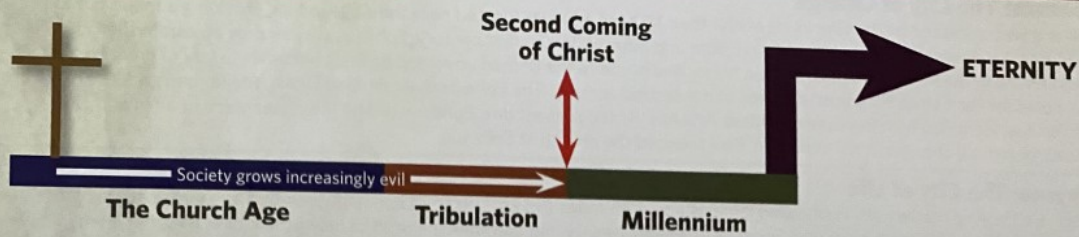


# Four Views of the End Times

## HISTORICAL PREMILLENNIALISM



### What is historical premillennialism?

It is the belief that Christians will remain on the earth during the great tribulation, which will purify the churches by rooting out false believers. The second coming of Christ will precede the millennium, which is a literal, future event. God's promises of land and blessings to Abraham and his offspring were conditional promises based on their obedience. The church has replaced the nation of Israel as God's covenant people. God has maintained a covenant of grace throughout the Old and New Testaments with all who trusted in him. These believers—embodied today in the church—are the true Israel (Rom. 9:6-8; Gal. 6:16).

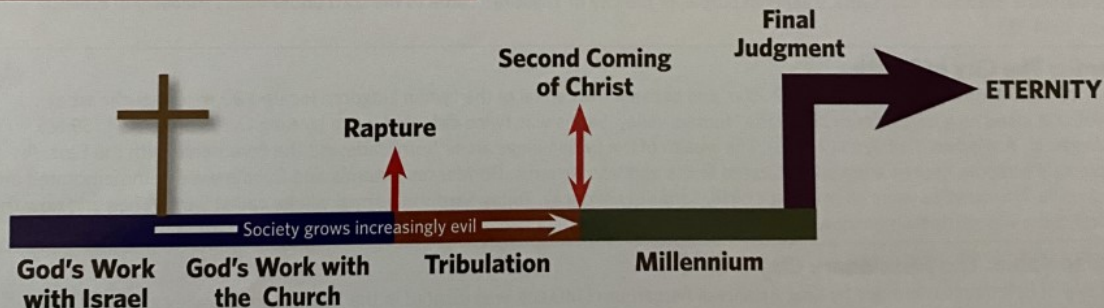
### What Scriptures seem to support this view?

The revealing of the Antichrist precedes Christ's return (2 Thess. 2:3-4). The tribulation will root out false members from the churches (Rev. 2:22-23). The saints are on earth during the tribulation (Rev. 13:7). God's promises to Abraham and his offspring were conditional (Gen. 22:18; 2 Chron. 33:8; Isa. 1:19-20; Jer. 7:6-7). The New Testament frequently uses "Israel" and "the twelve tribes" to refer to Christians (Matt. 19:28-29; Rom. 9:6-8).

### When has this view been popular?

It seems to have been the earliest view of the end times among Christians who lived just after the apostles, but it faded with later church fathers. Supporters included many early church fathers such as Lactantius, Irenaeus, Justin Martyr, and possibly Papias. Modern supporters include David Dockery, John Warwick Montgomery, George R. Beasley-Murray, Robert Gundry, and George E. Ladd.

## DISPENSATIONAL PREMILLENNIALISM



### What is dispensational premillennialism?

It is the belief that Jesus will come back to earth after a seven-year tribulation and will rule during a thousand-year millennium of peace on earth. God will still give to the nation of Israel the land described in Genesis 15:18. All references to Israel in Revelation refer to the nation of Israel. Most who hold this view are "pre-tribulationists"; they understand Revelation 4:1-2 to refer to the rapture. The rapture is the event when Christ removes Christians from the earth before the great tribulation begins. The rapture and the second coming of Jesus are two separate events. Others who hold this view are "mid-tribulationists"; they believe the rapture will occur during the tribulation.

### What Scriptures seem to support this view?

God will remove Christians before the tribulation (1 Thess. 5:9; Rev. 3:10). God's promises to Abraham and his offspring were unconditional (Gen. 15:7-21). The church is not specifically mentioned between Revelation 4 and 19.

### When has this view been popular?

This view emerged in the 1800s among the Plymouth Brethren. It increased in popularity in the late 1800s and remains widespread today. Supporters include J. Nelson Darby, C.I. Scofield, Harry A. Ironside, Gleason Archer, Donald G. Barnhouse, Hal Lindsey, Chuck Smith, John MacArthur, Charles Ryrie, Charles Stanley, Norman L. Geisler, and Tim LaHaye.