

TAKE A 2-MINUTE BREAK! Play our weekly challenge quiz, test your vocab, and more.

apocalyptic adjective

Save Word

apoc-a-lyp-tic | \ə-ˈpā-kə-līp-tik\ variants: or less commonly apocalyptic \ə-ˈpā-kə-līp-ti-kəl\

Definition of apocalyptic

- 1 : of, relating to, or resembling an apocalypse // apocalyptic events
2 : forecasting the ultimate destiny of the world : PROPHETIC // apocalyptic warnings
3 : foreboding imminent disaster or final doom : TERRIBLE // apocalyptic signs of the coming end-times
4 : wildly unrestrained : GRANDIOSE
5 : ultimately decisive : CLIMACTIC // an apocalyptic battle

- Other Words from apocalyptic
Synonyms
More Example Sentences
Learn More About apocalyptic

Other Words from apocalyptic
apocalyptically \ə-ˈpā-kə-līp-ti-k(ə)-lē\ adverb

Synonyms for apocalyptic
Synonyms
climacteric, climactic

Visit the Thesaurus for More

Examples of apocalyptic in a Sentence
// No one listened to her apocalyptic predictions.
// a less apocalyptic view of the future

See More

Recent Examples on the Web
// While West Coast states have seen apocalyptic fire, Utah so far enjoyed relatively calm in the face of record heat and historic drought.
— Brian Maffly, The Salt Lake Tribune, 16 Aug. 2021
// In the sequel the blight is even more pronounced, to the extent that the movie's setting looks almost post-apocalyptic.
— Noel Murray, Los Angeles Times, 13 Aug. 2021

These example sentences are selected automatically from various online news sources to reflect current usage of the word 'apocalyptic.' Views expressed in the examples do not represent the opinion of Merriam-Webster or its editors. Send us feedback.

See More

First Known Use of apocalyptic
1633, in the meaning defined in sense 1

History and Etymology for apocalyptic
borrowed from New Latin apocalypticus, derivative of apocalypsis APOCALYPSE, by analogy with pairs such as ellipsis ELLIPSIS : ellipticus ELLIPTIC

Learn More About apocalyptic

Share apocalyptic



Time Traveler for apocalyptic

The first known use of apocalyptic was in 1633. See more words from the same year.

From the Editors at Merriam-Webster

Trending: Apocalyptic
Putin uncovers his prediction for continuing ceasefire in Ukraine ...

Dictionary Entries Near apocalyptic
apocalypse
apocalyptic
apocalypticism

Statistics for apocalyptic
Last Updated
22 Aug 2021
Look-up Popularity
Top 3% of words

See More Nearby Entries

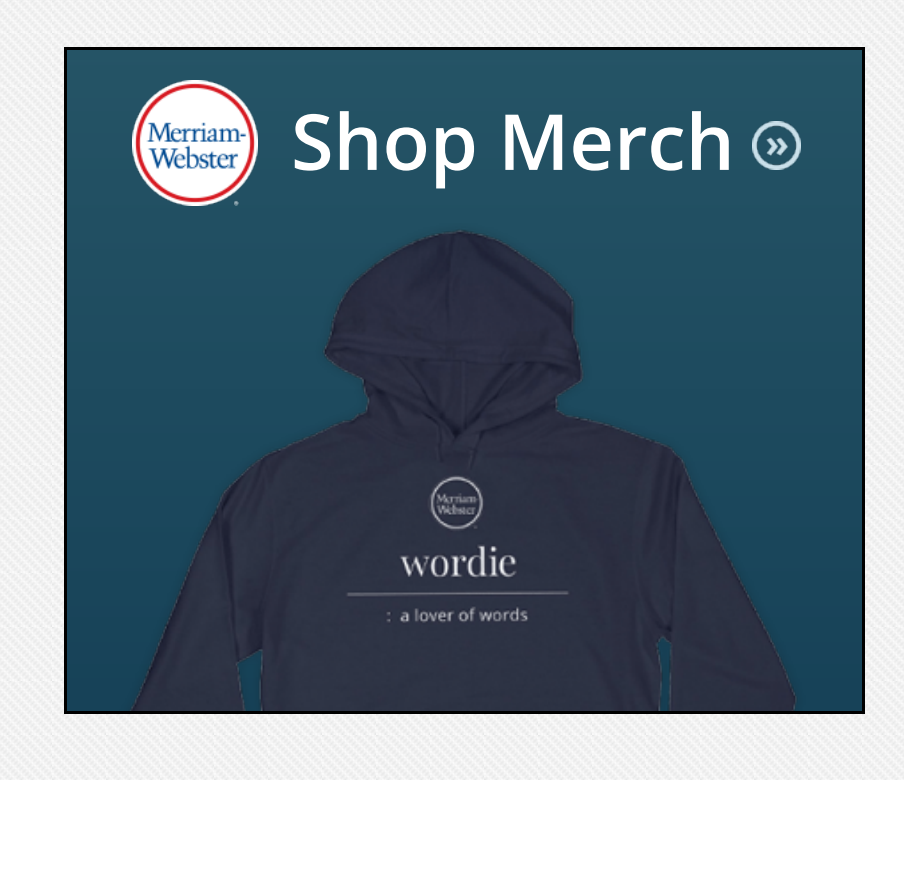
Cite this Entry

"Apocalyptic." Merriam-Webster.com Dictionary, Merriam-Webster, https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/apocalyptic. Accessed 28 Aug. 2021.

Style: MLA

Seen & Heard

People are talking about
ENCUENTRA LA PRACTICIDAD
ENCUENTRA LA SOLUCIÓN
Betterware



More Definitions for apocalyptic

apocalyptic adjective

English Language Learners Definition of apocalyptic
: of, relating to, or involving terrible violence and destruction
: of or relating to the end of the world

See the full definition for apocalyptic in the English Language Learners Dictionary

More from Merriam-Webster on apocalyptic

English: Translation of apocalyptic for Spanish Speakers

Love words? Need even more definitions?

Subscribe to America's largest dictionary and get thousands more definitions and advanced search—ad free!



WORDS AT PLAY

Four featured articles: 'In Vino Veritas' and Other Latin Phrases to Live By; Passionate About Fireworks, Movies, Cheese & More; Word Well Used: 'Madeleine'; Is It 'Used To' or 'Use To?'

ASK THE EDITORS

Four editor questions: 'Everyday' vs. 'Every Day'; What Is 'Semantic Bleaching?'; Literally; Is Singular 'They' a Better Choice?'

WORD GAMES

Four word games: August 2021 Words of the Day Quiz; Test Your Insult Skills; Spell It; SCRABBLE® Sprint

Learn a new word every day. Delivered to your inbox! Your email address SUBSCRIBE

OTHER MERRIAM-WEBSTER DICTIONARIES
LEARNER'S ESL DICTIONARY
VISUAL DICTIONARY
SCRABBLE® WORD FINDER

MERRIAM-WEBSTER'S UNABRIDGED DICTIONARY
BRITANNICA ENGLISH - ARABIC TRANSLATION
ENGLISH - SPANISH-ENGLISH TRANSLATION