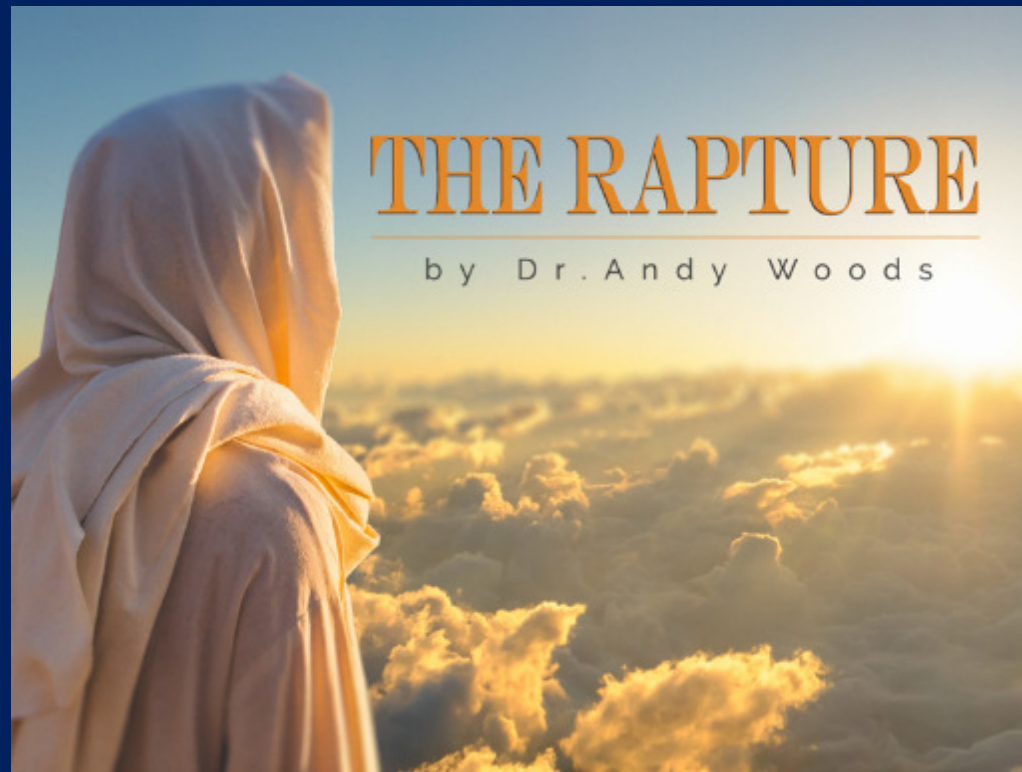


THE RAPTURE

What and When? – Part 40



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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

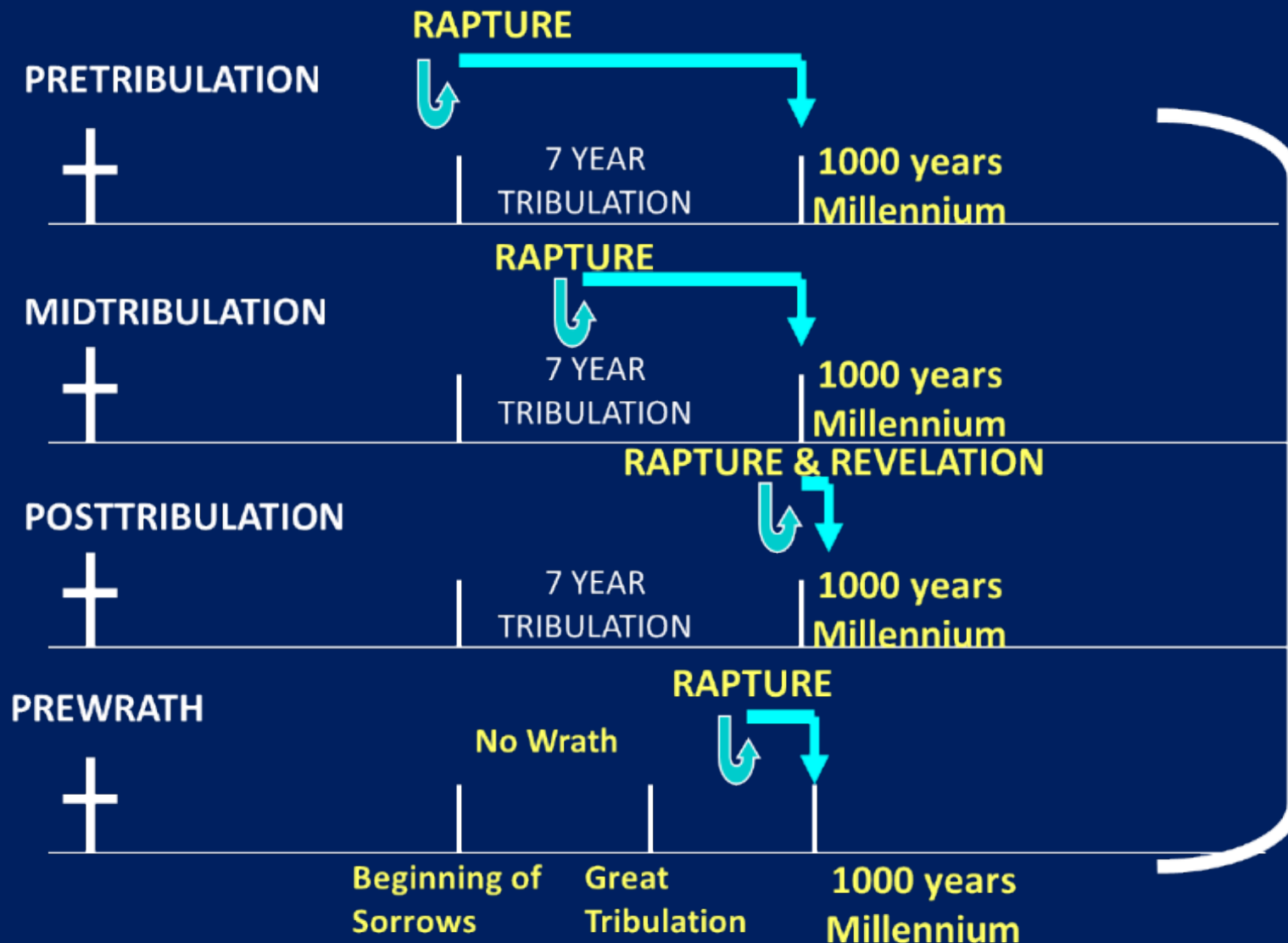


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RAPTURE VIEW COMPARISON



Y-H-Z-H-E

Post-tribulation Rapture Theory

1. According to 1 Thessalonians 4:16 and 1 Corinthians 15:52, the rapture will take place at the sounding of the last trumpet which, according to Matthew 24:30-31, will take place upon Christ's return at the end of the Tribulation period.
2. The Rapture is found in Revelation 19:11-21.
3. According to Revelation 20:4-6, the resurrection of all believers will transpire at the end of the Tribulation period thereby necessitating that the rapture will also take place at this time.

Post-tribulation Rapture Theory

4. Although the church is exempted from God's wrath, the church will be on the earth during the entire Tribulation period because the Book of Revelation portrays God's people being supernaturally protected from many of the apocalyptic judgments during this time period.
5. The post-tribulation rapture position has been the dominant view held by theologians throughout the history of the church.

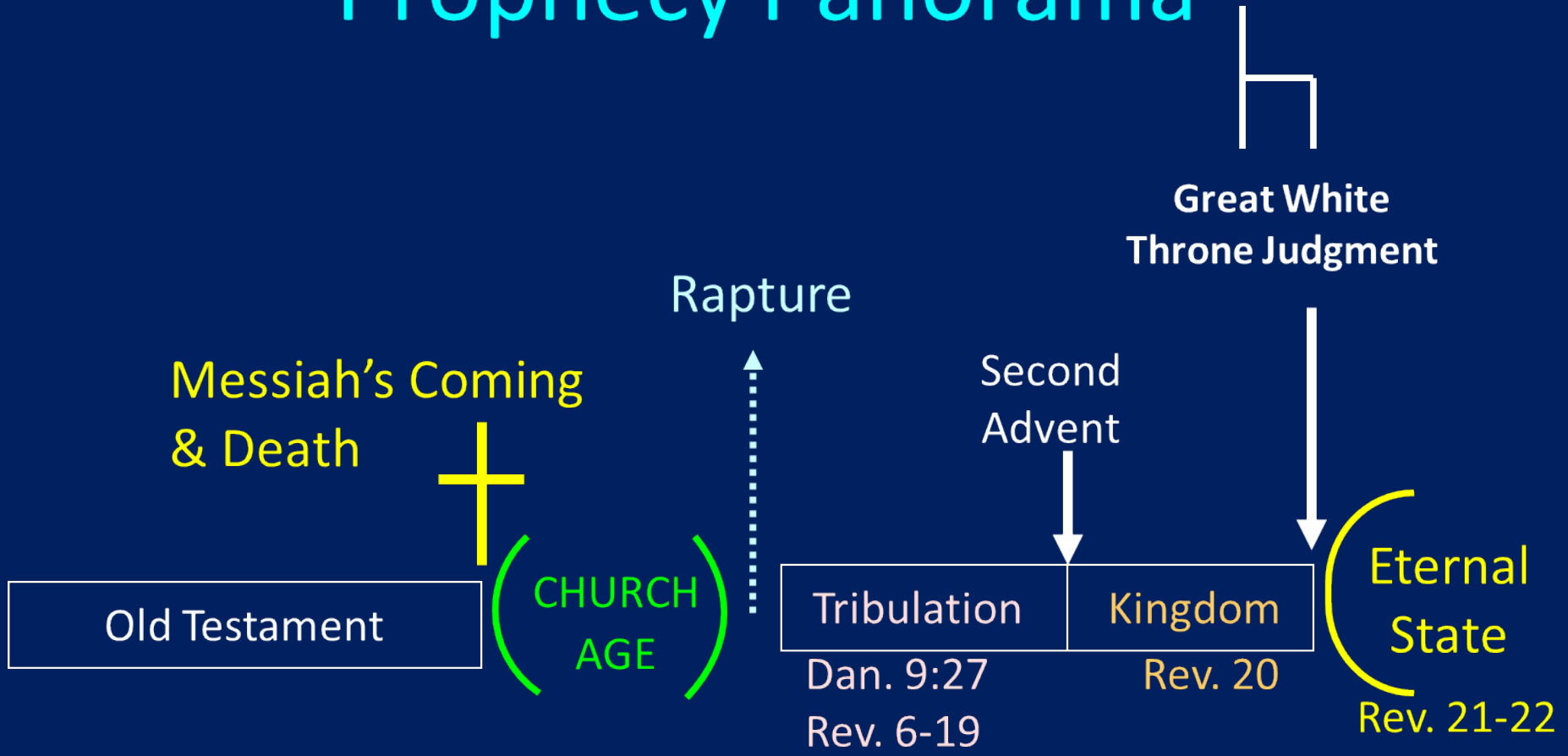
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1. Who will populate the millennium?
2. The Hebrew Wedding Sequence.
3. The Pointlessness of the Preparation of the Believers' Heavenly Dwelling Places in John 14:1-3.
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Prophecy Panorama



MORTAL MILLENNIAL KINGDOM ACTIVITIES

1. Childbearing (Isa. 65:20, 23)
2. Labor (Isa. 65:21-23)
3. Death (Isa. 65:20)
4. Sin (Ezek. 45:22; Rev. 12:5)
5. Rebellion (Zech. 14:16-18; Rev. 20:7-9)

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2 Corinthians 11:2-3

“² For I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy; for I betrothed you to one husband, so that to Christ I might present you as a pure virgin.³ But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted by from the simplicity that is in Christ.” (Italics mine)



Jewish Marriage Analogy

STEP	JEWISH MARRIAGE	CHURCH ANALOGY
1. Marriage covenant	Groom initiated; Covenant established upon payment for bride; drank same cup	Christ initiated; Christ's sacrificial death (1 Cor. 6:19-20; 11:25)
2. Bride set apart	Bride set apart exclusively for groom	Church's positionally sanctified (1 Cor. 1:2; 6:9-11)
3. Bridal chamber prepared	Groom separates from bride and returns to his father's house to prepare bridal chamber	Christ's 2000-year separation from church; Ascension; return to heaven to prepare dwellings (John 14:2; Acts 1:9-11)

Jewish Marriage Analogy

STEP	JEWISH MARRIAGE	CHURCH ANALOGY
4. Betrothal period	Loyalty test	Reward determined by orthodoxy and orthopraxy (Jas. 4:4)
5. Bride retrieved	Groom returns at unknown time preceded by a shout with escorts to retrieve bride	Rapture at unknown time (John 14:3; 1 Thess. 4:16-17)
6. Bride and groom hidden in Father's house for seven days	Hidden in the Father's house for seven days: three events transpire	Church hidden from world during Daniel's 70th Week
7. Bride cleansed	Bride undergoes ritual cleansing prior to wedding ceremony	Bema Seat Judgment (1 Cor 3:10-15; 2 Cor 5:10)

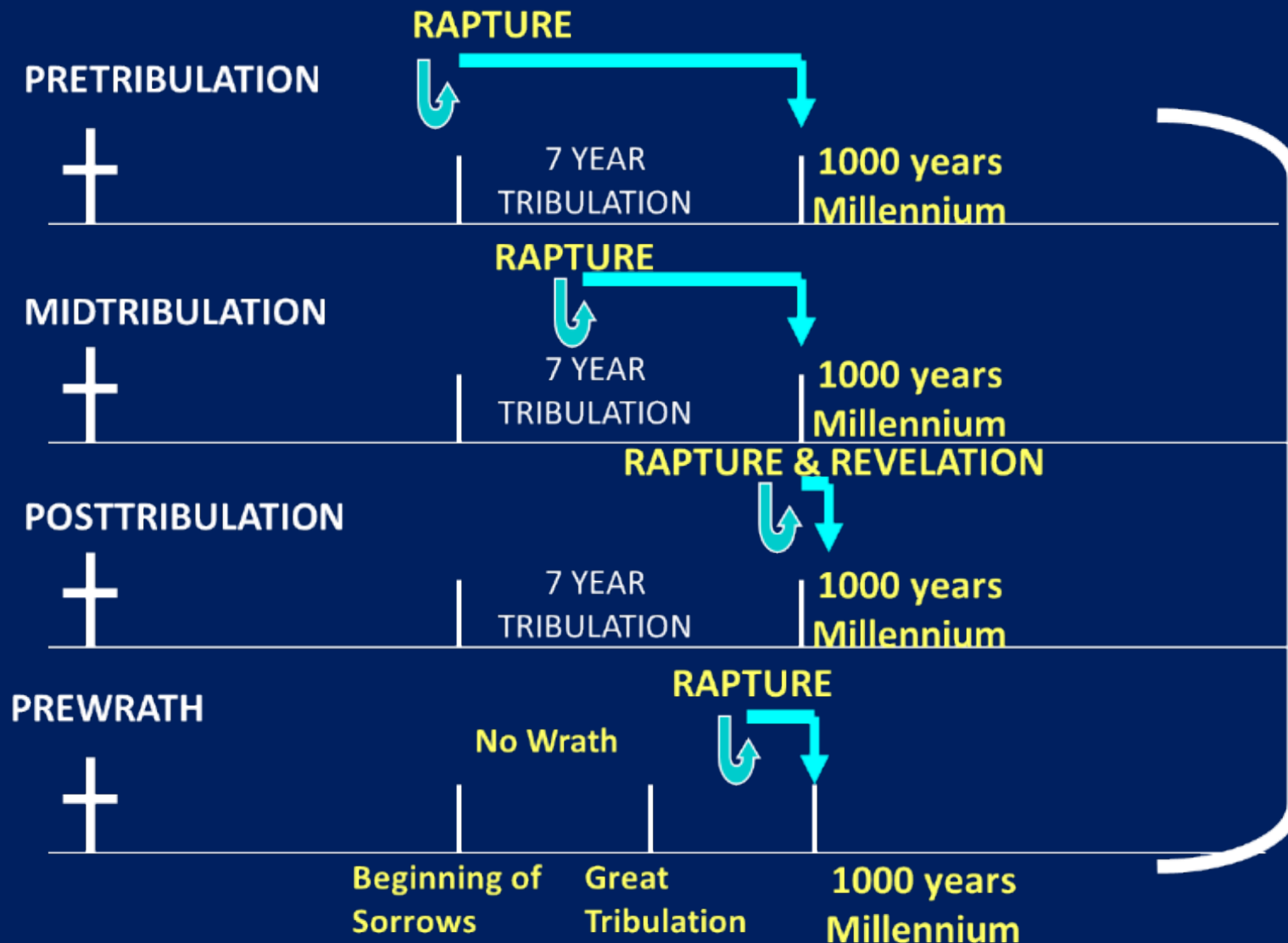
Showers, Maranatha Our Lord, Come!, 164-69.

Jewish Marriage Analogy

STEP	JEWISH MARRIAGE	CHURCH ANALOGY
8. Wedding ceremony	Meeting with the Father's assembled wedding guests; Private wedding ceremony	Meeting with OT saints; Rev 19:7
9. Consummation	Bride and groom consummate the marriage	Eph 5:27
10. Marriage feast	Public presentation; Bride unveiled; marriage feast	Col 3:3-4; Rev 19:9

Shows, *Maranatha Our Lord, Come!*, 164-69.

RAPTURE VIEW COMPARISON



Y-H-Z-H-E



Charles Ryrie

What You Should Know About the Rapture, Current Christian Issues (Chicago: Moody, 1981), 61.

“In Revelation 19:7–9 the wedding feast is announced, which, if the analogy of the Hebrew marriage customs means anything, assumes that the wedding has previously taken place in the father's house. Today the church is described as a virgin waiting for her bridegroom's coming (2 Corinthians 11:2); in Revelation 21 she is designated as the wife of the lamb, indicating that previously she has been taken to the groom's father's house. Pretribulationists say that this requires an interval of time between the rapture and the second coming. Granted, it does not say seven years' time, but it certainly argues against posttribulationism, which has no time between the rapture and second coming.”

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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.”



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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.
 - ◆ Many dwelling places
 - ◆ “Mansions” – mistranslation of Tyndale; KJV from Vulgate
 - ◆ *Monē* = temporary dwelling place (inn)

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Parallels

JOHN 14:1-4

- trouble (1)
- Believe (1)
- God, me (1)
- told you (2)
- come again (3)
- receive, you (3)
- to myself (3)
- be where I am (3)

1 THESS 4:13-18

- sorrow (13)
- believe (14)
- Jesus, God (14)
- say to you (15)
- coming of the Lord (15)
- caught up (17)
- to meet the Lord (17)
- ever be with the Lord (17)

1 Thessalonians 4:16-18

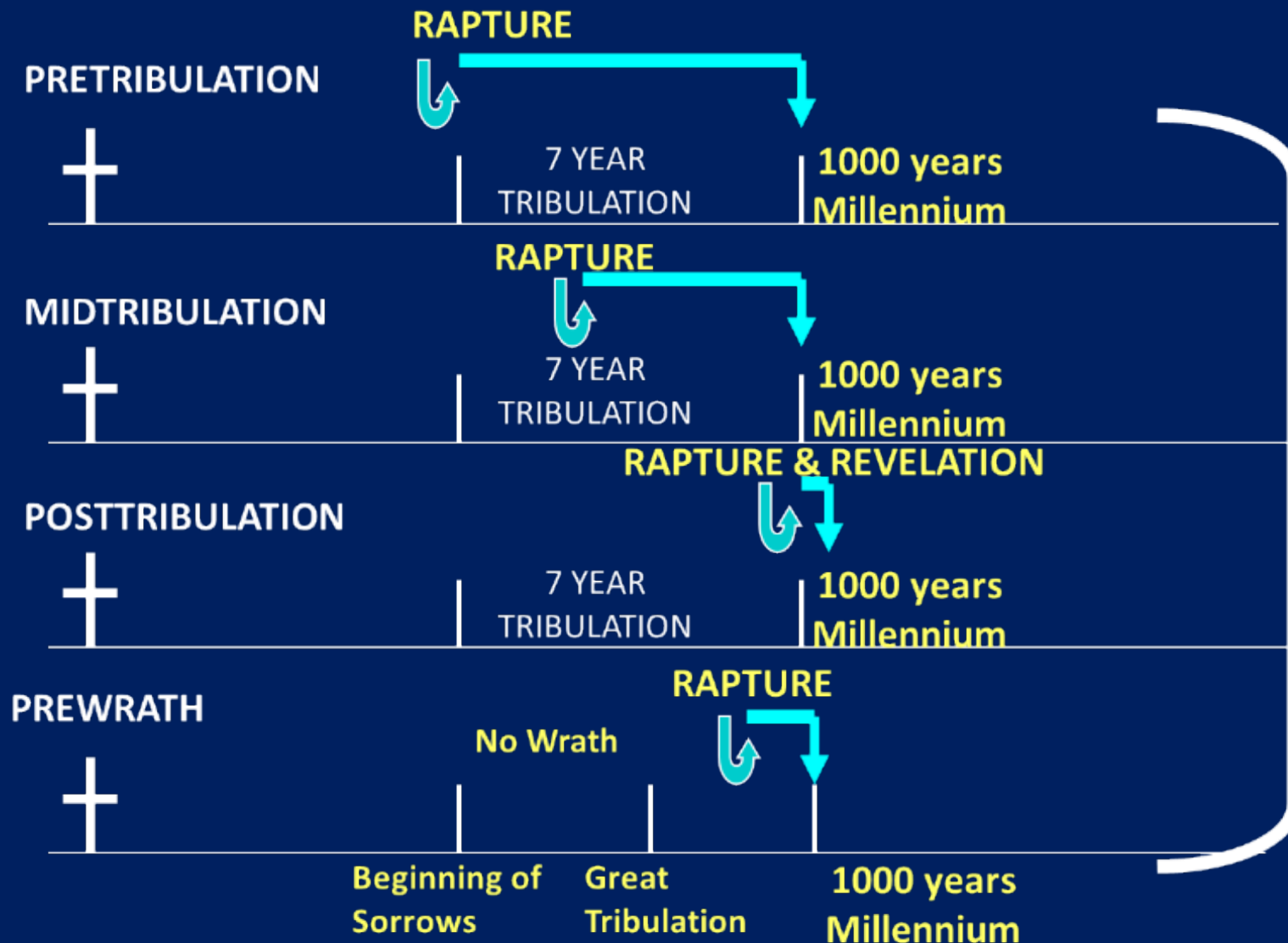
¹⁶ For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of *the* archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.

¹⁷ Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up [*harpazō*] 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."



RAPTURE VIEW COMPARISON



Y-H-Z-R-H-E



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?”

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2 Corinthians 5:10

“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.”



1 Thessalonians 4:16-18

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.

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J. Dwight Pentecost

Things to Come, Page 221

“It is scarcely necessary to point out that this examination must take place in the sphere of the heavenlies. It is said in 1 Thessalonians 4:17 that ‘we shall be caught up... in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air.’ Since the bema follows the translation, the ‘air’ must be the scene of it. This is further supported by 2 Corinthians 5:1-8, where Paul is describing events that take place when the believer is ‘absent from the body, and...present with the Lord.’ Thus, this event must take place in the Lord's presence in the sphere of the ‘heavenlies.’”

Revelation 19:7-9

“⁷ Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and His **bride** has made herself ready.” ⁸ It was given to her to clothe herself in fine linen, bright and clean; for **the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.**

⁹ Then he said to me, “Write, ‘Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.’” And he said to me, “These are true words of God.”



Revelation 8:1; 22:2

¹ “When the Lamb broke the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour.”

² “in the middle of its street. On either side of the river was the tree of life, bearing twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit every month; and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.”



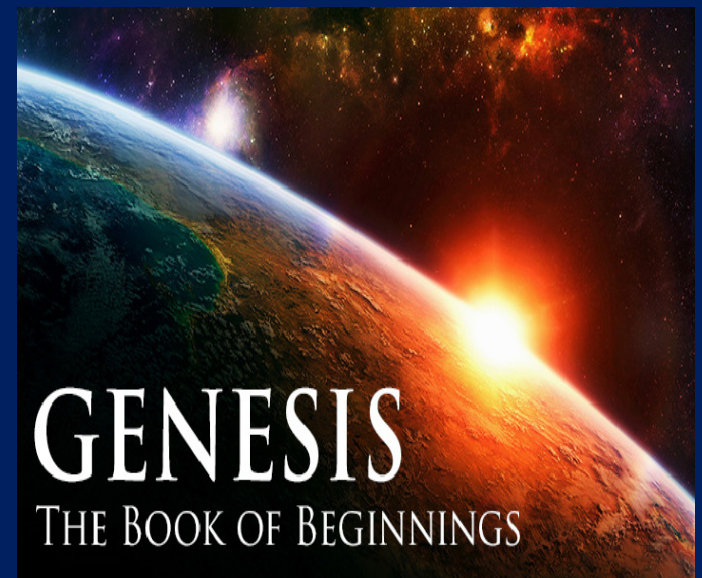
Revelation 21:16-17

¹⁶ The city was laid out like a square, as long as it was wide. He measured the city with the rod and found it to be [*1500 miles*] in length, and as wide and high as it is long. ¹⁷ He measured its wall and it was 144 cubits thick, by man's measurement, which the angel was using.



Genesis 1:1–2:3 Outline

- Original creation on the first day (Gen 1:1)
- Original creation in its unfilled and unformed state (Gen 1:2)
- Creation week (Gen 1:3–2:3): “And God said,” “good”
 - ◆ First day 1:3-5
 - ◆ Second day 1:6-8
 - ◆ Third day 1:9-13
 - ◆ **Fourth day 1:14-19**
 - ◆ Fifth day 1:20-23
 - ◆ **Sixth day 1:24-31**
 - ◆ Seventh day 2:1-3

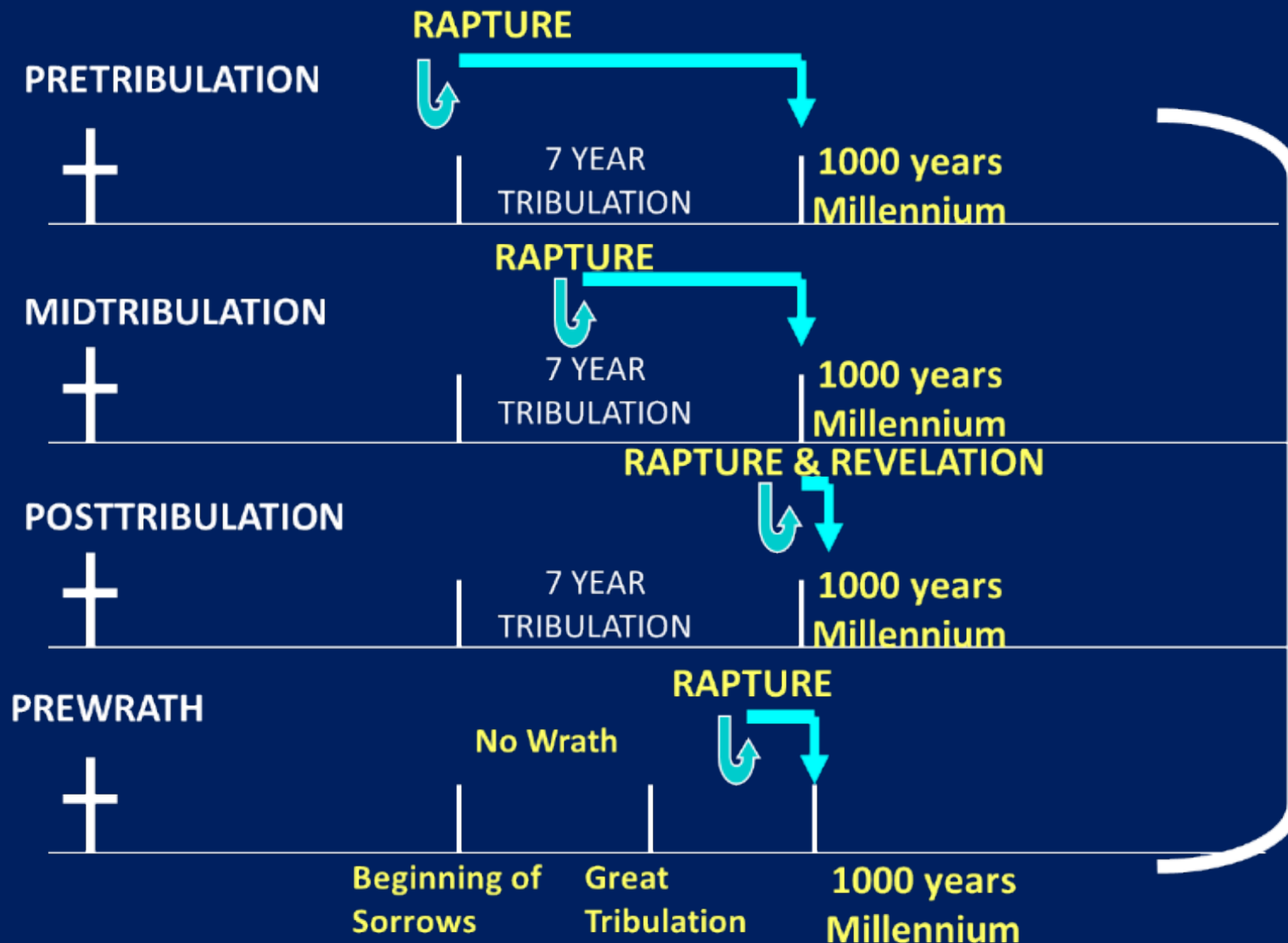


Genesis 1:14

Then God said, “Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night, and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years.”



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Revelation 5:10

“You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign [basileuō] upon the earth [gē].”

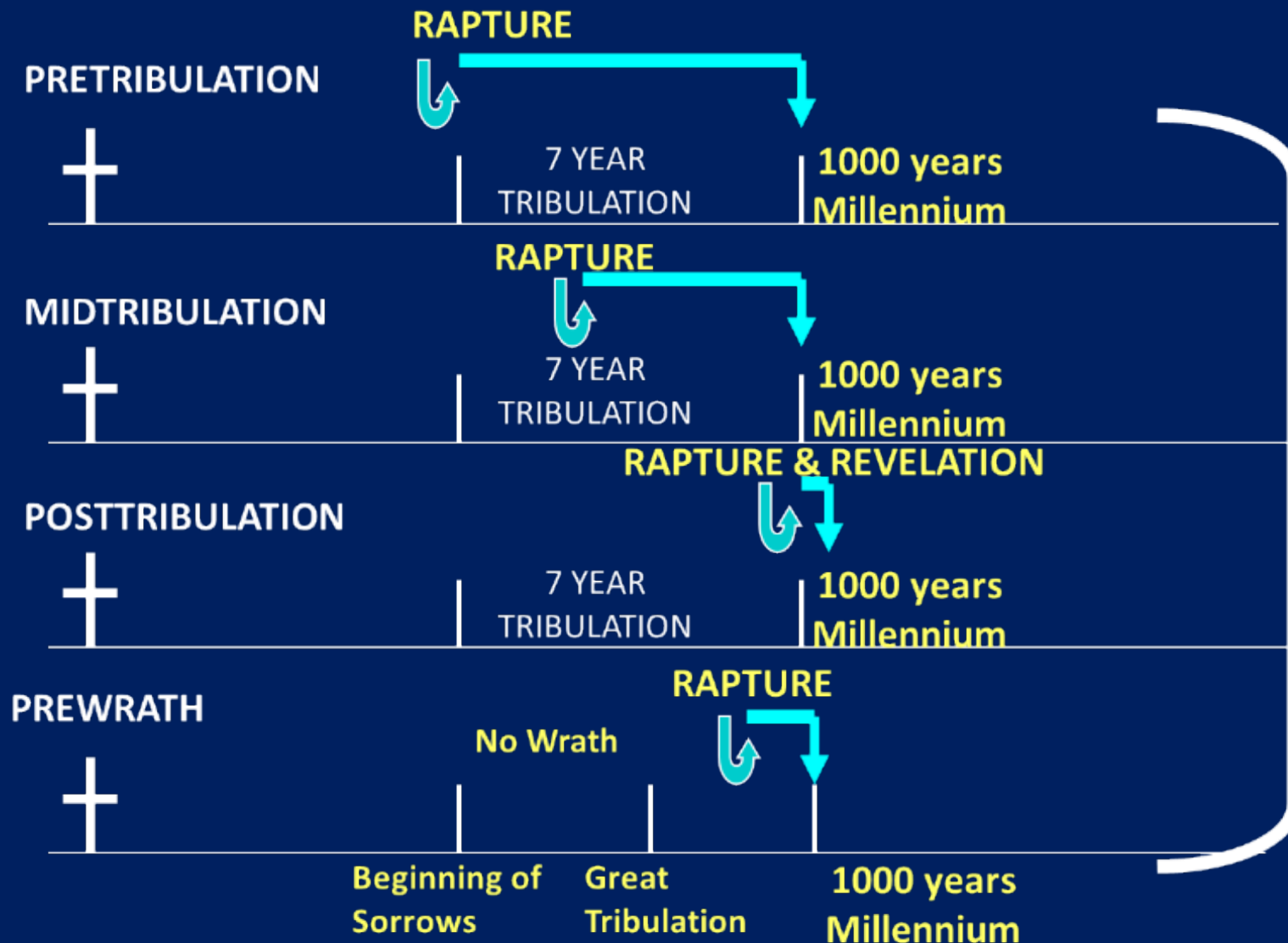


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. . . have fallen asleep. ¹⁶ For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of *the* archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up [harpazō] 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."



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Y-H-Z-M-H

Conclusion

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

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- Partial rapture theory



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