

Dictionary of Eschatological Terms

1. **Advent** - The coming of the Lord. Derived from the Latin *adventum* which is a translation of the Greek word *parousia*. May refer to the first or second advent. For example, according to posttribulationists, the second advent is found in 1 Thess. 4:15.
2. **Amillennialism** - The belief that the thousand years of Rev. 20 are not literal. Eternity starts with the second coming of Christ.
3. **Apostasy** - Departure from the faith or the truth. The Greek word *apostasia* is translated as "falling away" in 2 Thess. 2:3. Some pretribulationists believe this "departure" to be the pretrib rapture, but that view is considered aberrant by even most pretribulationists.
4. **Blessed Hope** - Although confused with the rapture (q.v.) by many, the blessed hope (Titus 2:13) is clearly the hope of eternal life (Titus 1:2, 3:7).
5. **British Israelism** - Unorthodox (and aberrant) belief that the Anglo-Saxon race are descendants of the ten lost tribes of Israel.
6. **Calculator** - An electronic device required to compute the time from the supposed decree of Nehemiah 2 (c. 445 B.C.) to the Cross (c. 32 A.D.) by multiplying 483 times 360 then dividing the product by 365.25 in order to arrive at the actual number of solar years (476) between those two dates. Virtually required for dispensationalists.
7. **Christ** - The anointed one. Taken from the Greek *christou* which is the translation of the Hebrew word Messiah.
8. **Day of Christ** - Synonymous for Day of the Lord, although some dispensationalists attempt to distinguish the two. According to Paul, writing in 2 Thess. 2, this day (the coming of the Lord and our gathering unto Him) will follow the apostasy ("a falling away") and the revealing of the man of sin.
9. **Day of the Lord** - Synonymous for Day of Christ, although some dispensationalists attempt to distinguish the two. See Day of Christ.
10. **Dispensationalism** - Theological system largely developed by J. N. Darby in which the Church is to be distinguished from Israel, and the seventieth week of Daniel 9 is thought to be yet future.
11. **Eisegesis** - Reading into the text one's own interpretation, rather than letting the Bible speak for itself. Compare to *exegesis*.
12. **Eschatology** - The study of last things, such as the death, judgment, and the second coming of Christ. Taken from the Greek word *eschatos*.
13. **Exegesis** - The proper means of Biblical interpretation, allowing the text to speak for itself. Compare to *eisegesis*.
14. **Full Preterism** - The belief that the events of 70 A.D. were the second coming of the Lord in judgment, and that there will be no future second coming.
15. **Futurism** - The belief that the prophecies of the book of Revelation are to be fulfilled in the future.
16. **Great Tribulation** - According to dispensationalism, the last half of the tribulation period. According to preterism, the siege and fall of Jerusalem. According to Jesus, the time preceding His second coming.
17. **Hermeneutic** - The art of expounding the Scriptures.
18. **Historicism** - The belief that the prophecies of the book of Revelation have been fulfilled throughout history.
19. **Jew** - Technically, a descendant of the patriarch Judah. Typically, a descendant of Israel. According to Romans 2:28-29, being a Jew is by circumcision "of the heart, in the spirit."
20. **Kingdom of God** - Synonymous for kingdom of heaven, although some dispensationalists attempted to distinguish the terms. For example, Paul preached the grace of God, and the kingdom of God (Acts 20:24-25).
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22. **Last Trumpet** - As described in 1 Cor. 15:50-52, typically considered to be the same as the seventh trumpet of Rev. 11 and the trumpet of Matthew 24:29-31.
23. **Midtrib** - The dispensational view that the rapture (and thus a coming of the Lord) will be in the middle of the tribulation period. Also, midtribulation, midtribulational, midtribulationalism.
24. **Partial Preterism** - The belief that the events of 70 A.D. were a second coming of the Lord in judgment, but still expecting a future physical second coming.
25. **Postmillennialism** - The belief that the second coming of Christ will occur after the thousand years of Rev. 20.
26. **Posttrib** - The belief that Jesus is coming after the tribulation (Matthew 24:29-31) only. Also, posttribulation, posttribulational, posttribulationalism. Taken from the Latin *post tribulationem* as found in Matthew 24:29.
27. **Posttribber** - An affectionate term for an armchair posttribulationalist, to be distinguished from a posttribulational theologian. Also, postie, post toastie.
28. **Premillennialism** - The belief that the second coming of Christ will occur before the thousand years of Rev. 20. Some premillennialists are dispensational, and some are not.
29. **Preterism** - The belief that the prophecies of the book of Revelation were fulfilled in the first century A.D.
30. **Pretrib** - The belief that the rapture (and thus a coming of the Lord) will be before the tribulation. Also, pretribulation, pretribulational, pretribulationalism.
31. **Pretribber** - An affectionate term for an armchair pretribulationalist, to be distinguished from a pretribulational theologian.
32. **Prewrath** - The rapture view espoused chiefly by Robert von Kampen and Marvin Rosenthal which is dispensational, but yet sees the rapture of the church just before the second coming of Christ. Considered by many to be a variation of posttribulationalism.
33. **Prophetic Year** - As believed by dispensationalists, consisting of 12 30-day months, for a total of 360 days. Based largely on Genesis 7-8 in which five months are equated to one hundred fifty days (without regard to the Egyptian calendar known to Moses to consist of 12 30-day months with 5 intercalary days added to the end). Although used by dispensationalists to argue for the seventieth week being yet future, Africanus used a 354-day year (12 lunar months) to argue that the crucifixion occurred at the end of the seventieth week. See also solar year.
34. **Rapture** - That event described in 1 Thess. 4:17 as those who are "caught up" to meet the Lord in the air. The word "rapture" is from the Latin *rapiemur* in this passage. Many claim the rapture to include the dead in Christ rising, but that is inconsistent. The rapture includes only those who are "caught up." The Bible clearly teaches that the dead in Christ rise first before those who are alive and remain are "caught up."
35. **Second Advent** - The second coming of the Lord. Derived from the Latin *adventum* which is a translation of the Greek word *parousia*. For example, the second advent is found in 1 Thess. 4:15.
36. **Second Coming** - According to most, the future coming of the Lord.
37. **Seventieth Week** - According to dispensationalists, a future seven-year period preceding the second coming of Christ. According to all others (including many posttribulationalists), the seven-year period immediately following the first sixty-nine weeks of Daniel 9. Approximate dates are 26 A.D. to 33 A.D., with Christ being "cut off" (crucified) in the middle or at the end.
38. **Solar Year** - A period of approximately 365.25 days. For example, from 458 B.C. to 26 A.D. was 483 solar years. See also prophetic year.
39. **Tribulation Period** - The dispensational description of a future 70th week of Daniel 9.