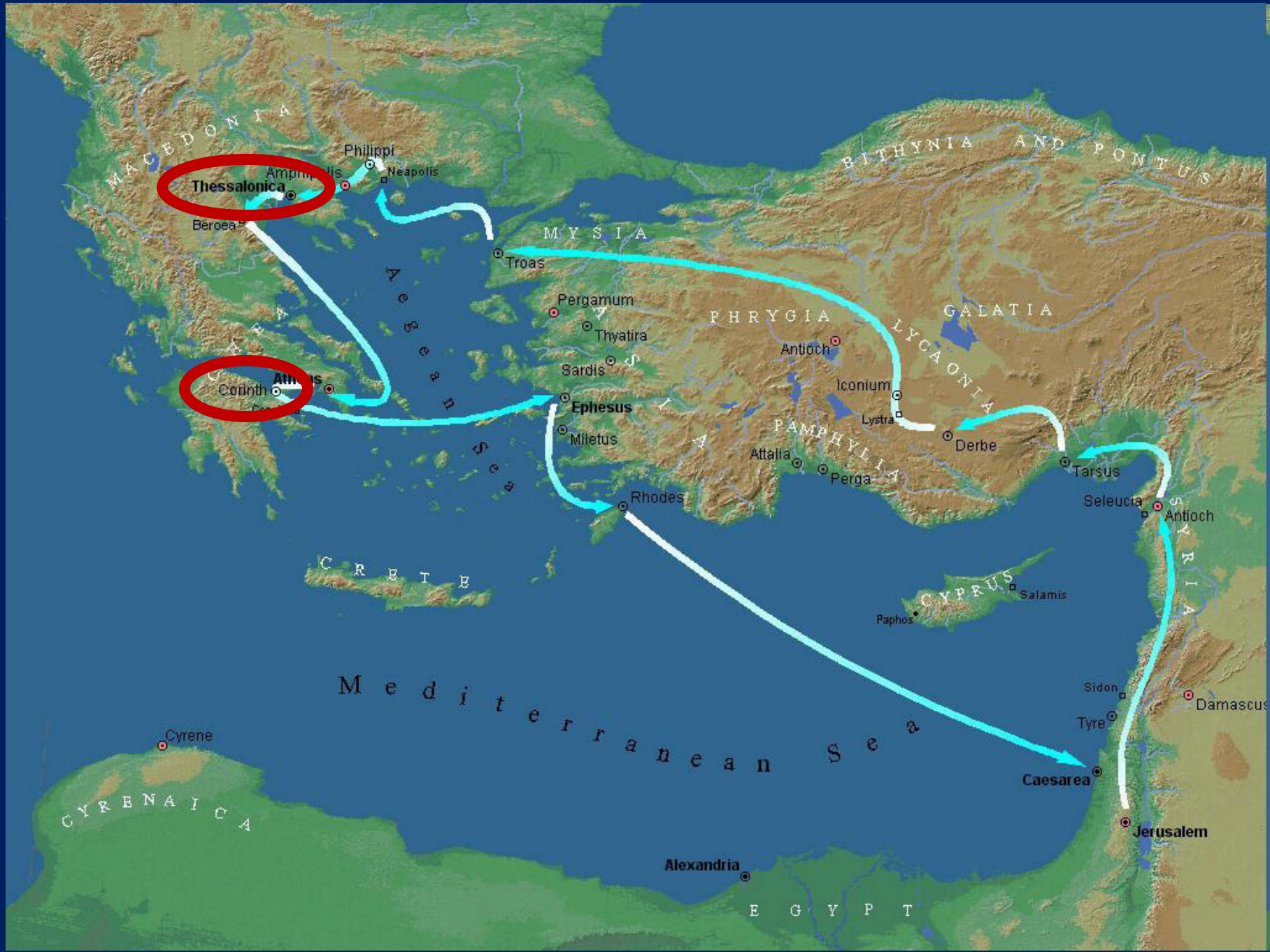


# 2 Thessalonians 2:3a- Apostasy or Rapture?



*By Dr. Andy Woods*



Thessalonica

Athens

MYSIA

PHRYGIA

GALATIA

CYPRUS

Mediterranean Sea

Alexandria

EGYPT

# 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12

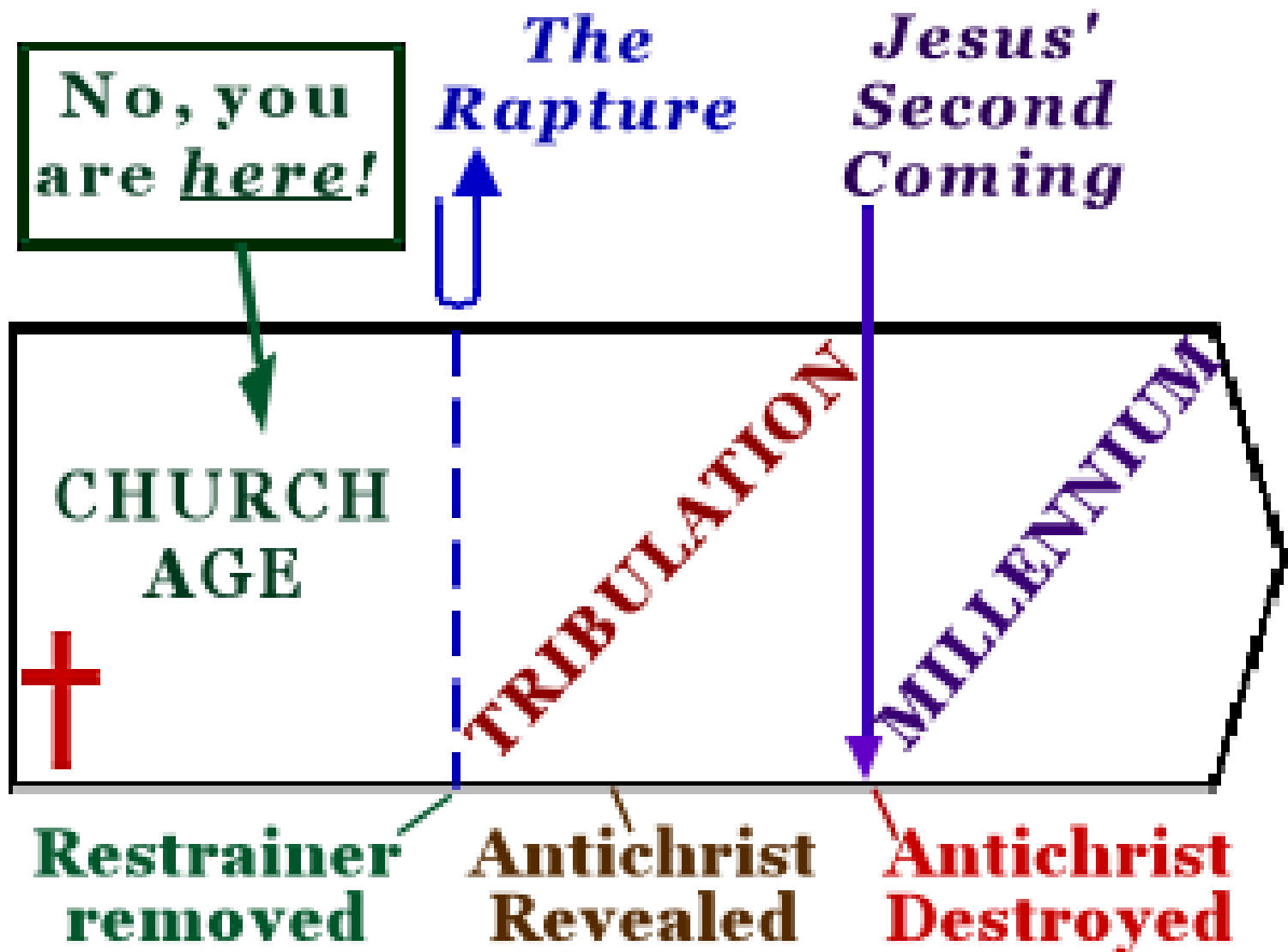


## ■ Problem (2:1-2)

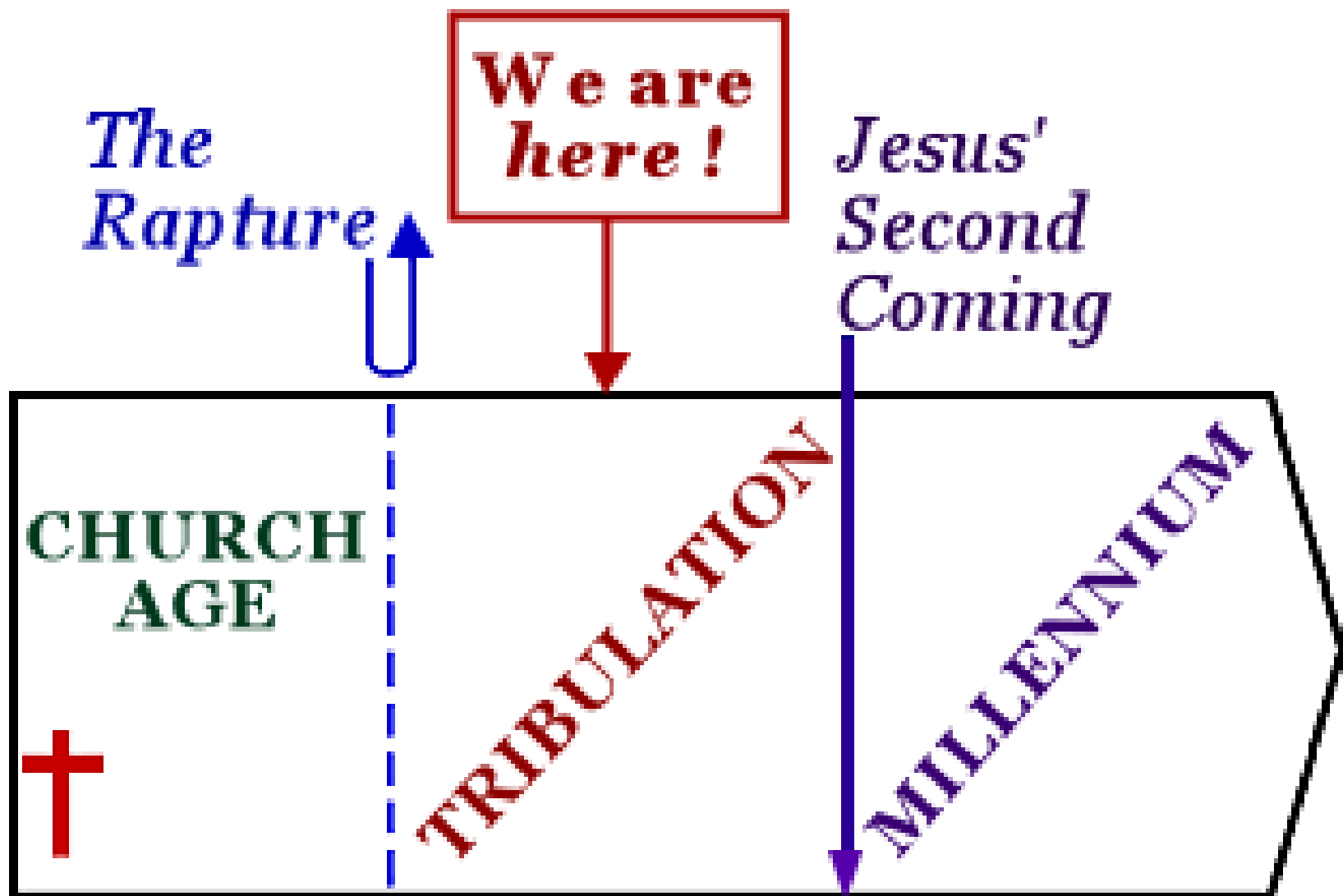
## ■ Prerequisites for the Day of the Lord (2:3-12)

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# Paul's Correction of their Error



# The Thessalonians' False Idea



# 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12



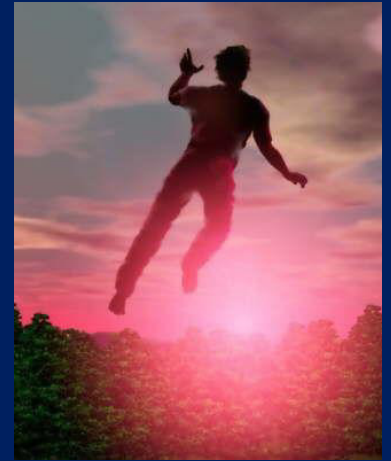
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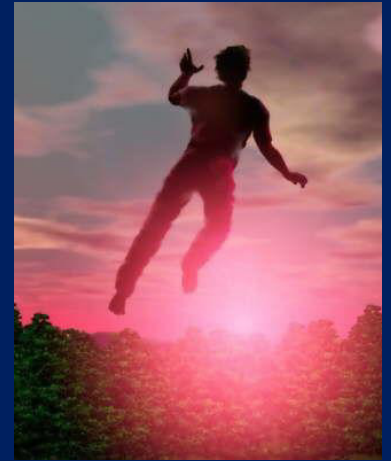
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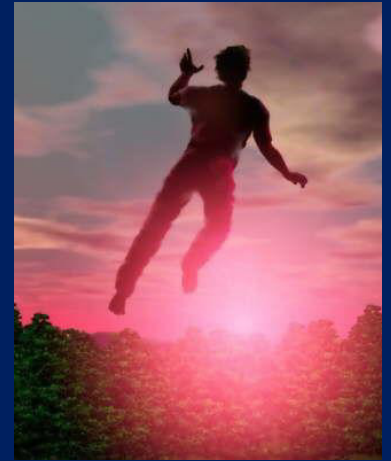


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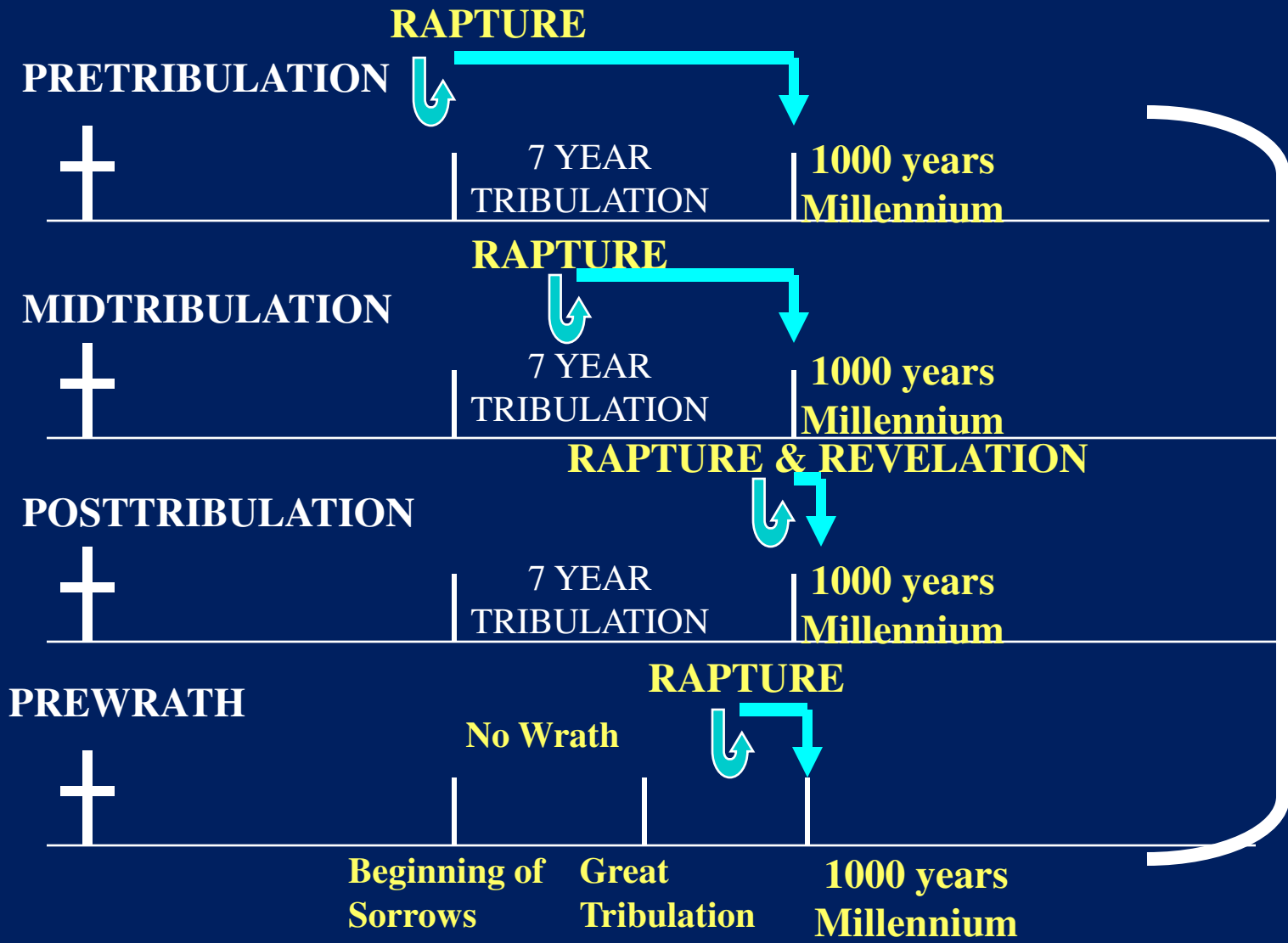


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# When Will the Rapture Take Place Relative to the Tribulation Period?

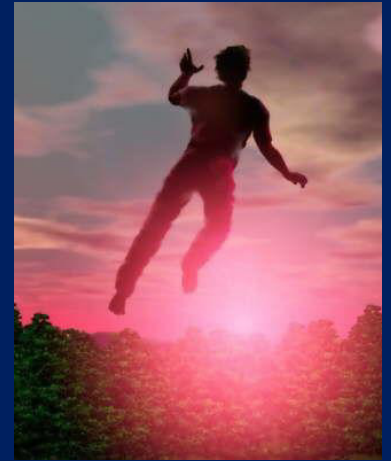
- Pre-tribulation rapture theory
- Mid-tribulation rapture theory
- Post-tribulation rapture theory
- Pre-wrath rapture theory
- Partial rapture theory

# RAPTURE VIEW COMPARISON



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# Apostasy? (2:3a)



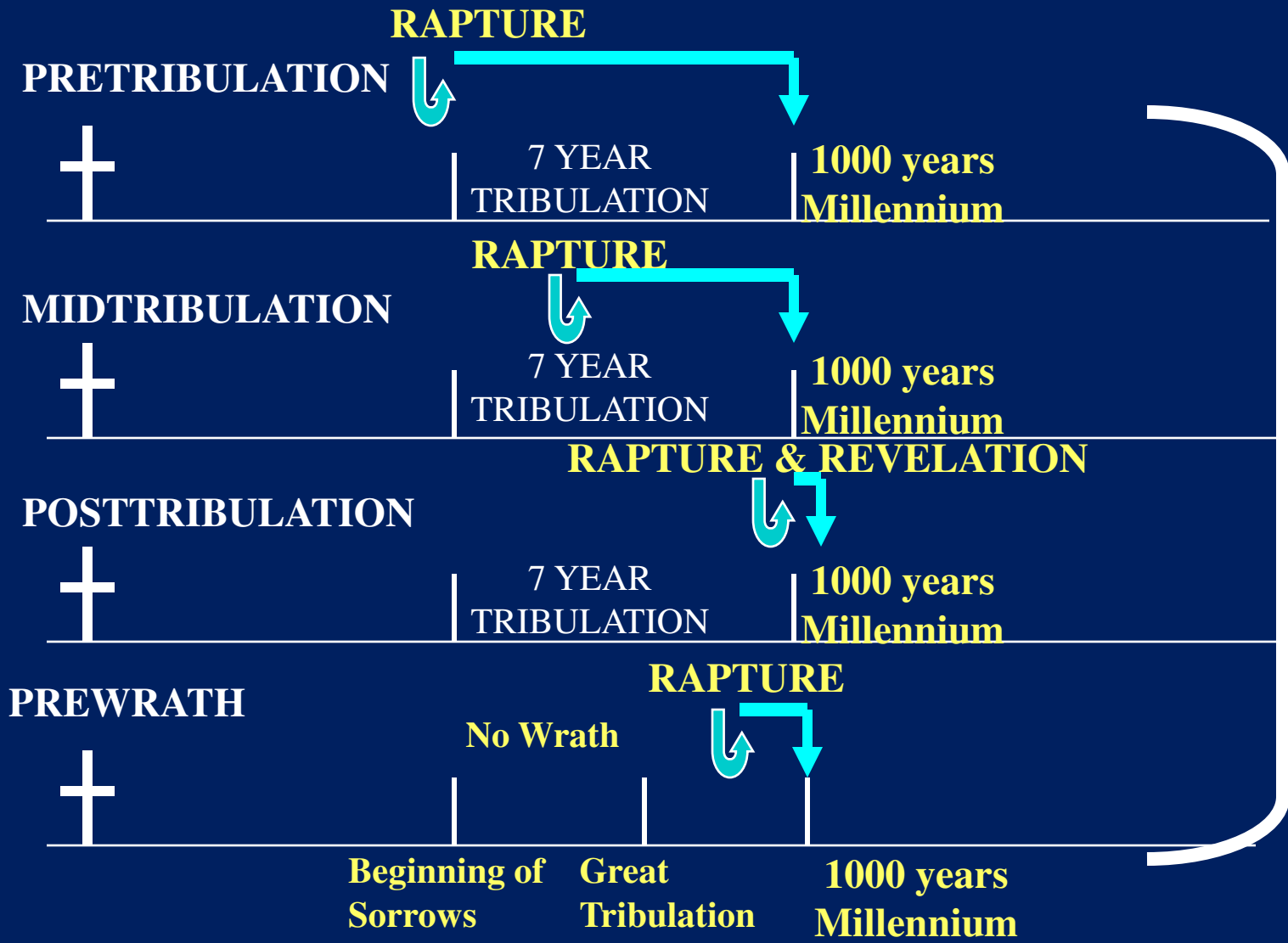
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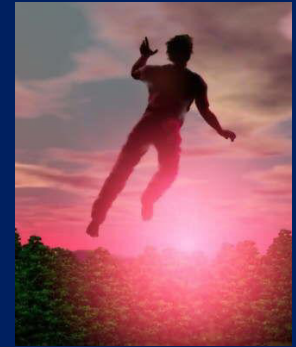


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# 10 Reasons Favoring Physical Departure

I. There have always been doctrinal departures

II. 2 Thess. was an early letter



III. The definite article before *apostasia*

IV. Noun *apostasia* can refer to physical departure

V. Verb *aphistēmi* can refer to physical departure

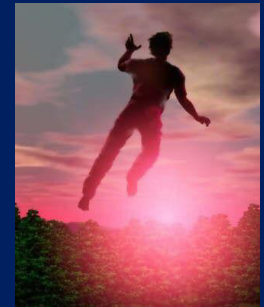


# 10 Reasons Favoring Physical Departure

VI. Extended context favors physical departure

VII. Immediate context favors physical departure

VIII. 2 Thess. 2:2 is a review course



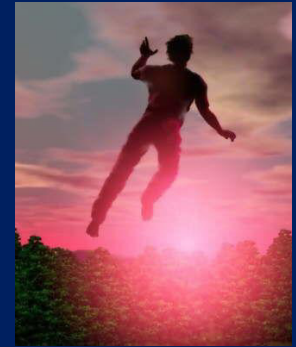
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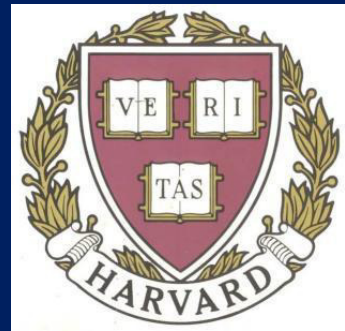


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# Harvard University

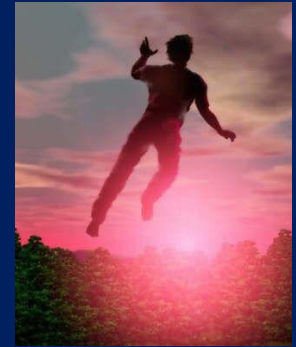


“Let every student be plainly instructed and earnestly pressed to consider well the main end of his life and studies is to know God and Jesus Christ which is eternal life (John 17:3) and therefore to lay Christ in the bottom as the only foundation of all sound knowledge and learning. And seeing the Lord only giveth wisdom, let everyone seriously set himself by prayer in secret to seek it of Him (Prov. 2, 3). Everyone shall exercise himself in reading the Scriptures twice a day that he shall be ready to give such an account of his proficiency therein.”

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# Order of Paul's Letters

1. Galatians (A.D. 49)
2. 1–2 Thessalonians (A.D. 51)
3. 1–2 Corinthians (A.D. 56)
4. Romans (A.D. 57)
5. Ephesians, Colossians, Philemon, Philippians (A.D. 60–62)
6. 1 Timothy, Titus (A.D. 62–66)
7. 2 Timothy (A.D. 67)



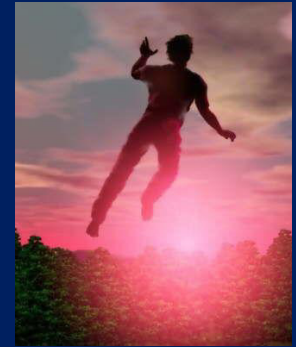
# Unique Characteristics of 1–2 Thessalonians

- Every chapter ends with a reference to the Second Advent
- Small amount of time in between planting of the church and the first letter to the church

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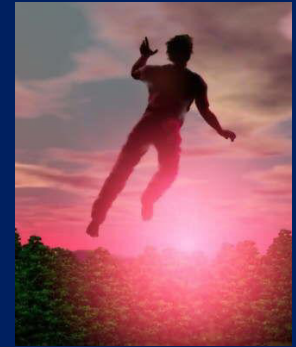
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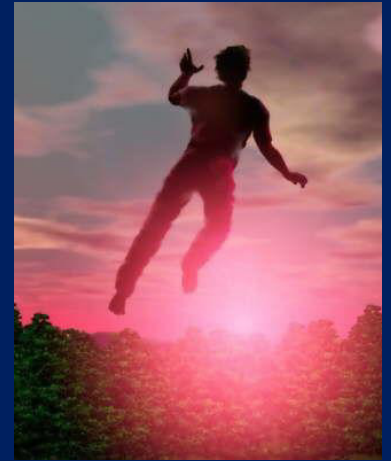
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# Entries for *Apostasia* in Liddell & Scott

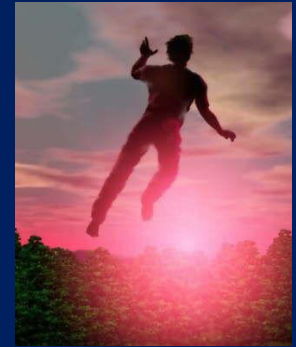
- Rebellion against God
- Apostasy
- Departure
- Disappearance
- Distance



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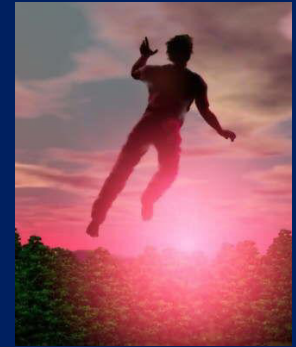


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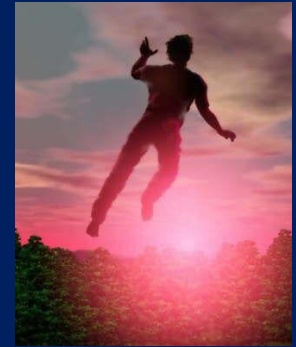
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# New Testament Meanings of *Aphistēmi*



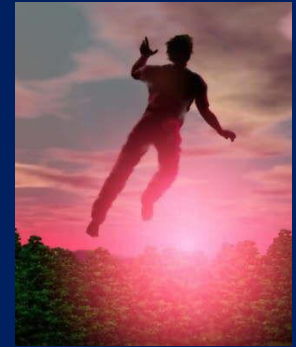
- 15 New Testament uses
- Spiritual departure-Luke 8:13; 1 Tim. 4:1; Heb. 3:12
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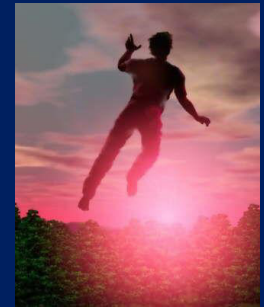
I ran out of ingredients for the salad, so I decided to make a quick run down to the store. While at the store, I left the car engine running while I made my purchase, thinking that I would be right out again. However, while I was in the store, I ran into my good friend Edward who was running for county supervisor. This resulted in my having to endure a somewhat long-winded rundown on how his campaign was running. Finally, fearing that my car would run out of gas, I ran with great haste out to the parking lot and returned home with the car surely running only on fumes.

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**VII. Immediate context favors physical departure**

**VIII. 2 Thess. 2:2 is a review course**



**IX. Early Bible translations favor physical departure**

**X. Physical departure is held by credible scholars**



# Unique Characteristics of 1 Thessalonians

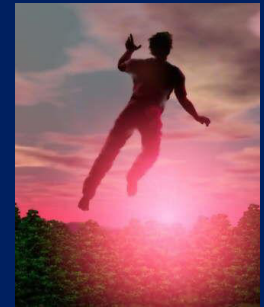
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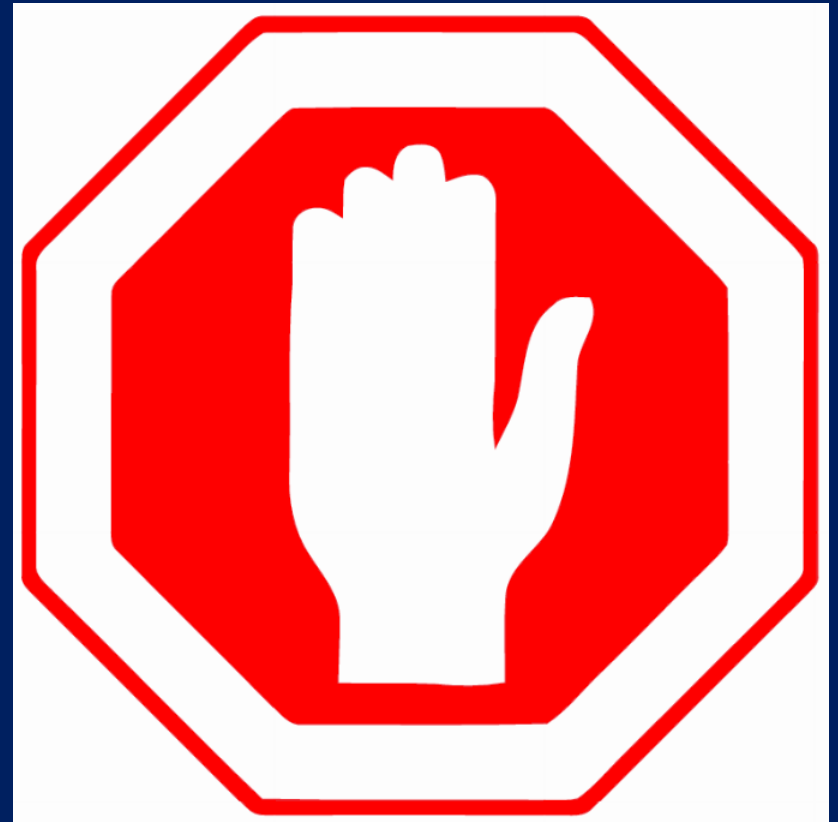
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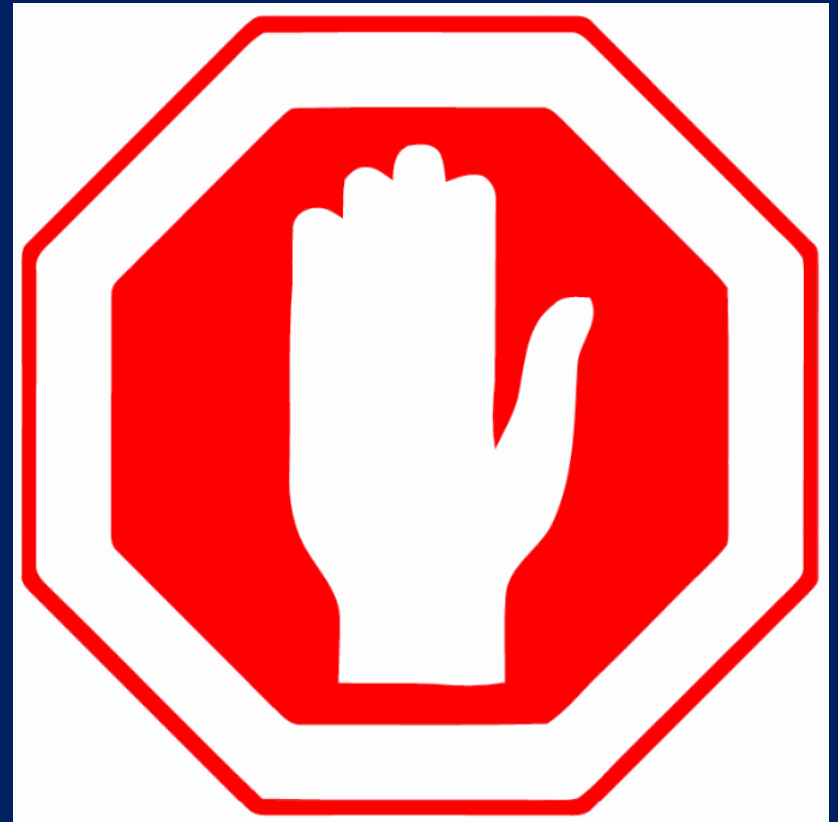
# Restrainer? (2:6-7)

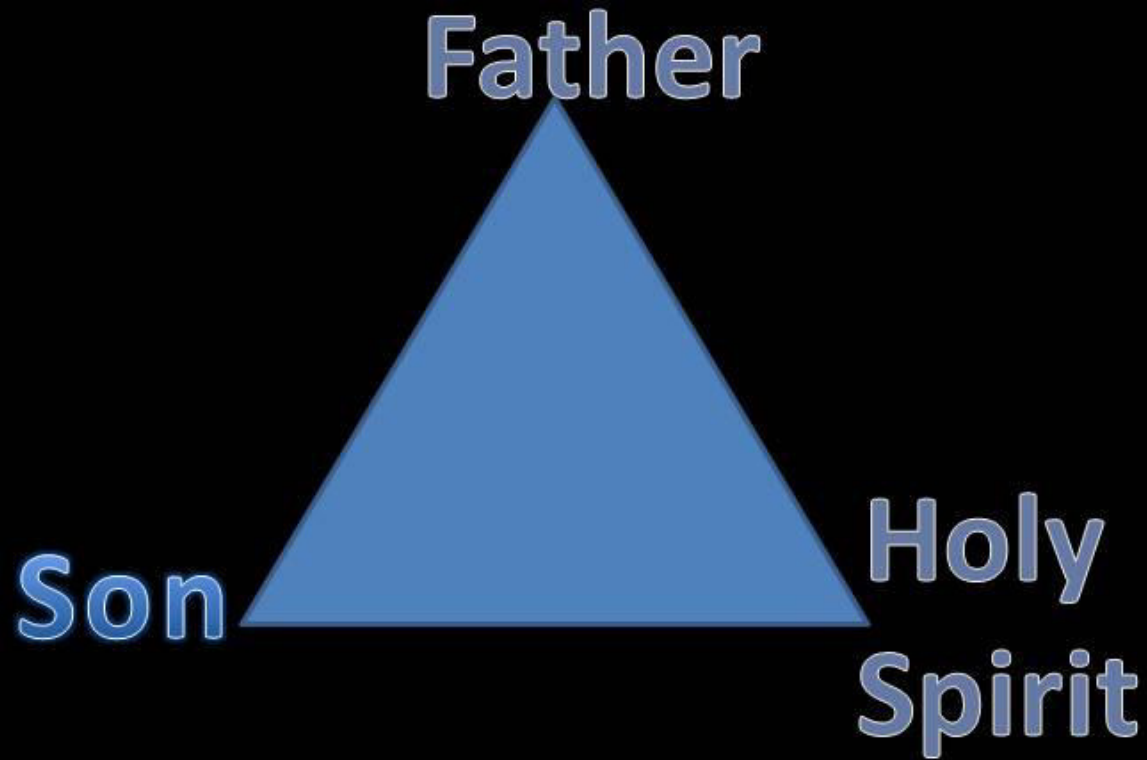
- Rome?
- Satan?
- Government?
- Michael?
- Spirit?



# Restrainer? (2:6-7)

- Rome?
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- Michael?
- Spirit?





# Three Reasons Why the Restrainer is the Holy Spirit (2 Thessalonians 2:6-7)

- The Holy Spirit is omnipotent



- The Holy Spirit view handles well the switch in gender from the neuter (vs. 6) to the masculine (vs. 7)
- The Holy Spirit is active in the world (Gen. 6:3; John 16:7-11)

# Restrainer Must First be Removed

- Restrainer holds back the Antichrist (2 Thess 2:6-7)
- Restrainer = the omnipotent Holy Spirit (2 Thess 2:9)
- Holy Spirit permanently indwells all Christians (John 14:16; Rom 8:9)
- Spirit indwelt Christians must first be removed prior to the Antichrist's advent

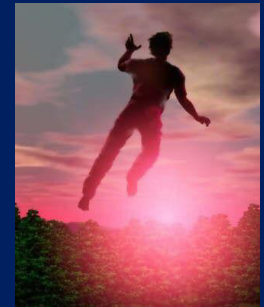


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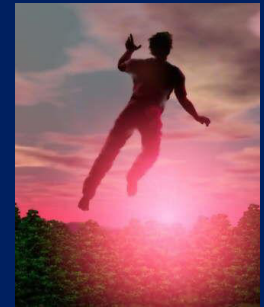
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# “Departing First” or “Falling Away”

Year	Bible	Translation
1384	Wycliffe Bible	Departynge First
1526	Tyndale Bible	Departynge First
1535	Coverdale Bible	Departynge First
1539	Crammer Bible	Departing First
1576	Breeches Bible	Departing First
1583	Beeza Bible	Departing First
1608	Geneva Bible	Departing First
1611	King James V.	Falling Away

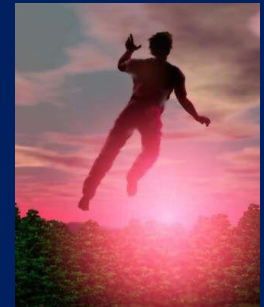
House, *When the Trumpet Sounds*, p. 270.

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- E. Schuyler English
- J. Dwight Pentecost
- H. Wayne House
- Stanley Ellison
- Allen McRae
- Gordon Lewis
- Tim LaHaye
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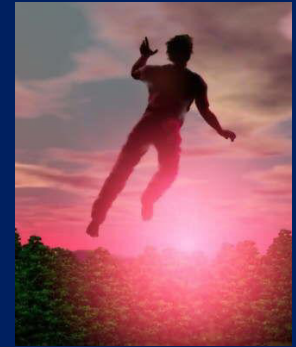


Conclusion

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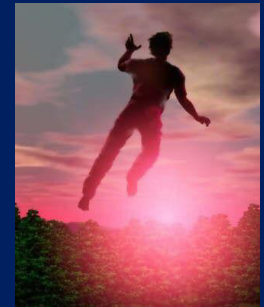


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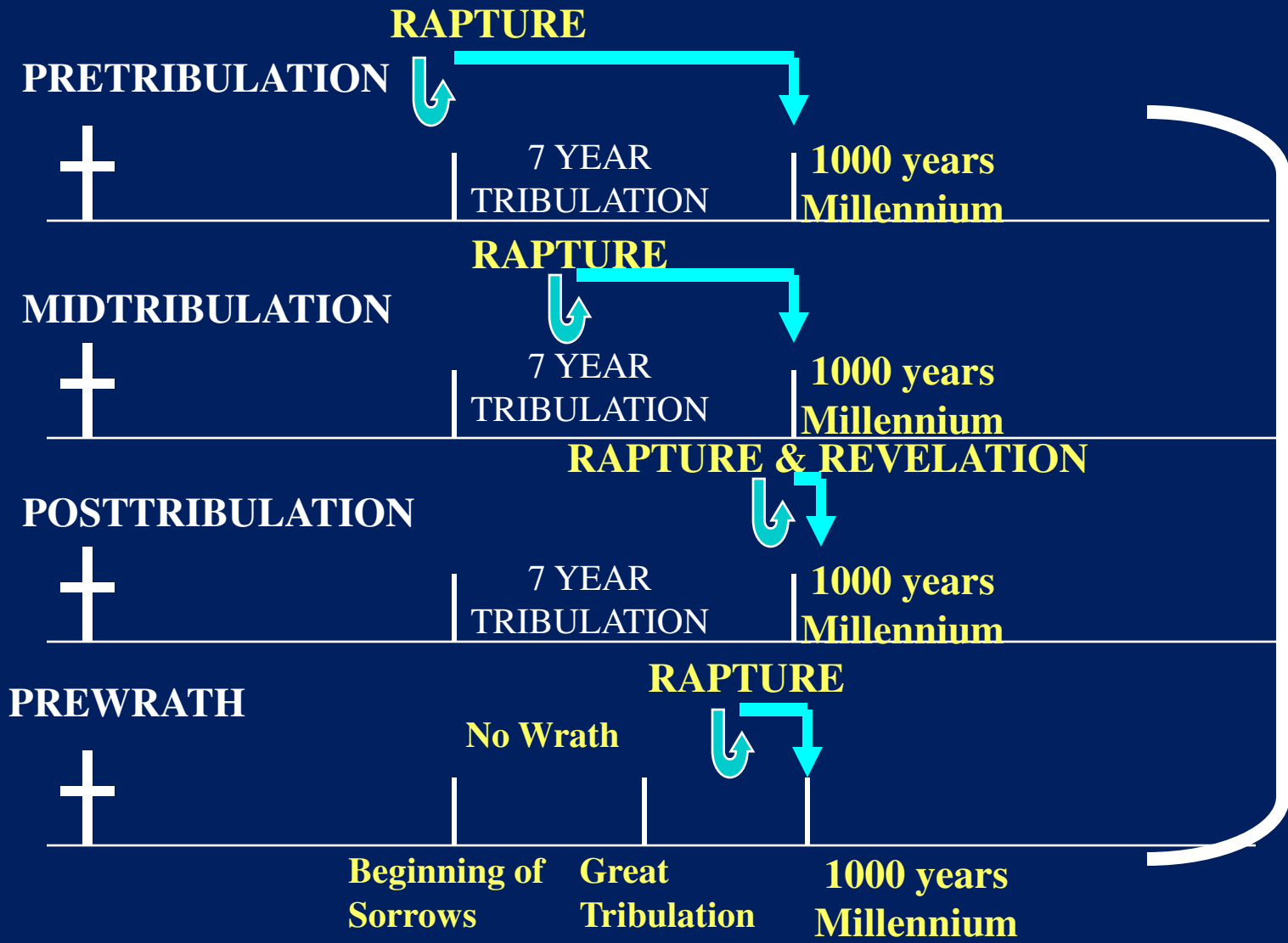
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# Pretribulationism is not Escapism

- Trials (John 16:33)
- Man's wrath (2 Tim 3:12)
- Satan's wrath (Eph 6:11-12)
- World's wrath (John 15:18-19)

