to specify the period of “great distress preceding Jesus coming with the clouds to establish his kingdom.

- **Types**

- Someone or something used to represent a broader, more important category.... ie... Isaac is a type of Christ.

- **Week.**

The Hebrew word translated *week* simply means 7.