

An aerial, high-angle photograph of a zebra crossing on a city street. The crossing consists of alternating black and white horizontal stripes. Several pedestrians are captured in motion, crossing the street. Their shadows are cast long and dark on the pavement, indicating bright, direct sunlight. The people are dressed in casual attire, including t-shirts, shorts, and dresses. One person is using a smartphone, another is holding a bag, and one is using an umbrella. The overall scene conveys a sense of busy, everyday urban life.

LAST DAYS LIVING

A STUDY IN I & II THESSALONIANS

**“A Primer for Eschatology”
Part II**

Selected Scriptures

1. The only consensus within eschatology is that there is no consensus.
2. There is not a single verse or passage that answers all our questions about eschatology.
3. Dogmatism is optional; charity is not optional.
4. Sequence or chronology is not as important as being ready.
5. Interpreting Scripture within its context must be an essential commitment.

Review - 5 Disclaimers

1. Amillennialism

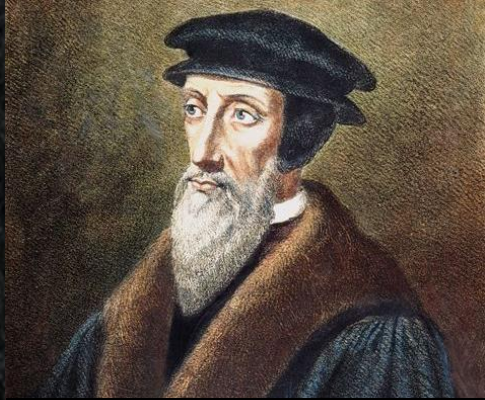
2. Postmillennialism

- Developed in the 1600's by Daniel Whitby
- Sees God's kingdom extended through preaching the Gospel and world becoming more Christianized (a "golden era")
- "post" (meaning "after")
- Jesus returns after a symbolic millennium ends.
- "Thousand" refers to a long period of time.
- A.D. 70 – fulfillment of many prophecies
- 2 branches: liberal (or social Gospel) and evangelical

4 Main Views on the Millennium

- Date of writing for Revelation
- Is the world getting better?

Critiques of Postmillennialism



John
Calvin



Jay
Adams



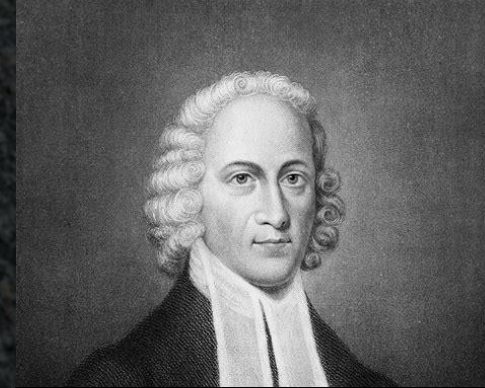
John
Owen



John
Murray



Matthew
Henry



Jonathan
Edwards



B.B
Warfield



John
and Charles
Wesley



R.C.
Sproul



Charles
Spurgeon



George
Whitefield



Stephen
Charnock

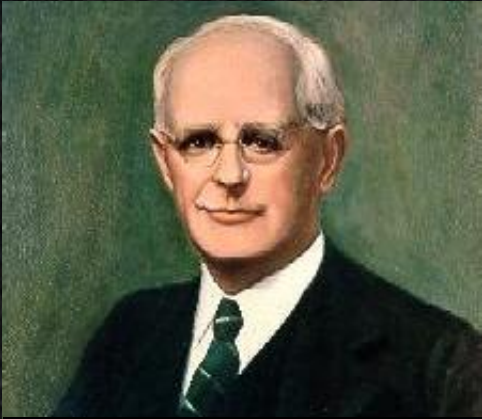
1. Amillennialism

2. Postmillennialism

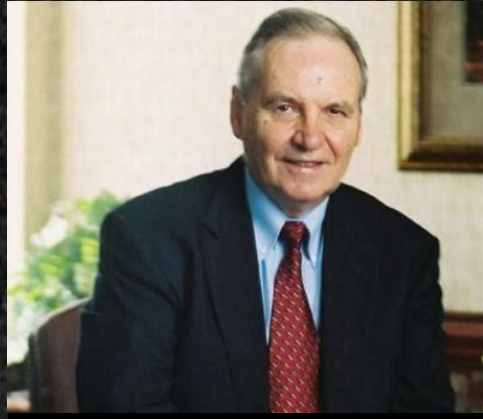
3. Dispensational premillennialism

- The historic view of WBC
- Believes in a literal 1,000-year reign of Christ, following the Second Coming
- Rapture an event preceding a 7-year Tribulation
- View Revelation 19-21 chronologically
- Satan not bound
- Separate programs for Israel and the church

4 Main Views on the Millennium



Lewis S.
Chafer



Norman
Geisler



H.A.
Ironside



Grant
Jeffrey



Hal
Lindsey



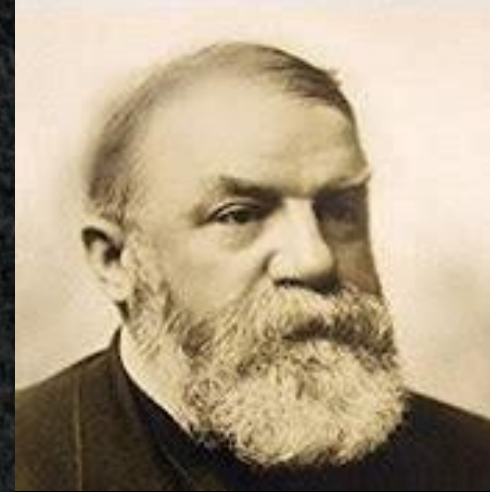
John
MacArthur



**Darrell
Bock**



**John
Walvoord**



D.L. Moody



**Charles
Ryrie**



Tertullian



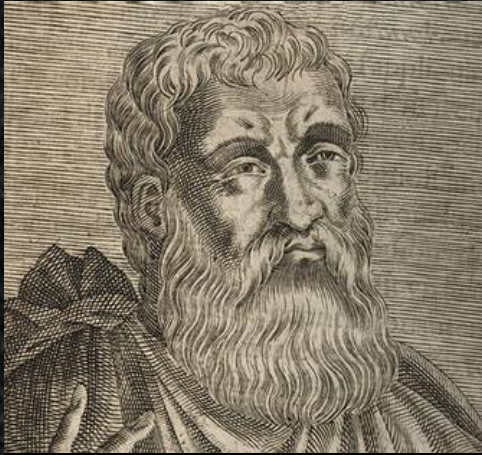
Ignatius

- The “church” in Revelation local, not universal
- Rapture in I Thessalonians 4

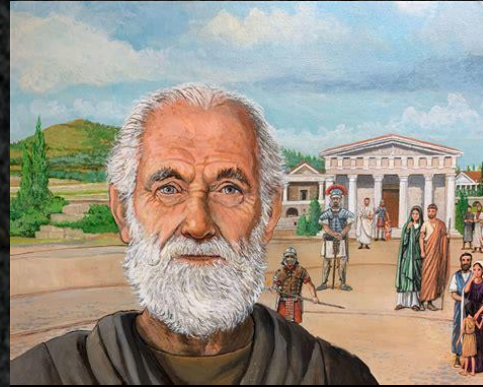
Critiques of Dispensational Premillennialism

1. Amillennialism
2. Postmillennialism
3. Dispensational premillennialism
4. Historic premillennialism
 - a literal 1,0000-year reign of Christ following the Second Coming
 - Rapture not an event preceding the Tribulation but the activity of the saints at the 2nd Coming
 - Tribulation not literal but ongoing for the saints
 - Gentiles grafted into the church (Rom 11:17-25)

4 Main Views on the Millennium



Justin
Martyr



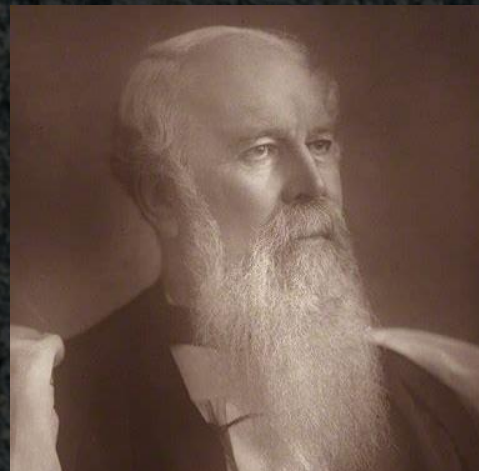
Polycarp



Irenaeus



James M.
Boice



J.C. Ryle

1. The Bible is the Word of God.
2. Salvation is not determined by your view of the Rapture or Tribulation but by trusting in Christ as your Lord and Savior.
3. Jesus came to die on the cross for the forgiveness of sins, was raised from the dead to signify defeat of death & the power of sin.
4. Jesus will return again in literal, bodily form.
5. God will judge all those who have rejected Him.
6. The eternal state

Where Do We All Agree?

- “Triage” – “to sort”
- Needed since all doctrine is not of equal importance

Learning to Triage Doctrine

For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become guilty of all of it.

James 2:10

1. Primary doctrines
2. Secondary doctrines
3. Tertiary doctrines
4. Other doctrines

4 Categories of Doctrine

1. Primary doctrines– doctrines that we must hold to be a Christian (I Cor 15:3); examples - deity of Christ, justification by faith alone, Second Coming, trinity, etc.
2. Secondary doctrines
3. Tertiary doctrines
4. Other doctrines

4 Categories of Doctrine

1. Primary doctrines
2. Secondary doctrines – areas of disagreement that create significant boundaries (e.g., not attending church together); examples - nature of baptism, miraculous gifts, women in ministry
3. Tertiary doctrines
4. Other doctrines

4 Categories of Doctrine

1. Primary doctrines
2. Secondary doctrines
3. Tertiary doctrines – areas of disagreement that don't forbid us from worshipping together; examples - defining the Rapture, duration of Tribulation
4. Other doctrines

4 Categories of Doctrine

1. Primary doctrines
2. Secondary doctrines
3. Tertiary doctrines
4. Other doctrines – anything that doesn't fit in the above 3 categories; examples - how to use the church budget, supporting missionaries; recommended curriculum

4 Categories of Doctrine

“In essentials, unity;
in nonessentials, liberty;
and in all things,
charity.”



St. Augustine

1. How clearly or certainly is the doctrine taught in Scripture?
2. Does the doctrine influence our view of the character of God?
3. How relevant is the doctrine to the Gospel?
4. How frequently is the doctrine taught in Scripture?

Questions for Triaging

5. Does a doctrine affect other doctrines?
6. Is the doctrine orthodox?
7. How does this doctrine effect our personal life and behavior in the church?
8. Is there a current pressure in the universal church or society to teach or deny a doctrine?

Questions for Triaging

9. What are the motivations of those proposing a doctrine?

10. Does it seem self-serving or rebellious to God's Word?

*²⁰ “I do not ask for these only,
but also for those who will believe in me through
their word, ²¹ that they may all be one,
just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you,
that they also may be in us, so that the world
may believe that you have sent me.*

John 17:20-21