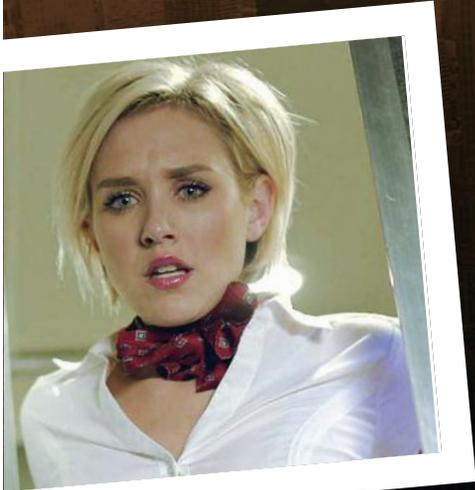


*From the Editor:* I have a vivid memory of my home church having a “Prophecy Revival” series of meetings when I was a kid. The speaker had a HUGE chart that he strung all the way across the stage—it included lines, paintings of weird creatures, arrows, monsters, clouds, and other odd art. There’s no way anyone could make sense of it by looking at it. When I began to work on this grid, the image of that billboard-sized chart sprang to mind. Hopefully this grid is a bit less confusing!

(Since this is a broad overview, and Progressive Dispensationalism is a relatively new development, we haven’t included it on this chart.)



## RAPTURE GRID

### VIEW

#### Postmillennial

Tychonius (350 ad) was an early proponent. This view was popular among Non-dispensational Evangelicals in the 19th century before the World Wars.

#### Amillennial

Figurative thousand years embraced by Eastern Orthodox church (under Origen’s influence), later espoused by Augustine and embraced by the Western Church by 400 ad. Held by the Roman Catholic Church as well as by Reformers, and written into the Augsburg and Westminster Confessions.

#### Premillennial

Historic/Covenant Many early Church Fathers (i.e. Ireneus—a disciple of Polycarp, who had been a disciple of the apostle John), Justin Martyr, and Papias, believed and taught that there would be a visible kingdom of God upon the earth, after the return of Christ.

#### Dispensational

Espoused by Darby and the Brethren movement beginning in mid-1800s. Continues in the Bible School movement and Annotated Bibles (Scofield, Revised Scofield, and Ryrie). Three schools: Classical, Moderate, and Progressive.

### JESUS’ RETURN

Comes after the millennium and initiates general resurrection (spiritual, not physical), the judgment of all people, and the eternal state for believers and unbelievers.

Occurs at the end of the millennium when believers who have just been raised from the dead, together with living believers who have just been transformed, are caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air.

Rapture will take place at the end of a future Tribulation but before the millennium. (“Post-Trib”)

There is a “Rapture” of believers when Jesus Christ secretly returns to earth before the Tribulation begins. (“Pre-Trib”) The Church gets taken out of the world. Believing Jews remain and suffer persecution.

### KEY DOCTRINE

The millennium is a period of one thousand years of universal peace and righteousness in this world, which precedes the return of Jesus Christ to earth in judgment.

The promises made to national Israel, David, and Abraham are fulfilled by Christ and the Church during this age, which is the millennium—the entire period of time between the two advents of our Lord. The “thousand years” are therefore symbolic.

The kingdom of God was manifest through Jesus’ ministry. Upon His ascension into heaven and the “Gift of the Spirit” at Pentecost, the kingdom is present through the Spirit until the end of the age, which is marked by the return of Christ to the earth in judgment.

God has two redemptive plans, one for Israel, and one for Gentiles during the “Church Age.” The Biblical data dealing with the time of Tribulation is referring to unbelieving Israel, not The Church. Therefore, Church Age, or the “Age of Grace,” is to be seen as that period of time in which God is dealing with Gentiles prior to the coming of The Kingdom of God during the millennium.