The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show to his servants[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=revelation+1&version=ESV#fen-ESV-30683a)] the things that must soon take place. [Revelation 1:1]

**Week 10**  March 12, 2023

Two Millennial Views

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**A**

Dispensationalism

* A dispensation is defined as “a period of time during which man is tested in respect to his **obedience** to some specific revelation of the **will** of God.”
	+ Innocence (The Garden of Eden)
	+ Moral Responsibility (After the Fall)
	+ Human Government (Flood to Mt. Sinai)
	+ The Law (Mt. Sinai to Christ’s Ascension)
	+ The Church (Pentecost to Christ’s Return to Earth)
	+ Millennial Kingdom (1000 years of Christ’s rule on Earth)
* Key Elements
	+ God promised Jewish people an **earthly kingdom** ruled by the Messiah
	+ At Christ’s first advent, He **offered** this kingdom but the Jews **rejected**
	+ The Kingdom was **postponed** and He established the Church
	+ The rapture **ends** the Church age and **resumes** the age of The Law
	+ The distinction between Jew and Gentile will be reestablished and continue throughout eternity.
* History
	+ Its origin is in the early 19th century
	+ Its originator was a priest of the Anglican Church of Ireland named John Nelson Darby

**Hermeneutical and Theological Concerns**

1. Literal interpretations of figurative passages:
	1. **Abraham’s descendants are only physical**
	2. **144,000 of Revelation 7 are the Jewish Remnant in the Tribulation**
	3. **1000 years: Revelation 20**
	4. **Binding of Satan**
2. Does God have 2 plans for 2 groups of people?
	1. The Messiah’s rule over a Jewish nation is **political** in nature.
		1. Christ’s atoning work on the cross is **not** central to God’s plan.
		2. The focus is on a **future** kingdom on this earth.
	2. A theology of glory rather than the theology of the cross
		1. Glory: Personal **victory** through personal **obedience**
		2. Cross: Grace of God is **revealed** in the cross of Christ and **received** by faith
		3. Dispensationalism: Hope is based on “signs” of nearing the rapture rather than God’s promise to impart grace according to His means.
3. Soteriology (The Doctrine of Salvation)
	1. Dispensationalism: rebuild the temple and reinstitute the **sacrificial** system
	2. Dispensationalism: offers a false **hope** – exemption from intense persecution
	3. BUT: Christ died once for all
	4. AND: Relationship with humanity was God’s plan before the foundation of the world
4. Unity of Believers
	1. Dispensationalism: The Body of Christ:
		1. **Only** believers saved between Pentecost and the Rapture.
		2. OT believers are **not** included, nor are believers after the rapture
	2. However: Gentiles are grafted in
	3. AND: The cross of Christ **ends** the distinction between Jew and Gentile forever.

**B**

* There is only ONE **plan** of salvation – everyone in heaven will have the same thing in common: saved by **grace** through **faith** in Christ Alone.
* There is only ONE **people** of God – The Communion of the Saints
* There is only ONE **return** of Christ
	+ Christ’s first advent: defeated: **sin**, **death**, and the **devil**
	+ The Millennium (Revelation 20) is the **complete** amount of time between advents
	+ “Thy Kingdom Come” in our hearts: a spiritual kingdom now with tribulation now
	+ Satan is bound (defeated) but not **powerless**.
	+ The Church Militant is **assured** of becoming the Church Triumphant
	+ The LORD Jesus Christ will physically **return** to **complete** everything set in motion at His first advent.