

An aerial photograph of a zebra crossing on a paved road. The crossing consists of alternating black and white horizontal stripes. Several pedestrians are walking across the crossing, and their long shadows are cast onto the pavement, indicating a low sun position. The pedestrians are dressed in casual attire, including t-shirts, shorts, and hats. One person is holding a black umbrella, and another is holding a blue umbrella. The overall scene is brightly lit, suggesting a sunny day.

LAST DAYS LIVING

A STUDY IN I & II THESSALONIANS

**“A Primer for Eschatology”
(Part I)**

Selected Scriptures

*He has made everything beautiful in its time.
Also, he has put eternity into man's heart,
yet so that he cannot find out what God has
done from the beginning to the end.*

Ecclesiastes 3:11

*Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of
this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear,
and who keep what is written in it,
for the time is near.*

Revelation 1:3

- To build hope
- To confirm your salvation

Reasons for Studying Eschatology

- 5 Disclaimers
- Defining the Terms
- The Primary Views within Eschatology
- Learning to Triage Doctrine

Headings for This Study

1. The only consensus within eschatology is that there is no consensus.

5 Disclaimers

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2. There is not a single verse or passage that answers all our questions about eschatology.

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3. Dogmatism is optional; charity is not optional.

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5 Disclaimers

“It is my firm belief that the angels are getting ready, putting on their armor and girding their swords about them, for the last day is already breaking, and the angels are preparing for battle, when they will overthrow the Turks (Muslims) and hurl them, along with the pope, to the bottom of hell. The world will perish shortly.”



Martin Luther

1. The only consensus within eschatology is that there is no consensus.
2. There is not a single verse or passage that answers all our questions about eschatology.
3. Dogmatism is optional; charity is not optional.
4. Sequence or chronology is not as important as being ready.
5. Interpreting Scripture within its context must be an essential commitment.

5 Disclaimers

*¹⁰ Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully,
¹¹ inquiring what person or time the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories.*

I Peter 1:10-11

12 It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in the things that have now been announced to you through those who preached the good news to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels long to look.

I Peter 1:12

1. Rapture: from the Greek word *harpzo*, meaning “to take by force” or “to catch up or away”; from Latin word *raptura*; the removal of the church from earth (I Thess 4:17; I Cor 15:52; John 14:3)
2. Millennium: from the Latin word *mille*, meaning “thousand” and *annum*, meaning “year” (Rev 20); either 1,000 literal years or symbolic reign for a “long period of time”

Defining the Terms

3. Tribulation: a future 7-year period of divine judgment on the earth or an ongoing form of God's judgment on the earth
4. Day of the Lord: a specific time of God's judgment; could be over a nation, a people, or a climactic day of judgment

Defining the Terms

5. Second Advent: the Second Coming of Christ
6. Preterism: from the Latin word *praeteritus*, meaning “passed by”; all passages dealing with tribulation or Jesus’ return were fulfilled around A.D. 70

Defining the Terms

7. Dispensationalism: views history as ages ordained by God for the affairs of the world in which Israel and the church are viewed as having separate programs given by God to relate to man and not different paths of salvation
8. Covenantalism: views history through a series of covenants

Defining the Terms

1. Amillennialism

- Formed by Augustine, who introduced allegorical interpretation
- “a” (meaning “no”) + “mille” (meaning “thousand”)
- Believes a spiritualized reign of Christ right now that began when Jesus defeated sin at the cross/tomb
- Church = Israel
- Current age gets worse and worse
- Believes in literal, bodily return of Christ

3 Main Views on the Millennium

- Inconsistent hermeneutics
- Does Satan seem bound?

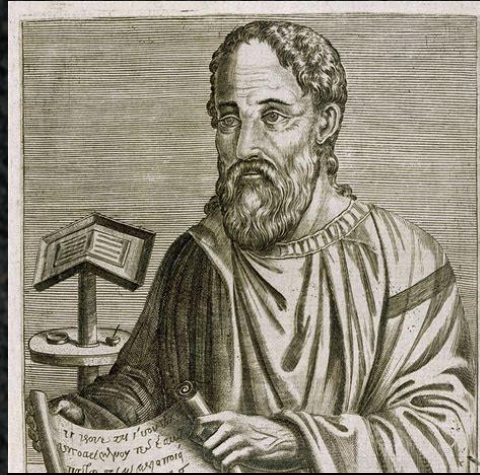
Critiques of Amillennialism



Leon Morris



J.I. Packer



Eusebius



Augustine



William
Hendriksen



Louis
Berkhof



Abraham
Kuyper



Sam
Storms

1. Amillennialism

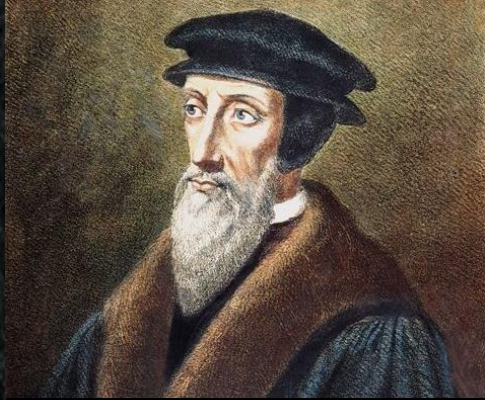
2. Postmillennialism

- Developed in the 1600's by Daniel Whitby
- Sees God's kingdom extended through preaching the Gospel and world becoming more Christianized (a "golden era")
- "post" (meaning "after")
- Jesus returns after a symbolic millennium ends.
- "Thousand" refers to a long period of time.
- A.D. 70 – fulfillment of many prophecies
- 2 branches: liberal (or social Gospel) and evangelical

3 Main Views on the Millennium

- Date of writing for Revelation
- Is the world getting better?

Critiques of Postmillennialism



John
Calvin



Jay
Adams



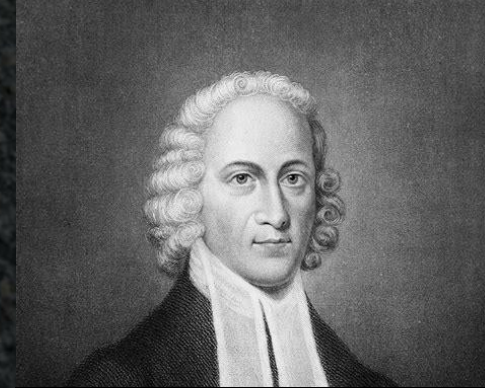
John
Owen



John
Murray



Matthew
Henry



Jonathan
Edwards



B.B
Warfield



John
and Charles
Wesley



R.C.
Sproul



Charles
Spurgeon



George
Whitefield



Stephen
Charnock