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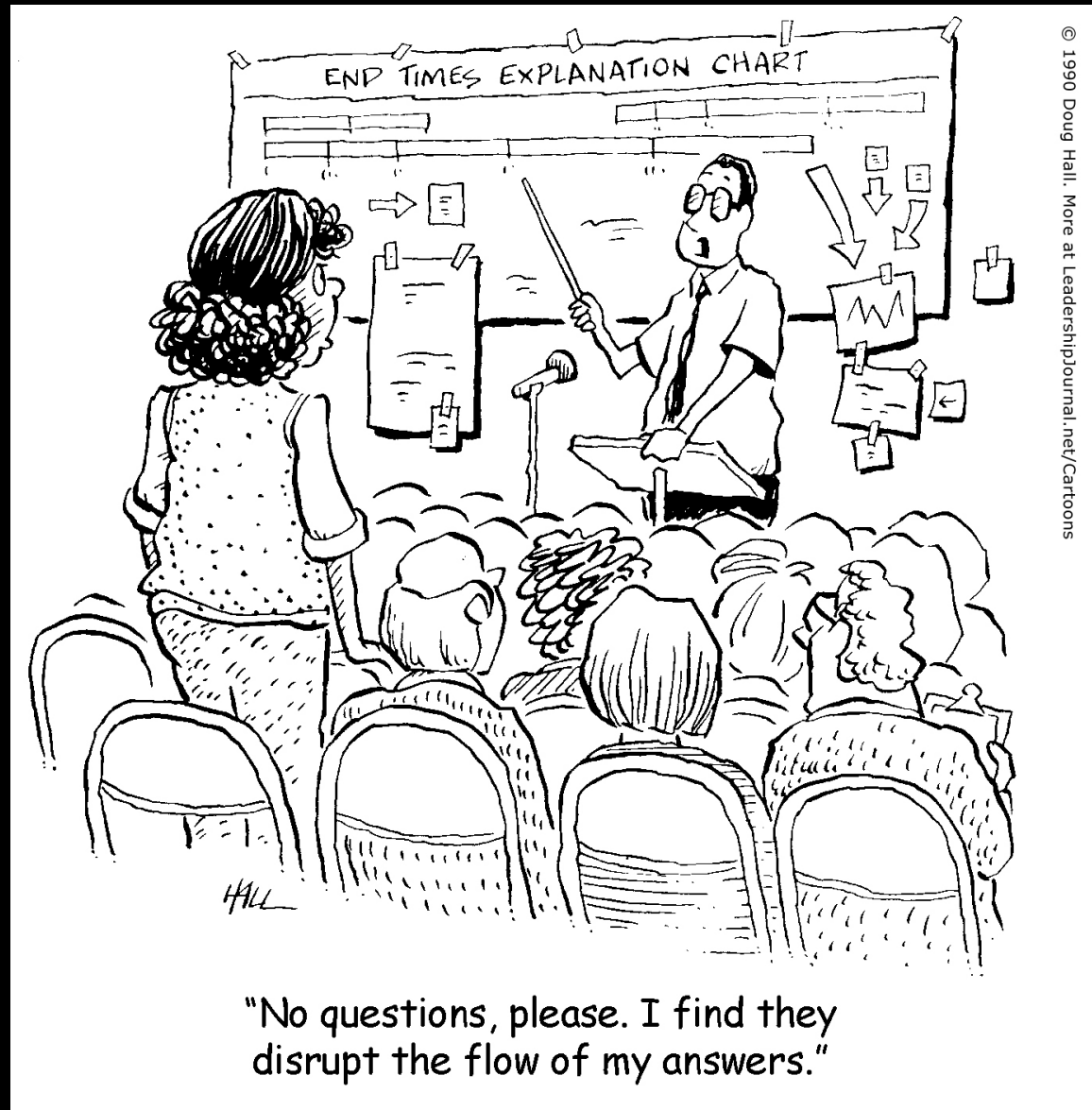
Codex Sinaiticus 4th Century AD Quire 90 Folio 8

Then I saw heaven opened, and a white horse was standing there. Its rider was named Faithful and True, for he judges fairly and wages a righteous war. His eyes were like flames of fire, and on his head were many crowns. A name was written on him that no one understood except himself. He wore a robe dipped in blood, and his title was the Word of God. The armies of heaven, dressed in the finest of pure white linen, followed him on white horses. From his mouth came a sharp sword to strike down the nations. He will rule them with an iron rod. He will release the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty, like juice flowing from a winepress. On his robe at his thigh was written this title: King of all kings and Lord of all lords. [Revelation 19:11-16 NLT]

Comparing End Times Views

Introduction

Comparing End Times Views



Comparing End Times Views

“In essentials, unity; in non-essentials, liberty; in all things, charity.”

[Augustine of Hippo]

Comparing End Times Views

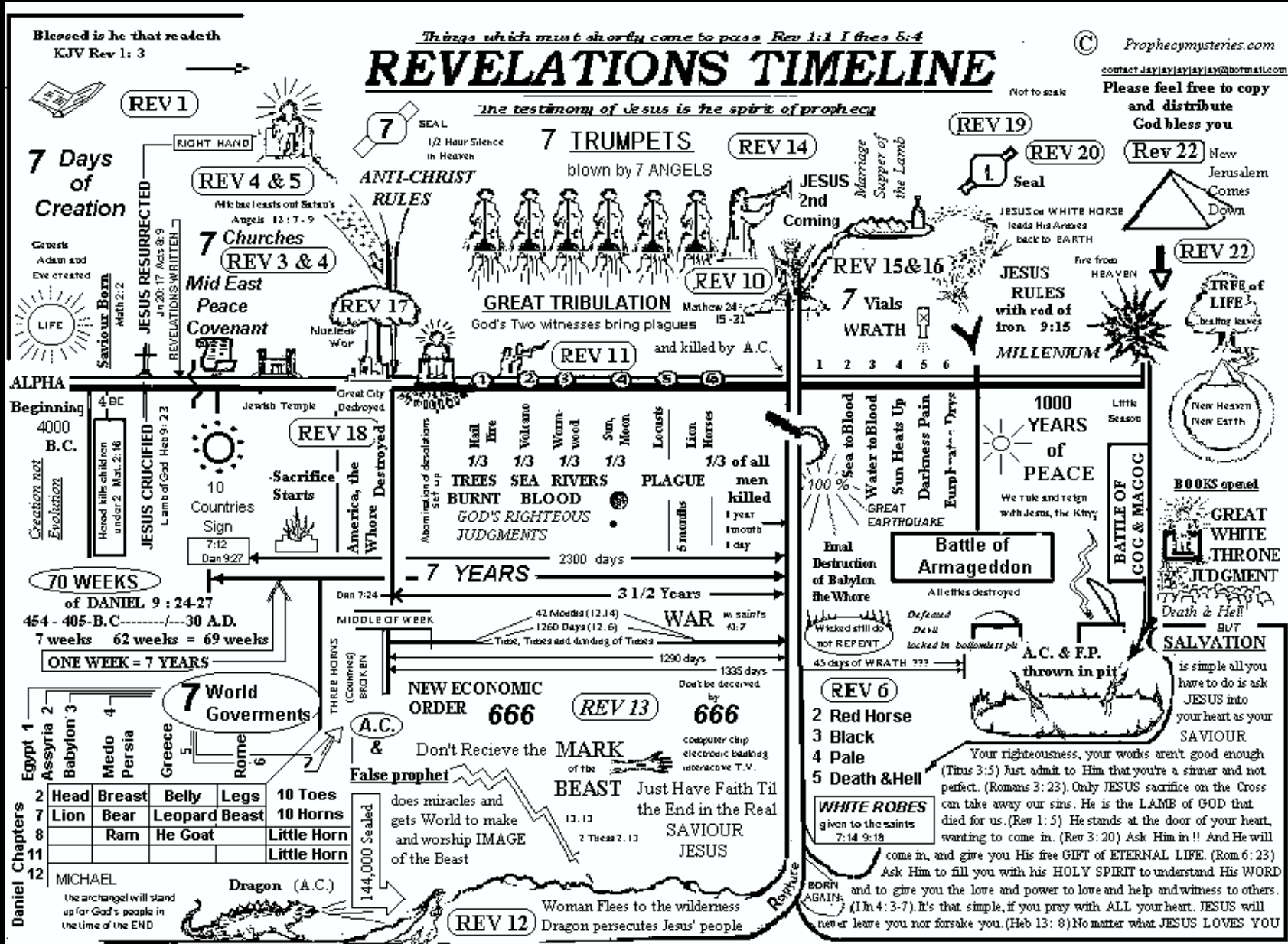
“In essentials, unity; in non-essentials, liberty; in all things, charity.”

[Augustine of Hippo]

“Hey, we're all Christians here, so let's be cool about it, OK?”

[Darren of Morden]

Comparing End Times Views



Comparing End Times Views

Purpose

Comparing End Times Views

“Eschatology helps us to teach the church, worship God, serve with zeal, hope in the midst of trouble, prepare for judgment, and look forward to heaven.”

Comparing End Times Views

Terms

Comparing End Times Views

Most importantly, I want to remind you that in the last days scoffers will come, mocking the truth and following their own desires. [2 Peter 3:3 NLT]

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Eschatology = study of (logia) last things (eschatos)

Comparing End Times Views

And God will provide rest for you who are being persecuted and also for us when the Lord Jesus appears from heaven. He will come with his mighty angels, in flaming fire, bringing judgment on those who don't know God and on those who refuse to obey the Good News of our Lord Jesus.

[2 Thessalonians 1:7-8 NLT]

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ἈΠΟΚΑΛΥΨΙΣ

Apokalupsis = revelation, uncovering

Comparing End Times Views

Personal

- Death
- Intermediate state

Comparing End Times Views

Personal

- Death
- Intermediate state

Corporate

- Return of Christ
- Final Judgement
- Heaven & Hell

Comparing End Times Views

Basics

Comparing End Times Views

MB Statement of Faith

Christ's Final Triumph: We believe that our Lord Jesus Christ will return visibly and triumphantly at the end of the present age. The church must always be prepared to meet the Lord, living in expectation of his imminent return.

The Last Days: In these last days, between the first and second coming of Christ, the church carries out its mission in the world. Believers often endure suffering and persecution because of their witness to Christ. In spite of opposition by evil powers, the church is assured of the final victory of Christ's kingdom. These last days come to an end with Christ's return.

Death: Since Christ destroyed the power of death through his resurrection, believers need not be afraid of death, the last enemy. Christ's followers go to be with the Lord when they die. When Christ returns, they will be raised and receive new bodies. Believers who are alive at Christ's coming will be transformed and will also receive new and glorious bodies, fit for life in God's eternal kingdom.

Judgment: When Christ returns, he will destroy all evil powers, including the Antichrist. Satan and all those who have rejected Christ will be condemned to eternal punishment in hell, forever separated from the presence of God. Believers must appear before the judgment seat of Christ to have their lives examined and their labours rewarded. By God's grace, they will enter into the joy of God's eternal reign.

The New Creation: All God's children will be united with Christ when he appears and will reign with him in glory. Pain, sorrow, and death will be abolished and the redeemed will be gathered into the new heaven and new earth, where together with the angels they will worship God forever. God will make all things new and God will be all in all. This is the blessed hope of all believers.

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Comparing End Times Views

Approaches

Comparing End Times Views

If a doctrine is new, then it probably isn't true.

Comparing End Times Views

Everybody claims their own view was the original eschatological understanding of the early Christian church!

Comparing End Times Views

Preterism (Partial)

- Heavy use of spiritual metaphors
- Revelation 1:1-20:6 is past (70 AD e.g. Tribulation, Anti-Christ, etc.)
- Revelation 20:7-22:21 is future (e.g. Satan's defeat, Final judgement, New Jerusalem)
- Early in church history
- Promoted by Jesuit in 1614 to combat historicism by Reformers
- Eusebius, RC Sproul, Reformed Church & Presbyterian

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- Reformation, Luther, Wycliffe to Spurgeon, Puritans, 7th Day Adventists

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Futurism

- Heavy use of literalism
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- Revelation 4:1-22:21 is future (e.g. everything else)
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Idealism

- Heavy use of allegory
- Revelation not tied to specific historical events i.e. "ongoing struggle throughout the ages of God against Satan and good against evil"
- Origen 200 AD, Augustine, 19th century liberals

Comparing End Times Views

Difference #1

Comparing End Times Views

Difference #1
Timing

Comparing End Times Views

I tell you the truth, this generation will not pass from the scene until all these things take place.

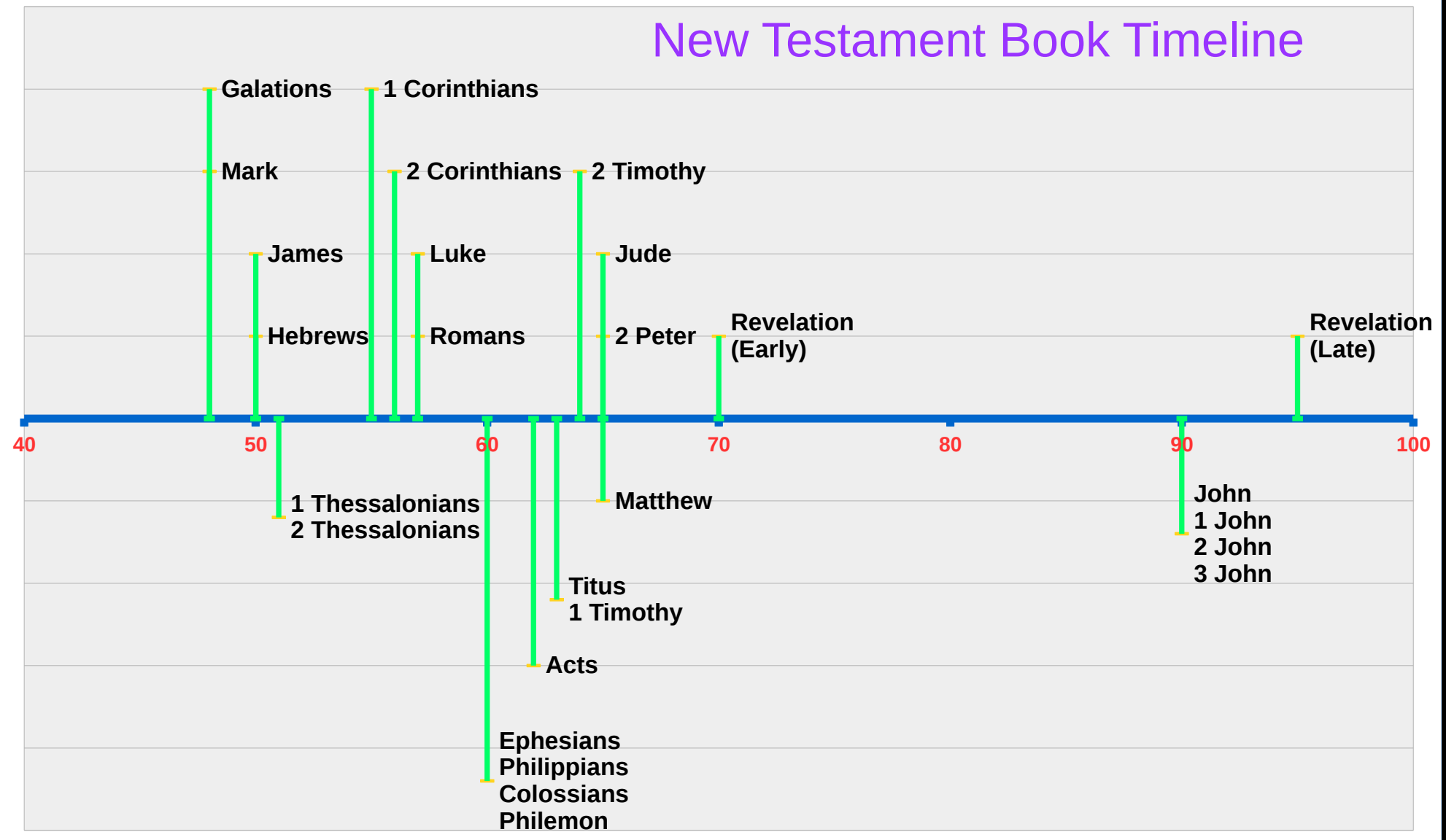
[Matthew 24:34 NLT]

ΓΕΝΕΑ

Genea = generation, descendant

Comparing End Times Views

New Testament Book Timeline



Comparing End Times Views

Pre 70AD

- Rev 11:2 mentions temple but it was destroyed in 70AD
- Hebrew numerology for 666 matches 'Nero' who died in 68AD

Post 90AD

- Irenaeus, Clement, etc. Say Revelation written in 95 AD

Comparing End Times Views

Then I was given a measuring stick, and I was told, "Go and measure the Temple of God and the altar, and count the number of worshipers. But do not measure the outer courtyard, for it has been turned over to the nations. They will trample the holy city for 42 months.

[Revelation 11:1-2 NLT]

Comparing End Times Views

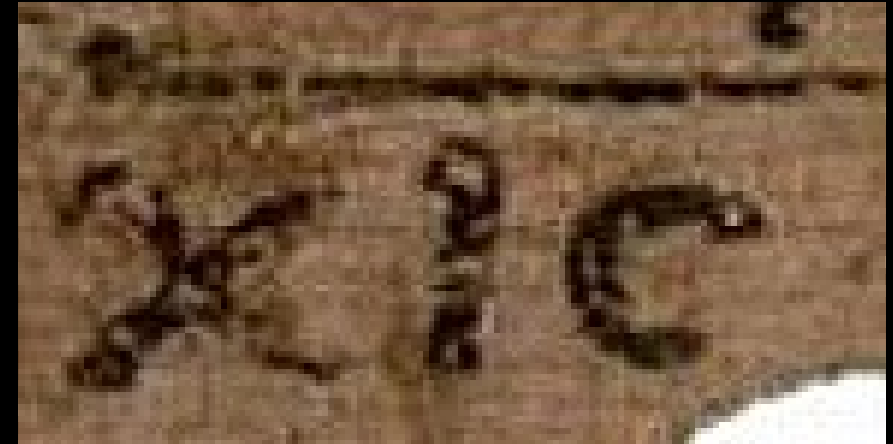
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ε	ה	5	ν	נ	50	φ	ך	500
ζ *	ו	6	ξ	ס	60	χ	ם	600
ζ	ז	7	ο	ע	70	ψ	ן	700
η	ח	8	π	פ	80	ω	ף	800
θ	ט	9	ρ *	צ	90	Ϡ *	ץ	900

Comparing End Times Views

He required everyone—small and great, rich and poor, free and slave—to be given a mark on the right hand or on the forehead. And no one could buy or sell anything without that mark, which was either the name of the beast or the number representing his name. Wisdom is needed here. Let the one with understanding solve the meaning of the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man. His number is 666.

[Revelation 13:16-18 NLT]

Comparing End Times Views



- Example P47 (~250 AD)
- Most common
- X (chi) + ξ (xi) + ς (vau)
- $600 + 60 + 6 = 666$

- Example P115 (~300 AD)
- Rare
- X (chi) + ι (iota) + ς (vau)
- $600 + 10 + 6 = 616$

Comparing End Times Views

Nero Caesar: The Beast?

GREEK	R	[A]	S	[Y]	[A]	Q	N	VW (O)	R	[E]	N
HEBREW	Resh (ר)		Samekh (ס)	Yod (י)		Qoph (ק)	Nun (נ)	Vav (ו)	Resh (ר)		Nun (נ)
<u>666</u>	200		60	[10]		100	50	6	200		50

LATIN	R	[A]	S	[Y]	[A]	Q		VW (O)	R	[E]	N
HEBREW	Resh (ר)		Samekh (ס)	Yod (י)		Qoph (ק)		Vav (ו)	Resh (ר)		Nun (נ)
<u>616</u>	200		60	[10]		100		6	200		50

N[E]RWN Q[A]S[A]R

Comparing End Times Views

“We will not, however, incur the risk of pronouncing positively as to the name of Antichrist; for if it were necessary that his name should be distinctly revealed in this present time, it would have been announced by him who beheld the apocalyptic vision. For that was seen no very long time since, but almost in our day, towards the end of Domitian's reign...”

[Irenaeus, “Against Heresies”, 180 AD]

Comparing End Times Views

“...this number being found in all the most approved and ancient copies...and those men who saw John face to face bearing their testimony...while reason also leads us to conclude that the number of the name of the beast... according to the Greek mode of calculation the letters contained in it, will amount to six hundred and sixty and six...”

[Irenaeus, “Against Heresies”, 180 AD]

Comparing End Times Views

Difference #2

Comparing End Times Views

Difference #2
Millennium

Comparing End Times Views

Pre-Millennial

- Christ returns *before*, and rules on Earth during the Millennium (1000-year period, “Golden Age”)
- Irenaeus 150 AD, Papias, Justin Martyr, Tertullian, Hippolytus, Spurgeon
- Favored by Futurists

Comparing End Times Views

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Post-Millennial

- Christ returns *after*, and rules in Heaven during the Millennium (long period)
- Millennium either past/current day, or some future time
- Gospel will triumph and transform society before Christ returns
- Optimistic
- 1100-1900 AD, Puritans, Edwards, Strong, Warfield, Hodge, Sproul
- Collapsed at WWII
- Favored by Preterists, but also some Historicists

Comparing End Times Views

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Amillennial

- Christ returns *after* the Millennium (long period) but was not ruling it on Earth during that time (i.e. “no Golden Age”)
- Pessimistic
- 400AD, Augustine “City of God”, Luther, Calvin
- Favored by Idealists, but also some Preterists and Historicists

Comparing End Times Views

Difference #3

Comparing End Times Views

Difference #3
Israel & The Church

Comparing End Times Views

Dispensationalism

- Emphasize the *diversity* of ways in which God works with mankind
- Current 'Church' dispensation *temporarily* pauses God's plans for Israel
- The Church is a *parenthesis* in God's program for the ages
- OT laws are no longer in effect unless repeated in the NT
- Rigidly 'literal' interpretation
- 3 to 8 different 'dispensations'
- Favored by Futurists and Arminians

Comparing End Times Views

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Covenantalism

- Emphasize the *unity* of God's working with mankind
- Stresses that people have always been saved by grace through faith
- New Covenant in Christ *supersedes* (replaces) the Old Covenant with Israel
- The Church is the *culmination* of God's saving purpose for the ages
- OT laws are still in effect unless abrogated (repealed) in the NT
- 'Normal' (literal & figurative) interpretation
- 3 to 9 'covenants'
- Favored by Preterists and Calvinists (Reformed)

Comparing End Times Views

Preterism (Partial)

- Heavy use of spiritual metaphors
- Revelation 1:1-20:6 is past (70 AD e.g. Tribulation, Anti-Christ, etc.)
- Revelation 20:7-22:21 is future (e.g. Satan's defeat, Final judgement, New Jerusalem)
- Early in church history
- Promoted by Jesuit in 1614 to combat historicism by Reformers
- Eusebius, RC Sproul, Reformed Church & Presbyterian

Historicism

- Heavy use of spiritual metaphors
- Revelation 1:1-20:6 is past (70 AD to present e.g. Tribulation, Anti-Christ, etc.)
- Revelation 20:7-22:21 is future (e.g. Satan's defeat, Final judgement, New Jerusalem)
- Varying interpretations, main theme is anti-Catholic
- 1300-1800AD
- Reformation, Luther, Wycliffe to Spurgeon, Puritans, 7th Day Adventists

Futurism

- Heavy use of literalism
- Revelation 1:1-3:22 is past (1st century, or 70 AD to present e.g. 7 churches)
- Revelation 4:1-22:21 is future (e.g. everything else)
- Promoted by Jesuit in 1585 AD to combat historicism by Reformers

Idealism

- Heavy use of allegory
- Revelation not tied to specific historical events i.e. "ongoing struggle throughout the ages of God against Satan and good against evil"
- Origen 200 AD, Augustine, 19th century liberals

Comparing End Times Views

Going Deeper

Comparing End Times Views

Futurism

- Heavy use of literalism
- Revelation 1:1-3:22 is past (1st century, or 70 AD to present e.g. 7 churches)
- Revelation 4:1-22:21 is future (e.g. everything else)
- Promoted by Jesuit in 1585 AD to combat historicism by Reformers

Comparing End Times Views

Historical Premillennialism (“Post-Trib”)

- Heavy use of literalism
- Revelation 1:1-3:22 is past (1st century, or 70 AD to present e.g. 7 churches)
- Revelation 4:1-22:21 is future (e.g. everything else)
- Irenaeus 150 AD, Papias, Justin Martyr, Tertullian, Hippolytus, Spurgeon

Tribulation (indefinite)	2 nd Coming, Rapture (?), Believers Resurrection, Armageddon	Millennium (indefinite)	General Resurrection, Last Judgement, New Heaven & Earth
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Dispensational Premillennialism (“Pre-Trib”)

- Similar to Historic Premillennialism
- Darby (Plymouth Brethren) 1830 AD, Moody, Scofield, Lindsay, MacArthur, LaHaye

Rapture (secret, imminent) & Resurrection	Tribulation (7 years) [Daniel's 70 th Week]	2 nd Coming, Armageddon	Millennium (1000 years)	General Resurrection, Last Judgement, New Heaven & Earth
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Comparing End Times Views

Pre-Wrath Premillennialism (“Pre-Wrath”)

- Similar to 'pre-trib' and 'post-trib'
- Rosenthal, 1990 AD, Kurschner

Anti-Christ Peace Treaty (3.5 years)	Tribulation (3.5 years)			2 nd Coming, Armageddon	Millennium (1000 years)	General Resurrection, Last Judgement, New Heaven & Earth
	Satan's Wrath	Rapture (visible) & Resurrection	Day of the Lord			

Comparing End Times Views

Resources

Comparing End Times Views

Michael Heiser YouTube Video Lecture Series

- [1] Prophecy and Eschatology: Biblical Prophecy
- [2] Prophecy and Eschatology: The Rapture
- [3] Prophecy and Eschatology: 70 Weeks of Daniel
- [4] Prophecy and Eschatology: Timing and Prophecy

Miscellaneous Web Sites

http://darrenenns.duckdns.org/dmenns/end_times.html

Comparing End Times Views

Wikipedia Articles

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Historic_premillennialism

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Premillennialism>

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amillennialism>

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Postmillennialism>

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rapture>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Post-tribulation_rapture

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prewrath>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Tribulation

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Second_Coming

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Preterism>

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Idealism_\(Christian_eschatology\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Idealism_(Christian_eschatology))

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Historicism_\(Christianity\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Historicism_(Christianity))

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Futurism_\(Christianity\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Futurism_(Christianity))

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dispensationalism>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Covenant_theology

Comparing End Times Views



Goodbye!

Comparing End Times Views

Bonus

Comparing End Times Views

Rapture

Comparing End Times Views

We tell you this directly from the Lord: We who are still living when the Lord returns will not meet him ahead of those who have died. For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a commanding shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet call of God. First, the believers who have died will rise from their graves. Then, together with them, we who are still alive and remain on the earth will be caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Then we will be with the Lord forever.

[1 Thessalonians 4:15-17 NLT]

Comparing End Times Views

And then at last, the sign that the Son of Man is coming will appear in the heavens, and there will be deep mourning among all the peoples of the earth. And they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And he will send out his angels with the mighty blast of a trumpet, and they will gather his chosen ones from all over the world—from the farthest ends of the earth and heaven.

[Matthew 24:30-31 NLT]

Comparing End Times Views

Then I saw thrones, and the people sitting on them had been given the authority to judge. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their testimony about Jesus and for proclaiming the word of God. They had not worshiped the beast or his statue, nor accepted his mark on their foreheads or their hands. They all came to life again, and they reigned with Christ for a thousand years. This is the first resurrection. (The rest of the dead did not come back to life until the thousand years had ended.)

[Revelation 20:4-5 NLT]

Comparing End Times Views

Imminency & Expectancy

Comparing End Times Views

“However, no one knows the day or hour when these things will happen, not even the angels in heaven or the Son himself. Only the Father knows... “So you, too, must keep watch! For you don’t know what day your Lord is coming... You also must be ready all the time, for the Son of Man will come when least expected.

[Matthew 24:36,42,44 NLT]

Comparing End Times Views

"I tell you the truth, when you were young, you were able to do as you liked; you dressed yourself and went wherever you wanted to go. But when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and others will dress you and take you where you don't want to go." Jesus said this to let him know by what kind of death he would glorify God.

[John 21:18-19a NLT]

Comparing End Times Views

Now concerning how and when all this will happen, dear brothers and sisters, we don't really need to write you. For you know quite well that the day of the Lord's return will come unexpectedly, like a thief in the night. When people are saying, "Everything is peaceful and secure," then disaster will fall on them as suddenly as a pregnant woman's labor pains begin. And there will be no escape. But you aren't in the dark about these things, dear brothers and sisters, and you won't be surprised when the day of the Lord comes like a thief. For you are all children of the light and of the day; we don't belong to darkness and night. So be on your guard, not asleep like the others. Stay alert and be clearheaded.

[1 Thessalonians 5:1-6 NLT]

Comparing End Times Views

Daniel

Comparing End Times Views

“The day is coming when you will see what Daniel the prophet spoke about—the sacrilegious object that causes desecration standing in the Holy Place.” (Reader, pay attention!) “Then those in Judea must flee to the hills. A person out on the deck of a roof must not go down into the house to pack. A person out in the field must not return even to get a coat. How terrible it will be for pregnant women and for nursing mothers in those days. And pray that your flight will not be in winter or on the Sabbath. For there will be greater anguish than at any time since the world began. And it will never be so great again. In fact, unless that time of calamity is shortened, not a single person will survive. But it will be shortened for the sake of God’s chosen ones.

[Matthew 24:15-22 NLT]

Comparing End Times Views

The ruler will make a treaty with the people for a period of one set of seven, but after half this time, he will put an end to the sacrifices and offerings. And as a climax to all his terrible deeds, he will set up a sacrilegious object that causes desecration, until the fate decreed for this defiler is finally poured out on him...His army will take over the Temple fortress, pollute the sanctuary, put a stop to the daily sacrifices, and set up the sacrilegious object that causes desecration...From the time the daily sacrifice is stopped and the sacrilegious object that causes desecration is set up to be worshiped, there will be 1,290 days.

[Daniel 9:27, 11:31, 12:11 NLT]

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Fiction

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Left Behind Series

Tim LaHaye, Jerry B. Jenkins



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Last Disciple Trilogy

Hank Hanegraaff, Sigmund Brouwer



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