

CONTENTS

<i>Introduction</i>	7
I THE DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF DISPENSATIONALISM	13
The Nature and Purpose of a Dispensation	19
The Literal Interpretation of Scripture	21
The Dichotomy Between Israel and the Church	24
A Restricted View of the Church	27
A Jewish Concept of the Kingdom	29
The Postponed Kingdom	31
The Distinction Between Law and Grace	33
The Compartmentalization of Scripture	37
The Pre-tribulation Rapture	38
The Purpose of the Great Tribulation	41
The Nature of the Millennial Reign of Christ	43
The Eternal State	45
The Apostate Nature of Christendom	46
II J. N. DARBY: AN ESTIMATE OF THE MAN	48
An Estimate of the Man	51
Darby as a Religious Leader	54
Conclusion	62
III HISTORICAL BACKGROUNDS TO DISPENSATIONALISM	64
IV DARBY'S DOCTRINE OF THE CHURCH	100
The Church in Ruins	100
The Nature of the Church	108
Historical Genesis of the Church	110
The Church as the Body of Christ	111
The Church as the Habitation of God	113
Christ, the Head of the Church	116
The Church on Earth	117
The Unity of the Church	120

V DARBY'S DOCTRINE OF ESCHATOLOGY	128
The Earthly Glory of the Church	132
The Heavenly Glory of the Church	136
The Hope of Israel	139
VI EVALUATION AND IMPLICATIONS FOR CONTEMPORARY CHURCH LIFE	141
Darby's Personal Contribution	141
The Heavenly Church	144
The Hermeneutical Principle of Literalness	149
<i>Epilogue</i>	155
<i>Bibliography</i>	157