



1 Thessalonians

LIVING FOR CHRIST'S SOON RETURN



Dr. Andy Woods

Senior Pastor – Sugar Land Bible Church

President – Chafer Theological Seminary



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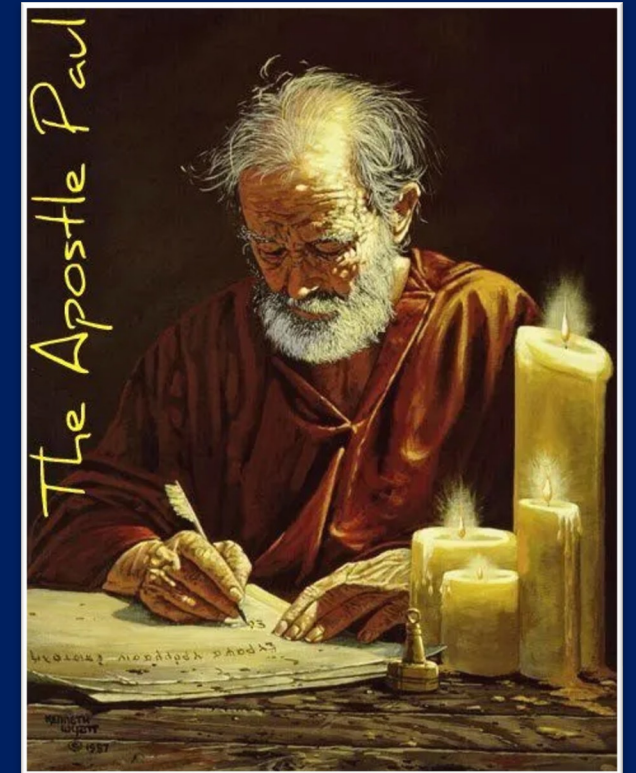
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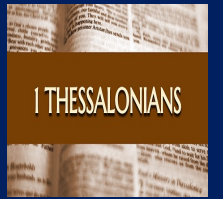
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Structure

1 THESSALONIANS 1-3	1 THESSALONIANS 4-5
■ Personal Experience	■ Practical Exhortation
■ Looking Back	■ Looking Forward



Structure



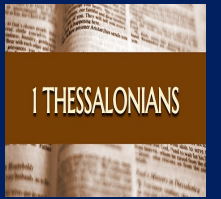
■ Personal (1–3)

- ◆ Genuine conversion (1)
- ◆ Impure motives (2:1-16)
- ◆ Lack of concern (2:17–3:13)

■ Practical (4–5)

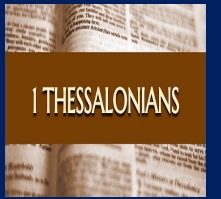
- ◆ Immorality (4:1-8)
- ◆ Laziness (4:9-12)
- ◆ Eschatology (4:13–5:11)
- ◆ Ministry imbalances (5:12-15)
- ◆ Progressive sanctification (5:16-28)

Christian Living (4:1-12)



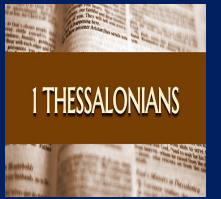
- General conduct (4:1-2)
- Negative command: sexual sin (4:3-8)
- Positive command: brotherly love (4:9-12)

Positive Command (4:9-12)



- I. General Command to love (4:9-10)
- II. Specifics on how to love (4:11)
- III. Results (4:12)

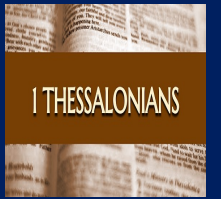
II. Specifics on how to Love (4:11)



- A. Aspiration (11a)
- B. Quiet life (11b)
- C. Mind your own business (11c)
- D. Work with your hands (11d)
- E. Apostolic authority (11e)



Positive Command (4:9-12)



- I. General Command to love (4:9-10)
- II. Specifics on how to love (4:11)
- III. Results (4:12)

III. Results (4:12)



- A. Proper testimony to unbelievers (12a)
- B. Lack of need (12b)

III. Results (4:12)



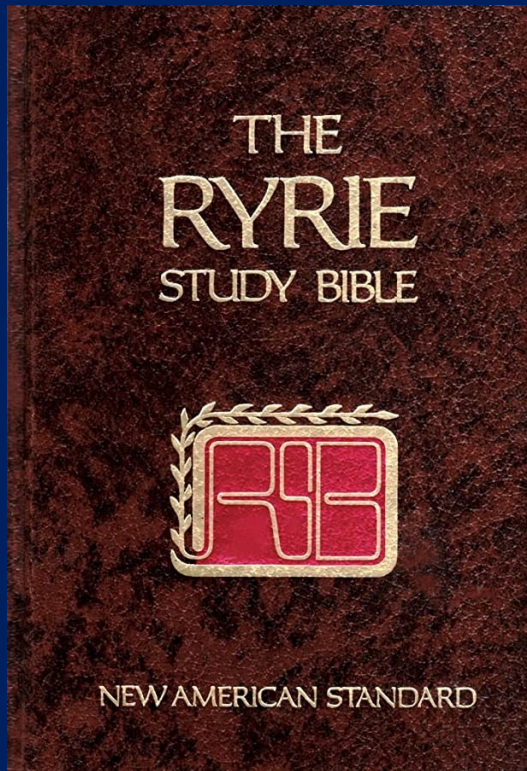
A. Proper testimony to unbelievers (12a)

B. Lack of need (12b)



Charles Ryrie

Ryrie Study Bible, page 1485



1 Thessalonians 4:12 (RSB:NASB1995U): 4:12
outsiders. I.e., non-Christians.”

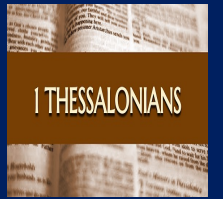
III. Results (4:12)



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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. ¹⁶ For the Lord Himself will descend from . . .

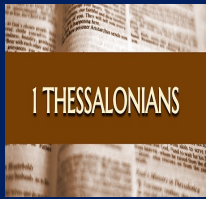


1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

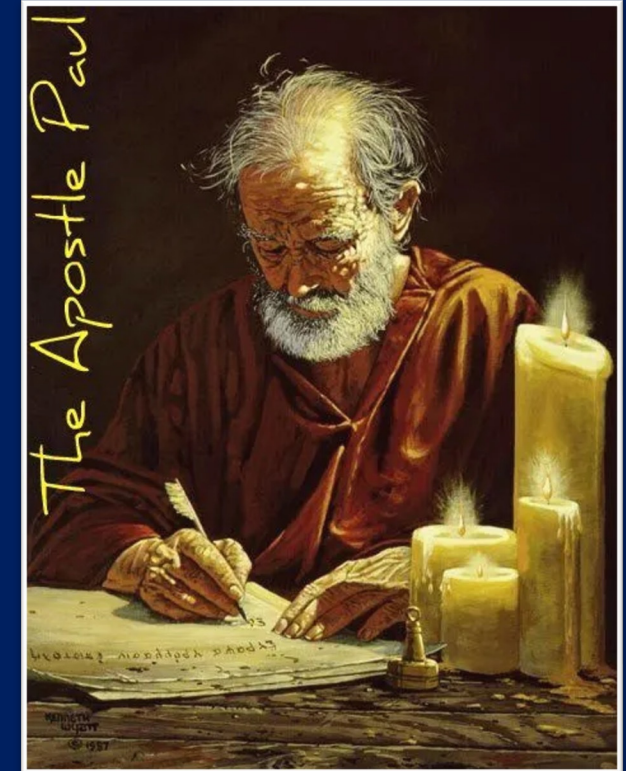
...heaven with a shout, with the voice of *the* archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.
¹⁷ Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord. ¹⁸ Therefore comfort one another with these words."



Unique Characteristics



- 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



2 Thessalonians 2:5

“Do you not remember that while I was still with you, I was telling you these things?”



1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

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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)



1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

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¹⁷ Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up (*harpazō*) 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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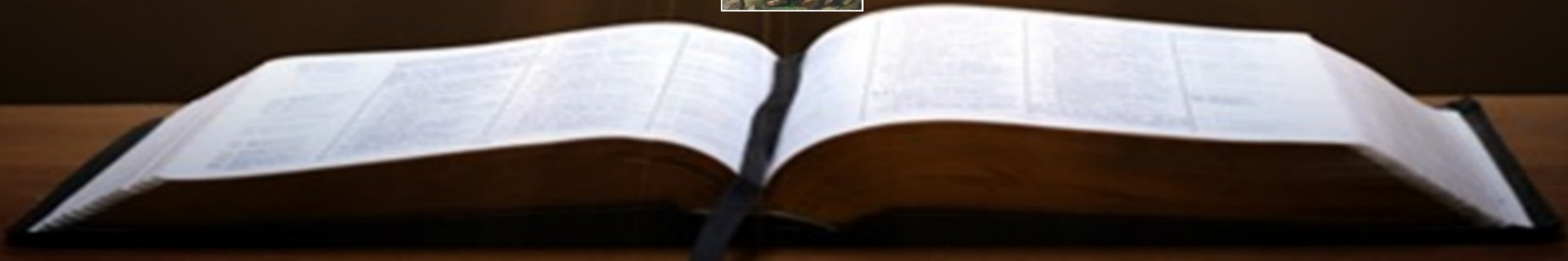
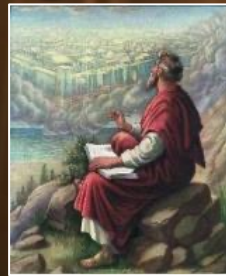
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John 14:1–4

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. ⁴ And you know the way where I am going.”



Parallels

JOHN 14:1-4

1 THESS 4:13-18

trouble (1)

sorrow (13)

Believe (1)

believe (14)

God, me (1)

Jesus, God (14)

told you (2)

say to you (15)

come again (3)

coming of the Lord (15)

receive, you (3)

caught up (17)

to myself (3)

to meet the Lord (17)

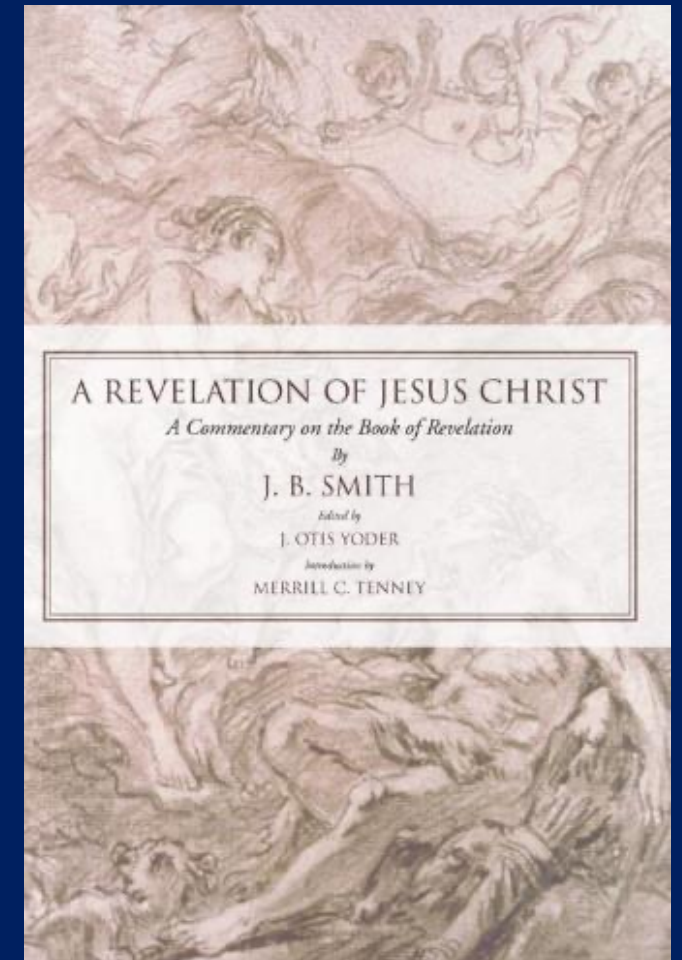
be where I am (3)

ever be with the Lord (17)

J. B. Smith

A Revelation of Jesus Christ: A Commentary on the Book of Revelation (Scottsdale, PA: Herald Press, 1961), pp. 312-13.

“The words or phrases are almost an exact parallel. They follow one another in both passages in exactly the same order. Only the righteous are dealt with in each case. There is not a single irregularity in the progression of words from first to last. Either column takes the believer from the troubles of earth to the glories of heaven.”



1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

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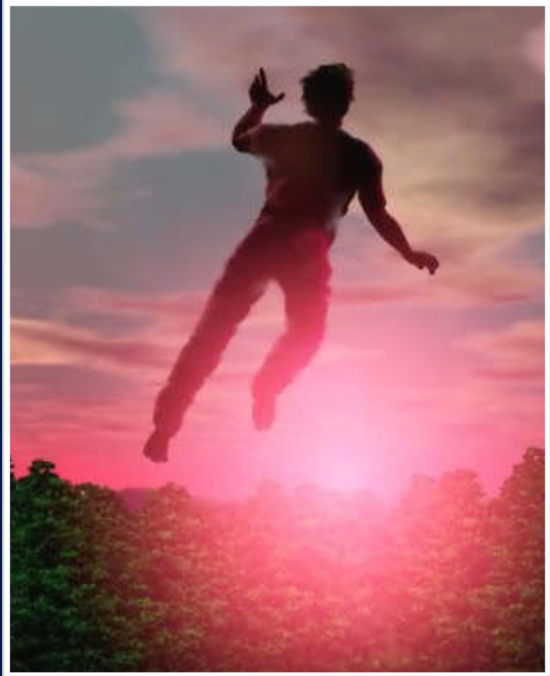
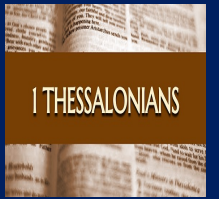
¹⁷ Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up (*harpazō*) together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord.

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Catching Away of All Living Believers

(1 Thess. 4:17)



- *Harpazo* = seized or caught up by force
- *Harpazo* (Greek) = *rapere* (Latin) = rapture (English)

RAPTURE DISTINCT FROM SECOND ADVENT

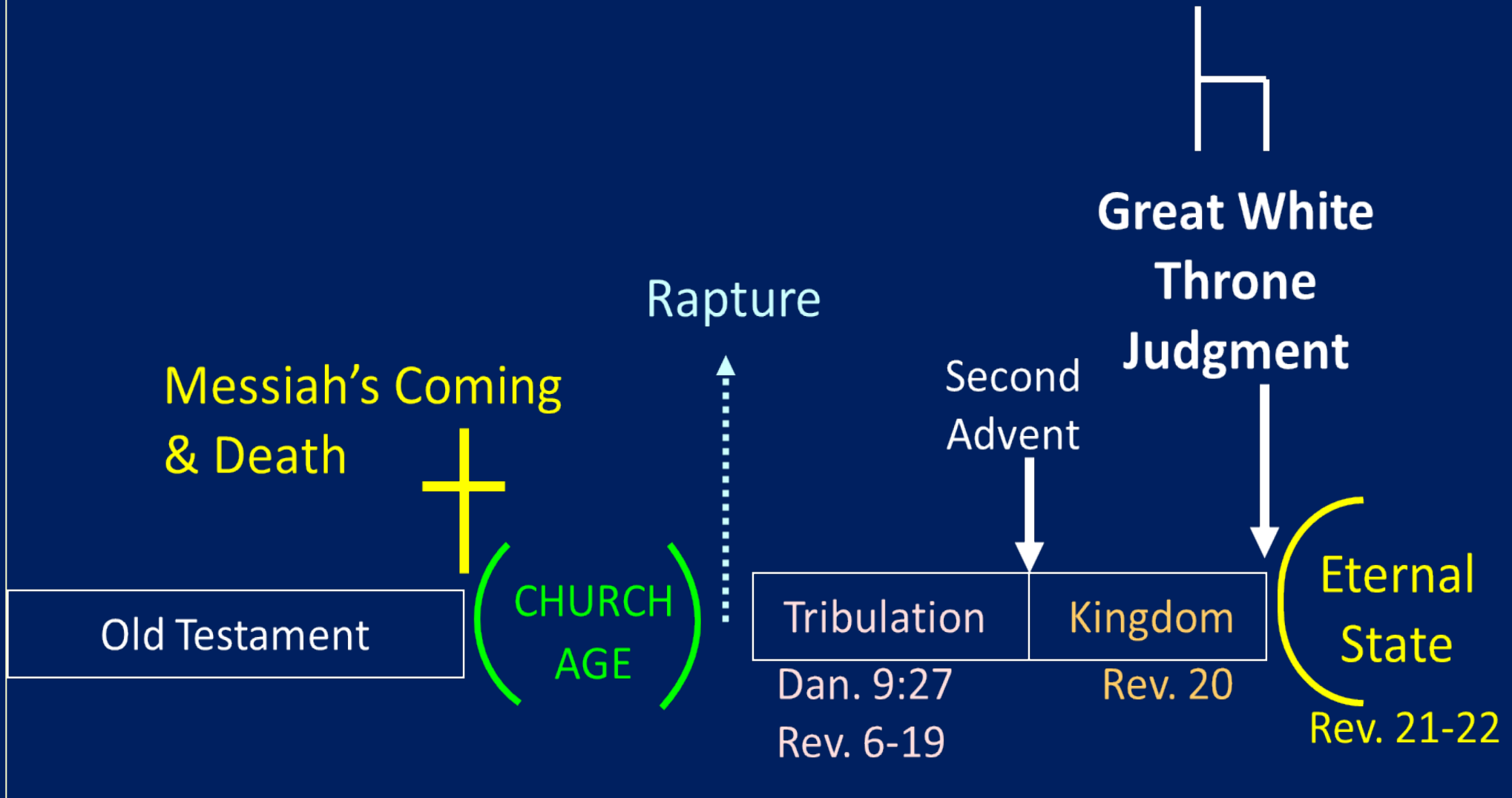
RAPTURE (1 Thess 4:13-17; 1 Cor 15:51-57)	SECOND COMING (Rev 19:11-16)
Christ comes in the air (1 Thess 4:16)	Christ comes to the earth (Zech 14:4)
For His saints (1 Thess 4:15-17)	With His saints (Rev 19:14)
Blessing (1 Thess 4:18)	Judgment (Rev 19:15)
Effects only believers (1 Thess 4:16)	Effects both believers and unbelievers (Rev 19:15)
Invisible (1 Thess 4:16)	Visible to all (Rev 1:7)
Announced only by an archangel (1 Thess 4:16)	Involves myriads of angels (Jude 14)
Resurrection (1 Cor 15: 51)	No resurrection
Rescue of the church (1 Thess 1:10)	Rescue of Israel (Matt 23:37-39)

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

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Prophecy Panorama

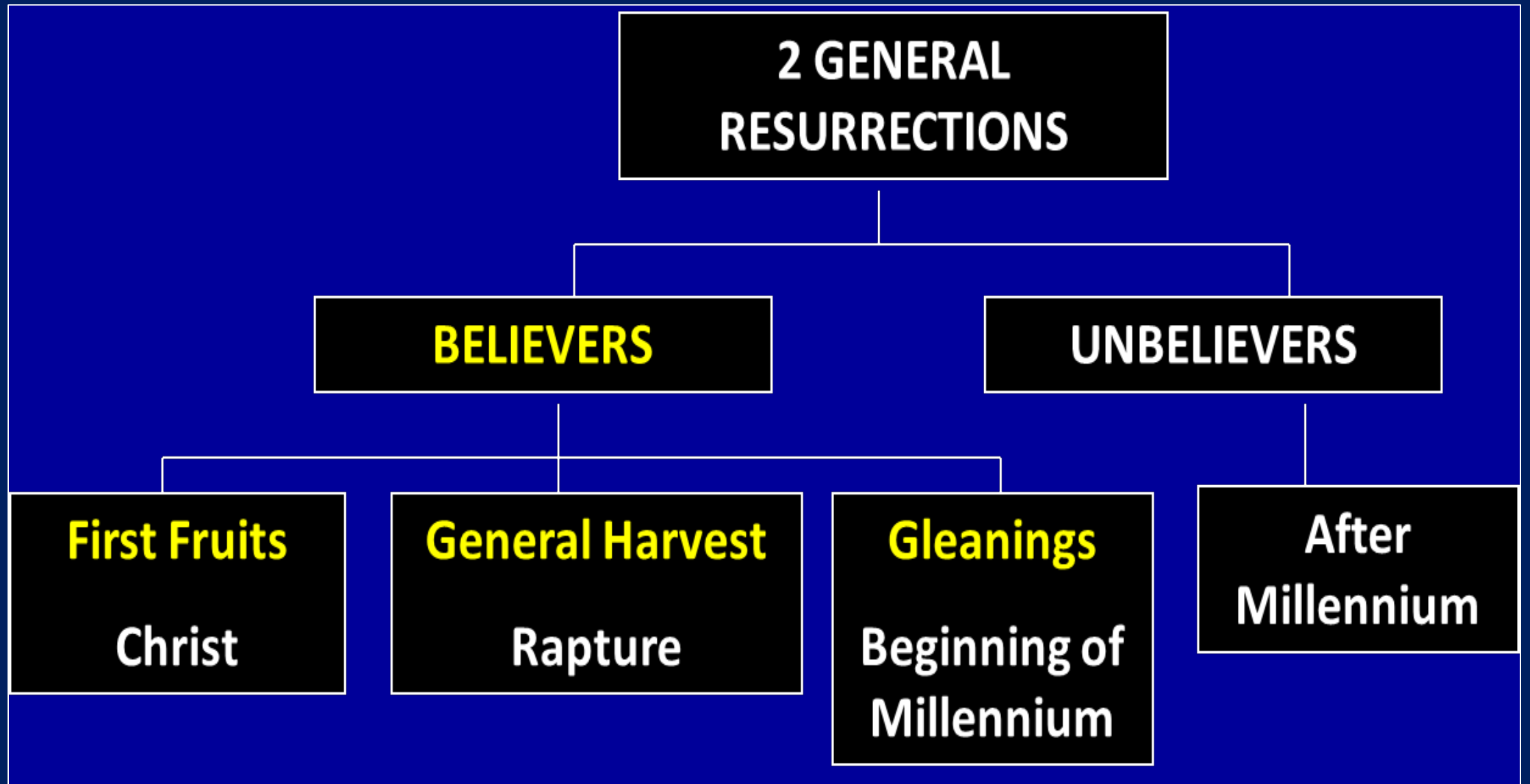


Revelation 20:4-6

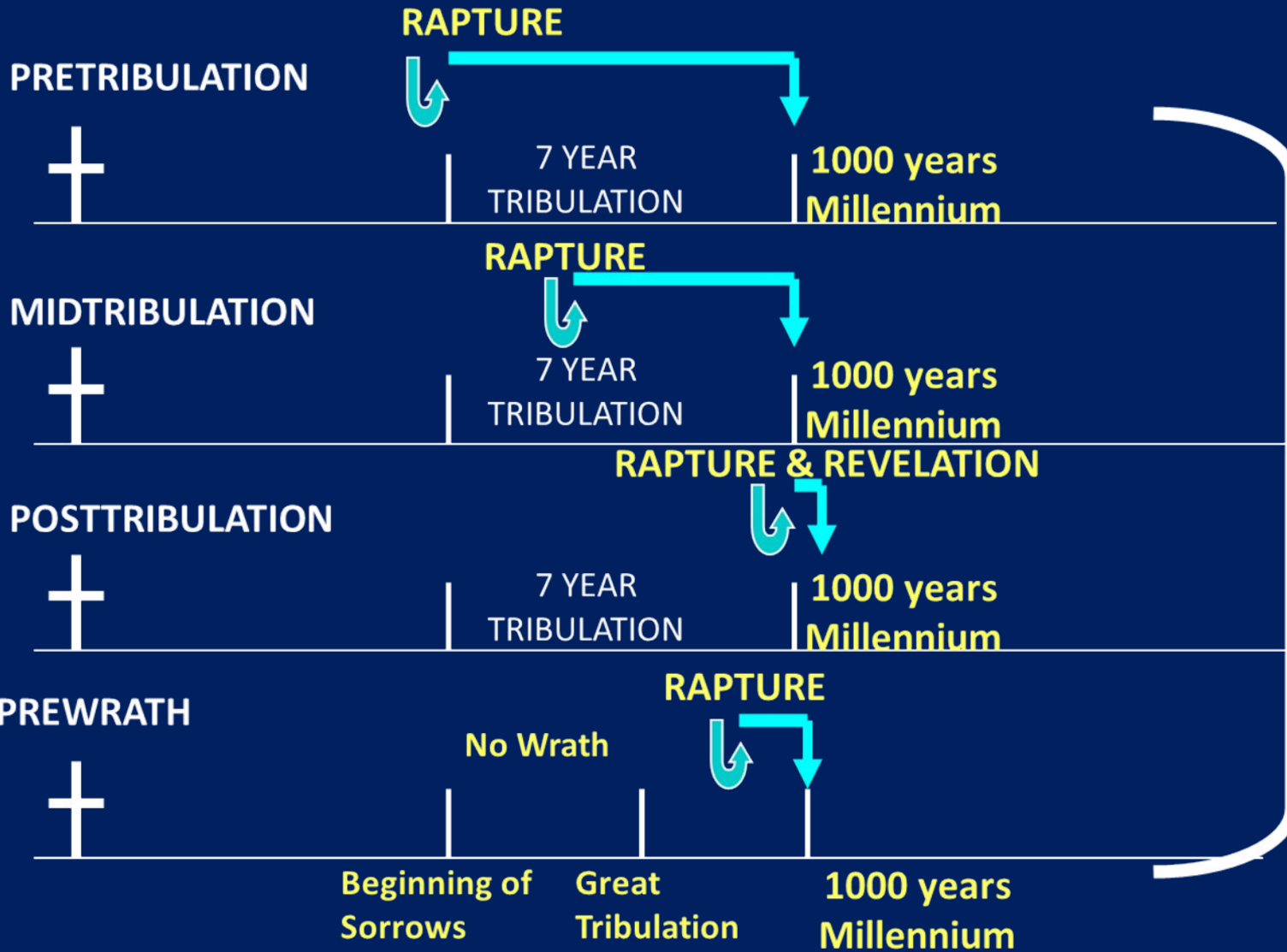
...⁵ The rest of the dead did not come to life [zaō] until the thousand years were completed. This is the first resurrection [anastasis]. ⁶ Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection [anastasis]; over these the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years.”



God's Resurrection Program



RAPTURE VIEW COMPARISION



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1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

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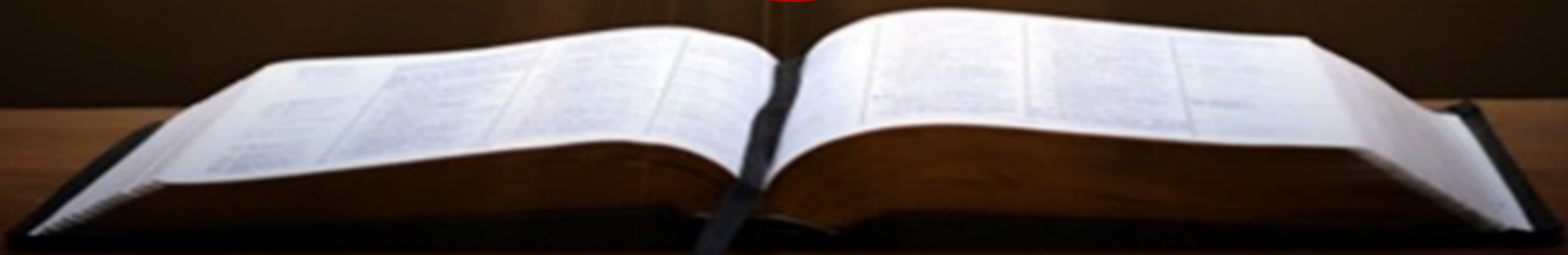
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1 Thessalonians 1:10

“and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, that is Jesus, who rescues (*rhyomai*) us from (*ek*) the wrath (*orgē*) to come..”

WRATH



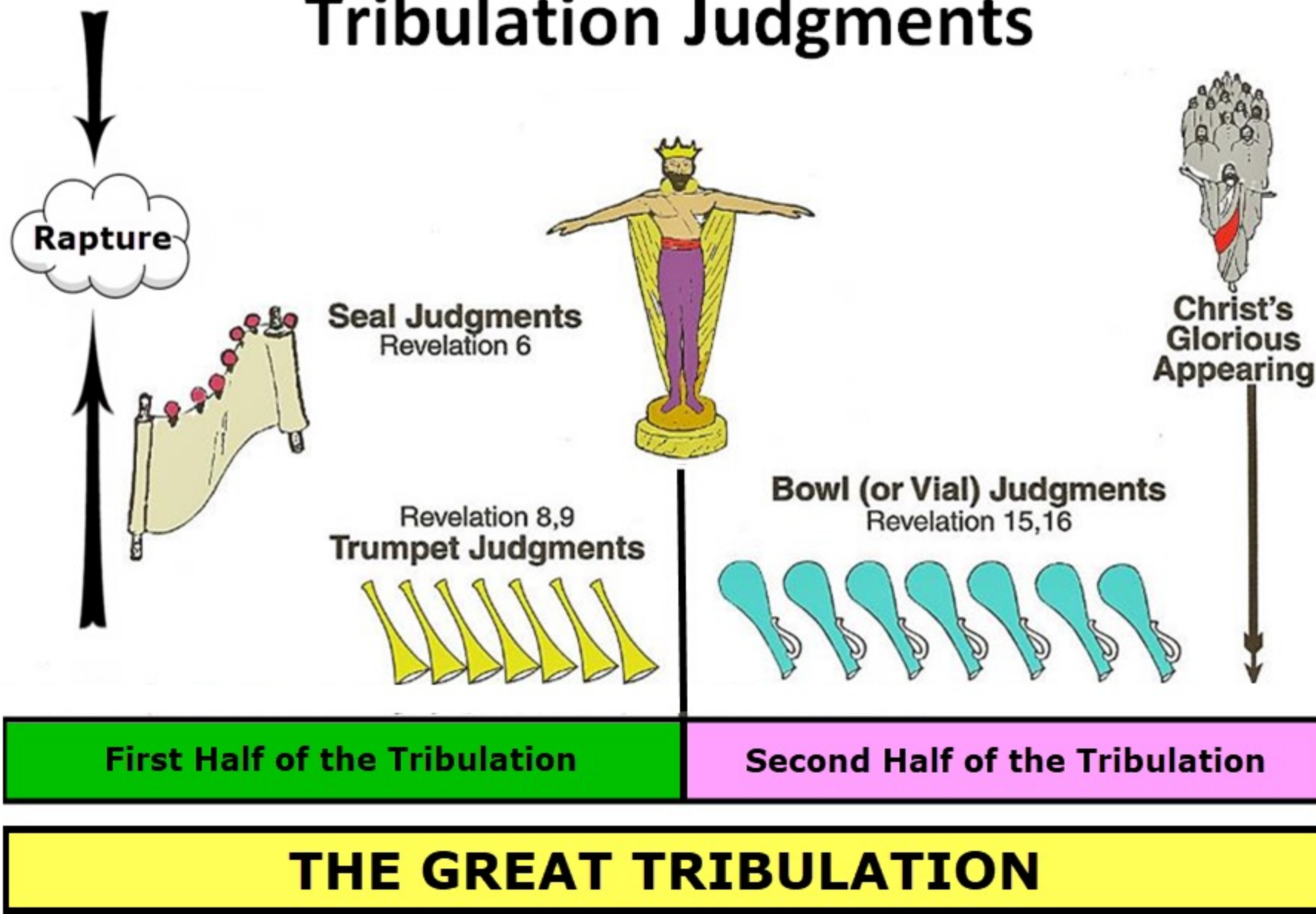
Promised Exemption from Divine Wrath

- 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)



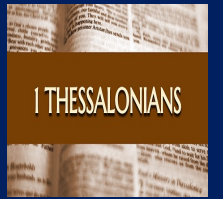
WRATH

Tribulation Judgments



Conclusion

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