Synopsis of the End Times:

A look at the popular beliefs of today

by Mike Morrill

Purpose

To educate and inform the Church of the various eschatological views held within the Body of Christ

Tactic Taken

I have attempted to present each view as objectively as possible. This is not a critical analysis of the ‘pros’ and ‘cons’ of each view but simply allowing them to speak for themselves.

Views Presented

Views are presented in the following order

1. Full Preterism
2. Amillennialism
3. Post Millennialism
4. Historicism
5. Historic Premillennialism
6. Dispensational Premillennialism
    a. Pre-Tribulation
    b. Partial Rapture
    c. Mid-Tribulation
    d. Pre-Wrath Rapture
    e. Post-Tribulation

Disclaimer

I have attempted to be as accurate and objective as possible. I will continue to update these charts as data becomes available. If you find an error or have suggestions to offer, please let me know. I will make the necessary updates.

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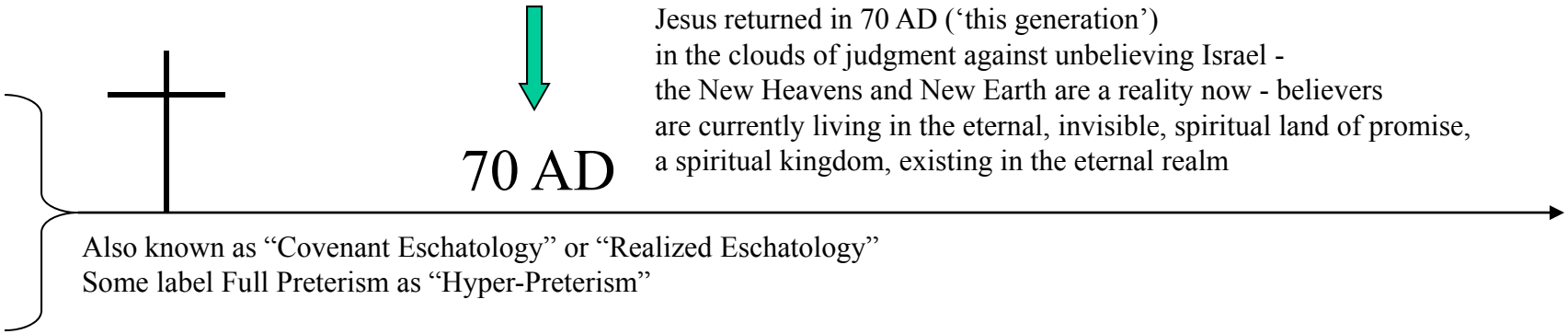
Full Preterist

An eschatological viewpoint that places many or <u>all</u> eschatological events in the past, especially during the destruction of Jerusalem in A.D. 70. (R.C. Sproul, *The Last Days According to Jesus*, p. 228)



Jesus returned in 70 AD ('this generation')
in the clouds of judgment against unbelieving Israel -
the New Heavens and New Earth are a reality now - believers
are currently living in the eternal, invisible, spiritual land of promise,
a spiritual kingdom, existing in the eternal realm

Also known as "Covenant Eschatology" or "Realized Eschatology"
Some label Full Preterism as "Hyper-Preterism"

<u>Specific Distinctions:</u>
Christ's return did not end history
The 2nd Coming of Christ occurred in 70 AD
All Bible prophecy, including the Book of Revelation, was fulfilled by 70 AD
No future rapture, no future Antichrist, no future 7 year Tribulation, no future return of Christ or literal 1000 year Millennium
Sin, death, marriage, children, wars, famines will continue on earth 'after the time of the end' outside of the New Jerusalem
Satan and the lost in Hades were cast into the Lake of Fire in 70 AD

Some believe all the saved whether living or dead were raptured or resurrected in 70 AD and received their eternal reward
Some believe the rapture in 70 AD was a spiritual rapture bringing the believer into the New Covenant blessings of Christ
The resurrection is the believer's rebirth; there will be no future bodily resurrection
Believers who die are ushered into the presence of the Lord receiving new spiritual bodies, not resurrected physical ones

<u>Background:</u>
Luis de Alcazar (1554-1613), a Jesuit priest, wrote a 900 page commentary titled, "Investigation of the Hidden Sense of the Apocalypse," which proposes the entire book of Revelation be applied to pagan Rome and the first six centuries of the Church's existence. Some say it was to throw off criticism of the Catholic Church being the 'Great Whore of Babylon'.

Works:
Landmark book was by Congregationalist minister J. Stuart Russell's (1816-1895) 'The Parousia' (1878)
Recently promoted by Church of Christ's Max King's 'The Cross and the Parousia of Christ' (1987)
Don K. Preston: Who is This Babylon? (Second Edition), The Last Days Identified, Can God Tell Time?, Israel: 1948, Countdown To Nowhere, Leaving the Rapture Behind, Seventy Weeks are Determined...for the Resurrection
Samuel M. Frost: Misplaced Hope: The Origins of First and Second Century Eschatology (2002)
John Noe: Shattering the 'Left Behind' Delusion (1999)
Edward E. Stevens: Expectations Demand a Rapture; What Did Christ Promise? What Did They Expect? (2002)

Theological Persuasion:
Some are Calvinists and some are Arminians
Some are Reconstructionists holding to a 'Dominion mandate' to Christianize all aspects of society (arts, media, politics)

Churches:
Reformed, Presbyterian, Baptist, United Church of Christ, Non-denominational churches

Past Notables:
Josephus, Eusebius and Jerome all cite Preterist aspects regarding the destruction of Jerusalem in 70AD
Chrysostom (John of Antioch) in 347 AD mentions Matthew 24 as fulfilled
David Chilton (1951-1997) became a Full-Preterist in 1994 before his death, changing from a Post-Millennialist

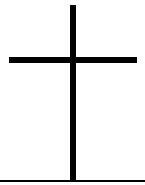
Current Notables:
Don K. Preston, William Bell, John Noe, Ken Davies, Sam Frost, Virgil Vaduva, John L. Bray,
Kurt Simmons, Ward Fenley, John Anderson, Walt Hibbard, Ed Stevens

Web Sites:
Preston (www.eschatology.org), Hibbard (www.preteristviewpoint.com), Stevens (www.preterist.org)

Quote:
"Was their house left desolate? Did all the vengeance come upon that generation? It is quite plain that it was so, and no man gainsays it." (Chrysostom, 347 AD, Homily LXXIV)

Amillennial

Jesus returns 'at any moment',
Saints raptured to join in triumphal
procession with Christ at His return



The Millennium is now. Satan is currently bound and withheld from establishing the kingdom of Antichrist. The world system is getting worse and worse, Satan will be let loose, establish Antichrist's kingdom for a short time wherein a brief period of Tribulation follows

New Heavens
and
New Earth

Also known as "Realized Millennialism" or "Nunc-Millennialism" (the Millennium is now)

Specific Distinctions:
Christ's return ends history
No secret Rapture, no future 7 year Tribulation and no literal 1000 year reign of Christ on earth
Satan is currently prohibited from exerting all his powers of temptation or from deceiving the nations
See much of prophecy fulfilled with the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD
The promises made to national Israel, David and Abraham in the OT are fulfilled in Christ and through the Church during this age
Promote Progressive Parallelism or Recapitulation – Book of Revelation is not sequential but is divided into sections repeating the same ground but from different perspectives (i.e., events in Rev 20 do not follow events in Rev 19 but start a new 'retelling' of events in the New Testament era)
Historic Amillennialists believe the Millennium is now - entire period from Christ's exaltation until shortly before His 2nd coming
Some modern Amillennialists see the Millennium finding fulfillment by the saints currently in heaven

Background:
Origen (185-253AD) and Augustine (354-430AD) are cited as early proponents of Amillennialism
Augustine abandoned Pre-Millennialism believing the idea of an earthly Millennial reign was crass and carnal; believers should focus on heaven instead
Amillennialism was the dominant eschatological thought from the 4th up to the late 17th century
Nearly all the Reformers were a mix of Amillennial and Historicist in their eschatology

Works:
Augustine, the father of Amillennialism, wrote 'The City of God'
William Hendriksen, More Than Conquerors: An Interpretation of the Book of Revelation (1939)
William E. Cox, Amillennialism Today'(1966)
Anthony A. Hoekema, The Bible and the Future (1994)
Kim Riddlebarger, A Case For Amillennialism: Understanding the End Times (2003)

Theological Persuasion:
Most are Replacement Theology adherents teaching the Church is the fulfillment of national Israel (which was an OT type)
Many prefer the term 'Expansion Theology' holding that Gentiles are now brought into the company of the elect along with the Jews
Most are Calvinists adhering to Reformed/Covenant Theology (sans Catholic, Greek Orthodox)

- Ultimate purpose of history is the redemption of the Elect
- Adam lived under Covenant of Works - keywords: "do this and live"
- We live under Covenant of Grace - keywords: "whoever believes"
- Law/Grace fused together reading the New Testament into the Old Testament
- The believer's rule of life is to strive to keep the 'moral law' Moses gave on Mt. Sinai
- Moral and Civil elements of the Mosaic Law are carried over into the New Covenant
- Employ a double hermeneutic (historical-grammatical method for many passages but also the allegorical or spiritualizing method)
- Practice Infant Baptism

Churches:
Roman Catholics, Eastern Orthodox, Anglican, Lutherans, Presbyterians, Church of Christ, Southern and Reformed Baptists

Seminaries:
Reformed , Knox and Westminster Theological Seminaries

Past Notables:
Origen (185-253AD), Augustine of Hippo (354-430AD), John Calvin, Martin Luther, Abraham Kuyper, Louis Berkhof
Oswald Allis, Albertus Pieters, William Hendriksen, Gerret C. Berkouwer, Anthony A. Hoekema, William E. Cox

Current Notables:
Kim Riddlebarger, David J. Engelsma, Jay E. Adams, Michael Horton, J.I. Packer
R.C. Sproul appears to lean to the A-Mil camp but admittedly likes tenets of Pre and Post –Mil as well
Hank Hannegraaf wrote 'The Apocalypse Code' coining phrase "Exegetical Eschatology" (partial Preterist, A-Mil leanings)

Web Sites:
Protestant Reformed Churches of America (www.prca.org), CRTA (www.reformed.org)
Grace Online Library (www.graceonlinelibrary.org). Monergism – 'one work of God' (www.monergism.com)

Quote:
"Reformed Amillennialism teaches the church, that is, us who believe and our children, to expect increasing lawlessness in the world, apostasy from the truth in the churches, the establishment of the kingdom of Antichrist over the entire world, and great tribulation for all those who fear God and keep His commandments. To such a world, thus fully developed in sin, will Christ return."
(Professor David J. Engelsma, A Defense of (Reformed) Amillennialism, circa 1995)

Post Millennial

Jesus returned in 70 AD ('this generation') in the clouds of judgment against unbelieving Israel

70 AD

Christ's Kingdom and Gospel will exercise a transformational influence on world society and culture, the Great Commission is fulfilled winning the majority of souls to Christ and nations being Christianized, righteousness abounding, wars ceasing, prosperity and safety flourishing. This "golden age" of spiritual prosperity may continue for centuries or even millennia, during which Christ's Kingdom will be triumphant over the earth

Saints resurrected to join in triumphal procession with Christ at His return to judge mankind and usher in the eternal kingdom

New Heavens
and
New Earth

<u>Specific Distinctives:</u>
Christ's return ends history
Most of Bible prophecy was fulfilled in 70 AD
No secret rapture, no future Antichrist, no future 7 year Tribulation or literal 1000 year Millennium
Believe that Christianity will ever increase and dominate the affairs of this world
Some believe Jesus will return during the 'Golden Age' of Christianity's future influence
Some teach a final Satan-lead rebellion before return of Christ

<u>Background:</u>
Athanasius (296-372AD) and Eusebius (260-340) are cited as sources for Post-Mil thought
Joachim of Eloris, a 12th century Roman Catholic scholar, is credited as Middle Ages promoter of Post-Millennialism
Systematized in England by Thomas Brightman (1562-1607) and Unitarian Daniel Whitby (1638-1726)
Influential from the 16th to the early 20th century with its heyday in the mid-19th century
The Puritans were Post-Mil looking to expand the Kingdom of Christ when they came to America
The 1st (1730-1760) and 2nd (1790-1830) Great Awakenings added to Post-Mil enthusiasm

Worldwide missions (William Carey, Adoniram Judson, David Brainerd, Robert Moffat, Hudson Taylor) work spurred Post -Mil fervor
The American Civil War along with WWI and WWII put a major damper on the Post-Millennial movement
Proponents of Post-Millennialism state they are 'in it for the long haul' despite setbacks in history

Works:
Lorraine Boettner, The Millennium (1957)
Marcellus J. Kik, An Eschatology of Victory (1974)
David Chilton, Paradise Restored: A Biblical Theology of Dominion (1985)
Keith A. Mathison, Postmillennialism: An Eschatology of Hope (1999)
Gary DeMar, Last Days Madness: Obsession of the Modern Church (1999)

Theological Persuasion:
Most are Calvinists adhering to Reformed/Covenant Theology
Most are Replacement Theology adherents teaching the Church has replaced national Israel (see Israel as an OT type)

Some hold to 'Dominion Theology' or 'Christian Reconstructionism' believing the Church has the biblical mandate to exercise dominion over all aspects of society (politics, education, arts, media)
Reconstructionist notables: Gary North, Kenneth Gentry, David Chilton, R.J. Rushdoony, Gary DeMar, Greg L. Bahnsen

Churches:
Puritans, Reformed churches, Presbyterians, Methodists and Baptists

Past notables:
Charles Hodge, William Carey, B.B. Warfield, J. Marcellus Kik, A.W. Pink, Matthew Henry, Jonathan Edwards, Charles Finney, J. Gresham Machen, Loraine Boettner, Augustus Strong, A. A. Hodge, Greg L. Bahnsen
David Chilton (1951-1997) became a Full-Preterist in 1994 before his death
The late D. James Kennedy had definite Post-Mil leanings along with Reconstructionist leanings

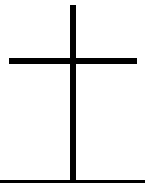
Current Notables:
Gary DeMar, Kenneth Gentry, Keith A. Mathison, Dee Dee Warren, Andrew Sandlin, Pat Robertson

Web Sites:
Gary DeMar (www.americanvision.org)
Kenneth Gentry (kennethgentry.com, www.againstdispensationalism.com)
Dee Dee Warren (www.preteristsite.com)
Todd Dennis (www.preteristarchive.com) – one of the largest Preterist www sites (although Todd himself is an Idealist)

Quote:
"There will come a time when in this world holiness shall be more general, and more eminent, than ever it hath been since Adam fell in paradise."—*Thomas Brooks, The Crown and Glory of Christianity.* (1662).

Historicism

Jesus returns ‘at any moment’,
Saints raptured to join in triumphal procession with Christ at His return.
Millennium views are varied



Historicism is the view that most of Revelation describes the events of the last two-thousand years. Historicism teaches that prophecy is being fulfilled throughout history and continues to be fulfilled today. The Book of Revelation is a pre-written history of the Church from the time of its writing to the present day

New Heavens
and
New Earth

Also known as the “Presentist View”, “Postmillennial Historicism” or the “Protestant View”
Historicism is typically a subset of an eschatological view as there are
Pre-Millennial, Amillennial and Post-Millennial proponents within Historicism
After the Reformation, Classic Historicism remained Historicist in its view of Revelation 1-19
But the majority of the great works within Historicism were and are Pre-Millennial regarding Revelation 20

<u>Specific Distinctives:</u>
Christ’s return ends history
Prophesies of Daniel and Revelation describe events up until the 2nd Advent of Christ (from the time when the prophecies were each written)
Book of Revelation began to be fulfilled in John’s day and continues to this day
Method of interpreting Biblical prophecy by comparing history to the prophecy in question
Prophecy can be understood by looking to the past to discover what has and hasn‘t been fulfilled
Method of interpretation allows them to continually re-evaluate their opinions as they grow in their understanding of both history and the Bible
Strong belief that the Papacy is the antichrist, not fulfilled in just one person, but rather a dynasty of individuals
The "Year-Day" principle - In prophetic language, a day of symbolic time represents a year of actual, historic time
The ‘horn’ of Daniel 7 is the Papacy in the West and the ‘horn’ of Daniel 8 is Islam in the East
Believe the 5th trumpet (Rev. 9: 1-6) refers to the golden age of the Arabs with the emergence of Islam under Mohammed
Believe the 6th trumpet (Rev. 9: 13-15) refers to the Turks
The Two Witnesses are the bare remnant of Gospel believing churches, after persecution, left to protest the apostasy of the Beast

<u>Background:</u>
Developed by expositors such as Andreas, Primasius (6th century African bishop) and the English Benedictine monk Bede (730 AD)
Catholic bishop Arnulf of Orleans was the first to apply the ‘man of sin’ prophecy to the papacy (10th century)
Catholic abbot Joachim of Floris in 1190 and the archbishop Eberhard II in 1240 also related the papacy to the Antichrist

Works:
H. Grattan Guinness, The Approaching End of the Age (1878)
A.J.L. Haynes, Tomorrow: What do the Prophets Say (1977)
George R. Dawe, The Revelation of Jesus Christ the Lord (1990)
Dr. Oral Edmond Collins, The Final Prophecy of Jesus (2007)
Numerous articles by Dr. Francis Nigel Lee

Theological Persuasion:
Most, if not all, are Calvinists adhering to Reformed/Covenant Theology
Reconstructionists also present in the Historicist camp

Churches:
Reformed, Presbyterian, Lutherans, Methodists and some Baptists
Seventh-Day Adventist churches also claim to be Historicist

Past Notables:
John Calvin, Martin Luther, John Gill, Adam Clarke, Matthew Henry, Isaac Newton, Ian Paisley, John Wesley, E. B. Elliott
Even Charles Spurgeon is claimed by some to be Historicist
Luther believed the Pope was the Antichrist and saw the Revelation being fulfilled in his day
Waldensians, Albigenses, Lollards, Lutherans, Calvinists, Hussians and William Tyndale all claimed the papacy was the Antichrist

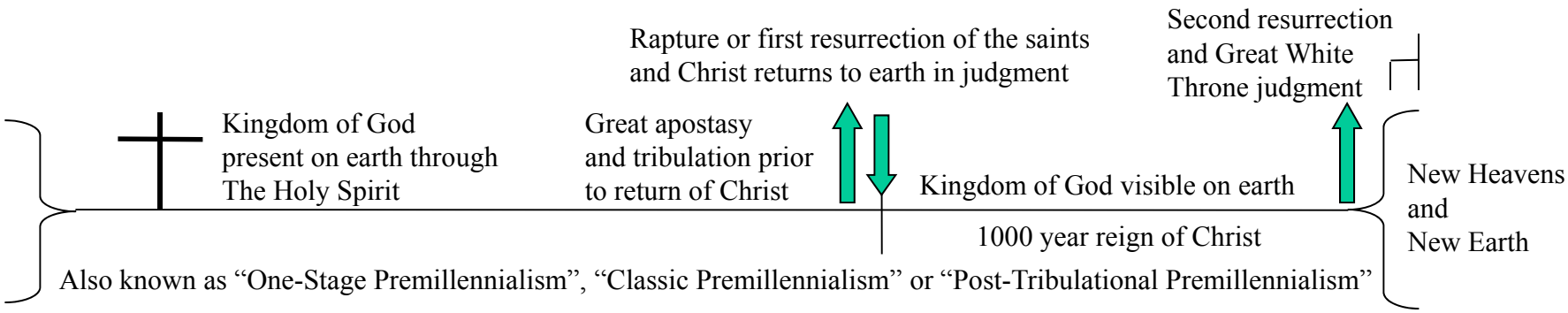
Current Notables:
Richard Gunther, Richard Bennett, Dr. Francis Nigel Lee, Joseph L. Haynes, Oral Edmond Collins

Web Sites:
Joseph L. Haynes (www.historicism.com)
www.historicism.net
Dr. Francis Nigel Lee (www.dr-fnlee.org)

Quote:
"He who, being a man, a sinful man, makes himself a god as the Pope does, who claims divine powers and prerogatives, is unquestionably a blasphemer, and ***that*** antichrist." -- Matthew Henry

Historical Pre-Millennial

Non-Dispensational



<u>Specific Distinctives:</u>
Christ’s return does not end history
Do not see a sharp distinction between Israel and the Church
There is no ‘secret rapture’
Great apostasy and tribulation occur before the return of Christ
The Church will be persecuted by the Antichrist
This view is very similar to Post-Tribulationalism

The Millennium separates the "first" resurrection from the "second" resurrection
Satan will be bound, and the kingdom will be made visible during the Millennial reign of Christ
Satan loosed at the end of the Millennium instigating the rebellion of Gog and Magog
God destroys the rebellion and the "second" resurrection or final judgment occurs
The creation of a new Heaven and Earth occurs and eternity begins

<u>Background:</u>
This appears to be the view of many of church fathers up to the 4th century
The Didache (circa 90-100 AD) (Chapter 16) contains elements of Futuristic Pre-Mil thought (future Antichrist, Great Tribulation)
Ireneaus (140-203), who as a disciple of Polycarp, who had been an disciple of the apostle of John,
along with Justin Martyr (100-165), Tertullian (160-225) and Papias (80-155) were Premillennial proponents
Pre-third century Chiliasts: Lactanitus, Hippolytus, Methodious, Commodianus
Epistle of Barnabas (~ 100 AD) is claimed as an early Pre-Mil document

Works:
Robert Duncan Culver, Daniel and the Latter Days (Moody Press, 1977)
George E. Ladd, A Commentary on the Revelation, (1987)
Craig Blomberg and Sung Wook Chung, A Case for Historic Premillennialism: An Alternative to "Left Behind" Eschatology (2009)

Theological Persuasion:
Some are Calvinists and some are Arminians

Churches:
Presbyterians, Baptists and independent churches
Some staff at both Fuller Seminary, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School (Evangelical Free) and Denver Seminary

Past Notables:
F.F. Bruce,, Walter Martin, J. Barton Payne, Heny Alford, Theodore Zahn (German NT specialist),
Francis Schaeffer, John Gill, George Eldon Ladd, James Montgomery Boice
Charles Spurgeon is also cited as holding Historic Pre-Mil views

Current Notables:
John Warwick Montgomery, Roger E. Olson, Wayne Grudem, Millard Erickson, Russell D. Moore, Douglas J. Moo
Craig L. Blomberg (Denver Seminary), Gordon Clark, D. A. Carson, Robert Gundry, Mark Driscoll, John Piper

Web Sites:
http://www.theologue.org/HistoricPremillennialism-WickBromall.html
http://www.theologicalstudies.citymax.com/premillennialism.html
http://www.reformedreader.org/mchart.htm

Quotes:
"I am not Pretrib. I believe that there is one more coming of Christ not two, and that at that coming he will not take the church back to heaven but will gather the church to reign on the earth" (John Piper Q&A)

"The most striking point in the eschatology of the ante-Nicene age is the prominent chiliasm, or millenarianism, that is the belief of a visible reign of Christ in glory on earth with the risen saints for a thousand years, before the general resurrection and judgment". (Philip Schaff, *History of the Christian Church*, 2:614)

Dispensational Pre-Millennial

Specific Distinctives:

Christ's return does not end history
Jesus will return visibly to Earth before the Millennium (also known as 'Chiliasm' - Latin for 1000)
Believe in a future Rapture, Antichrist, False Prophet, 7 year Tribulation, Armageddon, 1000 reign of Christ on Earth
Most adhere to Dispensational Theology

- Ultimate purpose of history is the glory of God
- Believe Israel and the Church are distinct in origins, promises, missions and futures
- National Israel: still has a future earthly purpose and will receive her earthly promises of land, blessing and stature
- The consistent use of a single method of interpreting the Bible (historical-grammatical method)
- Law and Grace are opposed to each other
- Teach believer's Baptism only
- "The believer's rule of life" – Walking after the Spirit
- Read the Old Testament without New Testament

Background:

Justin Martyr (AD 100-165): (1) From Adam to Abraham; (2) Abraham to Moses; (3) Moses to Christ; (4) Christ to the eternal state
Irenaeus (AD 120-202): (1) From the Creation to the Flood (2) Flood to the Law (3) Law to the Gospel (4) Gospel to the Eternal State (Larry V. Crutchfield, *Ages and Dispensations Of The Ante-Nicene Fathers)*
John Nelson Darby (1800-1882) was the father of modern Dispensationalism recording 7 Dispensations:
(Innocence) - Adam, (Conscience) - After man sinned up to the flood, (Government) - After the flood, man allowed to eat meat, death penalty instituted, (Promise) - Abraham up to Moses and the giving of the Law, (Law) - Moses to the cross,
(Grace) - The cross to the Millennium, (Millennium) – The literal 1000 year reign of Christ on earth centered in Jerusalem

Dispensationalism spread from England to America through the writings of the Brethren movement
The Bible Institute and Bible Conference movements in the late 1800s helped spread Dispensational fervor
The Scofield Reference Bible (1909) along with Dallas Theological Seminary and Moody Bible College helped spread Dispensationalism

Dispensationalism today continues to evolve and finds itself split into various schools of thought:
Traditional: Israel is God's earthly people while the Church (a parenthesis in God's program for Israel) is God's heavenly people
Revised: The Church is still the Church and Israel still Israel but are no longer distinct as God's earthly or heavenly peoples
Progressive: The Abrahamic, Davidic, and new covenants are being progressively fulfilled today as well as having fulfillments in the Millennium. See more continuity between the Church and Israel as opposed to distinctions

There are also Acts 2, Mid-Acts and Acts 28 Dispensationalists with regards to when the Church began

Works:
Clarence Larkin, The Greatest Book on Dispensational Truth in the World (1918, 1920)
Lewis Sperry Chafer, Systematic Theology (1947, 1993)
Charles Ryrie, Dispensationalism Today (1977)
Renald Showers, There Really is a Difference (1990)
Darrell Bock and Craig Blaising, Progressive Dispensationalism (1993)
Robert L. Saucy, The Case For Progressive Dispensationalism (1993)

Theological Persuasion:
Calvinists and Arminians found within Pre-Millennialism
The dominant Dispensational thought today is Progressive Dispensationalism

Churches:
Baptist, Calvary Chapel, Bible churches, Assemblies of God, Non-Denominational and Independent

Past Notables:
Lewis Sperry Chafer, John F. Walvoord, C.I. Scofield, Charles Feinberg, Miles Stanford,
Dwight L. Moody, Ray Stedman, Arno C. Gaebelein, William R. Newell, F.W. Grant, J. B. Stoney

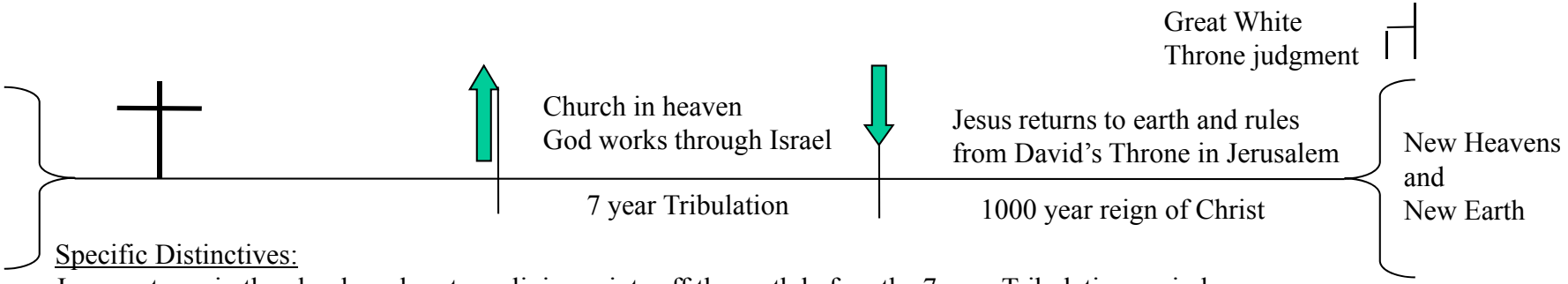
Current Notables:
Charles Ryrie, Arnold Fruchtenbaum, Craig A. Blaising, John MacArthur, J. Dwight Pentecost,
Darrell L. Bock, Robert L. Saucy, Les Feldick, Renald Showers

Seminaries:
Dallas, Talbot, Grace and Chafer Theological Seminaries, Multnomah School of the Bible, Grace School of Theology,
Moody Bible College, Philadelphia College of the Bible, The Master's Seminary, Baptist Bible College & Seminary (Clarks Summit, PA)

Web Sites:
Middletown Bible Church (www.middletownbiblechurch.org)
www.biblebelievers.com, www.biblicaldispensationalism.com, www.dispensationalberean.com
Matthew McGee's GraceLife ministry (www.matthewmcgee.org)
The keepers of the late Miles Stanford's www site: (http://withchrist.org/center.htm)

Quote:
"We believe that Christ must return to earth before the thousand years can begin. That which is stated in Revelation 20:1-5 will be literally fulfilled. About this we have not the slightest doubt." (Rev. D. Colin Jones)

Pre-Tribulation Rapture



Specific Distinctives:

Jesus returns in the clouds and raptures living saints off the earth before the 7-year Tribulation period
The Church will not go through the 7-year Tribulation period
God will again focus on Israel as the Church has been Raptured
144,000 Jews will evangelize the world after the Rapture
The Two Witnesses will testify of Jesus, be killed, rise up and then ascend to heaven
The battle of Gog and Magog (Eze 38 & 39) will occur around the time of the Rapture
The Antichrist and the False Prophet will be revealed shortly after the Rapture
Many of those turning to Jesus will die a martyr's death
Jesus returns at the battle of Armageddon and defeats the armies of the Antichrist

Jesus reigns for 1000 years upon the throne of David from Jerusalem
Israel will receive all of its land promises
Believers will reign with Jesus upon the earth
The curse will be lifted and the earth will be repopulated by believers surviving the Tribulation
Satan is bound for 1000 but is let loose at the end of the Millennium
God destroys a Satan-led rebellion of people who do not accept Jesus as Lord and Savior
The Great White Throne Judgment occurs and eternity future begins

Background:

Pseudo-Ephraem, allegedly written by Ephraem of Nisibis (306-73), may allude to a Pre-Trib rapture
Morgan Edwards, a Calvinistic Baptist pastor, may have been teaching a Pre-Trib Rapture in the 1740's
John Darby's reading of scripture led him to believe in the Pre-Trib Rapture in 1827 at 27 years old
Most popular (TV, books, radio) 'end times' format today (i.e., the 'Left Behind' series)

Works:
Hal Lindsey, The Late Great Planet Earth (1970) - best selling book (secular or sacred) in the 1970s
John Walvoord, The Rapture Question (1979)
J. Dwight Pentecost, Things To Come (1987)
Renald Showers, Maranatha Our Lord, Come! (1995)
Tim LaHaye and Jerry Jenkins, The Left Behind series (1996-2004)

Theological Persuasion:
Some are Calvinists and some are Arminians

Churches:
Baptist, Pentecostal, Assembly of God, Messianic, Bible churches, Calvary Chapel and Nondenominational churches

Past Notables:
John Nelson Darby, Lewis Sperry Chafer, John Walvoord, Harry Ironside,
Miles Stanford, C. I. Scofield, Zola Levitt, Paul Feinberg

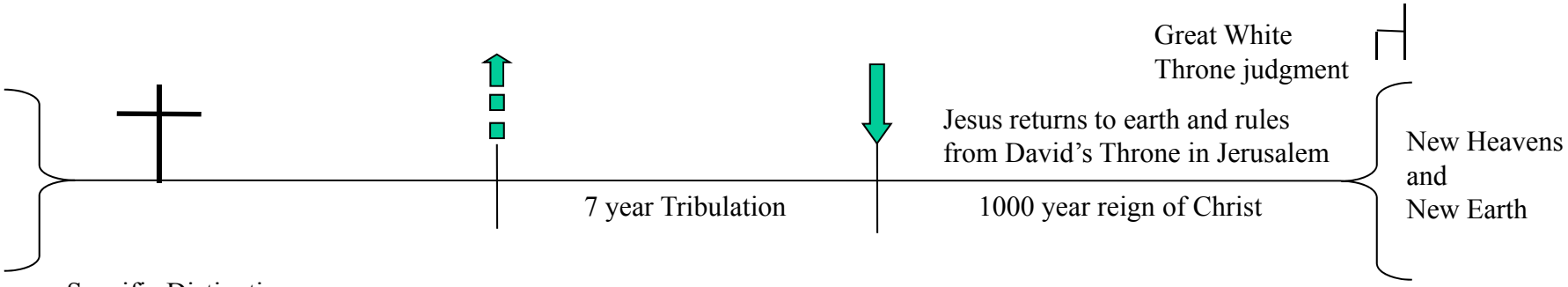
Current Notables:
Hal Lindsey, Chuck Missler, Tim LaHaye, Jack VanImpe, Chuck Smith, Renald Showers, John MacArthur, John Hagee,
Grant Jeffrey, Jimmy DeYoung, Randall Price, Mark Hitchcock, David Reagan, Ron Rhodes, Mal Couch, Thomas Ice,
J. Dwight Pentecost, Robert P. Lightner, Mark Hitchcock, J.B. Hixson

Seminaries:
Faith Baptist Bible College and Theological Seminary (Ankeny, Iowa)
Tyndale Theological Seminary (Fort Worth, Texas)

Web Sites:
Todd Strandberg (www.raptureready.com)
Prophecy Central (www.bible-prophecy.com)
Friends of Israel Gospel Ministry (www.foigm.org)
Tommy Ice (www.pre-trib.org)
Jack VanImpe (www.jvim.org)

Quote:
“The Tribulation does not deal with the Church at all, but with the purification of Israel. It is not the ‘time of the Church's trouble,’ but the ‘time of Jacob's trouble’.” (Thomas Ice, Executive Director of the Pre-Trib Research Center in Wash. D.C.)

Partial Rapture



Specific Distinctives:
Teach that only a small number of Christians in 'watchfulness and perseverance' will be raptured
Those not taken in the Rapture will endure the Tribulation as a time of purification
Some believe the 5 foolish virgins (Matt 25:1-13) are carnal Christians left behind to endure the Tribulation
Some see the Transfiguration as a type of rapture wherein only 3 of the disciples were present while 9 were left behind (Matt 17:1-8)

Background:
First articulated in the mid-19th century by a small group of Pretribulationists in England
Their main publication was *The Dawn* magazine edited by David M. Panton
Robert Govett (1813-1901) was the first proponent of the modern theory of partial rapture in 1853
George H. Lang was its ablest proponent (1874-1958)

Works:
George H. Pember (1837-1910), The Great Prophecies (London: R. F. Fleming H. Revell Co., 1912)
Robert Govett, Entrance into the Kingdom (London: Charles J. Thynne, 1923)
George H. Lang, Firstborn Sons Their Rights and Risks (London: Oliphants Ltd., 1943)
David M. Panton (1870-1955), The Letters to the Seven Churches (London: R. F. Hunger Printer, 1912)
George L. Rose, Tribulation Till Translation (Glendale, CA: Rose Pub., Co., 1943)
Charles H. Welch, The Testimony of the Lord's Prisoner (London: Fred P. Brininger, n.d.)
J.W. White JR., The Partial Rapture Theory Explained (2008)
Ray Brubaker, Rapture, A Reward for Readiness (2003)

Theological Persuasion:
Some are Calvinists and some are Arminians
Some hold to charismatic theology

Churches:
Baptist and some charismatic churches

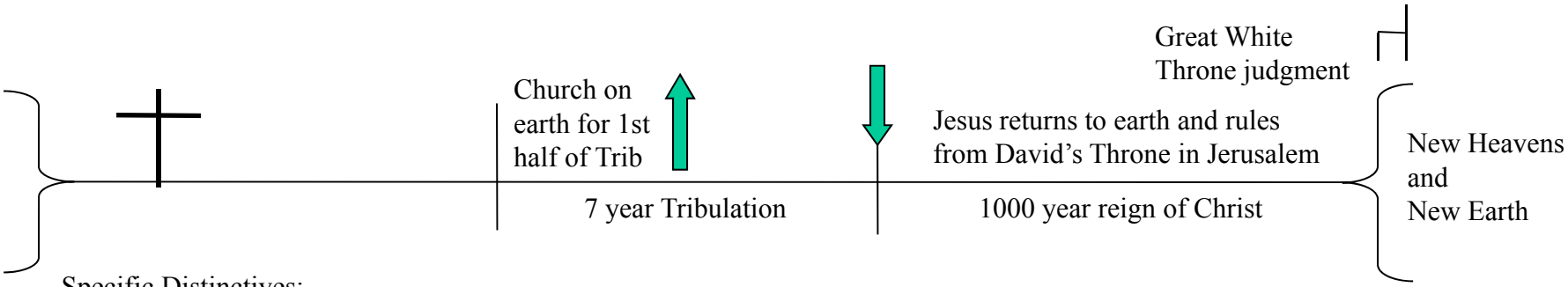
Past Notables:
G. H. Lang, Robert Govett, Watchman Nee, Ray Brubaker, Hudson Taylor, Sarah Foulkes Moore, Robert Chapman
D. M. Panton (editor of *The Dawn*), G.H.Pember, J.A.Seiss, T. Austin Sparks
A. B. Simpson, founder of the American Christian and Missionary Alliance, taught it in parable of the 10 virgins but was more closely associated as a Pre-Millennial Historicist

Current Notables:
Henry Haney, Troy Brooks (godtube.com), Joey Faust, Robert Wilkin (Grace Evangelical Society)

Web Sites:
http://www3.telus.net/trbrooks/Partial_rapture.htm
Henry Haney (www.truthablaze.com)
Bible Communications, Inc. (http://www.tanbible.com/tol_knw/tol_knw_partrapt.htm)
Jack Shelton (http://members.tripod.com/sheltonjack/id38.htm)
Anonymous (http://www.kingdom-gospel.com/rapture.html)
Ray Brubaker Files (http://www.raptureme.com/featured/brubaker/brubaker.html)

Quote:
"He gave His disciples no reason to believe that their readiness for the Rapture rested on any experience of salvation they may have had. He made it pointed and plain that their conduct at the moment of the Rapture meant the winning of the prize."
(Sarah Foulkes Moore, *Herald of His Coming*)

Mid-Tribulation Rapture



Specific Distinctives:
Divides the 7-year Tribulation into two periods of 1260 days each
The first 1260 days is the wrath of the Antichrist
Christians will go through first half of the Tribulation
The second 1260 is the wrath of God which believers will escape
The resurrection of the two witnesses is symbolic of the Rapture of the Church (Rev 11:1-14)
Believers will be raptured at the 7th 'trumpet judgment' (Rev 11:15)

Background:
Possibly alluded to by Morgan Edwards in 'Millennium' & 'Last-Novelties' in 1740s at Bristol Baptist Seminary in England
Norman B. Harrison writing in 1941 was the chief promoter of the Mid-Tribulation position

Works:
Norman B. Harrison, The End: Rethinking the Revelation (1941)
Gleason Archer, The Rapture: Pre-,Mid-, or Post-Tribulational (1984)
Karl Kemp, The Mid-Week Rapture (1991)
W. T. Stiles, The Last Days: Let Scripture Be Your Guide (1997)

Theological Persuasion:
Calvinists and Arminians

Churches:
Baptist and Independent

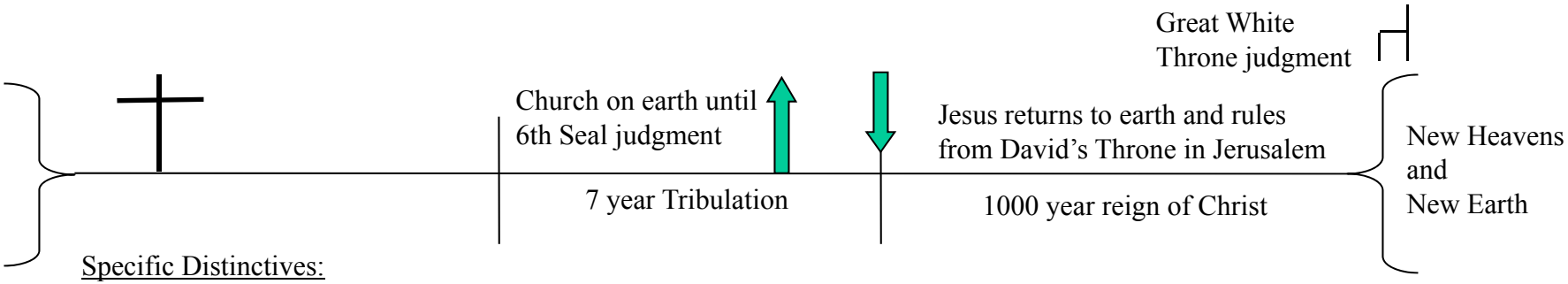
Past Notables:
Norman B. Harrison, James Oliver Buswell, Harold J. Ockenga, Gleason L. Archer

Current Notables:
Dr. Michael Ford, Karl Kemp, Steve W. Lemke, W. T. Stiles

Web Sites:
Dr. Michael Ford (http://jonsquillministries.org)
Pasi Toivonen (http://www.mantta.fi/~patato/mrapture.html)
Deborah (http://www2.dmci.net/~milknhoney/drbrapture.html)
Steve W. Lemke (http://www.nobts.edu/Faculty/ItoR/LemkeSW/Personal/midtribulationism.html)
W. T. Stiles (www.letscripturebeyourguide.com)

Quote:
"We will be on the earth during the first half of Daniel's 70th week. We will not be on the earth during any part of the forty-two month super-evil reign of Antichrist, which will begin in the middle of Daniel's 70th week. We will not be here when God pours out His seven bowls of wrath. Rather, from the time of the mid-week rapture, we will be reigning with the Lord Jesus Christ."
(Karl Kemp, The Mid-Week Rapture, 1991)

Pre-Wrath Rapture



Specific Distinctives:
The Church will enter the Great Tribulation which begins at the midpoint of Daniel's seventieth week
The Church will be raptured just after the sixth seal (Rev 6:12-17) sometime after the midpoint of the 70th week of Daniel but before the wrath of the Lamb (Rev 6:16)
The Day of the Lord's wrath begins on the same day the Rapture occurs
It recognizes that the Day of the Lord's wrath is distinguished from the Antichrist's Great Tribulation
Christians will endure the Antichrist's Great Tribulation but will escape the Day of the Lord's wrath

Background:
Systematized and promoted by Marv Rosenthal (1990) and Robert Van Kampen (1997)
Charles Cooper sees their eschatological position standing on 4 solid legs:
One leg involves the Church's exemption from the wrath of God (Pretribulationalism)
One leg consists of a distinction between the wrath of God and the wrath of Antichrist (Midtribulationalism)
One leg constitutes a distinction between the "great tribulation" and the eschatological Day of the Lord (Posttribulationalism)
The last leg shows that the persecution by Antichrist will be cut short before the end of the Seventieth Week,
providing the interval between the rapture and Christ's coming at the battle of Armageddon
during which time all of the Day of the Lord's wrath, which includes the trumpet and bowl judgments, will be played out.

Works:
Marv Rosenthal, The PreWrath Rapture of the Church (1990)
Robert D. VanKampen, The Sign (1992)
Robert D. VanKampen, The Rapture Question Answered: Plain and Simple (1997)
Heidi L. Nigro, Before God's Wrath: The Bible's Answer to the Timing of the Rapture (2000, 2004)
Charles Cooper, God's Elect and the Great Tribulation: An Interpretation of Matt 24:1-34 & Daniel (2008)
Charles Cooper, Fight, Flight, or Faith: How to Survive the Great Tribulation (2008)

Theological Persuasion:
Calvinists and Arminians

Churches:
Baptist, Alliance, Community and Independent

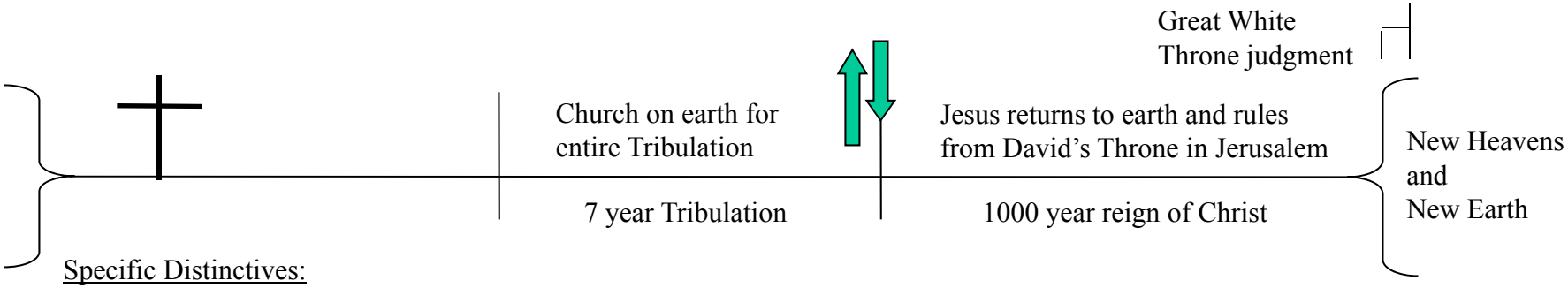
Past Notables:
Robert Van Kampen

Current Notables:
Charles Cooper, Marv Rosenthal, Ted Montgomery, Toby Vance, Alan Kurschner
Dr. Elbert D. Charpie, Dave Bussard, Roger Best, Heidi L. Nigro

Web Sites:
Charles Cooper (www.prewrathrapture.com)
Marv Rosenthal (www.zionshope.org)
Dr. Elbert D. Charpie (http://prewrathministries.org/about.html)
Strong Tower Publishing (http://strongtowerpublishing.com)

Quote:
"The Prewrath view states that the Great Tribulation (Antichrist's wrath) begins at the midpoint at the abomination of desolation. Then sometime during the second half of the 70th week of Daniel the Great Tribulation will be cut short with the Second Coming which begins with the rapture. Then the subsequent Day of the Lord's wrath (trumpet and bowls) is poured out upon the ungodly for the remaining part of the 70th week of Daniel.“ (Prewrath Resource Institute)

Post-Tribulation Rapture



Specific Distinctives:
Christians will endure entire Tribulation of which many will be martyred
Believers are raptured at Christ's visible appearing and then return with Him to earth for 1000 years
This view is very similar to Historical Pre-Millennialism

Background:
Though not Dispensational, Justin Martyr (110-165), Ireneaus (120-202), Tertullian (145-220), Hippolytus (160-240), Cyprian (200-260) taught that the Antichrist would persecute the Church

Works:
Ralph W. Ullmann, That Blessed Hope, A Post Tribulation Event (1937)
George L. Rose, Tribulation Till Transition (1943)
Robert Gundry, The Church and the Tribulation (1973), First the Antichrist (1997)
Roy W. Anderberg, Post Tribulation Rapture: A Biblical Study of the Return of Christ (2008)

Theological Persuasion:
Calvinists and Arminians

Churches:
Baptist, Independent, Pentecostal, Messianic

Past Notables:
Walter Martin (the original ‘Bible Answer Man’)
George Muller, Benjamin Wills Newton (clashed with Darby over eschatology)
Charles Spurgeon (1834-1892) is also cited as a proponent of Post-Trib thought

Current Notables:
Greg Koukl, Monte Judah, Ken Kline, Tim Warner, Irwin Baxter

Web Sites:
Gavin Finley (http://endtimepilgrim.org/posttribrap.htm)
William Arnold III (www.apostolic.net/biblicalstudies/post/index.htm)
Joel C. Graves (http://www.posttribulationrapture.com)
R. Totten (http://worldview_3.tripod.com/tribchurch.html)
Tim Warner (www.answersinrevelation.org)

Quotes:
“Every day we get a little closer to the "Blessed Hope", Jesus Christ returning bodily to take the reins to the kingdoms of this Earth, but we also get even closer to the Great Tribulation. This will be a period so hideous that if Christ were not to return, no flesh would be saved, but for the elects' sake, He will return to take away His Church, all believers not martyred. This will happen "at the last trump" when the living and "the dead in Christ" will be resurrected, "in the twinkle of an eye." This has been labeled the Rapture of the Church and it has also been called the time of preparation for the "marriage supper" of the Lamb. (Robert J. Logston ‘The End-Times Bloodbath’)