

Dispensational Premillennialism

History - 1830s to 1914	Originated in the prophetic system of J.N. Darby (1800-1882), Anglican priest who renounced the clergy/laity teaching of his church. Darby's system became popular among Plymouth Brethren, a separatist movement in Victorian England. Brethren writers such as BW Newton, Samuel Tregelles, William Kelly & CH Mackintosh had large readerships and spread the teaching to America. The sensationally popular American evangelist Dwight Moody was instrumental in carrying Darby's conclusions across the English-speaking world	The (C.I.) Scofield Reference Bible incorporated the system into the notes, which made Darby's interpretations (by now refined) "normal" in fundamentalist circles, especially in America. There are now many reference Bibles which have incorporated this system into their explanations. Other popular writers who espoused dispensationalism during this era include Robert Anderson, Arno Gaebelein, Philip Mauro & G Campbell Morgan (the last two later renounced the system)
History – 1914 to 1970	Dallas Theological Seminary (founded in 1924) became the dynamic centre for the training of ministers and teachers who further accelerated the spread of dispensationalism, which prophetic teaching transcended denominational boundaries	Not merely Brethren (a fairly small body), but many Baptists, Presbyterians, Methodists and even Pentecostals adopted the Darby system as "orthodox" prophetic interpretation. Certain key ideas (e.g. the pre-trib rapture, 7 year tribulation, rebuilt Jerusalem temple) became virtually "gospel truth"
History – since 1970	Hal Lindsey (trained at Dallas TS) published "The Late Great Planet Earth" in 1970, which sold about 30 million copies and became the bestselling evangelical book of its generation. It was also made into a movie, and generated much media interest in the Antichrist figure (such as "The Omen", 1976)	Popular TV evangelists (Pat Robertson, John Hagee etc) have sealed dispensationalism's acceptance as conservative orthodoxy. The "Left Behind" fiction series, followed up by the phenomenally popular videos, embedded the "secret rapture" and Antichrist tribulation scenarios into the minds of tens of millions
Distinctive 1	The Pre-tribulation Rapture , which emerged for the first time in the 1830s (1 Thess chapters 4-5, esp. 5:9). Would this not also place the 1st resurrection before the 2 nd coming/parousia? (1 Thess 4:13-18)	A major break from historic premillennialism, which had taught that the church would be on earth till Christ's glorious parousia (1 Thess 3:13)
Distinctive 2	The 7 year tribulation , derived from Daniel 9:24-27 more than Revelation. This interpretation led to the 'new truth' which assumes God will not resume relations with Israel while the "church dispensation" continues (i.e. at the rapture)	Disputes about the 70 weeks' last 7 years have contributed to the branding of this movement as 'dispensational' – the 70 th week separated from the 69 as a result of the Jews rejection of Christ.
Distinctive 3	The 3rd Temple One of the essential derivatives of the 7 year tribulation teaching is a literal view of several texts, such as 2 Thess 2 & Rev 11	The Antichrist (the "man of iniquity [lawlessness]" is to defile this 3 rd temple at the mid-point of the 7 years, when he breaks his covenant with Israel)
Distinctive 4	Davidic Kingdom restored Assumes a literal fulfillment on earth of the Davidic covenant (Ezekiel 34:23-24; 37:24-25)	Millennial Temple, Restored Priesthood & Sacrifices Perhaps the teaching most offensive to non-dispensationalists (Ezekiel 40-44)

