

Hope for Eternity

Intro: History

Second coming – literal, visible, personal.

Pattern

Tribulation

Signs and wonders

2nd Coming

Terms:

Schools of Prophetic Inspiration

Historicist - treats the eschatological prophecies of Daniel and Revelation as finding literal earthly fulfillment through the history of the church age and especially in relation to the struggle between the true church and apostasy.

Futurism - places the fulfillment of the prophecies of the Book of Revelation and the Book of Daniel and the Olivet discourse and The Sheep and the Goats generally in the future as literal, physical, apocalyptic and global. This is closely aligned with dispensationalism.

Preterism - holds that some or all of the biblical prophecies concerning the Last Days or End Times refer to events that already happened in the first century after Christ's birth. They teach that this is true because of its claims that Israel was supplanted by the Christian church at the destruction of Jerusalem in A.D. 70.

Views of Tribulation

The Tribulation - (also called the "Great Tribulation") is a relatively short period of time where believers will experience worldwide persecution and be purified and strengthened by it. While it is considered a period of immense suffering and sacrifice, greater than anything before in history, believers are promised strong faith and powers to help them endure and prevail. Persecution is attributed to the believers rebelling against the Antichrist and his regime.

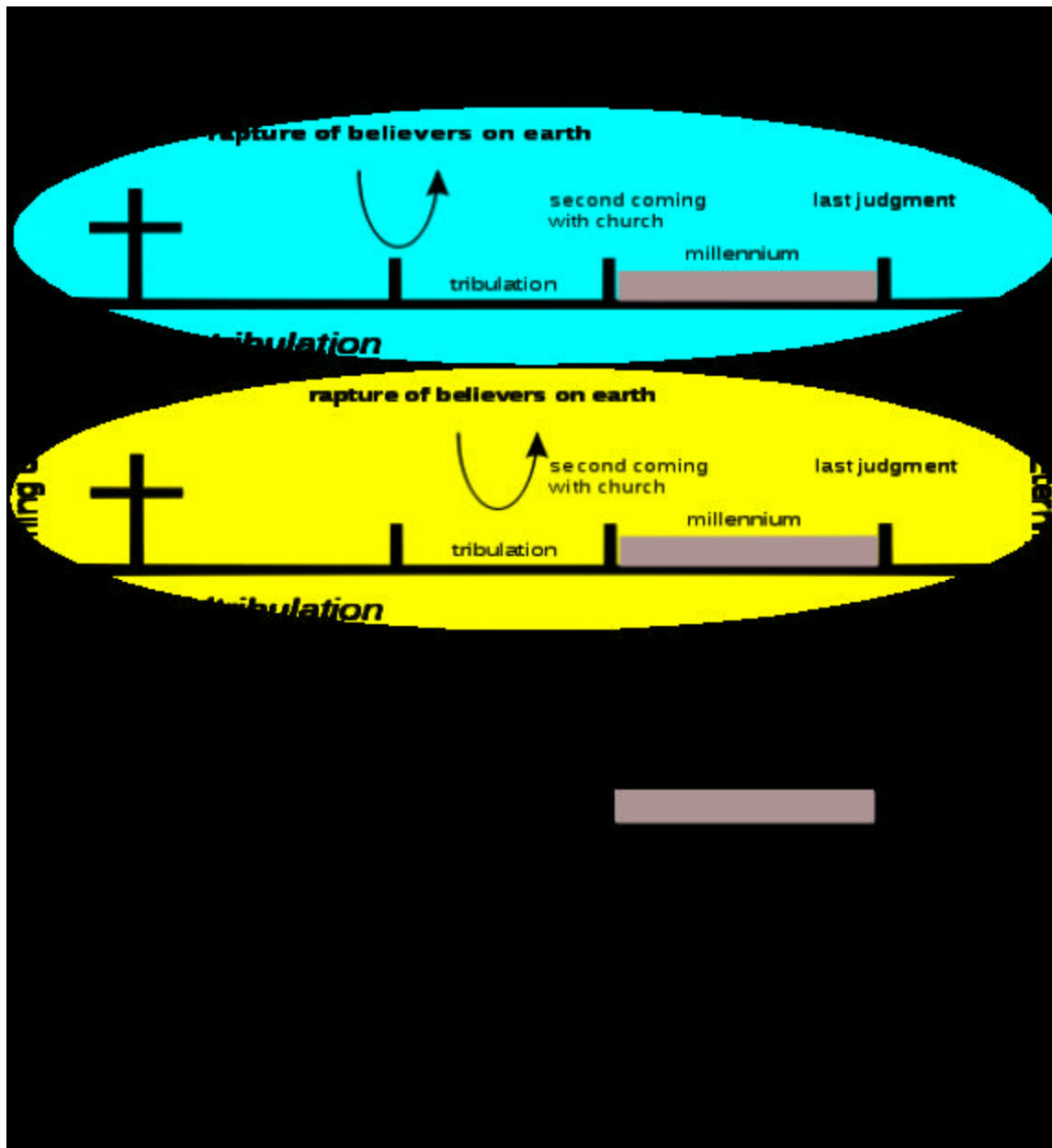
Pasttribulationism – A teaching held by preterists. They believe that the tribulation occurred in AD 70 with the fall and destruction of Jerusalem. Partial Preterists believe that there will be a second coming, a resurrection of the dead and the granting of eternal life in a new heaven and new earth for the redeemed and the condemnation and punishment of hell for the lost. Full Preterists believe that the second coming has already taken place in AD 70 and that the judgment is ongoing and takes effect upon the death of each individual. ↓

Pretribulationism – A view that teaches that a secret rapture of the church will occur prior to a brief and intense period of tribulation that will last from 3 ½ to 7 years on earth and be

led by a single anti-Christ. Those who hold to a futurist view of scripture and are also dispensationalist largely hold this view.

Prewrath (Midtribulation) Tribulationism - A teaching that the church remains on earth during the first 3 ½ years of tribulation. They are protected by God and then are raptured after 3 ½ years, at which time the bowls of God's wrath are poured out on the earth.

Posttribulationism – A view that teaches that Christians will go through the tribulation then Christ will come.



Views of the Millenium

Amillennialism – teaches that the 1000 years of Bible prophecy is merely a figurative expression referring either to the spiritual reign of Christ’s kingdom in this age or to no specific time period at all.

Premillennialism – The teaching that the second coming precedes the 1000 years of Bible prophecy.

Historic Premillennialism is also posttribulation.

Dispensational Premillennialism is also pretribulation.

Postmillennialism – The teaching that the second coming of Jesus is after the 1000 year period of Bible prophecy.

Pantribulation – All pan out in the end.

History of Dispensationalism and the Secret Rapture

Reminder: 3 concerns

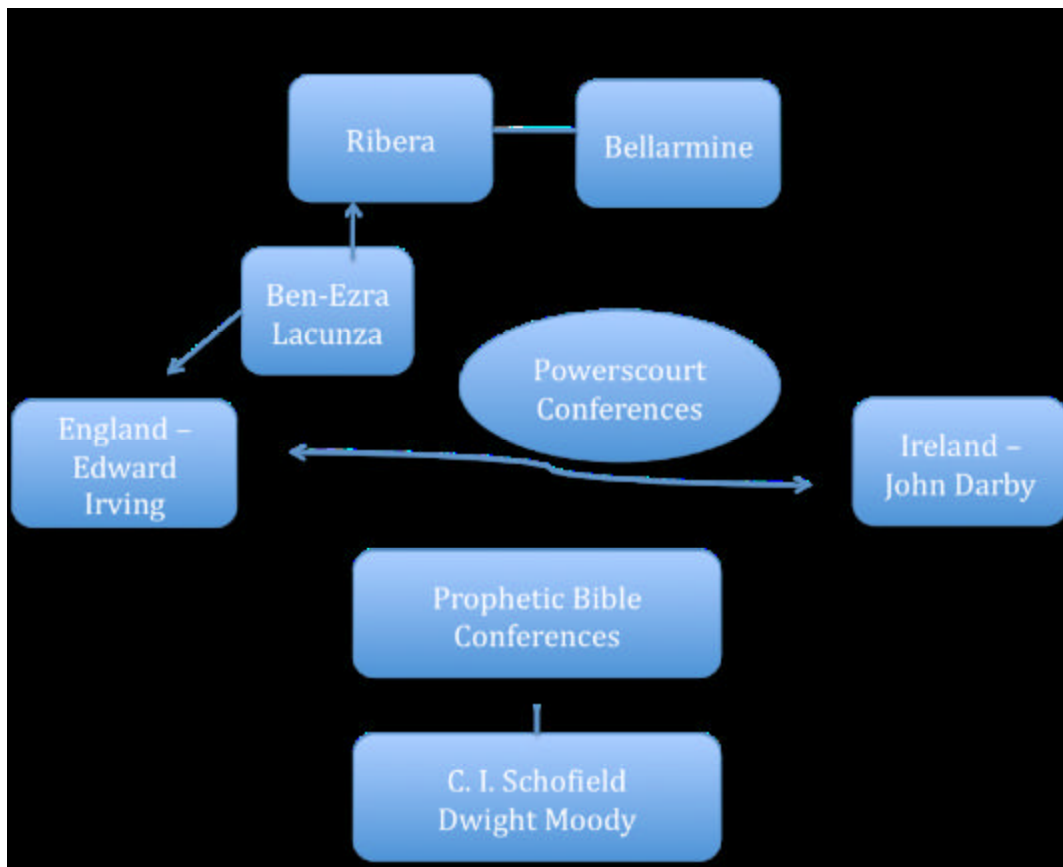
1st Century – 400 AD Historicist and ambiguous hints of futurism

400 AD to Reformation – Allegorical in beginning and then historicist

Counter Reformation – Preterist and Futurist

Enlightenment to 1800's – Liberal theology and Preterism

1800's to Present – Increase emphasis on prophecy and 2nd Coming



Historicist – Baptists (Traditional), Seventh-day Adventist's

Futurist – Brethern, Edward Irving, (Margaret McDonald), John Darby

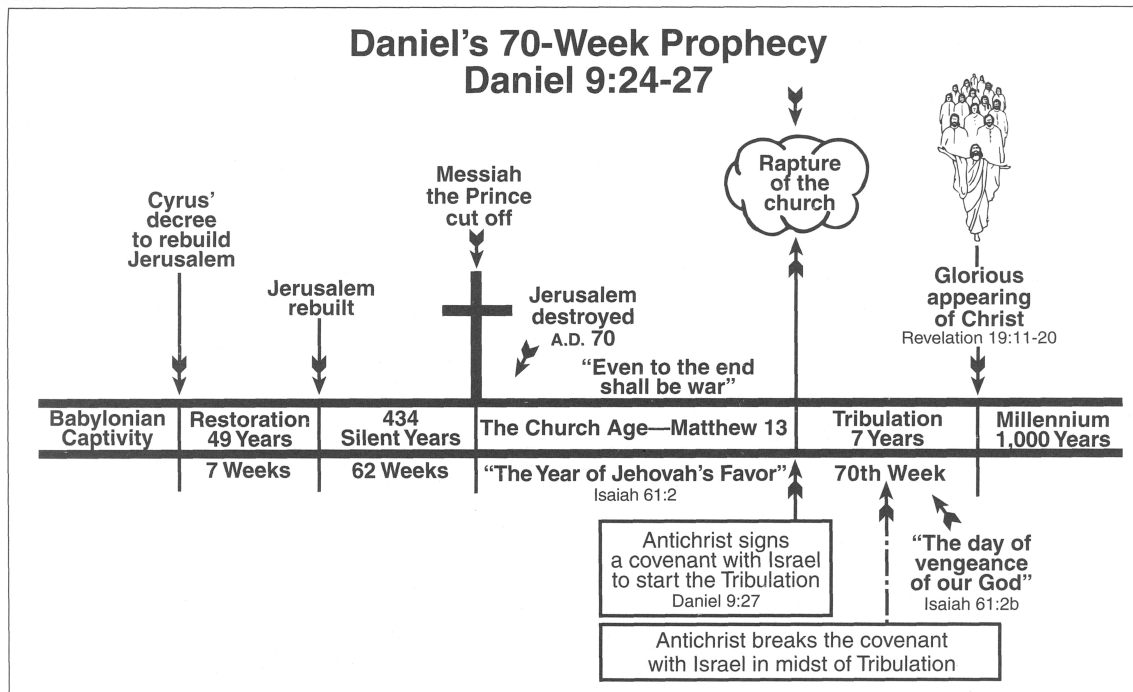
Schofield Bible, Dwight Moody

John Woolvard, Hal Lindsay, Chuck Smith

Evangelical Movement - Tim LaHaye, David Jeremiah, John MacArthur

Modern Teaching of Dispensationalism

1. The distinctive place of Israel and the church in Prophecy and the Gap in prophetic time
2. The church cannot experience tribulation



3. Secret Rapture of the Church
4. 7 Years of Tribulation
 - a. 3 ½ years for the Jews
 - b. 3 ½ years for the Gentiles
5. Revelation (Glorious Coming)
6. Millennium
7. Final Judgment

Concerns: **Doctrine and Character**

1. Biblical Support for the rapture
 - a. Inferred/Assumed
 - b. Circular Reasoning Used

“Another reason why we support the idea that the rapture and the second coming are separate events is that the second coming is said to be visible to the whole earth (Rev. 1:7). However in the Rapture, only the Christians see Him, it’s a mystery, a secret. When the living believers are taken out, the world is going to be mystified. More proof—when Christ comes to earth for the second time we are told in Matthew 25 that He will divide the believers from the unbelievers. Now if the Rapture were to take place at the same time as he second coming, how would the believers and the unbelievers be separated on the earth? At the Rapture all the living believers will be caught up to join Him in the clouds.”

Hal Lindsey, *The Late Great Planet Earth*, pp. 131-132

c. One taken one left (Matthew 24:36-42, p. 830; Luke 17:34-37, p. 877)

2. Use of Greek Words

a. Coming (parousia)

2 Thessalonians 2:7-8 (ESV) 7 For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work. Only he who now restrains it will do so until he is out of the way. 8 And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will kill with the breath of his mouth and bring to nothing by the appearance of his coming.

b. Revelation (apokalypsis)

1 Corinthians 1:4-7 4 I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, 5 that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge— 6 even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you— 7 so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ,

c. Manifestation (epiphaneia)

1 Timothy 6:11-14 11 But as for you, O man of God, flee these things. Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness. 12 Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and about which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. 13 I charge you in the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, 14 to keep the commandment unstained and free from reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ

2 Timothy 4:6-8 6 For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. 7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. 8 Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.

3. The Thief Motif

4. Tribulation – unfair, Prewrath

5. 70th Week -- tomorrow

6. Inconsistency in interpretation

Day for Year

Context (Matthew 24, Revelation 4 & 19)

Matthew 24 and 1 Thessalonians 4

Matthew 24:29-31 (ESV) 29 "Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. 30 Then will appear in heaven the sign of the Son of Man, and then all the tribes of the earth will	1 Thessalonians 4:15-17 (ESV) 15 For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. 16 For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the
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mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. 31 And he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.	sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord.
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7. Israel – Tomorrow
8. 1000 Years, enforcing righteousness, mortal, unbelievers at end
9. Christ Reigns with sin still present

Doctrines/Character and Hope for Eternity

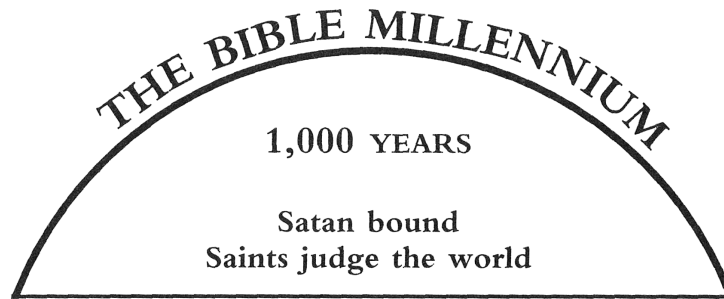
Revelation 20:1-6

(See Chart Below)

THE BIBLE MILLENNIUM

PEOPLE OF EARTH

Believers		Unbelievers	
Living	Dead	Living	Dead



FIRST RESURRECTION

Righteous dead raised
Righteous translated and
taken to heaven
Wicked destroyed by
brightness of His coming
Satan bound

SECOND RESURRECTION

Holy City and saints descend
Wicked dead raised
Satan loosed a season
Fire destroys the wicked
Earth recreated as home
of the saved