

A silhouette of a person running against a bright, hazy background, possibly representing the Rapture. The person is in a dynamic, forward-leaning pose, with one arm raised and the other extended back. The background is a soft, glowing light, suggesting a sunrise or sunset. The overall mood is one of urgency and movement.

Jesus and the Rapture

Dr. Andy Woods

Are You Ready for the

RAPTURE?

Jesus is coming on

Oct 28, 1992



1 Thessalonians 5:1-10
For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the archangel's call and the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are still 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. Comfort one another with these words.

THE RAPTURE CULT



Dispensationalism

James Lloyd

THE RAPTURE CULT

Dishonesty in Dispensationalism

Here's a case history of prominent Rapture teachers caught in plagiarism and obvious intentional distortions of the anecdotal literature on the doctrine, including information on Hal Lindsey, Chuck Missler, Grant Jeffrey, Chuck Smith and more.

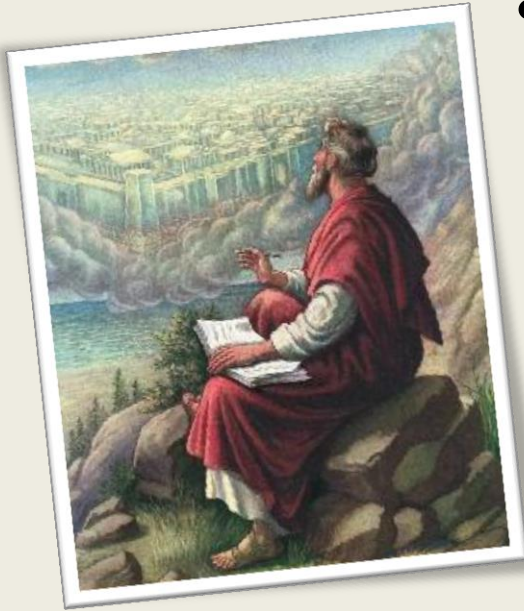
This is the first book on the rapture written by James Lloyd. *The Rapture Cult* demonstrates how the scriptures clearly show the pre-tribulation rapture doctrine to be a fallacy. It further asserts that the Bible actually predicts the rapture doctrine will appear during

the end times, and it will be one of the signals of the departure from the historic Gospel of Jesus Christ.

In addition to scriptural, historical and spiritual arguments against the doctrine, for the first time in any book, *The Rapture Cult* documents a 1st century occultic writing that proposes the idea of pre-tribulationism!

An incredible work from one of the chief opponents of the pre-tribulation rapture doctrine in America.

John 14:1-4



- "Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. 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. 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. And you know the way where I am going."

Preview (John 14:1-4)

- I. Preliminary reasons
- II. Exegesis of John 14:1-4
- III. Answering the non-rapture arguments

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I. Preliminary Reasons



- A. Significance of the Upper Room Discourse (John 13–17)
- B. Eschatological flavor of the Upper Room Discourse
- C. Early church fathers
- D. Jewish marriage analogy
- E. Parallels with other rapture texts

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II. Exegesis of John 14:1-4

- vs. 1- Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me.
 - Christ's announced departure (13:1)
 - Comfort (14:1)





II. Exegesis of John 14:1-4



- vs. 2- In My Father's house are many dwelling places...I go to prepare a place for you.
 - My Father's house
 - Many dwellings
 - I go



II. Exegesis of John 14:1-4



Summary

John 14:2 teaches that Christ will return to the very heaven from which He came in order to prepare temporary dwellings for His disciples.



II. Exegesis of John 14:1-4



- vs. 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.
 - I will come
 - Again
 - And receive you
 - To
 - Where



II. Exegesis of John 14:1-4



- vs. 3- “And receive you to myself”

– **Summary: Christ will physically return to spatially remove believers and to take them to be with Him**



II. Exegesis of John 14:1-4

- vs. 3- “that where I am you may be also”
 - **Summary: Jesus will return to take the believer to the place where He is. This place can hardly be the earth since there would be no need for Him to build the heavenly dwellings spoken of in the preceding verses.**



II. Exegesis of John 14:1-4



- vs. 4-“And you know the way where I am going.”
 - Going (*hypagō*)
 - "used esp. of Christ and his *going* to the Father, characteristically of J...J 7:33; 16:5a;...10, 17...13:3...8:14a;...21b, 22; 13:33;...36b...8:21a...14:28...13:36a; 14:4, 5; 16:5b; 1J 2:11." (BDAG, p. 1028)
 - Ascension

Conclusion



- Christ would return through His Ascension to His Father's heavenly abode.
- He would then prepare temporary dwellings for His disciples.
- He would return for His disciples in the future.
- His return would be just as personal as was His First Coming and Ascension.
- He would physically take believers to be with Him by spatially drawing them to Himself.

Conclusion

- Purpose of this event is so that believers could dwell in their prepared, temporal, heavenly places and be with Christ where He is.
- This information would serve as a comfort to the disciples who were troubled over the announcement over His soon departure (John 13:1).
- Christ unfolded the reality of this event for the purpose of comforting His disciples (John 14:1).



New Mystery Truth



- “But here in John 14 the Lord gives a new and unique revelation; He speaks of something which no prophet had promised, or even could promise. Where is it written that this Messiah would come and instead of gathering His saints into an earthly Jerusalem, would take them to the Father's house, to the very place where He is? It is something new.”

Rapture Distinct from Second Advent

<u>Rapture (1 Thess 4:13-17; 1 Cor 15:51-57)</u>	<u>Second Coming (Rev 19:11-16)</u>
Christ comes in the air (1 Thess 4:16-17)	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)
Primary Impact on the Church (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)

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III. Inadequate Alternatives

- A. Believer's death
- B. Believer's salvation
- C. Christ's resurrection
- D. Coming of the Spirit on Pentecost (Acts 2)
- E. Non-pretribulational rapture



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A. Believer's death

1. "Again" (*palin*) = 1x
2. Angels take deceased believers to heaven (Luke 16:22)
3. Christ remains in heaven when believers die (Acts 7:56)
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- vs. 3- “I will come again”
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B. Believer's Salvation

1. “Again” (*palin*) = 1x
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1. Christ comes after the Ascension (“I go”) rather than before
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II. Exegesis of John 14:1-4



- vs. 2-In My Father's house are many dwelling places...I go to prepare a place for you.
 - I go
 - Jesus came from (John 16:28; 17:5) and is going back to heaven (John 13:12; 14:12; 16:28)
 - **Poreuomai= Ascension (Acts 1:10-11; 1 Pet 3:22)**



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- vs. 3- “And receive you to myself”
 - Receive (*paralambanō*): “to take into close association, take (to oneself), take with/along...I will take you to myself J 14:3...with me to my home.” (BDAG, p. 767)
 - To (*pros*): “*pros* with the Accusative...This is very common and denotes movement 'towards.'...**Spatially, 'to or towards someone or something,'** primarily with an intransitive or transitive verb **expressing movement.**” (TDNT, p. 721).
 - Summary: Christ's return to spatially remove believers and to take them to be with Him

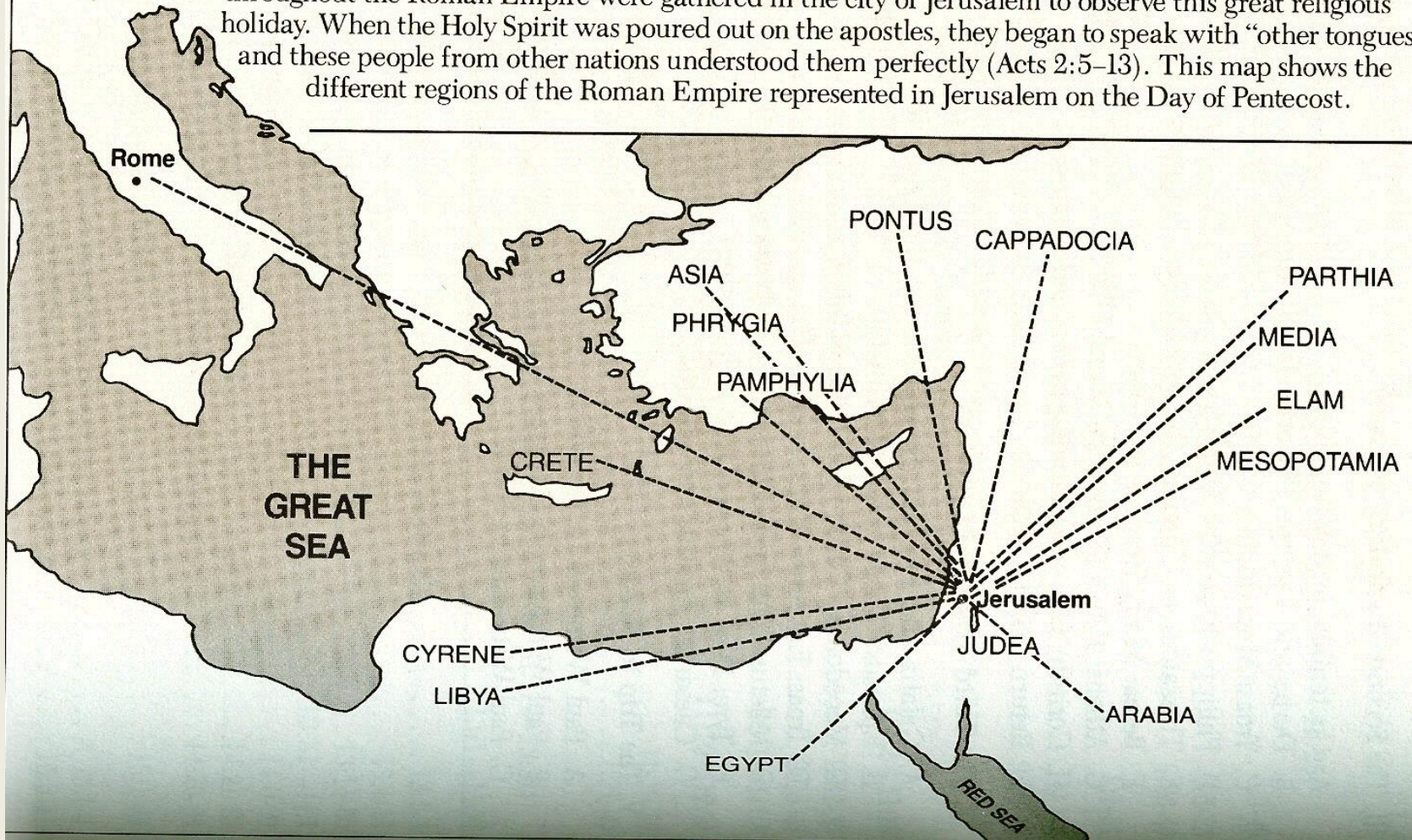
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- D. Coming of the Spirit on Pentecost (Acts 2)**
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The Nations of Pentecost

Pentecost, a Jewish feast also known as the Feast of Weeks, marked the completion of the barley harvest. On this annual holiday about 50 days after the resurrection of Jesus, Jewish people from throughout the Roman Empire were gathered in the city of Jerusalem to observe this great religious holiday. When the Holy Spirit was poured out on the apostles, they began to speak with "other tongues," and these people from other nations understood them perfectly (Acts 2:5-13). This map shows the different regions of the Roman Empire represented in Jerusalem on the Day of Pentecost.





III. Inadequate Alternatives



D. Coming of the Spirit in Acts 2

1. “Again” (*palin*) - like His first coming yet Acts 2 was not a bodily
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3. “Receive you to Myself” - The Holy Spirit did not receive believers in Acts 2 but believers received the Holy Spirit (John 20:22; Acts 2:38; 8:15-17).



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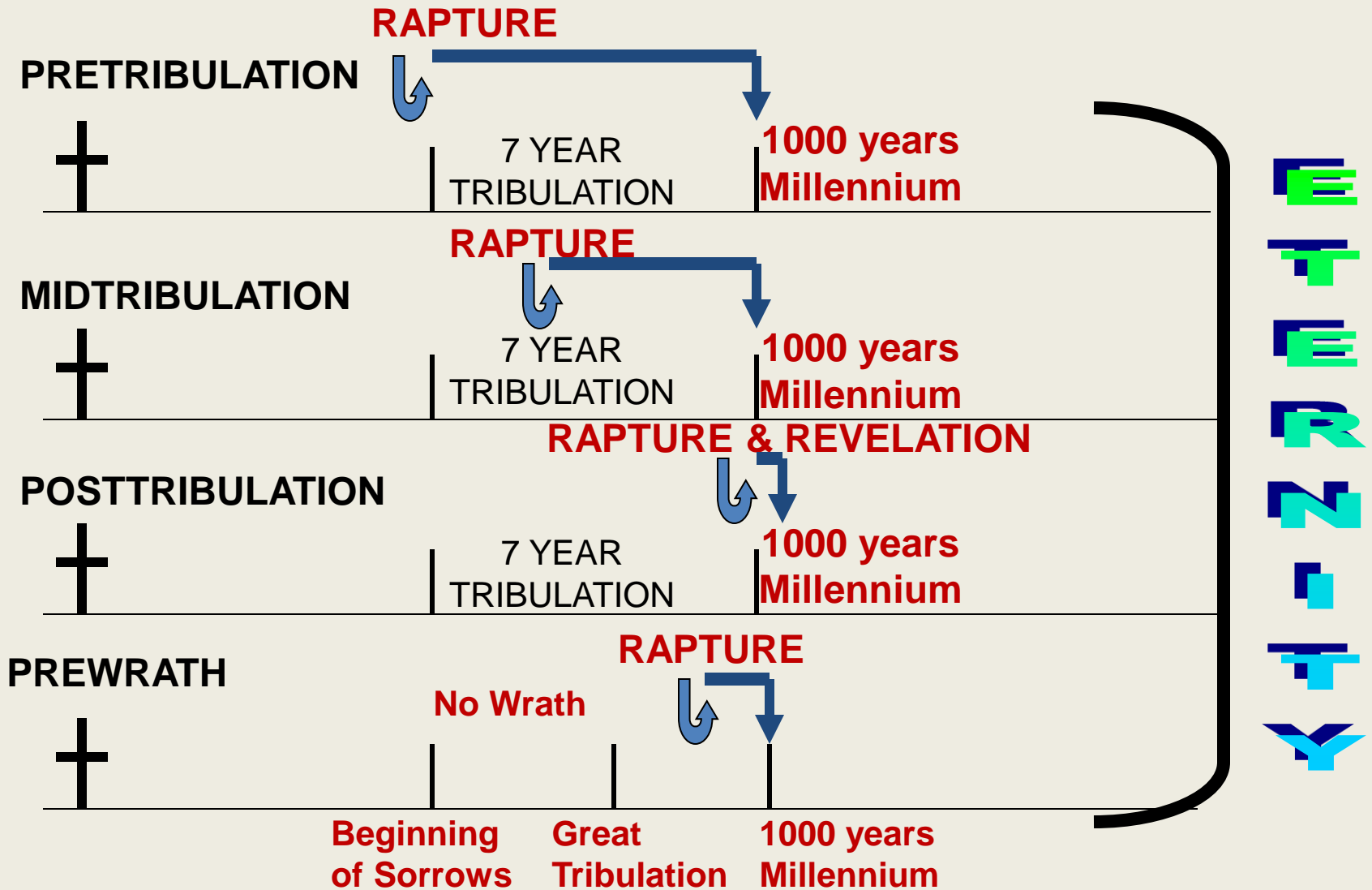
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RAPTURE VIEW COMPARISION



John 14:1-4

- "**Do not let your heart be troubled**; believe in God, believe also in Me. 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. 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. And you know the way where I am going."



Two Themes

- Comfort – John 14:1



- Imminence – John 14:3

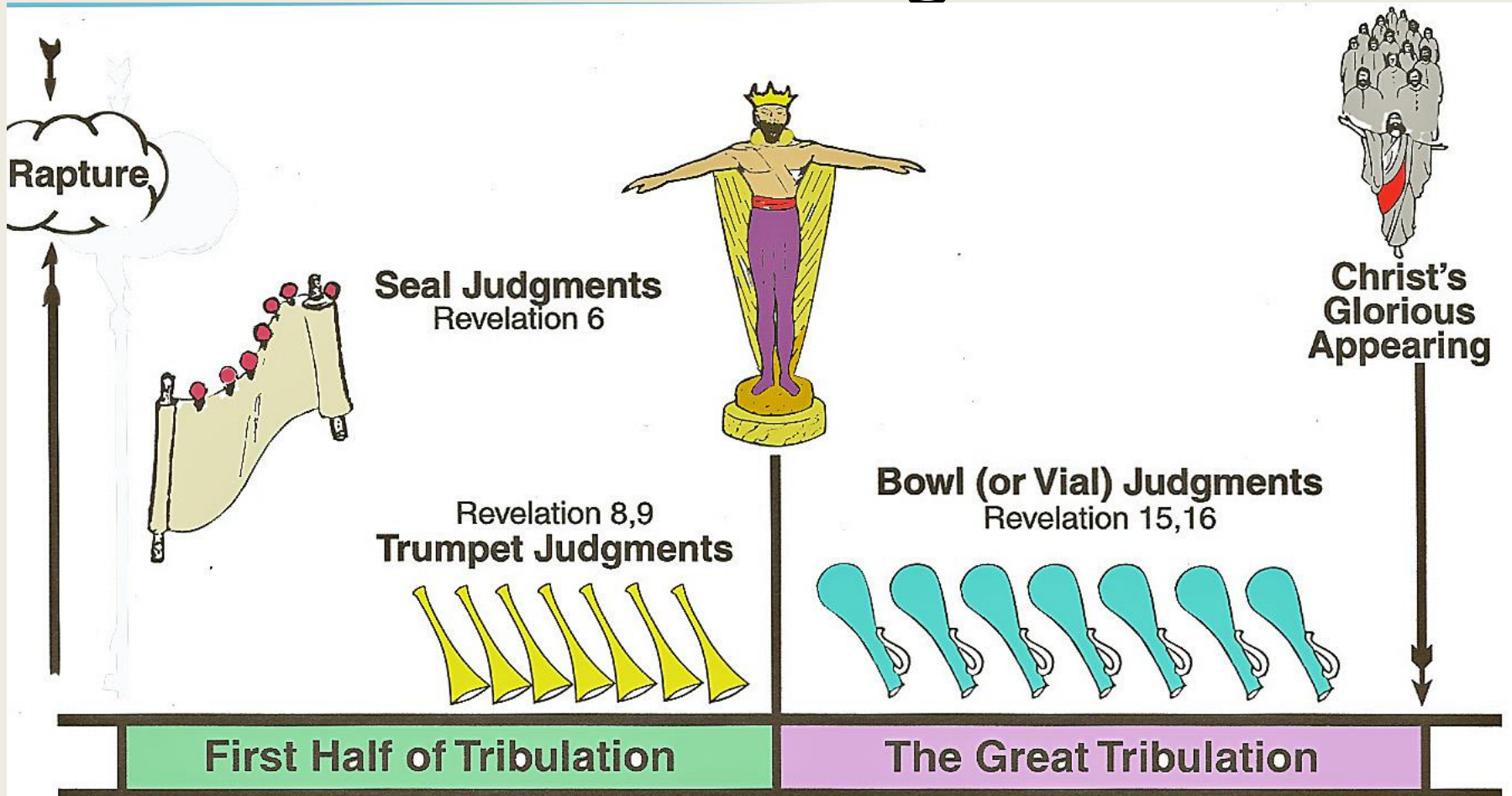
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

- "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 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.**"

Promised Exemption from Divine Wrath

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

Tribulation Judgments



Rev. 6:16-17



- "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."

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

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)

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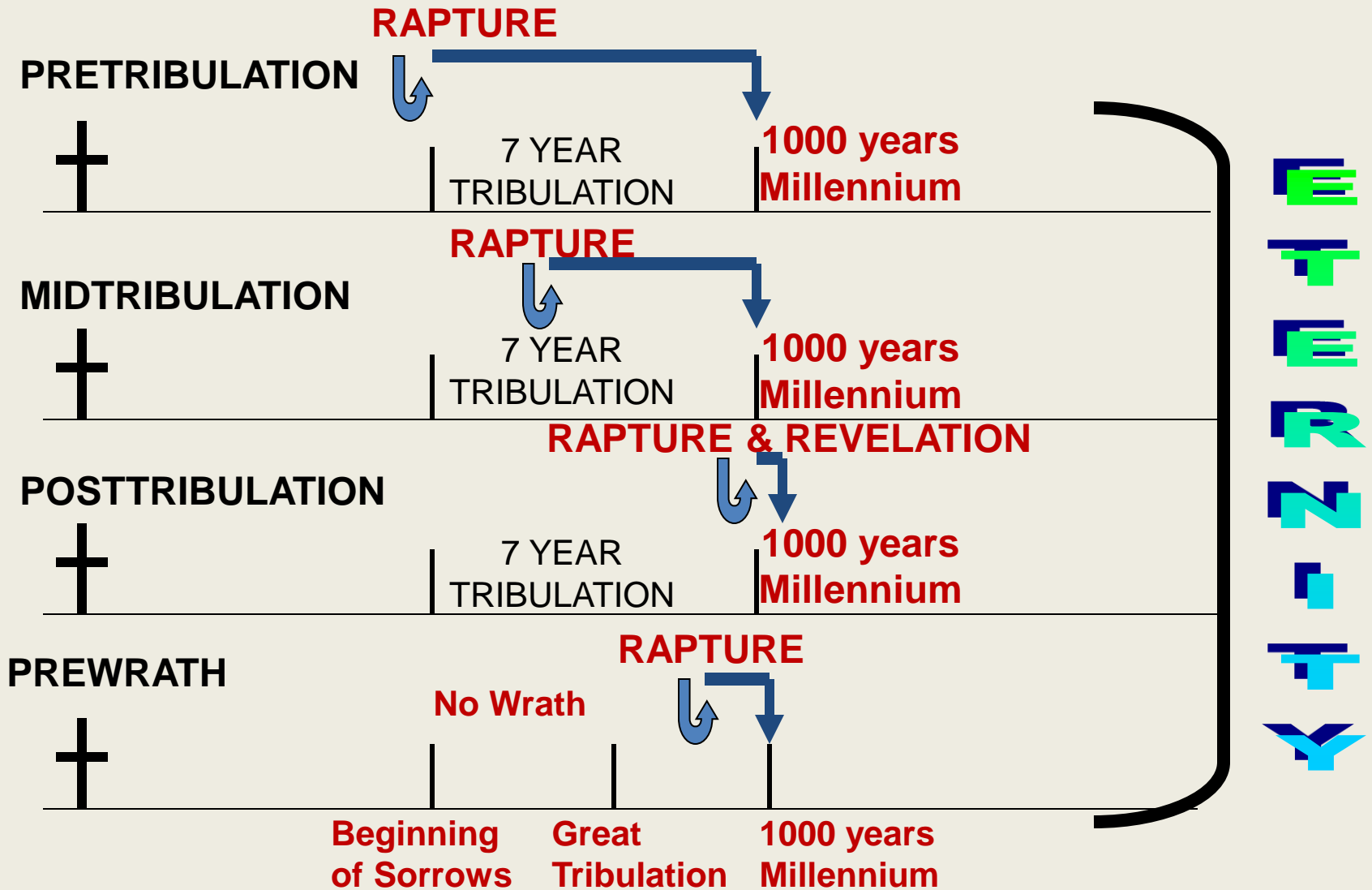


- Imminence – John 14:3

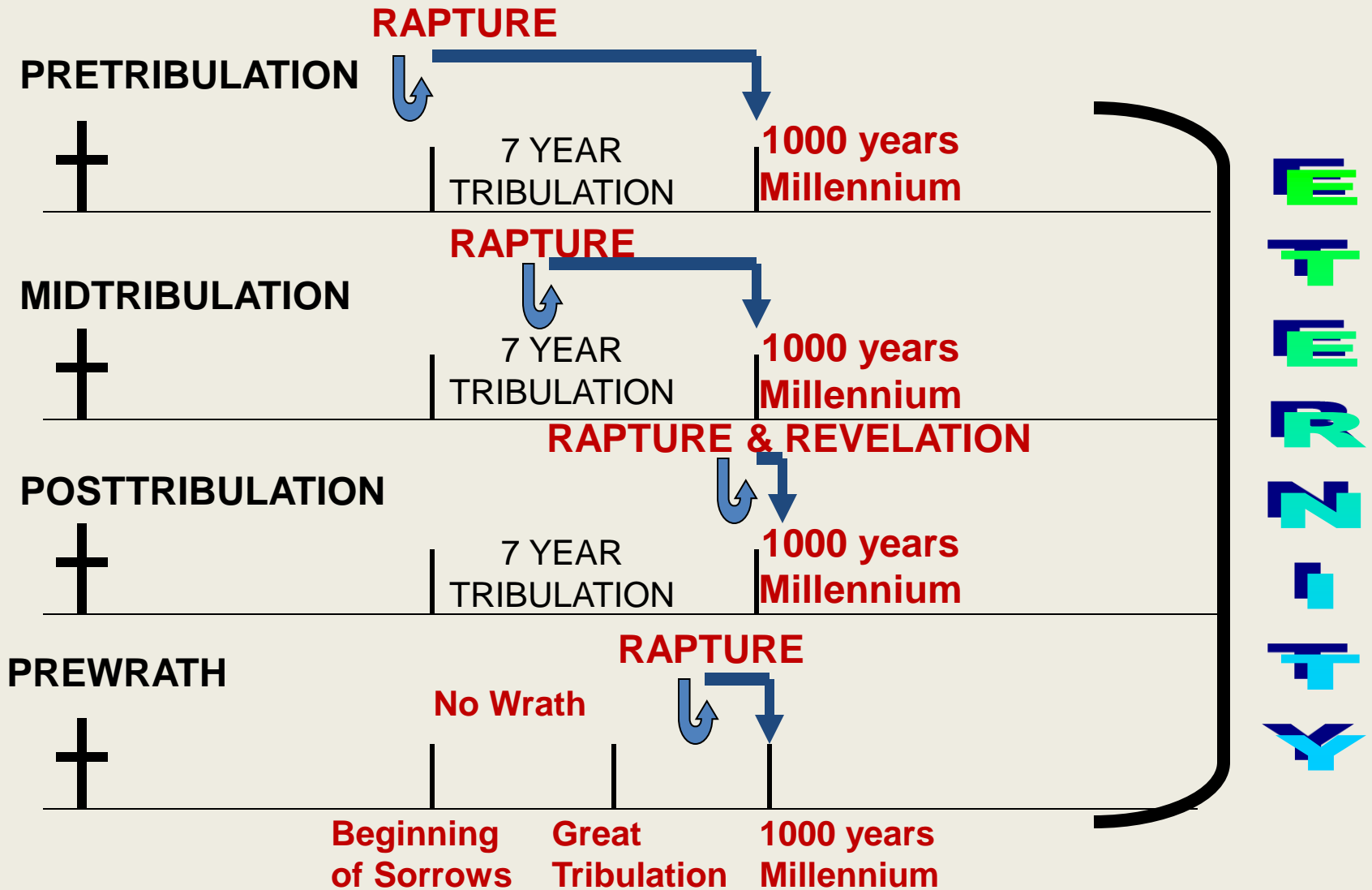
Imminence

- Imminency definition
- James 5:8; 1 Thess 1:10; 4:15; 1 Cor 1:7; 15:51; Philip 3:20
- Other rapture views deny imminence

RAPTURE VIEW COMPARISION



RAPTURE VIEW COMPARISION



Where He Is?



“Since He says He is going to come in order that we may be with Him **where he is**, we would have to be with Him here on earth. Do you see the problem? The dwelling places in the Father's house would be unused...This makes Jesus' whole promise ridiculous.

Why would He speak of preparing a place for us in the Father's house if He didn't mean that His return would take us there?”

Hal Lindsey, *The Rapture*, 43.

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