

Heare Beginneth the Treatyse of the Cumminge of Anticrist

Gothic manuscript in Middle English (ca. 1400) found in the British Library (never cited) pp.1-3

Cited 2 Thessalonians 2: “the Lorde Jesu Cryst ni shall come unto his Jugment generall tyll unto that certaune departinge & devursyon ben Fyrste comen & that the Sonne of perdicion that is to understande Antecryst hath shewed hym selfe...four thynges princypalle wyche shall proceed the Comynge of Antecryste the sonne of pardysyon

[4 things proceed the coming of Antichrist]

“The Fyrst shalbe the dyvysyon & separasyon on Countres & lands that shall depart from ye Empyre of Romany...shalbe devyded in x Realmes...as is written in **Danyell in ye vii C**^[hapter] & Fygyre in the beast that had x hornes [Rev 13]/

[Rome falls into 10 kingdoms]

“the Seconde thing that shall proceed in comynge of the said antecryst shalbe the devyson of Cherchys pertyculars yt shall separate fr^[om] the obbedyence of the Church Romanyne...ye seperacyon devysyon & departing of many Christen people that shall depart them from the faith callygne this wryteth the apostle in the **Fyrst** epistle...to his disciple **Tymothe in the iiiii Chapter**... *[many Christians separate from Roman Church]*

Heare Beginneth the Treatyse of the Cumminge of Anticrist pp.3-8

“Antecrist come when the synnes shalbe Abondanntlye multiplyed upon the earthe of that tyme it is written in Saite Mathw in the xxiii chapter / Iniquite shall abonnde & the charyte of many shall wexe colde before the cursed Antecrist come upon the yerthe.

[sin abounds, love disappears]

“Antecrist...shalbe borne in Babylone of sume Jews wch shalbe in the liyne of Dan after the prophicye of Jacob in Genese the xlix chapit...Babyone the proude cyte...wrytin in Appocalypse”

[Antichrist born in Babylon, from tribe of Dan]

“Antecrist...shall go into Jerusalem into the temple that ye Jews have then made and redysyed... saynge to the Jewes I am youre cryst & youre messias the wch unto youe is promised...he shall set hym in the said temple in saying...that he is god...”

[Jews rebuild temple in Jerusalem, Antichrist enters claims to be Messiah]

“the laste days of the worlde that shalbe in tyme of ye said Antecryst the tyme shalbe qught perilous / for at the comynge of Antecryst men & women shall syne so openlye that they shall have no shame to do & accompyshe ther Lecheryes...”

[tribulation, open sinfulness]

"THE ANTICHRIST, RAPTURE, AND REBIRTH OF ISRAEL IN THE FATHERS AND MEDIEVAL MANUSCRIPTS

By

William C. Watson – MDiv, MA & PhD

Professor of European History

Colorado Christian University

THE ANTICHRIST:

JEWISH (2ND-10THC.), PAPAL (11TH-16TH), MUSLIM (17TH-18TH)

“Already in the second and third centuries theologians were foretelling that Antichrist would be a Jew of the tribe of Dan; this idea became such a commonplace that in the Middle Ages it was accepted by scholastics such as Thomas Aquinas... Antichrist, it was held, would be born at Babylon; he would grow up in Palestine and would love Jews above all peoples; he would rebuild the Temple for them and gather them together from their dispersion... The Jews would be most faithful followers of Antichrist, accepting him as the Messiah who was to restart the nation.”

-Norman Cohn, *The Pursuit of the Millennium* (Oxford, 1957) 74 78,85,215

Second and Third Century Tradition of a Jewish Antichrist

Apocalypse of Peter (ca.125) Koine, mentioned in Muratorian fragment “fig tree is the house of Israel ...when the twigs have sprouted...shall feigned Christs come [Jews follow at first, but] Enoch and Elias shall be sent to teach them that this is the deceiver...they that die by his hand be martyrs...” –Akhimic & Ethiopic fragments

Irenaeus (ca.180) Restrainer=Roman Empire when it falls, then 10 kingdoms emerge but are taken over by Antichrist (a Jew from tribe of Dan), who rules world from Jerusalem as an Messianic Imposter, Jesus’ evil twin, rules 3½ years, “The rebuilt Jerusalem will be in Jerusalem.” –Against Heresies 5:30

Hippolytus of Rome (ca.200, disciple of Irenaeus) Jew from Dan, rebuilds Jerusalem Temple, desecrates it, Jews follow him, Enoch & Elijah killed, rules 3½ years -*CommDaniel* ii,39-43; *Christ and Antichrist* 6,48

Tertullian (ca.220) 2Thess2: “falling away”=“this present empire”; “man of sin”=“Antichrist” “he who now hinders...What obstacle is there but the Roman state, the falling away of which, by being scattered into ten kingdoms, shall introduce Antichrist...” -On the Resurrection of the Flesh xxxiv (see also chapters xxv, xxvii, xli)

Victorinus of Petrovium (ca.270, martyred by Diocletian) Antichrist’s reign 3½ yrs (1260 days/42 mos.) “the beast belongs to the 7th horn, but is an 8th, Antichrist comes to...the Jews...so that they might receive him as the Christ.” [666 acc.to Greek letters] False prophet places image in temple in Jerusalem. 144,000 are “those among the Jews who will come to believe at the end of time through the preaching of Elijah.” –CommentRevelation 11, 13, 20

Fourth Century Tradition of a Jewish Antichrist

Apocalypse of Elijah (ca.300, Coptic) Antichrist will deceive the Jews who had settled in Jerusalem, then he would “stand in the holy places” as “an enemy to the saints” until Elijah & Enoch come down & be killed, then “Christ will come from heaven...set fire to this earth” and “spend a thousand years on it.” -Apocalypse of Elijah 25-34,42-43

Lactantius (ca.310) at fall of Rome 10 kings emerge, Antichrist Jew of Dan born Syria; Elijah preaches, is killed & rapt
Antichrist=little horn, tries to destroy temple, “tribulation such as there has never been”, 666 Mark, rules 42 months, assembles army to destroy righteous, surrounds the city, God sends Christ/angels from heaven to destroy Antichrist, then resurrection & judgement by works, some shall judge & reign with Christ. -The Divine Institutes VII, xvi-xx

Cyril of Jerusalem (ca.350) Jew tribe of Dan, rebuilds Jerusalem temple, little horn rules cruelly for 3½ yrs,
“The Antichrist...will come when the destined period of the Roman Empire has run its course and the subsequent end of the world is drawing near. Ten claimants to the empire will rise simultaneously... Antichrist will form an eleventh after them having seized the imperial power by magic arts.” [Dan7:24] -Nature of Antichrist,15thCatecLecture11-16

Ambrosiaster (ca.375, Rome) “Paul pointed out the time and the signs of Christ’s return. The Lord would not come back until the Roman Empire fell and the antichrist appeared, who would kill the saints... He would even sit in Christ’s seat in the house of God, as God himself...this person whom [Jews] are expecting to come will be either of the circumcision or at least circumcised himself, so that the Jews will have the confidence to believe him.” -Comm2Thess 2:1-4;115

Hilary of Poitiers (ca.380) Jews did not receive Christ, but will receive Antichrist -On the Trinity ix,22

Early Medieval Tradition of a Jewish Antichrist -Stephen Vicchio & AncChrComm,xiii

Jerome (ca.400, translator of the Latin Vulgate translation of the Bible)

“Antichrist at the end of the world...is from the Jewish people...pretending to be the prince of the covenant...he is to be born of the Jewish people and come from Babylon...” -Commentary on Daniel 11:24-26

“Jews mistakenly imagine that he (i.e. their Messiah) is yet to come, for they are going to receive the Antichrist.” -Commentary on Daniel 11:34-35

Theodoret of Cyrus (ca.450) Rome falls (restrainer), 10 Kings, Antichrist king of North conquers others, Elijah & Enoch go to Jerusalem, call Jews to faith, killed by Antichrist (Malachi 3;Rev 11) “not an isolated reading, but part of a larger widespread Elijah expectation in early Christianity” -Joel Weaver; *Theodoret of Cyprus on Romans 11:26: Recovering*

Pseudo-Ephraem (6thc. Syria, century after Ephraim the Syrian) tribe Dan, by ‘vile virgin’, has temple rebuilt

Gregory the Great (ca.590) Jew from tribe of Dan, takes power at fall of Rome (restrainer), Jews follow him, their conversion begins his downfall -Moralia in book of Job, cited in Stephen Vicchio, *Legend of Antichrist*, 102

Oecumenius (ca.600, Syrian Monophysite) Elijah & Enoch prophesy in Jerusalem, killed by antichrist who “will rule as king of the Jews, whom he will deceive...” -Commentary Apocalypse 11:1-14

Andrew of Caesarea-Cappadocia (ca.610) It is “the tribe of Dan, out of which the antichrist is to be born...” “The Antichrist coming from eastern regions of Persia, where is the Hebrew tribe of Dan.” -*Commentary Apocalypse* 7:4-8;16:12

Eighth Century Examples of a Jewish Antichrist

John of Damascus (ca.700, Syrian monk founded monastery near Jerusalem) the Jews would accept him as Messiah in rebuilt temple in Jerusalem, at least until the preaching of Enoch & Elijah, Antichrist rages until Christ returns

http://www.trueorthodoxy.info/pat_stjohndamascus_on_antichrist.shtml

The Venerable Bede (ca.725, eighth century Anglo-Saxon monk & church historian) Wrote commentary

on the book of Revelation. He too believed that Antichrist would be a Jew from the tribe of Dan, be born in Babylon.

Bede seems to have held to a rapture and return to rule on earth. -Bede, *Explanation of the Apocalypse* 7:5; 17:12

“...the Church, which has been redeemed by the blood of Christ and gathered from the nations. And he shows them in heaven by saying ‘and they will reign on earth.’” -Ibid., 5:9-10

“Some interpret the two prophets to be Enoch and Elijah. They will preach for three and a half years, and strengthen the hearts of the faithful against the perfidy of the antichrist that is soon to come. And when they are killed, his ferocity will rage. When at last the saints, who through the protection of their hiding places, were thought to be dead, resume the struggle... For the sake of the fellowship of one body, these prophets are said to rise...Then in the temple there will be an abomination of desolation... ‘And the armies that are in heaven followed him on white horses.’ With pure white bodied the church imitates Christ. Because of the struggle of her battle, she has by right received the name of army.”-Ibid,19:14

After hiding, then being gathered from all nations and taken to heaven, the saints would then follow Christ to ‘the final battle’ against ‘the kings of the earth’, then they would reign with Christ on earth a thousand years. -Ibid.,19:16-19

Ninth and Tenth Century Examples of a Jewish Antichrist

Pseudo-Hippolytus (9th century, Syriac MSS) Antichrist from tribe of Dan, who gathers & restores Israel, rebuilds the temple in Jerusalem, Enoch & Elijah preach against Antichrist, who kills them then desecrates the temple, demands people get his mark, but Christ returns, resurrects the dead, the earth “burnt up.” -*On the End of the World* 16-20,23-25, 29

Adso of Montier-en-Der (ca.950, Benedictine abbot Burgundy, “one of the foremost writers of the 10thc.”)

“Antichrist...born among Jewish people, out of the tribe of Dan...born in the city of Babylon...will restore the Temple of Solomon...will go to Jerusalem...present himself as Christ to the Jews.” -Marina Vukovic, “The Idea of Antichrist: Tyconius & Adso”

Cited 2Thess2: Antichrist cannot take power “unless the defection shall have come first” Christian kingdoms defect, which hadn’t happened yet, since Franks continued the control of the Roman church, last Christian king will go to Jerusalem, lay down crown, Enoch & Elijah will preach 3½ years converting Jews, Golden Age until Antichrist takes Jerusalem, desecrates Temple, kills E&E, begins 3½ year tribulation killing all Christians who won’t apostatize, 666, until Christ (or St. Michael) returns to slay antichrist, after an unspecified time of penance comes Judgment Day.”

I haven’t found any examples of a Jewish Antichrist between 1000 and 1400

Treatyse on the Cummynge of Antecryst (ca.1400, Gothic middle-English MSS I found at Brit Library)

-parts are influenced by or even copied from Pseudo-Hippolytus and Adso of Montier-en-Der

Medieval tradition of a last godly emperor, who fights Gog & Magog -Cohn

Tiburtine Sibyl (mid-4thc. popular in Medieval Europe) Godly emperor converts the heathen and Jews, until Gog & Magog invade, but he defeats them, goes to Jerusalem to lay down his crown to God, but Antichrist now rules from a rebuilt temple in Jerusalem until St. Michael & angels destroy him & Christ returns.

Pseudo-Methodius (late 7thc.) Roman emperor will drive out invading “Ishmaelites” from the south, but then Gog & Magog enter from the north, until driven out by St. Michael & his angels. The Emperor will then go to Jerusalem, lay down his crown and die, ending the Roman empire. This will allow Antichrist to take Jerusalem and rule tyrannically until Christ returns to defeat him.

Emperor Friedrich Barbarossa died enroute to 3rd Crusade (1190) prophecies of his return, or a future Friedrich “Emperor of the Last Days” to liberate Jerusalem & prepare for 2nd Coming. Barbarossa’s grandson Emperor Friedrich II took Jerusalem 1229 (saw Rome corrupt, excommunicated/Antichrist)

Each barbarian invasion (Goths, Vandals, Huns, Arabs, Magyars, Vikings, Turks, or Mongols) was seen as an invasion of Gog & Magog. Each domestic tyrannical ruler was seen as the Antichrist.

-all in Norman Cohn; *The Pursuit of the Millennium* (Oxford, 1957), 31-35

[idea of a Jewish Antichrist dominant 2nd-9th c. then disappears]

Late Medieval Tradition of a future papal Antichrist -Cohn

- **Arnulf of Reims** (991, archbishop, illegitimate son of last Carolingian king, deposed)
first to call a pope Antichrist, 'sitting in God's temple in Rome showing himself to be God'
- **Investiture struggle:** pro-HRE Ghibellines called several popes Antichrist (Gregory VII 1084 & IX 1241)
- **Bernard of Clairvaux and Hildegard of Bingen** (12thc.) vision of anti-pope who would lead astray 2/3 of Roman Church (happened in the 13th & 14thc.) *influenced next three groups:*
- **Joachim of Fiore & Rigorist Franciscans** (12th-13thc.) Antichrist will chastise & destroy corrupt/worldly Roman Church, leading to glorious renewal, an Age of the Spirit
- **Brother Arnold of Swabia** (early 13thc. Dominican) Roman Antichrist defeated by Christ
- **Flagellants** (14thc. influenced by Joachim, Rigorists, Brother Arnold & Apostolic Brethren)

- **Lollards** (late 14th-early 15thc. followers of John Wycliffe) *Opus Arduum (ca.1390)*
"The Antichrist has so despoiled the visible church that it is no longer salvageable. The Devil has penetrated into the very heart of the church; hence Joachite visions of renewal are inane." –Bostick, *Antichrist & Lollards*
- **Taborites** (late 14th-early 15thc. followers of Jan Huss) as Catholic armies invade Bohemia
- **Luther, Zwingli, Bucer, Calvin, the Anabaptists & other 16th century Reformers**

Identities of the Antichrist, Kings of North/South, Gog/Magog (1593-1654)

<u>Author</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Antichrist</u>	<u>King of North/South</u>	<u>Gog/Magog</u>
John Napier	1593	Pope		Pope/'Mahometans'
Robert Pont	1599	'papal kingdome'		Pope/'Mahomet'
Thomas Brightman	1607	Pope		Rome & 'the Turke'
Thomas Draxe	1608	Pope	'The Turke' / ?	Turks/'Mahometans'
Pierre Du Moulin	1613	Pope		
Sir Henry Finch	1621		'Turkes'/'Saracens'[Arabs]	
Peter Heylyn	ca.1625	Turks or Rome?		
Joseph Mede	1627	Pope		'the Turk'
Robert Maton	1642	Rome		'Kings of the world'
John Cotton	1642	Pope		
John Archer	1642	papacy		Pope/'Mahumitans'
Johannes Alsted	1643	Pope		
Jeremiah Burroughs	1643	Pope		
Ephraim Huit	1643	'the Turkish state'		Turks/'Saracens'
Thomas Parker	1646			
John Owen	1649	Pope (Mohammed=False Prophet)		
Samuel Hartlib	1651	Pope		Turks/'Saracens'
John Dury	1651	Pope (+)		
Nathaniel Homes	1653			Turks
William Aspinwall	1653	King Charles 1		
Thomas Goodwin	1654	Pope/Rome		

Identities of the Antichrist, Kings of North/South, Gog/Magog (1654-1699)

<u>Author</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Antichrist</u>	<u>King of North/South</u>	<u>Gog/Magog</u>
John Browne	1654	10 western nations (Rome=Whore)	Turk/'Egyptian prince'	Turk
John Tillinghast	1654	Pope/Rome		
James Durham	1658	Pope/Rome		
John Birchensha	1660	Pope/Rome		
Griffith Williams	1660	Westminster Assembly (& Baptists 1661)		
William Lloyd	1668	Pope/Rome		
Increase Mather	1669	Papal Rome		
William Sherwin	1674			'Turk and Pope'
Richard Franklin	1675	Mohammed (Rome=Whore)		'Turks/'Saracens'
Richard Hayter	1676	Turk (Pope='Whore of Babylon')		'Turks & 'Saracens'
Henry More	1680	Papal Rome		
William Hooke	1681	Rome		'Kings of the Earth'
Pierre Jurieu	1687	Pope/Rome		
Cotton Mather	1689	Pope/Rome		
Benjamin Keach	1689	Pope/Rome		
Drue Cressener	1690	Papacy		
Sam Petto	1693		Turks/'Saracens'[Arabs]	Turks & their allies
Digby Bill	1695	Papacy		
Walter Garrett	1699	Papacy		
John Edwards	1699	Papists & 'Mahotens'		Rome/'Mahometans'

Identities the Antichrist, Kings of North/South, Gog/Magog (1702-1797)

<u>Author</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Antichrist</u>	<u>King of North/South</u>	<u>Gog/Magog</u>
Robert Fleming	1702	Papacy		
John Grabe	1702	future individual		
Daniel Whitby	1703	'the Jews'		
Robert Prudom	1704	'Mahometanism'		
John Hildrop	1713	future individual		
John Floyer	1721	'Mahometans'		'Mahometan' religion
Theophilus Garacieres	1728	future individual		
Nathaniel Markwick	1733	future Turkish/Papal individual		
Sayer Rudd	1734	Romanists & Mahometans		Romanists & Mahometans
Thomas Newton	1758	Papacy		
Samuel Johnson	1742			Turks
Samuel Collet	1747			Turks
Richard Clarke	1759	Romanists & Mahometans		
Thomas Hartley	1764	future individual		
Samuel Hardy	1770	future individual		
Grantham Killingworth	1772	future individual		Antichrist's armies
James Bachmair	1778	Papacy (Mohammad=false prophet, LouisXIV=little horn)		Turks & Arabs
Thomas Reader	1788	Muslim (Turkey=Whore conq by Russia pre-Armageddon)		Russia, Persia, Arabs
Elhanan Winchester	1789			Turks
James Bicheno	1797	'the Turkish empire'	Turks/'Saracens'[Arabs]	Russia

HOPE IN A RESTORATION OF ISRAEL: NOT MUCH BETWEEN CHRYSOSTOM & BEZA

“Beza’s marginal note [in Romans 11 of the Geneva Bible] instructed his readers to remember the ‘debt the Gentiles owe to the Jews’ and to understand that ‘the nation of the Jews is not utterly cut off, without hope of recovery’. In another note he firmly stated that all God’s old promises to the Jews about their ownership of their land could not be ‘frustrate and vain’...

“King James hated Beza’s influential marginal notes so much that he banned all such commentary from his 1611 version...

“‘Where Israel, Judah, Tsion, Ierusalem etc, are named in his argument, the Holy Ghost meaneth not the spirituall Israel or the Church of God collected of the Gentiles...but Israel properly descended out of Jacob’s loynes.”

-Victoria Clark; *Allies for Armageddon: The Rise of Christian Zionism* (Yale, 2007)

Ante-Nicene Expectation of a Restoration of Israel in the Last Days

-AncientChristianCommenary, EarlyChristianWritings.com

Tertullian (ca.200) “what matters it to me, provided there be also a resurrection of the body, just as there is a restoration of the Jewish state? In fact, by the very circumstance that the recovery of the Jewish state is prefigured by the reincorporation and reunion of the bones [Ezekiel 37], proof is offered that this event will also happen to the bones themselves; for the metaphor could not have been formed from bones, if the same thing exactly were realized in them also. -On the Resurrection XXX

“Oh, most excellent God, when He restores in amnesty what He took away in wrath! Oh, what a God is yours, who both wounds and heals... Oh, what a God, that is merciful even down to Hades! ... As for the restoration of Judea, which even the Jews themselves...hope for just as it is described...in another work”
-Against Marcion III,25

Victorinus of Petovium (ca.270, Slovenia, martyred by Diocletian) antichrist=Roman Empire

“I send to you Elijah...to turn the hearts of the fathers...that is, at the time of the calling to recall the Jews to faith...he shows the number of those from the Jews who will believe. -Commentary Revelation 7.1-9

“144,000...Jews who at the end of time will come to faith through the preaching of Elijah.” –Comm Revel 20.1

Post-Nicene expectation of a Restoration of Israel in the Last Days

-AncientChristianCommentary, EarlyChristianWritings.com

Ambrosiaster (ca.375, Rome) “Christians should not insult Jews, because they know that the mercy of God has been set aside for them, even though they have fallen away... They were partially hardened, so that during the time of their unbelief, the Gentiles might be admitted into the faith...but when the full number of the Gentiles has admitted, the darkness will be taken away from their eyes so that they may believe.”

–Commentary on Romans 11:23,25

Jerome (ca.400) “For those who believe, salvation is in Mt. Zion and Jerusalem. In the latter days, the Lord will gather the called remnant from the people of Judah...He will return the captives of Judah to Jerusalem... He will gather all the nations who are unwilling to believe, however, and throw them into the Valley of Jehosaphat.”

–Commentary on Joel 3:1

“namely what is going to happen to the people of Israel, not in the near future, but in the last days, at the end of the world.”

–Commentary on Daniel 10:14 “what things shall befall thy people in the Last Days”]

Cyril of Alexandria (ca.420, patriarch) “Israel will be saved in its own time and will be called at the end, after the calling of the Gentiles.”

–Explanation of the Letter to the Romans 11.26

Theodoret of Cyr (ca.450) “After the Gentiles accepted the gospel, the Jews would believe, when the great Elijah would come to them and bring them the doctrine of faith. The Lord himself said as much: ‘Elijah will come and will restore all things.’[Mt17:11]”

–Interpretation of the Letter to Romans

Early Medieval expectation of a Restoration of Israel in the Last Days

-AncientChristianCommentary, EarlyChristianWritings.com

Caesarius of Arles (ca.520, bishop of soFrance) “the woman who flew into the desert to be the...church in which...the synagogue will come to believe at the end of time when Elijah comes...the two wings...are the two prophets [Elijah +? during reign of Antichrist] allowed to exercise authority for 42 months...the last persecution.” [tribulation saints are newly converted Jews and “bad Christians”] “It speaks of all, namely of those who dwell on the earth, not those who dwell in heaven.” [raptured saints] -Exposition on the Apocalypse, Homily 10

Oecumenius (ca.600, Galatia) “now the Lord is shown having come to Mount Zion represents the conversion of Israel by faith in the last days, when indeed the Lord will make them his own possession and bring them to himself. For this was proclaimed through Isaiah, saying, “The Redeemer will come from Zion and will remove ungodliness from Jacob” and the apostle in agreement says “When the full number of the Gentiles come in, then all Israel will be saved.” -Commentary on the Apocalypse 14.1-5

Andrew of Caesarea-Cappadocia (ca.610) [1444,000] “This refers either to those believers from the Jews who fled the siege of the Romans...or what is more likely, to those from the Jews who are saved at the consummation when, as the apostle puts it, after ‘the full number of the Gentiles come in, all Israel will be saved.’ Either interpretation is acceptable. ...the Jews in the diaspora of the earth are saved in the last days.” -Commentary on Apocalypse 7:4-8

Venerable Bede (716) [Rev 3:10] “the hour of temptation of the Jews at the time of Antichrist are indicated. During this persecution, certainly those of the Jews...through the teaching of tthat great prophet Elijah, being incorporated with members of the church, they will believe.” -Exposition of the Apocalypse 3:10

Medieval Jewish Expectation of a Restoration of Israel

Christians were only anti-Semitic until Theodore Beza's 1557 footnotes in Geneva Bible

-Ed Hindson's doctoral dissertation

“Next year in Jerusalem” –last sentence in Passover service

- Karaites: 10c. *Aliyah* to await Messiah
- 51 calculators of when the Messiah would come: including Judah Halevi & Maimonides
- Kabbala (Zohar): Medieval Jewish mystics had numerous mathematical schemes of when Messiah would come
- 22+ Pseudo-Messiahs: including Zabbatai Zevi

THE
HISTORY OF MESSIANIC
SPECULATION IN ISRAEL

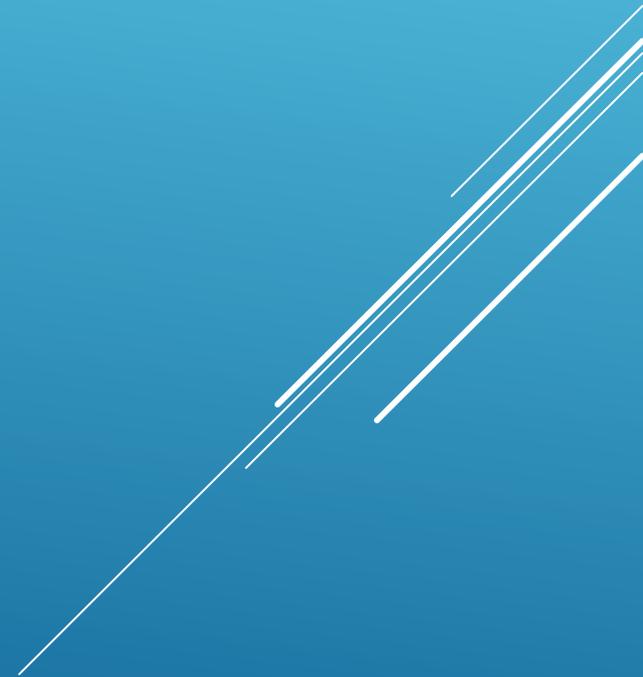


ABBA HILLEL SILVER

KESSINGER LEGACY REPRINTS

THE RAPTURE:

PRE-WRATH, PRE-TRIB, MID-TRIB, AND POST-TRIB



Early Church Citations of a Pre-wrath Rapture (some could be PreTrib)

Irenaeus (ca.180) "they are both ignorant of God's dispensations, and of the mystery of the resurrection of the just, and of the [earthly] kingdom which is the commencement of incorruption. ... Now God made promise of the earth to Abraham and his seed; yet neither Abraham nor his seed...do now receive...it; but they shall receive it at the resurrection of the just."
-Against Heresies V, XXXII, 1

Commodianus (ca.250) "The whole nature is converted in flame, which yet avoids the camp of the saints. The earth is burned up...the mountains melt...but the righteous are placed in inner dwelling-places."
-Instructions, XLV: Day of Judgment

Lactantius (ca.300) "Then the righteous shall go forth from their hiding places, and shall find all things covered with carcasses and bones. But the whole race of the wicked shall utterly perish; and there shall no longer be any nation in this world, but the nation of God...there shall be no war, but peace and everlasting rest...1000 years."
-Institutes VII, xxvi

Methodius of Olympus (ca.300, Bishop of Lycia) "Souls made safe and sealed shall be preserved from wrath in the burning of the world, whilst the ...sons of Satan shall be destroyed"
-Banquet of the Ten Virgins 9:1

Apocalypse of Thomas (ca.350) "Then also shall they be lifted up into the air on a cloud of light, and shall go with me rejoicing into heaven...the sixth day. And on the seventh day shall mine elect be sought out by the holy angels from the destruction of the world. Then shall all men see that the hour of their destruction draweth near."
-Bihlmeyer's text from Munich Clm. 4563 (11th-12th c.)

Early Medieval Citations of a Post-Trib or Pre-wrath Rapture

Hilary of Poitiers (ca.360) “When the wrath of God rises, the saints will be hidden in God’s chambers but the faithless will be left exposed to celestial fires.”
–AncientChrComm, Ib:209 Mt24

Abrosiaster (ca.375, Rome) Rapture immediately before battle “thus everyone will come with Christ to the battle, and those who had killed them will see them alive...in this rapture...they receive their souls back again... when the saints see what they have escaped from they will rejoice.” -Commentary on 1 Thess, 4:15; 5:1-3; in AnChComm Ambrosiaster II,109

Cyril of Alexandria (ca.420, Patriarch, expelled Jews, anti-Nestorius, anti-Hypatia) “‘He will send His angels, and they shall choose the righteous from among the sinners, and bring them near unto Him:’ but those others they will be left on earth, as doomed to torment and condemned to punishment by fire.”
–Commentary Luke, Sermon 118

Augustine of Hippo (426) “where shall the saints be during the conflagration, and before it is replaced by a new heavens and a new earth...in the upper regions...”
–Ancient Christian Commentary

Oecumenius (ca.510, Syrian Monophysite) “the countless thousands from the Gentiles who...have been allotted a place in the heavenly choir...were rescued from the universal destruction of the world. ...’they who have come out of the Great Tribulation.’ For the righteous endured...struggle”
–Commentary Apocalypse 7:9

Second Apocalypse of John (ca.650) “I will send my angels over all the earth’s surface. They will burn up the earth...all the rocks will be melted and turned to dust...”

Medieval Citations of a Pre-wrath Rapture (some could be pre-Trib)

Julian of Toledo (680) ‘repeated verbatim those words of Augustine’ -Gumerlock, “Apoc.Spirit.”

Venerable Bede (730) “when the Lord descends for the judgment...the saints are immediately caught up to meet him in the air. [cites 1Thess 4:15-16] ...fire will cover the whole surface of the earth, and the unjust...will be unable to be caught up into heaven.” -*De Temporeum Ratione*,70

“And you have redeemed us for God by your blood from every tribe and tongue and people and nation” is “the church which has been redeemed by the blood of Christ and gathered from the nations. And he shows them in heaven by saying, ‘and they will reign over the earth.’” [rapture must have occurred; for church is in heaven & will reign over earth]

-Exposition of Apocalypse 5:9-10

Brendan (ca.750) his monks will be raised “high over the fire of Doom” then return to earth -Gumerlock, “Apoc.Spirit.”

Theodore the Studite (ca.820, monk Constantinople) “When the stream of fire will usher forth ...then save me from these flames that can never be cooled.” -Gumerlock, “Apoc.Spirit.”

Paschasius Radbertus (ca.850) “The one who seeks the things that are of God will be taken, but the one who seeks the things that are of the world will be left in the fire.” -Gumerlock, “Apoc.Spirit.”

Pseudo-Alcuin (ca.1040) “when the Lord comes for judgment, there will be a white cloud which, screening the saints, would protect them from the fire burning the world.” -Gumerlock, “Apoc.Spirit.”

Bruno the Carthusian (ca.1090) “the faithful will be preserved unharmed from the fire”-Gumerlock, “Apoc.Spirit.”

Early Church Expectations of a Pre-Trib Rapture –EarlyChrWritings, Gumerlock, AncChrComm

Shepherd of Hermas (ca.90-140) “You have escaped a great tribulation...a type of the great tribulation which is to come.” [not THE Great Tribulation, but if they escape in the type, wouldn't they escape the real one? -Vision IV,2 in *Ante-Nicene Fathers*

Ireneaus of Lyon (ca.180, from Smyrna, disciple of Polycarp who was a disciple of John)

“When in the end that church will suddenly be caught up from this, it is said, *‘There will be tribulation such as not been seen since the beginning, nor will be.’* –Against Heresies 5:29

Apocalypse of Elijah (3rdc.Egypt, Greek & Coptic fragments) Orthodox Millenarian not Gnostic, cited by fathers the Antichrist, will arrive on the world scene, will claim to be Christ, will set himself up in Jerusalem...Enoch & Elijah will return & oppose him... executing them...when the end-time persecution of the Antichrist intensifies, Christ will take pity on His people by sending Angels from heaven to snatch up those having the seal of God on their hands & foreheads... remove them from the wrath, and lead them to paradise. There raptured saints will receive white robes...& dwell in safety from Antichrist... After this Christ will return with His saints, who reign with Him for a thousand years. –Gumerlock,*BibSac*,2013

Not pre-wrath but pre-trib: “its purpose is specifically related to removal from the wrath of the Antichrist and escape from the Tribulation sent on the world by God in the last days...shows close affinity with the pretribulational view.” –Gumerlock, *BibSac*, 2013
[but this 3½ year tribulation is from Rev 12, ‘woman protected in wilderness’, no mention of Daniel’s 70 weeks]

Victorinus of Petau (ca.270, martyred by Diocletian) Rev 6:14 “*the heaven withdrew as a scroll that is rolled up.* For the heaven will be rolled away, that is, that the Church shall be taken away...the good will be removed, seeking to avoid the persecution.” –Commentary on Apocalypse 6:14

Medieval Expectations of a Pre-Trib Rapture -Francis Gumerlock, Grant Jeffrey, AncChrComm

Caesarius of Arles (ca.520, bishop of soFrance) After 3 ½ years of the 2 witnesses is the rapture:

“Come up hither! And they went up to heaven in a cloud.’ The Apostle spoke of this when he said, ‘We shall be caught up in the clouds to meet Christ.’” -Exposition on the Apocalypse, Homily 8 tying Rev 4:1 to 1Thess4:17

[Homily 9 is the dragon cast to the earth after rapture for next 3½ years, causing the worst persecutions – Rev 12:9]

“For the saints cannot become heaven unless the devil has been expelled.” -Exposition on the Apocalypse, Homily 9

“the tent of witnesses in heaven was opened...the temple is to be interpreted as the church, and angels that come out of the temple [go on to pour bowls of wrath upon the earth in Rev14] -Exposition on the Apocalypse, Homily 12

Pseudo-Ephraem (6thc. Syria, century after Ephraim the Syrian) “For all the saints and elect of God are gathered, prior the tribulation that is to come, and are taken to the Lord, lest they see the confusion that is to overwhelm the world because of our sins.” -Sermon at End of the World, 3

Aspringius of Beja (ca.540, bishop in soPortugal) “he promises that he will preserve him church in the last times, when the demon, enemy of the human race, will come to tempt those who live on the earth.” -Explan.Revel. 3:10

Brother Dolcino (ca.1300 North Italy, head of Apostolic Brethren) -Gumerlock, *BibSac* 2002

“the Antichrist was coming into the world within the bounds of the said three and a half years; and after he had come then he [Dolcino] and his followers would be transferred into Paradise, in which are Enoch and Elijah. And in this way they will be preserved unharmed from the persecution of Antichrist. And that Enoch and Elijah themselves would descend on the earth for the purpose of preaching [against] Antichrist. Then they would be killed...and Antichrist would reign for a long time. But when the Antichrist is dead, Dolcino...and his preserved followers will descend on the earth.”

-*Rerum Italicarum Scriptores*, v.9

Ancient Expectations of a Mid-Trib Rapture: connecting Rev 11 to 1 Thess 4

Rapture of Enoch & Elijah = Rapture of Saints

Tertullian (ca.220) “Up to the present moment they have not, tribe by tribe, smitten their breasts, looking upon Him whom they have pierced. No one has yet to bewail the downfall of Babylon. No one has as yet fallen in with Elias, no one has as yet **escaped from Antichrist**.” [Rapture is to escape Antichrist] -*On the Resurrection* XXIII
[2Thess2: falling away=fall of Roman Empire into 10 kingdoms; then Rapture/Antichrist revealed @abomination] *Resurrect* XXIV

Tyconius (ca.380, Donatist) [resurrection@lastTrumpet-Rev11] -Commentary on the Apocalypse 10:7
“the hour of temptation may also refer to the time of antichrist who will come in the future. From this hour Christ the Lord promises that he will free every church that remains firm in his [commandments].” -CommentApocalypse 3.10

Primasius (ca.550) “He speaks of the church flying in mid-heaven for she is going to possess the whole world, she says ‘Our abode is in the heavens!’ God works his way in the midst & works salvation.” -CommenApoc 8:13

:connecting Mat 25 & Rev 12 to 1 Thess 4

Methodius of Olympus (ca.300, bishop Lycia) “midnight is the kingdom of Antichrist...the cry...’Behold the Bridegroom cometh...is the voice which shall be heard from heaven and the trumpet, when the saints all their bodies being raised, shall be caught up, and shall go on to the clouds to meet the Lord.” -Banquet of the Ten Virgins, VI.iv

[Woman in wilderness Rev12=the church] “the 1260 days that we are staying here...until the restitution of the new dispensation, when, coming into the assembly in the heavens” -Banquet of 12VirginsVIII,xi

Early Medieval example of a Mid-Trib Rapture: connecting Rev 11 & 1 Thess 4

Andrew of Caesarea-Cappadocia (ca.610) “By the ‘hour of trial’ he speaks either of the persecution against the Christians that occurred almost immediately by those who ruled Rome badly at that time...or he speaks of the universal coming of the antichrist against the faithful at the end of time. From this coming He pledges to free those who are zealous, for they will beforehand be seized upward by a departure from there, lest they be tempted beyond what they are able to endure. He says well, ‘I am coming soon,’ for ‘after the tribulation of those days, the Lord will immediately come’”
-Commentary on the Apocalypse 3:10-11

“trampled by the nations for 42 months signifies, I believe, that at the appearance of the antichrist those who are faithful and trustworthy will be trampled and persecuted for 3½ years... Enoch and Elijah [will] prophesy 3½ years...will guide those away from the deception of antichrist. These are the same whom Zechariah saw in the form of two olive trees and lampstands” [Antichrist kills them, unburied in streets, Antichrist establishes his kingdom in Jerusalem, accepted by Jews]
-Commentary on the Apocalypse 11:1-4

“The saints are caught up in the midst of temptations, lest they be subdued by difficulties beyond their powers. And they will be caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air.” [cites 1 Thess 4:17] “the 3½ years are reckoned the 1,260 days during which the apostasy will rage. During this time the great judge will not think to tempt us beyond what we are able to bear, but freeing us will present us a strong mind free from any weakness against the onslaughts on it...”
-Commentary on the Apocalypse 12:5-6

“The phrase ‘in mid-heaven’ indicates that the angel...has been sent from above to people who came from the ground, so that...it might...lead them...to heaven. And so the body of the church will be united to Christ... Fear God, but have no fear of antichrist...”
-Commentary on the Apocalypse 14:6

Early Medieval example of a Mid-Trib Rapture: all from Gumerlock

Venerable Bede (ca.730) in *Patrologiae Latinae* 93:164

Autpert Ambrose (ca.770) in *Corpus Christianorum Medievalis*, 27:431

Haimo of Auxerre (ca.870) in *Patrologiae Latinae* 117:1076

Pseudo-Alcuin (ca.1040) in *Patrologiae Latinae* 100:1150

Rupert of Deutz (ca.1120) in *Patrologiae Latinae* 169:1033

Peter of Tarantaise *pseudo-Albertus Magnus* (ca.1160) in *B.Alberti Magni Opera* 38:644

Arnold Villanova (ca.1310) connecting Rev 10:7 “mystery of God is finished” with 1Thess4

Ancient & Medieval Examples of a Post-Trib (& post-post-Trib) Rapture

Irenaeus (ca.180) “the resurrection of the just, which takes place after the coming of Antichrist, and the destruction of all nations under his rule; in [the times] the righteous shall reign in the earth.” -Against Heresies 5.35

Ambrosiaster, or Pseudo-Ambrose (ca.375) “At the coming of the Lord the saints will also rise again, and those who are still alive will be caught up into the air... In this rapture death and resurrection shall occur simultaneously... In the time of the antichrist, the rest of the Gentiles will be either apostates or guilty...and the Lord Jesus will slay them, along with their ruler the antichrist...” -Commentary on 1 Corinthians 15:53

“Christ the Lord will come down...and will wage war in God’s name against the antichrist. After he has been wiped out, the dead will rise again at his command. To come down with the sound of God’s trumpet means to wage war in the name of God. ... Those who have died in Christ will rise first, and then we who are still alive will be caught up together with those processional clouds to meet Christ in the air. Thus everyone will come with Christ to the battle, and those who had killed them will see them alive...” -Commentary on 1 Thessalonians 4:15-18

*******post-post-Trib Rapture*******

Jerome (ca.400) “Blessed is he, who when the Antichrist is slain, beyond 1290 days, that is, three years and a half, waits for the forty-five days, in which the Lord and Saviour is to come in His majesty.”

Venerable Bede (ca.725) “after the death of Antichrist there will be some little rest in the Church, which Daniel foretold: ‘Blessed is he who waiteth and cometh to the 1,335 days...’ Now for what reason, after the destruction of Antichrist, there is silence for 45 days, is a subject of divine knowledge.” -Explanation of the Apocalypse 8:1; 9:13-14

[some could be speaking of a later rapture of martyrs in the midst of the tribulation after a pre-trib rapture]

The Church must be in heaven long enough for a wedding, then she will return to earth with Christ in her fine white linen

Apringius of Beja (ca.540) “We interpret the armies of heaven to be the bride herself, who [is] to be prepared for the marriage of the Lamb. When it says that they were “on white horses” ...white linen the righteous works of the saints.”
-Tractate on the Apocalypse 19.14

Primasius of Hadrumentum (ca.550) “In heaven the churches...[are] made white than snow by grace, and said to follow Christ... They always go forward on white horses, that is with pure bodies...following the footsteps of Christ.”
-Commentary on the Apocalypse 19.14

Venerable Bede (ca.725) “the church, which has been redeemed by the blood of Christ and gathered from the nations. And he shows them in heaven by saying ‘and they will reign on earth.’ –Explan Apocalypse 5:10
“the armies that are in heaven followed him, with pure white bodies the church imitates Christ. Because of the struggle of her battle she has by right received the name of army.” [reign on earth 1000 years]
-Explanation of the Apocalypse 19.14

Conclusion:

Dispensationalists expect (& speculate upon) the Apocalypse

(Restoration of Israel, Rapture, Antichrist, Armageddon, 2nd Coming, etc.)

Anti-dispensationalists disparage them, calling them “new ideas.”

Prophecy is a major theme of the Bible & Christ’s teaching.

Throughout Church history most all authors speculated on the Apocalypse

Therefore, it’s those who mock us who are new, being influenced
by modernism & liberalism, rather than a study of the Word of God

“Messianism thrives on suffering. It is its soil and sap. And in Israel suffering was continuous throughout the centuries... The Jew never forgot the divine promise of Redemption!” –Rabbi Hillel Silver, *History of Messianic Speculation* (1927)

Apocalyptic literature is always produced by the oppressed:

- Judea occupied by Rome (3rd c. BC -2nd c. AD)
- Early Church persecuted by Rome (1st-4th c.)
- Medieval Church fearing barbarian invasions (4th-11th c.)
- Medieval Dissenting Christians persecuted by Rome (11th-15th c.)
(Cathari, Waldenses, Apostolic Brethren, Wycliffe & Lollards, Huss & Taborites)
- Early Protestants assaulted by Catholic armies (16th-18th c.)
- American fundamentalists feeling overwhelmed by liberals (19th-20th c.)

and dies out in times of optimism & prosperity:

- Constantine made Roman Empire “Christian” (4thc.) Church triumphant > Amillennialism
- Europe began to dominate/rule world (19thc) Modernism triumphant > Postmillennialism

“Some medieval Christians held that the faithful will be safe from the Antichrist.”

“The Development of the Pretribulation Rapture in Medieval Christianity” (presented at ETS Nov 2017)

-**Francis X. Gumerlock** (Adjunct instructor of Latin, Colorado College & University of Colorado, Colorado Springs)

1. People Hide: Matt 24:16 - “flee to the mountains”

Rev 12:6,14 - woman flight into the wilderness from the dragon

Isa 2:19-21; 26:20; Hos 10:8; Heb 11:38 – people hide in caves & holes

2. Rapture to paradise: *History of Brother Dolcino* (Apostolic Brethren - early 14th century)

“Antichrist was coming into this world within the bounds of the said three and a half years; and after he had come, then he and his followers would be translated into Paradise, in which are Enoch and Elijah. And in this way they will be preserved unharmed from the persecution of Antichrist. Then Enoch and Elijah themselves would descend on the earth for the purpose of preaching [against] Antichrist. Then they would be killed...Antichrist would reign...when Antichrist is dead, Dolcino...and his preserved followers, will descend on the earth...”

-Anonymous, *Historia Fratris Dulcini*

“the two ideas were closely connected...not improbable that the latter was an outgrowth of the former.”

-Francis Gumerlock

Gumerlock's 3 Medieval Texts he thinks show development of Rapture idea

-Ibid.

- *The Apocalypse of Pseudo-Shenoute* (14thc. Arabic text attrib.to 5thc. abbot in Egypt):

“Surely my elect, whom I love, will recognize these signs [of the Antichrist]. They will flee into the countryside and into the desert, to the places that I will have prepared for them.

... And they will ask me and I will have pity on them. I will make fruits in the valleys grow for them. I will make waters of springs and fountains sweet for them.”

–French translation

“probably based on Rev 12:14: *the woman...might fly into the wilderness...where she was nourished for [3 ½ times] from the presence of the serpent* and Hos 2:14: *I will allure her, bring her into the wilderness...give her vineyards...* -Gumerlock

- *A Sermon on Antichrist* (12thc. Armenian text attrib.to 4thc. Epiphanius of Salamis):

“what is going to take place soon at the end of this world, that is, about the many tribulations and about the restful and peaceful times, but also about the son of perdition, Antichrist,...

Christian people...will be saved...when they will have fled into the caves and caverns of the immense river [4 rivers flowing from Garden of Eden]...sons of men chosen on account of their faith in Christ who did not submit themselves to the unclean one nor worship his abominable image. [They] will be preserved for the glory and praise of the crucified Jesus Christ”

–Latin translation

“may have its basis in Isa 2:19-20 which says: *And men will go into caves of the rocks, and into holes of the ground*” -Gumerlock

Gumerlock's 3 Medieval Texts he thinks show development of Rapture idea

-Ibid.

- *The Voyage of St. Brendan* (13th Latin texts of a voyage to paradise of a 6th c Irish monk):

A mountain island paradise across the sea: "God's secret place...This is the land which at some future time before the end of the world, he [Jesus] will give his beloved upon earth [the church] and they shall come here." -South England version ca.1270 published in 2002 by Univ Exeter Press

Brendan and his monks were told by a young man upon his arrival to island: "this country will be revealed to your successors, especially when the persecution of Christians by Antichrist begins." -Italian version ca.1300 also published in 2002 by Univ Exeter Press

"when the Apostolic Brethren around 1300 placed their hope in being delivered from the Antichrist by a translation to paradise, it was not something they pulled out of thin air...Dolcino might have been influenced by the *Apocalypse of Elijah*, which circulated in the medieval west and contains teaching about a miraculous flight of God's people to...paradise where they are protected from...Antichrist... [or] simply gathered elements of teaching that were present in medieval discourse on eschatology"

-Gumerlock

Gumerlock's appendix lists 10 other sources (7th-12thc) about the church fleeing Antichrist into the desert, mountains, or caves.

Partial Rapture

Tertullian (ca.220) “We do confess that a kingdom is promised to us upon earth...it will be after the resurrection for a thousand years in the divinely-built city of Jerusalem...provided by God for receiving the saints on their resurrection. After its thousand years are over, within which period is completed the resurrection of the saints, who rise sooner or later according to their desserts, there will ensue the destruction of the world and the conflagration of all things...”
-Tertullian, *Against Marcion* III, xxv, in Alexander Roberts & James Donaldson eds., *The Anti-Nicene Fathers* III, 342.

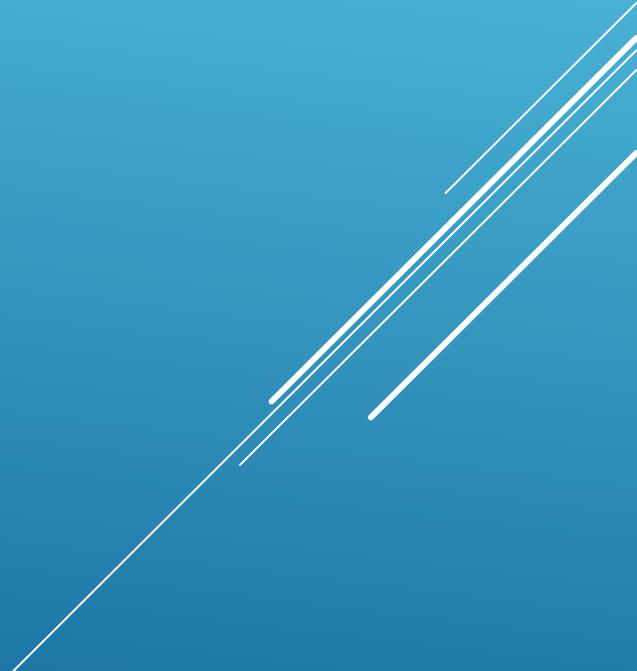
“Now the privilege of this favor awaits those who shall at the coming of the Lord be found in the flesh, owing to the oppressions of the time of Antichrist, deserve by an instantaneous death, which is accompanied by a sudden change, to become qualified to join the rising saints; as he writes to the Thessalonians...”
-On the Resurrection xli

Commodianus (ca.250) “We shall arise again to Him, who have been devoted to Him. ... They shall come also who overcame cruel martyrdom under Antichrist...”
-*Instructions* XLIV: Of the First Resurrection (Roberts & Donaldson, IV, 212)

Caesarius of Arles (ca.520, Bishop in so.Gaul) “the woman who flew into the desert [is] the same catholic church in which the synagogue will come to believe at the end of time when Elijah comes. In this case the two wings of the eagle are the two prophets... The dwelling of God is among the saints who are contained within the Church, which is called “heaven”, because they are indeed the habitation of God.” ... Also **he [the Beast] was allowed to make war on the saints and to conquer them**. From the whole we understand the part that was able to be conquered, for it is not the good Christians who are conquered but the bad...namely those who dwell on the earth not of those who dwell in heaven.”
-Exposition on the Apocalypse, Homily 10

THE TRIBULATION:

7 OR 3 ½ YEARS FROM DAN9 & REV11



2nd-3rd century examples of 7 (or 3½) Year Tribulation: from Daniel 9 or Rev 11

Irenaeus of Lyon (ca.180) “the time that his [Antichrist’s] tyranny shall last, during which the saints shall be put to flight, and they who offer a pure sacrifice to God: And in the midst of the week, he says, the sacrifice and libation shall be taken away, and the abomination of desolation [shall be brought] into the temple: even unto the consummation of the time shall the desolation be complete. Now three years six months constitute the half week.” -Against Heresies 5.25.4
“when this Antichrist shall have devastated all things in this world, he will reign for three years and six months, and sit in the temple of Jerusalem; and then the Lord will come from heaven in the clouds” -Against Heresies 5.30.4

Hippolytus of Rome (ca.200) “and it shall be that in the midst (half) of the week my sacrifice shall cease.’
By one week, therefore, he meant the last week which is to be at the end of the whole world of which week the two prophets Enoch and Elijah will take up half. For they will preach 1,260 days clothed in sackcloth proclaiming repentance to the people and to all the nations.” -Christ & Antichrist 43
“the beast...shall overcome them and kill them”...this is meant by the little horn that grows” -Christ & Antichrist 47
“then shall be great tribulation...and they shall place the abomination of desolation 1,290 days...” -Christ & Antichrist 62
“when the [62] weeks are fulfilled, and Christ is come...there **will** remain only one week, the last in which Elias **will** appear and Enoch, in the midst of it the abomination of desolation will be manifested...Antichrist” -Comment Daniel ii, 22
[10 kingdoms from Rome’s fall, ‘little horn’=Antichrist, 6000 yrs-millennium] -Comment Daniel ii,2-3

Commodian (ca.250, nAfrica) “This is the man [antichrist] who moves the world and so many kings...the whole earth on all sides for seven years will tremble...Then the whore of Babylon, being reduced to ashes, the Latin conqueror will say “I am Christ.’ ...The Jews...exclaim at the same time to the Highest that they have been deceived.”
-Instructions, XLI: Of the time of Antichrist

3rd-6th-century examples of a 7 (or 3½) Year Tribulation: from Daniel 9 or Rev 11

Victorinus of Petrovium (ca.270) Antichrist's reign 3 ½ yrs (1260 days/42 mos) little horn from 10@fall of Rome
woman=the church, witnesses=Elijah & Jeremiah?

Methodius (ca.310, bishop Lycia) [Woman in wilderness Rev12=the church] “the 1260 days that we are staying here...until the restitution of the new dispensation, when, coming into the assembly in the heavens” –Banquet of 12 Virgins VIII, xi

Jerome (ca.400, translated Bible to Vulgate, answered Porphyry's attack on *Daniel* & his 70 weeks)

“It does not seem to me that the 70 weeks have been divided up without purpose, in that 7 is mentioned first, then 62, and then a last week is added, which in turn is divided into 2 parts.” –Commentary on Daniel 9, 684

“**Hippolytus** [ca.200] places the final week at the end of the world and divides it into the period of Elias and the period of Antichrist, so that during the [first] three and a half years of the last week the knowledge of God is established...during the other three years under the Antichrist sacrifice shall cease. But when Christ shall come and shall slay the wicked one by the breath of His mouth, desolation shall hold sway till the end.”

–Commentary on Daniel 9, 548

“After Antichrist killed the two prophets] it was given to the Gentiles the holy city, they shall tread underfoot 42 months [3½ years]”

–Jerome, Letter XLVI, 6

Caesarius of Arles (ca.520, bishop of soFrance) “The seventh trumpet proclaims the final persecution and the coming of the Lord, and therefore the apostle said that at the final trumpet the resurrection will take place... The Church...will dare to despise the commands of that most cruel king at the time of the final persecution.” –Apoc. Homily 7

Medieval examples of 7 (or 3½) Year Tribulation: from Daniel 9 or Rev 11

Primasius of Hadrumetum (ca.550) 69 weeks “must be understood to refer to Christ’s first coming...the final week is aptly applied to...the beginning of his 2nd coming...pertains to the end of the world.” -Stephen Vicchio; *Legend of Antichrist: A History*

Apringius of Beja (ca.540, Bishop in South Portugal) “at the coming of the enemy that there be the beginning of sorrows and the presence of great tribulations. The half week, that is, the 3½ years in which ‘offerings and sacrifices shall cease’ refers to that time of the accursed one...that is the image of antichrist. These are the thousand years of which the Apocalypse speaks, because through faith all the saints will have risen with Christ.” -Explanation Revelation 20:9-10

Pseudo-Ephraem (6thc. Syria, century after Ephraim the Syrian) Antichrist “orders the temple of God rebuilt for himself... he shall sit as god and order that he be adored by all nations...the holy city shall be trampled on by all nations for 42 months nations for 42 months...which become 3½ years, 1260 days...The prophets Enoch and Elijah, who, while not yet tasting death, are the servants for the heralding of the second coming of Christ... And when 3½ years have been completed, the time of the antichrist, through which he will have seduced the world, after the resurrection of the two prophets...will come the sign of the Son of Man...the Lord shall destroy him...” -Sermon at the End of the World, 10

Andrew of Caesarea-Cappadocia (ca.610) [Jerusalem to be] “trampled by the nations for 42 months signifies, I believe, that at the appearance of the antichrist those who are faithful and trustworthy will be trampled and persecuted for 3½ years. ... Enoch and Elijah [will] prophesy 3 ½ years...will guide those away from the deception of antichrist. These are the same whom Zechariah saw in the form of two olive trees and lampstands” [Antichrist kills them, establishes kingdom in Jerusalem, accepted by Jews] -Commentary on the Apocalypse 11:1-4

Venerable Bede (ca.725, Britain) “Some understand the two prophets to be Enoch and Elijah, and that they preach for 3½ years...and that. After their death, his [Antichrist’s] cruelty is to rage for the same period of time, and then when the conflict is at length to be renewed by the saints [they] are said to rise as prophets themselves...” [refers to Daniel 9:27 & 12:1] -Explanation of Apocalypse 11:13

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earlychristianwritings.com

francisgumerlock.com

2nd & 3rd Century Schemes of Dividing History into Dispensations

Irenaeus (ca.180) "The Church, though dispersed throughout the whole world, even to the ends of the earth, has received from the apostles and their disciples this faith: [She believes] in one God...Jesus Christ...and in the Holy Spirit, who proclaimed through the prophets the dispensations of God, and the advents..." -Irenaeus, *Against Heresies* I,x,1.

"the dispensation of the law" (III, xi, 7; III, xv, 3) "the Levitical dispensation" (IV, title of chapter xvii) "the Mosaic dispensation" (IV, xxxvi, 2) "the legal dispensation" (III, x, 2; V, title of chapter viii); "the new dispensation of liberty" (III, x,4) "the future dispensation of the human race" (III, xxii, 3) [All from *Against Heresies* & cited by James Morris in his work soon by Disp.Publ.House]

Hippolytus (ca.200) "interprets these [7 kings of Rev17:10] to be ages, of which five have already passed, the sixth, in which the apostle had his vision, is still remaining [called 'old Rome'] and the seventh ['new Rome'], which is after the six thousand years, has not yet come." -Commentary on Daniel 4:23 [in Andrew of Caesarea, *Commentary on the Apocalypse* 17:10]

Tertullian (ca.200) "Abraham's seed, after the primal purpose of being like the sand of the sea for multitude, is destined likewise to an equality of the stars of heaven – are these not indications both of an earthly and a heavenly dispensation? ... For the dispensation of the Jews...at first was imbued with earthly blessings through the law, and afterwards brought round to heavenly ones through the gospel by faith." -*Against Marcion* III, xxv in Schaff III,343

"the world to come bears the character of a different dispensation, even an eternal one...if man were made for the future dispensation, and not the dispensation for man." -*On the Resurrection*, lix

4th & 5th Century Schemes of Dividing History into Dispensations

Hilary of Poitiers (ca.380) [concerning Christ 'emptying himself' to come to earth] "All is therefore a dispensation only, and not a change of His natures...after the mystery of the dispensation God is all in all."

"He was God's self before the dispensation, by which he emptied himself, and now is united with God's self."

"The death and resurrection are due only to the Dispensation by which Christ was flesh."

Augustine of Hippo (ca. 410) "The divine institution of sacrifice was suitable in the former dispensation, but is not suitable now. ...the component parts of which are the dispensations adapted to each successive age..." -"Letters of Augustine, iii, 138 – to Marcellinus, 5. Shaff's *Nicene & Post-Nicene Fathers vol.1; J.Morris*)

Gog & Magog, Kings of North & South, Armageddon

Apringius of Beja (ca.540, Bishop in soPortugal) Gog & Magog=the Scythians, Meshech=Cappadocia of King of North Dan9 & invasion of Gog & Magog Ezek38: “these very passages announce the presence of Antichrist.”

Andrew of Caesarea-Cappadocia (ca.610) [after rejecting the metaphorical and preterist views]

“it is clear that the arrival of these nations [Gog & Magog] best suits the final times. ...[it] foretells future events, it is written that Gog and Magog will come toward the end of this age.” -Commentary on Apocalypse 20:8
[mentions debate between preterist amillennialists & futurist premillennialists, but rejects fleshly paradise for a spiritual millennium]

Perceived identities of prophetic figures

Gog/Magog

King of North/South

Woman in Rev 12

Whore of Babylon

Methodius:

The Church Symp8:5-8

Andrew of Caesarea: Scythians/Huns Apoc16:12;20:7

The Church Apoc12:1

New Rome Apoc17:1-3

Stuff I don't know how to integrate)

Lactantius (ca.300) “This is the doctrine of the holy prophets which we Christians follow; this is our wisdom which they who...maintain a vain philosophy deride as folly and vanity, because we are not accustomed to defend and assert it in public, since God orders us in quietness and silence to hide his secret, and to keep it with our own conscience. And not to strive with obstinate contention against those who are ignorant of the truth...”
-The Divine Institutes VII, xxvi

Oecumenius (ca.600) “Revelation certainly does not present to us the millennialism of the atheistical Greeks... I don't know what other idle talk and nonsense when it says that the devil will be bound for a thousand years... Stay away from such destructive teachings...”
-Commentary on the Apocalypse 20:2-3

Hippolytus (ca.200) [context 2Thess2] “These things shall come to pass, beloved, and the one week being divided into two parts, and the abomination of desolation being manifested then, and the two prophets and forerunners of the Lord having finished their course and the whole world finally approaching consummation, what remains but the coming of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ from heaven, for whom **we have looked in hope**? So he shall bring the conflagration and just judgment upon all who have refused to believe on Him.” -On Christ and Antichrist 64-67

- I found no evidence, of anyone believing it was the ungodly who were raptured in Mat 24: 40-42 & Lk 17:34
- No church fathers “refer to the fall of Jerusalem as a comprehensive fulfillment of the Olivet Discourse nor did they believe that most or all of the second coming was past.” -Wayne House, “The Understanding of the Church Fathers Regarding the Olivet Discourse and the Fall of Jerusalem (PreTrib Research Center 26th Annual Conference 2017.

Rejections of Preterism

Victorinus of Petovium (ca.270, martyred by Diocletian) concerning woman in Rev 12:5

“There things did not occur at one time. That Christ was born we know, and that times have intervened, but that she should flee from the presences of the dragon, to the present time this has not happened.” –Commentary on Apoc 12.5

Oecumenius (ca.500) “In the present age the marriage is still in the stage of courtship and not yet a consummated marriage...[cites wise/foolish virgins of Matthew 25] It is not suitable to regard any of this as referring to the present time; it rather refers to that which is coming.” –Commentary on Apocalypse 19:6-9

Caesarius of Arles (ca.520, bishop so France) “What is contained in this Revelation had begun immediately after the passion of our Lord and Savior and therefore was to be fulfilled to the day of judgment.” -ExpositApocalypse, Homily 1
“‘Come up here, and I will show you.’ This is appropriate not only for John, but for the church and indeed every believer, For whoever, beholds the open door in heaven, that is, whoever believes that Christ was born suffered and was resurrected, he ascends into the heights and sees things in the future.” -Exposition on Apocalypse, Homily 3

Apringius of Beja (ca.540, Bishop of so Portugal) “he is speaking not only of his own times but also future ages, Moreover, he promises that he will preserve his church in the last times, when the demon, the enemy of the human race, will come to tempt those who live on the earth.” –*Explanation of the Revelation 3:10*

Andrew of Caesarea Cappadocia (ca.610) [on Gog and Magog] “it is clear that the arrival of these nations best suits the final times. ...it is written, ‘He will be prepared from the days of old and will come at the end of time.’ ...foretells future events, it is written that Gog and Magog will come toward the end of this age.” -CommApocalypse 20:7

Venerable Bede (720) “who would not know that the future persecution of the Antichrist will be greater than any other.” –Exposition of the Apocalypse 7:14

**The Lack of Preterism in the Early Church has been shown
by Wayne House in “Understanding the Church Fathers
regarding the Olivet Discourse and the Fall of Jerusalem”:**

(all saw Matthew 24 as mostly future)

Ante-Nicene

Epistle of Barnabas (ca.110)
Irenaeus (ca. 180)
Clement of Alexandria (ca.180)
Tertullian (ca.200)
Hippolytus (ca.220)
Origen (ca.240)

Nicene & Post-Nicene

Athanasius (ca. 360)
Cyril of Jerusalem (ca.370)
Basil the Great (ca.370)
Jerome (ca.400)
John Chrysostom (ca.400)
Augustine of Hippo (ca.410)
John of Damascus (ca.730)

Ancient pagans/heretics were Preterists claiming Daniel fulfilled in Antiochus; the futurist defenders of Daniel's prophecy were Orthodox Church Fathers

Jerome (ca.400, transl Bible to Vulgate, answered Porphyry's attack on *Daniel*) *all from his commentary on Daniel*

“**Porphyry**...interprets as applying to the person of Antiochus... But those of our persuasion believe all these things are spoken prophetically of the Antichrist, who is to arise in the end time... Those of our school insist...Antiochus is to be regarded as a type of the Antichrist, and those things which happened to him in a preliminary way are to be completely fulfilled in the case of Antichrist.”
–Daniel 11,24

“It cannot be proved...that this Scripture was ever fulfilled by past history....And so our party insist that all these things refer to the Antichrist and to the king of Egypt whom he has for the first time [to] overcome.” –Daniel 11,27-30

“**Hippolytus** [ca.200] places the final week at the end of the world and divides it into the period of Elias and the period of Antichrist, so that during the [first] three and a half years of the last week the knowledge of God is established...during the other three years under the Antichrist sacrifice shall cease. But when Christ shall come and shall slay the wicked one by the breath of His mouth, desolation shall hold sway till the end.” –Daniel 9,548

“**Africanus** [Sextus Julius, ca.220] affirms that the final week will occur at the end of the world.” –Daniel 9,549

“it is vain for **Porphyry** that all these things which were spoken concerning the Antichrist under the type of Antiochus actually refers to Antiochus alone. ...these false claims have been answered at greater length by **Eusebius** of Caesarea, **Apollinarius** of Laodecia, and partially also by that very able writer, the martyr **Methodius**.”

–Daniel 12:13

2nd century Premillennialism

Papias of Hieropolis (ca.110) “I was taught by the Apostle John himself, that after the resurrection of the dead, Jesus will personally reign for one thousand years.”
–Fragment 6

Barnabas (ca.120) “in six days – six thousand years, that is – there is going to be an end to everything. After that He rested in the seventh day indicates that when His Son returns, He will put an end to the Years of the Lawless One...then on the seventh Day, enter into His true rest.”
-Epistle of Barnabas 15

Irenaeus of Lyon (ca.180, from Smyrna, disciple of Polycarp, disciple of John)

“bringing in for the righteous the times of the kingdom, that is, the rest, the hallowed seventh day.”
-Against Heresies 5.30.4

“after the coming of Antichrist and the destruction of all nations under his rule; in which the righteous shall reign in the earth...those left upon the earth should both be under the rule of the saints to minister to this Jerusalem”
-Against Heresies 5.35.1

“The new heavens and new earth are first created and then the new Jerusalem descends. These are all literal things, and Christians who allegorize them are immature Christians.”
–Against Heresies 5:35.1-2

Hippolytus of Rome (ca.200) “6,000 years must needs be accomplished, in order that the Sabbath may come, the rest, the holy day ‘on which God rested from all His works.’ For the Sabbath is a type and emblem of the future kingdom of the saints, when they ‘shall reign with Christ.’ when He comes from heaven.”
–Commentary on Daniel II,4

3rd century Premillennialism

Tertullian (ca.200, Africa) “we do confess that a kingdom is promised to us on earth, although before heaven...it will be after the resurrection for a thousand years in the divinely-built city of Jerusalem... provided by God for receiving the Saints on their resurrection. ... After its thousand years are over, within which period the resurrection of the Saints who rise sooner or later according to their deserts, there will ensue a destruction of the world and the conflagration of all things...” -Against Marcion III, xxv in Schaff III,342

“For we shall be caught up...in the clouds to meet the Lord...and so shall we ever be with the Lord, so long as He remains both on earth and in heaven...” -Against Marcion III, xxv in Schaff III,343

Commodian (ca.250, nAfrica) “for the thousand years God will destroy all those evils.”-Instructions,XLIV,Resur

Victorinus of Petau (ca.270, martyred by Diocletian) called Chiliast by Jerome, but MSS are inconsistent “the ‘scarlett devil’ and all of his rebellious angels are shut up in the Tartarus of Gehenna at the Lord’s coming, and that after one thousand years they are released... The dead who are written in the Book of Life came to life, and they will reign with Christ a thousand years. ...many shall not rise previously in the first resurrection and reign with Christ over the world...they will rise at the last trumpet after the thousand years...the will rise at the last trumpet after the thousand years, that is, at the final resurrection.” -Comm Apocalypse 20.1-3 (Jerome Recension)

[some inconsistent MSS, were tampered with by later amillennial copyist]

4th century Premillennialism

Lactantius (ca.300) “at the end of the six thousandth year all wickedness must be abolished from the earth, and righteousness reign for a thousand years.”
–The Divine Institutes, VII, xiv

“the last day of the extreme conclusion is now drawing near. ...the fall and the ruin of the world will shortly take place. It is that city which still sustains all things...sooner than we think, for that detestable tyrant should come who will undertake so great a deed...the destruction of which the world itself is about to fall”
–The Divine Institutes, VII, xxv

“that righteous King and Conqueror...will Himself reign with them on the earth, and will build the holy city, and this kingdom of the righteous shall be for a thousand years.”
–The Divine Institutes, VII, lxxii

Methodius of Olympus (ca.300, bishop of Lycia, refuted Origen) “In the seventh millennium we will be immortal and truly celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles.”
–Banquet of the Ten Virgins 9:1

Ambrosiaster, or Pseudo-Ambrose (ca.375, Rome) “After a thousand years, when the antichrist has been destroyed and the Savior has reigned, Satan will be released from his prison in order to lead astray the nations of Gog and Magog...in order that they might attack the fortress of the saints.”
–Commentary on Paul’s Epistles

Jerome (ca.400) “being in bondage during the six days of this world, on the seventh day, the true and eternal Sabbath, we shall be free.”
–Against Jovinianus II,25

4th-5th century growth in Amillennialism due to Constantine

- **Eusebius** (ca 320) apologist for Constantine, rejected Pre-mil, Messiah unnecessary
 - although he claimed idea of an early millennium was held by the "great majority of churchmen", he thought those who did, like Papias, "were of exceedingly small intelligence" *-Hist. Eccl. 3.39.13*
- **Augustine** (ca 400) promoted Amillennialism, which then became the prevalent position
 - began premillennial, but increasingly saw God's kingdom as heavenly, not earthly

As papal power grew in Rome replacing imperial power at the fall of Rome, there was no longer a need for a coming Messiah. The doctrine grew that Christ was ruling through his vicar the pope.

“When in the fourth century Christianity attained to a position of supremacy and became the official religion of the Empire, ecclesiastical disapproval of millenarianism became emphatic.”

-Norman Cohn, Pursuit of the Millennium (Oxford, 1957), 29.

“After the 320. Yeare of our Lord...many a truth and error did change titles with each other, as popish ignorance, superstition, and idolatry grew.”

-Robert Maton A Treatise of the Fifth Monarchy or, Christ's Personal Reign on Earth (1655)

This rejection of Jewish & Early Church Premillennialism dominated Medieval theology

5th-6th century return to Apocalypticism due to Fall of Rome –Gumerlock

even though mostly Amillennial, most authors still expected the Apocalypse

Hesychius (ca.425, bishop Dalmatia) believed 2nd coming was near in letter to Augustine, who told him most of Matt 24 was 70 AD
-Epistle ad Hesychius, cxcix,199

Sulpicius Severus (ca.425) “We may infer from this [so many false prophets around], that the coming of the Antichrist is at hand”
-Life of St. Martin of Tours, xxiv, in Nicene & PostNicene Fathers 2ndseries

Gregory the Great (ca.590,pope) “there is a general smiting as the end of the world draws near” -Book IX, CXXIII
“the end of the present world is already close at hand, and the reign of the saints is coming, which will have no end.”
-Book IX, Epistle LXVI

Caesarius of Arles (ca.525, lower Rhone) wrote commentary on Revelation, Augustinian

Apringus of Beja (ca.540, Portugal) wrote commentary on Revelation, based on Victorinus

Beatus of Liebana (ca.780, nwSpain) wrote commentary on Revelation, infl by Ticonius, Primasius,
Caesarius of Arles, & Apringus of Beja

Ambrose Autpert (ca.760, Frankish abbot in Italy supported by Charlemagne) wrote Commentary Revelation

[most from Gumerlock, “Apocalyptic Spirituality in the Early Middle Ages: hope for escaping the fire of doomsday through a pre-conflagration rapture”]