

What is Dispensationalism? (And Why it Must Die)

Jewish Apocalyptic

The Day of the Lord



This Age

The Age to Come



Israel will be saved from her enemies:

“Blessed is the Lord, the God of Israel,
because he has visited
and provided redemption for his people.
He has raised up a horn of salvation for us
in the house of his servant David,
just as he spoke by the mouth
of his holy prophets in ancient times;
salvation from our enemies
and from the hand of those who hate us.
He has dealt mercifully with our ancestors
and remembered his holy covenant—
the oath that he swore to our father Abraham.
He has given us the privilege,
since we have been rescued
from the hand of our enemies,
to serve him without fear
in holiness and righteousness
in his presence all our days.”

(Luke 1:68–75)

Jewish Apocalyptic

The Day
of the Lord

This Age

The Age to Come



“So I will comfort you,
and you will be comforted in Jerusalem.

You will see, you will rejoice,
and you will flourish like grass;

**then the Lord’s power will be revealed to his servants,
but he will show his wrath against his enemies.**

**Look, the Lord will come with fire—
his chariots are like the whirlwind—
to execute his anger with fury
and his rebuke with flames of fire.**

For the Lord will execute judgment
on all humanity with his fiery sword,
and many will be slain by the Lord.”

(Isaiah 66:13–16)

Jewish Apocalyptic



**The Day
of the Lord**

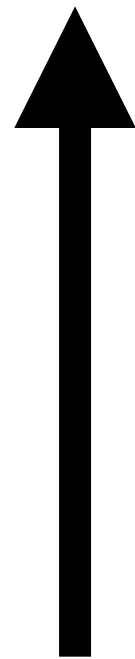


This Age

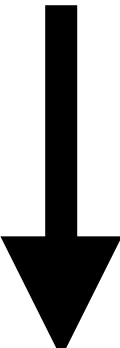
The Age to Come



Premillennialism



This Age



The Millennium

Eternal State



- **The earliest Church Fathers were Premillennialists.**
- **They believed in a literal future 1000 year reign of Jesus on the earth.**
- **Early Premillennialists include Papias, Justin Martyr, Irenaeus, Hippolytus, Tertullian, Lactantius, Victorinus, etc.**

A horizontal timeline diagram consisting of three parallel lines with arrows pointing to the right. The top line is labeled 'Historic Premillennialism' in a yellow rounded rectangle and spans from the 1st Century to the 3rd Century. The middle line spans from the 8th Century to the 14th Century. The bottom line spans from the 15th Century to the 21st Century. Vertical tick marks are placed at the beginning and end of each century interval on all three lines.

Historic Premillennialism

1st Century

2nd C

3rd C

4th C

5th C

6th C

7th C

8th C

9th C

10th C

11th C

12th C

13th C

14th C

15th C

16th C

17th C

18th C

19th C

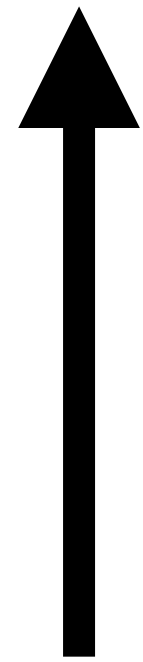
20th C

21st C

- **The early Church quickly began embracing elements of Replacement Theology.**
- **This is the view that the Church has replaced Israel.**
- **They taught that Israel was rejected whereas the Church is now the recipient of God's favor and blessings.**

- **Further, Early Church Fathers from Alexandria intermixed Greek philosophy with Biblical theology.**
- **This led to the belief in a spiritual millennium now, an allegorical approach to many portions of Scripture, and a NT-centric understanding of the Bible.**
- **Through the massive influence of Augustine, these unbiblical ideas became cemented into Church theology.**

Amillennialism

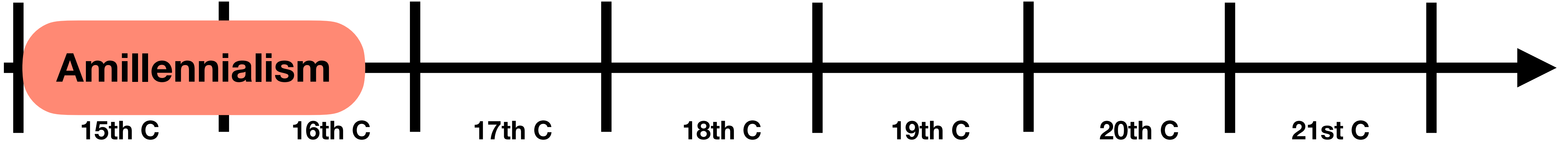
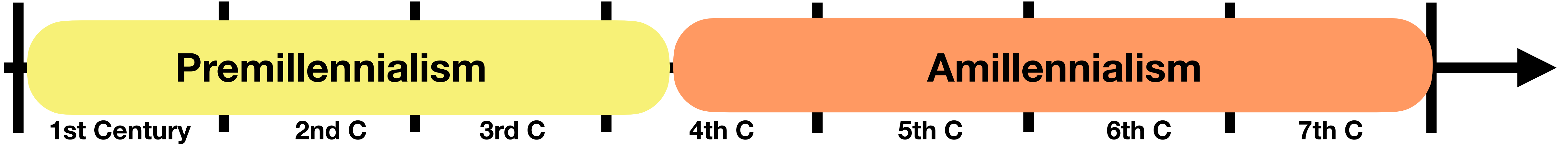


Spiritual Millennium Now



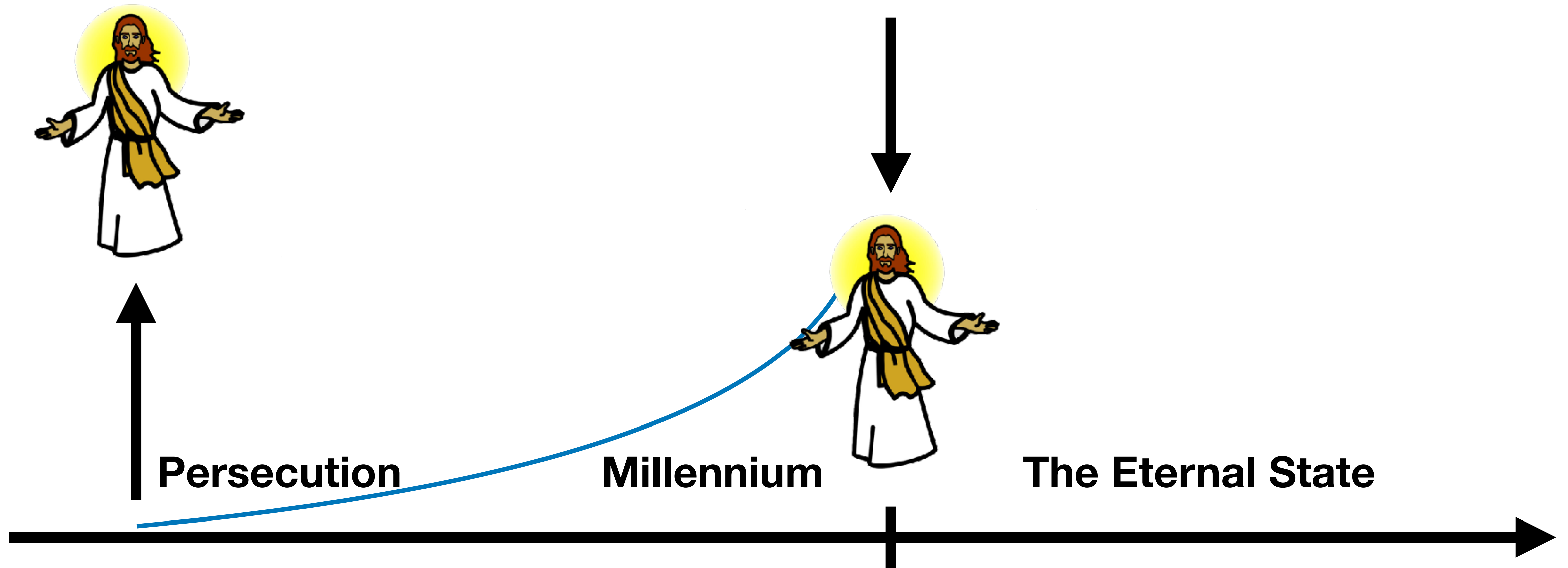
The Eternal State

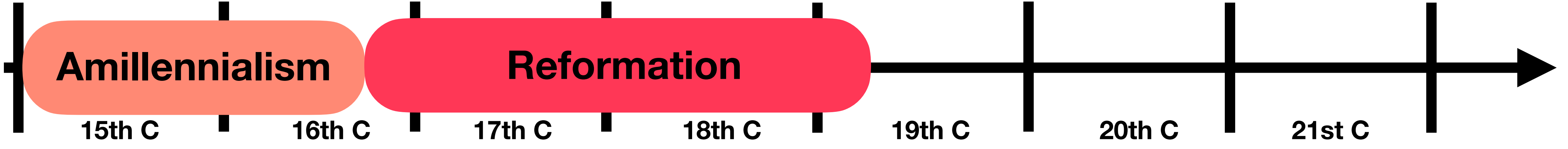
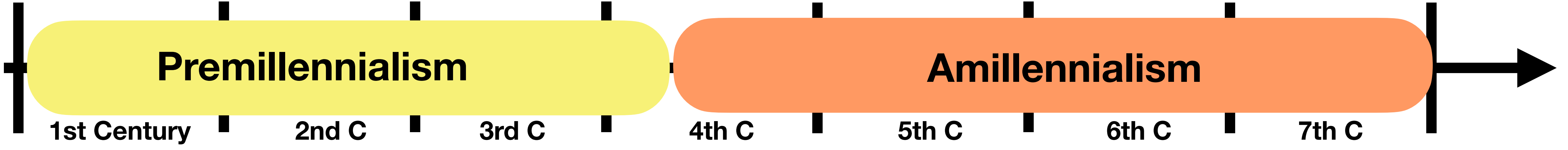




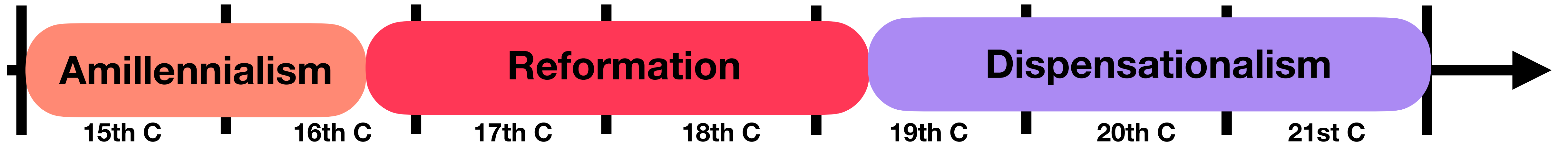
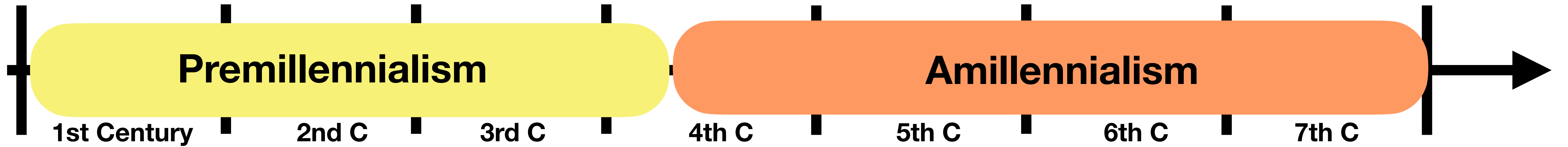
- **During the Reformation, the Church began returning to the Scriptures.**
- **For the next few hundred years, a wide range of ideas concerning the future sprang up.**
- **We began seeing Postmillennialism as a new system.**

Postmillennialism

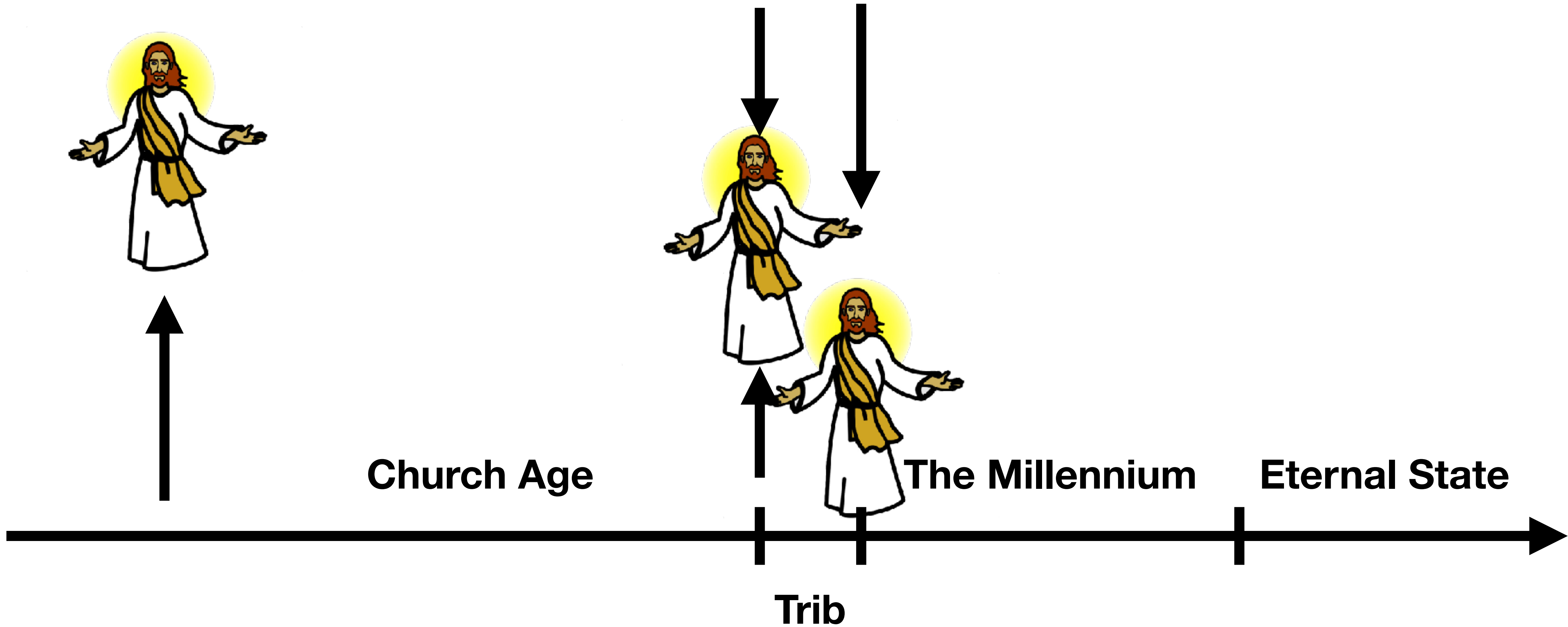




- **In the 1830s, a movement began in the United Kingdom called the Plymouth Brethren.**
- **John Nelson Darby emerged out of this movement.**
- **Darby taught a system of theology called Dispensationalism.**
- **Roughly half of the Church today holds to some form of Dispensationalism.**



Dispensationalism



What is Dispensationalism?

- **Dispensationalism is a theological system.**
- **It was first taught by John Nelson Darby in the 1830s.**
- **Since then, Dispensationalism has taken *various forms* and gone through *much refinement*.**
- **Leading Dispensational Theologians like Charles Ryrie, John Feinberg and Michael Vlach define Dispensationalism similarly but also differently.**

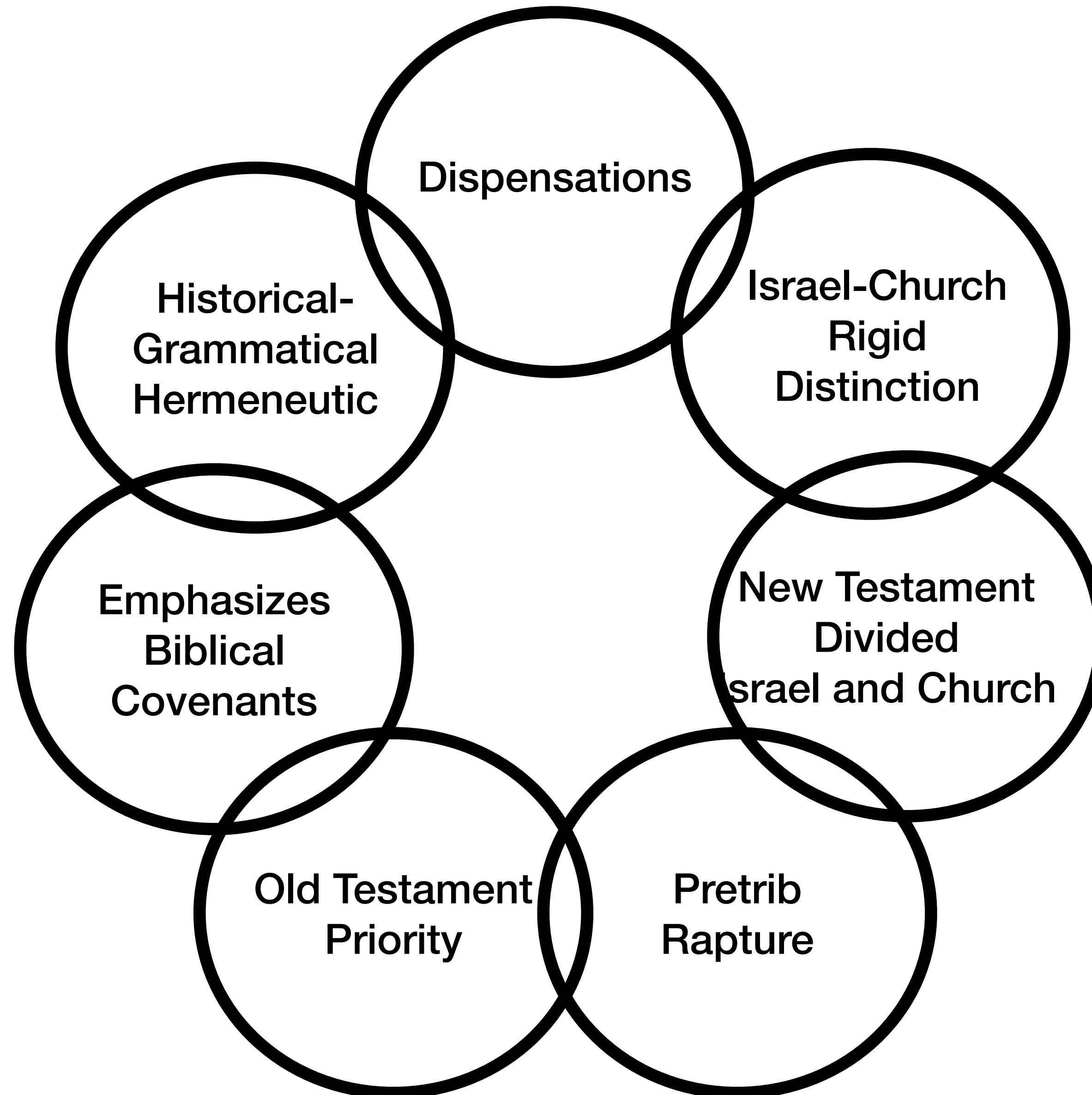
What is Dispensationalism?

- Classic Dispensationalism (Acts 2): J.N. Darby, C.I. Scofield, H.A. Ironside, Lewis Sperry Chafer
- Ultra-Dispensationalism (Acts 28:28): E.W. Bullinger
- Hyper-Dispensationalism (Mid-Acts)
- Revised Dispensationalism: Charles Ryrie, John Feinberg, John Walvoord
- Progressive Dispensationalism: Daryl Bock, Craig Blaising, Michael Vlach

What is Dispensationalism?

- A more literal Historical-Grammatical Hermeneutic
- Emphasis on the biblical covenants
- Begins with the Old Testament
- History is divided up into various dispensations
- Sees a rigid distinction between Israel and the Church
- Divides the NT into portions “for Israel” and “for the Church.”
- Pretribulational Rapture

Dispensationalism Defined:



What is Historical Premillennialism?

- **Historic Premillennialism long predates Darbyism**
- **Historical Premillennialism shares many commonalities with Dispensationalism, but rejects its unbiblical teachings.**
- **Historical Premillennialism rejects and overly rigid separation between Israel and the Church.**
- **Historic Premillennialism rejects dividing the NT into sections “for the Jews” and section “for Christians.”**
- **Historic Premillennialism rejects a Pretrib rapture.**

Historic Premillennialism

- A More Literal Historical Grammatical Hermeneutic
- Emphasis on the biblical covenants
- Begins with the Old Testament
- History may be viewed through various periods

Historic Premillennialism

Dispensationalism

- Sees an overly rigid distinction between Israel and the Church
- Divides the NT into portions “for Israel” and “for the Church.”
- Pretribulational Rapture

Dispensationalism

