

Eschatology Cheat Sheet

Eschatology: from the Greek word *eschatos* – *last*. Eschatology simply put is the study of Last Things. It is the section of systematic theology focused on death, judgment, the final destiny of the soul and humankind, and the return of Jesus Christ. Various forms: Eschatological – Eschatologically – Eschaton

The Church Age: the time period from the Ascension of Jesus until Jesus returns at the 2nd Coming.

Eschatological Ideas:

- Preterist View – Holds the events of Revelation as taking place at the time of the writer therefore the content of the book refers exclusively to events in the past. Some amillennialists and postmillennialists.
- Historical View – Holds that the events of Revelation were future at the time of writing and refer to events destined to take place throughout the history of the church. This means one must look to the past to see where the content of Revelation has already been fulfilled.
- Symbolic/Idealist View – Holds the idea that the events described in Revelation must not be examined in a chronological sequence at all but instead refer to timeless truths which are always applicable to the church rather than historical occurrences.
- Futuristic View – Holds that most of the events described in Revelation were future at the time of writing and are still future to the present day. This view holds that many of these events are clustered together and will come to fulfillment at the end of history.

The Millennium: How do we make sense of the 1,000-year reign of Christ?

- Historically various groups of believers can be found holding each of these three ideas.
- Post-Millennialism: **The belief that Jesus returns after the millennium. The millennium is a time in which the gospel will continue to grow throughout the world culminating in the majority of the world submitting to Jesus. Rests on the belief that the preaching of the gospel will be so successful that the world will be converted (Erickson).** Very prominent in the first 3 centuries of the church. Is popular when the church seems to be winning in the world.
- Amillennialism: **The belief that the millennium is symbolic of Christ's present reign in and thru His people. Treats the 7 years of Tribulation as a symbol of the calamities and persecutions found throughout church history.**
- Pre-Millennialism: **The belief that the millennium is a future event and Jesus returns for the final time (the 2nd Coming) before the inauguration of the millennium.** Was likely the dominant view of the early church. Justin Martyr and Irenaeus held this view.
 - Historical Pre-Millennialism – Post-Trib
 - Dispensational Pre-Millennialism

The Rapture: When is the return of Christ? How many times does Christ return?

- Pre-Tribulation – There is a secret return of Jesus Christ for those who are saved – i.e. the Church. This takes place before the initiation of the 7 years of the Tribulation.
- Pre-Wrath – There is a secret return of Jesus Christ for those who are saved – i.e. the Church that takes place before the wrath of God and the judgments of God are poured out in the later half of the 7 years of the Tribulation.
- Post-Tribulation – There is one return of Christ for His people – i.e. The Jew and Gentile Believers – following the conclusion of the 7 years of the Tribulation.

The Hard Facts:

- Definite Literal Event
- Unknown to Most
- Nature of the Return
 - Personal
 - Bodily

- Visible
- Unexpected and Sudden
- Triumphant and Glorious
- The Imminence of the Second Coming

Personal Application:

- We must not speculate.
- We must long for the return of Christ.
- We must live in light of Christ's return.

Revelation Outline Reference: "Write...the Things that Will Be" – An Unveiling of the Future: [Rev. 4:1-22:6](#)

- A Heavenly Scene: [4:1-5:14](#)
- The Seal Judgments: [6:1-8:1](#)
- The Trumpet Judgments: [8:2-11:19](#)
- An Interpretive Interlude: [12:1-14:20](#)
- The Bowls of Wrath Judgments: [15:1-16:21](#)
- The Judgment of Apostate Religion: [17:1-18](#)
- The Judgment of Great Babylon: [18:1-24](#)
- The Return of Christ: [19:1-21](#)
- The Millennial Age: [20:1-10](#)
- The Judgment of the Great White Throne: [20:11-15](#)
- The Heavenly Kingdom: [21:1-22:6](#)