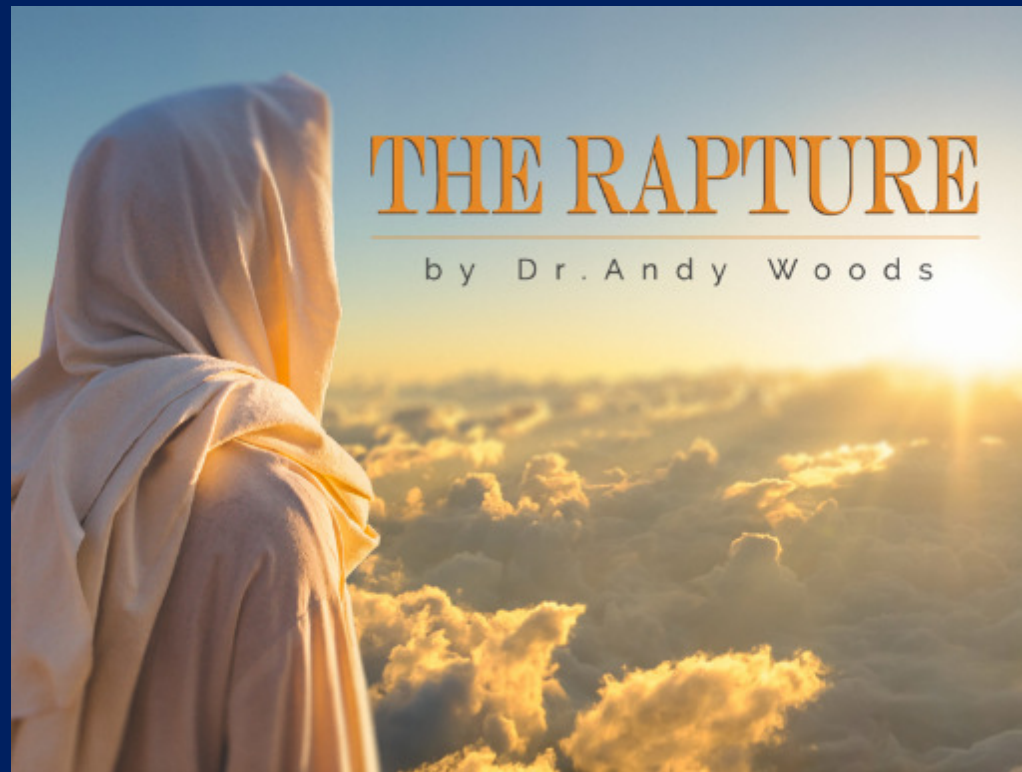


THE RAPTURE

What and When? – Part 35



Andrew Marshall Woods, Th.M., J.D., Ph.D.
Sr. Pastor, Sugar Land Bible Church

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



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



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

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



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)

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



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



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



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



When is the Rapture?

7 Arguments Favoring the Pre-Tribulation View

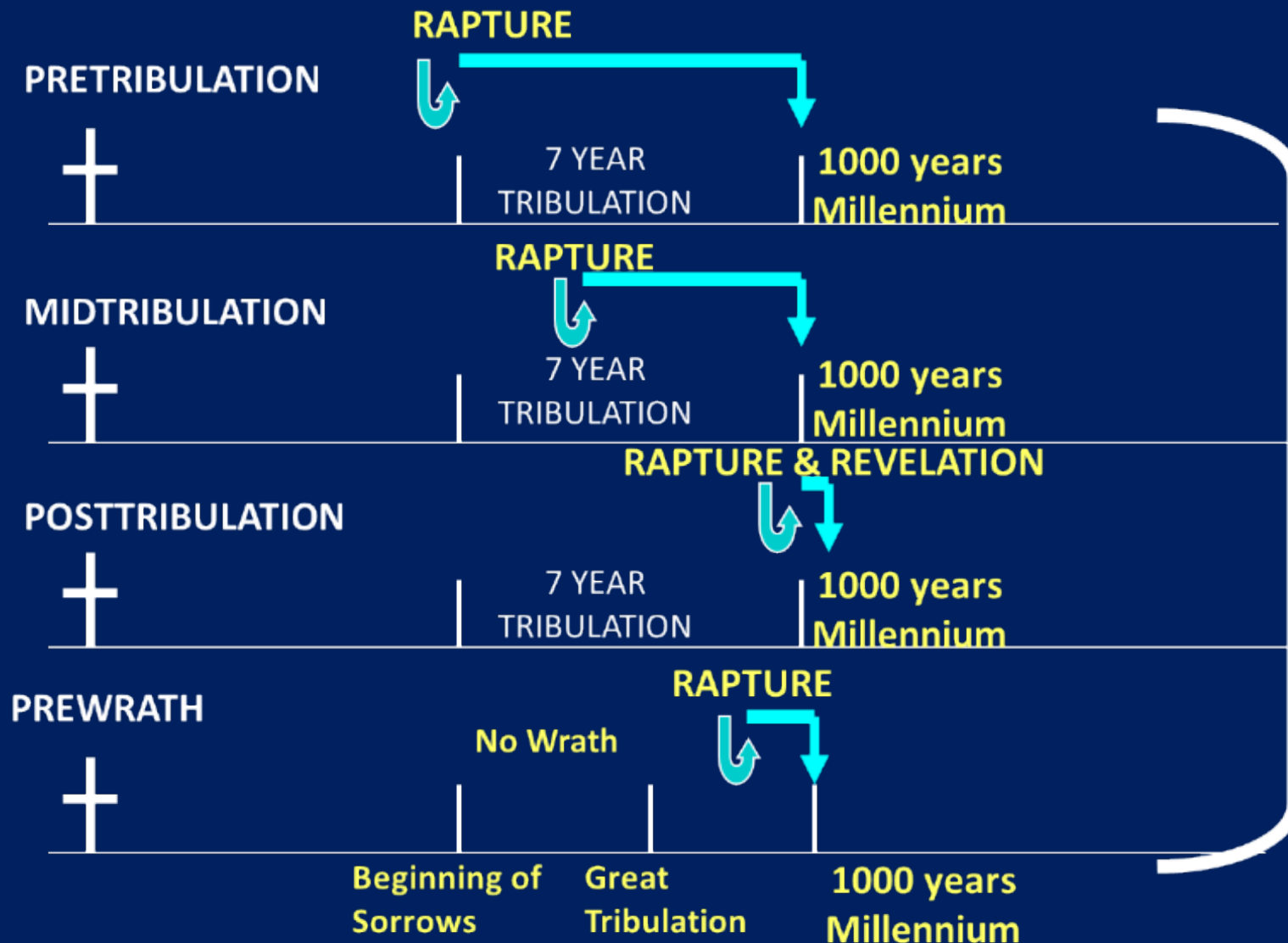
1. Tribulation's purpose concerns Israel (Jer 30:7; Dan 9:24)
2. No biblical reference to the church on earth during the Tribulation period (Rev 4-22)
3. Church is promised an exemption from divine wrath (1 Thess 1:10; 5:9; Rom 5:9; Rev 3:10; 6:17)
4. Rapture is imminent (1 Cor 15:51; 1 Thess 4:15)
5. 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)

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



Y-H-Z-H-E

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

Rapture Distinct from Second Advent

RAPTURE

(1 Thess 4:13-18; 1 Cor 15:51-58)

Christ comes in the air (1 Thess 4:16-17)

For His saints (1 Thess 4:15-17)

Blessing (1 Thess 4:18)

Effects only believers (1 Thess 4:16)

SECOND COMING

(Rev 19:11-16)

Christ comes to the earth (Zech 14:4)

With His saints (Rev 19:14)

Judgment (Rev 19:15)

Effects both believers & unbelievers (Rev 19:15)

Rapture Distinct from Second Advent

RAPTURE

(1 Thess 4:13-18; 1 Cor 15:51-58)

Invisible (1 Thess 4:16)

**Announced only by an archangel
(1 Thess 4:16)**

Resurrection (1 Cor 15: 51)

**Rescue of the Church (1 Thess
1:10)**

SECOND COMING

(Rev 19:11-16)

Visible to all (Rev 1:7)

**Involves myriads of angels (Jude
14)**

No resurrection

Rescue of Israel (Matt 23:37-39)

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.

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.**

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 . . .



1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

. . . 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."



1 Corinthians 15:52

“in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.”



Matthew 24:30-31

“³⁰ And then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky with power and great glory. ³¹ And He will send forth His angels with A GREAT TRUMPET and THEY WILL GATHER TOGETHER [*episynagō*] HIS ELECT FROM THE FOUR WINDS, FROM ONE END OF THE SKY TO THE OTHER.”





Last Trump?



1 THESSALONIANS 4:13-18

- Sounded before Christ returns to the earth
- Trump of an Archangel
- No mention of angels regathering

MATTHEW 24:30-31

- Sounded when Christ returns to the earth
- Mention of many angels
- Angels regather the elect

Thomas Ice

"Matthew 24:31: Rapture or Second Coming?,"
online: www.pre-trib.org, accessed 19 March 2014, 2.

“In 1 Thessalonians 4 believers are gathered in the air and taken to heaven, while in Matthew 24 they are gathered after Christ's arrival to earth.”



John A. Sproule

"An Exegetical Defense of Pretribulationism" (Th.D. diss., Grace Theological Seminary, 1981), 53.

“Where does Paul mention the darkening of the sun (Matt. 24:29), the moon not giving its light (Matt. 24:29), the stars falling from the sky (Matt. 24:29), the powers of the heavens being shaken (Matt. 24:29), all the tribes of the earth mourning (Matt. 24:30), all the world seeing the coming of the Son of Man (Matt. 24:30), or God sending forth angels (Matt.24:31)?”



Paul D. Feinberg

"Response: Paul D. Feinberg," in *The Rapture: Pre-, Mid-, or Posttribulational*, ed. Richard R. Reiter (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1984), 225.

“Notice what happens when you examine both passages carefully. In Matthew the Son of Man comes on the clouds, while in 1 Thessalonians 4 the ascending believers are in them. In Matthew the angels gather the elect; in 1 Thessalonians the Lord Himself (note the emphasis) gathers the believers. Thessalonians only speaks of the voice of the archangel. In the Olivet Discourse nothing is said about a resurrection, while in the latter text it is the central point. In the two passages the differences in what will take place prior to the appearance of Christ is striking. Moreover, the order of ascent is absent from Matthew in spite of the fact that it is the central part of the epistle.”

Matthew 24:31

³¹ “And He will send forth His angels with A GREAT TRUMPET and THEY WILL GATHER TOGETHER [*episynagō*] HIS ELECT FROM THE FOUR WINDS, FROM ONE END OF THE SKY TO THE OTHER.”



Matthew 23:37-39

³⁷ “Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather [episynagō] your children together, the way a hen gathers [episynagō] her chicks under her wings, and you were unwilling. ³⁸ Behold, your house is being left to you desolate! ³⁹ For I say to you, from now on you will not see Me until you say, ‘BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD!’”



Isaiah 27:13

“It will come about also in that day that a great trumpet will be blown, and those who were perishing in the land of Assyria and who were scattered in the land of Egypt will come and worship the LORD in the holy mountain at Jerusalem.”

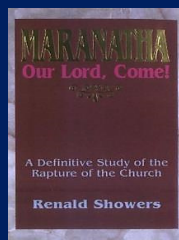
RESTORATION
IS COMING!





Renald Showers

Maranatha Our Lord, Come!: A Definitive Study of the Rapture of the Church (Bellmawr, NJ: Friends of Israel, 1995), 182-83.

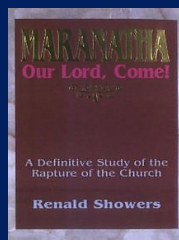


“First, because of Israel's persistent rebellion against God, He declared that He would scatter the Jews ‘into all the winds’ (Ezek. 5:10, 12) or ‘toward all winds’ (Ezek. 17:21). In Zechariah 2:6 God stated that He did scatter them abroad ‘as four winds of the heavens.’ ... God did scatter the Jews all over the world. Next, God also declared that in the future Israel would be gathered from the east, west, north, and south, ‘from the ends of the earth’ (Isa. 43:5-7). We should note that in the context of this promise, God called Israel His ‘chosen’ (vv. 10, 20)...”



Renald Showers

Maranatha Our Lord, Come!: A Definitive Study of the Rapture of the Church (Bellmawr, NJ: Friends of Israel, 1995), 182-83.

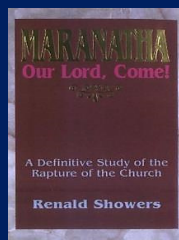


“Just as Jesus indicated that the gathering of His elect from the four directions of the world will take place in conjunction with ‘a great trumpet’ (literal translation of the Greek text of Mt. 24:21), so Isaiah 27:13 teaches that the scattered children of Israel will be gathered to their homeland in conjunction with the blowing of ‘a great trumpet’ (literal translation of the Hebrew)... Gerhard Friedrich wrote that in that future eschatological day ‘a great horn shall be blown (Is. 27:13)’ and the exiled will be brought back by that signal. Again he asserted that in conjunction with the blowing of the great trumpet of Isaiah 27:13, ‘There follows the gathering of Israel and the return of the dispersed to Zion.’”



Renald Showers

Maranatha Our Lord, Come!: A Definitive Study of the Rapture of the Church (Bellmawr, NJ: Friends of Israel, 1995), 182-83.

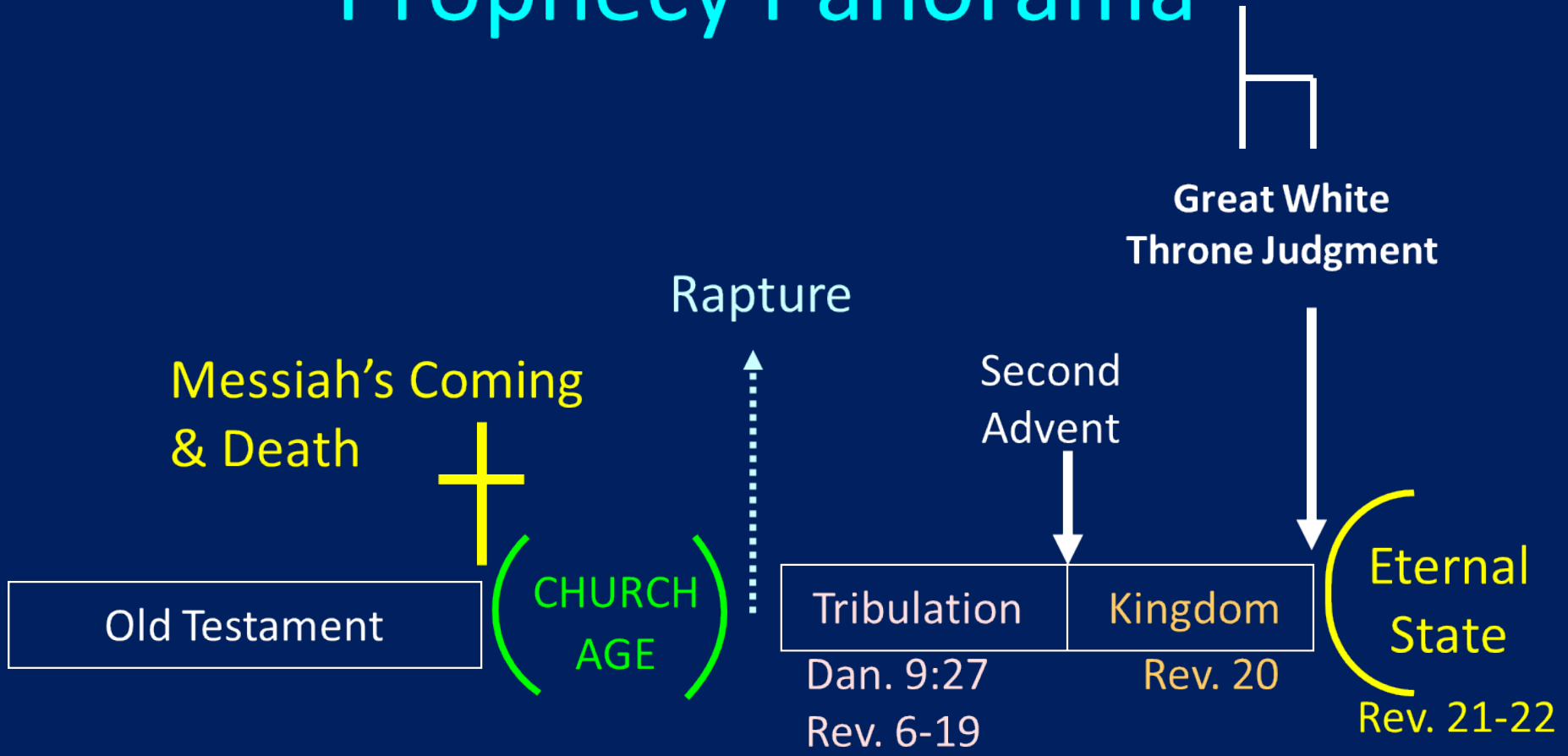


“It is significant to note that Isaiah 27:13, which foretells this future regathering of Israel, is the only specific reference in the Old Testament to a ‘great’ trumpet. Although Isaiah 11:11-12 does not refer to a great trumpet, it is parallel to Isaiah 27:13 because it refers to the same regathering of Israel. In its context, this passage indicates that when the Messiah (a root of Jesse, vv. 1, 10) comes to rule and transform the world as an ‘ensign’ (a banner), He will gather together the scattered remnant of His people Israel ‘from the four corners of the earth.’”

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.

Prophecy Panorama



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

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 . . .



1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

. . . 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."



Catching Away of All Living Believers

(1 Thess 4:17)



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

Revelation 19:11

“And I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and He who sat on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and wages war.”



Revelation 5:9-10

“⁹ And they sang a new song, saying, ‘Worthy are You to take the book and to break its seals; for You were slain, and purchased for God with Your blood men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation. ¹⁰ You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign upon the earth.’”



Zechariah 14:4

“In that day, His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which is in front of Jerusalem on the east; and the Mount of Olives will be split in its middle from east to west by a very large valley, so that half of the mountain will move toward the north and the other half toward the south.”



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

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

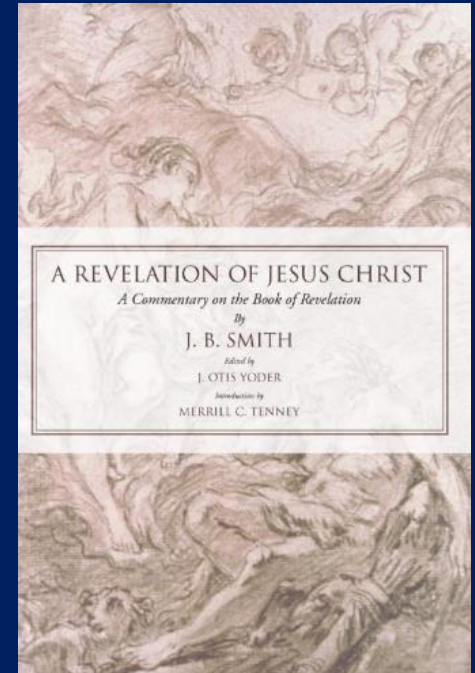
1 THESS 4:13-18

- 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)

J. B. Smith

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

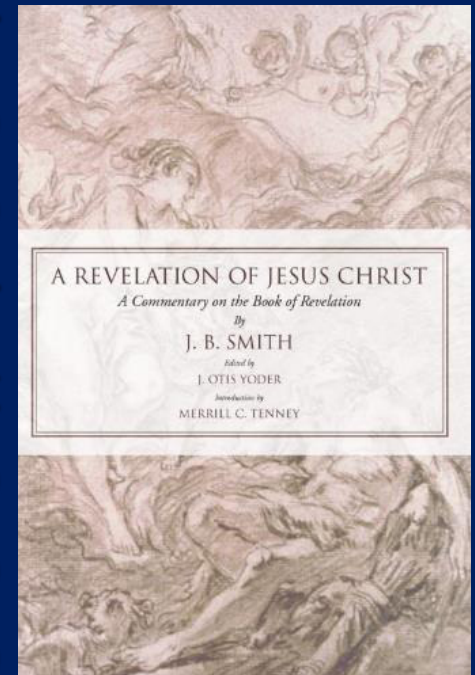
“The words or phrases are almost an exact parallel. They follow one another in both passages in exactly the same order. Only the righteous are dealt with in each case. There is not a single irregularity in the progression of words from first to last. Either column takes the believer from the troubles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



J. B. Smith

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

“Hence it is impossible that one sentence or even one phrase can be alike in the two lists...And finally not one word in the two lists is used in the same relation or connection...It would be difficult if not impossible to find elsewhere any two important passages of Scripture that are so diverse in the words employed and so opposite in their implications. . . . We believe the comparison of the words of these two passages . . . describe different events.”



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.

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

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

...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."



1 Corinthians 15:50-51

“⁵⁰ Now I say this, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. ⁵¹ Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed.”



Revelation 20:4-6

“⁴ Then I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was given to them. And I *saw* the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony of Jesus and because of the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received the mark on their forehead and on their hand; and **they came to life** **[zaō]** and reigned with Christ for a thousand years....

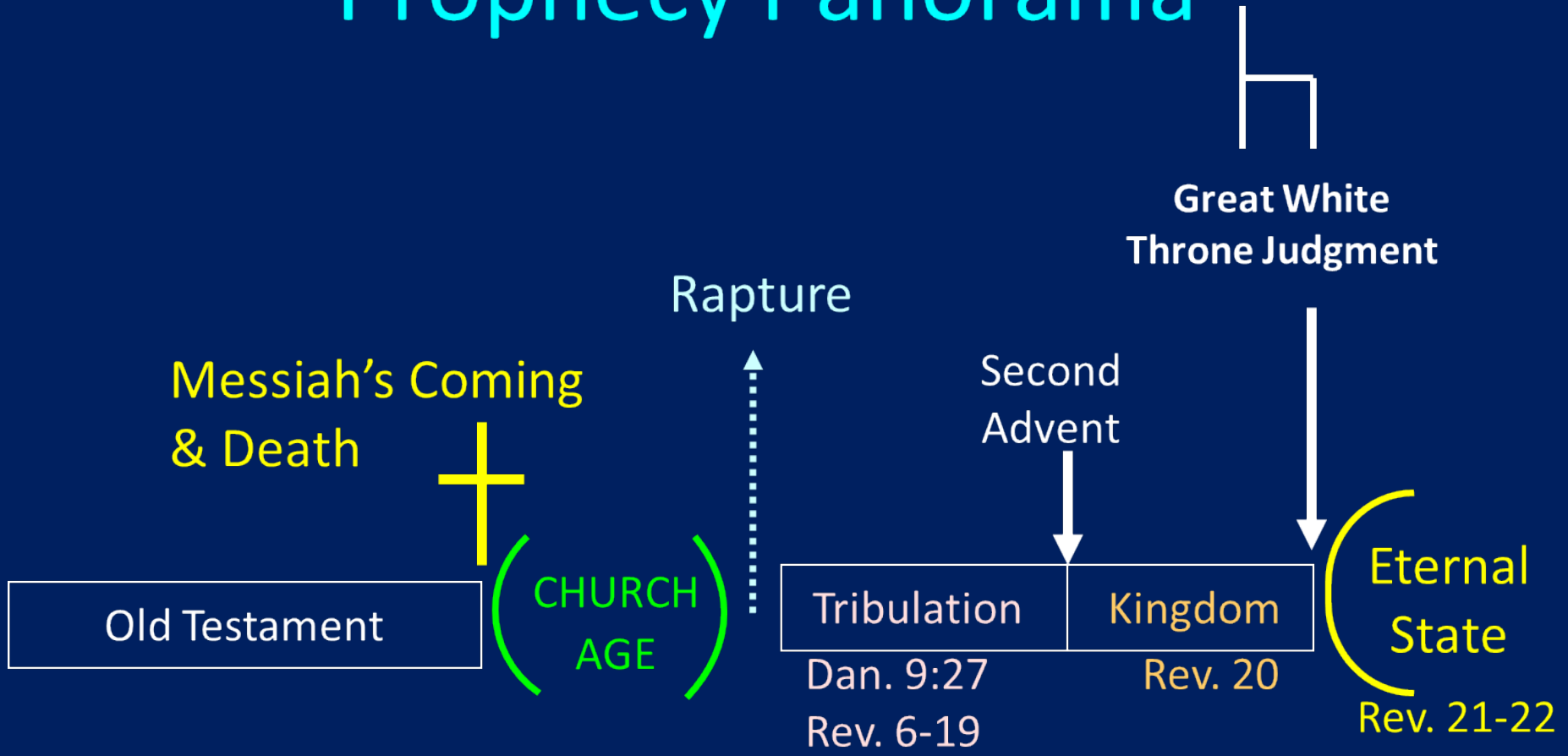


Revelation 20:4-6

...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.”



Prophecy Panorama





George Eldon Ladd

The Blessed Hope (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1956), 165.

According to posttribulationalist George Ladd, "With the exception of one passage, the author will grant that the Scripture nowhere explicitly states that the Church will go through the Great Tribulation... However, in one passage, Revelation 20, the Resurrection is placed at the return of Christ in glory. This is more than an inference...which requires a posttribulation view..."



Revelation 20:4-6

“⁴ Then I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was given to them. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony of Jesus and because of the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received the mark on their forehead and on their hand; and they came to life [zaō] and reigned with Christ for a thousand years....





Norman Geisler

Systematic Theology, vol. 4
(Minneapolis, MN: Bethany, 2004), 654.

“Revelation 20:4-6 is speaking of the believers who have died during the Tribulation, not those resurrected at the Rapture” (1 Thess. 4:13-18; 1 Cor. 15:50-58).”



Revelation 20:4-6

“⁴ Then I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was given to them. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony of Jesus and because of the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received the mark on their forehead and on their hand; and they came to life [zaō] and reigned with Christ for a thousand years....



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.”



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 . . .



1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

. . . 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."



1 Corinthians 15:50-51

“⁵⁰ Now I say this, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. ⁵¹ Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed.”





Charles Ryrie

What You Should Know About the Rapture, Current Christian Issues (Chicago: Moody, 1981), 63-64.

“...Revelation 20:4 speaks only of a resurrection of the dead, not of a translation of living people, a truth that is prominent and a vital part of the other descriptions of the rapture in 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 and 1 Corinthians 15:51-58).”

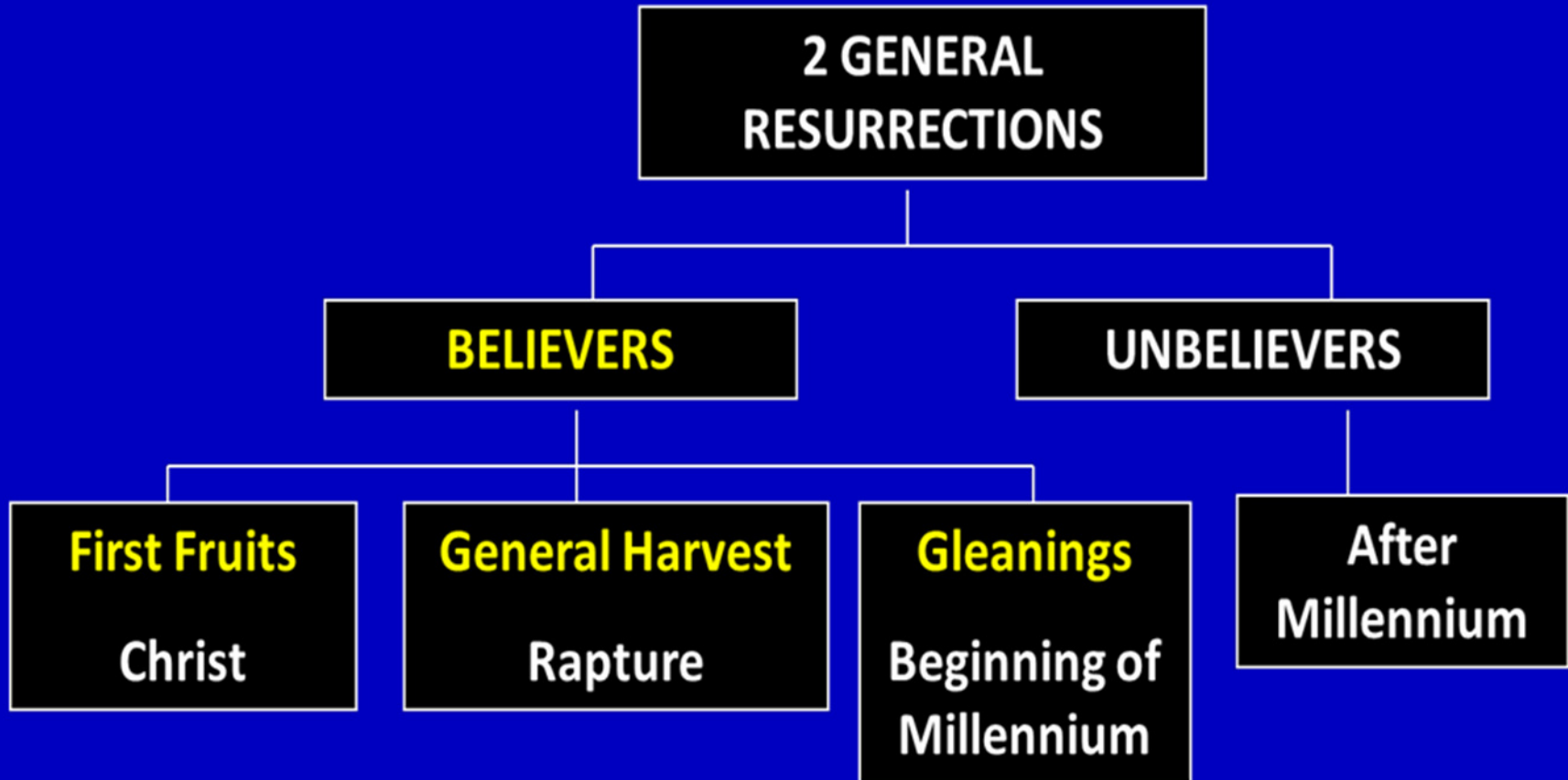


Revelation 20:4-6

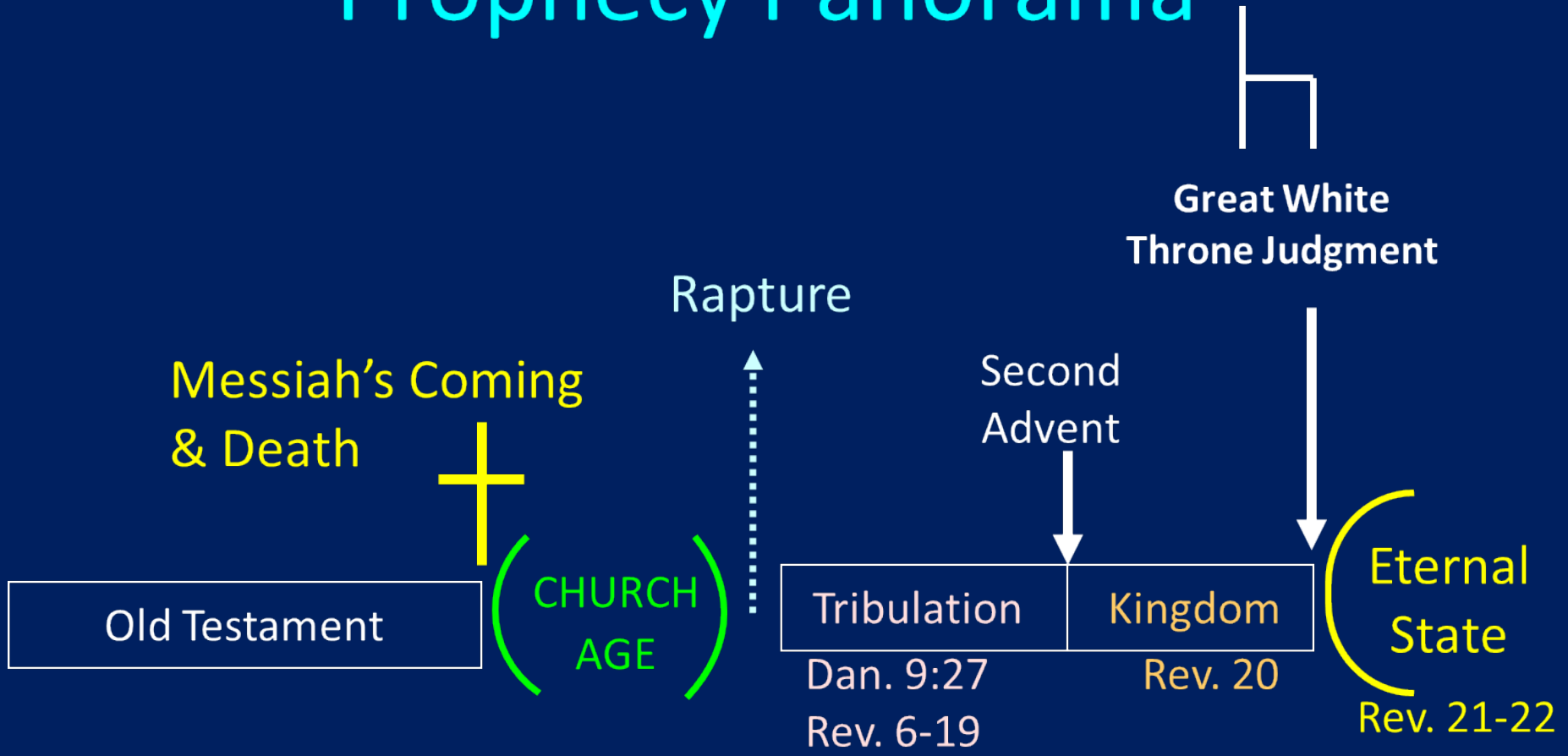
...⁵ The rest of the dead did not come to life [zaō] until the thousand years were completed. This is the first resurrection [anastasis]. ⁶ Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection [anastasis]; over these the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of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



God's Resurrection Program



Prophecy Panorama



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.

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)

Promised Exemption from Divine Wrath

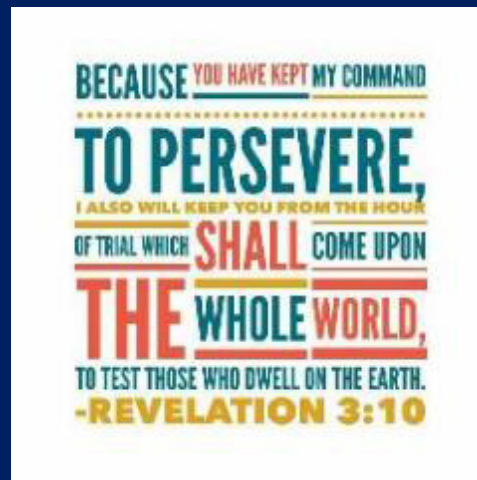
- The promise (1 Thess 1:10; 5:9; Rom 5:9; 8:1; Rev 3:10)
- Tribulation = divine wrath/anger (Rev 6:16-17; 11:18; 14:10; 15:1, 7; 16:1, 19; 19:15)



Protection Through the Tribulation?

(Revelation 3:10)

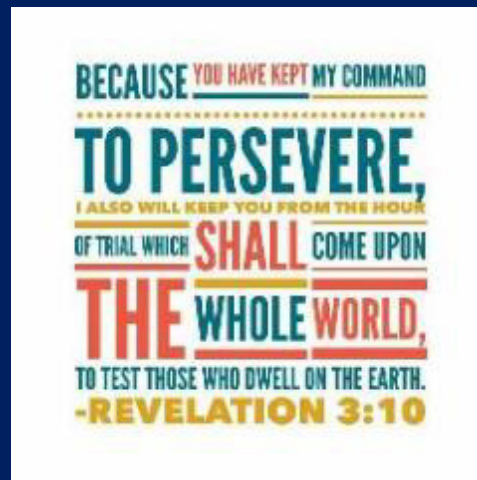
- 1) Like the protection in Goshen (Exod. 8:22, 24; 9:4, 6; 11:4-7; Rev. 9:4; 16:2)
- 2) Effective? Rev. 6:9-11; 7:13-14; 13:10, 15; 20:4



Protection Through the Tribulation?

(Revelation 3:10)

- 1) Like the protection in Goshen (Exod. 8:22, 24; 9:4, 6; 11:4-7; Rev. 9:4; 16:2)
- 2) Effective? Rev. 6:9-11; 7:13-14; 13:10, 15; 20:4

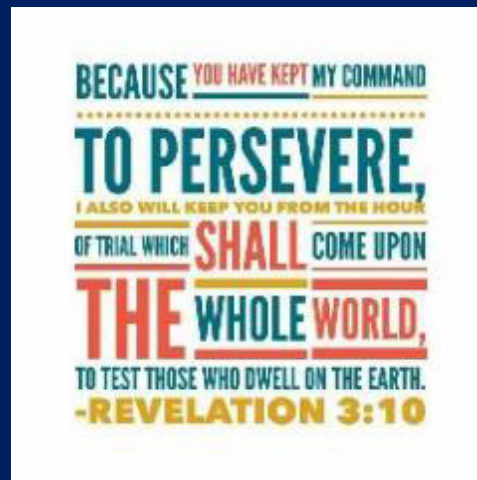




Protection Through the Tribulation?

(Revelation 3:10)

- 1) Like the protection in Goshen (Exod. 8:22, 24; 9:4, 6; 11:4-7; Rev. 9:4; 16:2)
- 2) Effective? Rev. 6:9-11; 7:13-14; 13:10, 15; 20:4



1st Six Seals (Revelation 6)

SEAL 1 – 6:1-2 – Advent of antichrist

SEAL 2 – 6:3-4 – War

SEAL 3 – 6:5-6 – Famine

SEAL 4 – 6:7-8 – Death

SEAL 5 – 6:9-11 – Martyrdoms

SEAL 6 – 6:12-17 – Cosmic disturbances



Distinctions Between 144,000 & Multitude

144,000

MULTITUDE

Revelation 7:1-8

Revelation 7:9-17

Numbered

Innumerable

Jews

All nations

Sealed

Slain

Sealed before the Tribulation

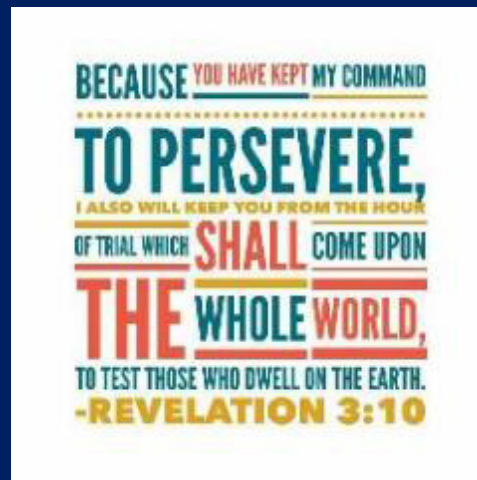
Converted out of the Tribulation

Hitchcock and Ice, *The Truth Behind Left Behind*, 77

Protection Through the Tribulation?

(Revelation 3:10)

- 1) Like the protection in Goshen (Exod. 8:22, 24; 9:4, 6; 11:4-7; Rev. 9:4; 16:2)
- 2) Effective? Rev. 6:9-11; 7:13-14; 13:10, 15; 20:4



Revelation 3:10

“Because you have kept the word of My perseverance, I also will keep you from the hour [hōra] of testing, that hour which is about to come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.”





Charles Ryrie

What You Should Know About the Rapture, Current Christian Issues (Chicago: Moody, 1981), 116-17.

“However, the promise of Revelation 3:10 not only guarantees being kept from the trials of the Tribulation period but being kept from the time period of the Tribulation. The promise is not, I will keep you from the trials. It is I will keep you from the hour of the trials...But how clear and plain is the promise. ‘I...will keep you from the hour of testing.’ Not just from any persecution, but from the coming time that will affect the whole earth. (The only way to escape worldwide trouble is not to be on the earth.) And not just from the events, but from the time. And the only way to escape the time when the events take place is not to be in a place where time ticks on. The only place that meets those qualifications is heaven.”



Ron Rhodes

The End Times in Chronological Order: A Complete Overview to Understanding Bible Prophecy (Eugene, OR: Harvest, 2012), 50.

“The posttribulation view, expressed in the writings of George Eldon Ladd, Robert Gundry, and others, is the view that Christ will rapture the church after the tribulation period at the second coming of Christ. This means the church will go through the time of judgment prophesied in the book of Revelation, but believers will be kept from Satan's wrath during the tribulation (Revelation 3:10). Pretribulationists (such as myself) respond, however, that Revelation 3:10 indicates that believers will be saved out of or separated from (Greek: ek) the actual time period of the tribulation.”



Norman Geisler

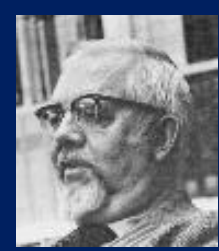
Systematic Theology, vol. 4
(Minneapolis, MN: Bethany, 2004), 654.

“In context, the statement about being saved 'out of' (Gk: ek) the time of trial does mean saved from it (not through it). One cannot be saved from an entire hour by being in any part of it.”



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.

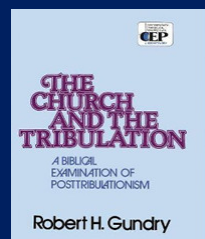


George Eldon Ladd

The Blessed Hope (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1956), 31.

According to posttributionalist George Ladd, "every church father who deals with the subject expects the church to suffer at the hands of the Antichrist" and "the prevailing view is post-tributational premillennialism."





Robert H. Gundry

The Church and the Tribulation (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1973), 173.

Gundry similarly concludes, "Until Augustine in the fourth century, the early Church generally held to the premillennarian understanding of Biblical eschatology...And it was post-tribulational."



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**

Post-tribulationism's Appeal to Antiquity?

- A. First, the issue is not when the view became popular but if it is taught in the Bible.
- B. Second, the notion that the earliest Church Fathers were universally post-tribulationist is a highly debatable proposition.
- C. Third, prophetic truth is designed by the Holy Spirit to become progressively more understandable as the world approaches the allotted time period when the prophecies will be fulfilled.

Post-tribulationism's Appeal to Antiquity?

- A. First, the issue is not when the view became popular but if it is taught in the Bible.
- B. Second, the notion that the earliest Church Fathers were universally post-tribulationist is a highly debatable proposition.
- C. Third, prophetic truth is designed by the Holy Spirit to become progressively more understandable as the world approaches the allotted time period when the prophecies will be fulfilled.

Martin Luther

Quoted by F.W. Farrar, *History of interpretation* (NY: E.P. Dutton and Company, 1886), 327.



“I ask for the Scripture, and Eck offers me the Fathers. I ask for the sun, and he shows me his lanterns. I ask, ‘where is your Scripture proof?’ and he adduces Ambrose and Cyril...With all due respect to the Fathers, I prefer the authority of Scripture.”

The Five *Solas* (Alone or By Itself)

- *Solus Christus* – Christ alone
- *Sola Fide* – faith alone
- *Sola Gratia* – grace alone
- *Sola Scriptura* – Scripture alone
- *Soli Deo Gloria* – To the glory of God alone



J. Dwight Pentecost

Things to Come, Page 168

“If the same line of reasoning were followed one would not accept the doctrine of justification by faith, for it was not clearly taught until the Reformation. The failure to discern the teaching of Scripture does not nullify that teaching.”



Acts 20:29

“For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock.” (Italics added).



Post-tribulationism's Appeal to Antiquity?

- A. First, the issue is not when the view became popular but if it is taught in the Bible.
- B. Second, the notion that the earliest Church Fathers were universally post-tribulationist is a highly debatable proposition.
- C. Third, prophetic truth is designed by the Holy Spirit to become progressively more understandable as the world approaches the allotted time period when the prophecies will be fulfilled.

J. Dwight Pentecost

Things to Come, Page 168

“The early church lived in the light of the belief in the imminent return of Christ. Their expectation was that Christ might return at any time. Pre-tribulationism is the only position consistent with this doctrine of imminence.”



Jesse Forest Silver

The Lord's Return: Seen in History and in Scripture as
Premillennial and Imminent (NY: Revell, 1914), 62-64.

Silver says of the apostolic fathers that **“they expected the return of the Lord in their day...They** believed the time was imminent because the Lord had taught them to live in a watchful attitude.” Concerning the ante Nicene fathers, he says: “by tradition they knew the faith of the apostles. **They taught the doctrine of the imminent and pre-millennial return of the Lord.”**

*Second Epistle of Clement
to the Corinthians 4.15.*

(A.D. 95–140)

“Wherefore let us every hour expect the kingdom of God in love and righteousness; because we know not the day of God's appearing.”



Didache 16.1.

(A.D. 120)

“Watch for your life's sake. Let not your lamps be quenched, nor your loins unloosed; but be ready, for you know not the hour in which our Lord will come.”



Epistle of Barnabas 21.

(A.D. 70–135)

“For the day is at hand on which all things shall perish with the evil [one]. The Lord is near, and His reward.”



Pseudo Ephraem

(4th-6th century A.D.)

“Why therefore do we not reject every care of earthly actions and prepare ourselves for the meeting of the Lord Christ, so that he may draw us from the confusion, which overwhelms all the world...For all the saints and the elect of God are gathered, prior to the tribulation that is to come, and are taken to the Lord lest they see the confusion that is to overwhelm the world because of our sins.”

Post-tribulationism's Appeal to Antiquity?

- A. First, the issue is not when the view became popular but if it is taught in the Bible.
- B. Second, the notion that the earliest Church Fathers were universally post-tribulationist is a highly debatable proposition.
- C. Third, prophetic truth is designed by the Holy Spirit to become progressively more understandable as the world approaches the allotted time period when the prophecies will be fulfilled.

“The Rapture” a Traditional Doctrine Now Being Recovered

- Sola scriptura
- Negative influence of Augustine and Origen
- Pseudo Ephraem (4th-6th century A.D.)
- Progressive illumination



Jude 3

“Beloved, while I was making every effort to write you about our common salvation, I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all handed down to the saints.”



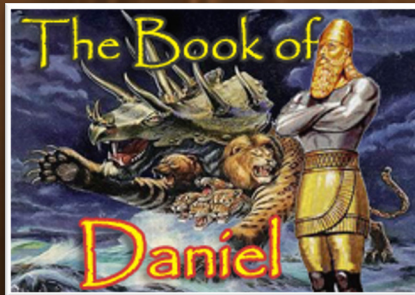
Revelation 22:18-19

“I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues which are written in this book; ¹⁹ and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his part from the tree of life and from the holy city, which are written in this book.”



Daniel 12:4, 9

“⁴ But as for you, Daniel, conceal these words and seal up the book until the end of time; many will go back and forth, and knowledge will increase...⁹ Go *your way*, Daniel, for *these* words are concealed and sealed up until the end time.”



Amos 8:12

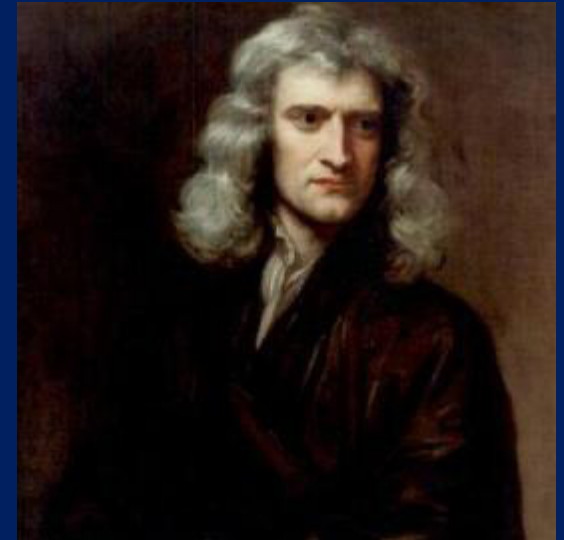
“People will stagger from sea to sea And from the north even to the east; They will go to and fro to seek the word of the LORD, But they will not find *it*.”



Sir Isaac Newton

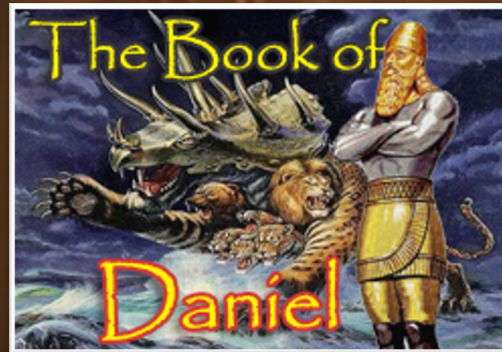
(1642–1727)

"About the time of the end, a body of men will be raised up who will turn their attention to the Prophecies, and insist upon their literal interpretation, in the midst of much clamor and opposition."



Daniel 8:27

“Then I, Daniel, was exhausted and sick for days. Then I got up again and carried on the king’s business; but I was astounded at the vision, and there was none to explain it.”



1 Peter 1:10-11

¹⁰ As to this salvation, the prophets who prophesied of the grace that *would come* to you made careful searches and inquiries, ¹¹ seeking to know what person or time the Spirit of Christ within them was indicating as He predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories to follow.



History of Doctrine

- Canon (A.D. 180)
- Christology (A.D. 500)
- Atonement (A.D. 1100)
- Salvation (A.D. 1500)
- Eschatology (A.D. 1800)

James Orr

The Progress of Dogma (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1952), 21-31.

Orr outlines the progress of Christian dogma in a similar way. “The second century was the age of Apologetics. The doctrine of God and especially the Trinity then took center stage in the third and fourth centuries as the Church dealt with the Monarchian, Arian, and Macedonian controversies. Anthropology then became the Church's focus in the early fifth century during the Augustinian and Pelagian controversies...The late fifth and then sixth and seventh centuries were characterized by an ecclesiastical interest in Christological (Nestorian, Eutychian, Monophysite, Monothelite) matters. In the . . .

James Orr

The Progress of Dogma (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1952), 21-31.

“...sixteenth century the reformers focused upon salvific or Soteriological concerns. Finally, the Church gave itself to correcting a Mythical and Mediaeval pre-reformation Eschatology.” Thus, Eschatology was the last of the branches of theology to be systematized since it was not designed to be progressively unsealed or illuminated by the Holy Spirit until just before the fulfillment of the predicted events (Dan. 12:4, 8-9).

Conclusion

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



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.

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

