

The End Times

Biblical View

Premillennialism

Not found in the Bible

Kingdom Established

Jesus promised to establish His kingdom (the church)

Matthew 16:18–19

Jesus established His kingdom

(the church) Acts 2:38–42

Temple destroyed, A.D. 70

Church of Christ

The world's last day will be quite eventful. All these things will occur:

- The Lord's return (Revelation 1:7)
- The dead raised (John 5:28–29)
- The living changed (1 Corinthians 15:51)
- The earth burned up (2 Peter 3:10–13)
- Humanity judged (Matthew 25:31–46)
- The kingdom given to God (1 Corinthians 15:24)
- The wicked separated (Matthew 25:41)
- The saved go home (1 Thessalonians 4:15–17)

Jesus' Death

Tribulations, or believers raptured and rewarded

Jesus returns and establishes a one-thousand year earthly kingdom

Kingdom Delayed

Tribulation

One-thousand Year Earthly Kingdom

Jesus returns; the world is destroyed by fire

2 Peter 3:10

All people are judged

Those in Christ
(John 14:6)

Those not in Christ
(Matthew 7:23)

Eternity

Heaven

Hell

The End of the World

People have attempted to predict the end of the world for centuries. The list of those that have come up with dates or deadlines includes denominational founders such as Martin Luther, explorers such as Christopher Columbus, scientists such as Isaac Newton, and novelists such as Tim LaHaye, as well as cult leaders, popes, and modern religious leaders.

Each prediction fell short because, "Of that day and that hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father" (Mark 13:32; cf. Matthew 24:36-44, 25:13-19).

Premillennialism is a popular false end-times doctrine originating in the late eighteenth century. While specifics vary between groups, premillennialists share the general idea that Christ delayed establishing His kingdom on His first visit since men rejected Him. He will one day return to try again. Current world events are said to show that time is approaching. Ahead of this, there will be seven years of tribulation on earth. To avoid this tribulation, soon Christians will be suddenly snatched away from earth. After the tribulation, the theory goes, Christ will return with these saints and reign a 1000 years on earth.

Premillennialists misapply figurative language from Revelation, Matthew, and Daniel, as predicting modern events. Revelation 1:1 says, though, that the book is about events which would "shortly come to pass." Its predictions had to do with events now long passed. Matthew 24:4-35 discusses signs that would occur before the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem in A.D. 70. Daniel's prophecy applies to first-century events, not end-time events.

There will be no warning signs of Christ's second coming (Matthew 24:36-25:46). It will happen in the "twinkling of an eye" (1 Corinthians 15:52). Jesus will not again set foot on earth, but He will come as close as the clouds to gather His people (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18). The earth will be destroyed the same day (2 Peter 3:10-13). Everyone will know that it happened (1 Thessalonians 4:16), and there will be no second chances (Matthew 7:23).

"Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness" (2 Peter 3:11).

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