

A dispensationalist is a person who adheres to dispensationalism, a theological system that views history as divided into distinct eras called dispensations, each with its own way of God's administration. Key beliefs include a literal interpretation of biblical prophecy and the idea that God has separate plans for **national Israel** and the **Christian Church**, which is considered a distinct entity from Israel.

Core beliefs of dispensationalism

- **Dispensations:** History is divided into distinct dispensations (often seen as seven), each marked by a different manner of God's relationship with humanity. These are periods of divine administration, not paths to salvation.
- **Literal interpretation:** Dispensationalists interpret the Bible literally, particularly Old Testament prophecies concerning Israel.
- **Israel and the Church:** They believe that God's plan for national Israel is distinct from His plan for the Church. The Church is not seen as replacing Israel in God's program.
- **Fulfilment of promises:** Old Testament promises made to Israel will be literally fulfilled for the nation of Israel, particularly in the future, through a millennial kingdom.
- **Eschatology (end times):** Many dispensationalists are premillennial, believing in a literal thousand-year reign of Christ on earth, often associated with a **pre-tribulation rapture** of the Church.
- **Salvation:** Salvation is understood to have always been by grace through faith alone, a consistent principle across all dispensations, although the object of faith (God or God the Son) and its specific expression may differ.

Key Details of Preterism

The theological view that most or all biblical prophecies, including those in the Book of Revelation and Christ's predictions in the Olivet Discourse (Matthew 24, Mark 13, Luke 21), were fulfilled in the first century, primarily by the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans in AD 70, is called Preterism

- **Core Belief:** The prophecies were not about the distant future or the end of the physical world, but concerned the judgment on apostate Israel and the transition from the Old Covenant to the New Covenant era, culminating in the AD 70 events.
- **Book of Revelation:** Preterists interpret the imagery in Revelation as symbolic accounts of the persecution by Rome (referred to as "Babylon") and the divine judgment that occurred at that time.
- **Divisions:**
 - **Partial Preterism** (also called orthodox, classical, or moderate preterism) holds that most prophecies were fulfilled by AD 70, but still believes in a future bodily resurrection, a final judgment, and the Second Coming of Christ.
 - **Full Preterism** (also called consistent preterism, hyper-preterism, or pantelism) maintains that *all* biblical prophecies were fulfilled by AD 70, including the Second Coming and the resurrection, which is typically understood in a non-bodily, spiritual sense. This view is generally considered outside of Christian orthodoxy by other Christian denominations.

This school of thought contrasts with **Futurism** (which views most prophecies as unfulfilled events that will happen in the future) and **Historicism** (which sees prophecies as a timeline of historical events from biblical times to the present).