



Lewis Sperry Chafer

Systematic Theology, vol. 1, p. 216; quoting Dr. Samuel Harris, *God the Creator and Lord of All*, I, 123–24.

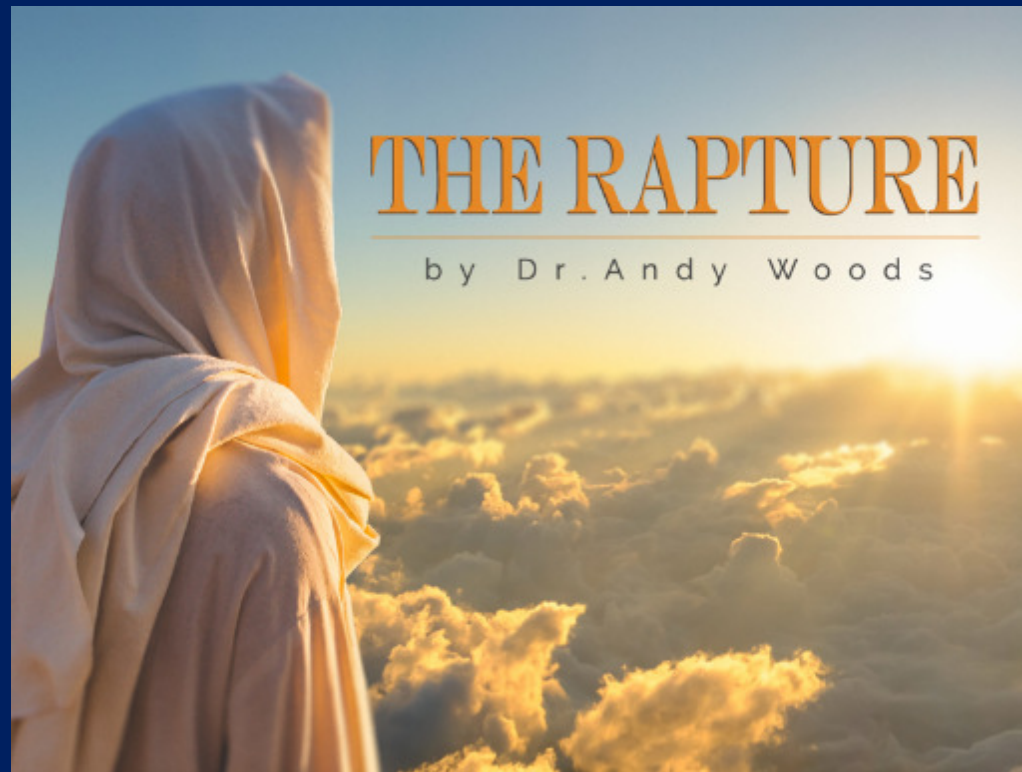
“The eternity of God is involved in His self-existence. He is uncaused. Therefore, He must be without beginning. He transcends the whole chain of causes and effects. Therefore, He can never cease to be.”

Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds; God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God; **BEGOTTEN, NOT MADE**, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made. Who, for us men and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried; and the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again, with glory, to judge the quick and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end. And I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Lord and Giver of Life; who proceeds from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

THE RAPTURE

What and When? – Part 33



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The Rapture

Course Overview

- I. What is the Rapture?
- II. When is the Rapture?
- III. Strengthening the Pre-Tribulational case
- IV. The opposing views
- V. One second after the Rapture



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What is the Rapture?



1. An important doctrine
2. Distinct from the Second Advent
3. Catching away of all living believers (1 Thess 4:17)
4. Reunion (1 Thess 4:14-16)
5. Resurrection (1 Cor 15:50-54)
6. Exemption from death (1 Cor 15:51, 54-56)
7. Instantaneous (1 Cor 15:52)
8. Mystery (1 Cor 15:51)
9. Imminent (1 Cor 15:51; 1 Thess 4:15)
10. Traditional doctrine now being recovered

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When is the Rapture?

7 Arguments Favoring the Pre-Tribulation View

1. Tribulation's purpose concerns Israel (Jer 30:7; Dan 9:24)
2. No biblical reference to the church on earth during the Tribulation period (Rev 4-22)
3. Church is promised an exemption from divine wrath (1 Thess 1:10; 5:9; Rom 5:9; Rev 3:10; 6:17)
4. Rapture is imminent (1 Cor 15:51; 1 Thess 4:15)
5. Rapture is a comfort (1 Thess 4:18)
6. Antichrist cannot come to power until the restrainer is removed (2 Thess 2:6-7)
7. Symbolic parallels (2 Peter 2:5-9)

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Strengthening the Pre-Tribulation Case

1. John 14:1-4
2. Revelation 3:10
3. First Thessalonians 4–5
4. Second Thessalonians 2:3a
5. Matthew 24–25



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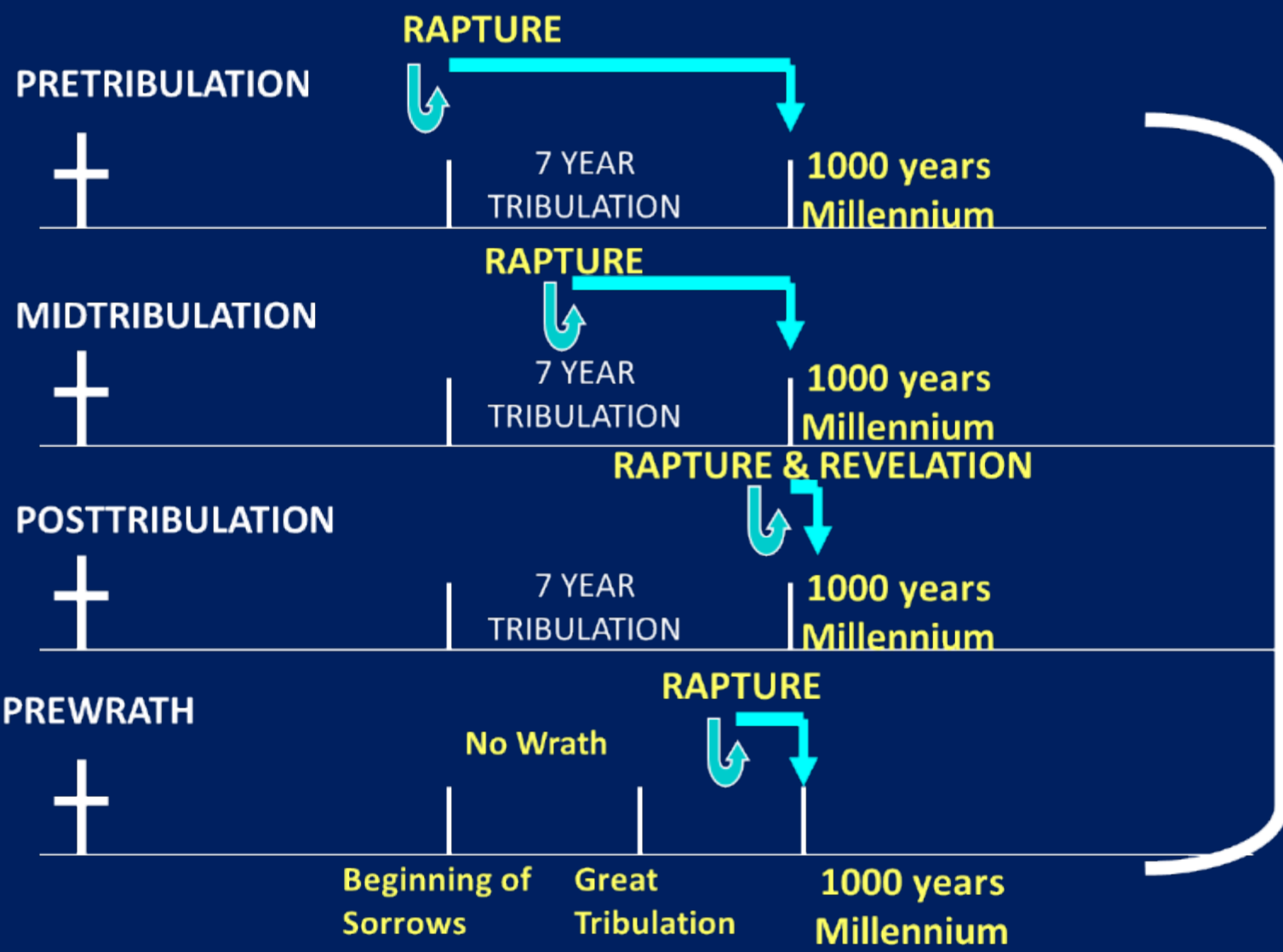


When Will the Rapture Take Place Relative to the Tribulation Period?

- Pre-tribulation rapture theory
- Mid-tribulation rapture theory
- Post-tribulation rapture theory
- Pre-wrath rapture theory
- Partial rapture theory



RAPTURE VIEW COMPARISON



Y-H-Z-H

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Mid-tribulation Rapture Theory

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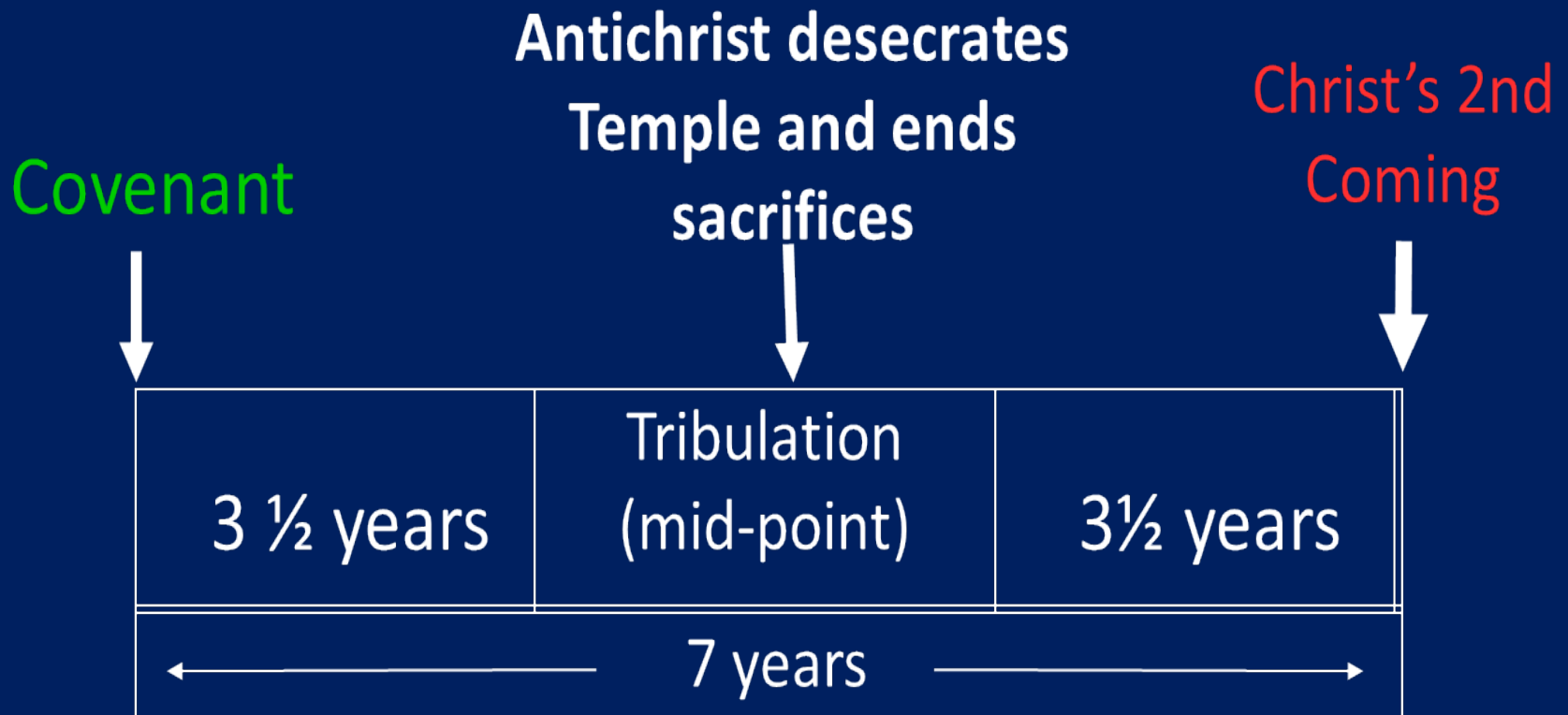
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Promised Exemption from Divine Wrath

- The promise (1 Thess 1:10; 5:9; Rom 5:9; 8:1; Rev 3:10)
- Tribulation = divine wrath/anger (Rev 6:16-17; 11:18; 14:10; 15:1, 7; 16:1, 19; 19:15)



DAN 9:27 OVERVIEW OF TRIBULATION PERIOD



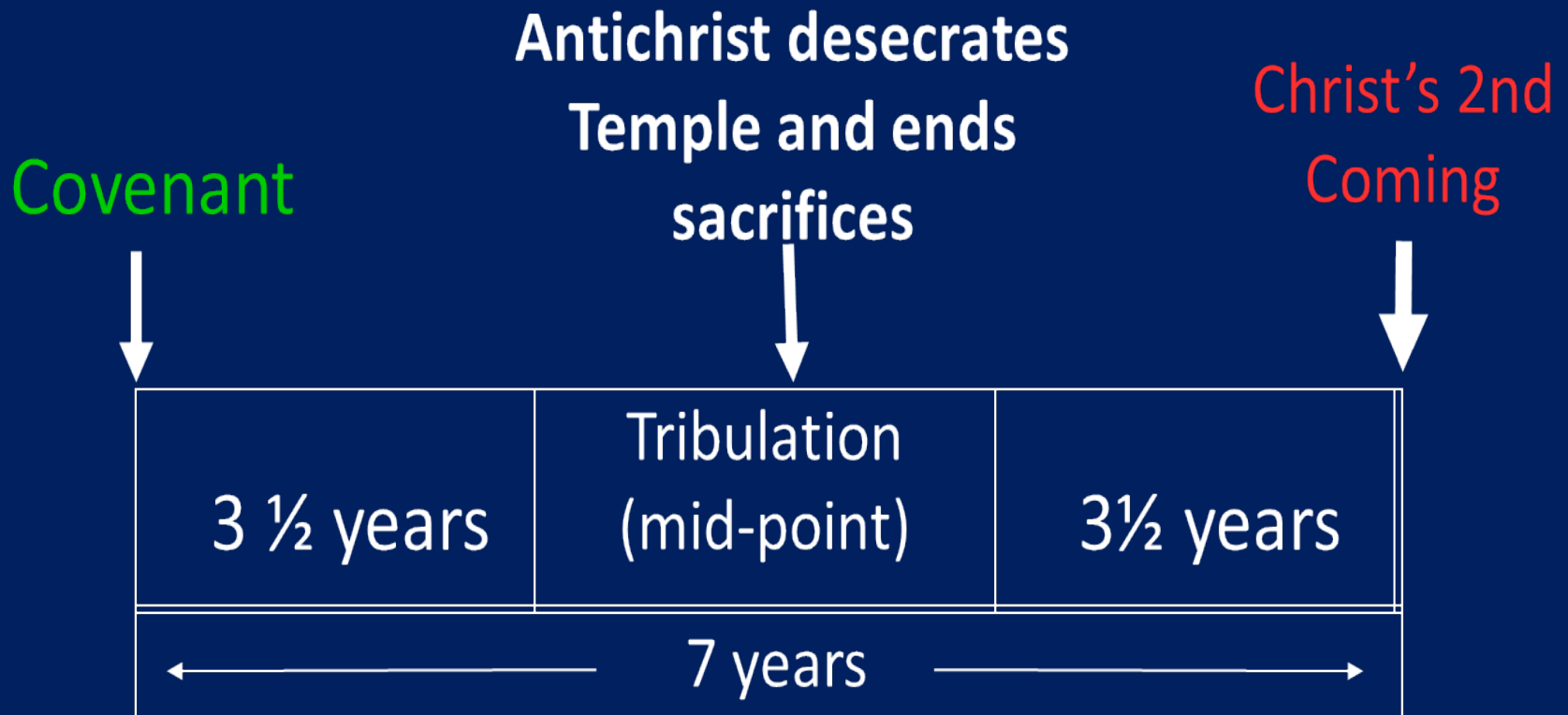
1. Wrath of God Begins in the Tribulation's Second Half

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- B. Revelation 6:16-17 indicates that God's wrath already began
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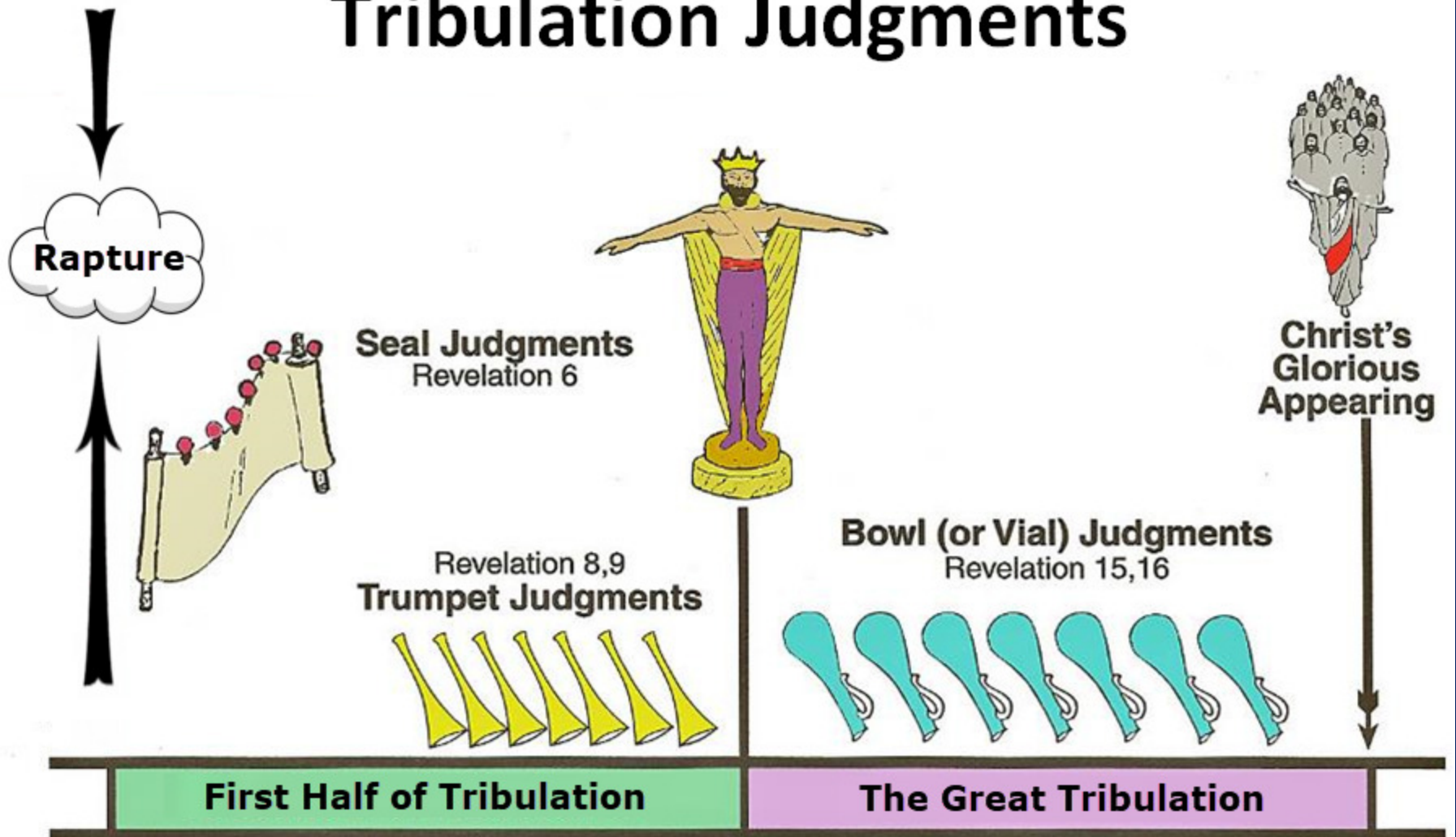
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DAN 9:27 OVERVIEW OF TRIBULATION PERIOD



Tribulation Judgments



Revelation 7:3, 14

“³ saying, ‘Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees until we have sealed the bond-servants of our God on their foreheads.’... ¹⁴ I said to him, ‘My lord, you know.’ And he said to me, ‘These are the ones who come out of THE GREAT TRIBULATION, and they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.’”

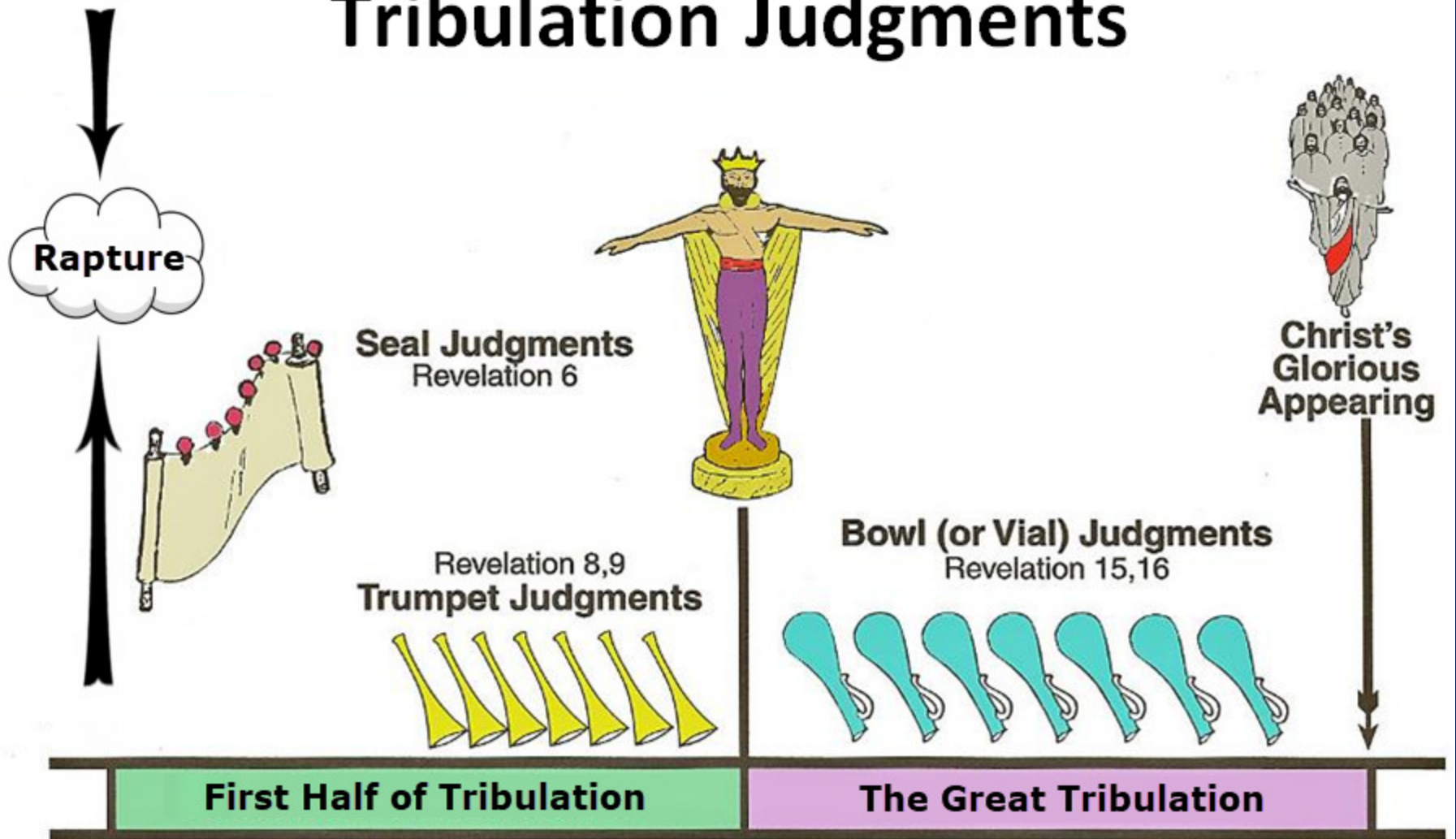


Matthew 24:21-22

“²¹ For then there will be a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever will. ²² Unless those days had been cut short, no life would have been saved; but for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short.”

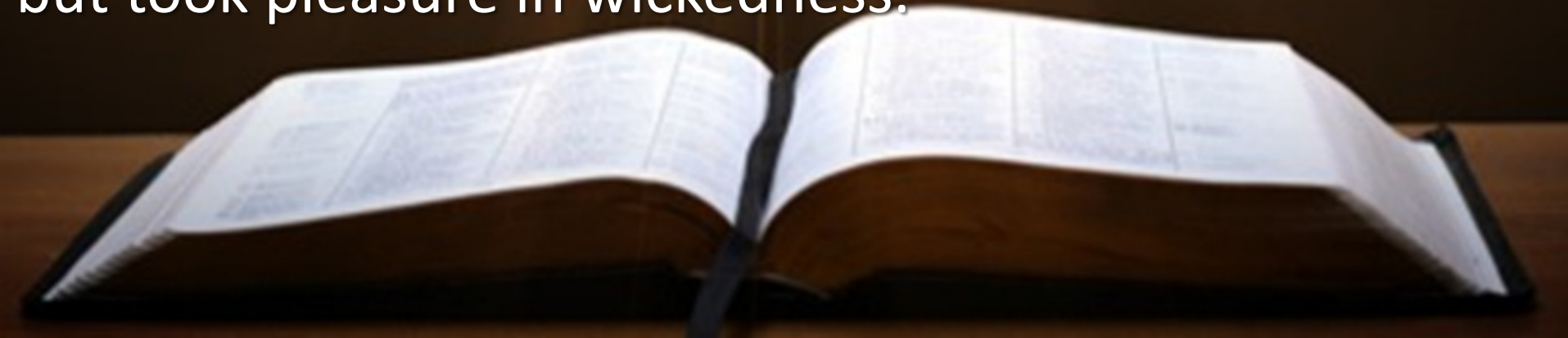


Tribulation Judgments



2 Thessalonians 2:9-12

“⁹ that is, the one whose coming is in accord with the activity of Satan, with all power and signs and false wonders, ¹⁰ and with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved. ¹¹ For this reason God will send upon them a deluding influence so that they will believe what is false, ¹² in order that they all may be judged who did not believe the truth, but took pleasure in wickedness.”



Matthew 10:28

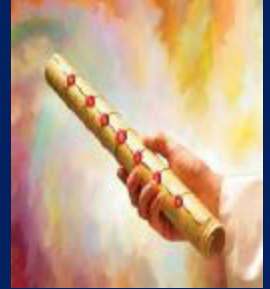
“²⁸ Do not fear those who kill the body but are unable to kill the soul; but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.”

~~WRATH~~

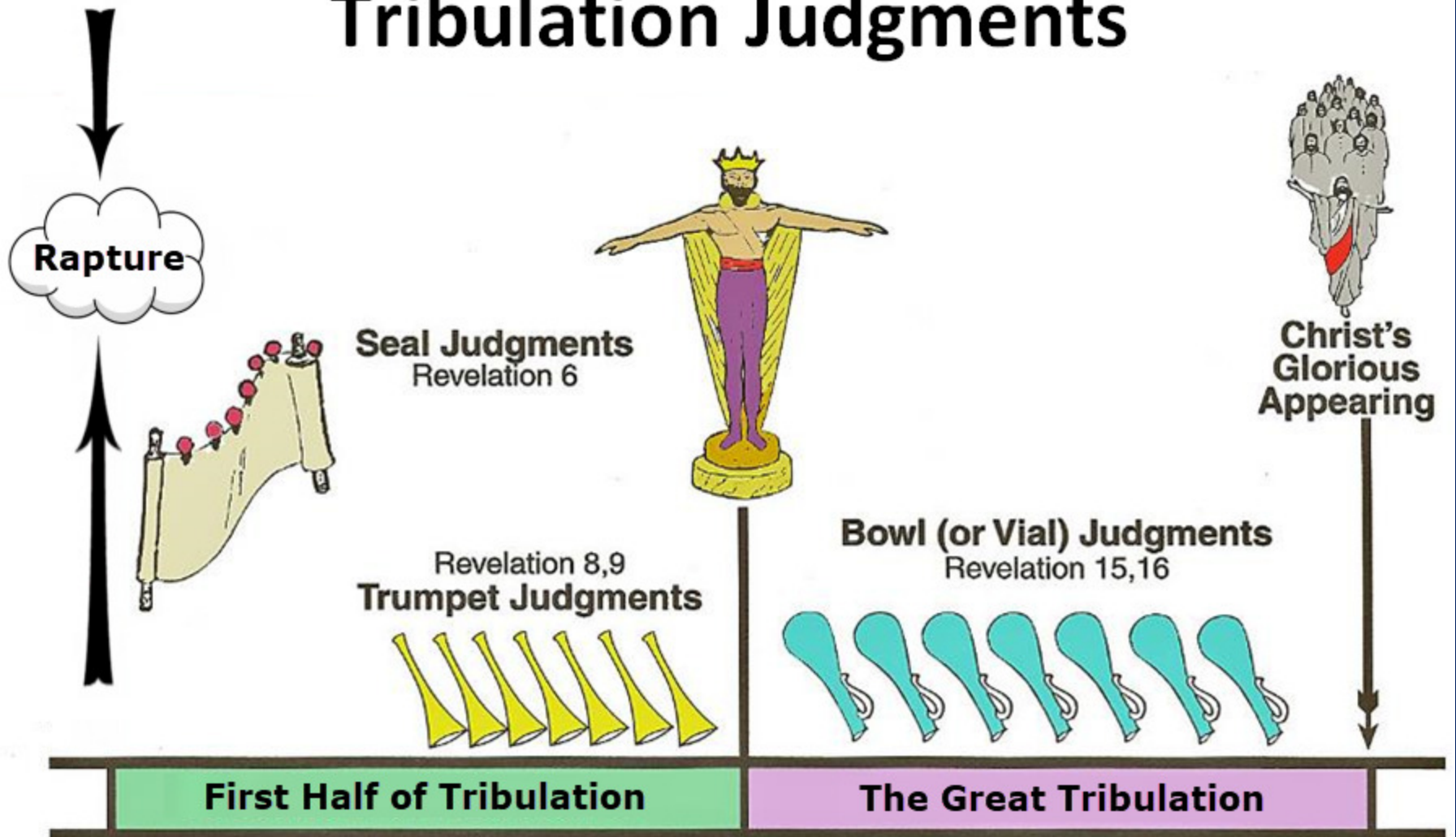


God's Role in Redemption (Rev 5)

- Seven sealed scroll (5:1)
- John weeps (5:2-4)
- Christ is qualified to open the scroll (5:5-6)
- Christ takes the scroll (5:7)
- Christ praised by various entities (5:8-14)



Tribulation Judgments



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Revelation 6:16-17

“¹⁶ and they said to the mountains and to the rocks, ‘Fall on us and hide us from the presence of Him who sits on the throne, and from the wrath [orgē] of the Lamb; ¹⁷ for the great day of their wrath [orgē] has come, and who is able to stand?’”





Rev. 6:16-17

Robert L. Thomas, Revelation 1–7: An Exegetical Commentary, ed.
Kenneth Barker (Chicago: Moody, 1992), 457-58.

"Mankind in his rebellion correctly analyzes the cosmic and terrestrial disturbances as a part of the great end-time day of wrath from the one sitting on the throne and from the Lamb. The verb *ēlethen* ("has come") is aorist indicative, referring to a previous arrival of wrath, not something that is about to take place. Men see the arrival of this day at least as early as the cosmic upheavals that characterize the sixth seal (6:12-14), but upon reflection they probably recognize that it was already in effect with the death of one-fourth of the population (6:7-8), the worldwide famine (6:5-6), and the global warfare (6:3-4). The rapid sequence of all of these events could not escape notice, but the light of their true explanation does not dawn upon human consciousness until the severe phenomena of the sixth seal arrive."

1st Six Seals (Revelation 6)

SEAL 1 – 6:1-2 – Advent of antichrist

SEAL 2 – 6:3-4 – War

SEAL 3 – 6:5-6 – Famine

SEAL 4 – 6:7-8 – Death

SEAL 5 – 6:9-11 – Martyrdoms

SEAL 6 – 6:12-17 – Cosmic disturbances



Revelation 6:16-17

“¹⁶ and they said to the mountains and to the rocks, ‘Fall on us and hide us from the presence of Him who sits on the throne, and from the wrath [orgē] of the Lamb; ¹⁷ for the great day of their wrath [orgē] has come [erchomai], and who is able to stand?’”



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Revelation 3:10

“Because you have kept the word of My perseverance, I also will keep you from the hour [hōra] of testing, that hour which is about to come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.”





Ron Rhodes

The End Times in Chronological Order: A Complete Overview to Understanding Bible Prophecy (Eugene, OR: Harvest, 2012), 50.

“This means the church will go through the time of judgment prophesied in the book of Revelation, but believers will be kept from Satan's wrath during the tribulation (Revelation 3:10). Pretribulationists (such as myself) respond, however, that Revelation 3:10 indicates that believers will be saved out of or separated from (Greek: ek) the actual time period of the tribulation.”



Norman Geisler

Systematic Theology, vol. 4 (Minneapolis, MN: Bethany, 2004), 654.

“In context, the statement about being saved 'out of' (Gk: ek) the time of trial does mean saved from it (not through it). One cannot be saved from an entire hour by being in any part of it.”





Charles Ryrie

What You Should Know About the Rapture, Current Christian Issues (Chicago: Moody, 1981), 116-17.

“However, the promise of Revelation 3:10 not only guarantees being kept from the trials of the Tribulation period but being kept from the time period of the Tribulation. The promise is not, I will keep you from the trials. It is I will keep you from the hour of the trials...But how clear and plain is the promise. ‘I...will keep you from the hour of testing.’ Not just from any persecution, but from the coming time that will affect the whole earth. (The only way to escape worldwide trouble is not to be on the earth.) And not just from the events, but from the time. And the only way to escape the time when the events take place is not to be in a place where time ticks on. The only place that meets those qualifications is heaven.”

Mid-tribulation Rapture Theory

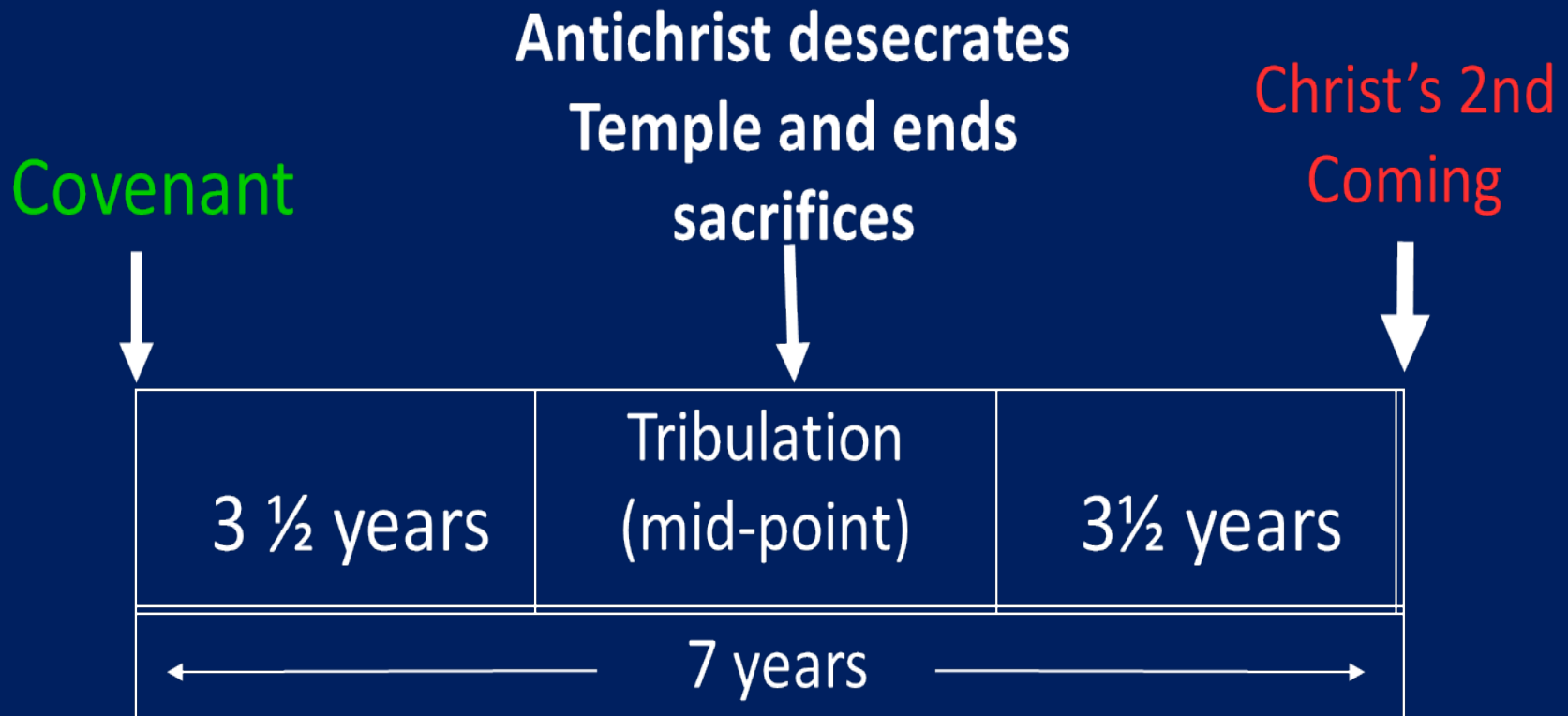
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Revelation 11:12

“And they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, 'Come up here.' Then they went up into heaven in the cloud, and their enemies watched them.”



DAN 9:27 OVERVIEW OF TRIBULATION PERIOD





Norman Geisler

Systematic Theology, vol. 4 (Minneapolis, MN: Bethany, 2004), 650, n. 109.

“The reference to the ‘two witnesses’ being killed and resurrected and taken to heaven (Rev. 11) does not fit midtribulationism because: (1) these are Jewish witnesses symbolized as ‘two olive trees’ (v. 4; cf Zech. 4) able to perform miracles like two great Jewish prophets, Moses and Elijah (vv. 5-6); (2) their work centers around the Jewish ‘temple’ in Jerusalem (vv. 1-2, 8); and most of all, (3) they are taken into heaven near the end of the Tribulation (v.3; cf. 12:6).”

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1 Corinthians 15:52

“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.”

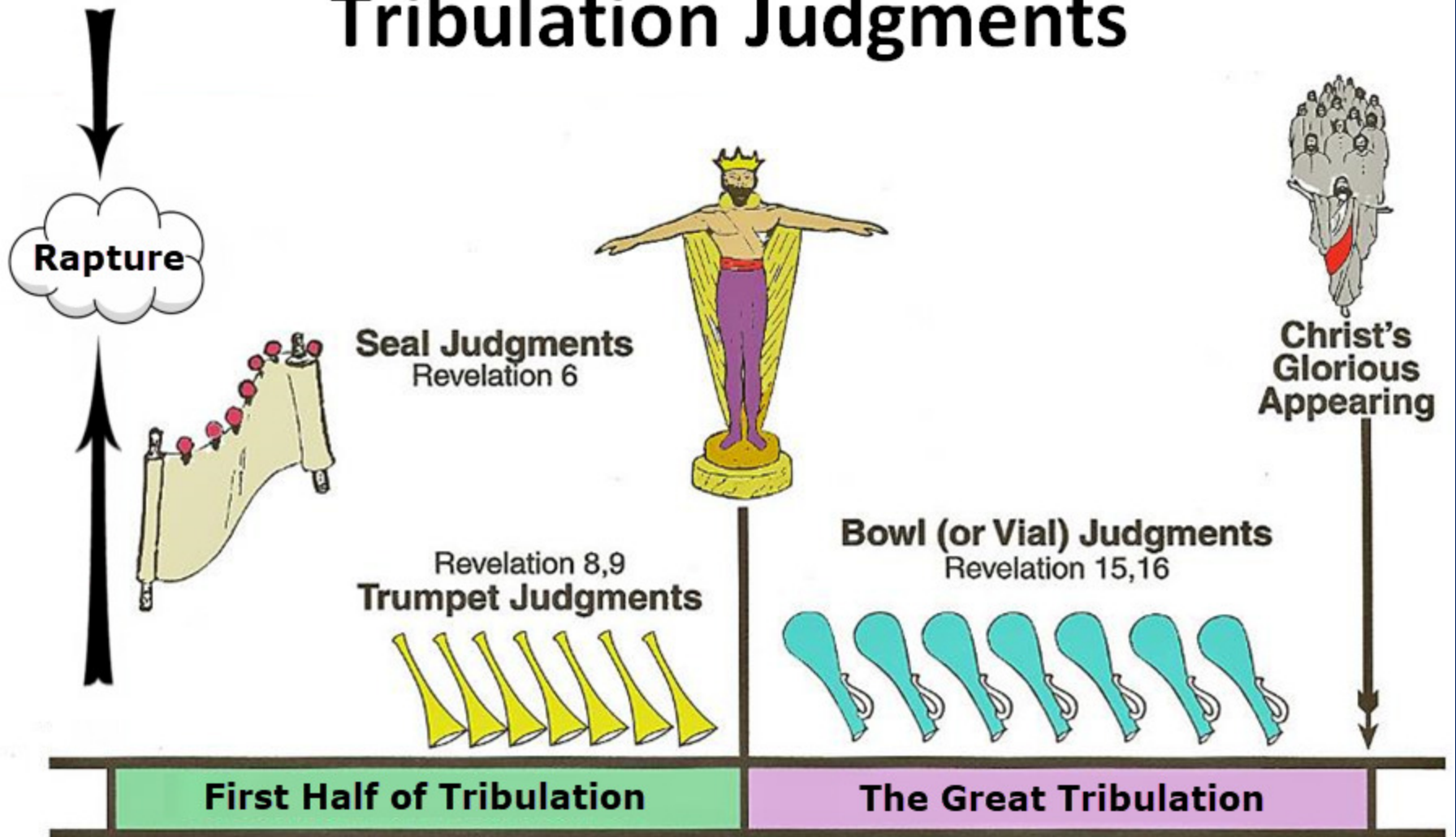


Revelation 11:15

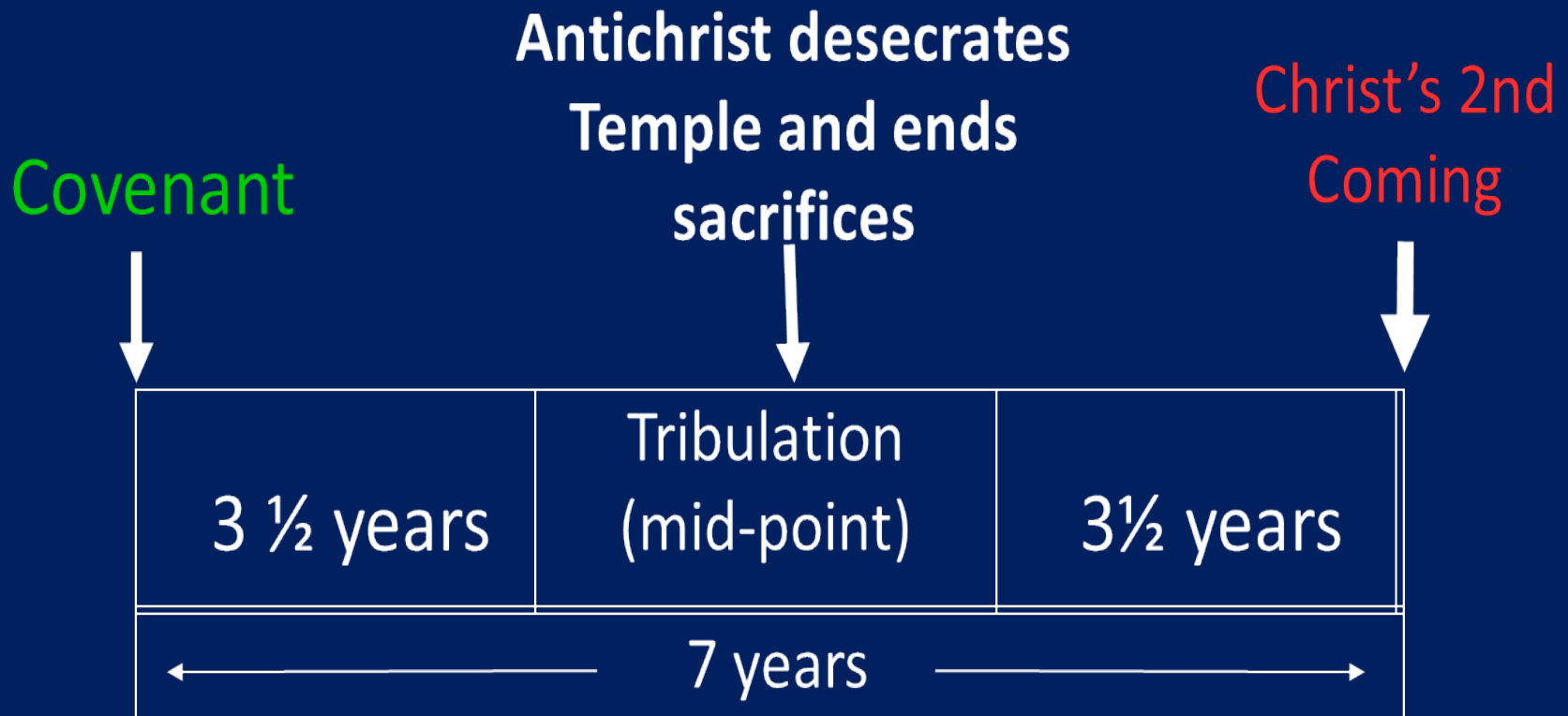
“Then the seventh angel sounded; and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, ‘The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ; and He will reign forever and ever.’”



Tribulation Judgments



DAN 9:27 OVERVIEW OF TRIBULATION PERIOD



3. The Last Trumpet of 1 Cor. 15:52 is found in Rev. 11:15

A. Two different Trumpets

B. 1 Cor. 15:52 = The Church Age's last trumpet

C. Revelation 11:15 is not the last trump



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Last Trump?



1 CORINTHIANS 15:52

- Before wrath
- Trump of God
- Singular trump
- Resurrection
- Glory
- Instantaneous
- Church
- No earthquake
- Announces Millennium
- Last trump of Church Age

REVELATION 11:15

- During wrath
- Angelic trump
- Series of trumps
- No resurrection
- Judgment
- Duration (Rev 10:7)
- Israel/Gentiles
- Earthquake
- Does not announce Millennium
- Last trump of a series

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Matthew 24:31

“And He will send forth His angels with A GREAT TRUMPET and THEY WILL GATHER TOGETHER [*episynagō*] HIS ELECT FROM THE FOUR WINDS, FROM ONE END OF THE SKY TO THE OTHER.”



Isaiah 27:13

“It will come about also in that day that a great trumpet will be blown, and those who were perishing in the land of Assyria and who were scattered in the land of Egypt will come and worship the LORD in the holy mountain at Jerusalem.”

RESTORATION
IS COMING!



Conclusion

When Will the Rapture Take Place Relative to the Tribulation Period?

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- **Mid-tribulation rapture theory**
- Post-tribulation rapture theory
- Pre-wrath rapture theory
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