

## **END TIMES – A SUMMARY OF VIEWS HELD**

This *End Times* note is largely based on the book *The Bible & Future Events* by Leon J. Wood (Grand Rapids: Academie Books, 1973)

There are **three major views** concerning the doctrine of End Times. They are as follows:

### **AMILLENNIAL VIEW:**

Holders of this view deny the existence of a literal millennium (or reign of Christ on the earth for 1000 years). They hold that God has no future plan for the nation of Israel, and that all prophecies of the Old Testament are to be spiritually realised in the Church. They generally use an allegorical system of interpretation of prophetic events.

### **POSTMILLENNIAL VIEW:**

This view holds to the existence of a literal millennium, resulting from the spread of the Gospel and the salvation of a vast number of people, with Christ returning to the earth at its conclusion.

### **PREMILLENNIAL VIEW:**

This view holds to the existence of a literal, earthly reign by Christ for 1000 years (millennium) following a time of tribulation (7 years) upon the earth. This view is based on a literal approach to prophecy. Premillennialists generally hold to the view that the rapture of the church precedes the millennium. **[WBC'S VIEW]**

**Alternative views of the timing of the Rapture** held by those who are Premillennial:

### **PRETRIBULATIONAL VIEW:**

This view holds that the ***Rapture of the church will be*** not only premillennial but ***pretribulational; that is, it will occur before the beginning of the tribulation period, meaning that the church will not experience this severe period of suffering.***

**[WBC'S VIEW]**

### **POSTTRIBULATIONAL VIEW:**

This view holds that ***the Rapture*** will be premillennial, but ***will occur after the great tribulation, meaning that the church will be on earth during this seven-year period.***

### **MIDTRIBULATIONAL VIEW:**

This view also agrees that ***the Rapture*** will be premillennial but holds that it ***will occur at the midpoint of the tribulation period, meaning that the church will not experience the last half of this period when suffering will be the most severe.***