

Futurism

Futurism is an eschatological perspective that sees most of Revelation, portions of Daniel, the Olivet discourse and 2nd Thessalonians as future literal and physical events. Futurist concepts have been around since the early church fathers but were made prominent by the Roman Catholic Jesuit Francisco Ribera who took a literal reading of Revelation that saw a tribulation period just before the 2nd coming of Christ and a rebuilt temple in Jerusalem where the antichrist would appear and declare himself to be God. The Calvinist John Nelson Darby made famous dispensational futurism which is the largest subset and promotes a secret rapture, premillennialism and a separation of the church from the nation of Israel. The majority of non-reformed churches in the U.S. would fall under some form of Dispensationalism.

I would classify myself as a non-dispensational futurist. I reject the idea of a secret rapture for the simple fact that Christ's church has never escaped persecution. God gives grace for us to endure persecution but we will never be removed from it this side of heaven. The millennium is a literal 1000 years that is preceded by the 2nd coming and the first resurrection and followed by a 3rd coming, the resurrection of the damned and the final judgment. Finally, I flat out reject dispensational soteriology. Yes there were two covenants being the old and new but no one has ever been saved by keeping the Law. Paul is very clear that the Patriarchs of the old covenant were all saved by faith (Heb. 11) and the promises were to the children of faith (Rom. 4). Jacob the father of Israel was not born with that name. It was given to him after his night of trouble with the angel of the Lord where his faith refused to let go on the promise and blessing of God. Faith not blood is the golden strand that unites all the children of Israel, Jew and Gentile alike.

I tend to go much further than other Futurists in that I see not only the 70th week of Dan. 9 as future but the other 69 as well. We have so much evidence that Jerusalem will be the focal point of the last days. The little horn will place the abomination in the holy place of a rebuilt temple (Dan. 8, Matt 24). The king of the north will build his royal palace in the glorious holy mountain (Dan. 11). And the man of sin will sit in a rebuilt temple and declare himself to be God (2Thess. 2). These are all different names for the same person who is Satan or the antichrist. He will come at the very end to rule and deceive the world from Jerusalem. So of course there will be another commandment that goes forth to restore and rebuild Jerusalem making the ones by issued by Cyrus, Darius and Artaxerxes historically irrelevant.