

Antichrist and the Rapture

There are many antichrists

**“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.”
(1 John 2:18)**

This is the spirit of the Antichrist

**“By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, and 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.”
(1 John 4:2-3).**

Will Christians See the Antichrist?

“Let no one deceive you in any way. For that day will not come, unless the rebellion comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction.”

(2 Thessalonians 2:3)

Will Christians See the Antichrist?

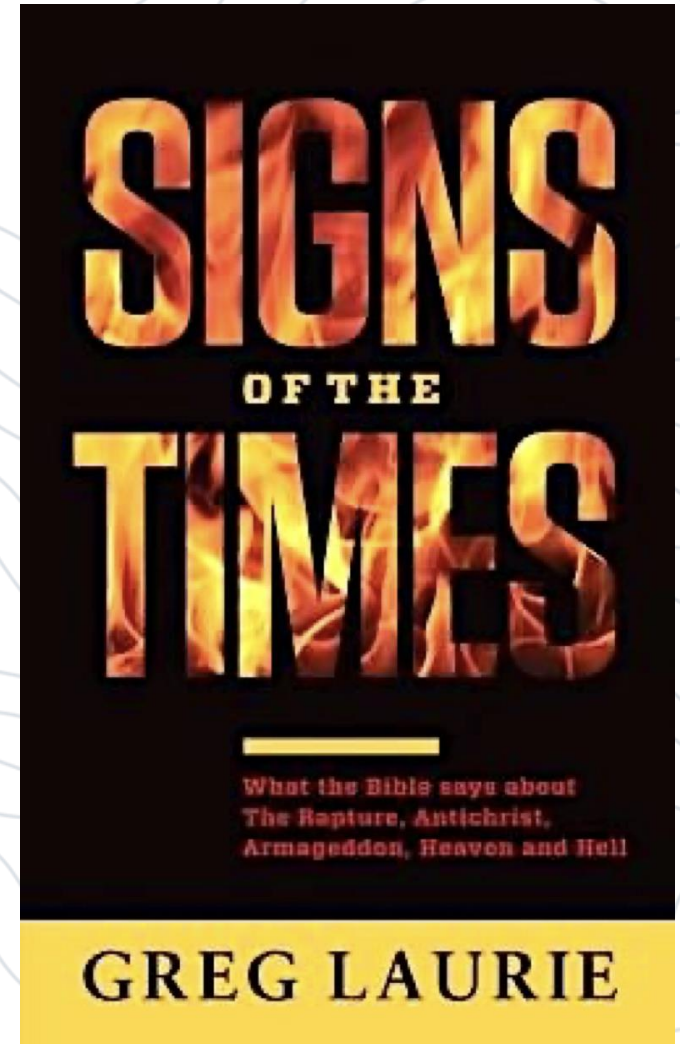
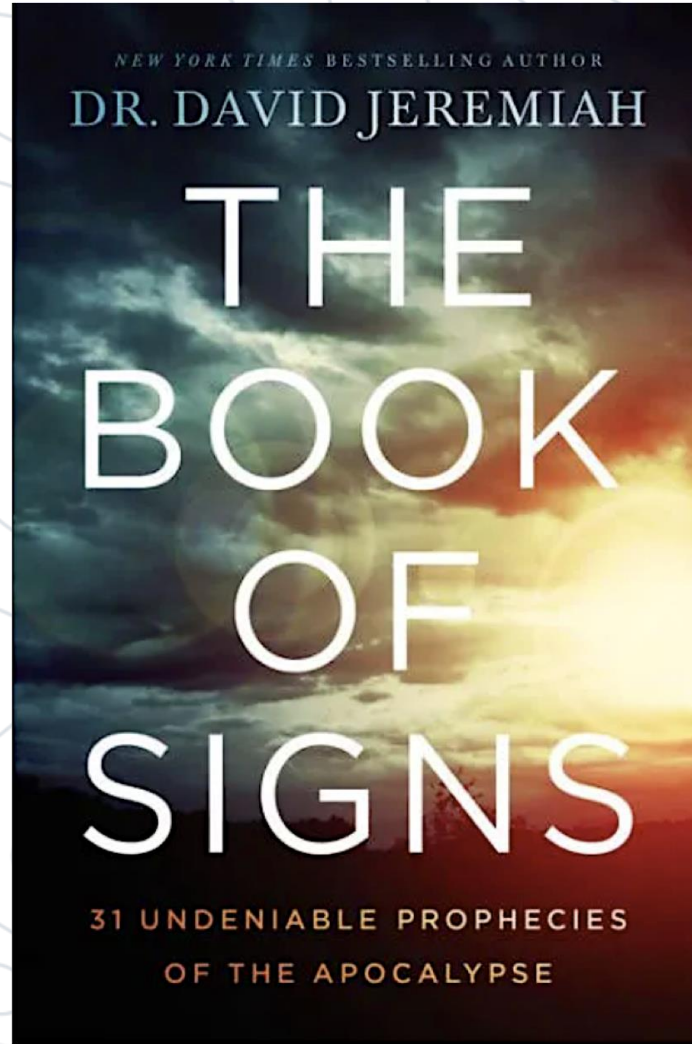
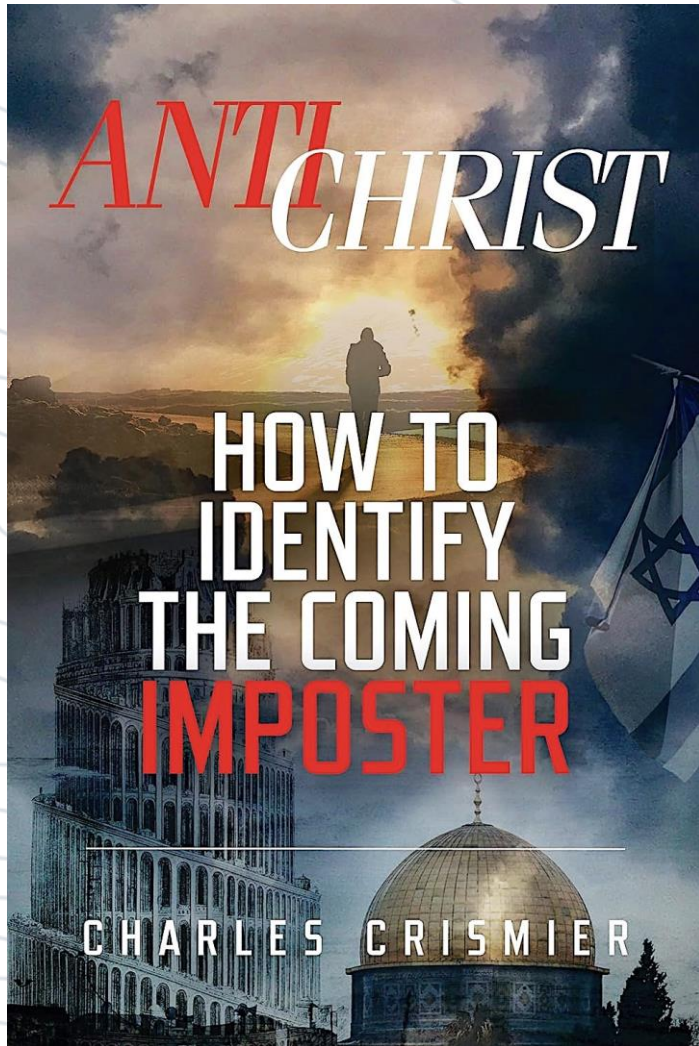
“And you know what is restraining him now so that he may be revealed in his time. For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work. Only he who now restrains it will do so until he is out of the way. And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will kill with the breath of his mouth and bring to nothing by the appearance of his coming.”

(2 Thessalonians 2:6-8)

Does This Mean the Rapture Must Come First?

**Jesus comes from heaven, dead in Christ rise first
(1 Thessalonians 4:16)**

**We will be with the Lord forever
(1 Thessalonians 4:17)**



Support for Pre-Trib

Beginning with Jesus, the NT makes a clear distinction between the HARPADZO and the SECOND COMING

RAPTURE AND BLESSED HOPE

"Looking for that **blessed hope**, and the **glorious appearing** of the great God and our **Saviour Jesus Christ**," - *Titus 2:13*

The Rapture



“And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.” (John 14:3, NIV84)

The Rapture



“Brothers, we do not want you to be ignorant about those who fall asleep, or to grieve like the rest of men, who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. According to the Lord’s own word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left till the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. (1 Thess 4:13–14, NIV84)

The Rapture



For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage each other with these words.”

(1 Thess 4:16–18, NIV84)

The Rapture



“But you, brothers, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief. You are all sons of the light and sons of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness.” (1 Thessalonians 5:4–5, NIV84)

The Rapture



“For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

(1 Thessalonians 5:9, NIV84)

The Rapture



“while we wait for the blessed hope—the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ,” (Titus 2:13, NIV84)

The Rapture



“And now you know what is holding him back, so that he may be revealed at the proper time. For the secret power of lawlessness is already at work; but the one who now holds it back will continue to do so till he is taken out of the way.” (2 Thessalonians 2:6–7, NIV84)

The Rapture



“After this I looked, and there before me was a door standing open in heaven. And the voice I had first heard speaking to me like a trumpet said, “Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this.” At once I was in the Spirit, and there before me was a throne in heaven with someone sitting on it.” (Revelation 4:1–2, NIV84)

RAPTURE

- **Jesus comes FOR Saints**
John 14:3; 1 Thess 4:6-17
- For CHURCH
- Tribulation to follow
- No battle
- “Blessed Hope”
- “caught up” 1 Thes 4:17
- Believers removed

RETURN

- **Jesus comes WITH Saints**
1 Thess 3 13; Zech 14:5; 2 Thess 1:10
- For ISRAEL
- Tribulation will end
- Slays nations Isa 11:4; Rev 19:15
- Wrath of God
- “riding white horses” Rev 19:14
- Sinners removed. Matt 24:40-41

Objections to Pre-Trib

Christian Academics Ridicule Pre-Tribulation Rapture

RAPTURE AND BLESSED HOPE

"Looking for that **blessed hope**, and the **glorious appearing** of the great God and our **Saviour Jesus Christ**," - *Titus 2:13*

No Mention Before Darby

- **Incorrect**
- **Non-conforming writing
destroyed by post-Augustinian
Church**
- **Scripture is Final Authority**

RAPTURE AND BLESSED HOPE

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DISPENSATIONALISM IN THE EARLY CHURCH

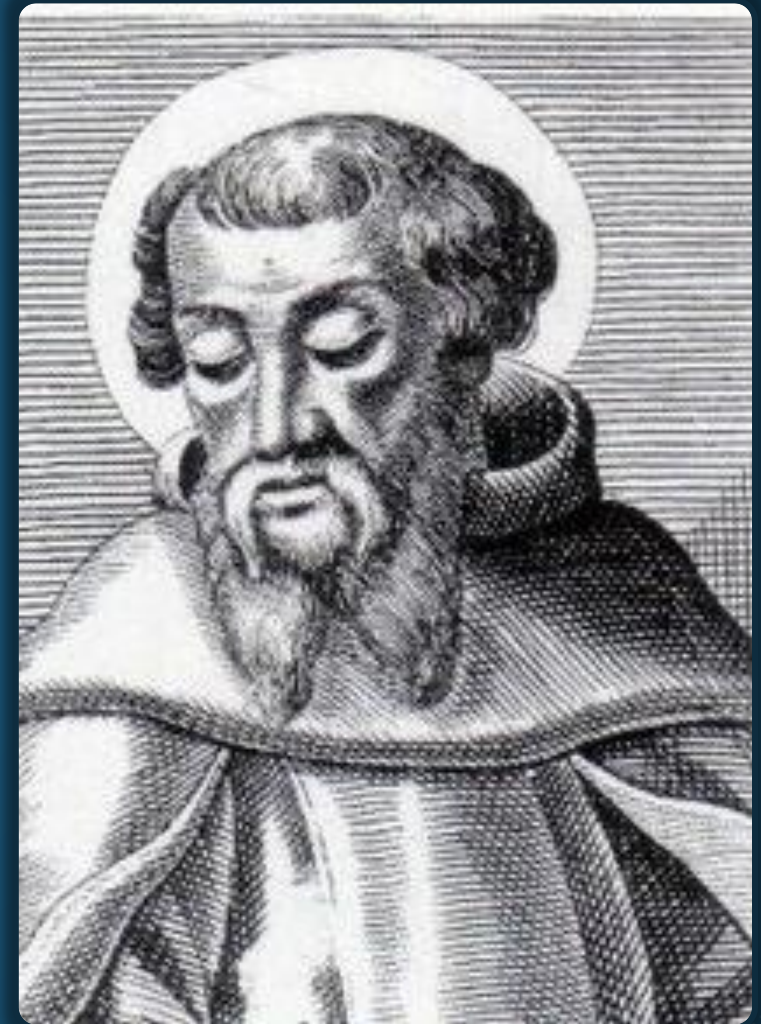
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IRENÆUS

- born c. 130 and died c. 202
- born in Smyrna (Izmir, Turkey)
- bishop of Lugdunum (Lyon, France)
- premillennial and pretribulational
- knew Polycarp, a disciple of John
- premier work was *Against Heresies*
- most of his works have not survived
— most chiliast works suppressed



#1 PRETRIB RAPTURE PASSAGE

“And therefore, in the end **WHEN the Church is suddenly caught up** from this, it is said, «**THERE SHALL BE tribulation** such as has not been since the beginning, neither shall be.» For this is the last contest of the righteous, in which, when they overcome, they are crowned with incorruption.”

- **“when the church is suddenly caught up”** = circumstantial clause
- **“there shall be tribulation”** = main clause, future tense
- the grammar → rapture precedes tribulation
- not last contest of saints this age, last contest of saints period



#2 PRETRIB RAPTURE PASSAGE

“For Enoch ... was translated ... thus pointing out by anticipation the **TRANSLATION** of the righteous ... Wherefore also the elders who were disciples of the apostles tell us that those who are translated are **TRANSLATED to that place [heaven]**... (where Paul the apostle, when he was caught up, heard words which are unspeakable) ... and that those who have been **TRANSLATED shall remain there until the consummation [the end]**, as a **prelude to incorruptability.**”

- those rapture translated go to heaven and stay there until the end
- the rapture translation is a prelude to incorruptibility at 2nd coming



#3 PRETRIB RAPTURE PASSAGE

“But it is necessary to say on these things, that it behooves the righteous to be **the FIRST in this condition which is being renewed**, rising up to the appearance (visible observation) of God to receive the promise of inheritance which God promised to the fathers ... **AFTERWARD to be a judge.**”

- the church is the **FIRST** to receive the renewal (implies stages)
- the church **AFTERWARDS** engages in her work as judge
- **THE ORDER**: renewal, rise (rapture), inheritance, work as judge



Against Heresies, 5.32.1

#4 PRETRIB RAPTURE PASSAGE

“For as the Lord “went away ... [to] where the souls of the dead were, yet afterwards arose in the body, and after the resurrection was taken up, it is manifest that the souls of His disciples also ... shall go away into the invisible place ... and there remain until the resurrection ... then **receiving their bodies, and rising ... bodily**, just as the Lord arose, **they shall come thus into the presence of God.**

- rapture passage in same spirit as John 14:1-3
- vertical journey to heaven, not horizontal journey here on earth



Post-Patristic Pre-trib



- **Cyril of Alexandria. 376-444**
- **Pseudo Ephriam. 625** *“woe to those who desire to see the day of the Lord! For all the saints and elect of God are gathered, prior to the tribulation that is to come, and are taken to the Lord....”*
- **Aspringius of Beja. 500’s**
- **Andrew of Ceasarea. 563-637**

"This book shows that elements of later dispensational teaching occurred in nearly every period before J. N. Darby."
DAVID BEBBINGTON, *Emeritus Professor of History, University of Stirling*

DISCOVERING DISPENSATIONALISM

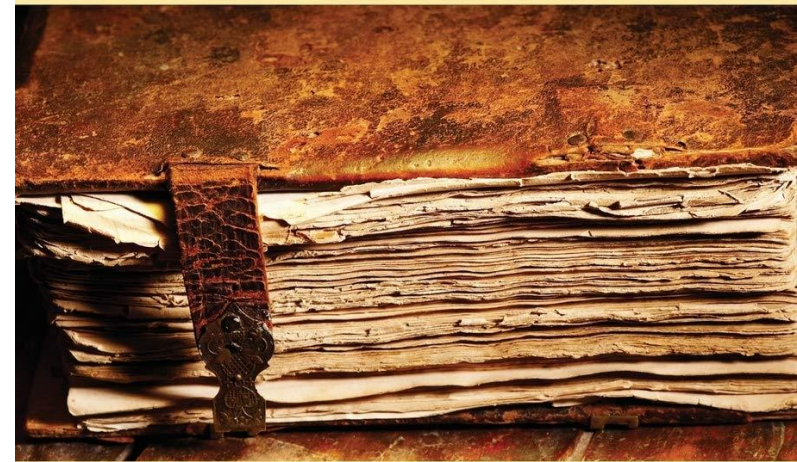


TRACING THE DEVELOPMENT OF DISPENSATIONAL THOUGHT
FROM THE FIRST TO THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY

EDITED BY
CORY M. MARSH & JAMES I. FAZIO

Ancient DISPENSATIONAL TRUTH

REFUTING THE MYTH THAT
DISPENSATIONALISM IS NEW



JAMES C. MORRIS

it is odd that scholars, such as John Collins, would continue to propagate the misconception that, “The main apocalyptic tradition in modern America is pre-millennial dispensationalism, which is based on a system formulated by John Nelson Darby.” [\[20\]](#) In actuality, the ideas for which Darby would become most known pre-date him by hundreds of years. Premillennialism can be traced to the ante-Nicene Fathers while literal hermeneutics and a future restoration for ethnic Israel enjoyed advocacy throughout the medieval and enlightenment periods leading up to Darby. In other words, contrary to Collins and others, the dispensational scheme was not formulated by Darby; it merely continued *through him* as it developed into its most definitive expressions after him.

Cory Marsh, “[Discovering Dispensationalism: Tracing the Development of Dispensational Thought from the First through the Twenty-First Century](#)”

“Rapture” not in Bible

- The word rapture is derived from rapio (“to catch up or snatch away”), a form of which is found in the Latin Vulgate Bible (Gotquestions.org)
- *Harpadzo is the Greek word*

RAPTURE AND BLESSED HOPE

“Looking for that **blessed hope**, and the **glorious appearing** of the great God and our **Saviour Jesus Christ**,” - Titus 2:13

Christian Escapism

- Straw man argument
- Untrue
- Pre-tribulationists are busy about the Lord's work
- Pre-tribulationists plan, build seminaries and hospitals, etc.

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Bible is unclear

- Bible is very clear!
- Opponents tend to overlook or omit harpadzo passages

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The only essential is that Jesus will Return

- The blessed hope, not the blessed question mark
- Imminency spurs godliness! Titus 2:13

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**Declaring God's glory among
the nations.**





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