

A stylized illustration of a sunset or sunrise. A large, bright orange sun is partially obscured by a series of colorful, layered clouds. The clouds are in shades of green, pink, purple, yellow, and blue. The background is a gradient of purple and blue. The overall style is modern and artistic.

WHEN HE RETURNS

THE RAPTURE

OUR GOALS

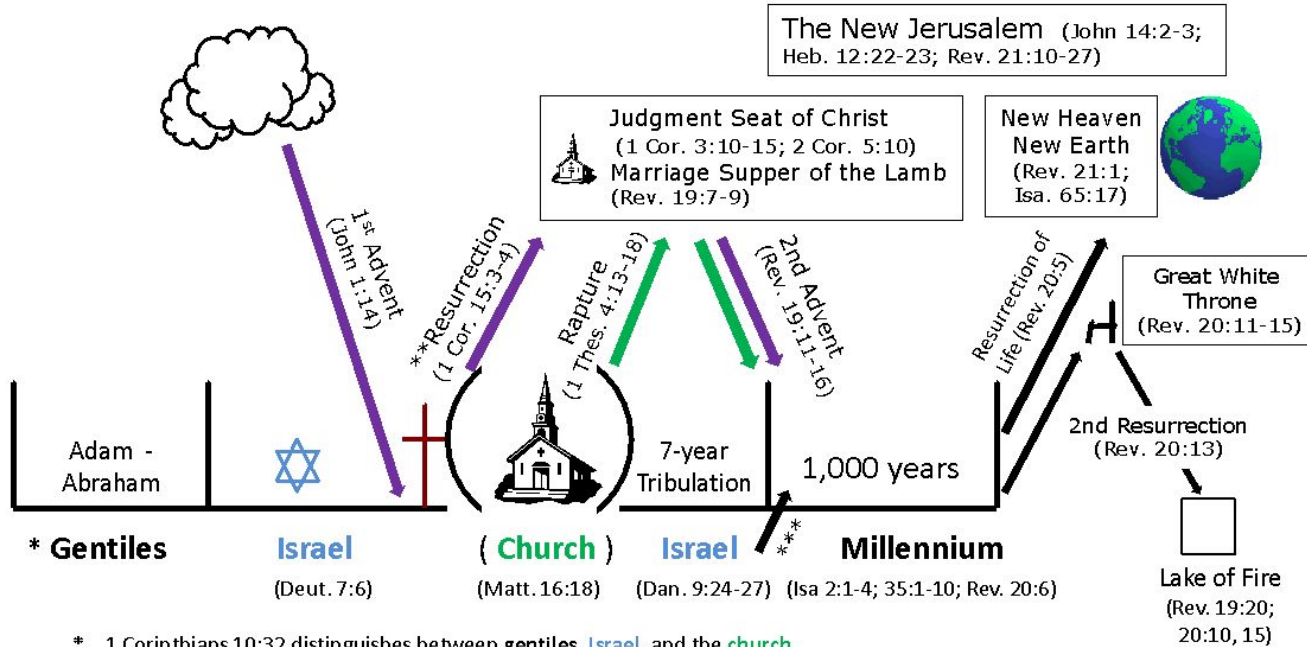
- Be encouraged from God's Prophetic Word
- Fight eschatological agnosticism & indifference
- Sharpen our Bible study skills
 - Observation
 - Interpretation
 - Application

BACKGROUND

- Timeline of the Bible *
- Overview of OT History *
- Our Glorious Future *

* See handout

TIME LINE OF THE BIBLE

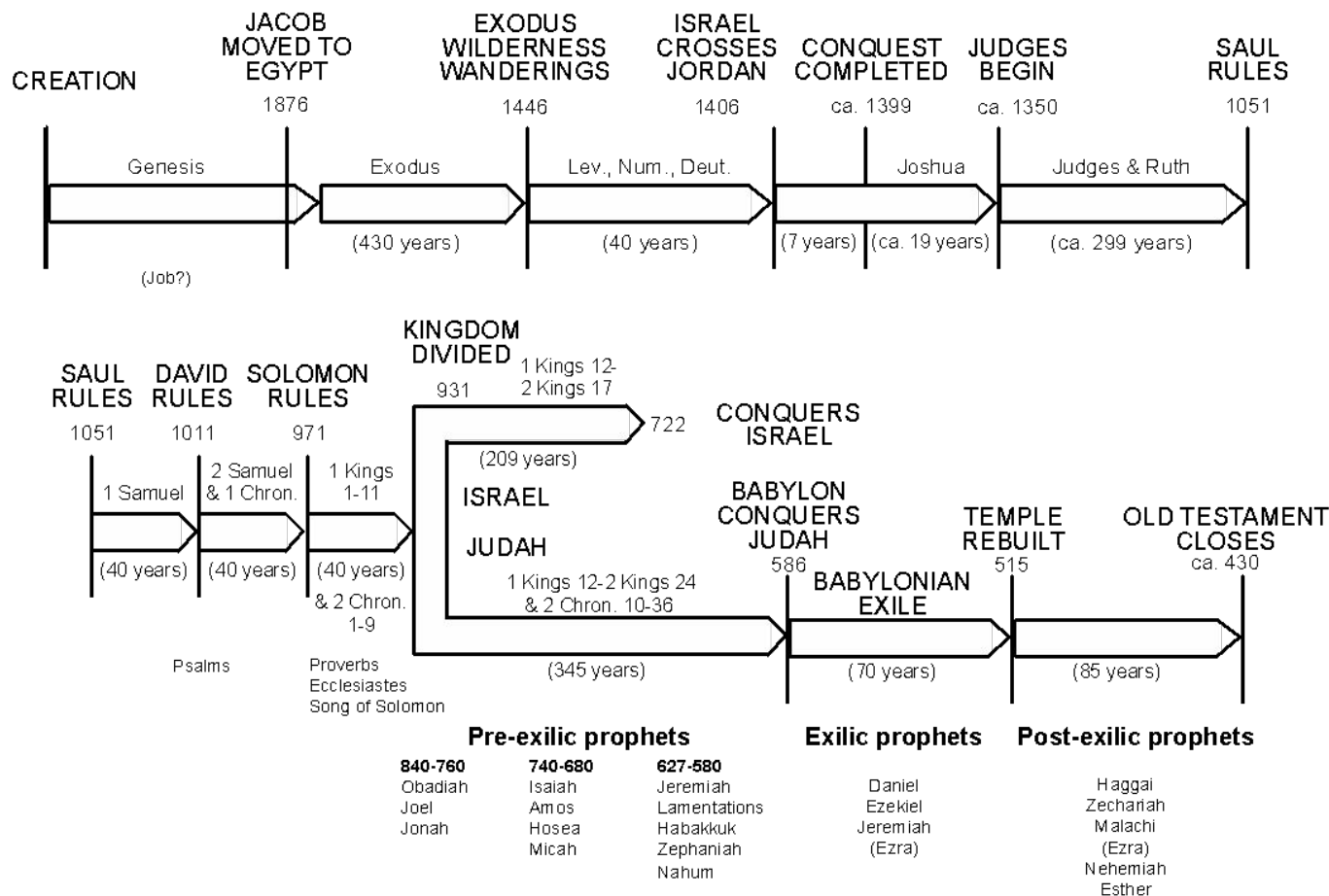


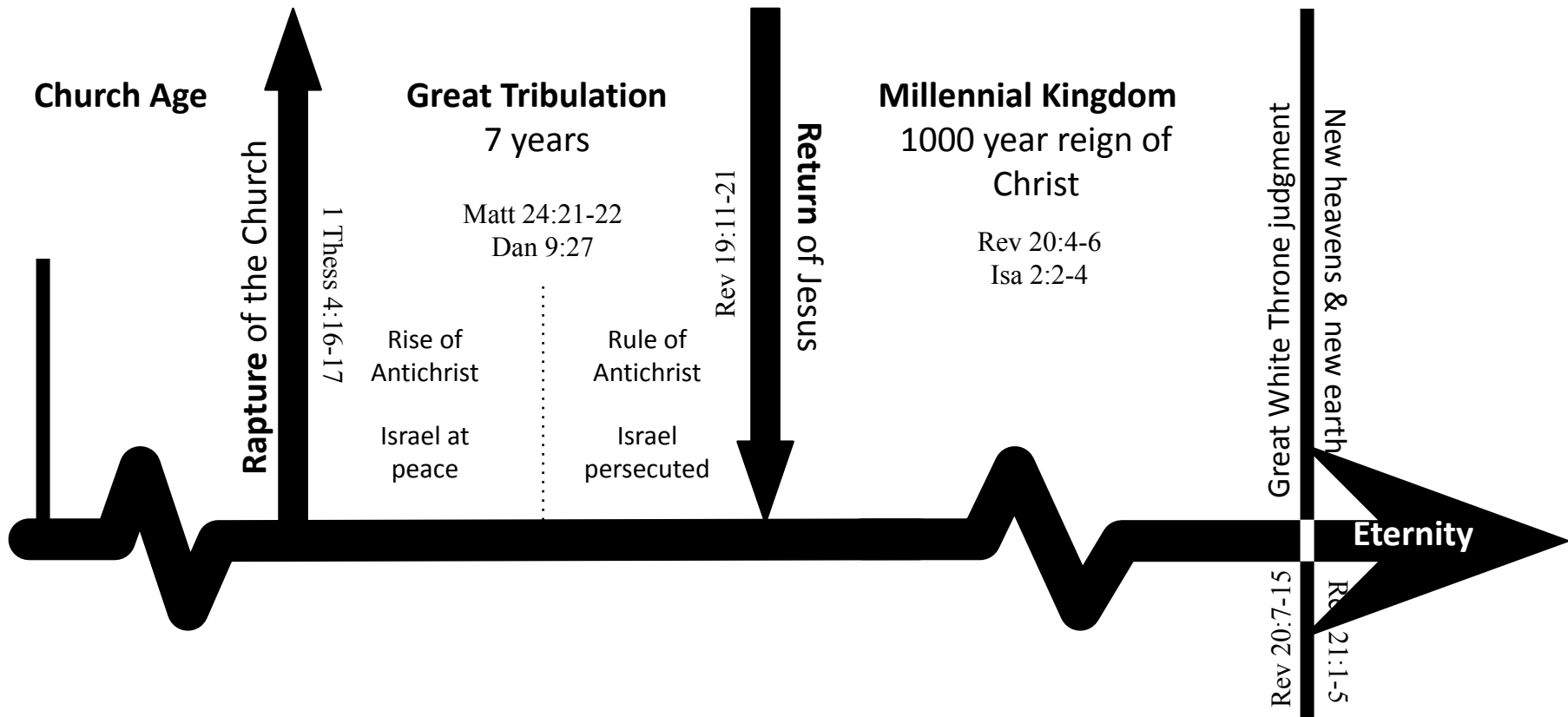
* 1 Corinthians 10:32 distinguishes between **gentiles**, **Israel**, and the **church**

** 1 Corinthians 15:23 refers to order of the First Resurrection, beginning with Christ, the first fruits

*** Resurrection of Old Testament Saints (Eze. 37:13-14) and martyred Tribulation saints (Rev. 20:4)

An Overview of Old Testament History





THE RAPTURE

- What is the Rapture?
 - 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17
 - The Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord.

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THE RAPTURE

- What is the Rapture?
 - “caught up”
 - Greek: ἁρπάζω (harpazo)
 - Word Concept: sudden strength/force; seize; snatch
 - Key Usages: term appears over 20 times in the GNT
 - 1 Thess. 4:17
 - 2 Cor. 12:2, 4
 - Phil. 2:6
 - Heb. 10:34
 - Rev. 12:15
 - John 10:28-29
 - Acts 8:39
 - Acts 23:10
 - Matt. 13:19

THE RAPTURE

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THE RAPTURE

- What is the Rapture?
 - Key Usages:
 - 2 Corinthians 12:2, 4
 - I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago—whether in the body I do not know, or out of the body I do not know, God knows—such a man was **caught up** to the third heaven. And I know how such a man—whether in the body or apart from the body I do not know, God knows—was **caught up** into Paradise and heard inexpressible words, which a man is not permitted to speak.

THE RAPTURE

- What is the Rapture?
 - Key Usages:
 - Philippians 2:6
 - (Christ Jesus)...who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God **a thing to be grasped...**

THE RAPTURE

- What is the Rapture?
 - Key Usages:
 - Hebrews 10:34
 - For you showed sympathy to the prisoners and accepted joyfully **the seizure** of your property, knowing that you have for yourselves a better possession and a lasting one.

THE RAPTURE

- What is the Rapture?
 - Key Usages:
 - Revelation 12:15
 - And she gave birth to a son, a male child, who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron; and her child was **caught up** to God and to His throne.

THE RAPTURE

- What is the Rapture?
 - Key Usages:
 - John 10:28-29
 - And I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will **snatch** them **out** of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to **snatch** them **out** of the Father's hand.

THE RAPTURE

- What is the Rapture?
 - Key Usages:
 - Acts 8:39
 - When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord **snatched** Philip away; and the eunuch no longer saw him, but went on his way rejoicing.

THE RAPTURE

- What is the Rapture?
 - Key Usages:
 - Acts 23:10
 - And as a great dissension was developing, the commander was afraid Paul would be torn to pieces by them and ordered the troops to go down and **take him away** from them **by force**, and bring him into the barracks.

THE RAPTURE

- What is the Rapture?
 - Key Usages:
 - Matthew 13:19
 - When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and **snatches away** what has been sown in his heart. This is the one on whom seed was sown beside the road.

THE RAPTURE

- Origination of the term “rapture”
 - Latin Vulgate (Jerome, late 4th century)
 - Translated the Greek term “*harpazo*” in 1 Thess. 4:17 from a Latin verb family *rapio* (“seize; carried away in one’s spirit”)
 - Simul **rapiemur** cum illis
 - Together **taken** with them

THE RAPTURE

- FIVE Aspects of the Rapture
 - **RETURN** of Christ: in the air; not to earth
 - **RESURRECTION**: saints from Pentecost to Rapture
 - **RAPTURE**: living believers caught up into the Lord's presence w/o experiencing physical death.
 - **REUNION**: with the Lord & other saints
 - **REASSURANCE**: comfort one another with these words (death is not the victor!)

THE RAPTURE IN CHURCH HISTORY

- Apostolic Fathers/Early Church: taught imminent return of Christ but were mainly post-trib (opposite)
- Medieval Church (500-1500): Origen & Augustine were amillennialists but pre-mil/pre-trib position held by Albigenses, Lombards, Waldnenses and Dolicinites.

THE RAPTURE IN CHURCH HISTORY

- Reformation Church: pre-mil; pre-trib
 - Thomas Collier (1674)
 - Peter Jurieu (1687)
 - John Askill (1700)
 - Phillip Doddridge (1738)
 - Morgan Edwards (1744, 1788)
 - John Gill (1748)
 - James Macknight (1763)
 - Thomas Scott (1792)
 - J.N. Darby (1830)

THE RAPTURE IN CHURCH HISTORY

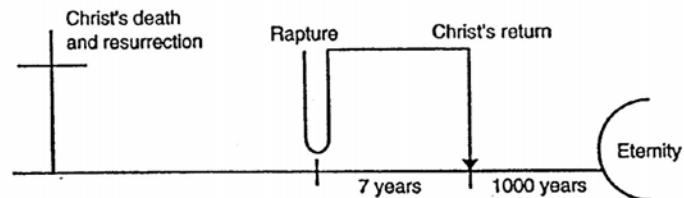
- Premillennialism
 - » Rapture; Second Coming prior to onset of Christ's earthly kingdom
- Postmillennialism
 - » No Rapture; Second Coming at end of Millennial Kingdom which was brought on by the Church
- Amillennialism
 - » No Rapture; No Millennial Kingdom
 - » Single event: Christ Return, Resurrections, Judgment, Eternity

THE RAPTURE

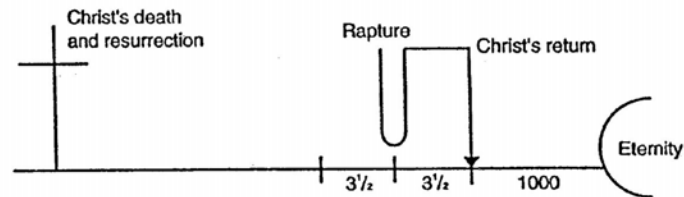
- Three Views of Premillennial Rapture Timing
 - Pre-Tribulation Rapture
 - Rapture of Church prior to the 7-year Tribulation
 - Mid-Tribulation Rapture
 - Church is present for the 1st half of the 7-year Tribulation
 - Rapture of Church at midpoint of the Tribulation but before the Great Tribulation
 - Post-Tribulation Rapture
 - Church is present throughout the Tribulation
 - Rapture & Second Coming are facets of a single event occurring at the conclusion of the Tribulation

Premillennial Rapture-Timing Views

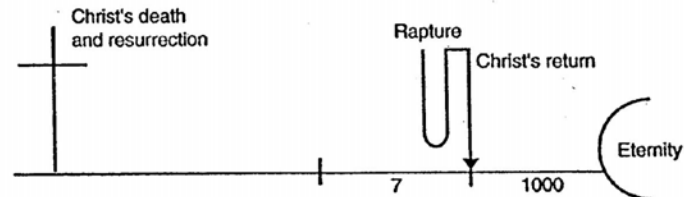
Pretrib



Midtrib



Posttrib



THREE VIEWS ON THE RAPTURE OF THE CHURCH

PRE-TRIBULATIONAL (LITERAL VIEW)	MID-TRIBULATIONAL (PRE-WRATH)	POST-TRIBULATIONAL
Distinguishes between Israel and the Church	Church and Israel are mixed during the Tribulation	The Church and Israel are identical; go through the Tribulation together
Imminent – prior to the beginning of the Tribulation	Rapture follows 3 ½ + years of Tribulation – not imminent	Rapture follows 7 years of Tribulation – not imminent
Last Trumpet for Believers (1 Cor. 15:52; 1 Thes. 4:16); gathered to be with the Lord	Last Trumpet in series of seven Israel; announces Jesus' future reign (Rev. 10:7)	Trumpets at Second Coming (Isa. 27:13; Zech. 9:14; Matt. 24:31) to gather believers on earth
Believers rescued from wrath (1 Thes. 1:10; 5:9; Rom. 5:9; Rev. 3:10)	Believers only rescued from Great Wrath	Believers rescued from last wrath upon unbelievers
Day of the Lord comes "like a thief in the night" (1 Thes. 5:4)		

KEY RAPTURE PASSAGES

- 1 Thessalonians 1:9-10
- For they themselves report about us what kind of a reception we had with you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God, and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, that is **Jesus**, who **rescues us from the wrath to come.**

KEY RAPTURE PASSAGES

- 1 Thessalonians 2:17-19
- **17** But we, brethren, having been taken away from you for a short while—in person, not in spirit—were all the more eager with great desire to see your face. **18** For we wanted to come to you—I, Paul, more than once—and yet Satan hindered us. **19** For who is our hope or joy or crown of exultation? Is it not even you, in the presence of our Lord Jesus at His coming?

KEY RAPTURE PASSAGES

- 1 Thessalonians 3:13
- **13** so that He may establish your hearts without blame in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all His saints.

KEY RAPTURE PASSAGES

- 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
- Why is Paul writing this section?
- What two events does the passage describe?
- What is the order of these two events?
- What two groups are presented in this passage?
- Where do these two groups meet the Lord?

KEY RAPTURE PASSAGES

- 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 *
- **13** But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, so that you will not grieve as do the rest who have no hope. **14** For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus. **15** For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. **17** Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord. **18** Therefore comfort one another with these words.

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KEY RAPTURE PASSAGES

- 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
- Now as to the times and the epochs, brethren, **you have no need of anything to be written to you. 2 For you yourselves know full well that** the day of the Lord will come just like a thief in the night. **3** While they are saying, “Peace and safety!” then destruction will come upon them suddenly like labor pains upon a woman with child, and they will not escape. **4** But you, brethren, are not in darkness, that the day would overtake you like a thief; **5** for you are all sons of light and sons of day. We are not of night nor of darkness; **6** so then let us not sleep as others do, but let us be alert and sober. **7** For those who sleep do their sleeping at night, and those who get drunk get drunk at night. **8** But since we are of the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet, the hope of salvation. **9** For God has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, **10** who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep, we will live together with Him. **11** Therefore encourage one another and build up one another, just as you also are doing.

KEY RAPTURE PASSAGES

- 1 Thessalonians 5:23
- **23** Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

KEY RAPTURE PASSAGES

- 2 Thessalonians 2:1-2
- Now we request you, brethren, with regard to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, **2** that you not be quickly shaken from your composure or be disturbed either by a spirit or a message or a letter as if from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come.

KEY RAPTURE PASSAGES

- 1 Corinthians 15:50-52
- Now I say this, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.
51 Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed, **52** in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.

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THE RAPTURE TRUMPET

- “The Last Trumpet” – the final command that Christ provides for His church when He sends the signal to gather us together in the Rapture.
 - Better understood as the trumpet of God in the parallel Rapture description in 1 Thess. 4:16
 - Commonly mistaken as the 7th trumpet in Rev. 11:15 but...
 - Rapture trumpet sounds before wrath of God
 - Rev. 11 trumpet sounds at the end of wrath of God
 - Rapture trumpet is called “trump of God”
 - Rev. 11 trumpet is from an angel
 - Rapture trumpet is a sole trumpet; not last in a series
 - Rev. 11 trumpet is the last of seven in Revelation
 - Rapture trumpet sounds before resurrection
 - Rev 11 trumpet sounds after resurrection (11:12)
 - Rapture trumpet heralds blessings
 - Rev 11 trumpet heralds judgments

KEY RAPTURE PASSAGES

- John 14:1-3
- Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. **2** In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. **3** If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to **Myself**, that where I am, there you may be also.

JOHN 14:1-3
COMPARED TO
1 THESSALONIANS 4:13-18

John 14:1-3

1 Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. **2** In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. **3** If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also.

1 Thess. 4:13-18

13 But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, so that you will not grieve as do the rest who have no hope. **14** For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus. **15** For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. **17** Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord. **18** Therefore comfort one another with these words.

John 14:1-3 compared to 1 Thess. 4:13-18

John 14:1-3	1 Thess. 4:13-18
The Lord's return/descent from heaven	The Lord will descend w/ a shout
The Lord will receive His believers unto Himself	To meet the Lord in the air
Believers can be with Him where He is	And so shall we ever be with the Lord
Presented to calm troubled hearts	Comfort one another with these words

John 14:1-3 compared to 1 Thess. 4:13-18

John 14:1-3	1 Thess. 4:13-18
Trouble (14:1)	Sorrow (4:13)
Believe (14:1)	Believe (4:14)
God, me (14:1)	Jesus, God (4:14)
Told you (14:2)	Say to you (4:15)
Come again (14:3)	Coming of the Lord (14:15)
Receive you (14:3)	Caught up (14:17)
To Myself (14:3)	To meet the Lord (14:17)
Be where I am (14:3)	Ever be with the Lord

KEY RAPTURE PASSAGES

- Titus 2:11-13
- For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, 12 instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age, 13 looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus.

KEY RAPTURE PASSAGES

- 1 John 2:28
- Now, little children, abide in Him, so that **when He appears**, we may have confidence and not shrink away from Him in shame **at His coming**.

KEY RAPTURE PASSAGES

- 1 John 3:2-3

- Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that **when He appears**, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is. **3** And everyone who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

KEY RAPTURE PASSAGES

- 1 Timothy 6:14
- that you keep the commandment without stain or reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ...

KEY RAPTURE PASSAGES

- Revelation 3:10
- Because you have kept the word of My perseverance, I also will keep you from the hour of testing, that hour which is about to come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.
- Note: the phrase “those who dwell on the earth” occurs 10 other times in Revelation. EVERY other time it clearly references them as objects of God’s wrath in the Tribulation.

KEY RAPTURE PASSAGES

- Revelation 4:1
- After these things I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven, and the first voice which I had heard, like the sound of a trumpet speaking with me, said, “Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after these things.”
- Rev 4 – places the 24 elders (church) in heaven
- Rev 5 – overall plan for God’s wrath/judgment
- Rev 6 – opening of judgment seals = the start of the Tribulation

THE RAPTURE OF THE CHURCH	SECOND ADVENT OF JESUS CHRIST
Sudden : "In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye" (1 Cor. 15:52)	Scheduled: Follows the seven-year Tribulation
A Mystery: not mentioned in the Old Testament	Prophesied: foretold in the Old Testament more than First Advent
Believers meet the Lord in the air (1 Thes. 4:17) [comfort]	Christ returns to earth (Acts 1:11) [judgment]
Rewards: Judgment Seat of Christ (2 Cor 5:10); Marriage Supper of Lamb (Rev 19:7-10).	Judgment: Separation of the sheep and the goats (Matt. 25:31-46)
Church lives in New Jerusalem (John 14:1-3; Rev. 21:2)	Millennial Kingdom is set up on the earth (Isa. 2; Rev. 20:1-6)

The Rapture (1 Thess. 4, etc.)	The Second Coming (Rev. 19, etc.)
Christ comes for His own	Christ comes with His own
Christ comes in the air	Christ comes to the earth
Christ claims His bride	Christ comes with His bride
Removal of believers	Manifestation of Christ
Only His own see Him	Every eye shall see Him
Tribulation begins	Millennial Kingdom begins
Saved are delivered from wrath	Unsaved experience the wrath of God
No signs precede Rapture	Signs precede the Second Coming
Focus is the Lord & Church	Focus is Israel and Kingdom
World is deceived	Satan is bound so he cannot deceive
Believers depart the earth	Unbelievers are taken away from the earth
Unbelievers remain on earth	Believers remain on the earth
No mention of establishing Kingdom on earth	Christ has come to set up His Kingdom on earth
Christians taken to the Father's house	Resurrected saints do not see Father's house
Imminent – could happen at any moment	Cannot occur for at least 7 years

THE RAPTURE

- FIVE Aspects of the Rapture
 - **RETURN** of Christ: In the air; not to earth
 - **RESURRECTION***: Saints from Pentecost to Rapture
 - **RAPTURE**: Living believers caught up into the Lord's presence w/o experiencing physical death.
 - **REUNION**: With the Lord & other saints
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RESURRECTIONS

"Do not marvel at this; for an hour is coming, in which all who are in the tombs will hear His voice, and will come forth; those who did the good *deeds* to a resurrection of life, those who committed the evil *deeds* to a resurrection of judgment (John 5:28-29)

THE RESURRECTION OF LIFE; THE FIRST RESURRECTION			
Order	Participants	Time	Scripture
1	Jesus Christ	Third Day	"He has risen" (Matt. 28:6; cf. John 20:1-18) "The first fruits of those who have fallen asleep" (1 Cor. 15:20)
2	Church	At the Rapture; Prior to the beginning of Tribulation	in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet" (1 Cor. 15:50-51; cf. John 14:3; 1Thes. 4:13-18;
3	Old Testament saints	At the Second Coming to enter Millennial Kingdom	"you will come to life, and I will place you on your own land" (Dan. 12:1-2; cf. Isa. 26:19; Eze. 37:13-14)
4	Tribulation Martyrs	Following the Tribulation; prior to Millennial Kingdom	"came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years" (Rev. 20:4)
5	Millennial saints	Following the Millennium	Assumed, but not supported by Scripture

THE RESURRECTION OF JUDGMENT; THE SECOND RESURRECTION		
Participants	Time	Scripture
Unbelievers	Great White Throne	"rest of the dead" (Rev. 20:4-15)

THE RAPTURE & IMMINENCY

The Doctrine of Imminency (ready to take place, at any moment)

First, imminency means that the Rapture could take place at any moment. While other events may take place before the Rapture, no event must precede it. If prior events are required before the Rapture, then the Rapture could not be described as imminent. Thus, if any event were required to occur before the Rapture, then the concept of imminency would be destroyed.

Second, since the Rapture is imminent and could happen at any moment, then it follows that one must be prepared for it to occur at any time, without sign or warning.

THE RAPTURE & IMMINENCY

The Doctrine of Imminency (ready to take place, at any moment)

Third, imminency eliminates any attempt at date-setting. Date-setting is impossible since the Rapture is “sign less” (it provides no basis for date-setting) and if imminency is really true, the moment a date was fixed then Christ could not come at any moment, destroying imminency.

Fourth, a person cannot legitimately say that an imminent event will happen soon. The term ‘soon’ implies that an event must take place ‘within a short time (after a particular point of time specified or implied).’ By contrast, an imminent event may take place within a short time, but it does not have to do so in order to be imminent (Renald Showers).

THE RAPTURE & IMMINENCY

The Doctrine of Imminency (ready to take place, at any moment)

Fifth, by an imminent event we mean one which is certain to occur at some time but uncertain as to what time.

THE RAPTURE & IMMINENCY

- 1 Corinthians 1:7 - awaiting eagerly the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- Philippians 3:20 - For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.
- Philippians 4:5 - The Lord is near.
- 1 Thessalonians 1:10 - to wait for His Son from heaven.
- 1 Thessalonians 4:17-18 - Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words.
- 1 Thessalonians 5:6 - so then let us not sleep as others do, but let us be alert and sober.
- 1 Timothy 6:14 - that you keep the commandment without stain or reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ.

THE RAPTURE & IMMINENCY

- Titus 2:13 - looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus.
- Hebrews 9:28 - so Christ . . . shall appear a second time for salvation without reference to sin, to those who eagerly await Him.
- James 5:7-9 - Be patient, therefore, brethren, until the coming of the Lord . . . for the coming of the Lord is at hand . . . behold, the Judge is standing right at the door.
- 1 Peter 1:13 - fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.
- Jude 21 - waiting anxiously for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to eternal life.
- Revelation 3:11; 22:7, 12, 20 – I am coming quickly!
- Revelation 22:17, 20 - And the Spirit and the bride say, “Come.” And let the one who hears say, “Come.” He who testifies to these things says, “Yes, I am coming quickly.” Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. Amen.

WHY I BELIEVE IN A PRE-TRIB RAPTURE

- God has previously removed the righteous prior to dispensing His wrath...
 - Noah (Genesis 6:9) was removed from the wrath of God (drowning)
 - Enoch (Genesis 9) was raptured prior to the flood
 - Lot and his daughters were rescued prior to God's judgment on Sodom & Gomorrah (Gen.19:15, 22; 2 Peter 2:7-9)
- In the future, God will resurrect and take the Two Witnesses unto Himself (Rev. 11:1-12) prior to the Great Tribulation.

WHY I BELIEVE IN A PRE-TRIB RAPTURE

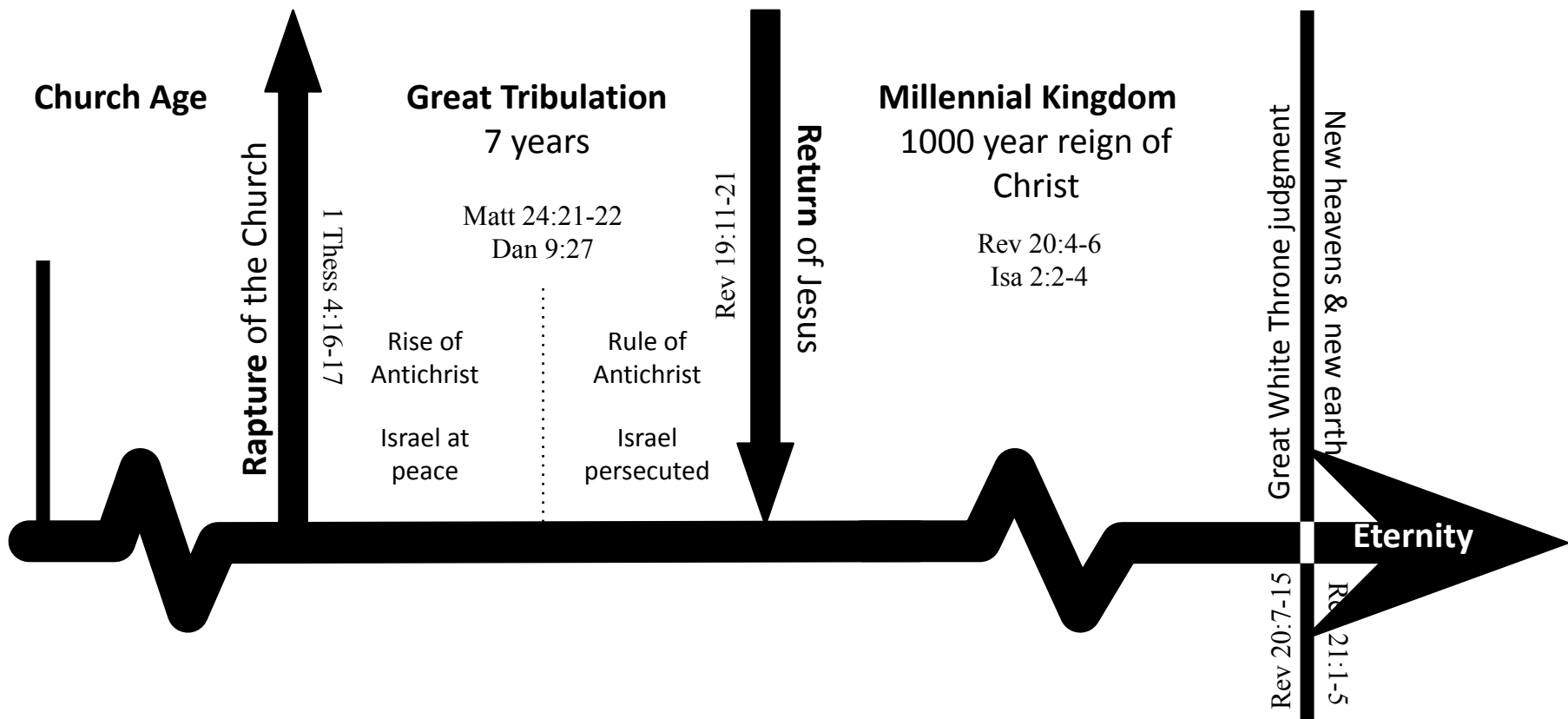
- The Nature of the Tribulation
 - The Bible teaches that the **Tribulation** (the seven-year, 70th week of Daniel) is a time of preparation for **Israel's** restoration and regeneration (Deut. 4:29-30; Jer. 30:4-11; Ezek. 20:22-44; 22:13-22; Dan. 9:24-27).
 - Revelation 3:10 notes that the Tribulation will not be for the church but for “those who dwell upon the earth” (Rev. 3:10; 6:10; 8:13; 11:10 [twice]; 13:8, 12, 14 [twice]; 17:2, 8), as a time focused on them due their rejection of Christ and His salvation.
 - While the **Church** will experience tribulation in general during this present age (John 16:33), **she is never mentioned** as participating in Israel's time of trouble, which includes the Great Tribulation, the Day of the Lord, and the Wrath of God. Pretribulationism gives the best answer to the biblical explanation of the fact that the **Church** is never mentioned in passages that speak about Tribulation events, while **Israel** is mentioned consistently throughout these passages. In fact, the **Church** (24 elders) is seen in Rev. 4 as already in heaven prior to the onset of the Tribulation.

WHY I BELIEVE IN A PRE-TRIB RAPTURE

- The Nature of the Church
 - Only a pre-trib rapture position is able to give full biblical import to the New Testament teaching that the Church differs significantly from Israel.
 - The Church is said to be a mystery (Eph. 3:1-13) by which Jews and Gentiles are now united into one body in Christ (Eph. 2:11-22). This explains why the Church's translation to heaven is never mentioned in any Old Testament passage that deals with the Second Coming after the Tribulation, and why the church is promised deliverance from the time of God's wrath during the Tribulation (1 Thess. 1:9-10; 5:9; Rev. 3:10).
 - The Church alone has the promise that all believers will be taken to the Father's house in heaven (John 14:1-3) at the Rapture, and not to the earth as other views would demand.

WHY I BELIEVE IN A PRE-TRIB RAPTURE

- The return of the Lord in the Rapture has always been imminent (1 Peter 4:17, e.g.)
 - Since it is possible to know the exact date of the mid- and end-points of the Tribulation (Dan. 9, Matt. 24, 2 Thess. 2, Rev. 6-19), then the mid-trib and post-trib rapture positions do not allow for an imminent return of the Lord. Only the pre-trib rapture position maintains imminency.
- The many contrasts between the Rapture and the Second Coming requires us to hold the two events as distinct and separate.
- Only the pre-trib rapture position allows time for the Judgment (Bema) Seat of Christ (1 Cor 3; 2 Cor 5) as well as the initial stages of the Marriage Supper of the Lamb (Rev. 19).



WHEN HE RETURNS

Understanding the last days



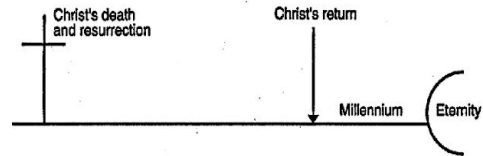
WHEN HE RETURNS

Understanding the last days

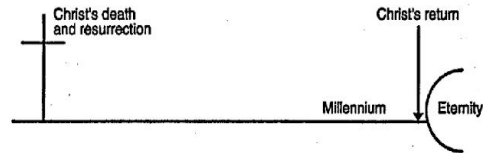


Three Views of Christ's Return

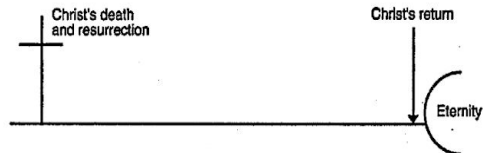
Premillennialism



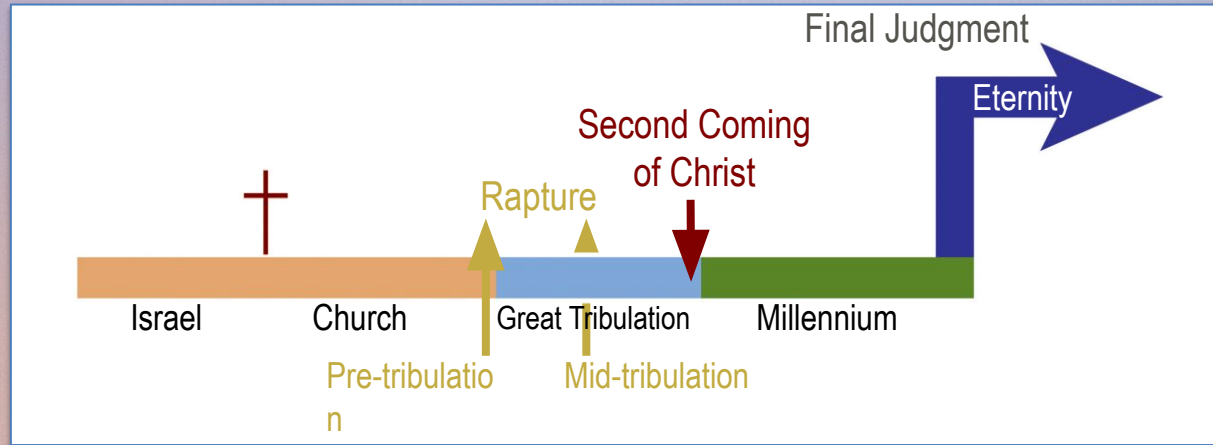
Postmillennialism



Amillennialism



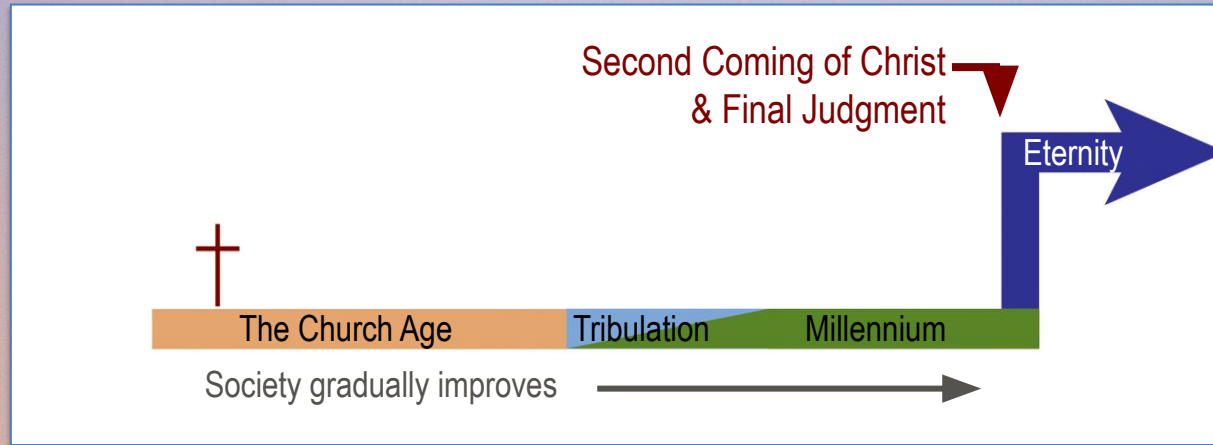
PREMILLENNIALISM *



Premillennialists typically believe that the Tribulation will precede the second coming of Christ, and the subsequent establishment of the millennial kingdom—a thousand-year reign of Christ on earth. The final judgment follows the millennium, then the eternal state. But, premillennial theologians are divided over the timing of the Rapture in relationship to the Tribulation.

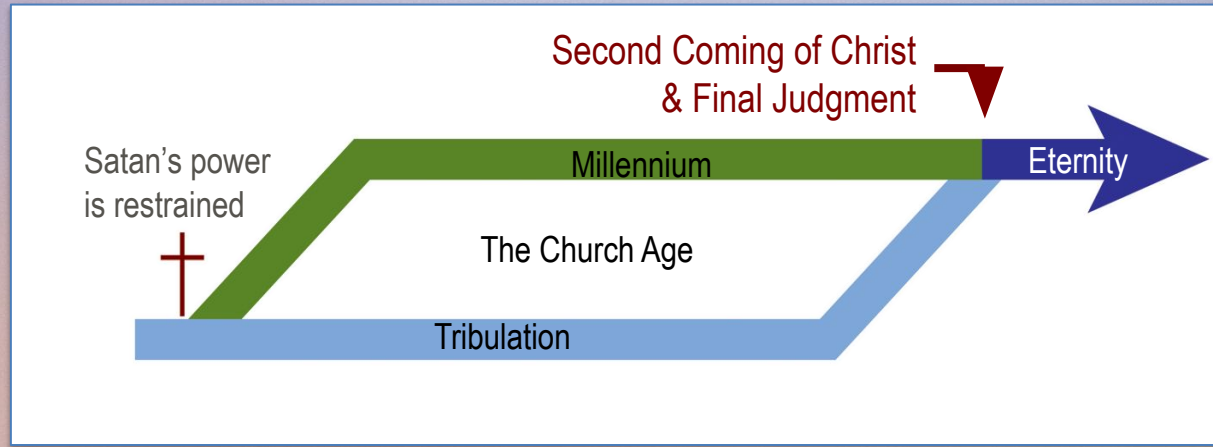
Dispensational Premillennialism (DP) espouses two basic features: (1) a distinction between Israel and the Church; (2) a consistent, literal (normal) method of interpretation of the Bible. DPs hold this order of last things: Rapture, Tribulation, Second Coming of Christ, 1000 reign of Christ on earth, Lake of Fire judgment for Satan, etc., & eternal state.

POSTMILLENNIALISM *



Postmillennialism arose during the early 19th century CE and holds that view of last things which holds that the kingdom of God is now being extended in the world through the preaching of the gospel and the saving work of the Holy Spirit, that the world eventually is to be Christianized, and that the return of Christ will occur at the close of a long period of righteousness and peace, commonly called the millennium. The theory is based on the perception of a gradual movement towards social perfection. They predicted that a massive religious revival, spiritual awakening and purification would occur. The entire human race is converted to Christianity, including the Jews. A millennium of peace and righteousness follows. After the millennium, Jesus returns to earth, resurrects the dead believers, and conducts the last judgment. The Rapture and Tribulation are largely ignored

AMILLENNIALISM *



Amillennialists believe that the promises made to national Israel, David and Abraham, in the OT are fulfilled by Christ and the Church during this age—the entire period of time between the two advents of our Lord. Amillennialists hold that there will not be a literal, future 1000-year reign of Christ on the earth. They believe that the kingdom of God is present in the church age, and at the end of the present age, the eternal state begins without any intervening millennium.

Events described in The Olivet Discourse (Matthew 24, Mark 13, and Luke 21) and in most of the book of Revelation are seen as occurrences which have already happened, or are symbolic in nature and not to be taken literally. The Antichrist is looked upon figuratively and not as a real person. At the end of the millennial age, Christ returns in judgment of all men. The general resurrection occurs, final judgments takes place for all men and women, and a new Heaven and Earth are established.