

Irving, Macdonald and the Rapture?

Anti-pre-trib Rapture Logic:

1820's – London, England, Edward Irving, a Presbyterian minister taught that before Christ returned the spiritual gifts would be restored.

1830 – Spiritual gifts began to manifest in Scotland. Here in 1830 a 15 year old girl named Margaret Macdonald was sick at home and prophecied and had visions one night showing that Christ would return in two stages: one before the tribulation to get the saints and a second at the end called the Second Coming. From here Macdonald's vision and rapture theory was mentioned in prayer meetings in Scotland where the spirit manifested. Bible scholar [John Nelson Darby](#) (1800-1882) visited these meetings in Scotland, dismissed the manifestations of the gifts, but returned to England with the pre-tribulation rapture teaching which he made popular.

1826-1882 – Darby (more information on [Darby here](#)) developed and taught dispensationalism and the pre-trib rapture.

1909 – [C.I. Scofield](#) publishes the dispensational, pre-tribulation views in the first study Bible ever published – the [Scofield Study Bible](#)

Do note that the 1800's were a time of great deception and the source of visions that began cultic activity. For example:

- 1830's Joseph Smith published the book of Mormon that he had received through early visions in the 1820's
- 1840 John Wilson began teaching that the ancient Israelites had become the Anglos that lived in the British Isles. In 1874 the Anglo-Israel Association was founded (see [British Israelism](#)).
- 1844 Ellen White received the visions that would result in the Seventh Day Adventist
- 1879 Charles Taze Russell, founder of the Jehovah's Witnesses began the Watch Tower.

Pro-pre-trib Rapture Logic:

1. Early church fathers were pre-millennial
2. Allegorical interpretations set in with Origin around 200 AD
3. 325 AD Constantine Christianized the Roman Empire giving the impression that the kingdom of God had come upon earth and biblical interpretation followed.
4. 400's AD Augustine advanced his amillennialism, spiritualized interpretation and sent the church into the dark ages.
5. 1600 Protestant reformation returned to literal interpretation in many areas of theology
6. The scholar Puritan Increase Mather (1639-1723) taught "that the saints would be caught up into the air" and thus escape the world's final conflagration.
7. (From Paul N. Benware's book "understanding End Times Prophecy")
 - a. "Peter Jurieu in his book, *Approaching Deliverance of the Church* (1687) taught that Christ would come in the air to rapture the saints and return to Heaven before the battle of Armageddon...
 - b. Philip Doddridge's commentary on the New Testament (1738) and
 - c. John Gill's commentary on the New Testament (1748) both use the term rapture and speak of it as imminent. It is clear these men believed that this coming will precede Christ's descent to the earth and the time of judgment. The purpose was to preserve believers from the time of judgment.
 - d. James Macknight (1763) and Thomas Scott (1792) taught that the righteous will be carried to heaven, where they will be secure until the time of judgment is over."

8. 1740-1761 - Morgan Edwards was a Pre-Darby Rapturist (see [here](#) and [here](#))
9. 1826 John Nelson Darby engaged in an intense Bible study while suffering with a broken leg in 1826 and by 1827 had developed the dispensational system 3 years before Margaret Macdonald had her visions in Scotland.
10. 1878 William E. Blackstone taught the pre-trib rapture in his book "Jesus is Coming"
11. 1909 C.I. Scofield incorporated the concept in his popular study Bible
12. 1918 Clarence Larkin published "Dispensational Truth" with his famous charts (see [here](#) and see [charts here](#))
13. Then comes Harry Ironside to Moody Memorial Church in Chicago in the 1930-1940's.
14. Hal Lindsey and "The Late Great Planet Earth" in 1970's
15. Tim LaHaye and the "Left Behind" series

Daniel prophesied that these things would be hidden until the time of the end.