

Dispensationalism — Francisco Riberia

(1) Luis de Alcazar (1554-1613) proposed that the entire book of Revelation had already been fulfilled at the time of the pagan Roman empire under Nero, the “real” Antichrist, and the fall of Jerusalem (A.D. 70) or by the fall of pagan Rome (A.D. 410). This explanation was not then accepted but it was the forerunner of the “preterist” (time that is past) views of the book of Revelation.

(2) Francisco Riberia (1537-1591) in 1590 published a five hundred page exposition of the book of Revelation, the main points of which became the official Roman Catholic eschatological position of that time and marked the real beginning of the “futurist” school: (a) from and including chapter 4, the book of Revelation describes events yet future; (b) the Antichrist would be a man who would destroy the Christian Faith as such, rebuild the Temple at Jerusalem, and be initially accepted as the Messiah by a regathered Jewish nation; (c) the leadership worldwide of the Antichrist would continue for three and a half years; (d) the final conflict of nations with the Antichrist would center in the Middle East, specifically in Palestine.

Article Reference:

ESCHATOLOGY THE DOCTRINE OF LAST THINGS TWELVE THESES AND A POSITION PAPER ADOPTED BY THE 118TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY FOR GUIDANCE AND STUDY IN THE CHURCH.