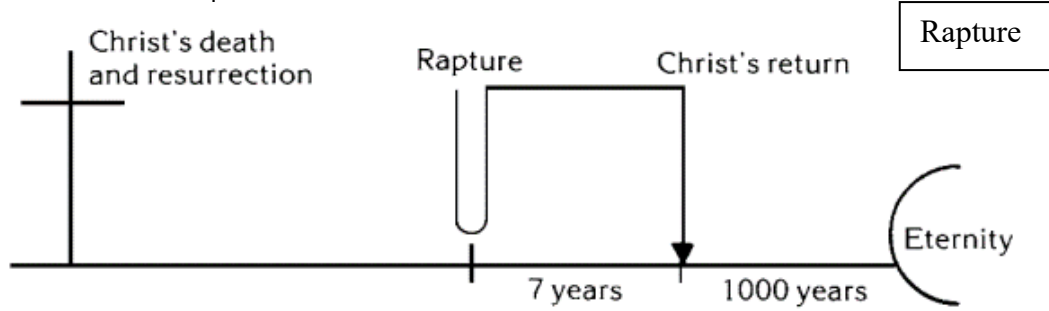
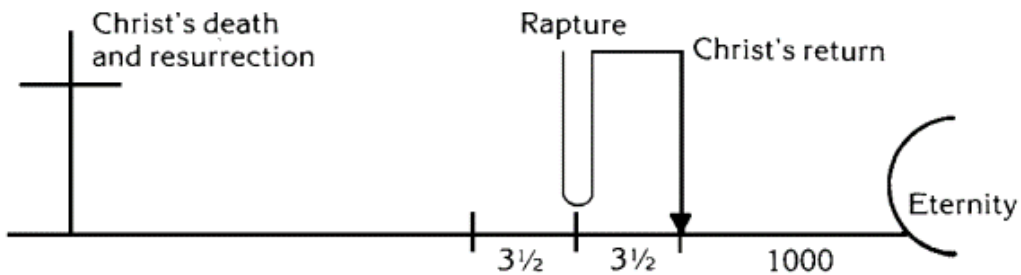


# The Millennium: Part 6 Apostasy & Antichrist

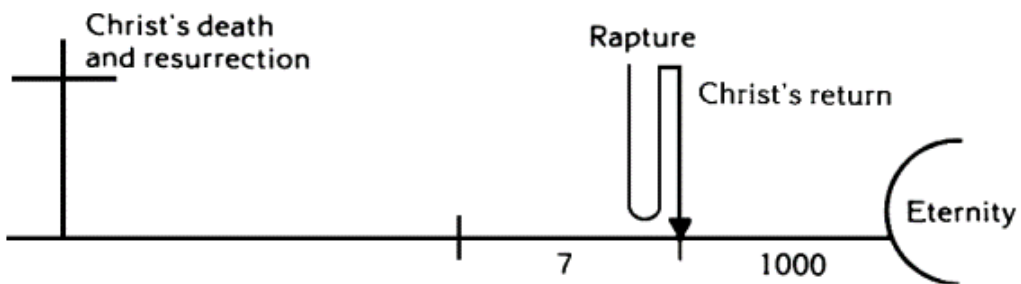
## Dispensational Pretribulation Premillennialism



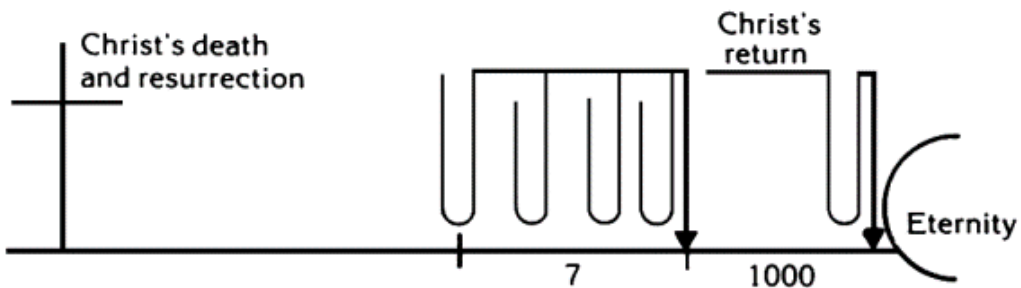
## Dispensational Midtribulationism Premillennialism



## Dispensational Posttribulationism Premillennialism



## Dispensational Partial rapture Premillennialism



### 1. Introduction

1.1. Dispensational Premillennial views. (Figs. from Ryrie *What You Should Know About the Rapture*)

1.2. Why so many different views? Answer: 1 Thess. 4:13-18; 5:5:1-11 & 2 Thess. 2:1-12

### 2. Don't be Alarmed (2 Thess 2:1-2)

2.1. They were concerned that the Lord had already come. (2 Thess 2:1-2, esp. V. 2)

2.2. 1 Thess 5:1-5. Don't be concerned about the timing of the events because you belong to the Light! Now live like it (1 Thess 5:6-11). V. 9-10 is especially Reformed!

2.3. 2 Thess 2:1-2: The day of the Lord has not come because you would know if it had. "The noun *episynagōgē* ('gathering together')(V.1) here clearly refers to the Second Coming" (Cara, 196). Application: technical term for corporate worship (Heb. 10:25). You won't miss worship!

2.4. But he gives them some additional encouragement. There are two things that must happen.

3. First thing before the Return of Christ (Resurrection & Rapture): Apostasy (1 Thess 2:3a)

3.1. V. 3a "Rebellion"(ESV) must come. Gr. is *apostasia* (apostasy). Lexham Bible Dictionary: "A public denial of a previously held religious belief and a distancing from the community that holds to it. The term is almost always applied pejoratively, carrying connotations of rebellion, betrayal, treachery, or faithlessness." A great falling away of people from the visible church.

3.2. Matt. 25:10-12 "And then many will fall away and betray one another and hate one another.

<sup>11</sup> And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray. <sup>12</sup> And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold." Cf. Heb 6:4-6; 1 John 2:18-19; 1 Timothy 4:1-3.

3.2.1. "During the old dispensation the predicted final apostasy had been foreshadowed again and again by defection of Israel from the living God. A most striking instance of apostasy occurred during the reign of that cruel and wicked forerunner of the Antichrist, namely, Antiochus Epiphanes (who ruled from 175–164 b.c.). He was determined to wipe out the religion of Israel root and branch: "In those days there came forth out of Israel transgressors of the law, who persuaded many, saying, Let us go and make a covenant with the Gentiles that are round about us.... And they made themselves uncircumcised, and forsook the holy covenant, and joined themselves to the Gentiles, and sold themselves to do evil.... And many of Israel consented to his worship, and sacrificed to the idols, and profaned the sabbath.... And the king's officers, that were enforcing the apostasy, came into the city of Modein to sacrifice" (1 Macc. 1:11, 15, 43; 2:15). What the apostle Paul is now saying, here in 2 Thess. 2:3, amount to this: Just like the first coming of Christ was preceded by a period of apostasy, so also the second coming will not occur

until a similar apostasy has taken place. In this case, however, the apostasy will be a falling away from (yes, and open rebellion against) the God who climaxed his love by a deed of infinite sacrifice in the interest of sinners, namely, the giving of his only-begotten Son" (Hendriksen, 169).

3.3. Characteristics of the time: False Security and gross materialism. Luke 17:26-30. Sharp division between believers and non-believers. Luke 17:33-37.

4. Second thing before the Return of Christ (Resurrection & Rapture): Antichrist (1 Thess 2:3b ff)

4.1. The spirit of antichrist has been lurking in the world since the beginning of all things. John notes this in 1 John 2:18 "Children, it is the last hour, and as you have heard that antichrist is coming, so now many antichrists have come. Therefore we know that it is the last hour." V. 22 "Who is the liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, he who denies the Father and the Son." 4:3 "every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already." 2 John 7 "For many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not confess the coming of Jesus Christ in the flesh. Such a one is the deceiver and the antichrist."

4.2. Personified in every individual or system who has these characteristics that John gives.

4.2.1. The Papacy (the succession of Popes). This was the view of many of the Reformers. Calvin: "now anyone who has learned from Scripture what are the things that belong particularly to God, and who on the other hand considers well what the Pope usurps for himself, will not have much difficulty in recognizing Antichrist" (Calvin, 401). Cf. WCF 25.6.

4.2.2. Other identifications include: Satan himself, the line of Roman Emperors, Nero come back to life, Muhammed, Mikail Gorbachev (when I was a kid), Saddam Hussain, etc...

4.3. Who is it? Is there a line of antichrists that will culminate in The Antichrist?

4.3.1. Paul seems to think so! And because of what Paul writes here, many in the Reformed tradition think so too. Hendriksen, Vos, Bob Cara, Dick Belcher (I'm pretty sure), Reformation Study Bible, Reformation Heritage Study Bible. But some are not so definite, Sam Storms being one of them (he quotes Augustine).

- 4.4. V.4 – “the man of lawlessness (sin)”, “the son of destruction (perdition)”. The definite article “the” makes things definite, unique. Completely opposed to the idea that there is anything called the law of God! Destined to be the “final Judas...the utterly lost one, designated unto perdition” (Hendriksen, 177).
- 4.5. V.5 He opposes and exalts himself against every god or object of worship.
- 4.6. V.5b he seats himself in the temple of God. What is the temple of God?
- 4.6.1. A rebuilt temple in Jerusalem? Matt 23: 37-38 “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! See, your house is left to you desolate.”
- 4.6.2. What is the temple of God in the New Testament? 1 Peter 2:5 “you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house...” Ephesians 2:19-22.
- 4.6.3. Jesus in Matt. 24:15 “So when you see the abomination of desolation spoken of by the prophet Daniel, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand)”
- 4.6.4. The Antichrist takes his place in the visible church!
- 4.7. V. 9-10 he's under the authority of Satan bringing false signs and wonders, deceiving those who are lost, V.11 those deluded by God V.12 predestined to be condemned.
- 4.8. V. 6-7 He is restrained until the time ordained by God.
- 4.9. V. 8 Christ Jesus will be victorious over him!

#### Amillennialism

