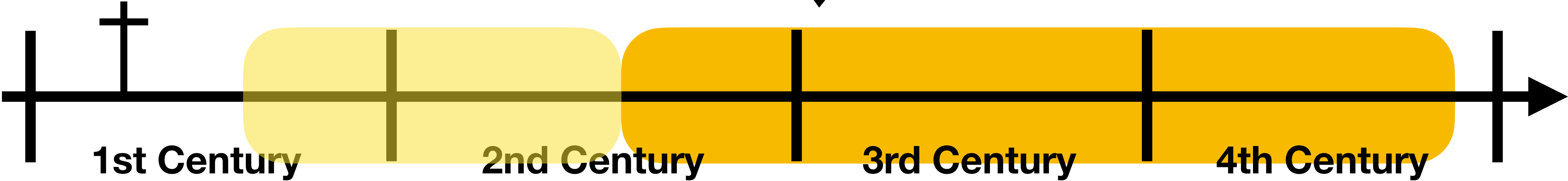


# **The Post-Tribulational 2nd and 3rd Century Church**

**Victorinus**  
**Cyprian**  
**Cyril of Jerusalem**



**Victorinus**

**“Let me introduce you to a friend of mine who’s a little bit nutty, Victorinus of Pettau. How many of you like his writings? Anybody read Victorinus of Pettau? [Audience: Chuckles] So, that’s modern-day Serbia. And this guy is fed up with a lot of false teaching. He joins Irenaeus, he’s also late 100s into the 200s, AD. He thought it would be wise and helpful to write a commentary on Revelation. Now, he’s a little bit nutty, all right? I’m going to read you the passage of Revelation that he’s going to comment on, and he’s a little nutty in his interpretation but he’s assuming that the Rapture will have already happened when these events shake down, which of course—let’s look at it so you can see for yourself... “and I don’t agree with this, but look what he says: “... ‘Even as a fig-tree casts her untimely figs.’ The fig-tree, when shaken, loses its untimely figs —when men are separated from the Church by persecution.” Who goes through the persecution? Not the church. Verse 14: “... ‘And the heaven withdrew as a scroll that is rolled up.’ For the heaven to be rolled away, that is, that the Church shall be taken away. ‘And every mountain and the islands were moved from their places.’ Mountains and islands removed from their places intimate that in the last persecution all men departed from their places; that is, that the good will be removed, seeking to avoid the persecution.” Because they all knew in the first century, second century, that if you came to Jesus, it was known in the churches through the teachings of apostles, and now these guys, that you don’t go through this persecution or this Tribulation, or the so-called Day of the Lord period leading up to the Second Coming. Now, I know this guy is a little kooky in his interpretation, but you’ve got to at least admit that he believes in a pre-Trib Rapture.”**

**—Mike Golay**

**When Victorinus speaks of some being separated from the Church by persecution, he is means by apostasy. They leave the church because of persecution. He is not talking about the rapture.**

## Victorinus (c.270)

In the sixth seal, then, was a great earthquake: *this is that very last persecution...* “And the entire moon became as blood.” *By the moon of blood is set forth the Church of the saints as pouring out her blood for Christ.*

“And the stars fell to the earth.” The falling of the stars are the faithful who are troubled for Christ’s sake. *“Even as a fig-tree casteth her untimely figs.” The fig-tree, when shaken, loses its untimely figs – when men are separated from the Church by persecution.* “And the heaven withdrew as a scroll that is rolled up.” For the heaven to be rolled away, that is, that the Church shall be taken away. “And every mountain and the islands were moved from their places.”

Mountains and islands removed from their places intimate that in the last persecution all men departed from their places; that is, that the good will be removed, *seeking to avoid the persecution.*

(Victorinus, Commentary on the Apocalypse)

## Victorinus (c.270)

**‘Even as a fig-tree casteth her untimely figs.’ The fig-tree, when shaken, loses its untimely figs – when men are separated from the Church by persecution. ‘And the heaven withdrew as a scroll that is rolled up.’ For the heaven to be rolled away, that is, that the Church shall be taken away. ‘And every mountain and the islands were moved from their places.’ Mountains and islands removed from their places intimate that in the last persecution all men departed from their places; that is, that the good will be removed, seeking to avoid the persecution.**

**(Victorinus, Commentary on the Apocalypse)**

**Victorinus (c.270)**

**“The little season signifies three years and six months, in which with all his power the devil will avenge himself under Antichrist against the church.”**

**(Commentary on the Apocalypse, 20)**



## Victorinus (c.270)

**“The woman flew into the desert with the assistance of the wings of a great eagle,” that is, of two prophets. This is the whole catholic church.”**

**(Commentary on Revelation 16)**

## Victorinus (c.270)

**“I saw an angel descending from the rising of the sun.” He is speaking of Elijah the prophet, who was to come before the time of antichrist to restore and to strengthen the churches from the intolerable persecution.**

**(Commentary on Revelation 7)**

**Cyprian**

**“Cyprian was the bishop of Carthage about AD 250. Notice he did not teach we must endure the time of the Antichrist, but we will be ‘delivered from it. He told his readers that the coming resurrection was the hope of the Christian and pointed out that the Rapture ‘snatching us’ should motivate us as we see the last days approaching.”**

**—Ken Johnson, Rapture**

## Cyprian (c.250)

"we who see that terrible things have begun, and know that still more terrible things are imminent, may regard it as the greatest advantage to depart from it as quickly as possible. Do you not give God thanks, do you not congratulate yourself, that by an early departure you are taken away, and delivered from the shipwrecks and disasters that are imminent? Let us greet the day which assigns each of us to his own home, which snatches us hence, and sets us free from the snares of the world, and restores us to paradise and the kingdom."

— Treatise on the Antichrist

**Cyprian (c.200-258)**

**“Nor let any one of you, beloved brethren, be so terrified by the fear of future persecution, or the coming of the threatening Antichrist, as not to be found armed for all things by the evangelical exhortations and precepts, and by the heavenly warnings. Antichrist is coming...but immediately the Lord follows to avenge our sufferings and our wounds.”**

**(Epistles of Cyprian, Epistle 55, 7)**

## Cyril of Jerusalem (c. 355-386)

**“He (Antichrist) will display a murderous, most absolute, pitiless and unstable temper toward all people, but especially toward us Christians. He will act insolently for only three and a half years. Then he will be defeated by the glorious second coming from heaven of the only-begotten Son of God, our Lord and Savior Jesus, the true Christ. He will destroy Antichrist ‘with the spirit of his mouth’ and commit him to the flames of hell.”**

**(Cyril of Jerusalem, Catechetical Letters 15.12)**