

## Early Church Eschatology (general, needs to be developed)

Apostles relayed traditional doctrines and provided oral teaching to the first generation that was carried over into the second generation.

Example: 2 Thessalonians 2:5-6 – the “Restrainer” who is holding back the revealing of the Antichrist. Paul says to the Thessalonians, “Don’t you remember that when I was with you I used to tell you these things? And now you know what is holding him back, so that he may be revealed at the proper time.”

Many church leaders, teachers and writers knew the apostles personally:

1. Paul, Timothy, John, Peter
  2. Polycarp (received John’s letter to Smyrna along with “Revelation”, 70-155), Papias (Hierapolis, wrote), Ignatius, Eudius
  3. Irenaeus (115-202), Polycrates (130-196)
  4. Hippolytus (170-236)
- Irenaeus wrote in “Heresies, book V” of some oral traditions that John taught Polycarp and Papias concerning the Millennium.
  - Hippolytus, a disciple of Irenaeus, wrote even more concerning eschatology while he wrote against heretical teachings of his day after Irenaeus’ was martyred
  - Early writers seem to be consistent in support of:
    - A literal millennial reign of Jesus on the earth
    - Anticipated the church facing the antichrist
  - **Irenaeus** (120-202) wrote: “Moreover, another danger, by no means trifling, shall overtake those who falsely presume that they know the name of Antichrist. For if these men assume one (number), when this Antichrist shall come having another, they will be easily led away by him, as supposing him not to be the expected one...who must be guarded against. These men, therefore, ought to learn, and go back to the true number of the name, that they be not reckoned among false prophets. But, knowing the sure number declared by Scripture, that is, six hundred sixty and six, let them await, the first place, the division of the kingdom into ten; then, in the next place, when these kings are reigning, and beginning to set their affairs in order, and advance their kingdom, let them learn to acknowledge that he who shall come claiming the kingdom for himself, and shall terrify those men of whom we have been speaking, having a name containing the aforesaid number, is truly the abomination of desolation...it is therefore more certain, and less hazardous, to await the fulfillment of the prophecy, than to be making surmises, and casting about for any names that may present themselves.”
  - **Didache** (The Teaching of the Twelve Apostles) from before 100 AD: “For in the last days false prophets and corrupters shall be multiplied, and the sheep shall be turned into wolves, and love shall be turned into hate; for when lawlessness increases, they shall hate and persecute and betray one another, and then shall appear the world-deceiver as Son of God, and shall do signs and wonders, and the earth shall be delivered into his hands, and he shall do iniquitous things which have never yet come to pass since the beginning. Then shall the creation of men come into the fire of trial, and many shall be made to stumble and shall perish; but they that endure in their faith shall be saved from under the curse itself. No then shall appear the signs of the truth; first, the sign of an out[spreading in heaven]; then the sin of the sound of the trumpet; and the third, the resurrection of the dead; yet not of all, but as it is said: The Lord shall come and all His saints with Him. Then shall the world see the Lord coming upon the clouds of heaven.”

- **The Shepherd of Hermas** (120-150 AD): “You will tell, therefore, those who preside over the Church, to direct their ways in righteousness, that they may receive in full the promises with great glory...Happy are you who endure the great tribulation that is coming on, and happy are they who shall not deny their own life. For the Lord has sworn by His Son, that those who denied their Lord have abandoned their life in despair, for even now these are to deny Him in the days that are coming.”
- **Hippolytus (170-236)**: “When the times are fulfilled, and the ten horns spring from the beast in the last times, then antichrist will appear among them. When he makes war against the saints, and persecutes them, then may we expect the manifestation of the Lord from heaven...With respect to his name, it is not in our power to explain it exactly, as the blessed John understood it and was instructed about it, but only to give a conjectural account of it; for when he appears, the blessed one will show us what we seek to know...Wherefore we ought neither to give it out as if this were certainly his name, nor again ignore the fact that he may not otherwise be designated. But having the mystery of God in our heart, we ought to fear to keep faithfully what has been told us by blessed prophets, in order that when those things come to pass, we may be prepared for them, and not be deceived.”

#### **Modern Eschatology’s Response to a Tribulation with Islam (needs to be confirmed)**

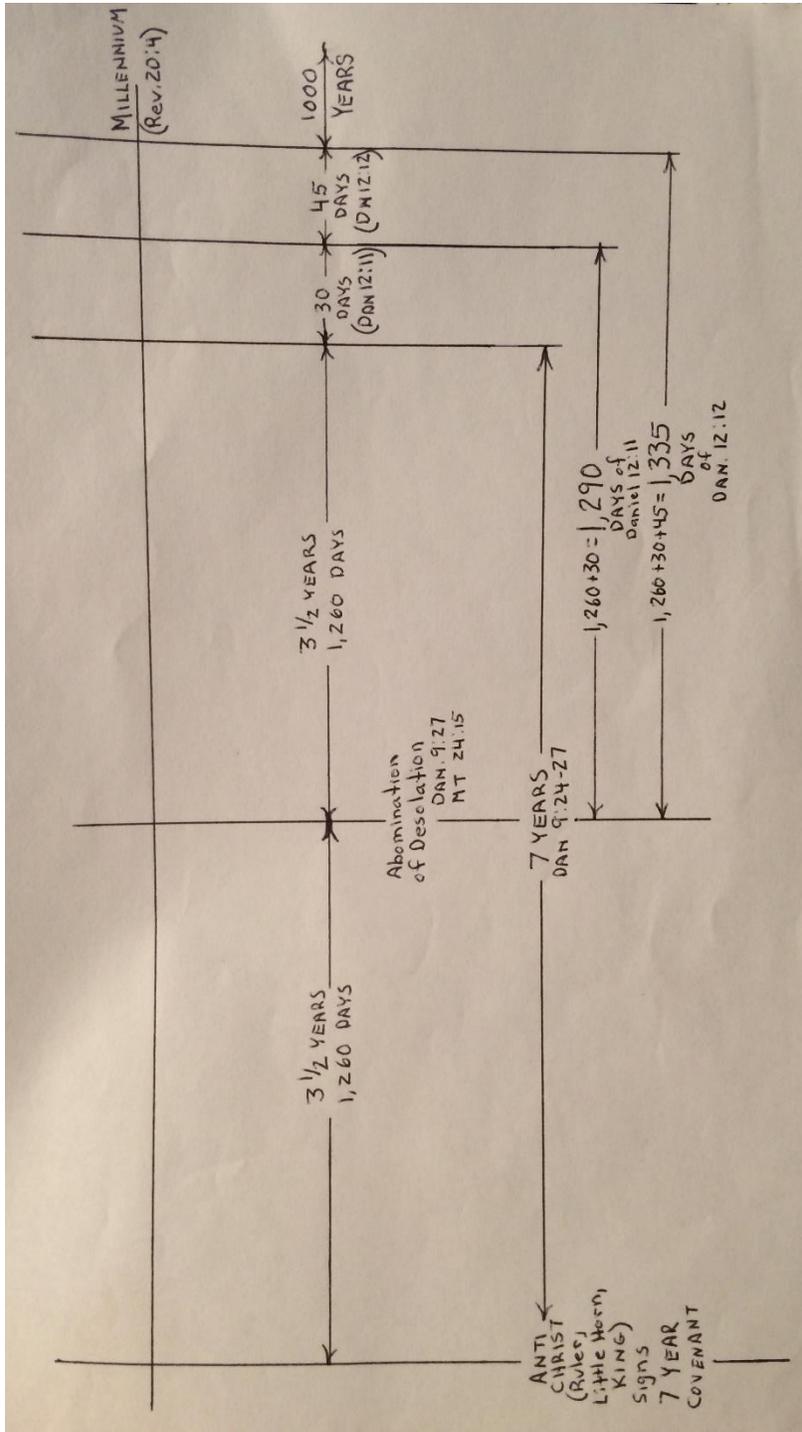
- Amillennialism – governmental action, submission
- Postmillennialism – governmental action, submission or church militant
- Preterists - revert to amil or postmil as seen above
- Pre-trib – Faith will fail
- Post trib – apply and adjust
- Mid-trib – apply and adjust
- Premillennialism – apply and adjust

#### **Key Words**

1 Thessalonians 4:17, “meet” - is *apantesis* translated “meeting”. It is a technical term in the Greek world concerning visits of dignitaries to cities where the visitor would be formally met by citizens, or a group of representatives from them, who went out of the city to greet the dignitary and ceremonially escort him back into the city.

#### **Compare Eschatology of OT, Jesus and NT**

Olivet Discourse; Seals, Trumpets and Bowls; Daniel’s Seventieth Seven (Matthew 24; Revelation 6; Daniel 9)



**DETERMINE TIMING OF EVENTS WITHIN DANIEL'S 70TH WEEK BY  
COMPARING SEVEN SEALS OF REVELATION TO OLIVET DISCOURSE**

<u>Rev.</u>	<u>Seal #'s</u>	<u>Matt. 24</u>	<u>Daniel</u>
	<b>70<sup>th</sup> Week Begins</b>	-	Dan. 9-27 <b>Confirm Covenant</b>
6:1-2	# 1 – False Christs	:5	False Christs
6:3-4	#2 – Wars "kill one another"	:6	Wars and rumors of wars Kingdoms against kingdoms
6:5-6	#3 – Famines	:7	Famines and earthquakes
	<b>3 1/2 YEARS</b>	:15	<b>Abomination of Desolation</b> Dan. 9:27 <b>Middle of Week</b>
6:7-8 :8	#4 – Death & Hades Power to kill 1/4 earth	:21	<b>Beginning of Great Tribulation – distress as never was or will be</b>
6:9-10	#5 – Martyrs under alter pleading for vengeance	:9	Saints persecuted/martyred
:11	Told to wait til fulness of Gentiles	:10-12	Many turn away from the faith
6:12-13	#6 – Earthquakes, sun black, moon red, stars fall	:13	He who stands til end will be saved
:17	Lamb's wrath has come	:14	Gospel to all nations-then end comes
:15-16	Men hide themselves	:22	<b>Great tribulation cut short for the sake of the elect</b>
:17	Who can stand ?	:29	<b>Immediately after Great Tribulation cut short:</b>
7:1-8	144,000 Jews sealed	:29	Sun darkened, moon not give light, stars fall, powers of heaven shaken
7:9-17:	Multitudes before throne Came out of Great Trib.	:30	Tribes of earth mourn
		:30	Son of Man comes in clouds
		:31	Angels gather his elect
		:40-41	One taken, one left
Ch.8&9	#7 Six of seven Trumpets		Dan 12:7& Power over saints broken
11:15-17	Kingdoms are Christs		7:25-26 Time.times and 1/2 time
	<b>7 Years</b>		<b>End of Week</b>

