

Dispensationalism — Terminology

Last Days — "The term is not to be thought of as a single calendar day, but as the entire period that will witness the final redemptive visitation of God in Christ" (Ladd 555).

"Many futurist scholars define the last days as the interval between the first and second advents of Christ, namely, the Christian era."

—— Brock Hollett, *Debunking Preterism: How Over-Realized Eschatology Misses the Not Yet of Bible Prophecy*, Kindle, (Morris Publishing, 2018), Location 3801.

"Those who hold this view contend that the last days arrived in an "already and not yet" sense with the first coming of Jesus Christ (1 Peter 1:20; Heb. 1:1-2), the arrival of the eschatological Spirit (Acts 2:16-17), the conversion of the gentiles (Acts 15:16), the appearance of false prophets and antichrists (1 John 2:18-19), the manifestation of increasing lawlessness (2 Tim. 3:1-9; 2 Peter 3:3), the outbreak of tribulation (Rev. 1:9), the arrival of the new creation (2 Cor. 5:17), and the like."

—— Brock Hollett, *Debunking Preterism: How Over-Realized Eschatology Misses the Not Yet of Bible Prophecy*, Kindle, (Morris Publishing, 2018), Location 3813.

Tribulation — Affliction, trouble, pressure, distress (John 16:33).

The Tribulation — The final seven years before Christ returns to the earth. Also referred to as Daniel's 70th week.

The Great Tribulation — The last 3½ years before Christ returns to the earth. This will be the most intense and difficult time of trouble the world has ever known (Matt. 24:21).

The Day of the Lord — A time when God directly intervenes in the affairs of men especially by judgment but also by way of blessing. It is often used in the Bible to describe the judgment and wrath of God poured out upon the world during the Tribulation period.

Isaiah 2:12 NASB

For the LORD of hosts will have a day of reckoning Against everyone who is proud and lofty And against everyone who is lifted up, That he may be abased.

Isaiah 10:3 NASB

Now what will you do in the day of punishment, And in the devastation which will come from afar? To whom will you flee for help? And where will you leave your wealth?

Isaiah 13:6-16 NASB

Wail, for the day of the LORD is near! It will come as destruction from the Almighty. [7] Therefore all hands will fall limp, And every man's heart will melt. [8] They will be terrified, Pains and anguish will take hold of them; They will writhe like a woman in labor, They will look at one another in astonishment, Their faces aflame. [9] Behold, the day of the LORD is coming, Cruel, with fury and burning anger, To make the land a desolation; And He will exterminate its sinners from it. [10] For the stars of heaven and their constellations Will not flash forth their light; The sun will be dark when it rises And the moon will not shed its light. [11] Thus I will punish the world for its evil And the wicked for their iniquity; I will also put an end to the arrogance of the proud And abase the haughtiness of the ruthless. [12] I will make mortal man scarcer than pure gold And mankind than the gold of Ophir. [13] Therefore I will make the heavens tremble, And the earth will be shaken from its place At the fury of the LORD of hosts In the day of His burning anger. [14] And it will be that like a hunted gazelle, Or like sheep with none to gather them, They will each turn to his own people, And each one flee to his own land. [15] Anyone who is found will be thrust through, And anyone who is captured will fall by the sword. [16] Their little ones also will be dashed to pieces Before their eyes; Their houses will be plundered And their wives ravished.

Isaiah 34:8 NASB

For the LORD has a day of vengeance, A year of recompense for the cause of Zion.

Ezekiel 7:19 NASB

They will fling their silver into the streets and their gold will become an abhorrent thing; their silver and their gold will not be able to deliver them in the day of the wrath of the LORD. They cannot satisfy their appetite nor can they fill their stomachs, for their iniquity has become an occasion of stumbling.

Ezekiel 30:2-4 NASB

"Son of man, prophesy and say, 'Thus says the Lord GOD, "Wail, 'Alas for the day!' [3] "For the day is near, Even the day of the LORD is near; It will be a day of clouds, A time of doom for the nations. [4] "A sword will come upon Egypt, And anguish will be in Ethiopia; When the slain fall in Egypt, They take away her wealth, And her foundations are torn down.

Joel 1:15 NASB

Alas for the day! For the day of the LORD is near, And it will come as destruction from the Almighty.

Joel 2:1-11 NASB

Blow a trumpet in Zion, And sound an alarm on My holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, For the day of the LORD is coming; Surely it is near, [2] A day of darkness and gloom, A day of clouds and thick darkness. As the dawn is spread over the mountains, So there is a great and mighty people; There has never been anything like it, Nor will there be again after it To the years of many generations. [3] A fire consumes before them And behind them a flame burns. The land is like the garden of Eden before them But a desolate wilderness behind them, And nothing at all escapes them. [4] Their appearance is like the appearance of horses; And like war horses, so they run. [5] With a noise as of chariots They leap on the tops of the mountains, Like the crackling of a flame of fire consuming the stubble, Like a mighty people arranged for battle. [6] Before them the people are in anguish; All faces turn pale. [7] They run like mighty men, They climb the wall like soldiers; And they each march in line, Nor do they deviate from their paths. [8] They do not crowd each other, They march everyone in his path; When they burst through the defenses, They do not break ranks. [9] They rush on the city, They run on the wall; They climb into the houses, They enter through the windows like a thief. [10] Before them the earth quakes, The heavens tremble, The sun and the moon grow dark And the stars lose their brightness. [11] The LORD utters His voice before His army; Surely His camp is very great, For strong is he who carries out His word. The day of the LORD is indeed great and very awesome, And who can endure it?

Joel 2:30-32 NASB

"I will display wonders in the sky and on the earth, Blood, fire and columns of smoke. [31] "The sun will be turned into darkness And the moon into blood Before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes. [32] "And it will come about that whoever calls on the name of the LORD Will be delivered; For on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem There will be those who escape, As the LORD has said, Even among the survivors whom the LORD calls.

Zephaniah 1:15 NASB

A day of wrath is that day, A day of trouble and distress, A day of destruction and desolation, A day of darkness and gloom, A day of clouds and thick darkness,

Zechariah 14:1 NASB

Behold, a day is coming for the LORD when the spoil taken from you will be divided among you.

2 Peter 3:10 NASB

But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up.

Revelation 16:14 NASB

for they are spirits of demons, performing signs, which go out to the kings of the whole world, to gather them together for the war of the great day of God, the Almighty.

Daniel's 70th Week — Based on Daniel 9:24-27. This refers to the final seven years before Christ returns to the earth (the "week" being a period of seven years, not seven days).

The Rapture — This term is derived from a Latin verb which was used to translate the Greek verb *harpaz* ("caught up") found in 1 Thessalonians 4:17. This Greek verb means to be snatched away, taken away suddenly, quickly removed by force from one place to another, as when Philip was caught away to another place (Acts 8:39) or when the Lord Jesus was suddenly taken up to heaven at the time of the ascension (Rev. 12:5). When Christ returns for His Church, believers will be "caught up," and suddenly taken from earth to heaven (compare John 14:3).

Pre-Tribulation Rapture — The Church will be raptured before the seven year Tribulation begins. Thus the Church will pass through none of the Tribulation. This is the correct, Biblical view as will be demonstrated in this paper.

Mid-Tribulation Rapture — The Church will be raptured at the midway point of the Tribulation, 3½ years before the Lord returns to the earth. This view teaches that the Church will pass through half of the Tribulation.

Pre-Wrath Rapture — The Church will be raptured approximately midway through the second half of the Tribulation, or about 1½ or 2 years before the Lord returns to the earth. This view teaches that the Church will pass through three-quarters of the Tribulation.

Post-Tribulation Rapture — The Church will be raptured at the end of the Tribulation period at the time when the Lord returns to the earth. This view teaches that the Church will pass through all of the Tribulation.