

History of Eschatology

From the Reformation

Reformation

Luther

- Martin Luther (1483-1546 AD): “We have reached the time of the white (pale) horse of the Apocalypse. This world will not last any more, if God wills it, than another hundred years.”
 - The Papacy as Antichrist
 - Turks as Gog and Magog

Radical Anabaptists

- Thomas Muntzer (1488-1525) (Spiritual revelation through dreams, visions and suffering)
Peasants War of 1525
- Melchior Hoffman (1495=1543) (Strassbourg as the New Jerusalem - 1533)
- Jan Matthys / Jan van Leiden (Munster as the New Jerusalem)
 - Munster Rebellion 1534

English Interregnum 1649-1660

- Fifth Monarchy Men (Establish Kingdom of God by force if necessary)
- Restoration of Charles II (1660)
- Puritan Migration to America (New World and New Jerusalem)

Modern

Postmillennialism

- Jonathan Edwards (1703-1758) (Great Awakening as a sign of the approaching Millennium)
- A. H. Strong (1836-1921 AD): “In short, we hold that Revelation 20:4-10 does not describe the events commonly called the second advent and resurrection, but rather describes great spiritual changes in the later history of the church, which are typical of, and preliminary to, the second advent and resurrection, and therefore, after the prophetic method, are foretold in language literally applicable only to those final events themselves.”

Fringe Groups

- Shakers (Ann Lee as feminine incarnation of Christ)
- Mormons
 - America as the Promised Land
 - Independence, MO = Zion
- Historic Premillennialism (Millerism)
 - William Miller (1782-1849): “I am fully convinced that somewhere between March 21st, 1843 and March 21st 1844, according to the Jewish mode of computation, Christ will come.”
 - The Great Disappointment
 - Seventh Day Adventists
 - Jehovah's Witnesses (1874, 1878, 1881, 1910, 1914, 1918, 1925, 1975, 1984)
 - Charles Taze Russel (1852-1916) “This Time of the End, or day of Jehovah's *preparation*, beginning A. D. 1799 and closing A. D. 1914, though characterized by a great increase of knowledge over all past ages, is to culminate in the greatest time of trouble the world has ever known; but it is nevertheless preparing for and leading into that blessed time so long promised, when the *true* Kingdom of God, under the control of the *true* Christ, will fully establish an order of government the very reverse of that of Antichrist.”
 - Joseph Rutherford (1869-1942) “Millions now living will never die.”

Dispensational Premillennialism

- John Nelson Darby (1800-1882)
- Reuben A. Torrey “All our present peace plans will end in the most awful wars and conflicts this old world ever saw.”

Israel and the Church

- John Nelson Darby (1800-1882 AD): “Two great subjects present themselves to us in Scripture: the church, that sovereign grace that gives us a place along with Christ himself in glory and blessing; and God's government of the world, of which Israel forms the center and the immediate sphere.”
- Balfour Declaration 1917 “His Majesty's Government views with favour the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people and will use their best endeavors to facilitate the achievement of this object.”

Rapture

Pretribulation Rapture – The Great Parenthesis

- John Nelson Darby (1800-1882 AD): “The thing it has to expect for itself is not - though sure of that also –

Christ's appearing, but her being taken up where he is [1 Thess 4:16-17]/ We go to meet Christ in the air. Nothing clearer, then, than that we are to go up to meet him, and not await his coming to earth.”

Postribulation Rapture

- Charles Erdman(1897-1984 AD): “The Bible further describes the coming of Christ as imminent. It is an event that may occur in any lifetime. Whatever difficulties the fact involves, there is no doubt that all the biblical writers and their fellow Christians believed that Christ might return in their generation . . . Imminence as related to our Lord's return indicates uncertainty as to time, but possibility of nearness.”

Mid-Tribulation Rapture

- Gleason Archer (1916-2004 AD): “This interpretation makes a clear division between the first half [of the Tribulation] as the period of the wrath of man, and the second half as the period of the wrath of God. . . The final generation of the pre-Rapture church will be subjected to the wrath of man, bu spared from the wrath of God.”

Sects

- Worldwide Church of God (British Israelism)
 - Herbert W. Armstrong (1892-1986)
- Unification Church (First Adam, Second Adam, Lord of the Second Advent = Moon)
 - Sun Myong Moon (1920-2012)
- Branch Davidians (Judgment of the Sixth Seal)
 - David Khoresh (1959-1993)