

## THREE END TIME THEORIES

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### Preamble

The Reformation started with Martin Luther (1483-1546 AD) posting his *Ninety-five Thesis* on the doors of All Saints Church in Wittenberg, Saxony in 1517 AD. Before that date the Bible was controlled primarily by the Roman Church which used a Latin translation from the original Hebrew and Greek versions, and the laity was discouraged from using it. Rather, they were told to rely on the clergy to explain its contents to them. After that date, the Roman Church lost control of the Bible when it became translated into English, French, German, Italian, Spanish, etc., thereby enabling the laity to read the Bible in their respective languages.

As the years passed, more and more people read the Bible and discovered that what they had been told about its contents was not always true. In addition, Protestant theologians began to appear and created biblical commentaries that addressed what the Bible actually says. At the same time, Protestant theologians began identifying the Roman Church as the Whore of Babylon in biblical prophecy, which had been burning Bibles and slaughtering the saints (the *Historicist School*). More and people began leaving the Roman Church and joining Protestant Churches.

To stop the hemorrhaging, the Roman Church first resorted to excommunication, torture, and execution, for which it created the Inquisition. In 1184 AD, Pope Lucius III (1097-1115 AD) required bishops to establish inquisitors into heresy. In 1227 AD, Pope Gregory IX (1170-1241 AD) appointed the first judges delegate as inquisitors for heretical depravity. In 1252 AD, Pope Innocent IV (1195-1254 AD) licensed inquisitors to torture heretics, which was used in the trial of the Knights Templar in 1307 AD. In 1478 AD, Pope Sixtus IV (1414-1484 AD) established the Inquisition in Spain. In 1540 AD, King John III (1502-1557 AD) established the Inquisition in Portugal to root out the Jewish converts to Catholicism (Conversos) who were suspected of continuing to practice Judaism in secret.

When the hemorrhaging continued, however, Roman Emperor Justinian the Great (482-565 AD) issued a decree (538 AD) that made the pope the “Head of all the Holy Churches” in western Europe, thereby greatly increasing the Roman Church’s control over religion in Western Europe. (Many believe that the decree marks the boundary between the Early Church and the Great Falling Away, which occurred when the churches of Europe fell increasing under the influence

and control of the Roman Papacy. The result was the Apostate Church of Rome.) Nonetheless, the number of Protestants continued to grow.

Soon thereafter, Pope Paul III (1468-1549 AD) convened the Council of Trent (1545 AD), to discuss other ways to counter the Reformation in general and the idea that the Roman Church was the Whore of Babylon in particular. The result was a decision to reinterpret biblical prophecy. Two Spanish Jesuit scholars were chosen for the task: Luis de Alcasar (1554-1613 AD) was given the job of demonstrating that the Whore of Babylon and the Antichrist were fulfilled in the past, before the Roman Church appeared (the *Preterist School*); Francisco Ribera (1537-1591 AD) was given the job of demonstrating that the Whore of Babylon and the Antichrist will be fulfilled far in the future, during the End Times (the *Futurist School*). Despite the contradiction between the two positions, the Roman Church promoted both of them. Thus Christendom was soon divided into three schools of thought regarding biblical prophecy; the Historicist School, the Preterist School, and the Futurist School.

### **Section 1 - The Preterist School**

The Preterist School holds the view that all (full Preterism) or most (partial Preterism) of the prophecies in the Book of Daniel, the *Olivet Discourse* in Matthew, Mark, and Luke, and the Book of Revelation were fulfilled by 70 AD, when Jerusalem and its Temple were destroyed, the Jewish people were driven into exile (the Diaspora), and the Christian, mostly Gentile, Church superseded Ancient Israel and became the New Israel. Most Preterists identify the Roman Emperor Nero (37-68 AD) as the Antichrist, thereby indicating that these prophecies could not possibly refer to the Roman Church.

### **Section 2 - The Historicist School**

The Historicist School holds the view that the prophecies in the Book of Daniel, the *Olivet Discourse* in Matthew, Mark, and Luke, and the Book of Revelation cover the entire period from the Fall of Jerusalem in 555 BC to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Advent of Messiah at the end of the current age at an unknown, future date. This period has lasted 2,578 years (555 BC-2022 AD) thus far.

The Historicist School identifies the Roman Papacy as the antichrist and subscribes to the following chronology of events:

- **During The Early Church period**, which lasted for 443 years (33-476 AD), evil-doing was restrained by the Roman Emperors. Some of the emperors persecuted the saints, but not to the extent that the antichrist would soon do. The period ended with the Fall of Rome to the Goths.
- **During the next period, the Rise of the Antichrist**, which lasted 62 years (476-538 AD), the Church in Rome (a) took advantage of the lack of restraint on evil-doing by the Roman Emperors, (b) consolidated its leadership in the Papacy and its pope, and (c) extended and strengthened its power and influence over the churches in Western Europe, and (c) ended with *Decree of Justinian*, which gave the Papacy and its pope formal control over all the churches in Western Europe.

- **During the next period, the Reign of the Antichrist**, which lasted 1260 years (538-1798 AD), the Papacy and its pope did their best (a) to eradicate Protestantism by persecuting, torturing, and killing tens of millions of the saints, to which the Bible refers as the Great Tribulation, and (b) to impose Romanist religious beliefs, rites, rituals, and regulations on hundreds of millions of people throughout the world, which resulted in the Great Apostasy or Falling Away that continues to this day. This period ended when Napoleon's General Bouthier (a) seized the Vatican, (b) drove out the Swiss Guard, (c) and removed the pope to France, where he lived out his life in exile. In addition, Napoleon issued an edict against ever electing another pope. The antichrist appeared to have been mortally wounded in its head
  
- **During the next period, the Absence of the Antichrist**, which lasted for 2 years (1798-1800 AD), the Church Universal breathed a sigh of relief, which turned out to be premature. With Napoleon and his army in the Middle East for 3 years (1798-1801) ostensibly defending French trade interests and conducting scientific investigations in Syria and Egypt, the Roman Church's hierarchy ignored his edict and elected a new pope. The antichrist's wound in the head appeared to have been healed, which amounted to his resuscitation or resurrection, and the Papacy recommenced wielding its former religious power, but not its former political power. Although it was alive, its wings had been clipped.
  
- **During the next period, the Current Era**, which has lasted 222 years (1800-2022 AD) so far, two significant things have occurred.
  - First, a bizarre theory of the End Time has emerged and become very influential in the churches (see *Section 3 – The Futurist School* below).
  
  - Second, the Papacy and its pope have steadily increased its religious power and influence of the Romanist Church to the point that it now enjoys (a) the allegiance of half the people in the world who call themselves Christians, as well as control over their beliefs, behavior, expectations, and purses, and (b) the respect and even admiration of non-Catholics, who regularly follow the pope's movements and public pronouncements in the media.

Moreover, the Scriptures are clear that the Papacy and its pope will play an ever increasing role in world affairs during the run-up to the end of the current age. The pope will (1) encourage the members of world's churches to approve of and support (1a) the reconstruction of the Temple of Solomon on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem and (1b) the resumption of animal and bird sacrifices to atone for sin - just what God's Word, the Bible, indicates is the *Abomination of Desolation* - the most demonic action which Mankind can take, (2) become the Secretary-General of the United Nations; (3) attempt to persuade members of the world's churches that he is the Lord of the world, either equal to God or God himself (verses 3-4 above), (4) call on the members of the world's churches to approve of support the treaty which he ratifies between the UN and Israel to permit the

Israelis to rebuild the temple and resume animal and bird sacrifices there, (5) preside over another period of tribulation involving the persecution, torture, and slaughter of the saints who refuse such approval or support, and (6) finally receive its just desserts when Messiah returns with His host of heavenly angels and destroys, not just Romanism, but all the nations and peoples who failed to accept Him as the Son of God, the Savior of Mankind, and the LORD of the heavens and the Earth.

In addition, the Historicist School recognizes that the *Death of Messiah* on the cross at Golgotha on Passover in early April 33 AD was the *one-time, all-sufficient, never to be repeated* sacrifice of God's Son to atone for the sins of Mankind. It terminated the Mosaic Covenant and initiated the New Covenant. It also maintains that it perfectly fulfilled or is fulfilling the prophecies in the Book of Daniel and the New Testament.

The following outline indicates my view of sacred - as opposed to secular - events in history's second period – the Historic Period (665 AD-present), which followed history's first period, the Prehistoric Period (3977-665 BC).

## 2 - THE SACRED IN THE HISTORIC PERIOD (665- BC-PRESENT).

### 2A - SACRED IN EARLY HISTORIC ERA (665-2 BC).

#### 2A-1 - 1<sup>st</sup> Temple Age-Part 2 (665-555 BC).

2A-1A - **Single Kingdom-Part 2** ended with *Fall of Jerusalem* (555 BC).

#### 2A-2 - Exilic Age (555-485 BC).

2A-2A - **Exilic Age-Part 1** ended with *Fall of Babylon* (487 BC).

2A-2B - **Exilic Age-Part 2** ended with *Proclamation of Cyrus III* (485 BC).

#### 2A-3 - 2<sup>nd</sup> Temple Age-Part 1=Post-exilic Age=Daniel's 69 Weeks of Years (485-2 BC).<sup>1</sup>

2A-3A - **Daniel's 7 Weeks of Years** (485-436 BC).

2A-3A-1 - *Return to Jerusalem* ended (c.483 BC).

2A-3A-2 - *Rebuilding of Temple & City* probably ended (436 BC).

2A-3B - **Daniels 62 Weeks of Years** ended with *Birth of Messiah* (2 BC).

### 2B - SACRED IN MIDDLE HISTORIC ERA (2 BC-1453 AD).

#### 2B-1 - 2<sup>nd</sup> Temple Age-Part 2=Messianic Age (2 BC-33 AD).

2B-1A - **Messiah's Youth** ended with *Messiah's Sojourn in Wilderness* (29 AD).

2B-1B - **Messiah's Ministry=Daniel's 70<sup>th</sup> Week of Years-Part 1** ended with Death of Messiah (early April 33 AD).

#### 2B-2 - 3<sup>rd</sup> Temple Age-Part 1=New Covenantal Period-Part 1 (33-1453 AD).<sup>2</sup>

2B-2A - **Testimony of Saints=Daniel's 70<sup>th</sup> Week of Years-Part 2** ended (37 AD).

2B-2B - **Continuation of Sacrifices in Temple** (*Abomination of Desolation I*) ended

<sup>1</sup> The 2<sup>nd</sup> Temple Age saw two versions of the Temple: (a) the Daniel/Zerubbabel version lasted for 464 years (c.483-19 BC) and (b) the Herodian version lasted 88 years (19 BC-70 AD), during the last 27 years (33-70 AD) of which it lacked the *Shekinah Glory* – i.e. the presence of God.

<sup>2</sup> The 3<sup>rd</sup> Temple is identified in the Scriptures as the Temple of the Holy Spirit which is located in the hearts of the saints. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Temple Age will last an unknown number of years (33 AD to the end of this age at an unknown date).

with *Destruction of Jerusalem* (70 AD).<sup>3</sup>

2B-2C - **Restraint of Evil-doing Roman Empire** ended with *Fall of Rome* (476 AD).

2B-2D - **Interval** ended with *Decree of Justinian* (538 AD), which gave the Papacy sole control over the churches in the Western Empire.

2B-2E - **Reign of Antichrist (Papacy)=Great Tribulation** ended with *Fall of Constantinople* (1453 AD).

2C - **SACRED IN LATE HISTORIC ERA** (1453 AD-unknown date).

2C-1 - **3<sup>rd</sup> Temple Age-Part 2=New Covenantal Period-Part 2** (1453 AD to unknown date).

2C-1A - **Reign of Antichrist (Papacy)=Great Tribulation-Part 2** ended with the *Abolishment of Papacy* and the *Removal of the Pope* to France by Napoleon's General Berthier (1798 AD).

2C-1B - **Absence of Papacy** ended with *Resurrection of Papacy* (1800 AD).

2C-1C - **Development of Dispensationalism** (1800-1850 AD).

2C-1D - **Great Falling Away** (c.1850-Parousia @ unknown date).

2C-1D-1 - **Interval** ended with *Movement to Rebuild Temple* began (c.1925 AD).

2C-1D-2 - **Probable End Time Events** (c.1925-Parousia @ unknown date).<sup>4</sup>

2C-1D-2A - *Movement to Rebuild Temple* (c.1925-present).

2C-1D-2B - *Fall of Babylon-the-Great* (probably USA), incl. NYC..

2C-1D-2C - *Relocation of UN Headquarters* to Israel.

2C-1D-2D - *Treaty between UN and Israel*.

2C-1D-2E - *Reconstruction of Temple & Revival of Animal Sacrifices there (Abomination of Desolation II) & Persecution of Saints*.

2C-1D-2F - *2<sup>nd</sup> Advent of Messiah* (incl. Parousia, General Resurrection, Rapture of the Saints, Armageddon, Destruction of Old Heavens & Old Earth).

### Section 3 - The Futurist School

The Futurist School holds the view that the prophecies in the Book of Daniel regarding the 2<sup>nd</sup> Half of the 70<sup>th</sup> Week of Years, the *Olivet Discourse* in Matthew, Mark, and Luke, and the Book of Revelation cover the End Time. It stayed within the confines of the Roman Church for about 300 years. Then in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, some Englishmen produced a variation on its theme, which is known today as *Dispensationalism*. The latter suddenly burst through the boundaries of Catholicism and quickly spread to Protestant churches throughout the world, where Protestant commentators and theologians began to elaborate on it.

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<sup>3</sup> Note the 3.5-year overlap between the *Testimony of the Saints* (33-37 AD) and the *Abomination of Desolation* (33-70 AD).

<sup>4</sup> Elsewhere I discussed the difficulties in structuring the End Time. What appears here consists of pure speculation on my part.

### **Subsection 3A - Early Dispensationalism (c.1850-1909 AD)**

The development of Dispensationalism probably began when Dr. Samuel Roffey Maitland (1792-1866 AD) became librarian to the Archbishop of Canterbury at Lambeth and discovered a copy of Francisco Ribera's manuscript. He wrote a book attacking the Reformation and supporting Ribera's thesis. Next, James H. Todd (1805-1869 AD), professor of Hebrew at the University in Dublin, wrote a pamphlet promoting Maitland's views. Subsequently John Henry Newman (1801-1890 AD) founded the "Oxford Movement" with the Church of England with the express purpose of leading the Anglican church back to Romanism, an element of which was disparaging the Historicist School and promoting the Futurist School. Not surprisingly Newman then became a Roman Catholic. Next the Scottish Presbyterian minister Edward Irving (1792-1834 AD), who pastored the Chalcedon Chapel in London and was cofounder of the Society for the Investigation of Prophecy, proposed that Messiah would return, not once, but twice. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Advent would involve the Rapture of the Saints at the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Half of Daniel's 70<sup>th</sup> Week, and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Advent would occur soon thereafter and involve Messiah's ruling the world from His throne in Jerusalem for a millennium. This idea was taken up by John Nelson Darby (1800-1882 AD), a lawyer, pastor, and theologian, who wrote 33 books on Irving's idea and is consequently often called the Father of Modern Dispensationalism."

### **Subsection 3B - Middle Dispensationalism (1909-1970 AD)**

Dispensationalism got a tremendous boost when Cyrus Ingerson Scofield (1843-1921 AD) published his Scofield Reference Bible in 1909 AD and then a further boost when the prestigious Moody Bible Institute (est. 1886) and Dallas Theological Seminary (est. 1924 AD) began teaching from it.

### **Subsection 3C - Late Dispensationalism (1970-Present)**

What pushed Dispensationalism over the top was (a) the publication in 1970 of the book by Hal Lindsey (b. 1929) in 1970 AD, who was a graduate of the Dallas Theological Seminary, entitled The Late Great Planet Earth, which was a run-away best seller, and then (b) the appearance of 85 books co-authored by Tim LaHaye (1926-2016 AD) and Jerry B. Jenkins (b. 1949 AD), starting in 1995 with the first of the twelve volumes of the Left Behind series, most of which were later made into movies. So successful were the books and movies that I imagine that most evangelical Christians today overlook the fulfillment of biblical prophecies before today, such as (1) the restraint of evil-doing, (2) the rise of the antichrist, and (3) the Great Falling Away, which consists of three parts: (3a) the initial reign of the antichrist, (3b) the hiatus in the reign of the antichrist, and (3c) the resumption of the reign of the antichrist that will culminate in the Parousia, and (2) expect the End Time to recapitulate the foregoing in just a few years, which will then be followed by a 3<sup>rd</sup> Advent of Messiah, the destruction of Israel's enemies at the Battle of Armageddon, and the rule of Messiah as King of all nations for a thousand years from His throne in Jerusalem. Here are two charts. The first chart shows the Historicists' view the New Covenantal Period, which extends from Messiah's Crucifixion to the end of this age.

## HISTORICISTS' VIEW OF THE NEW COVENANTAL PERIOD

Subperiod 1 - **The Restraint of Evil-Doing** (33-476 AD).

Subperiod 2 - **The Rise of the Antichrist** (476-538 AD).

Subperiod 3 - **The Great Falling Away** (538 AD-Parousia).

*Segment 3A - The Reign of the Antichrist – Phase 1* (538-1798 AD).

*Segment 3B - Hiatus in the Reign of the Antichrist* (1798-1800 AD).

*Segment 3C - The Reign of the Antichrist – Phase 2* (1800 AD-Parousia).

The second chart shows my understanding of the Dispensationalists' view of the Mosaic Covenantal Period, which coincides with the New Covenantal Period after the Messiah Crucifixion in 33 AD.

## DISPENSATIONALISM'S MOSAIC COVENANTAL PERIOD

It will last an unknown number of years (1464 BC-unknown date) from (a) the *Giving of the Law* to (b) the *End of the Age* (ignoring the fact that Messiah fulfilled all the requirement of this covenant at 3:00 pm on Passover in 33 AD), after which God no longer dwelt in a temple made by human hands.<sup>5</sup>

**1 - MOSAIC COVENANTAL PHASE I** - It lasted 1,535 years (1464 BC-70 AD) from (a) the *Giving of the Law* to (b) the *Destruction of Jerusalem* in 70 AD.

**1A - Moses' Tabernacle Period** - It lasted 487 years (1464-977 BC) from (a) the *Exodus* to (b) *Solomon 11*.

**1B - Solomon's Temple Period** - It lasted 422 years (977-555 BC) from (a) *Solomon 11* to (b) *Zedekiah 11*.

**1C - 1<sup>st</sup> period without temple** - It lasted 74 years (555-481 BC) from (a) *Zedekiah 11* to (b) Year 4 of Daniel's 69 Weeks of Years.<sup>6</sup>

**1D - Daniel's Temple Period** - It lasted 464 years (481-17 BC) from (a) Year 4 to (b) Year 468 of *Daniel's 69 Weeks of Years*.<sup>7</sup>

**1E - Herod's Temple Period** - It lasted 88 years (17 BC-70 AD) from (a) Year 466 of Daniel's 69 Weeks of Years to (b) 70 AD,<sup>8</sup> during which Messiah was born in 2 BC.

**1E-1 - Animal sacrifices before Messiah's death** - It lasted 51 years (17 BC-33 AD).

**1E-2 - Animal sacrifices after Messiah's death** - It lasted 37 years (33-70 AD).

<sup>5</sup> This is not a minor oversight. God was so infuriated by the continuation of animal and bird sacrifices in the temple after the death of his Son, whom he had sent to Earth to provide the perfect, one-time sacrifice for the sins of Mankind, that he destroyed Jerusalem & its Temple and banned the Jews from Judea for almost two millennia.

<sup>6</sup> 70 years of Exile in Babylon, 2 years of organizing & travelling to Jerusalem, and 2 years of rebuilding the temple equals 74 years.

<sup>7</sup> Daniel was the Tirshatha (Governor), Sheshbazzar (Prince of Judah), & Belshazzar (name given by Nebuchadnezzar) in Ezra 3:1 & 8 to whom Cyrus gave custody of the temple treasures looted by Nebuchadnezzar, along with the responsibility to (a) transport them to Jerusalem, (b) safe-guard them during the rebuilding of the temple, and (c) replace them in the rebuilt temple, which was completed in 481 BC = Year 4 of Daniel's 69 Weeks of Years. Thus, 481-17 = 464.

<sup>8</sup> Herod was appointed King of Judea in 40 BC, and he conquered Jerusalem in 37 BC. The reconstruction of the **temple** started in 19 BC, and the *naos* was completed in 17 BC, when, I am assuming, the renewal of worship occurred, and the *outer court* was completed in 11 BC. Then Jerusalem and its **temple** were destroyed in 70 AD. Thus 17+1+70=88.

**2 - MOSAIC COVENANTAL PHASE II = Parenthesis during the New Covenantal Period (see below) = 2<sup>nd</sup> period without a temple** - It will last an unknown number of years (70 AD-unknown date) from (a) the *Destruction of Jerusalem* to (b) the treaty between the antichrist and the Israelis that permits the Katter to rebuild the Temple of Solomon on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem and resume animal and bird sacrifices there.

**2A - Diaspora** - It lasted 1878 years (70-1948 AD) from (a) the *Destruction of Jerusalem* to (b) the *Establishment of Israel*.

**2B - State of Israel** - It will last an unknown number of years<sup>9</sup> (1948 AD-unknown date) from (a) the *Establishment of Israel* to (b) the *End of the Age*.

**2B-1 - Land without Jerusalem or temple** (1948-1967 AD) - It lasted 19 years from (a) the *Establishment of the State of Israel* to (b) the *Conquest of Jerusalem*.

**2B-2 - Land without temple** - It will last an unknown number of years (1967 AD-unknown date) from (a) the *Conquest of Jerusalem* to (b) the treaty between the antichrist and Israel.

**3 - MOSAIC COVENANTAL PHASE III** - It will last an unknown number of years (dates unknown) from (a) *2<sup>nd</sup> Coming of Messiah* for the Saints (Rapture) & the start of *Great Tribulation* to (b) the *End of the Age*.

**3A - The Great Tribulation = Daniel's 70<sup>th</sup> Week of Years** - It will last 7 years (dates unknown) from (a) *2<sup>nd</sup> Coming of Messiah* (=Parousia #1) for the Saints (Rapture)<sup>10</sup> to (b) the *3<sup>rd</sup> Coming of Messiah* (Parousia #2).<sup>11</sup>

**3A-1 - 1<sup>st</sup> Half of the Great Tribulation** - It will last 3.5 years (dates unknown) from (a) the start of the *Great Tribulation* to (b) the *Abomination of Desolation*.

**3A-2 - 2<sup>nd</sup> Half of the Great Tribulation** - It will last 3.5 years (dates unknown) from (a) the *Abomination of Desolation* to (b) the *3<sup>rd</sup> Coming of Messiah* (=Parousia #2).

**3A-3 - The Millennium = Messiah's Kingdom** - It will last 1,000 years (dates unknown) from (a) the *3<sup>rd</sup> Coming of Messiah* (=Parousia #2) to (b) the *End of the Age*, during which Messiah will rule world from Jerusalem.

In their wildest dreams, the Jesuit conspirators could not have envisioned how successful their deception would prove to be – undoubtedly because God sent a “strong delusion” into the world to separate the wheat from the chaff in the Christian churches throughout the world.<sup>12</sup>

<sup>9</sup> It has lasted 73 years to the present (2021 AD).

<sup>10</sup> Messiah is clear in the Oliver Discourse that the Rapture is part of the *2<sup>nd</sup> Coming of Messiah*, which would be Parousia #1.

<sup>11</sup> Since the Rapture was part of the *2<sup>nd</sup> Coming of Messiah*, His arrival at the end of the *Great Tribulation* would consist of the *3<sup>rd</sup> Coming of Messiah*, which would be Parousia #2. Given this sequence of events, I am left with a couple of questions. First, since Messiah will not be staying on Earth after He takes the Saints up to Heaven, does that must mean that the Prophetic, Phineas, and Davidic Covenants remain in effect until the end of the *Great Tribulation*? Second, where does the replacement of the old heavens and old Earth with new heavens and a new Earth fits into this picture?

<sup>12</sup> 2 Thessalonians 2:7-11.