

## Study roadmap and most basic vocabulary

- Broad plan on how we will study end times and last things
  - We will begin by assuming one particular viewpoint is the correct interpretation and application
  - This viewpoint will be dispensational premillennialism
  - We will start by defining a basic vocabulary from this viewpoint and add more terms to it over time
  - We will lay out the basic components of the theological viewpoint and then drill top down over time
  - The near-term goal is to give you an understandable framework on which to begin hanging ideas
  - Eventually, we will become deeply familiar with the important issues and details of this theological view
  - By this point, you should have a self-consistent “right answer” to guide your subsequent Bible studies
  - Then we will lay out the basic components of other theological viewpoints and drill top down on them
  - This will stretch and even challenge our comfortable framework but leave it intact and more mature
  - Next, we will study the principles of biblical interpretation in general, and prophetic interpretation in specific
  - These principles of how to study and interpret the Bible are known as hermeneutics
  - We will then begin a Bible study of major passages and whole books that deal with end times and last things
  - As we move through our Bible studies we will use our hermeneutics to build a theology from the bottom up
  - Passages will include portions of Genesis, Isaiah, the minor prophets, Matthew, the epistles and Revelation
  - This will be an open search that ultimately allows us to test our original theological viewpoint for correctness
  - We will then reformulate a self-consistent and testable “right answer” that is adaptable to future insights
- Our first definition of terms
  - First coming of Jesus: The historical, earthly life and ministry of Christ that occurred about 4BC-30AD
  - Church Age: The historical and future time period from the beginning of the Church at Pentecost up to the return of Jesus Christ for everyone who has trusted in Him as promised in John 14
  - Rapture: The return of Jesus for all who have trusted in Him up to that future point in time 1 Thess 4:15-17
  - Great Tribulation: A future period of 7 years duration of increasing global disasters where Christians of that are severely persecuted
  - Second coming of Jesus: The bodily return of Christ to Earth to physically reign as king of the whole world
  - Millennium: A future period of Christ’s reign lasting 1,000 years that begins with His second coming

### Take away thought

Perhaps the most important value of our study of end times and last things will be developing a mindset of how to study, interpret and apply any portion of Scripture and blesses us today while allowing us to humbly grow in knowledge over time.