

JUST THE FUNDAMENTALS

By W. R. Goetz

Fundamental – essential, indispensable, central, foundational or basic.

The Five Fundamentals of the Faith

1. The Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ (John 1:1; John 20:31; Hebrews 1:2-3)
2. The Virgin Birth (Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:23; Luke 1:17)
3. The Blood Atonement (Acts 20:28; Romans 3:24, 5:9; Ephesians 1:7; Hebrew 9:12-14)
4. Christ's Bodily Resurrection (Luke 24:36-46; I Corinthians 15:1-4, 15:14-15)
5. The inerrancy of the Scriptures themselves (Psalms 12:6-7; Romans 15:4; II Timothy 3:16-17; II Peter 1:20)
Inerrancy – without error.
6. The Second Coming of Jesus Christ (I Thessalonians 4:13-18; I Corinthians 15:50-58)

Cardinal doctrine – foundational teachings of Christianity, beliefs a Christian must accept

Orthodoxy – adhering to the accepted, traditional and established Christian faith

Eschatology – the study of end times [**eschatos** (Greek) = **last** / **-ology** (greek) = **study of**]

-----THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST-----

Amillennialism – the belief that there will be no literal, future 1000-year reign of Christ on the earth. A spiritual form of the kingdom, present now, is the only kingdom God will establish on earth. The prefix "a-" means "the absence of".

Hermeneutic – a method of interpretation.

Allegory – an extended comparison. Objects, person, and actions in the text symbolize something else. Example: *Pilgrim's Progress* by John Bunyan.

Allegorization – understanding a text as an allegory.

Postmillennialism – the belief that Christ's kingdom must be progressively establish on earth by the Church and *after* that, Christ will return.

Christian Reconstructionism – a movement to reclaim every institution for Christ, creating a society where God's law rules. Includes the belief that Christ will return *after* God's kingdom comes to earth.

Dominionism – the belief that Christians must build the "kingdom of God" on earth by progressively and supernaturally transforming themselves and all institutions ... and *then* Christ will return to earth.

Premillennialism – the doctrine that Jesus Christ will return to earth **before** the Millennium and establish a **literal** kingdom on earth for 1000 years.

Charles Ryrie in his book *Basic Theology* writes:

All forms of Premillennialism understand that **the Millennium follows** the Second Coming of Christ.

Its duration will be 1,000 years: its location will be on earth and its government will be theocratic, with the personal presence of Christ reigning as King from Jerusalem.

Messianic kingdom – a kingdom governed by the Messiah, God's promised Deliverer, the Lord Jesus Christ. (Isaiah 2:2-4, 11:6-9 and 65:17-25)

TEN DISTINCTIVE TEACHINGS THAT SUMMARIZE PREMILLENNIALISM

1. God has promised a literal kingdom to a restored Israel. (all of Isaiah 60 – especially vs 21)
2. God will give Abraham's descendants the land He promised to them forever. (Genesis 17:7-8)
3. God's covenant with Israel will never be forfeited or canceled. (Jeremiah 17:36)
4. The nation of Israel will come back to inherit the land forever. (Ezekiel 37 – esp. vss 13, 14, 24)
5. The Second Coming of Christ will result in the establishment of a literal kingdom on earth. (Revelation 11:15)

6. The millennial kingdom of Christ will last 1,000 years. (Revelation 20:1-6)
7. The temple of Ezekiel's vision will literally exist during Christ's millennial reign. (Ezekiel 40-48)
8. Redeemed Israel and the raptured Church will reign with Christ on earth. (Revelation 5:9-10, 1:6; and 20:4-6)
9. God's promises concerning Jerusalem will be fulfilled literally. (Psalm 32:13; Isaiah 62:1-2, 65:17-21)
10. The throne of David will be set up in Jerusalem with Jesus Christ, the Messiah of Israel, Son of David, literally ruling upon it in His millennial kingdom. (Luke 1:32-33; II Samuel 7:12-16)

THE RAPTURE OF THE CHURCH

Post-Tribulationism – the belief that the Church will endure the Tribulation and be caught up *after* the Tribulation.

Imminent – ready to take place, impending, overhanging. Imminent does not mean it is certain to happen soon. It means that nothing needs to transpire before it can happen.

Believers are exhorted to **watch** for His return (I Thessalonians 5:1-8; II Peter 8:8-10) and to **wait** for it. (I Corinthians 1:7; I Thessalonians 1:9-10; Titus 2:13)

Exegesis – a critical explanation and interpretation of a text.

Pre-Tribulationism – the belief that Jesus Christ will come in the clouds *before* the Tribulation and catch up all deceased and living believers (those who are “in Christ”) to be with Him forever. (I Thessalonians 4:15-17)

Mid-Tribulationism – belief that the Rapture occurs in the middle of the Tribulation before the most severe final three and one-half years.

Imminence, as related to the Rapture, means that Christ may return at any moment for His Church, and no biblically predicted event must necessarily precede it. (John 14:1-3, I Corinthians 1:7, Titus 2:13, I Corinthians 16:22, I Thessalonians 1:9-10, I Thessalonians 5:4-9 and I John 3:2-3.)

 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.
 Now there is in store for me the Crown of Righteousness, which the Lord, the Righteous Judge, will award to me on that day – AND NOT TO ME ONLY, BUT ALSO TO ALL WHO HAVE LONGED FOR HIS APPEARING. (ii Tim. 4:7-8)

Let's **watch** (Mark 13:33-35), **wait** (I Thess. 1:10), **work** (Luke 19:13) and **witness** (Acts 1:8) in loving anticipation of our Lord's appearing.

Above summary notes courtesy of Sharon Fehr

