

1 **A Season in Revelation with Dr. Paige Patterson**

2 **Session 2**

- Premillennialism
- Pretribulationism
- Outline of the Book

3 **Dispensationalism**

- Since both of these doctrines are part of the Dispensational system of doctrine, we will start there tonight.

4 **What is Dispensationalism?**

- The word, “Dispensation”
 - An administration, ministry, or stewardship for which a person has responsibility in God's administration of salvation. In certain interpretations of Scripture, a period of time during which people are tested in respect to their obedience to a specific revelation of God's will.

5 **What is Dispensationalism?**

- Dispensation, is the English translation from the Greek word, Oikonomia, which has the following translations:
 - Administration, stewardship, Commission

6 **What is Dispensationalism?**

- Eschatology adopted the word dating back to Scotland in 1830.
- “Dispensationalism” can be traced back to the visions of Margaret McDonald, a member of the Plymouth Brethren Church.

7 **Who were the Plymouth Brethren?**

- A group of separatists that broke away from the Episcopal church in Plymouth, England in 1830.
- They rejected sectarianism and all forms of official ministry or clergy.
- Also known as Darbyites.

8 **What is Dispensationalism?**

- Margaret McDonald believed that the return of Christ would be in two distinct stages.
 - The believer would be caught up to the Lord in the air before the days of the antichrist.
 - Then there would be a final revelation of Christ at the end of the age.

9 **What is Dispensationalism?**

- Pastor J.N. Darby - Miss McDonald's pastor J. N. Darby (1800-1882) picked up on her idea and began to make use of it in his sermons.
 - Darby took the two-stage coming of Christ into a fully developed eschatology or theology.

- He had been an Anglican clergyman until 1827 when he left the church to join the Plymouth Brethren.

10 **Pastor J.N. Darby**

- In the 1830s and 1840s Darby developed two distinctive additions to futurist thinking (Sandeem, 38):
- (1) the church age was a “parenthesis” between the 69th and 70th “weeks” of years in Dan. 9:25–27, and
- (2) there would be a rapture (so-called from the Vg term for “caught up” in 1 Thess. 4:17) of believers from the earth to heaven by Christ before the 70th week of Daniel 9, the “great tribulation” of divine → wrath poured out on human wickedness and unbelief.

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12 **What is Dispensationalism?**

- Seven Dispensations - Darby set forth the idea that God has set up seven time periods called dispensations for His work among human beings.
- The seventh or last dispensation will be the millennial reign of Christ (Revelation 20:1). In each dispensation, people are tested in reference to the obedience of God's will according to a specific revelation of that will.

13 **What is Dispensationalism?**

- C.I. Scofield
 - Darby visited the United States on several occasions and won many advocates to his theology.
 - However, C. I. Scofield popularized the dispensational system in his study Bible of 1909. He set forth seven dispensations in God's dealing with human beings.

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15 **What is Dispensationalism?**

- Seven Stages of Dispensationalism:
 - Innocency, Conscience, Human Government, Promise, Law, Grace and Kingdom

16 **What is Dispensationalism?**

- Seven Stages:
 - Innocence - Garden of Eden
 - Conscience - Fall/Expulsion from Eden

17 **What is Dispensationalism?**

- Seven Stages:
 - Human Government - Noah
 - Promise - Abraham

18 What is Dispensationalism?

- Seven Stages:
 - Law - Moses
 - Grace - Jesus Christ

19 What is Dispensationalism?

- Seven stages:
 - Kingdom - Millennial Reign and consummation

20 What is Dispensationalism?

- They also believed the Bible taught a 5 Step Eschatology:
 - Two stage coming of Christ - Rapture/Parousia (second coming)

21 What is Dispensationalism?

- Seven years of tribulation on earth for those not raptured. The last three and a half years will be the time of the antichrist. One hundred forty-four thousand Jews will accept Christ and become evangelists.

22 What is Dispensationalism?

- Christ will return with the church, conclude the battle of Armageddon, and rule for a thousand years.

23 What is Dispensationalism?

- Belief in an unconditional covenant with Israel. Thus God is working through Israel and the church. In the millennium, national Israel will be restored.

24 What is Dispensationalism?

- All Old Testament prophecy will be fulfilled literally.

25 7th Stage of Dispensationalism

- Millennium - 1,000 year reign of Christ.

26 What is the millennium?

- The belief that Christ's second coming will begin the 1,000 year reign otherwise known as "Millennium."
- The final phase of a system of theology known as "dispensationalism"

27 Millennium Passage

- Revelation 20:4-5 - 4 Then I saw thrones, and seated on them were those to whom the authority to judge was committed. Also I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for the testimony of Jesus and for the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands.

28 Millennium Passage

- Revelation 20:4-5 - They came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. 5 The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended. This is the first resurrection.

29 Three Views of the Millennium

- A-millennialism (Covenant View)
- Postmillennialism
- Premillennialism

30 A-millennialism

- Rev 20:1-10 describes the present church age.
- Satan's influence has been greatly reduced for the gospel to spread
- Those who have died are reigning with Christ from heaven presently

31 A-millennialism

- A = there is no future millennium to come, not a bodily reign, but heavenly one
- 1,000 years is a figurative expression to mean a long time.
- When Christ returns all will be raised up believers to Judgment Seat of Christ, unbelievers condemned to hell.

32 Postmillennialism

- Christ will return after the millennium.
- There will be a time of great gospel progress, once this progress begins to wane, Christ will return in Judgment.

33 Postmillennialism

- The primary characteristic of postmillennialism is that it is very optimistic about the power of the gospel to change lives and bring about much good in the world.

34 Premillennialism

- Classic/Historic Premillennialism
- Pretribulational Premillennialism (or Dispensational Premillennialism)

35 Classic PreMill

- Church age continues until the Great Tribulation begins.
- After the Tribulation, Christ will return and establish the Millennial kingdom.

- When he comes back deceased believers spirits will be re-united with their bodies and reign with Christ 1,000 years.

36 **Classic PreMill**

- At the beginning of this time, Satan will be bound and have no influence as he will be in a bottomless pit.
- At the end of the 1,000 years Satan will be loosed from the pit and join forces with false converts and rebel against Christ but they will be defeated.

37 **Classic PreMill**

- Christ will then raise all unbelievers from the dead and stand before him in final judgement.
- Believers will enter into the eternal state.

38 **PreTrib (Disp) PreMill**

- Christ will return before the Tribulation and the Millennium.
- Primary difference with classical PreMill is that it adds another return of Christ.
- This added return is the secret return to take believers out of the world (Rapture)

39 **PreTrib (Disp) PreMill**

- The church will continue until suddenly and unexpectedly Christ will return part way to earth and call believers to himself (1 Thess 4:16-17)
- Christ will then return to heaven with the believers and the Great Tribulation will begin on the earth for 7 years.

40 **PreTrib (Disp) PreMill**

- During this 7 years, many signs that were predicted to precede Christ's return will be fulfilled.
- The great ingathering of the Jewish people will occur, as they come to faith in Christ.
- An explosion of Jewish evangelism and conversion

41 **PreTrib (Disp) PreMill**

- At the end of the tribulation, Christ will fully return with the the Saints to reign on the earth for 1,000 years.
- After the millennium, there will be a rebellion resulting in the final defeat of Satan and his forces.
- Then comes the resurrection of unbelievers, last judgment and beginning of the eternal state.

42 **PreTrib (Disp) PreMill**

- Clear distinction is made between the church and Israel.
- Biblical prophecies must be taken literal where possible.
- Promises made to Israel must not be "spiritualized" within the church.
- Emphasizes the return of Christ "at any moment."

43 **Dr. P's Thoughts**

- Pre-millennialism
 - The earliest view of the post-apostolic church reflects a premillennial perspective.
 - The witness of the Old Testament.
 - Isaiah 2:1-5 (worldwide peace when Christ goes out from Jerusalem)

44 **Pre-millennialism**

- Isaiah 4 - anticipates a great day of cleansing for Israel.
- Isaiah 11 - domesticity of animal life will develop when the “branch” arises.
- Isaiah 49:6 - Israel will be restored as a light to the Gentiles

45 **Pre-millennialism**

- Isaiah 62:1-7 - Israel will no longer be forsaken but married.
- Ezek 37 - Israel will be revived.
- Micah 4:1-4 - the nations will flow into Zion in the last days.

46 **Pre-millennialism**

- The prophets anticipated literal fulfillment—an actual fulfillment that included and focused on Israel as the recipient of the promises of God to Abraham.
- Faithfulness of God to keep his Promises to Abraham, David and Israel.
- Paul’s testimony in Romans 9-11

47 **Dr. P's Thoughts**

- Petribulationism (rapture)
 - The church is caught up to Christ and glorified at the beginning of the tribulation.
 - During the tribulation period, 144,000 Jews and a considerable number of Gentiles come to faith (Rev 7:1–9).

48 **Petribulationism**

- Those not martyred by the man of sin (i.e., the prince to come) will be alive (Dan 9:26), living in their physical, though fallen, bodies at the Lord’s return; and they will become the initial inhabitants of the kingdom age (Matt 25:31–46).

49 **Petribulationism**

- Since they are in their as yet unglorified bodies, they can and do repopulate the earth during the millennium. Of course, their progeny must also repent and exercise faith in Christ to be saved.

50 **Petribulationism**

- Though all will confirm outwardly to the millennial reign of Christ, the loosing of Satan at the conclusion of the millennium (Rev 20:7–8) will provide opportunity for those whose hearts are in rebellion to manifest themselves as unbelieving.

51 **Petribulationism**

- First three chapters of Revelation talk about the church extensively, but from chapter 4 the church is not mentioned.
- Rev 3:10 - the promise made to Philadelphia, “Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come upon the whole world to test those who live on the earth.””

52 **Petribulationism**

- Daniel’s Prophecy (Dan 9:20-27)
 - The prophecy of the seventieth week concerns ethnic Israel and is broken from the sixty-ninth week by an interval of time (the times of the Gentiles or the church age, Jer 30:4–7).

53 **Petribulationism**

- While it is conceivable that this seventieth week is somehow contemporaneous with the era of the church, no convincing argument has been marshaled in favor of such a view; and to see the prophecy as relating specifically to Israel in the absence of the church, which has been transported to heaven, is more logical.

54 **Petribulationism**

- Revelation 7 - records the sealing of 144,000 Jews
 - These are declared to be Jews, 12,000 from each of the 12 tribes of Israel.

55 **Petribulationism**

- Revelation 12 - introduces the reader to a radiant woman who gives birth to the Messiah.
- Reasons for identifying the woman as Israel are provided in the exegesis of chap. 12. Suffice it to say that by understanding the woman to be Israel, the passage agrees with the understanding of Daniel’s seventieth week offered above. This places the chapter in the last half of the great tribulation and once again reflects a Jewish era from which the church is absent.

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57 **Outline of Book**

- 1:1-3 Introduction
- 1:4-20 A Vision of the Glorified Christ

58  **Outline of Book**

- 2:1-3:22 A Message to the Churches
- 4:1-22:21 An Unveiling of the Future

59  **Next Session, Jan 21st**

Questions?

- Next Week - Iron Sharpens Iron - Topic: How Did We Got the Bible, Part 2
- Feb. 1st - Revelation
 - 1:4-20 - The Vision of the Glorified Christ