

1. Introduction

- 1.1. September/October 1988 at Fort Benning, Ga – “88 Reasons...”
- 1.2. 1st Gulf War – 1990-91 – “*Israel, Oil, and the Middle East*”
- 1.3. Left Behind ('95) Tribulation Force ('96) Nicolae ('97) Soul Harvest ('98) Apollyon ('99) Assassins ('99) The Indwelling ('00) The Mark ('00) Desecration ('01) The Remnant ('02) Armageddon ('03) Glorious Appearing ('04) The Rising ('05) The Regime ('05) The Rapture ('05) Kingdom Come ('07); The average price of each book is \$15 (softcover) x 63 million copies = \$945 million (well over a billion dollars if you factor hardcovers).
- 1.4. 9-11-01 – “*The Harbinger*” (2012); \$11 X 2 million copies = \$22 million.
- 1.5. October 2023 Hamas invaded Israel; “*The Great Disappearance: 31 Ways to be Rapture Ready*” by David Jeremiah - \$17.75 on Amazon. “An Instant Wall Street Journal, USA Today, and Publishers Weekly Bestseller.”
- 1.6. Even on the Joe Rogan Experience!
- 1.7. Nothing new/not a surprise; the Apostles' asked when will these things be?

2. Some Terms Defined

- 2.1. Eschatology: *eschaton* = end/last + *logos* = word about/study of.
- 2.2. Millennium = 1000 years; chiliasm; Millennialism = 1000 year reign of Christ; Revelation 20
- 2.3. **Historic Premillennialism:** eschatology that holds to a post-tribulational rapture and posits that the church will raise to meet Christ in the air after the trials experienced during the Great Tribulation.
- 2.4. **Postmillennialism:** Christ's second coming will be preceded by the Millennium, a golden age of gospel blessing upon the ministry of the church. At Christ's coming there will be the general resurrection, the general judgment, followed by the creation of the new heavens and the new earth, and the eternal state.
- 2.5. **Amillennialism:** the thousand years is a description of the entire period between Christ's two advents. 1000 = symbolic of the complete period of Gospel proclamation to all those who are elect in Christ, both Jew and Gentile.
- 2.6. **Dispensational Premillennialism:** Where to begin?
 - 2.6.1. Dispensationalism: A system of theology
 - 2.6.2. A dispensation is a period of time during which man is tested in respect of obedience to some specific revelation of the will of God. (Scofield Reference Bible, SRB)
 - 2.6.3. Seven Dispensations: *Innocency* (Gen. 1:27), *Conscience* (Gen. 3:23); *Human Government* (Gen. 8:20); *Promise* (Gen. 12:1); *Law* (Ex. 19:8); *Grace* (John 1:17); *Kingdom* (Eph. 1:10). (SRB)
 - 2.6.4. “What is unique about dispensationalism is the way these distinct periods in biblical history are used to justify or undergird a separation between Israel and the Church. Dispensationalism's principal feature is what might be called *redemptive dualism*, that is, the insistence that God has two distinct peoples, with distinct purposes for each. Variations within dispensationalism usually revolve around the question of whether and to what degree Israel and the Church share in the blessings and promises of God. Therefore, it is the distinction between Israel and the Church and the purposes God has for each that sets dispensationalism apart from other eschatological systems.” (Sam Storms: Kingdom Come, p. 50-51)
 - 2.6.5. Two People of God: Israel and the Church
 - 2.6.6. What about Scripture? Bible for Israel: ALL of the OT + NT upto Pentecost then Revelation 20-22.
Bible for the Church: Acts 2 – Revelation 3, 19-22.
 - 2.6.6.1. Barnhouse and the Lord's Prayer (Wrongly Dividing, p. 60)
- 2.7. **Dispensational Premillennialism:** A Chronology (Sam Storms: Kingdom Come, p. 63-67)

First, according to this scheme of end-time events, Jesus will appear suddenly and unannounced in the heavens at which time he will *rapture* or translate or “catch up” to himself all Christians currently alive on the earth. All believers who had previously died will also be resurrected at this time. This event is *imminent*...All others will be “left behind” to endure the horror of the great tribulation, together with the unbelieving populace of the earth.

Second, there will ensue a period of seven years during which the judgments and wrath of God (as expressed in the seal, trumpet, and bowl judgments of the book of Revelation) will be poured out on the non-

Christian peoples of the earth. This seven-year period is the seventieth and final week of Daniel's prophecy (Dan. 9:24–27). A world leader, popularly known as the Antichrist, will emerge. He will initially establish a covenant of peace with Israel, only to betray the agreement at the midpoint of the tribulation (3½ years), at which time he will orchestrate a global persecution of the Jewish people and any who may have come to saving faith in Christ after the rapture.

- Third, at the Lord's second coming after the tribulation, in conjunction with the Battle of Armageddon where the Antichrist and the enemies of the gospel are finally and fully defeated, the vast majority of Israelites who survive that period of time will be converted to faith in Christ. Those who remain in unbelief will be put to death and not permitted to enter the millennium.
- Fourth, all Gentiles who also survived the tribulation will be judged (Matt. 25:31–46): the sheep (who are saved) being left on the earth to enter the millennium and the goats (the lost) being cast into everlasting fire and condemnation.
- Fifth, these saved Israelites and saved Gentiles will therefore enter the millennium in their natural, physical, unglorified bodies (that is to say, in the same condition in which you who are reading this book now find yourselves).
- Sixth, when Christ returns at the close of the tribulation there will also occur the bodily resurrection both of Old Testament saints and those believers who died during the tribulation period.
- Seventh, Satan will at that time be bound and sealed for 1,000 years (he and the Antichrist having been defeated at the battle of Armageddon), wholly prevented from perpetrating evil during the millennial kingdom.
- Eighth, Christ now begins his millennial reign. He ascends a throne in Jerusalem and rules over a predominantly Jewish kingdom, although Gentiles share in its blessings. The subjects of Christ's rule are primarily those Israelites and Gentiles who entered the kingdom in their natural bodies. Thus, at the *beginning* of the millennium there are no unregenerate/unbelieving people alive on the earth. This reign of Christ also fulfills the promises made to Israel in the Old Testament.
- Ninth, those who have entered the millennium in their natural bodies will marry and reproduce, and though they will live much longer than they would have prior to Christ's coming, most of them will eventually die. This period is a time of unparalleled economic prosperity, political peace, and spiritual renewal. Worship in the millennium will center around a rebuilt temple in Jerusalem in which animal sacrifices will be offered: these sacrifices, however, will not be propitiatory, argues the dispensational premillennialist, but *memorial* offerings in remembrance of Christ's death.
- Tenth, although dissimilarities exist, the millennial kingdom will see a virtual revival of much of the Mosaic and Levitical systems described in the Old Testament.
- Eleventh, all resurrected saints (i.e., Old Testament saints, Christians raptured before the great tribulation, and believers who came to faith during the tribulation but were put to death by the Antichrist) will live in the New Jerusalem (Rev. 21:1–22:5). This New Jerusalem will be above the earth, in the air, shedding its light and glory thereon. Resurrected saints will play some role in Christ's rule on the earth; their primary activity, however, will be in the New and Heavenly Jerusalem.
- Twelfth, children will be born to those believers (both Jew and Gentile) who entered the millennial kingdom in their natural bodies (and it is reasonable to assume that these children will themselves in turn live long lives, get married, and in turn bear yet more children). Many will come to faith in Christ and be saved. Those who persist in unbelief will be restrained by the righteous rule and government of Christ. At the end of the millennial kingdom Satan is released and will gather all unbelievers in one final conflict against Christ (Rev. 20:7–10). The rebellion will be crushed and Satan will be cast into the lake of fire, where the Antichrist and false prophet already languish (having been judged and cast there at the close of the tribulation).
- Thirteenth, two more bodily resurrections now occur: that of all unbelievers of every age and that of believers who died during the millennial kingdom.
- Fourteenth, the consummation will then come with the Great White Throne Judgment (Rev. 20:11–15), at which all unbelievers of every ethnicity and every era of human history will appear. They will be judged in accordance with "what they had done" (i.e., according to their works; Rev. 20:13–14).
- Fifteenth, and finally, the new heavens and new earth are created as the everlasting dwelling place of God and his people, and thus begins the eternal state (Rev. 21:1–22:5).

3. Final Thoughts