

# 1st Thessalonians 4-24-22

5:2 You know ... the Day of the Lord will  
come like a thief in the night.

1:1-10 – Escape the Coming Wrath

2:1-12 – How Paul Loved, pt 1

2:13-20 – How Paul Loved, pt 2

3:1-14 – Your Pastor's Heart

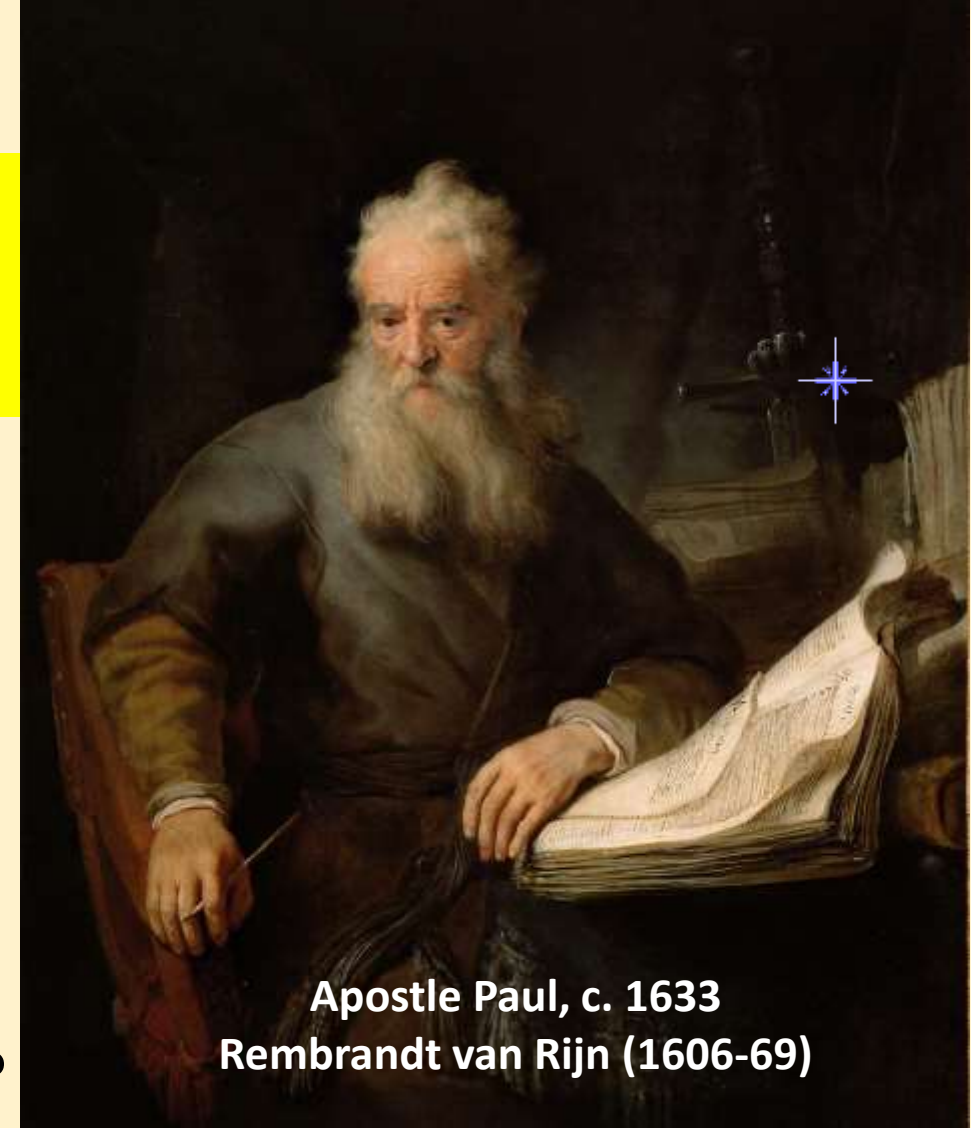
4:1-12 – How Holy Can You Be?

4:13-18 – Our Heavenly Rest



5:1-11 – Day of the Lord ... Are You Woke?

5:12-24 – Blameless at His Coming

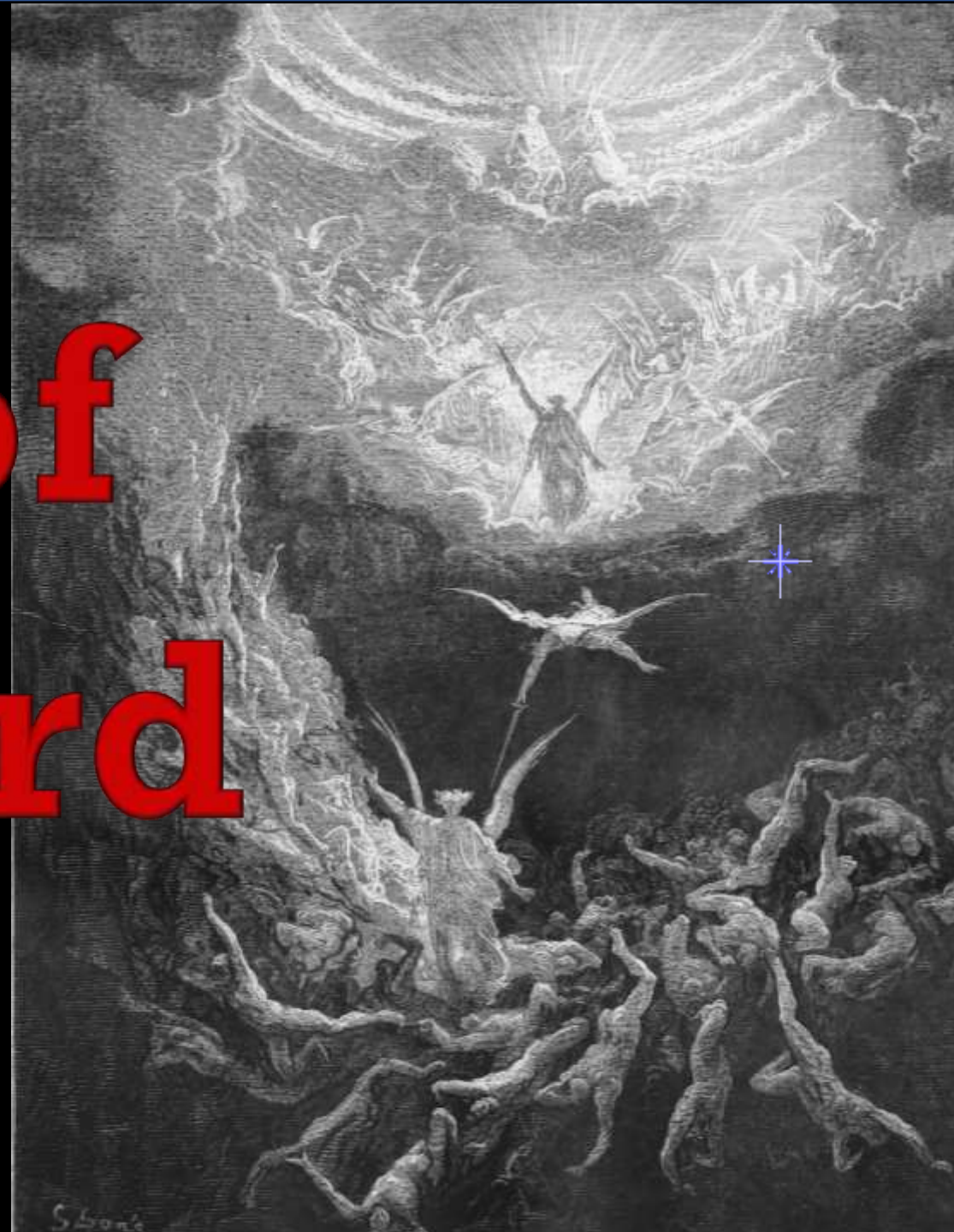


Apostle Paul, c. 1633  
Rembrandt van Rijn (1606-69)



Alternate Title #1

# Day of the Lord







Alternate Title #2

**Are You**



**Woke?**

**Or asleep?**



**Like to give myself a  
good talking to this time**



From Thessalonians 4, we saw how God gave Paul

## **5 Striking Revelations of the Future**

After Creation & Christ's Resurrection, **5 FORM** the

### **3rd Greatest Miracle – Christ's 2nd Coming**

- 1st Striking Revelation** – Awakened Dead Return with Christ
- 2nd Striking Revelation** – Christ Down from Heaven w SHOUT
- 3rd Striking Revelation** – Dead Will Rise First
- 4th Striking Revelation** – Alive Caught Up to Meet the Dead
- 5th Striking Revelation** – We Will Be with the Lord *Forever*

**Christ's 2nd Coming**



3rd Great Miracle is 2nd Coming ... 1 Thessalonians 4

Rapture ... caught with Lord in the clouds

We Will Be with the Lord *Forever*

1 Cor 15:52 – Twinkling of eye, at last trumpet the  
Perishable will put on Imperishable

In a few weeks hence,


2 Thess 2:3 – Coming of the Lord NOT UNTIL

“The Rebellion” and

“Man of Lawlessness ... Revealed”

**BEFORE Christ Returns**

**WHEN Christ Returns**



**1 Thess 5:1-3    <sup>1</sup> Now, brothers and sisters, about times  
and dates we do not need to write to you,**

**Perhaps again ... Paul refers to his prior 3 weeks of seminars**

**Then Paul connects the above 2nd Coming to ...**

**<sup>2</sup> for you know very well that the Day of the Lord  
will come like a thief in the night.**

**<sup>3</sup> While people are saying, “Peace and safety,”  
destruction will come on them suddenly,  
as labor pains on a pregnant woman,  
and they will not escape.**

**“Day of the Lord” is *NOT* a New Testament revelation**

**Several OT Prophets mentioned the “Day of the Lord”**



Biggest question YOU must decide is this:

Does 1 Thess. 5:2 “Day of the Lord ... thief in the night” refer

1. Christ’s 2nd Coming is **THE** “Day of the Lord”

2. DAY is Event **AFTER** Christ’s 2nd Coming?

3. DAY is Event **BEFORE** Christ’s 2nd Coming?

Mv  
Preference

Recall ... 1 Thess 4, Christ descends as ascended in Acts 1

Christ comes again to **snatch up** those alive in Him, so that

**We will Be with Him Forevermore**

Notice that the Thessalonians had no issue with 2nd Coming

But notice how 2 Thessalonians *clarifies* the Day of the Lord

**Must Deal with “Day of the Lord”**

Google Search = 2,980,000,000 hits on “Day of the Lord”

## Father of Dispensationalism

**John Nelson Darby** (1800-1882) graduate of Westminster & Trinity College Classic Gold Medalist in 1919  
Translated the Bible into German, French, Dutch, English

**Cyrus Scofield**, his Reference Bible 1909, Rev. 1917  
took off and became an Evangelical staple ...  
He pastored the First Congregational Church in Dallas

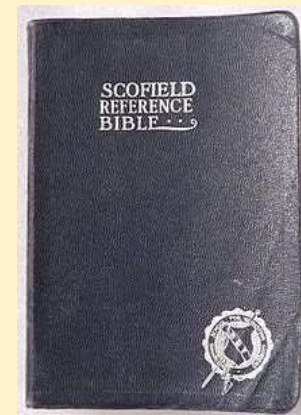
**Baptist Clarence Larkin** (1850–1924)  
Episcopal, then Baptist, pastored in Pennsylvania  
Schooled as a mechanical draftsman ... then ...

***Rightly Dividing the Word*** (1921)

[www.google.com/books/edition/Rightly\\_Dividing\\_the\\_Word/Q05GAAAYAAJ](http://www.google.com/books/edition/Rightly_Dividing_the_Word/Q05GAAAYAAJ)

***Dispensational Truth: Or,  
God's Plan and Purpose in the Ages*** (1917)

[www.Google.com/books/edition/Dispensational\\_Truth/B7NM-QCIIvMC](http://www.Google.com/books/edition/Dispensational_Truth/B7NM-QCIIvMC)







## Clarence Larkin 1917 – Eight Dispensations

**NOT Gonna Spend  
Much time on These**

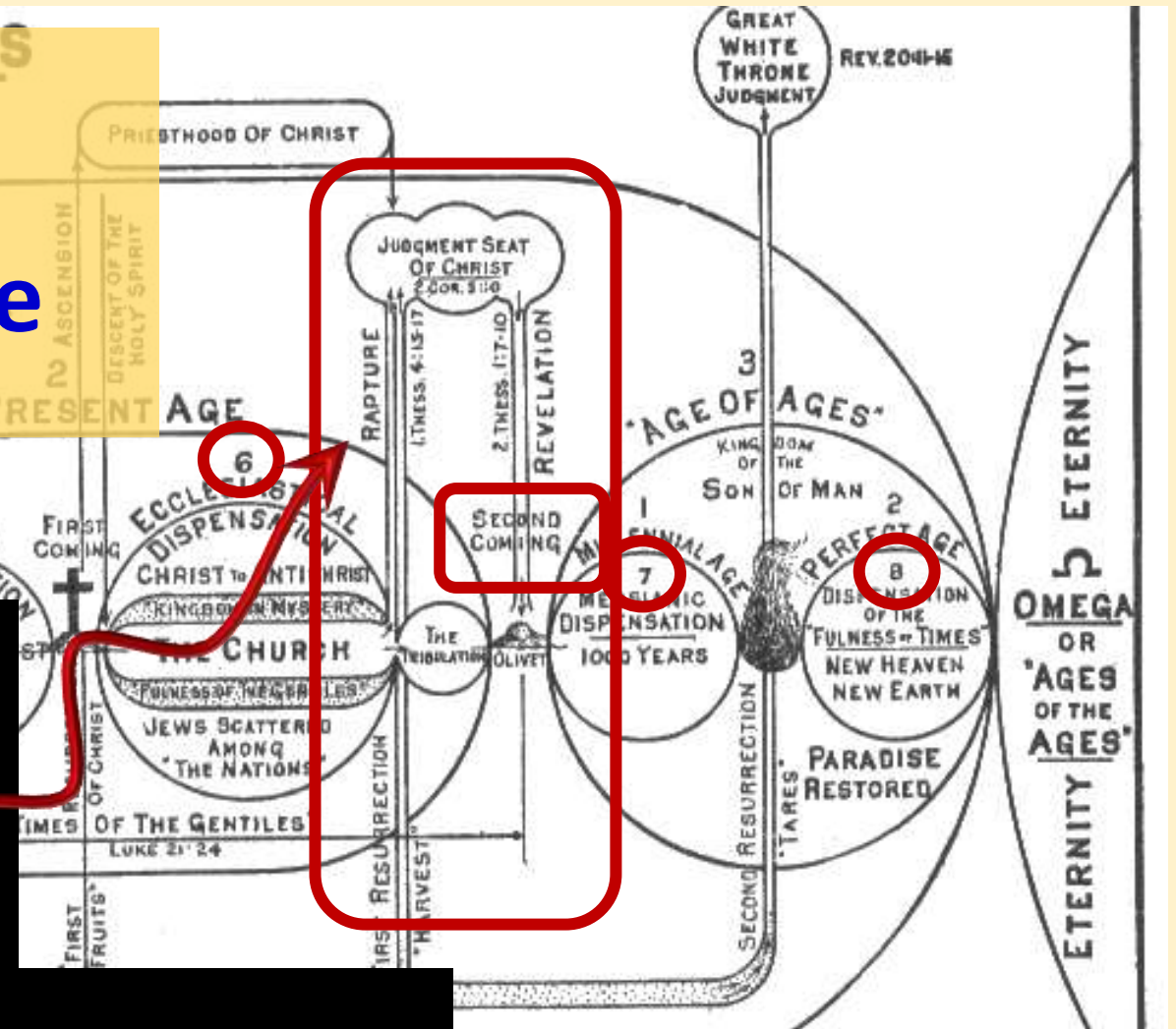
**Notice 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming AFTER Tribulation  
Rapture is **ONLY** a coming for those**

**Rapture**

**I believe the Rapture is **THE** 2nd Coming?**




[https://www.google.com/books/edition/Rightly\\_Dividing\\_the\\_Word/Q05GAAAAYAAJ](https://www.google.com/books/edition/Rightly_Dividing_the_Word/Q05GAAAAYAAJ)



DESIGNED AND DRAWN BY  
CLARENCE LARKIN  
FOX CHASE, PHILA., PA.

**NO ONE DOES**

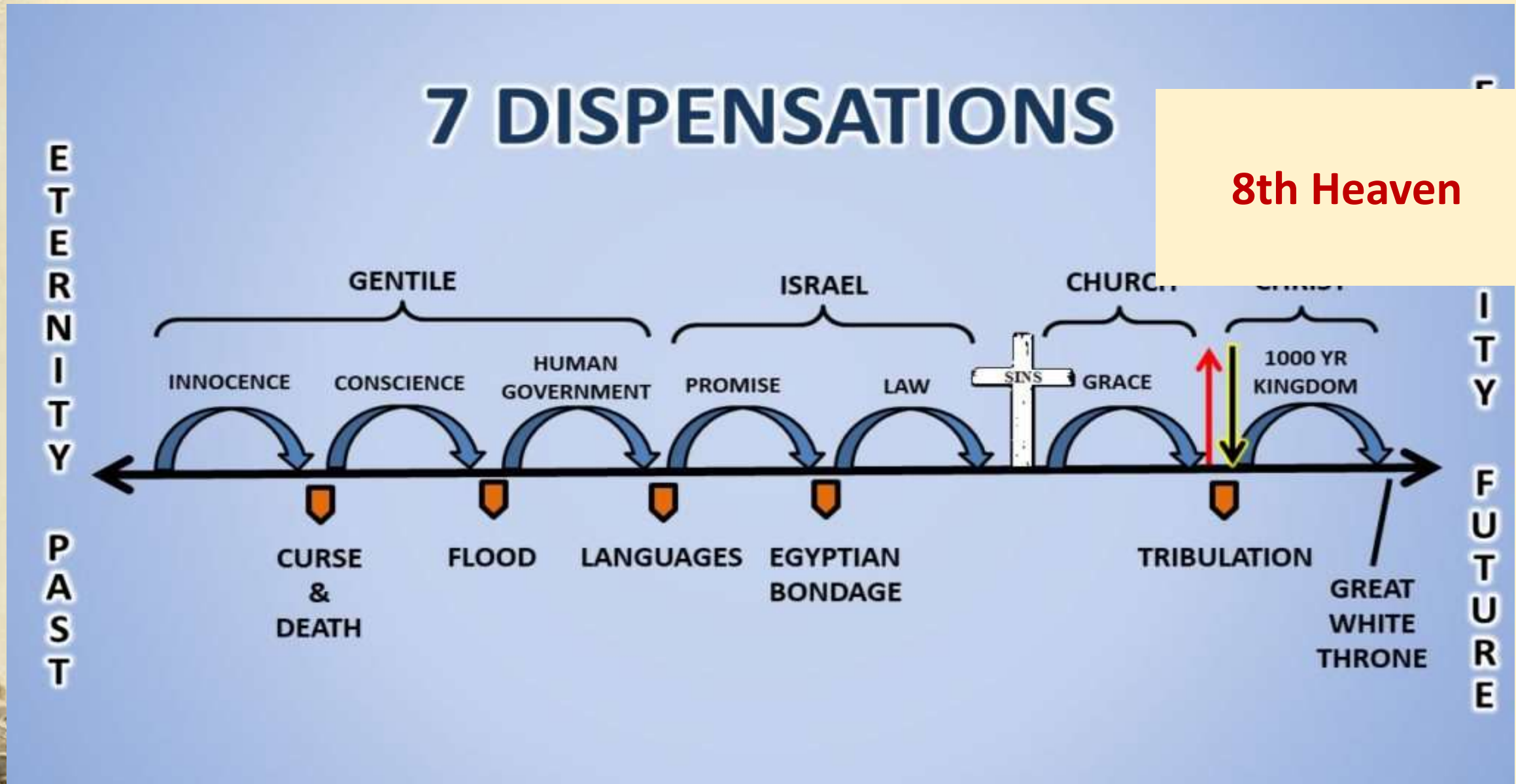


## **Dispensationalism – sees several eras of God's work**

- 1. Innocence** — Adam to the Fall of Man
- 2. Conscience** — From Fall to the Great Flood
- 3. Human Gov** — Flood to Tower of Babel
- 4. Promise** — Abraham to Moses & 40 years in wilderness
- 5. Law** — Moses to the crucifixion of Jesus Christ
- 6. Grace** — Cross to the Rapture, Age of Grace/Church
- 7. Millennial Kingdom** — A 1000 year reign of Christ
- 8. Perfect Age** — New Heaven, New Earth

**most popular ... though some see LESS or MORE**

Another way to view these – Gospel Grace Press gave this chart





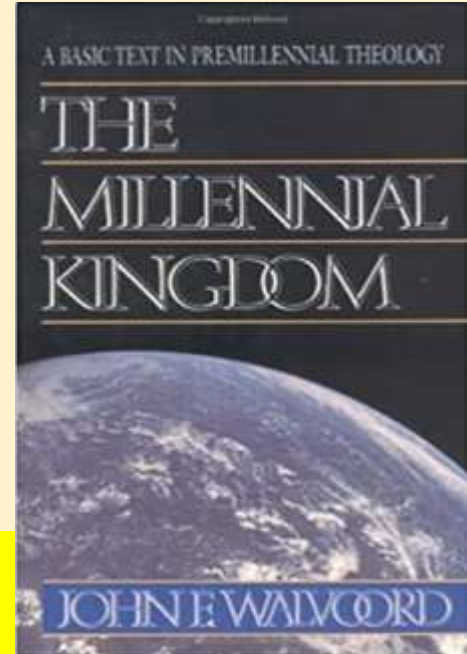
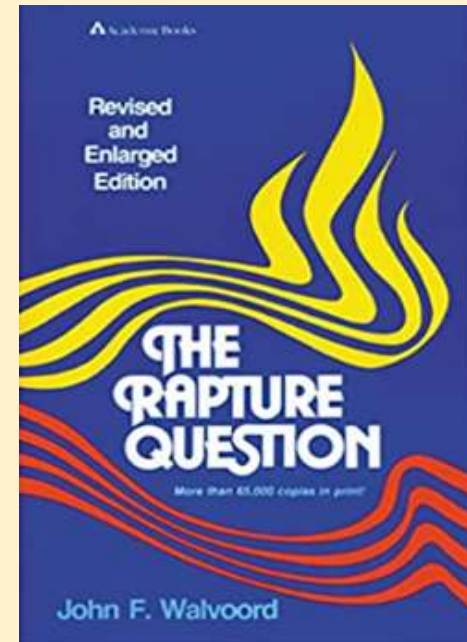
John F. Walvoord (1910-2002) wrote over 30 books  
2nd President Dallas Theological Seminary 1952-1986

Walvoord's 1957 *The Rapture Question* gave the  
best *academic* case for Pre-Tribulation Rapture  
He revised & enlarged it in 1979 edition  
Partial – Pre – Mid – Post Tribulation

Walvoord's 1959 & 1983 *The Millennial Kingdom*  
Discusses history & differences between views

- ❖ **Postmillennial** – Christ AFTER a Christian Age
- ❖ **Amillennialism** – No physical reign of Christ  
Augustine, Catholics, Reformers
- ❖ **Premillennial** - Future Earthly Reign of Christ

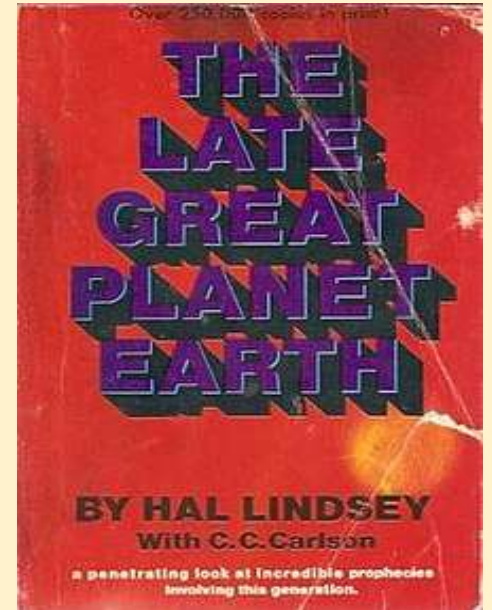
Most *academic* defender of Pre-Trib Pre-Mill Views





## Hal Lindsey's 1970 *Late Great Planet Earth*

*The New York Times* - bestselling nonfiction of the 1970s  
featured on primetime TV audience of 17,000,000  
Adapted into 1978 film narrated by Orson Welles



Went to Dallas Theological ... *forgot* to mention Walvoord

Lindsey *forgot* to mention or reference a HORDE

Tim LaHaye & Jerry Jenkins's 1995

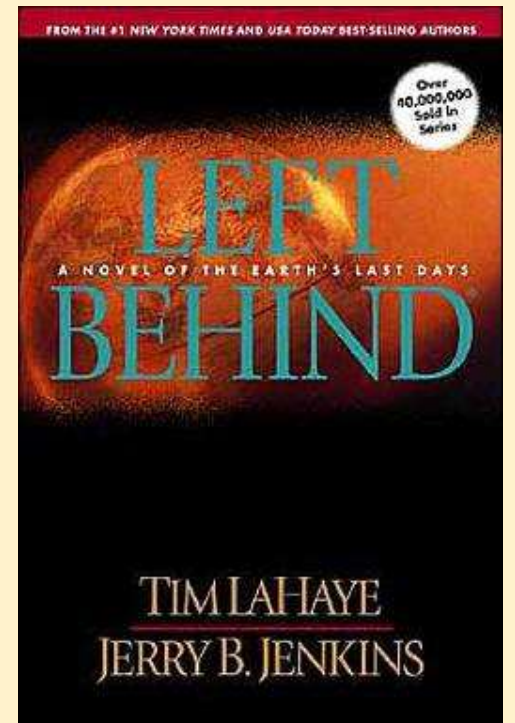
*Left Behind*

15 volumes followed ...

16th in 2007 a best-seller before press

LaHaye passed in 2016 ... Series Sold astounding

**80 million copies**





# Superbly smooth presentation on Revelation by David Jeremiah Pastor of Shadow Mountain Community Church, San Diego

## The Church Age

In this present era, God uses communities of believers—local churches—to bring the Gospel to the world.

## The Rapture

## The Tribulation

The moment after the Rapture, God's Spirit will cease to restrain evil in the world. As God's anger burns against the wicked, conditions will grow worse than they have ever been.

## The Second Coming

When the Tribulation reaches its climax and it seems there is no hope, Jesus will defeat the

## The Millennium

The word *Millennium* means "one thousand years." For ten centuries, Christ and His followers will rule the earth in peace and righteousness from His capital in Jerusalem.

## Great White Throne Judgment

Every human being who has not responded to the Gospel will stand before the throne of God to be judged.

## New Heaven & New Earth

After the present heaven and earth pass away, a city of indescribable beauty will descend from heaven. God will restore the world and dwell with His people in perfect harmony forever.





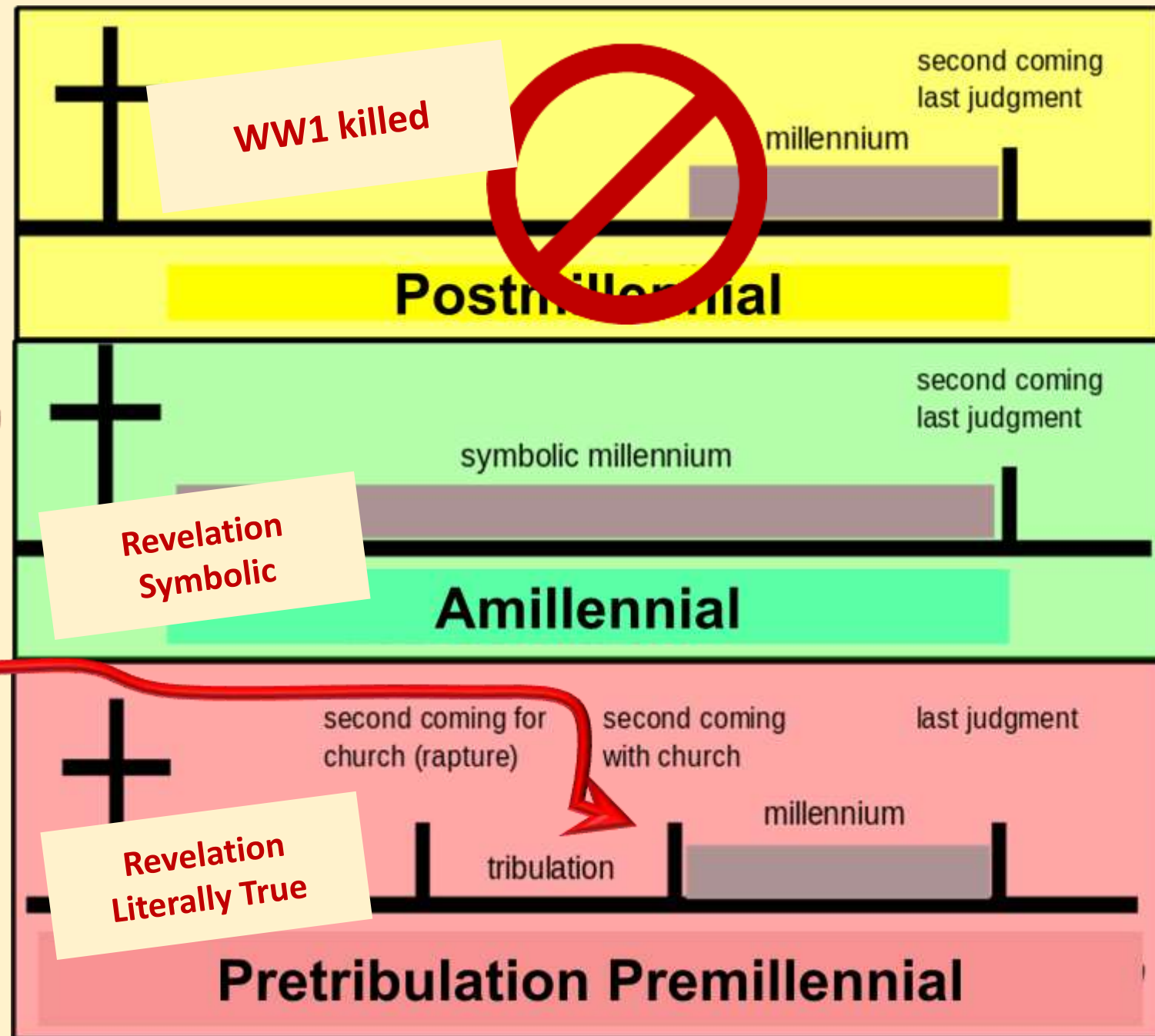
1st KEY to all is the  
**Millennium**  
in John's Revelation

IF **literally** true, you have  
to work a LOT around it

Therefore, 2nd Coming  
INITIATES the Millennium

- ✓ Postmillennial fell out of favor after WW1
- ✓ Amillennial led the pack for centuries

**1 & 2 Thessalonians** is  
a 2nd KEY to ALL



After all that ... I think Dr. John said it best ...

Just need a little **BRAIN SALAD SURGERY**

Got to que my insecurity

IF all that is confusing ... **W A I T**

**2 Thessalonians 2:3** when

“that day will **N O T** come until  
the rebellion occurs and the  
man of lawlessness is revealed.”

*Stay tuned ... we'll be touching that in a few weeks*

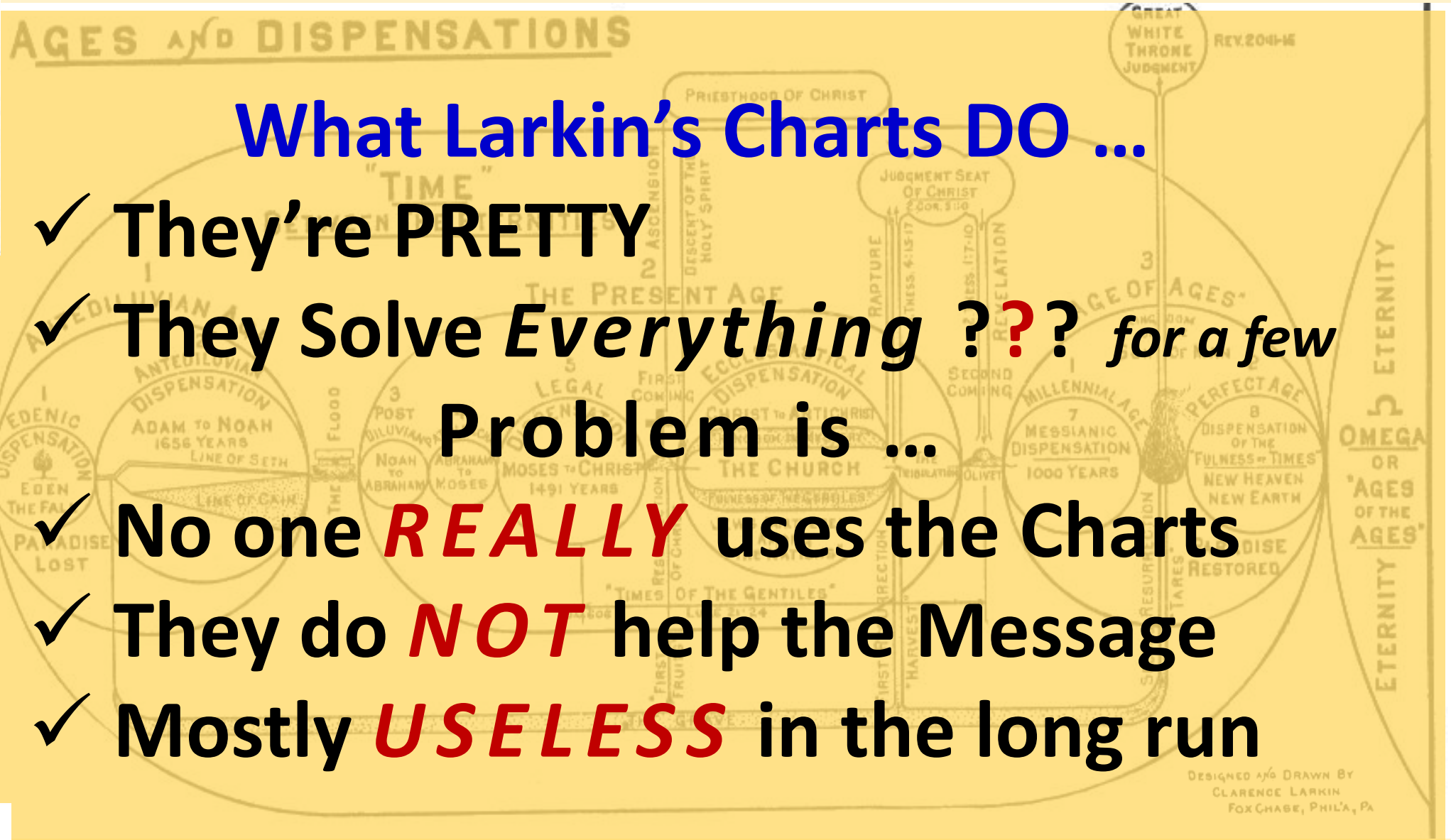




Clarence Larkin 1917

## What Larkin's Charts DO ...

- ✓ They're PRETTY
- ✓ They Solve *Everything* ??? for a few
- Problem is ...
- ✓ No one **REALLY** uses the Charts
- ✓ They do **NOT** help the Message
- ✓ Mostly **USELESS** in the long run





Problem is ...

- ✓ Chart or SYSTEM becomes the RULE
- ✓ Dispensationalism BECOMES the **LENS**
- ✓ John Calvin used “COVENANT” ... as in Covenants with



Adam, Noah, Abraham, David, Christ

- ✓ There are other ways to interpret the **ERAS**

More simply, from the Old, we are in the

**New Testament/Covenant**

For centuries, Jews looked from the OLD for the

**Day of the Lord**



## In the Old Testament

**Isaiah 2:12**, For the **DAY OF THE LORD** of hosts shall be upon every one that is proud and lofty, and upon every one that is lifted up; and he shall be brought low.

*International Bible Encyclopedia* (1939) consummation of the kingdom of God and the absolute cessation of all attacks

**Dozen** other places as **Day of the Lord**: Isa 2:12; 13:6,9; 34:8; Eze 13:5; 30:3; Joel 1:15; 2:11; Amos 5:18; Zeph 1:14; Zech 14:1

Isa 10:3      **Day of visitation**

Zep 1:14      **Great Day of Yahweh**

Eze 7:19      **Day of the wrath of Yahweh**



In the Old Testament – the Jew

**DAY OF THE LORD** is a well-known **FUTURE** event

During the break from close of Malachi in the OT to

1st Coming of Christ in the New Testament

Judaism grows over 400 years ... **LOOKING** for the

**Day of the Lord**

Jesus lived, died, rose from dead ... will Come Back

Seemingly **UNANSWERABLE** Question **IS** or is **NOT**?

**How Many Times? ... or ... One DAY?**





**In the New Testament**

**Elements of hope and joy and victory - Day of Christ**

**John 5:27, "gave him authority to execute judgment"**

**Romans 2:5-6**

**Day of Wrath**

**Rev 6:17 & Jude 1:6**

**Great Day**

**2 Peter 3:12**

**Day of God**

**Matthew 10:15**

**Day of Judgment**

**Is the "DAY of Lord" the SAME as Rapture?**

**Some Scriptures indicate we will FACE Trouble**

**PRIOR to "THE DAY"**

**Acts 2:19-21**, Peter stands up  
and quotes Joel 2:


**19 I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs  
on the earth below, blood and fire and billows of smoke.**

**20 The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to  
blood before the coming of the great and glorious**

**DAY OF THE LORD.**

**21 And everyone who calls on the  
name of the Lord will be saved.**





*International Bible Encyclopedia* (1939) – “**DAY**” worth counting in all the history of the world and of the race

John 6:39-40    <sup>39</sup> the will of Him who sent me ...

I shall lose none of those He has given me,

but raise them up at the **last DAY**.

<sup>40</sup> For it is my Father's will that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in Him shall have eternal life,

and I will raise him up at the **last DAY**.

John repeats himself ... as if **THE DAY** was

**THE DAY**





Prior to the revelation given to Paul in 1 & 2 Thessalonians


We have the Gospels and then Acts 1

**Luke 21:34** But watch yourselves, or your hearts will be weighed down by dissipation ... worries of life—that **DAY** will spring upon you suddenly like a snare.

**Matthew 24:42-44** Watch therefore: for ye know **NOT** what hour your Lord doth come.

**Matthew 25:13** Watch therefore, for ye know Neither the **DAY** nor the **HOUR** wherein the Son of man cometh.

From the OT & Gospels – Single **DAY**



**2 Peter 3:10** DAY of the Lord will come like a thief. Heavens will disappear with a roar, the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and its works will be laid bare.

**1 Corinthians 1:8** He will sustain you to the end ... you will be blameless on the DAY of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Revelation 3:3** Remember, then, what you have received and heard. Keep it and repent. If you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know the HOUR when I will come upon you.

**Revelation 16:15** Behold, I am coming like a thief. Blessed is the one who remains awake – WOKE – and clothed, so that he will not go naked and let his shame be exposed.

**Thessalonians 5:2 Day of the Lord ... thief in the night.**

**Remember, Paul did not use paragraph or chapter divisions**

**From Rapture in 4 to the Day of the Lord in 5**

**We must encounter the IDIOT Factor**

**Was St. Paul an IDIOT?**

**He sat at the feet of Gamaliel ... no, he was NOT**

**Paul's EXQUISITE letters betray a careful concern ...**

**Paul gave us many revelations and COULD HAVE SAID**

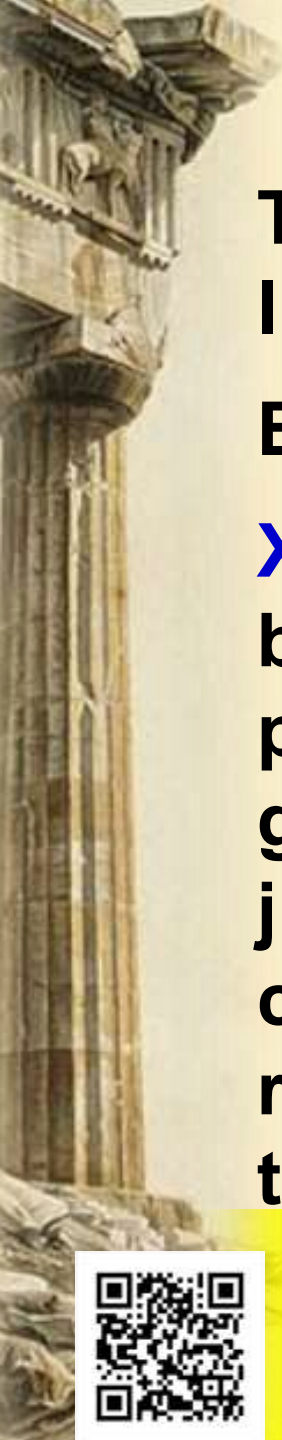
**“AFTER Christ's 2nd Coming in the Rapture”**

**“AND AFTER the Tribulation”**

**“Christ will come AGAIN a 3rd TIME”**







But Paul did NOT ... *that is*—what is MORE important?  
The Rapture, the snatching up ... or the 2nd Coming of Christ?  
I cannot solve it ... and Baptists are loose too

Both the 1963 & 2000 *Baptist Faith & Message* the same

**X. Last Things.** God, in His own time and in His own way, will bring the world to its appropriate end. According to His promise, Jesus Christ will return personally and visibly in glory to the earth; the dead will be raised; and Christ will judge all men in righteousness. The unrighteous will be consigned to Hell, the place of everlasting punishment. The righteous in their resurrected and glorified bodies will receive their reward and will dwell forever in Heaven with the Lord.



**Wide Open – 2nd Coming, Rapture – The DAY**



That is ... what is MORE important?

To me, just to me ...

WHY the Rapture **THEN** the **2nd Coming**?

Come on now ... that means a **3rd Coming** ... **Where is THAT?**

I cannot see multiple COMINGS ... esp. 1 & 2 Thessalonians

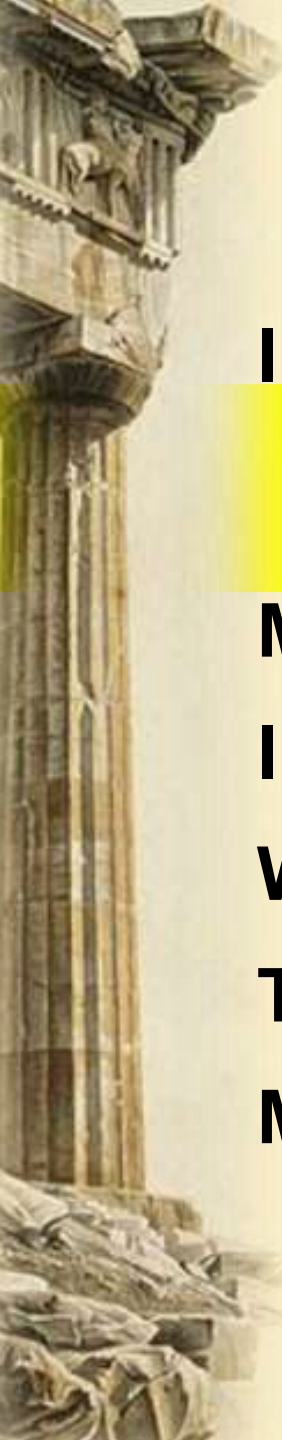
The 2nd Coming IS the Rapture ... the MOST IMPORTANT

We shall be with Christ forever ... that is MOST IMPORTANT

Just me—I'm no longer sure about a LITERAL Millennial Reign

What I am surer of is that ...

**2nd Coming IS the Rapture – The DAY**



**IF ... if you read 1 Thessalonians      without chapter TITLES**

**IF ... if you read 1 Thessalonians      without the CHARTS**

**IF you read 1 Thessalonians      with Paul being SHARP**

**Rapture IS THE DAY ... the Day of the Lord**

**Must do unreasonable Scripture Calculus to see otherwise**

**In 5, Paul asks us to be WOKE ... AWAKE ... so that the DAY**

**Will not catch us like a Thief ... a surprise ... like labor pains**

**Then Paul goes on to tell us more about US ...**

**More about the Thessalonians and US ... on that DAY**





## 1 Thessalonians 5:4-8 ...

- 4 But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief.**
- 5 You are all children of the light and children of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness.**
- 6 So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be awake and sober. <sup>7</sup> For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night.**
- <sup>8</sup> But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, putting on **FAITH** and **LOVE** as a breastplate, and the **HOPE** of salvation as a helmet.**

**LOOK for the Day of the Lord in Faith, Hope, LOVE**



*Therefore, says magnificent Paul ... concluding w HOPE*

**<sup>9</sup> For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

**<sup>10</sup> He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him.**

**<sup>11</sup> Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.**

**Part of blessed hope ... is the future DAY of the Lord**

**When we are RISEN up ... Risen up on that DAY**

**To Live WITH Him Forevermore**

Charles H. Spurgeon in 1871 ... on 1 Thess 5:6 said  
**Lest the midnight cry come upon you unawares.**

**The Lord Jesus may come in the night.**

**He may come in the heavens with exceeding great power  
and glory, before the rising of another sun;**

**or, he may tarry awhile, and yet though it should  
seem to us to be long, he will come quickly,**

**for one day is with the Lord as a thousand years,  
and a thousand years as one day.**

**Suppose, however, he were to come to-night;**



Charles H. Spurgeon in 1871 ... on 1 Thess 5:6 said

**If now, instead of going along to your homes and  
seeing once more the streets busy with traffic,  
the sign of the Son of Man should be revealed in the air,  
because the king had come in his glory, and his  
holy angels with him, would you be ready?**

**I press home the question.**

**The Lord may suddenly come. Are you ready?**

**You who profess to be his saints—are your loins girt up,  
Are your lamps trimmed?**



Charles H. Spurgeon in 1871 ... on 1 Thess 5:6 said

**Could you go in with him to the supper,  
as guests who have long expected him, and say,**

**"Welcome, Welcome Son of God?"**

✦ **Have you not much to set in order?**

**Are there not still many things undone?**

**Would you not be afraid to hear the midnight cry?**

**Are you READY?**

On **THE DAY** ... when Christ comes back ...

**We will LIVE with him FOREVERMORE**