



**November 18, 1800–
April 29, 1882**

John Nelson Darby

As a law graduate from Westminster School and Trinity College in England, John Nelson Darby, an Anglo-Irish evangelist, was also a clergyman, deacon and priest in the Anglican faith.

He came to realize the commoner was just as capable through the Spirit of understanding God's word as a clergyman. This was several years after he challenged the Catholic laity in Wicklow County, Delgany parish, to abandon the Catholic Church.

He staunchly defended Calvinist doctrine when attacked from those in the Church of Ireland (a branch of the Anglican Church). He is best known as the father of Pre-millennial Dispensationalism.

Darby's dispensational teachings had been made known several years before Margaret MacDonald's 'visions.' There were those who wanted to discredit his dispensational teachings by saying they had their roots in the 'supernatural' manifestations of Margaret McDonald. Darby had dismissed Margaret McDonald's 'supernatural' tongues-related utterances as demonic.

There was a failed attempt by certain people within the Catholic Church, and possibly those at the parish in Rosneath, Scotland, to associate Darby's teachings with demonic manifestations. The universalists, or 'Christian' compromisers, could not lead Darby into the ecumenical fold.

In his approval of the Thirty-Nine Articles of the Anglican Church, Darby expressed his belief in predestination: "I believe that predestination to life is the eternal purpose of God, by which, before the

foundations of the world were laid, He firmly decreed, by His counsel secret to us, to deliver from curse and destruction those whom He had chosen in Christ out of the human race, and to bring them, through Christ, as vessels made to honour, to eternal salvation.”

Although Darby had written a Bible, *The Holy Scriptures: A New Translation from the Original Languages*, he refused an offer to be a contributing scholar on the wicked Revised Version Committee.¹

¹ [Darby](#) on Darby
[Others](#) on Darby