



IRA BAPTIST
CHURCH

Theology and Doctrines Guide

Amillennialism: The millennium is not a literal 1000 years. But it is currently happening, and the world is progressively getting worse while we wait for Jesus to return.

Apocalyptic Literature: A genre of literature that uses highly symbolic imagery to make points about God. Typically used by people who are being oppressed heavily, and much of the things written about take place In the future.

Cessationism: The belief that supernatural gifts (healing, prophecy, miracles, tongues, etc.) have ceased today.

Closed Communion: Allowing only believers to partake in the Lord's Supper. Some consider close communion only to include those from the same denomination or even the same local church.

Communion: Name for the Lord's Supper, meant to remind us that we commune in God and with fellow partakers.

Complementarian: Men and women are equal in value, worth, and dignity; however, they are distinct in roles. This is mainly seen in complementarians rejecting women as pastors.

Consubstantiation: A belief held mainly by Lutherans that during the Lord's Supper, Christ is "in, with, and under" the bread and the wine. The bread and the wine coexist with Christ's presence. It is as close to Transubstantiation as you can be without believing in transubstantiation.

Continuationism: The belief that the supernatural gift (healing, prophecy, miracles, tongues, etc.) Continue on today.

Covenant Theology: Often contrasted with dispensationalism, this is the belief that God related to people through the covenants and emphasizes the unity of God's plan by viewing Old Testament and New Testament believers as part of the same Covenant people, emphasizing three main covenants: Covenant of Works, Covenant of Grace, Covenant of Redemption.

Discipleship: "Disciple" means follower. Discipleship is the idea of believers growing and helping other believers grow in the Gospel.

Dispensationalism: A branch of premillennialism that teaches history happens in dispensations; most believe in 7, but this is not unanimous. Each dispensation is an age where God deals with humanity in different ways. Important points are the Church and Israel are separate, and a secret rapture will come at any moment. The current dispensation ends when the secret rapture occurs, and the tribulation begins. Primarily, dispensationalists read the scripture very literally.

Egalitarian: the belief that men and women are completely and totally equal in value, worth, dignity, and roles. This is mainly seen in allowing/encouraging women to be pastors.

Eisegesis: Allowing you to read into the text ideas. You shape the text into what you want it to say.

Eschatology: The study of the end times.

Eucharist: Means thanksgiving and is a reference to the Lord's Supper.

Evangelism: "Evangel" means gospel. Evangelism is sharing the gospel with unbelievers in the hope that they will repent of their sins and turn in faith to Jesus as their savior and Lord and be saved.

Exegesis: Allowing the Scriptures to shape you and letting the text read you.

Full Communion: Partaking in both the bread and the wine during communion.

Futurist: The hermeneutic of approaching prophecies of scripture and looking for their fulfillment in the future.

Gospel: Means “Good News”. Specifically, it refers to the life, death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus Christ. It’s news because it has happened. And it’s good because it reminds us that Jesus took our place, He bore the wrath deserved for us and our sins, and He imputed(credited) us with His righteousness, thus saving us from our sins. Something that we could not do on our own. It’s not about works or morals. It’s about the grace and mercy of Jesus for us.

Great Tribulation: A time of great persecution and suffering that will take place before the millennium. Mainly Pre-Millennialism.

Hermeneutic: How we interpret the Bible. Everyone, whether they know it or not, comes to the Bible with principles that guide their interpretation, a lens through which they view the scriptures. Hermeneutics is the categorizing of these lenses to help us better understand our presumptions and help us correctly interpret the text.

Historicist: Views the events of Revelation as having happened mainly in the current church age chronologically as symbolic descriptions of the literal events.

Historic Premillennialism: A belief that the tribulation occurs before the millennium.

Idealists: Believe the events of Revelation mainly occur in the current church age as spiritual truths.

Lord’s Supper: The ordinance given by Jesus Christ in the upper room during the Last Supper is recorded in Matthew 26:17-30, Mark 14:22-26, Luke 22:7-8-23, and is further explained in 1 Corinthians 11:17-34.

Mid-tribulation: Belief that the rapture occurs in the middle of the seven-year tribulation. Typically, 3.5 years into the tribulation.

Millennium: Reference to the thousand-year reign of Christ described in Revelation 20.

Open Communion: Allowing unbelievers to partake in the Lord's Supper with believers. Some consider it open communion to let others from different denominations or churches partake in the Lord's Supper.

Partial Communion: At certain times in history, the Roman Catholic church refused to allow participants to partake in the wine during communion because they might spill it. This was a big deal because they believe in transubstantiation.

Post-Tribulation: Belief that the rapture will take place after the seven-year tribulation.

Post-Millennialism: Belief that Christ will return after the millennium. The millennium is not literal, and as the gospel is spread across the world, society as a whole is getting better.

Premillennialism: Belief that the rapture takes place before the millennium.

Preterist: Belief that the events of Revelation have already happened as symbolic descriptions of real-life events. Full preterists believe that all the events of Revelation have already occurred. Partial preterists believe that some or most of the events in Revelation have already occurred.

Pre-Tribulation: Belief that the rapture will occur before the seven-year tribulation.

Rapture: The belief that when Christ comes back, he will bring to himself the believers who have died first and then those who are alive while He comes back to meet Him in the sky. Based upon 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Secret Rapture: The belief held by premillennial dispensationalists that before the tribulation, there will be a secret rapture of believers who will be taken to Jesus, then a time of tribulation while the lost can still be saved before Jesus fully comes after the seven-year tribulation.

Transubstantiation: A belief held by Roman Catholics that during the Lord's Supper, the bread and the wine literally become the body and blood of Christ, but "re-sacrificing" Himself for us. Protestants reject this theology.

Tribulation: The belief in a period of intense persecution and trials. Some take a literal seven-year tribulation, while others hold it is figurative.