

Introduction

- This is probably the tribe we are all most familiar with.
- It sees the events of Revelation as being largely fulfilled at some point in the future.
- Dispensational Premillennialism is a part of this camp, but there are plenty of other futurist options
- There is a tendency to take everything literally, which can force strange interpretations.

General Timeline

- Rapture of the church (usually).
- Period of intense persecution, usually 7 years.
- Rise of the anti-Christ who rules the world and opposed the church.
- Rebuilt temple is desecrated.
- Beast and false prophet arise to help the anti-Christ deceive.
- World judged by increasing series of horrific judgments.
- Christ returns to defeat anti-Christ and his armies.
- Christ reigns for 1,000 years while Satan is restrained.
- Satan deceives nation and final battle comes.
- These are all seen as literal realities that will take place on earth.

Newspaper Eschatology

- Newspaper Eschatology is where Revelation ends up being interpreted based on what is happening in the current news situation.
- Part of the danger is that the interpretation is always changing based on whatever new thing happened today.
- This is a dangerous way to approach interpreting the Bible.

Chronological Problems

- The chronology of eschatology and Revelation is not always clear.
- Revelation does not necessarily unfold one event after another chronologically.
- The trumpets, seals, and bowls could all be describing the exact same judgements.
- Chapter 7 John sees the survivors of the tribulation before it has happened.

1st Century Relevance

- The most common objection to futurism is that this implies nothing is relevant to the original recipients.
- This is a fair criticism, especially if it is only viewed as a time capsule for the future.
- This would also mean the book has little relevance for anyone other than the final generation.
- The problem with this view is that it ignores how prophecy has worked throughout the rest of the Bible.

The Millennium

- Jesus returns to reign and yet somehow, sin remains.
- There are those who rebel and reject Jesus even though He is physically present.
- How can sin remain in the recreated heavens and earth?
- How can there be another resurrection after the return of Christ?

Rebuilt Temple

- Ezekiel 40-48 describes a future temple that will be built.
- How can there be another temple in the new earth?
- Why are the sacrifices being continued when God has already stated there is no need?
- We should be careful wishing for the rebuilding of the temple today since it is a continued rejection of the gospel of Christ.
- I am uncomfortable with the idea of the temple being rebuilt in the new heavens and the new earth with sacrifices continuing to be made.

Early Church

- There is repeated evidence the 1st and 2nd century Christians expected Revelation to be fulfilled in the future.
- This only begins to shift and is interpreted more idealistically in the 3rd and 4th.
- The Didache, Papias, Irenaeus, the Shepherd of Hermas and others all fairly explicitly seem to be futurist.
- It is harder to prove that they are premillennial, but they do expect future fulfillment.
- Futurism cannot be dismissed as a 19th century invention.

Application

- We should acknowledge the difficulties that come from a futurist approach.
- We must fervently resist newspaper eschatology.
- We must recognize that Revelation has something to say in every age for every believer. It does not merely predict the future.