

## Dispensational – Dementia

I won't go into the whole 'why I believe dispensationalism is biblically wrong and teaches error', as that ground has been covered on here in the past. This article is interesting though, especially to those who understand the dispensationalist thinking on Prophecy and End Times.

As an ex-dispensationalist myself, I recall how exciting it was to search for specific news events and try to tie them to prophecy, and how every new World Leader was looked at as the potential 'antichrist'. Over the years there were many; Prince Charles was even in the running for awhile, as was Bill Clinton and G.W. Bush. We still have those who believe any of these 3, Arnold Schwarzenegger, Tony Blair, and Javier Solana, have a shot.

It's kind of like playing pin the tail on the AC..it gets the believer nowhere.

From Religion Dispatches: [Is Obama Satan's Warm-up Act?](#)

The co-authors of the eschatological **Left Behind** series appeared on the Rachel Maddow show to offer a variation on the theory that Obama may be the Antichrist.

Ever since my daughter and I [noted](#) in the pages of Religion Dispatches that some End Times believers consider Barack Obama a serious contender for the Antichrist, I've kept my antennae out for the ongoing development of this discourse.

Though certain conservatives floated the idea as a trial balloon during the presidential campaign—notably in an interview with John Hagee on the Glenn Beck show—that rhetoric has seldom been heard in the public square.

The Obama-as-Antichrist rhetoric recently poked its head out of the closet when **Tim LaHaye and Jerry Jenkins**, co-authors of the *Left Behind* series, discussed it on the Rachel Maddow show. Jenkins subsequently complained about how Maddow edited them, so she posted the entire interview (which you can watch at the bottom of this story). The exchange is worth watching in its entirety, but I will offer a brief summary analysis of the duo's two-step.

Jenkins and LaHaye wisely distanced themselves from a bald assertion that Obama is the Antichrist, retreating instead to a somewhat more theologically tortuous position of Obama as something of a warm-up act.

**First**, because the Antichrist will only appear *after* the rapture—and since Obama “claims to be a Christian” and “might be a closet Christian”—he may not even be on Earth during the crucial stages. (Familiar readers may recall, however, that liberal Christians in End-Times novels are almost always left behind.)

**Second**, they argued that there must be an overwhelming consensus about the Antichrist's popularity—a state of affairs that does not currently exist. In fact, Jenkins claimed that he had heard “*from just about as many Democrats accusing McCain of being the Antichrist as Republicans accusing Obama*” (a doubtful claim, though interesting if true). In any case, at worst Obama appears not to be the Antichrist, but merely to be setting the stage for his later appearance.

Despite these disclaimers, Jenkins allowed that “I can see why people might think that”—i.e., think that Obama fits the job description. LaHaye repeatedly returned to the dual claim that prophetic scenarios foretell a stage of socialism in which “government controls everything”—redistributing wealth from the haves to the have-nots—and that Obama is such a socialist working for such a world. His key argument was that Obama’s policies suggest that prophecies are falling into place. In other words, Obama is playing his part as a key leader of the bad guys even if he’s not the Antichrist himself. ([More Here](#))