

From Here to Eternity

*A Biblical Order of
Coming Events*

Understanding the Different Views

Unity in Eschatology

- Death (its reality & nature)
- The current existence of Heaven & Hell
- The Literal, Bodily Return of Jesus Christ
- The Resurrection of all the dead
- God's Judgment of all men (believers & unbelievers)
- The Eternal State

Distinctions in Eschatology

- The timing of the rapture of the church
- The nature of the Tribulation
- The nature of the millennium
- How many resurrections
- How many and what judgments
- The place of Israel in prophecy

Basic Views of Eschatology

- Postmillennialism
- Amillennialism
- Historic Premillennialism (Classic)
- Pre-tribulational Premillennialism (Dispensational)

* Following charts from Rose Book of Bible Charts

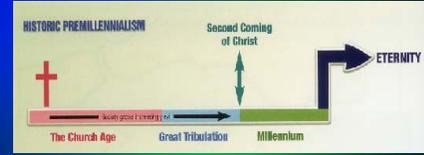
Postmillennialism



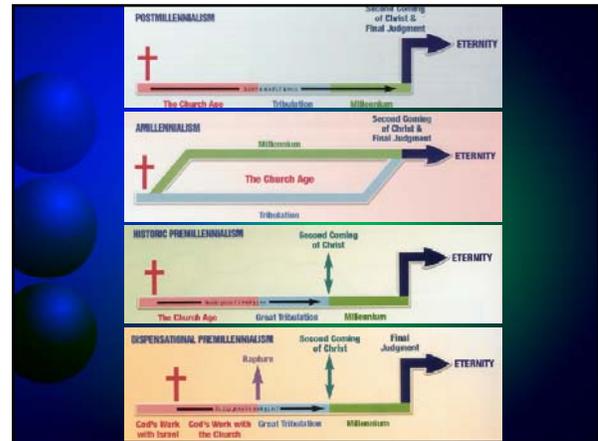
Amillennialism



Historic Premillennialism (Classic)



Pre-tribulational Premillennialism (Dispensational)



Creating a Biblical *Ordo Eschatos*

- **The Book of Revelation**
 - Rev. 1:19 – "Therefore write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after these things.
 - Prophetic or predictive prophecy when it was written
 - Various interpretative methods

Five Common Interpretative Approaches

- **1) Idealist (Symbolical)**
- **Definition:**
 - a timeless depiction of the cosmic struggle between the forces of good and evil; not predictive; by symbol, it teaches spiritual principles that should be true of the church in every age.
- **Objections:**
 - Disregards the clear prophetic claims
 - Complete Subjectivism

Five Common Interpretative Approaches

- 2) **Preterist**
- Definition:
 - a description of events already occurring in the 1st century throughout the Roman Empire, including the persecutions of Nero and the destruction of Jerusalem; only the last few chapters were predictive.
- Objections:
 - Open to complete subjectivism
 - Disregard for the book's direct claim to be prophecy (1:3; 22:7, 10, 18, 19)
 - In its extreme form it is heresy.
 - Hyper-preterism, full preterism, or realized eschatology.
 - 2nd Coming, the resurrection, and Great White Throne are all past events.
 - No prophecy remains unfulfilled
 - The existing universe is the New Heavens and the New Earth.
 - Cf. 2 Tim. 2:18 – Hymenaeus and Philetus.

Five Common Interpretative Approaches

- 3) **Historist**
- Definition:
 - a panorama of church history from the time of the apostles until the end of time.
- Objections:
 - Complete subjectivism
 - Disregard for the book's own internal timelines (11:2; 12:6, 14; 13:5)

Five Common Interpretative Approaches

- 4) **Recapitulationist**
- Definition:
 - “the seven sections of Revelation cover the period of the church age between Christ's first and second advents from repeated (but in some ways different) perspectives in ascending, climatic order, with special emphasis on end times.” Raymond
- Objections:
 - Subjectivism
 - Ignores a literal hermeneutic

Five Common Interpretative Approaches

- 5) **Futurist**
- Definition:
 - the events of 6-22 are predictive and are all yet in the future; literally and symbolically describe actual people and events.
- Support:
 - Consistent with prophetic claims throughout
 - Consistent with the devastating apocalyptic images
 - Built on the grammatical-historical approach
 - Consistent with the interpretation of the Early Church

The Basic Flow

- The Tribulation (6:1—19:10)
- The Second Coming (19:11-21)
- The Millennium (20:1-6)
- The Great White Throne (20:7-15)
- The New Heavens & New Earth (21:1—22:21)

Where Is the Church?

- 1-3 → the church is on earth; word *church* occurs 19x
- 4-5 → the church is in heaven (the elders represent the church)
- 19:1-10 → the church in heaven but returning with Christ
- 19:7 – the wife of the Lamb
- 19:11-21 → the church returns with Christ at His Second Coming.
- 21:9 → the wife of the Lamb
- 22:17 → the bride
- The implication: the church is caught away before the 2nd Coming.
- When?
 - not on earth from the end of chapter 3 until the 2nd Coming in chapter 19

A Final Draft of the Ordo Eschatos

- Death
- Intermediate State
 - Related issues: purgatory; soul sleep
- Rapture
 - Related issues: resurrection; and Judgment Seat of Christ
- Tribulation (7 years)
 - Related issues: main characters – Beast, False Prophet, & Satan; Daniel's 70th week; Seals, Trumpets, and Bowls
- 2nd Coming
 - Related issues: Armageddon; salvation of Israel; Judgment of the Nations;
- Millennium (1,000 years)
 - Related events: Millennial Temple (?); role of Israel and the church;
- Great White Throne
 - Related issues: one judgment or several; who is judged;
- Eternal State
 - Related issues: New Heavens & Earth; lake of fire; annihilationism

A Biblical *Ordo Eschatos*



Applying our *Ordo Eschatos*

- An Impetus to Holiness (2 Pet. 3:11-14, 17-18)
- A Cause for Worship
 - God's future plan for the salvation of Israel calls for the adoration of God's Wisdom (Rom. 11:33ff).
 - God's Glory is the stated goal of the plan (2 Pet. 3:18)
 - Other examples from Revelation

A Cause for Worship

- God's Power
 - 11:17-18 – "We give You thanks, O Lord God, the Almighty, who are and who were, because You have taken Your great power and have begun to reign. 18 "And the nations were enraged, and Your wrath came, and the time came for the dead to be judged, and the time to reward Your bond-servants the prophets and the saints and those who fear Your name, the small and the great, and to destroy those who destroy the earth."
- God's Holiness
 - 15:3-4 – they sang the song of Moses, the bond-servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, "Great and marvelous are Your works, O Lord God, the Almighty; Righteous and true are Your ways, King of the nations! 4 "Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify Your name? For You alone are holy; For ALL THE NATIONS WILL COME AND WORSHIP BEFORE YOU, FOR YOUR RIGHTEOUS ACTS HAVE BEEN REVEALED."
- God's Justice
 - 16:5 – I heard the angel of the waters saying, "Righteous are You, who are and who were, O Holy One, because You judged these things."

Applying our *Ordo Eschatos*

- An Impetus to Holiness
- A Cause of Worship
- A Reason for Courage (2 Tim. 4:18)

Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna

