

# The Meaning of Some Prophetic Terms

## Terms Relating to the Kingdom of God

### **Millennium**

Derived from the Latin meaning "1,000 years." Refers to the 1,000 year period of the Kingdom of God (which is itself eternal) that begins shortly after Daniel's 70th week and ends with Satan's final rebellion.

### **Premillennial**

Refers to the concept that Jesus Christ will return to the earth before the millennium for the purpose of establishing His Kingdom on earth.

### **Postmillennial**

Refers to the concept that Jesus Christ will return to earth after the millennium, which is conceived to be fulfilled in the Church's conversion of the world to Christ. The 1,000 years is taken to be symbolical of the duration of the church's fulfillment of its mission to evangelize the earth. This view died a quick death (with the exception of a few die-hards) after World War I. It is being revived today by those who reject normal interpretation of Scripture.

### **Amillennial**

Refers to the concept that there is no millennium, but that the Kingdom of God is found in the Church. The 1,000 years mentioned in Revelation is taken by this view to be symbolical rather than literal.

## Terms Relating to Daniel's 70th Week

### **The Tribulation**

Used in reference to the 7 years of Daniel's 70th week. Also called "The Great Tribulation." The best term is simply "Daniel's 70 Weeks."

### **Pretribulational**

Refers to the concept that the believer of the current age will be resurrected *prior* to Daniel's 70th week. Christ does not return to earth, but the believer meets Him in the air. Therefore, this "coming" of Christ is different than the 2nd coming of Christ to establish His Kingdom on earth.

### **Midtribulational**

Refers to the concept that the church will be resurrected at the *middle* of Daniel's 70th week. A virtually impossible position to hold, since it has both dispensational and covenantal elements involved in it. All views that have the resurrection of the believers of this age during the 70<sup>th</sup> week of Daniel ignore or wrongly interpret the "blessed hope" taught by Paul in Titus 2:11-13.

### **Posttribulational**

Refers to the concept that the church will be resurrected *after* Daniel's 70th week. This view makes Christ's coming for the believer of the current age the same as His coming to establish His Kingdom on earth. It presupposes a covenantal approach to Scripture, though some who claim to be dispensational hold it. The practical result is that no believers are left to enter the kingdom on earth, making it inconsistent with the premillennial view that most posttribulational believers accept.