

Glossary of Theological Terms Used in the Study of the End Times ~ Part 3 The End Times

In my last post, we defined the terms **Dispensation** and **Millennium**. In this post, we will explore the **Three Main Views of the Millennium**.¹ Like the **Four Views** for interpreting the Book of Revelation, it may be helpful to print the PDF version out to keep it handy as we go through our study, especially when we get to chapter 20.

Premillennialism:

This is the belief that the second coming of Yeshua will precede the **Millennial Kingdom**. Many expect a literal 1,000-year period here on earth wherein Yeshua will reign with His Believers prior to the **New Heaven** and **New Earth** being established. The Millennial reign will be characterized by international peace and justice resulting from the universal rule of Yeshua. At the end of this period, Satan will be released from the bottomless pit and a brief period of freedom will follow to put the Believers to a final test before the final **White Throne Judgment of God**.

There are two varieties of premillennialism: **Historic** and **Dispensational**. The latter differs from the former in its emphasis on the continuing centrality of national Israel in God's eschatological program and in anticipating a **Rapture of Believers**² to heaven before the beginning of the **Tribulation**.

Premillennialists are most likely to be those who have adopted the **Futurist** view of interpreting Revelation.

Postmillennialism:

Postmillennialists teach that Yeshua will return at the end of the Millennial period. Per this camp, the Millennial Kingdom will be established through the evangelical mission of the church. This endeavor will be so successful that most people will become Believers resulting in a lengthy period of peace on earth before **Yeshua's Second Coming**.

Postmillennialists are most likely to be those who have adopted the **Preterist** view of interpreting Revelation.

Amillennialism:

Amillennialists understand the thousand years of Revelation 20 as a symbolic number representing an indefinitely long period of time which happens to correspond to the entire span of time from the **First Coming of Yeshua** until **His Second Coming**. In short, the **Church Age**.

Amillennialists are found amongst **Historicists**, **Preterists** and **Idealists**, but rarely among Futurists.

¹ Most of the material in the first portion of this post is taken from "Revelation: Four Views, Revised & Updated" by Steve Gregg.

² I will be dealing with the issue of the Rapture in a later post when we get to Chapter 4.

Each of the above views can be summarized in the following chart: ³

VIEWES CONCERNING LAST THINGS

Categories	Amillennialism	Postmillennialism	Historic Premillennialism	Dispensational Premillennialism
Second Coming of Christ	Single event; no distinction between rapture and second coming. Introduces eternal state.	Single event; no distinction, between rapture and second coming; Christ returns after Millennium.	Rapture and second coming simultaneous; Christ returns to reign on earth.	Second coming in two phases: rapture for church; second coming to earth 7 years later.
Resurrection	General resurrection of believers and unbelievers at second coming of Christ.	General resurrection of believers and unbelievers at second coming of Christ.	Resurrection of believers at beginning of Millennium. Resurrection of unbelievers at end of Millennium.	Distinction in resurrections: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Church at rapture. 2. Old Testament/ Tribulation saints at second coming. 3. Unbelievers at end of Millennium.
Judgments	General judgment of all people.	General judgment of all people.	Judgment at second coming. Judgment at end of Tribulation.	Distinction in judgment: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Believers works at rapture; 2. Jews/Gentiles at end of Tribulation. 3. Unbelievers at end of Millennium.
Tribulation	Tribulation is experienced in this present age.	Tribulation is experienced in this present age.	Post-trib view: church goes through the future Tribulation.	Pre-trib view: church is raptured prior to Tribulation.
Millennium	No literal Millennium on earth after second coming. Kingdom present in church age.	Present age blends into Millennium because of progress of gospel.	Millennium is both present and future. Christ is reigning in heaven. Millennium not necessarily 1,000 years.	At second coming Christ inaugurates literal 1,000-year Millennium on earth.
Israel and the Church	Church is the new Israel. No distinction between Israel and church.	Church is the new Israel. No distinction between Israel and church.	Some distinction between Israel and church. Future for	Complete distinction between Israel and church. Distinct program for each.

³ The Moody Handbook of Theology

Israel but church is
spiritual Israel.

Adherents

L. Berkhof

O. T. Allis

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In my next post, we will begin to explore the **Revelation of Yeshua the Messiah to Yochanan**. As we go through the letter, I'll do my best to present the different views as we come to passages that are interpreted differently by the adherents to those views of interpretation presented in Part 1 of the Glossary.