

## **A Glossary of Terms and Definitions for Millennialism**

**Antinomianism** – Christians are not bound by the law. Leads to license.

**Arminianism** – Theology based on the thought of James Arminius (1560-1609 AD). (1) Man is not totally depraved, having the ability to will to do good and to conform to God's will in his life; (2) Man's salvation is conditional; based upon man's choosing to receive Christ; (3) Christ died for all men equally on the cross; making salvation possible; (4) Man can resist and ultimately thwart God's grace of salvation; (5) it is possible that the a saved person may fall away from the faith and into eternal damnation. Man's will is one of the key causes of regeneration.

**Calvinism** – Theology based upon the Scriptures and the historic teachings of the church with Augustine (354-450 AD) and John Calvin (1509-1564 AD) providing key systematic thought: (1) total depravity of man (radical depravity); (2) unconditional election; (3) limited atonement (particular redemption); (4) irresistible grace; (5) perseverance of the saints. The sovereignty of God is central in Calvinism. (Also known as "the doctrines of grace"). God's will is the cause of regeneration unto faith in Christ.

**Church Age** – The period of time from the start of the Church (Pentecost – Acts 2) until the rapture of the church to heaven (1 Thessalonians 4:17).

**Covenant Theology** ("Covenantalism" - in contrast to Dispensational Theology) – A framework of interpreting and understanding the Scriptures that: (1) makes the church and Israel interchangeable, or has the NT church replacing OT Israel; (2) holds to a generally more allegorical or symbolic hermeneutic in interpreting prophetic scripture, and (3) believes that God's underlying purpose in the world is the salvation of man (soteriological).

**Daniel's Seventieth Week** – The time period referred to in Daniel 9:24-27 that corresponds to the seven-year period of tribulation following the rapture of the Church and just prior to the Millennial reign of Christ on the earth.

**Dispensation** – Not simply a period of time, but different administrations (economies, managements, dispensations) in the eternal outworking of God's redemptive purpose. However, the way of salvation by the grace of God through faith in Jesus Christ remains the same in each dispensation.

**Dispensationalism** (or Dispensational Theology - in contrast to Covenant Theology or "Covenantalism") – A framework of interpreting and understanding the Scriptures that: (1) maintains a distinction between Israel and the church, (2) holds to a literal hermeneutic in interpreting prophetic scripture, and (3) believes that God's underlying purpose in the world is His own glory (doxological).

**Ecclesiology** - The doctrine of the church.

**Eschatology** – The study of "the last things."

**Hermeneutics** – Study of the principles of interpretation. Hermeneutics establishes the principles by which exegesis is practiced.

- **eisegesis** - an interpretation, especially of Scripture, that expresses the interpreter's own ideas, bias, or the like, rather than the meaning of the text.
- **exegesis** – an interpretation of Scripture that seeks to express the authorial intent. It is bringing out the meaning of the text from the text(s).

**Millennium** – 1,000-year period of time. The length is based upon a literal reading and understanding of Revelation 20:4-5

**Millennialism** - Literally, millennialism refers to the belief, expressed in *Revelation 20*, that Christ will establish a one-thousand year reign of the saints on earth before the Last Judgment. More broadly defined, millennialists expect a time of supernatural peace and abundance *here on earth*. There are three primary millennial views:

- **Premillennialism** – Christ will rapture His church prior to a literal 1,000 year millennial reign.
  - **Historic Premillennialism** – Is typically post-tribulational and makes little or no distinction between Israel and the church.
  - **Futuristic Premillennialism** – Uses a consistent grammatical–historical approach to both the Old and New Testaments whether or not the subject matter is eschatological or not.
- **Amillennialism** – Teaches that the church is now spiritual Israel, having inherited God’s promises to Abraham and David that were forfeited by Israel because of continued disobedience.
- **Postmillennialism** – Teaches that the kingdom of God is currently being advanced with increasing triumph in the world through the gospel preaching and the ministry of the church.

**Preterism** - Interprets passages in Daniel and in Revelation 6-18 in an historic sense, i.e., that Revelation 6-18 should be interpreted as past events in church history rather than future ones.

**Rapture** – the church being “caught up in the air” with Jesus (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17). There are three views on the timing of the rapture:

- Pre-tribulationary Rapture – the church is caught up with Jesus prior to the seven year tribulation (traditional dispensational/futuristic premillennial view).
- Mid-tribulationary Rapture (Pre-wrath) – the church is caught up at the mid-point of the tribulation, prior to the great wrath of God being unleashed. Some hold to a more ambiguous “pre-wrath” view which means the church will be caught up just prior to the great wrath of God being poured out, which may begin sooner than the mid-point of the tribulation.
- Post-tribulationary Rapture – the church will be caught up with Jesus at the end of the events of the tribulation, just prior to the start of the Millennial Kingdom (most often the view of Historic Premillennialists).

**Soteriology** – The doctrine of salvation.

**Supersessionism (Replacement theology)** – the belief that the church has superseded Israel as God’s chosen people of blessing.

**Tribulation** – a future seven year period on earth where God punishes the nation of Israel as well as the Gentile nations for their unbelief.

**Typology** - a method of biblical interpretation whereby an element found in the Old Testament is seen to prefigure one found in the New Testament.