



# 1 Thessalonians

LIVING FOR CHRIST'S SOON RETURN

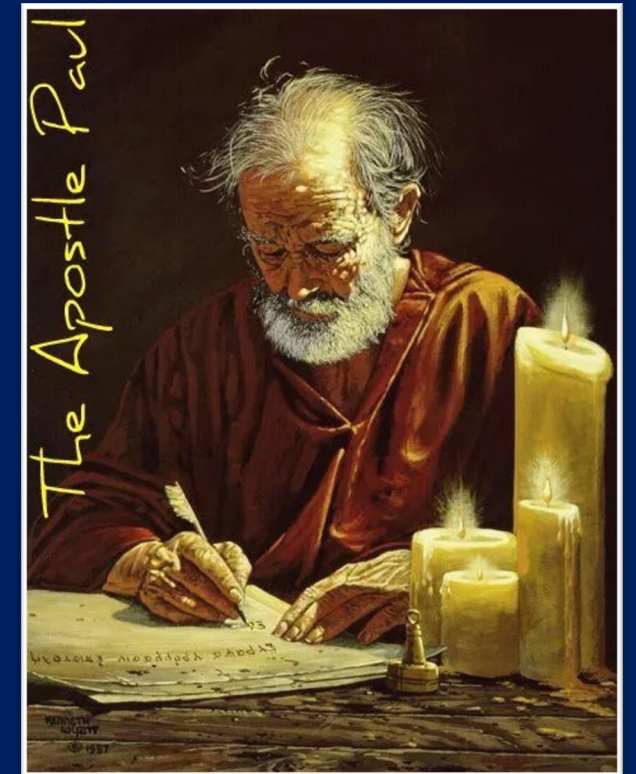


**Dr. Andy Woods**

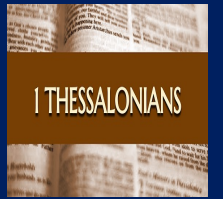
Senior Pastor – Sugar Land Bible Church  
President – Chafer Theological Seminary

# Structure

1 THESSALONIANS 1-3	1 THESSALONIANS 4-5
■ <b>Personal Experience</b>	■ <b>Practical Exhortation</b>
■ <b>Looking Back</b>	■ <b>Looking Forward</b>



# Structure



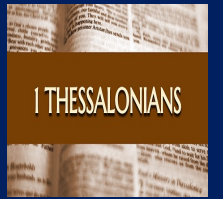
## ■ Personal (1–3)

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

## ■ Practical (4–5)

- ◆ Immorality (4:1-8)
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# Day of the Lord (5:1-11)

- Description (5:1-3)
- Application (5:4-11)

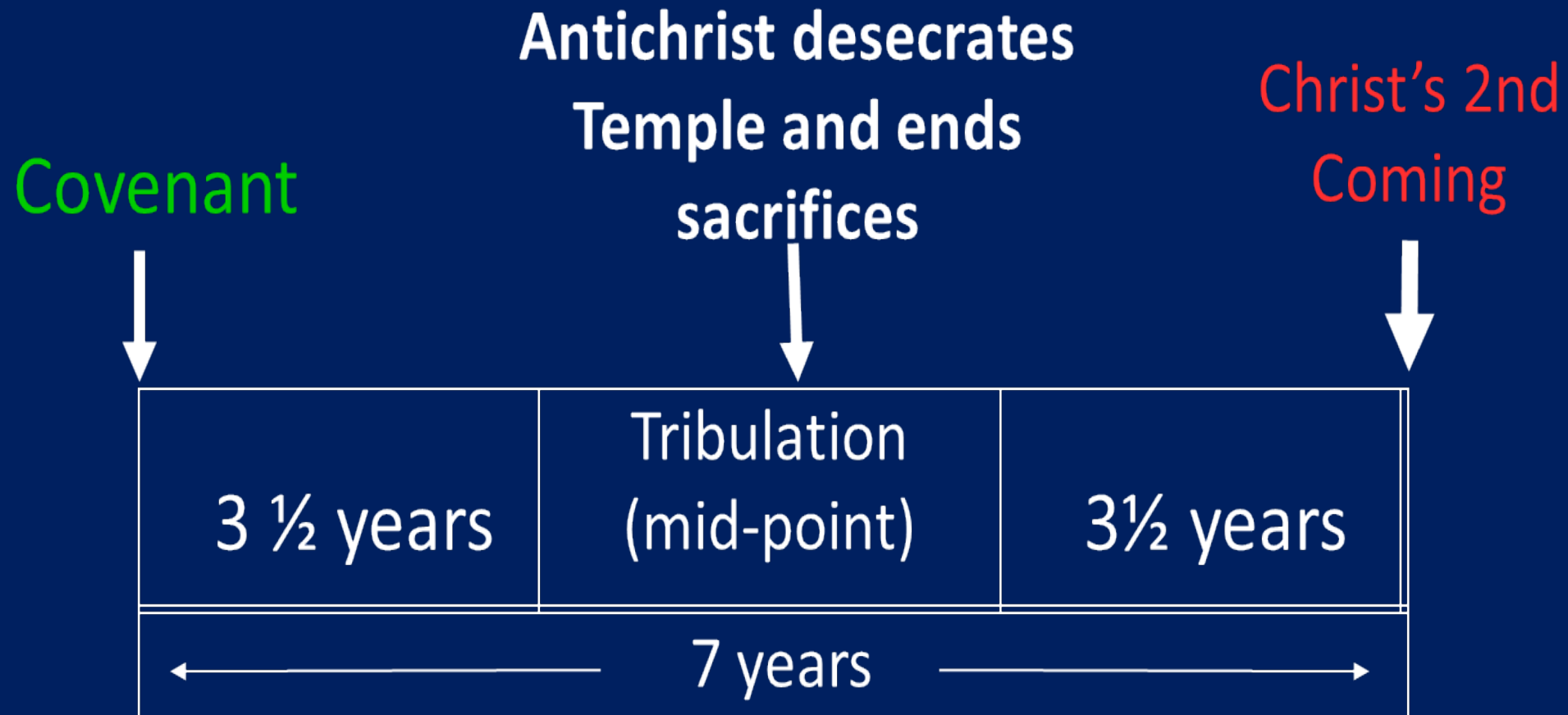


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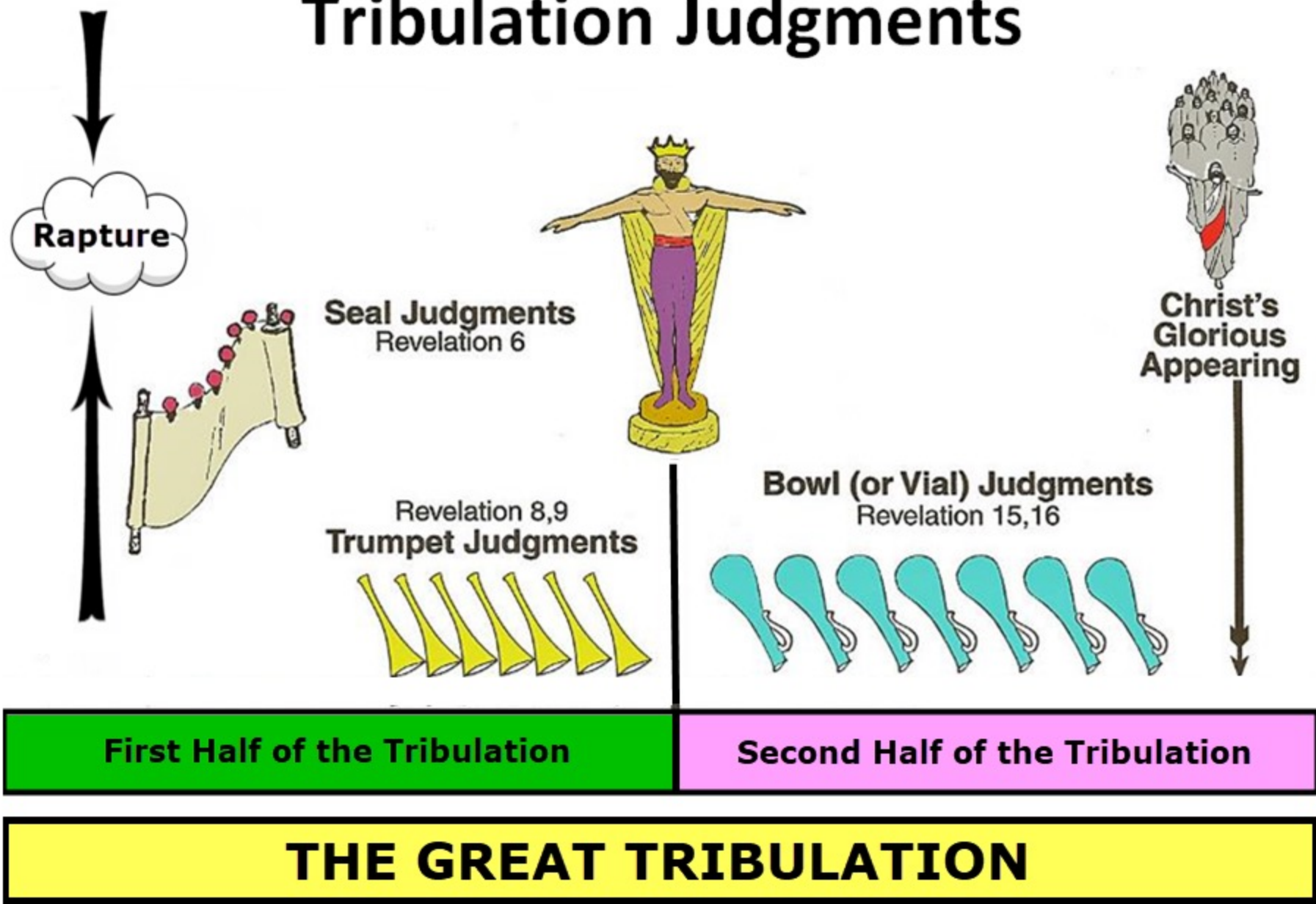
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# DAN 9:27 OVERVIEW OF TRIBULATION PERIOD



# Tribulation Judgments



# Day of the Lord (5:1-11)

- Description (5:1-3)
- Application (5:4-11)





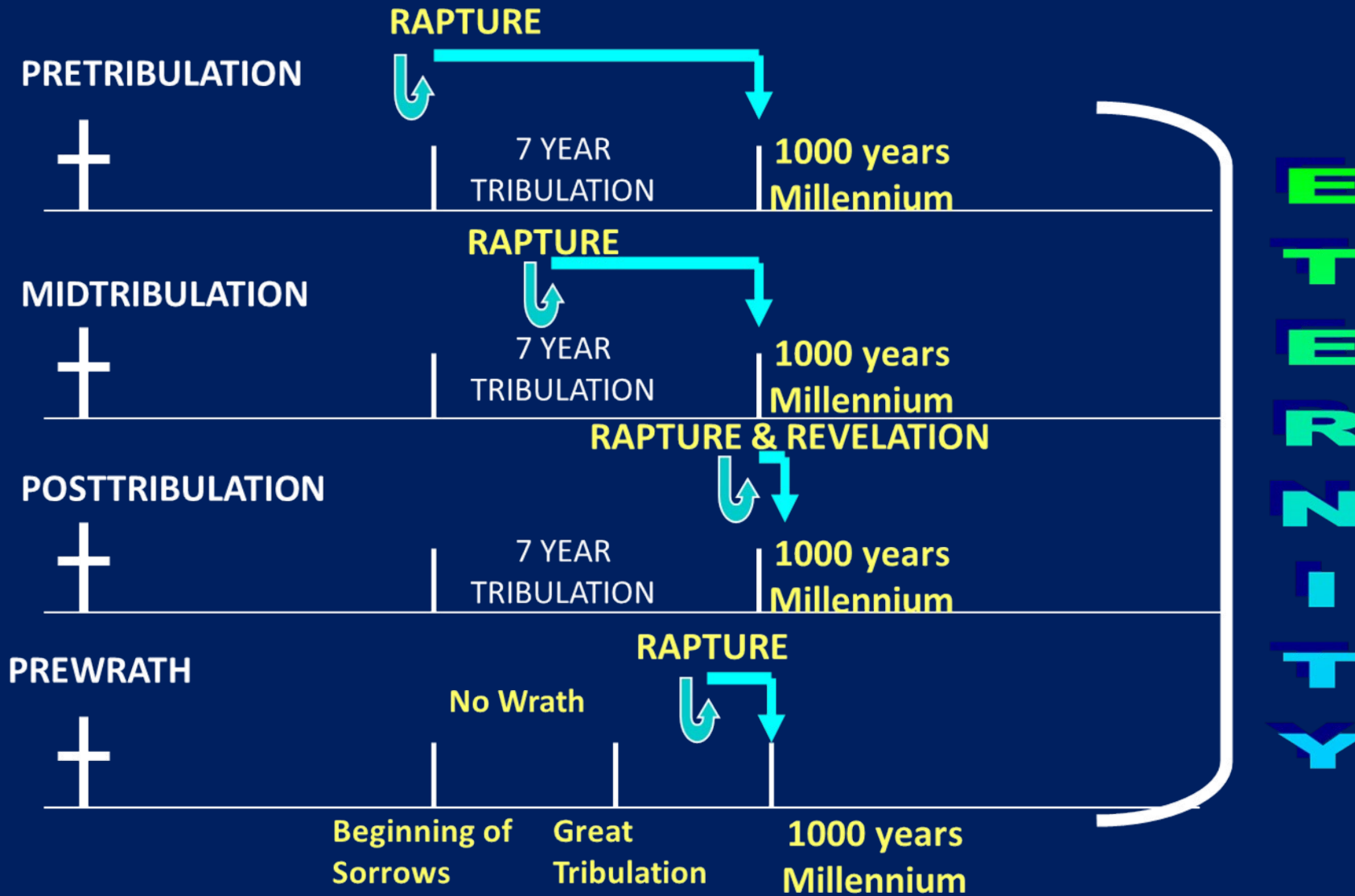
# Three Reasons Believers Will Not Be in the Tribulation

(1 Thess. 5:9-11)

1. We are not appointed unto wrath (9)
2. We are exempted from wrath whether morally asleep or awake (10)
3. Promises of comfort (11)



# RAPTURE VIEW COMPARISION



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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)



WRATH

# Three Reasons Believers Will Not Be in the Tribulation

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## 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

<sup>13</sup> "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. <sup>14</sup> For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus. <sup>15</sup> 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. <sup>16</sup> For the Lord Himself will descend from . . .

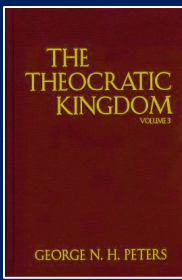


# Ray Brubaker

"The Purpose of the Tribulation," Radar News, (December 1968): 6.

“Finally, we should note that the purpose of the tribulation is also to be the testing of lukewarm shallow Laodicean Christians who will be left behind at the coming of Christ. No doubt multitudes who expect to be raptured will be disappointed because like the foolish virgins, they were not watchful. Tribulation is then for the purpose of trying the faith of those who profess to be Christians but who really never repented or are living in disobedience to the will of God.”





## G.N.H. Peters

*Theocratic Kingdom, 2:332*

“It is not simply those who ‘watch’ that shall ‘escape,’ but those, Luke 21:36 who ‘watch and pray always,’ avoiding the corrupting influences around them. The number of translated ones may not be very large (for the number of translated ones given as...types in comparison with the number of those not translated, and with that of the resurrected saints is small so that Dr. Seiss, with whom many concur, is undoubtedly correct in saying: ‘I have no idea that a very large portion of mankind, or even of the professing Church, will be thus taken.’ The first translation, if I may so speak, will embrace only the select few who watch and pray always,’ etc.””

# 1 Corinthians 15:51

“Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not **all** sleep,  
but we will **all** be changed.”





## Problems with Partial Rapturism?

1. Every divine blessing is given on the basis of His grace and not human effort (Eph. 2:8-9; Rom. 12:6)
2. Symbolic parallels mandate that carnal as well as sanctified Christians will be taken up in the rapture (Gen. 19:22)
3. The promise of the rapture is mentioned in Paul's letter to the carnal Corinthian church (1 Cor. 15:51)
4. A partial rapture would sever Christ's body (1 Cor 12:12-14)
5. The partial rapture view subjects believers to God's wrath (Thess 1:10)



## Problems with Partial Rapturism?

6. Partial rapturism makes the Bema Seat Judgment unnecessary (1 Cor. 3:10-15)
7. Partial rapturists never objectively quantify the exact degree of faithfulness or spiritual maturity that is necessary to participate in the rapture
8. Partial rapturists appear individually biased
9. Partial rapturists dispensationally misapply Bible passages (Matt. 25:1-13)
10. Partial rapturists misapply passages promising a reward to faithful believers (Rev. 3:11)

# Three Reasons Believers Will Not Be in the Tribulation

(1 Thess. 5:9-11)

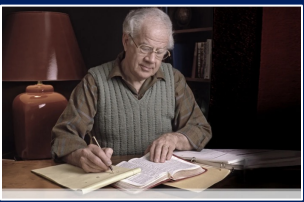
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## 2 Peter 3:10-11

“<sup>10</sup> But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up. <sup>11</sup> Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness.”

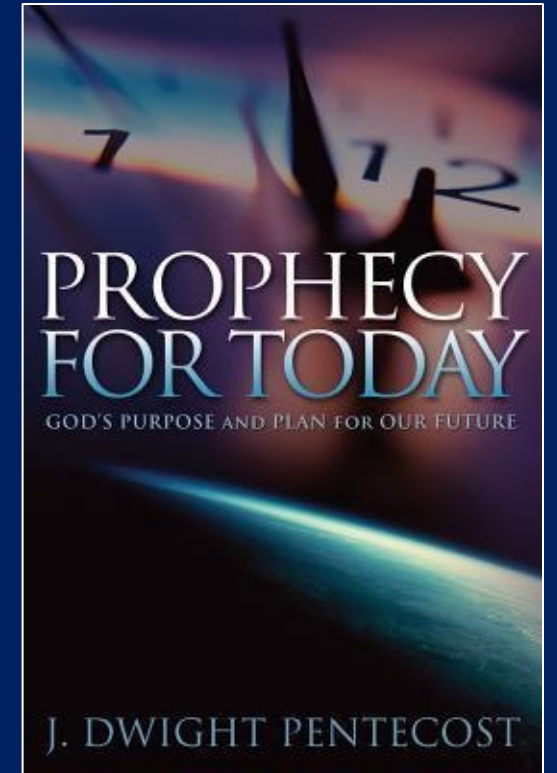




# J. Dwight Pentecost

Prophecy For Today, Page 20

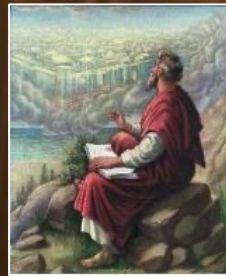
“A short time ago, I took occasion to go through the New Testament to mark each reference to the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ and to observe the use made of that teaching about His coming. I was struck anew with the fact that almost without exception, when the coming of Christ is mentioned in the New Testament, it is followed by an exhortation to godliness and holy living.”





## John 14:1–4

<sup>1</sup> “**Do not let your heart be troubled**; believe in God, believe also in Me. <sup>2</sup> 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. <sup>3</sup> 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. <sup>4</sup> And you know the way where I am going.”





## 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.  
<sup>17</sup> 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. <sup>18</sup> **Therefore comfort one another with these words.**"



## Titus 2:13

“Looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus.”

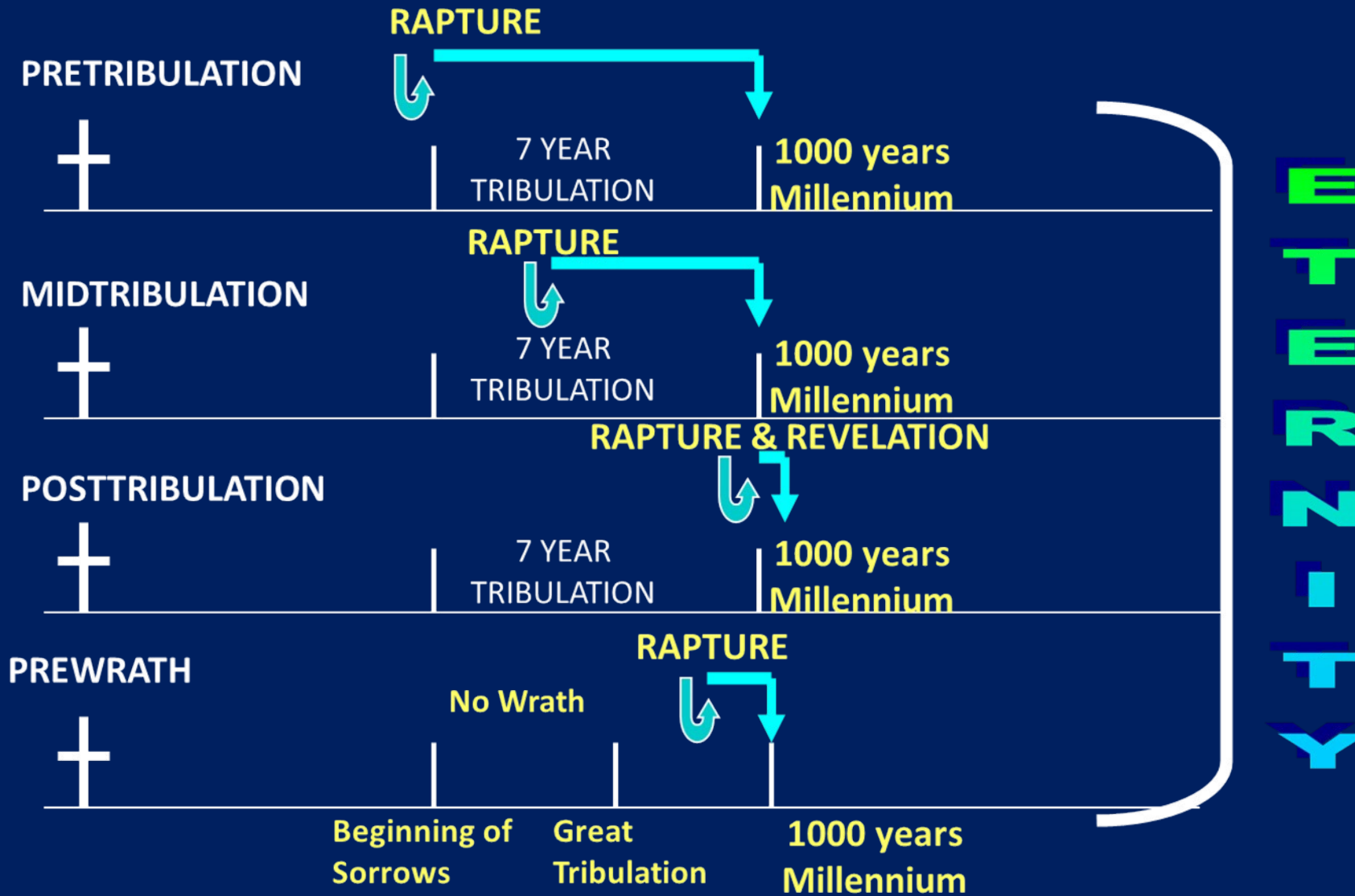
Hope  
Hope



Hope  
Hope



# RAPTURE VIEW COMPARISION





## Ephesians 4:11-16

“<sup>11</sup> And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, <sup>12</sup> for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ;”



## Ephesians 4:11-16

“<sup>13</sup> until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ. <sup>14</sup> As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming;”



## Ephesians 4:11-16

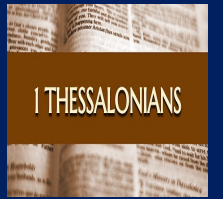
“<sup>15</sup> but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ, <sup>16</sup> from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.”



Conclusion



# Structure

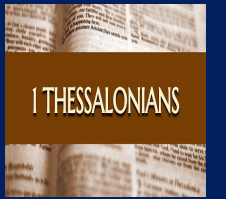


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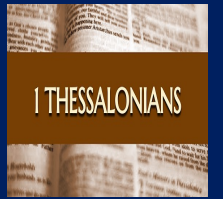


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