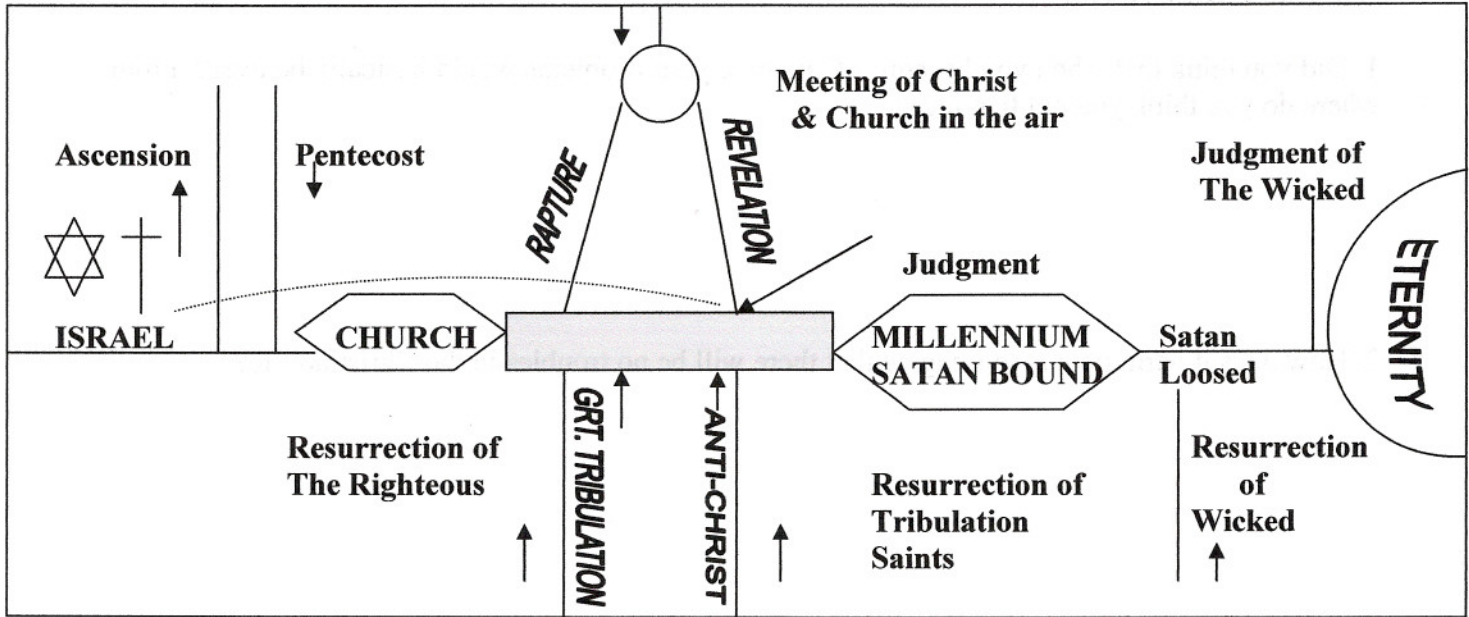


III. THE DISPENSATIONAL (Modern Premillennial) IDEA OF THE “KINGDOM.”

A “dispensation” is a period of time, according to this theory, during which man is tested in respect of obedience to some specific revelation of the will of God. According to the most popular version of dispensationalism, there are seven such dispensations distinguished in Scripture (see note 5, page 5, of the Schofield Reference Bible).

A chart depicting the dispensational theory looks like this:



THE KINGDOM OF GOD

An explanation of the chief ideas shown on the chart: According to the dispensationalists, Christ really intended to set up an earthly, temporal kingdom, just as the Jews supposed Messiah would. However, unforeseen by God, the Jews rejected Christ, and so the coming of the kingdom had to be postponed until the Second Coming (this idea is shown on the chart by the dotted line). As a stop-gap measure, the church age Jewish star at the left of the chart indicates that God has always intended for the Jewish people to be his special people, and when the kingdom comes, the Jewish people will again be His special people, and the millennium will be an earthly reign over the Jews by Christ.