

The Day of the Lord.


Personal eschatology: death, heaven, hell etc.

Universal eschatology: the Return of Christ.

Parousia: Coming. 2 Thess. 2:1

Ephiphaneia: Appearance. 2 Thess. 2:8

Apokalupsis. Reveal. 2 Thess 1:7



Jesus will come again. 319 times in the Bible

- Jude vs 14,15
- Rev 22:20

He will come in majesty and glory

- 2 Thess 1:10

His coming will affect :

- All people Rev 20:12
- All creation Rev 21:1
- All the church Rev 19:7



Certain things will precede Christ's Return:

- Israel will be saved. Romans 11;26
- Antichrist will arise. 1 John 4:3. The man of lawlessness, 2 Thess 2:3. The Beast, Rev 13
- The gospel will go to all nations. Matt 24:14

Depending on how we interpret this these things could have been fulfilled already.

The Return of Jesus when he gathers his church is often referred to as the Rapture. See 1 Thess 4:16f.

There two main views about this:

- **Pre-Tribulation Rapture.** There will be a period of great tribulation upon the earth (7 years) when the antichrist is dominant. However before this occurs the church will be secretly raptured by Christ and therefore avoids the great tribulation. At the end of the tribulation Christ will return to the earth with his church. This is a 'modern' view dating from about 1830 and has been popularised by the Left Behind series of books in recent years.
- **Post-Tribulation Rapture.** The church will pass through the period of the great tribulation and Christ will return to gather his church at the end of that period. This is the long term, classical view.
- A minority view popularised by Watchman Nee is the Mid-Tribulation (after 3.5 years). This leaves the church in the tribulation but also gets the church out of the tribulation.

The Millennium. Literally: 1000 years.

Crucial to this debate is Revelation 20:1-6

There are 4 main views:

- Dispensational Pre-Millennialism. History - Rapture - Tribulation - Return - 1000 years - Judgement - New Creation.
- **Classical Pre-Millennialism.** History - Tribulation - Return - 1000 years - Judgement - New Creation
- Post-Millennialism. Tribulation AD 70 - History - Golden Age(1000 years) - Return - New Creation
- **A-Millennialism.** Millennium - Tribulation - Return - Judgement - New Creation

The real debate is probably between the Classic Pre-Millennial and A-Millennial views. Take note of the similarities.

