

## GLOSSARY OF PROPHETIC TERMS

**Abaddon:** The Hebrew name (“destruction”) of the angel of the Abyss and the leader of the locusts. His name in Greek was *Apollyon*. This name is used in the Old Testament to mean hell (Rev 9:11).

**Abomination of Desolation:** This event occurs when the Antichrist enters the future rebuilt temple in Jerusalem and demands to be worshipped as god (Dan 9:27; Matt 24:16-22; Mark 13:14-18). This will result in worldwide Jewish persecution. The term “desolation” is used in the Old Testament to depict the condition of Israel and its land as a result of desecration and exile (Lev 26:34-35; 2 Chron 30:7; 36:21; Ps 73:19; Jer 4:7).

**The Abyss:** The origin of the locusts and the first Beast, and the prison of the Dragon (Rev 9:1,11; 20:3).

**Annihilationism:** The theory that unbelievers are not punished eternally after death, but are annihilated so that they simply cease to exist.

**Antichrist:** *Anti* means “against” or “in place of.” Antichrist, therefore, may refer generally to any apostate teacher who is against Christ or who claims to be Christ (Matt 24:23-24; 1 John 2:18; 4:3). The Antichrist refers to the final and horrible world ruler of the tribulation. He is one who stands both against Christ and who seeks to usurp Christ’s place as the False Messiah of the Jews (1 John 4:3b; Rev 13:1-10).

- **The Beast:** This title applies to both a man and his governmental system (Rev 13:1-10; 16:13; Dan 2:40-43; 7:23-26; 8:23-27; 9:27; 11:36-45). The system is the revived imperial form of the Old Roman Empire, which is a consolidation of ten European countries into one 10-nation confederation. But this system is headed up and controlled by a Satan-possessed man from whom the system gets its character and beastly nature.
- **The False Prophet:** While the Beast is primarily a political figure (though he later becomes religious in that he seeks to be worshipped and claims to be God), the False Prophet is religious and promotes the ministry and person of the Beast (Rev 13:11-18). Since the first Beast is Satan-possessed, this forms the unholy trinity, Satan, the Beast, and the False Prophet. Satan is to the Beast what the Father is to the Son, and the False Prophet is to the Beast what the Holy Spirit is to Christ.
- **The Great Harlot:** This is the religious system, the mother-child cult, and the mother of all harlotry stemming from the time of ancient Babylon. This false religion will join up with the Antichrist and become a great ecumenical, one-world religious system of the tribulation (Rev 17:1-11).

**Apocalypse:** A term sometimes used for the book of Revelation since the word revelation comes from the Greek word *apocalupsis*, meaning “an unveiling, revelation.”

**Armageddon:** A battle that will occur during the final days of the great tribulation after the pouring out of the bowls of judgment (Rev 16). The battle foes are the nations of the world, under the leadership of the Antichrist vs. Israel and the people of God.

**Babylon:** The name of an evil city and empire in the sixth century B.C. In Revelation, the term serves as a code name for the center of commercialism and false religion (Rev 17-18).

**Book of Life:** Jesus' book filled with the names of people whom He purchased with His precious blood (Rev. 3:5; 13:8; 17:8; 20:12, 15; 21:27; cf. Luke 10:20; Phil 4:3).

**Daniel's 70<sup>th</sup> Week:** This is another name for the tribulation. It refers to the last seven years of the seventy weeks of years (or 490 years) prophesied concerning the nation Israel in Daniel 9:24-27. The seventy weeks of years concerns God's program for the nation, beginning with the time of Daniel and extending to the second advent of Christ. The first sixty-nine weeks (483 years) were from 445 BC to the time of Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem (29 AD). The last week (seven years) is yet to be fulfilled and can't be until the fullness of the Gentiles is complete and the church is removed by means of the rapture. It will begin with the signing of the peace treaty with Israel by the prince that will come, the final world ruler who rises out of the revived Roman Empire (Dan 9:226-27).

**Day of Christ:** The day of Christ (1 Cor 1:8; 5:5; 2 Cor 1:14; Phil 1:6, 10; 2:16) is that period of time, which begins with the rapture of the church (1 Thess 4:13-18) and includes the events that follow in heaven (e.g., the judgment seat of Christ, the marriage of the Lamb, etc.).

**Day of God:** The events of the day of God include the dissolving of the old heavens and earth (2 Pet 3:10-14). This name is also used of the war described in Revelation 16:14 and consisting of several battles, beginning with Antichrist's campaign into Egypt (Dan 11:40-45), including the siege of Jerusalem (Zech 14:2) as well as the final battle of Armageddon (Rev 14:16).

**Day of the Lord:** This is the period of time, which begins with the tribulation and extends through the millennial reign of Christ on earth through the destruction of the heavens and the earth and into the ushering in of the new heavens and earth and the eternal state (see 2 Pet 3:10). This day begins as a thief (1 Thess 5:2; 2 Pet 3:10), being instituted by the signing of the peace treaty of Daniel 9:27, with mankind believing a new time of peace and safety has been ushered in.

**Dispensationalism:** A system of theology, which takes into account the different programs of God and the different ways He has dealt with man.

**The Dragon:** The great red dragon appears in heaven (Rev 12:3). He is called Satan and the Devil. The archangel Michael defeats the Dragon in heaven and casts him out (Rev 12:3-17; 20:1-10).

**Eschatology:** The doctrine or study of "last things" or "things to come." The word eschatology comes from the Greek, *eschatos*, meaning "last." As used theologically, this word refers to those truths of Scripture that pertain to the end times, the coming of the Lord, the rapture, the tribulation, the millennium, etc.

**The Four Creatures:** The four creatures, or the four living creatures, are presented in Revelation as beings that are in the presence of God (Rev 5:6-8). The first creature was like a lion, the second was like a calf, the third was like a man, and the fourth was like an eagle. Each of them had six wings and many eyes. Their main task seems to be to give praise to God (see Ezek 1:5-20).

**The Four Horsemen:** Four riders let loose one by one as the first four seals of the scroll are broken. The first was a conqueror on a white horse. The second was on a red horse and caused slaughter. The third was on a black horse and was associated with commerce. The fourth was called death and rode on a pale horse (Rev 6:1-8).

**Fullness of the Gentiles:** This refers to the completion of God's purpose in the church age, during which time God is calling out the members of His church from among the Gentiles (Acts 15:14; Rom 11:7-32; Eph 1:22-23).

**Great White Throne Judgment:** The judgment of all the unsaved that follows the millennial reign of Christ. Its purpose is not to determine whether one is saved or not, but rather to pass judgment on the works of the unsaved to demonstrate their unrighteousness and that they fall short of the holiness of God. The sentence is "the second death": eternal separation from God in the lake of fire (Rev 20:11-15).

**Hell (and related words):** In common usage, this term refers to the place of future punishment for the wicked. Other words like *sheol* or *hades* are improperly translated by this term.

- ***Sheol:*** The general idea of this word is "the place of the dead" including the grave (cf. Num 16:30, 33; Ps 16:10), and the unseen place of those who have departed from this life, the place of departed spirits of both the righteous (Gen 37:35) and the wicked (Prov 9:18).
- ***Hades:*** This word is basically the New Testament counterpart of *Sheol*. It refers to the unseen world in general, but specifically to the abode of the unsaved dead between death and the final judgment at the great white throne (cf. Luke 16:23; Rev 20:11-15). It differs from hell in that it is temporary while hell is permanent.
- ***Lake of Fire:*** Refers to the eternal state of the wicked who are forever separated from God and consigned to a special abode of suffering because of their rejection of Christ or their lack of the righteousness of Christ. It is equivalent to, and identified with, the second death in Rev 20:14.

**Imminency:** This is a term used in connection with the return of Christ for the church. His coming for the church as promised in John 14:3, is imminent, without the necessity of any event that must take place before the Lord returns for His church. By contrast, the return of Christ at the end of the tribulation is preceded by a number of signs (Matt 24:4-22). Scriptural evidence for imminency provides strong evidence for the pretribulation viewpoint.

**Jerusalem:** The capital city of Israel in the Old Testament; religious center of Judaism in the New Testament; also the name of the heavenly city John describes in Revelation (i.e., "the New Jerusalem," Rev 21:2, 10).

**Judgment Seat of Christ:** An event which will take place in the heavenlies immediately after the rapture of the church, where church-age believers are evaluated and rewarded by Jesus Christ. This term describes that event when believers will be brought into an examination before the Son of God (Rom 14:10; 1 Cor 3:9-15; 2 Cor 5:10). The Greek word for "judgment seat" (*bema*) once referred to the platform where the umpire for the Greek games would sit and issue rewards to the athletes. Thus, the purpose for the judgment seat is not to determine whether the one judged is a believer or not, but rather to publicly assess, whether acceptable or worthless, one's works (outward) and character (inward) for rewards or their loss.

**The Kings of the East:** This refers to an oriental block of nations who will march across the Euphrates River when it is miraculously dried up (Rev 16: 12-21). Their goal is to enter Palestine for the final battle of the campaign of Armageddon to be fought on the Plain of Esdraelon near the Mount of Megiddo.

**The Lamb:** The Lamb is one of the creatures John sees in heaven (Rev 5:6). It represents Jesus. It is described as having seven horns, representing power, and seven eyes, representing wisdom. The number seven represents completeness.

**Mark of the Beast:** The threefold repetition of the number six represents the three members of Satan's unholy trinity: Himself, the Beast, and the False Prophet (Rev 13:16-18). In the Bible, six is the number of man, while seven is the number of God. The number six is man trying to be God but never succeeding.

**Marriage Supper of the Lamb:** A future wedding feast that will occur prior to Jesus' second coming. The church and the saints of other ages will be the invited guests (Rev 19:9).

**Michael:** An archangel who defeated the Dragon and cast him from heaven (Rev 12:7). Michael also appears in the Old Testament (Dan 10:13, 10:21, 12:1), the New Testament (Jude 9) and in various apocrypha writings.

**Millennium:** The word millennium means "a thousand years" and refers to the promise of Scripture that Christ will reign on earth for a thousand years. It comes from the Latin words *mille* (a thousand) and *annus* (years). The millennium has come to be synonymous for not only Christ's reign on earth, but for the fulfillment of all Old Testament hopes and expectations associated with the kingdom of God on earth: peace, no war, perfect seasons, Israel and Jerusalem, the center of the earth, Gentile domination removed, etc. (see Isa 2:1-4; 9:7; 11:2-10; Rev 20:1-6).

- **Amillennial View:** The second coming of Christ is at the end of the church age and there is no earthly millennium. Amillennialists believe that the millennium is either currently taking place on earth or in heaven.
- **Postmillennial View:** The second coming of Christ is after the millennium. Postmillennialists believe that a golden spiritual age will come upon this earth (the millennium) because the world will get progressively better and better through the preaching of the Gospel. It is at this time that Christ will return to earth.
- **Premillennial View:** The second coming of Christ will occur before the millennium. During this time Christ will fulfill His unconditional promises to Israel.

**Mystery:** The word "mystery" (*mysterion*) is not something mysterious but something unknown until revealed to the initiate. In Scripture it refers to God's secrets, His counsels and purposes, which are not known to man apart from His special revelation in Scripture or by His prophets. It is particularly used in the New Testament of truth unknown in the Old Testament, but revealed in New Testament times. Eleven different mystery truths can be distinguished in the New Testament (see Matt 13:11; Rom 11:1-25; 1 Cor 15:51-57; Eph 3:1-11; 5:25-32; Col 1:26-27; 2:2; 1 Thess 2:7; 1 Tim 3:16; Rev 1:20; 10:7; 17:5, 7).

**New heaven and new earth:** The present heaven and earth will flee from Christ's presence when He comes to judge (Rev 20:11). They will be replaced by a new heaven and earth once sin has been purged from the universe (Rev 21:1). Believers will live here (not in "heaven") for all eternity.

**One Hundred forty-four thousand:** Twelve thousand Jews from each of the twelve tribes. These are Jews who will be saved after the tribulation begins. They are sealed, which refers to their salvation, identification, and protection for special service during the rest of the tribulation. It appears they will be the special evangelists whom God will use to lead multitudes to Christ from every nation, tribe, people, and tongue (cf. Rev 7:1-10).

**Overcomer:** A faithful believer who perseveres in his/her faith and experiences great reward (Rev 2:10).

**Patmos:** An island off the west coast of Asia Minor. The Romans used it as a penal colony. It was here that John claimed to have received his revelation (Rev 1:9).

**Prophecy:** As used in the book of Revelation, prophecy refers to that part of God's Word that is predictive and comes from God's sovereign and eternal plans and foreknowledge of things to come. The prophet was one who spoke God's message to His people. In this he was both a forth teller (preaching) and a foreteller (prediction). It is the predictive element we are concerned with here, however, we must always keep in mind that prophecy, though dealing with the future, carries a current message for godliness, peace, and comfort.

#### **Rapture Views:**

- ***Pretribulation Rapture:*** The rapture of the church (i.e., the coming of the Lord in the air for His saints) will take place before the seven-year period of the tribulation begins. Therefore, the church will not go through any of the tribulation period (the events of Revelation 6-18) according to this view. In this view, some believe the second advent of Jesus Christ has two phases: one secret, as a thief comes to take what is valuable to him (to the church only, 1 Thess 4:13-18), and one open and manifest to all the world (2 Thess 2:8, "the manifestation of His coming"). Others would say it is distinct from the second coming to earth.
- ***Partial Rapture:*** Only saints who are worthy will be raptured before the wrath of God is poured out; those who have not been faithful will remain on the earth to endure the tribulation.
- ***Midtribulation Rapture:*** The rapture will occur in the middle of the tribulation, after three-and-a-half years.
- ***Prewrath Rapture:*** A recent view promoted by Marvin Rosenthal in his book, *The Prewrath Rapture of the Church*. The rapture of the church occurs prior to God's wrath being poured out on the earth. In this view, the wrath of God does not occur until, about or after, the last quarter of the tribulation. Thus the church will experience most of the events of the book of Revelation.
- ***Posttribulation Rapture:*** The church will be on earth during the entire tribulation. Some would say the rapture is a part of the second coming, others that it is distinct from the second coming though separated by only a very short interval of time.

**The Seven Angels:** The angels who blew the seven trumpets (Rev 8:2, 6-12; 9:1-21; 11:15-19) and emptied the seven bowls onto mankind (Rev 15:1, 6-8; 16:1-21).

**The Seven Bowls:** Containers filled with plagues that were emptied on mankind by the seven angels (Rev 15:7; 16:1-21).

**The Seven Lamps:** Seven gold lamps surround Jesus when he appears to John on Patmos (Rev 1:12). Later the lamps are explained to represent the seven churches (Rev 1:20; cf. Zech 4:2).

**The Seven Seals:** Seals that held the scroll closed. Only the Lamb could break them. As each seal was broken an unusually destructive event occurred (Rev 5:1; 6:1-17; 8:1).

**The Seven Stars:** Jesus appears to John on Patmos holding seven stars in his right hand (Rev 1:16). The stars are explained to represent the angels of the seven churches (Rev 1:20).

**The Seven Trumpets:** After the breaking of the seventh seal, seven angels are given seven trumpets. The trumpets bring disaster (Rev 8:2, 6-12; 9:1-21; 11:15-19).

**Times of the Gentiles:** This is an expression used by our Lord in Luke 21:24 of the period of Gentile domination over Israel, when Israel has no king on the throne of David. It began in 586 BC with the captivity of Judah under Nebuchadnezzar (2 Chron 36:1-21) and will continue until the return of Christ to earth. Daniel's visions and prophecies foresee this domination under the pictures of the four beasts and the great image (Dan 2:31-35; 7:3-8).

**Tribulation:** The final seven-year period of time when God will pour out judgments on unbelieving Gentiles and disobedient Israel (see Rev 6-18). This term is used by most theologians to refer to Daniel's 70<sup>th</sup> week, the seven-year period of unprecedented trouble that will occur on earth through a series of divine judgments to be poured out on the entire inhabited earth (Dan 12:1; Rev 6-19; Matt 24:21,29). It begins with the signing of a peace treaty with Israel by the Roman prince that will come, the man of sin, the Beast of Revelation 13 (cf. Dan 9:26, 27; 2 Thess 2:8). The great tribulation (Matt 24:21) refers to the last half of this seven-year period. It is so called because of the increased wrath that will occur in these last three- and-a-half years.

**The Twenty-four Elders:** Beings, robed in white and wearing crowns, sitting in the presence of God (Rev 4:4, 10, 5:5, 6, 8, 11, 14; 7:11, 13; 11:16; 14:3; 19:4). On 12 of these thrones, it is likely that the 12 disciples (minus one, replaced by Paul, I assume) are seated (Matt 19:28). On the other 12 thrones are seated "elders" representing Gentile believers (2 Tim 2:12).

**Two Witnesses:** The two witnesses are men who are given power to prophesy for 42 months (Rev 11:3). They were prophets. They will perform miracles like those of Moses and Elijah, and will prophesy likely during the last half of the tribulation (Rev 11:1-14). The Beast from the Abyss kills them, but they are resurrected and they ascend to heaven. (Rev 11:1-3).

**The Winepress:** At the battle of Armageddon, the Lord is going to throw all the nations into the winepress of His wrath (Rev 14:17-20).

**Wormwood:** The name of the star that fell onto the fresh water of the world (Rev 8:11). It caused a third of that fresh water to become wormwood. Wormwood is the name of a bitter plant.

**Wrath of God:** God's necessary or just expression of anger as a response to sin (Num 14:18; Nah 1:2-3). This will lead to the inevitable punishment of sin in a future day of judgment (John 3:36; Jude 14-15).

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