

# Growing Deep

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Intro to Eschatology guide

Eschatology is the study of the last things

Eschatomania: Reading and seeing the End Times in everything, making views on the end times the whole of theology

Eschatophobia: Fear of the end times

How is Eschatology categorized?

It mainly depends on how you read the book of Revelation and other part of prophetic literature in Scripture

Futuristic: events described are in the future.

Preterist: events took place at the time of the writing, they are now in the past

Historical: events were in the future at the time of the writing but refer to matters destined to take place throughout the history of the church

Symbolic/Idealist: events not to be thought in a time sequence, but refer to truths that are timeless in nature.

Questions to consider

Is the view of the future of life on earth primarily optimistic or pessimistic?

Is divine activity or human effort thought to be the agent of eschatological events?

Is the focus of eschatological belief this-worldly or otherworldly?

Does the particular view speak of hope for the church alone or for the human race in general?

Does the eschatology hold that we will come into benefits of the new age individually, or that their bestowal will be cosmic in character?

Is there a special place for the Jewish people in the future occurrences?

These big picture questions are important for us to consider as we dive further into our thoughts on the End Times

For our purposes today we will talk about two additional elements of Eschatology-  
Millennial and Tribulation views

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Millennial views:

**Postmillennialism**- this belief holds that the preaching of the gospel will be so successful that the entire world will be converted.

“Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven” will be actualized

Prominent after 312AD

Christ is not actually present during this reign

Based off passages: Psalm 47,72,100 Isaiah 45:22-25, Hosea 2:23, Matthew 24:14

- Main idea is that the reign of Christ will spread gradually but surely throughout the whole world

### **Premillennialism**

Reign of Christ on earth is approximately a thousand years

Christ is on earth for his reign, because of this it is seen in the future

Key Passage: Revelation 20:4-6

The millennium will not be an extension of trends already at work within the world. Instead, there will be a rather sharp break from conditions as we know find them.

Israel will have a special place in the millennium

Premillennialists hold that the millennium will be a tremendous change from what comes before it, the great tribulation

### **Amillennialism**

There will be no millennium, no earthly reign of Christ

The final judgement will immediately follow the second coming and issue directly in the final states of the righteous and the wicked.

Amillennialism struggles to explain Revelation 20:4-6, they look more at the book as a whole

The history of this view is difficult to trace

It is simpler in its presentation, but difficult to grasp overall

The biggest exegetical issue is the 2 resurrections.

Amillennialists do not usually engage in the type of eager searching for signs of the second coming that often characterizes premillennialists

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**Tribulation** views:

These views stem from premillennialism

**Pretribulation**- The faithful in Christ will be taken from earth prior to the tribulation

**Post-tribulation**- Christ will come for his church at the conclusion of the great tribulation

Where's the word 'rapture'?

Pretribulation believes it coming...any time

Post-tribulation doesn't even use the word

Other views: Mid-tribulation, partial rapture, imminent post-tribulation

Questions:

- 1) Why does this matter?
- 2) How does it shape my testimony moving forward?