

Glossary of the End-Times¹

Amillennialism: The view that there will be no (“a”) 1000 (*mille*) year visible earthly kingdom or “millennium.” This view is better termed “realized millennialism” since it teaches that the *symbolically* understood 2000 years of Revelation 20 began at Christ’s first advent.

Armageddon: Derived from Hebrew *har megiddo*, “the hill of Megiddo,” in Palestine, Armageddon refers to the battle mentioned in Rev. 16:16.

Apocalyptic Literature: Derived from the Greek word *apokalypsis* (Rev. 1:1), “uncovering” or “revelation,” this type of literature, most notably found in Daniel and Revelation, uses highly symbolic imagery.

Dispensationalism: Also called *dispensational premillennialism*, this is a system of theology which divides history into distinct dispensations or periods of time in which God gives a specific revelation and man is tested with respect to his obedience of it. All dispensationists are premillennialists, but not all premillennialists are dispensationalists.

Eschatology: Derived from the Greek word *eschaton*, “end,” eschatology is the study of the end times. *Eschatological* means “pertaining to the end.”

Millenium: Derived from the Latin words *mille*, “a thousand,” and *annus*, “a year” (Revelation 20), millennialism teaches that there will be a 1000 year, visible kindome of God on earth. It is also called *chiliasm* from the Greek word *chilia*, “a thousand.”

Postmillennialism: This is the view the Christ’s second advent will occur after (“post”) the “millennium,” understood as a golden age on earth but not necessarily lasting 1000 years.

Premillennialism: This is the view that Christ’s second advent will occur before (“pre”) the “millennium,” understood as a 1000 year rule of Christ on earth.

Rapture: This refers to the event described in 1 Thessalonians 4:14-17 when believers will be “raptured” or “caught up” (Latin: *rapiemur*) in the clouds to meet Christ in the air. The “re-tribulational rapture” view holds that the rapture will occur before a seven year tribulation; the “mid-tribulational rapture” view places the rapture in the middle of a seven year tribulation; the “post-tribulational” view holds that the rapture will occur after the tribulation.

Tribulation: This refers to the intensified persecution against God’s people preceding Christ’s second advent. Dispensationalists understand it as a seven year persecution against the Jewish nation, while amillennialists see it as a persecution of unknown duration against the church.

¹ *The End Times: A Study on Eschatology and Millennialism: A Report of the Commission on Theology and Church Relations of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, September 1989. p. 53.*

Kingdom of God Chart
Distinguishing the Four Approaches Based on Defining the Kingdom

