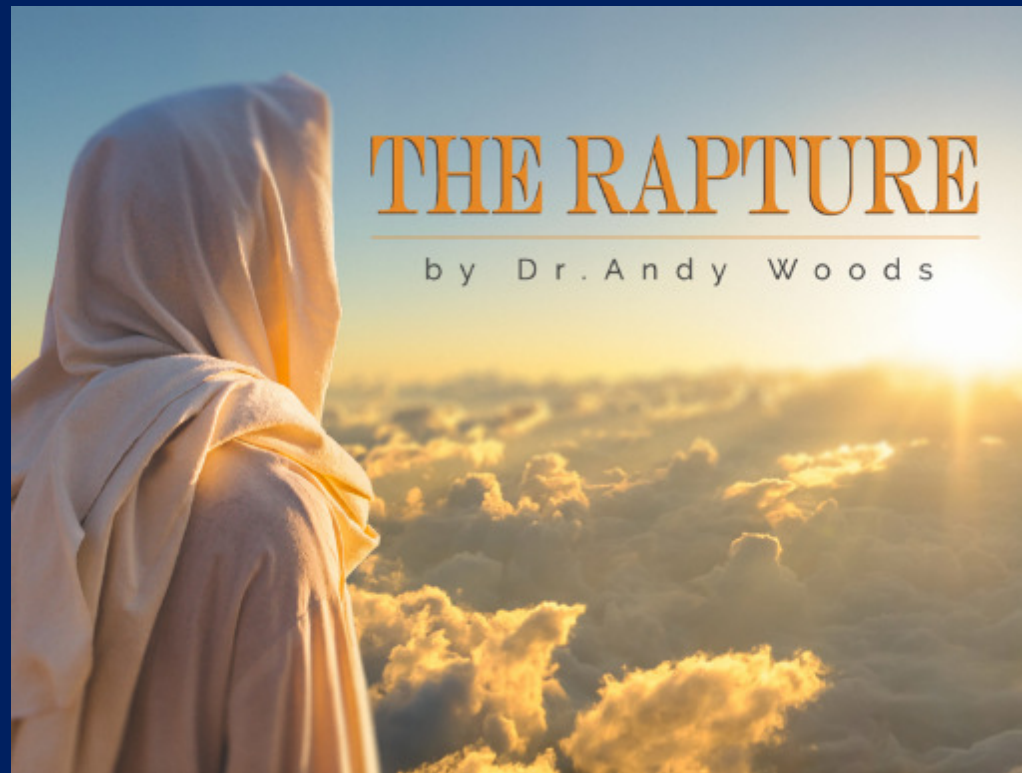


THE RAPTURE

What and When? – Part 43



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



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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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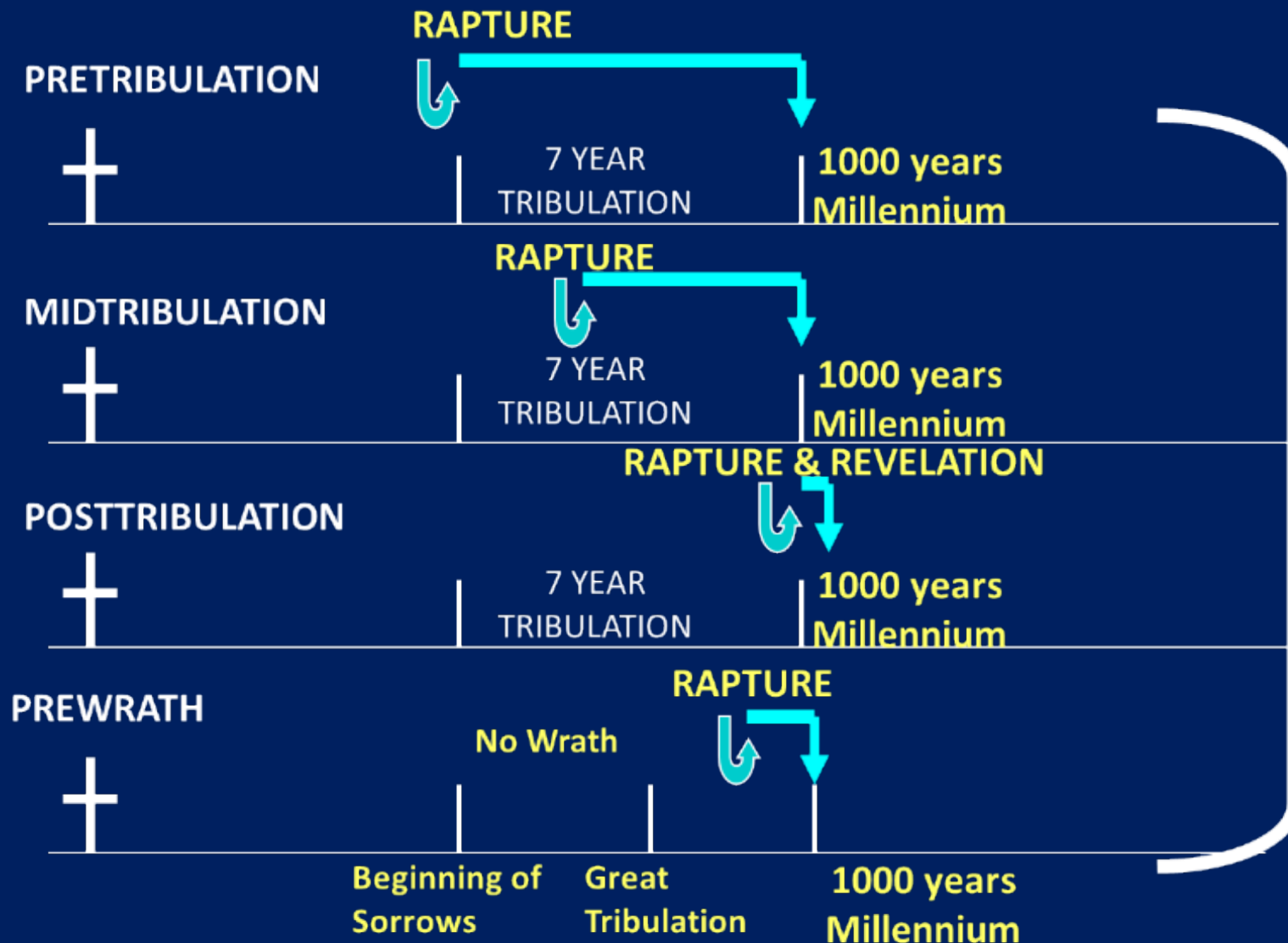


When Will the Rapture Take Place Relative to the Tribulation Period?

- Pre-tribulation rapture theory
- Mid-tribulation rapture theory
- Post-tribulation rapture theory
- Pre-wrath rapture theory
- Partial rapture theory



RAPTURE VIEW COMPARISON



Y-H-Z-H-E

Pre-Wrath Rapturism

- I. Description of the view
- II. Six problems with the view considering prior Pre-Tribulational Arguments
- III. Three additional problems with the view

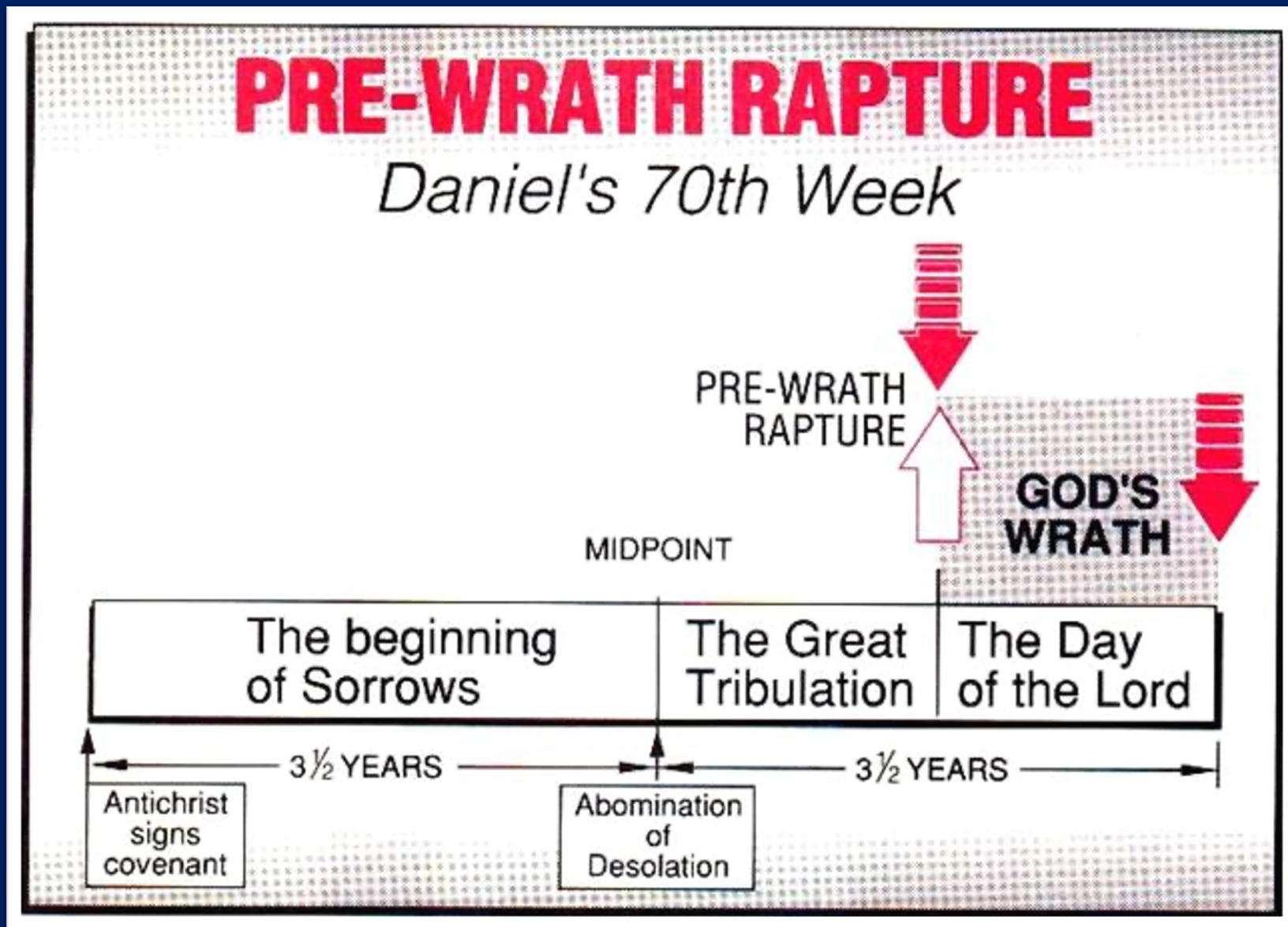


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Marvin J. Rosenthal, *The Pre-Wrath Rapture of the Church: A New Understanding of the Tribulation, and the Second Coming* (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 1990), 112.



Pre-Wrath Rapturism

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II. Pre-Wrath Rapture Theory Problems

- A. Places the Church in Daniel's 70th Week
- B. Fails to acknowledge the missing Church (Rev. 4–22)
- C. Confines God's wrath to only a portion of the Tribulation's second half
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Daniel 9:24

Seventy weeks have been decreed for your people and your holy city, to finish the transgression, to make an end of sin, to make atonement for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the most holy *place*.



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Revelation 1:19

“Therefore write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after these things [meta tauta].”



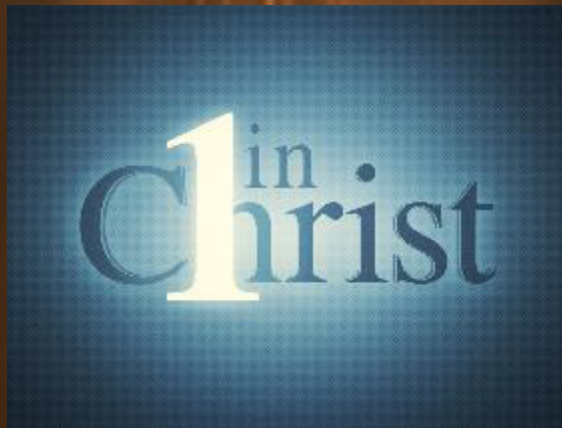
Revelation 1:19

- Seen (1)
- Are (2–3)
- After these things (4–22)



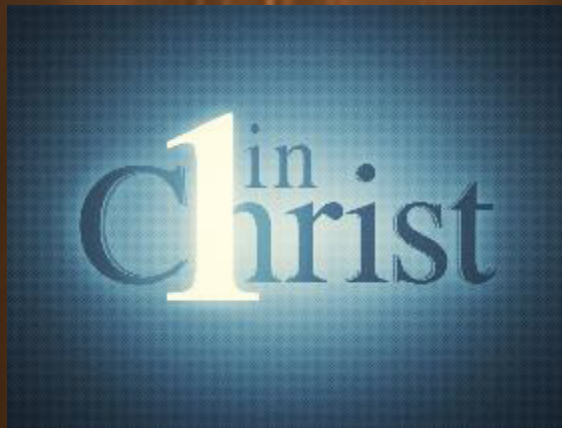
Ephesians 2:14

For He Himself is our peace, who made both groups into one and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall.



Galatians 3:28

There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.



God's Work Through Israel

- Revelation 7 – 144,000 Jews
- Revelation 11 – Two Jewish witnesses
- Revelation 12 – Israel flees



Preview of Matthew 24–25

- I. The problem
- II. The larger context
- III. The immediate context (23:37-39)
- IV. The Disciples' questions (24:1-3)
- V. The Tribulation's first half (24:4-14)
- VI. The Tribulation's mid-point (24:15-20)
- VII. The Tribulation's second half (24:21-22)
- VIII. The Second Advent (24:23-31)
- IX. Eight parabolic exhortations (24:32–25:46)



Psalm 50:5 (NKJV)

“Gather My saints together to Me,
Those who have made a covenant with Me by
sacrifice.”



Psalm 149:1 (NKJV)

“Praise the Lord! Sing to the Lord a new song,
And His praise in the assembly of saints.”



Matthew 16:18

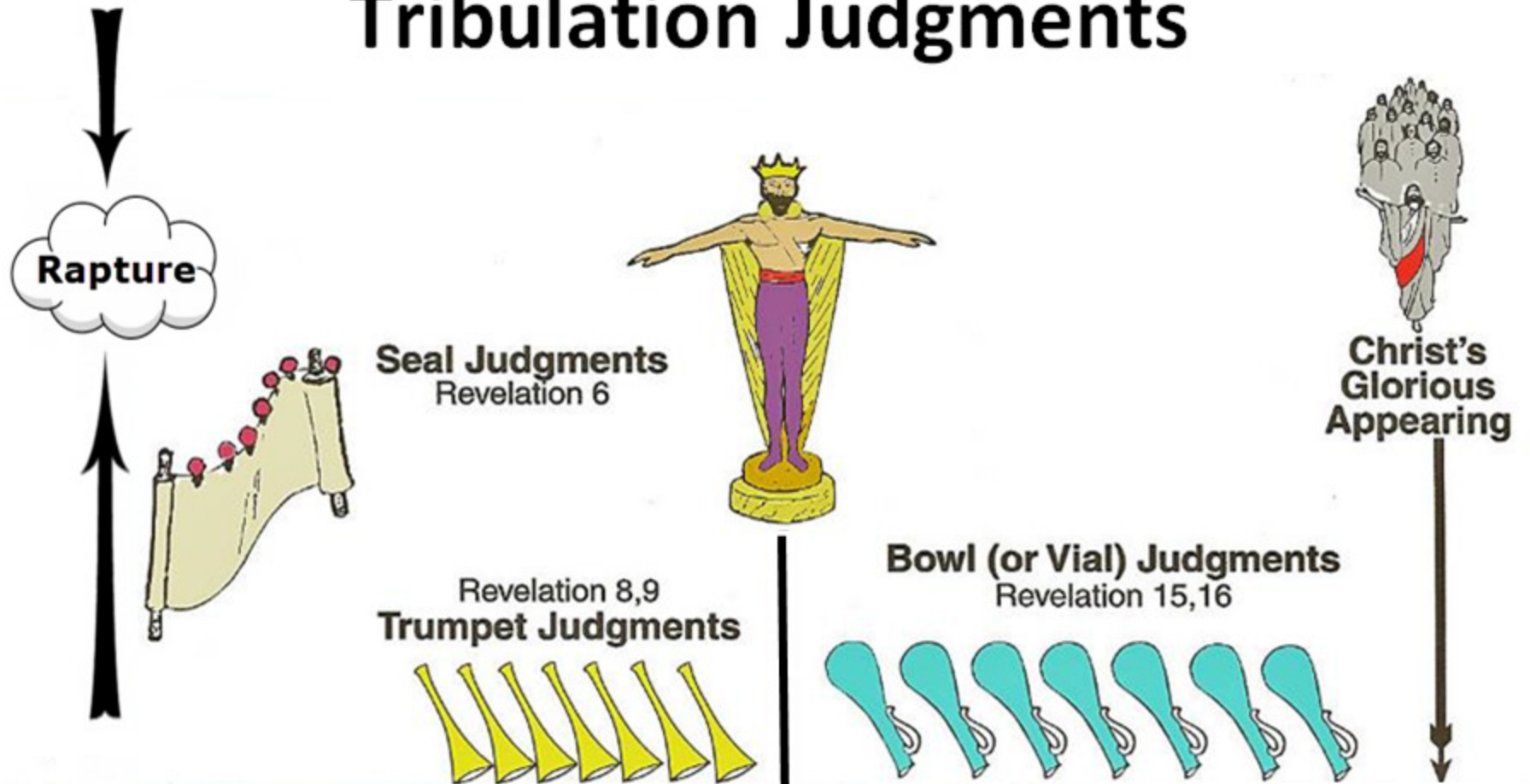
“I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build [oikodomeō] My church; and the gates of Hades WILL NOT overpower it.”



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Tribulation Judgments

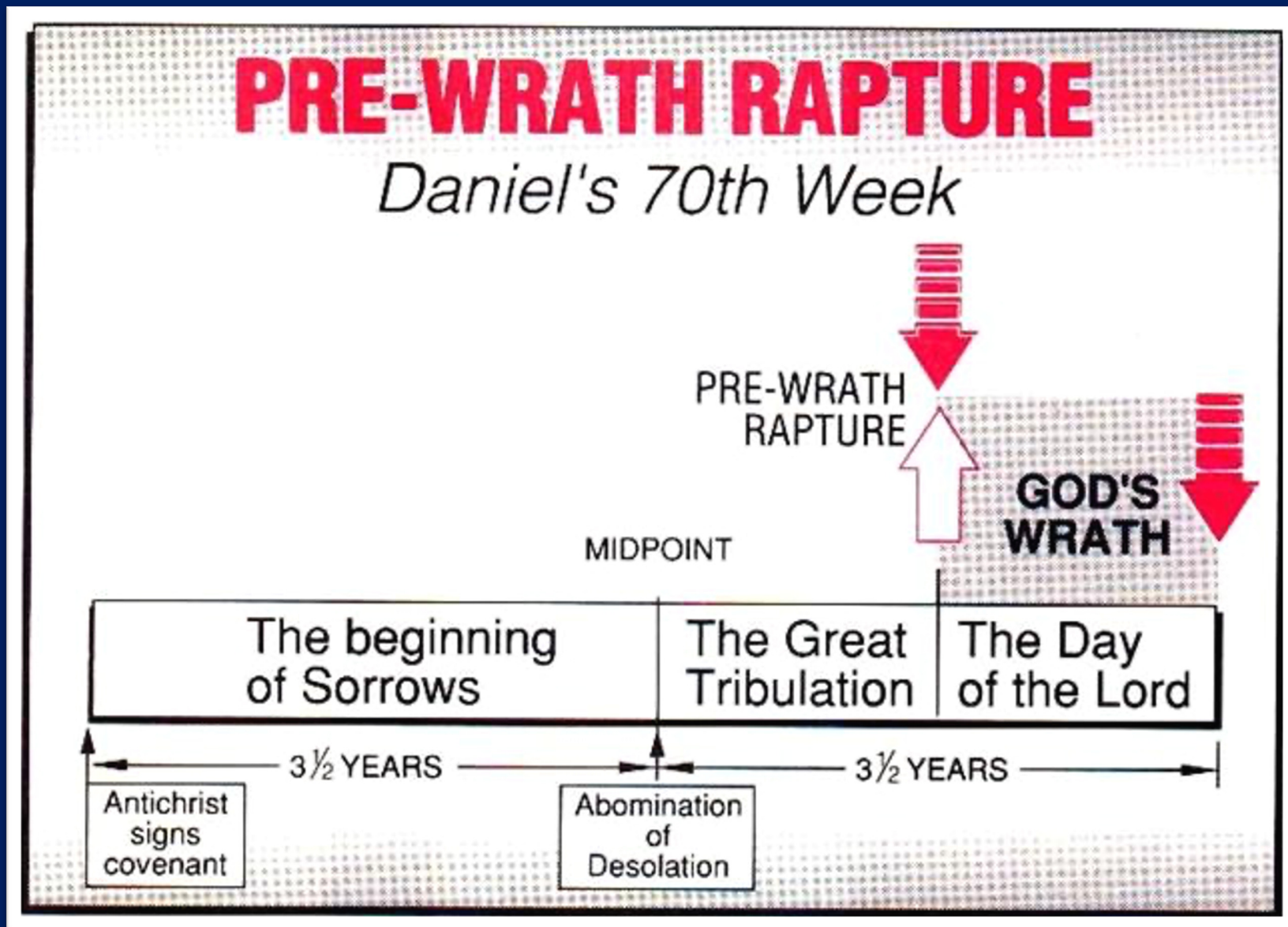


First Half of the Tribulation

Second Half of the Tribulation

THE GREAT TRIBULATION

Marvin J. Rosenthal, *The Pre-Wrath Rapture of the Church: A New Understanding of the Tribulation, and the Second Coming* (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 1990), 112.



Zephaniah 1:14-15

¹⁴ The great day of the Lord is near, Near and coming very quickly; Listen, the day of the Lord! In it the warrior cries out bitterly. ¹⁵ That day is a day of anger, A day of trouble and distress, A day of destruction and desolation, A day of darkness and gloom, A day of clouds and thick darkness.



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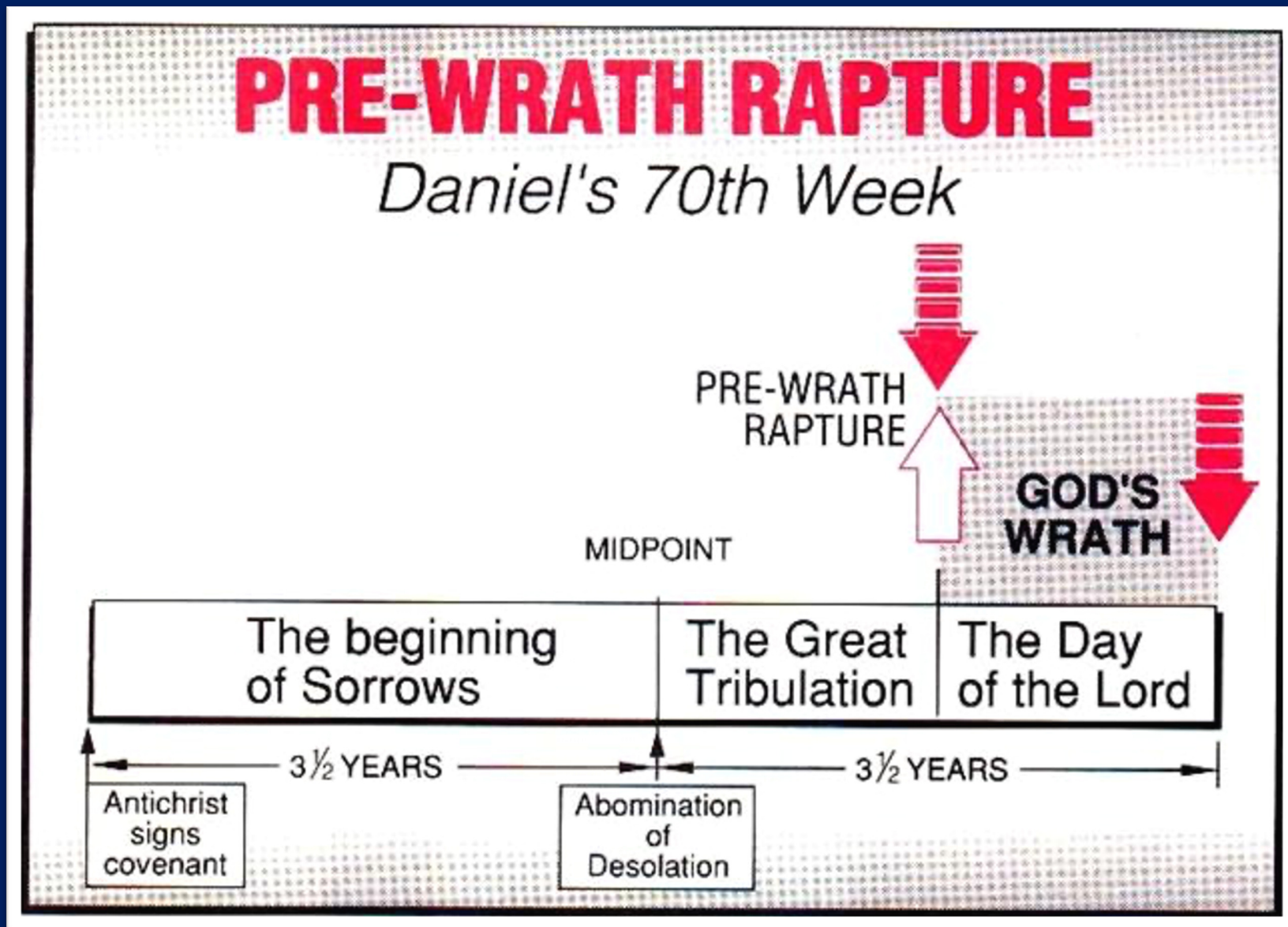


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Revelation 6:16-17

“¹⁶ and they said to the mountains and the rocks, ‘Fall on us and hide us from the sight of Him who sits on the throne, and from the wrath [orgé] of the Lamb; ¹⁷ for the great day of Their wrath [orgé] has come and who is able to stand?’”

~~WRATH~~





Rev. 6:16-17

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

"Mankind in his rebellion correctly analyzes the cosmic and terrestrial disturbances as a part of the great end-time day of wrath from the one sitting on the throne and from the Lamb. 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."

Revelation 6:16-17

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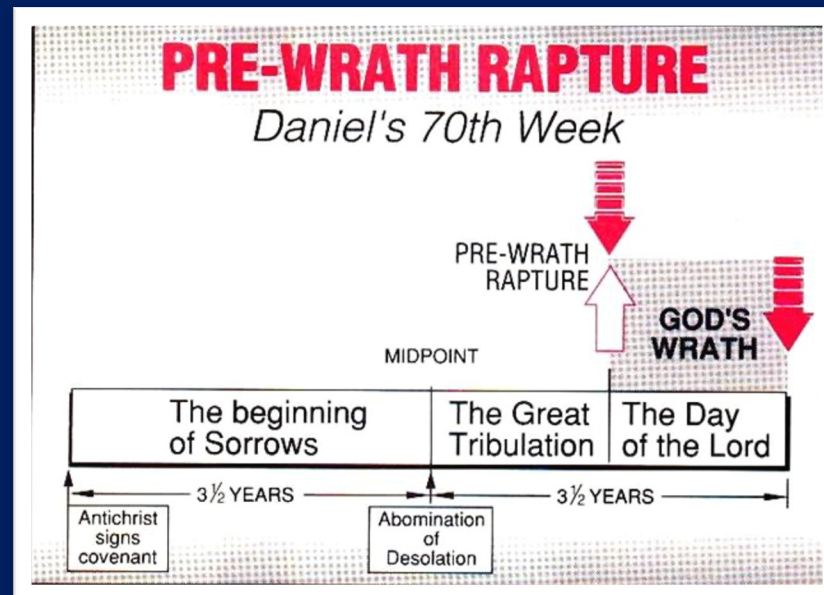




Norman Geisler

Systematic Theology, vol. 4 (Minneapolis, MN: Bethany, 2004), 652.

“Absence of a word does not prove absence of the concept. For example, the word wrath does not appear in Genesis, yet God's wrath was poured out during the flood (6–8) and on Sodom and Gomorrah (19).”



1st Six Seals (Revelation 6)

SEAL 1 – 6:1-2 – Advent of antichrist

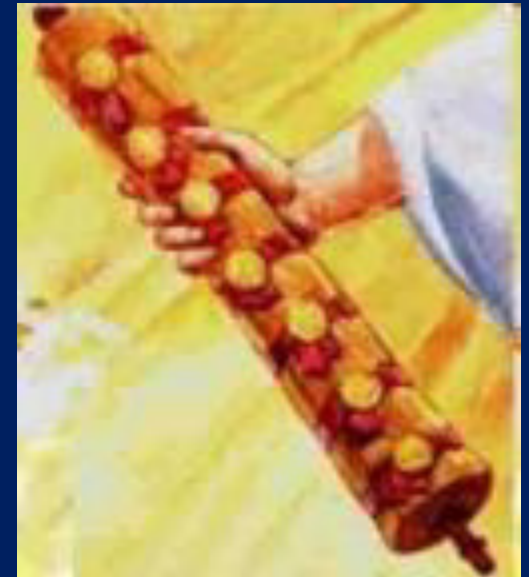
SEAL 2 – 6:3-4 – War

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



Revelation 7:14

“I said to him, “My lord, you know.” And he said to me, “These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation [*thlípsis*], and they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.”

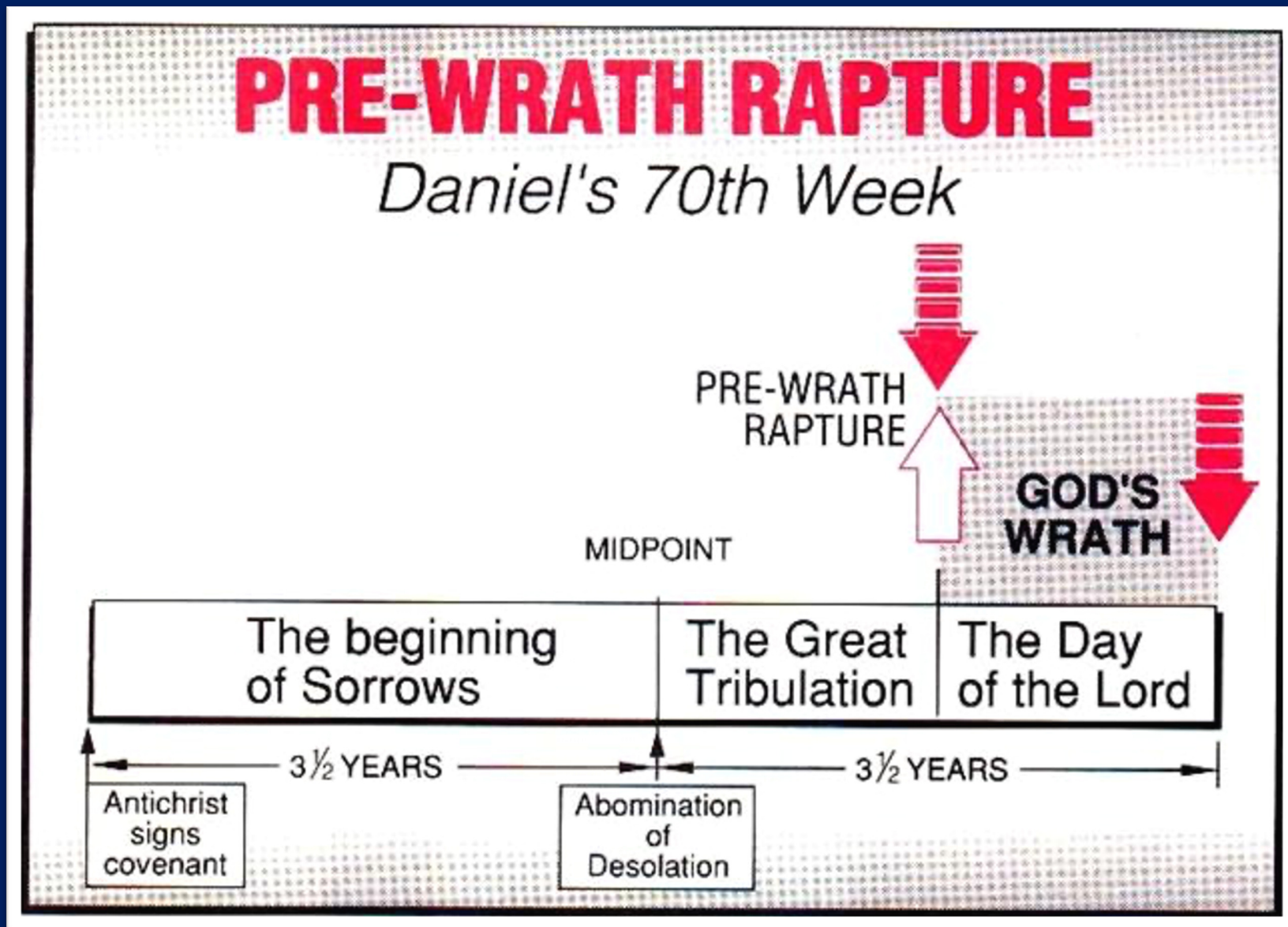


John 16:33

“These things I have spoken to you so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have **tribulation** [*thlipsis*], but take courage; I have overcome the world.”



Marvin J. Rosenthal, *The Pre-Wrath Rapture of the Church: A New Understanding of the Tribulation, and the Second Coming* (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 1990), 112.



Romans 2:8-9

“⁸ but to those who are selfishly ambitious and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, wrath [orgé] and indignation [thumós]. ⁹ *There will be tribulation [thlípsis] and distress for every soul of man who does evil, of the Jew first and also of the Greek.*”



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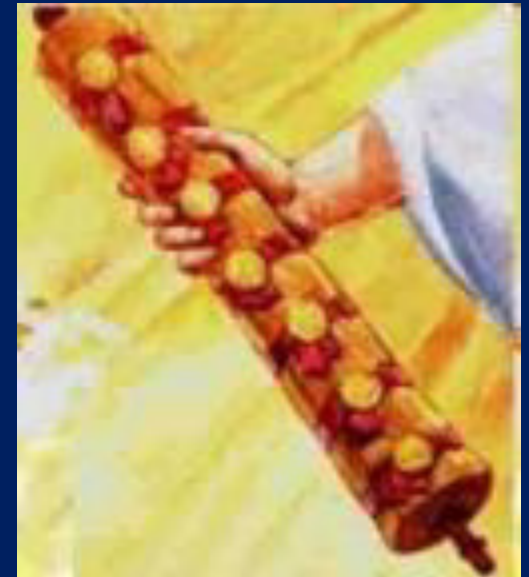
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Isaiah 9:11-12

“¹¹ Therefore the Lord raises superior adversaries against them from Rezin And provokes their enemies, ¹² The Arameans from the east and the Philistines from the west; And they devour Israel with gaping jaws. In spite of all this, His anger does not turn away, And His hand is still stretched out.”



Isaiah 10:5-6

“⁵ Woe to Assyria, the rod of My anger And the staff in whose hands is My indignation, ⁶ I send it against a godless nation And commission it against the people of My fury To capture spoils and to seize plunder, And to trample them down like mud in the streets.”



Isaiah 13:3, 17

“³ I have commanded My consecrated ones, I have also called for My warriors Who boast in My eminence, To execute My anger...¹⁷ Behold, I am going to stir up the Medes against them, Who will not value silver or take pleasure in gold.”



2 Samuel 24:1

“Now the anger of the Lord burned against Israel again, and He incited David against them to say, ‘Go, count Israel and Judah.’”



1 Chronicles 21:1

“Then Satan stood up against Israel and incited David to count Israel.”



Romans 13:4

“for it is a servant of God to you for good. But if you do what is evil, be afraid; for it does not bear the sword for nothing; for it is a servant of God, an avenger who brings wrath [orgē] on the one who practices evil.”



2 Thessalonians 2:9-12

“⁹ that is, the one whose coming is in accord with the activity of **Satan**, with all power and false signs and wonders, ¹⁰ and with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish, because they did not accept the love of the truth so as to be saved. ¹¹ For this reason **God will send upon them** a deluding influence so that they will believe what is false, ¹² in order that they all may be judged who did not believe the truth, but took pleasure in wickedness.”



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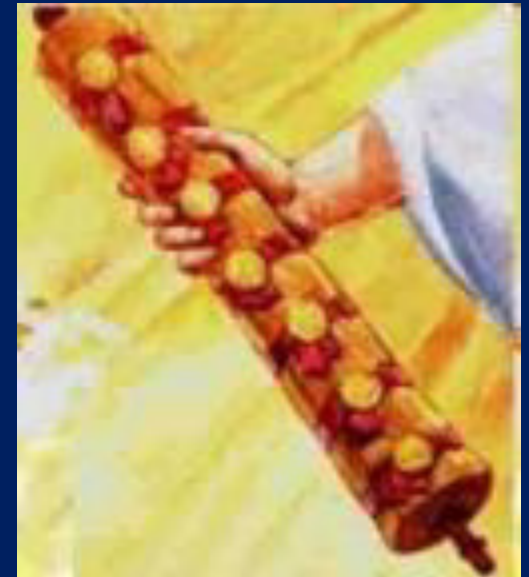
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2 Chronicles 36:16-17

“¹⁶ but they continually mocked the messengers of God, despised His words, and scoffed at His prophets, until the wrath of the Lord rose against His people, until there was no remedy. ¹⁷ So He brought up against them the king of the Chaldeans, who killed their young men with the sword in the house of their sanctuary, and had no compassion on young man or virgin, old man or frail; He handed them all over to him.”



Isaiah 51:19-20

“¹⁹ These two things have happened to you; Who will mourn for you? The devastation and destruction, famine and sword; How shall I comfort you? ²⁰ Your sons have fainted, They lie helpless at the head of every street, Like an antelope in a net, Full of the wrath of the Lord, The rebuke of your God.”



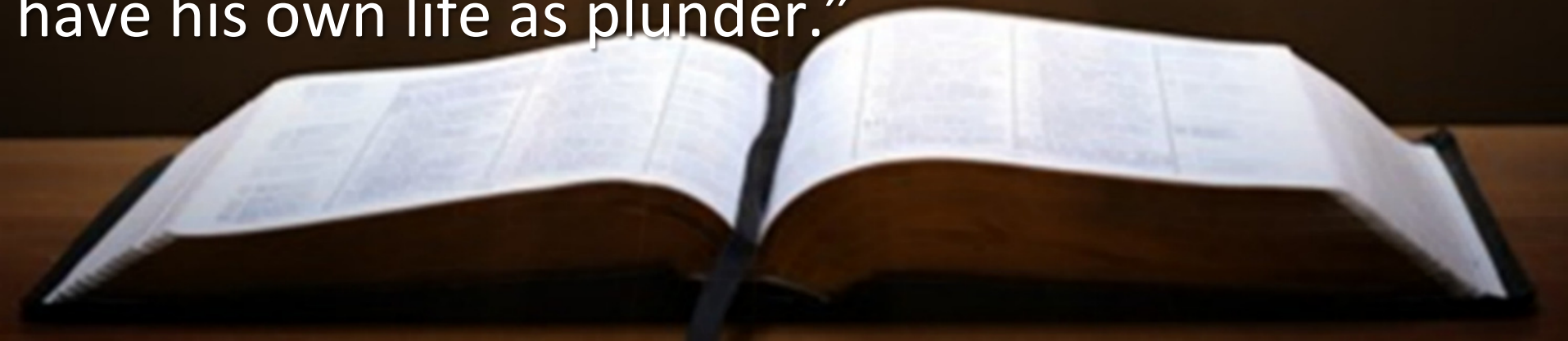
Jeremiah 21:5-7, 9

“⁵ And I Myself will make war against you with an outstretched hand and a mighty arm, and in anger, wrath, and great indignation. ⁶ I will also strike the inhabitants of this city, both the people and the animals; they will die of a great plague. ⁷ Then afterward,” declares the Lord, “I will hand Zedekiah king of Judah, his servants, and the people, that is, those who survive in this city from the plague, the . . .



Jeremiah 21:5-7, 9

...sword, and the famine, over to Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, to their enemies, and to those who seek their lives; and he will strike and kill them with the edge of the sword. He will not spare them nor have pity nor compassion.”...⁹ Anyone who stays in this city will die by the sword, by famine, or by plague; but anyone who leaves and goes over to the Chaldeans who are besieging you will live, and he will have his own life as plunder.”



Jeremiah 44:8, 11-12

“⁸ provoking Me to anger with the works of your hands, burning sacrifices to other gods in the land of Egypt where you are entering to reside, so that you may be eliminated and become a curse and a disgrace among all the nations of the earth?...¹² And I will take away the remnant of Judah who have set their minds on entering the land of Egypt to reside there, and they will all meet their end in the land of Egypt; . . .



Jeremiah 44:8, 11-12

. . . they will fall by the sword or meet their end by famine. From the small to the great, they will die by the sword and famine; and they will become a curse, an object of horror, an imprecation, and a disgrace.”



Jeremiah 50:13, 25

“¹³ Because of the wrath of the Lord she will not be inhabited, But she will be completely desolate; Everyone who passes by Babylon will be horrified And will hiss because of all her wounds...²⁵ The Lord has opened His armory And has brought out the weapons of His indignation, For it is a work of the Lord God of armies In the land of the Chaldeans.”



Ezekiel 7:14-15

“¹⁴ They have blown the trumpet and made everything ready, but no one is going to the battle, for My wrath is against all their multitude. ¹⁵ The sword is outside the city and the plague and the famine are within. Anyone who is in the field will die by the sword, while famine and the plague will consume those in the city.”



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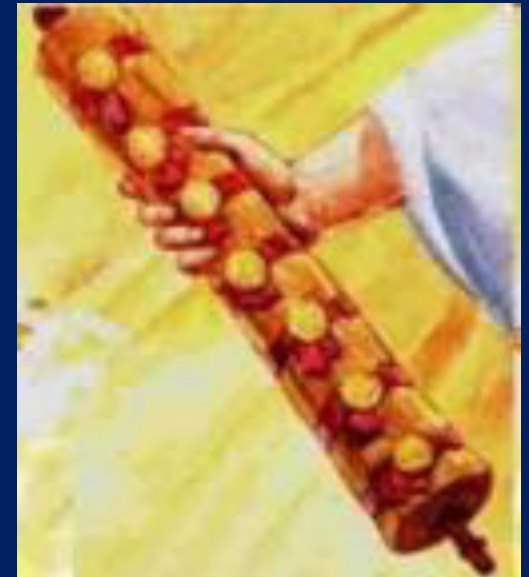
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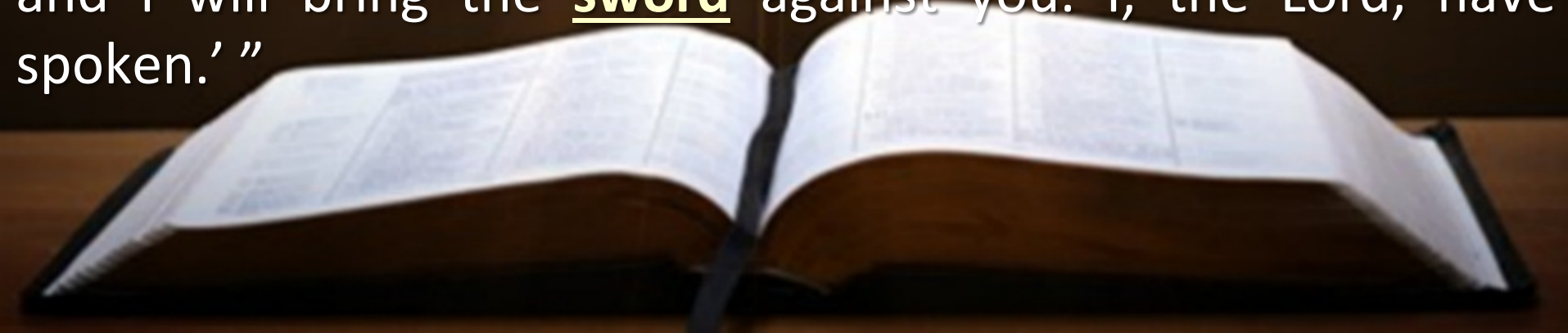
“⁸ I looked, and behold, an ashen horse; and the one who sat on it had the name Death, and Hades was following with him. Authority was given to them over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword, and famine, and plague, and by the wild animals of the earth.”

~~WRATH~~



Ezekiel 5:15-17

“¹⁵ ‘So it shall be a reproach, a taunt, a lesson, and an astonishment to the nations that are all around you, when I execute judgments among you in anger and in fury and in furious rebukes. I, the Lord, have spoken. ¹⁶ When I send against them the terrible arrows of famine which shall be for destruction, which I will send to destroy you, I will increase the famine upon you and cut off your supply of bread. ¹⁷ So I will send against you famine and wild beasts, and they will bereave you. Pestilence and blood shall pass through you, and I will bring the sword against you. I, the Lord, have spoken.’ ”



Ezekiel 7:3, 8, 15

“³ Now upon you I will soon pour out My fury, And spend My anger upon you; I will judge you according to your ways, And I will repay you for all your abominations... ⁸ Now upon you I will soon pour out My fury, And spend My anger upon you; I will judge you according to your ways, And I will repay you for all your abominations. ¹⁵ The sword is outside the city and the plague and the famine are within. Anyone who is in the field will die by the sword, while famine and the plague will consume those in the city.”



Ezekiel 14:19, 21

“¹⁹ “Or if I send a pestilence into that land and pour out My fury on it in blood, and cut off from it man and beast.” ...²¹ For thus says the Lord God: “How much more it shall be when I send My four severe judgments on Jerusalem—the sword and famine and wild beasts and pestilence—to cut off man and beast from it?””

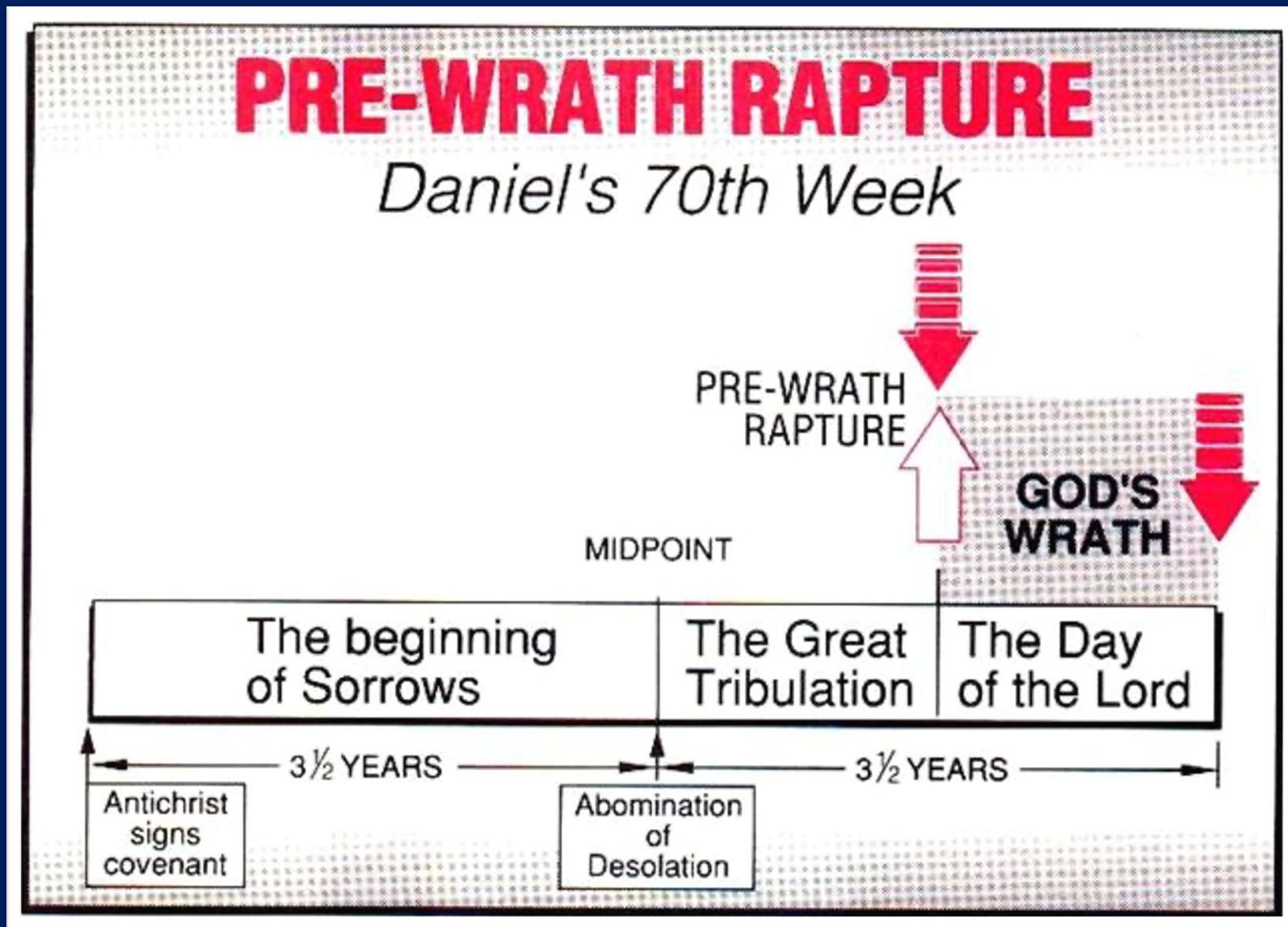


Ezekiel 7:19

“¹⁹ ‘They will throw their silver into the streets,
And their gold will be like refuse; Their silver
and their gold will not be able to deliver them In
the day of the wrath of the Lord; They will **not**
satisfy their souls, **Nor fill their stomachs**,
Because it became their stumbling block of
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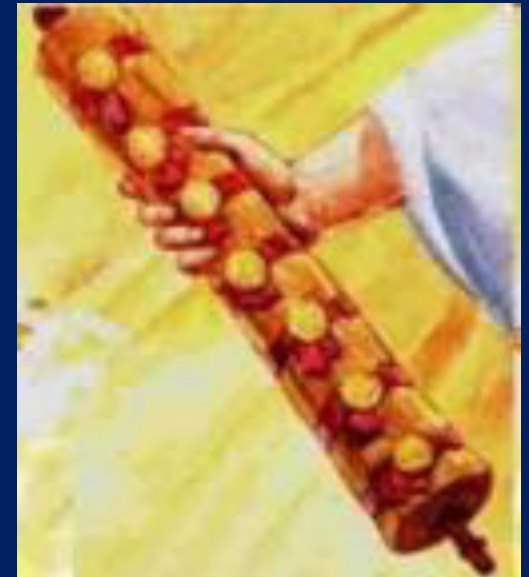
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Revelation 1:18

“I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death.”



Revelation 6:16-17

“¹⁶ and they said to the mountains and the rocks, ‘Fall on us and hide us from the sight of Him who sits on the throne, and from the wrath [orgé] of the Lamb; ¹⁷ for the great day of Their wrath [orgé] has come [erchomai], and who is able to stand?’”

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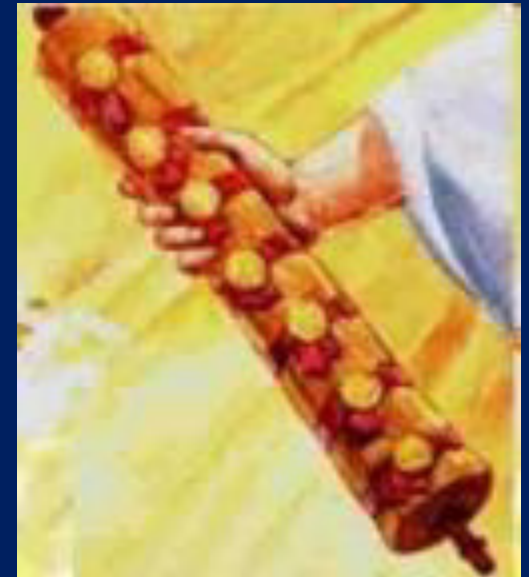
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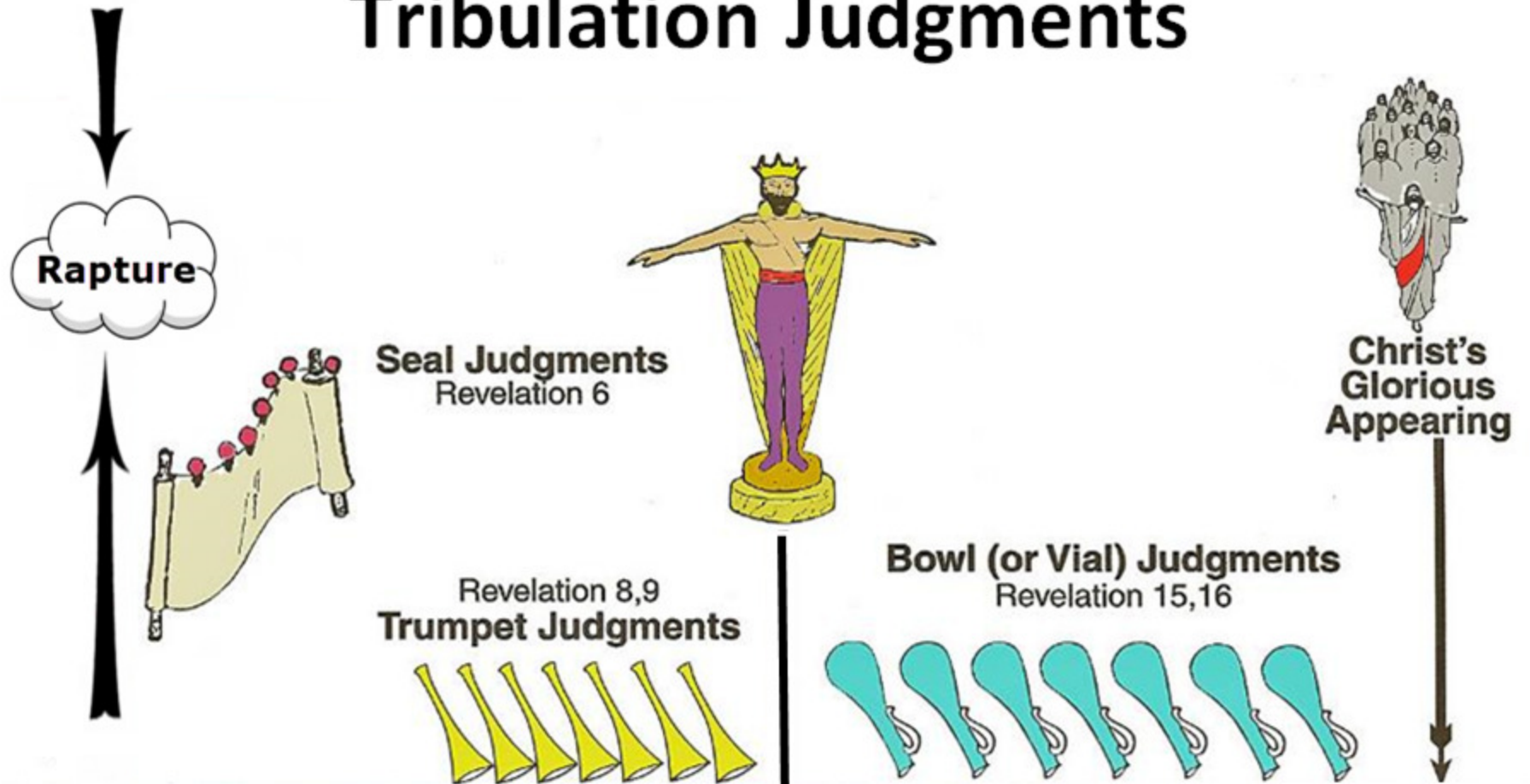
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Tribulation Judgments



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Imminent

(1 Cor 15:51; 1 Thess 4:15)



- Imminency definition
- James 5:8; 1 Thess 1:10; 1 Cor 1:7; Philip 3:20
- We are to be looking for Jesus Christ and not the Antichrist!
- Motivator (Holiness, Evangelism)
- Pre-wrath Rapturism denies imminency

Imminent

(1 Cor 15:51; 1 Thess 4:15)



- Imminency definition
- James 5:8; 1 Thess 1:10; 1 Cor 1:7; Philip 3:20
- We are to be looking for Jesus Christ and not the Antichrist!
- Motivator (Holiness, Evangelism)
- Pre-wrath Rapturism denies imminency



Wayne Brindle

"Biblical Evidence for the Imminence of the Rapture,"
Bibliotheca Sacra 158, no. 630 (April-June 2001): 138-51.

“Four criteria may be suggested, any one of which indicates imminence:

- (1) The passage speaks of Christ’s return as at any moment.
- (2) The passage speaks of Christ’s return as ‘near,’ without stating any signs that must precede His coming.
- (3) The passage speaks of Christ’s return as something that gives believers hope and encouragement, without indicating that these believers will suffer tribulation.
- (4) The passage speaks of Christ’s return as giving hope without relating it to God’s judgment of unbelievers.”



Imminent

(1 Cor 15:51; 1 Thess 4:15)

- Imminency definition
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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.”



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 Corinthians 15:51

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

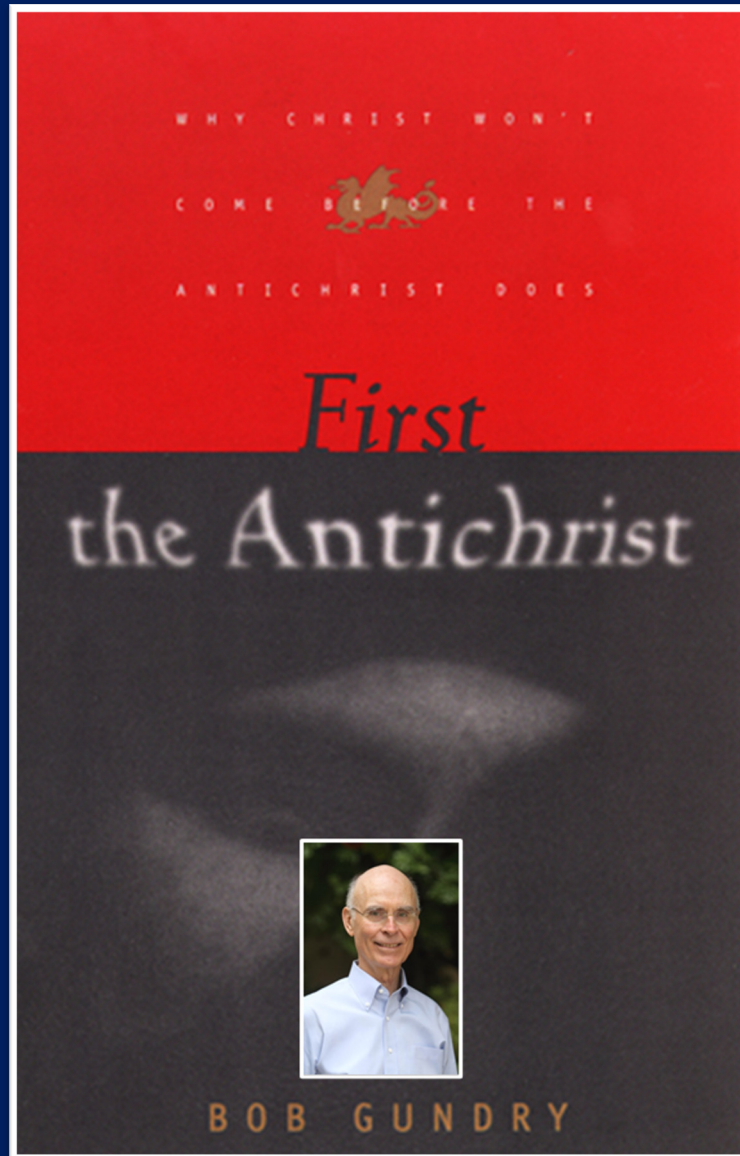




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Robert H. Gundry, *The Church and the Tribulation: Why Christ Won't Come Before the Antichrist Does* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1973).

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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 a new 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.”

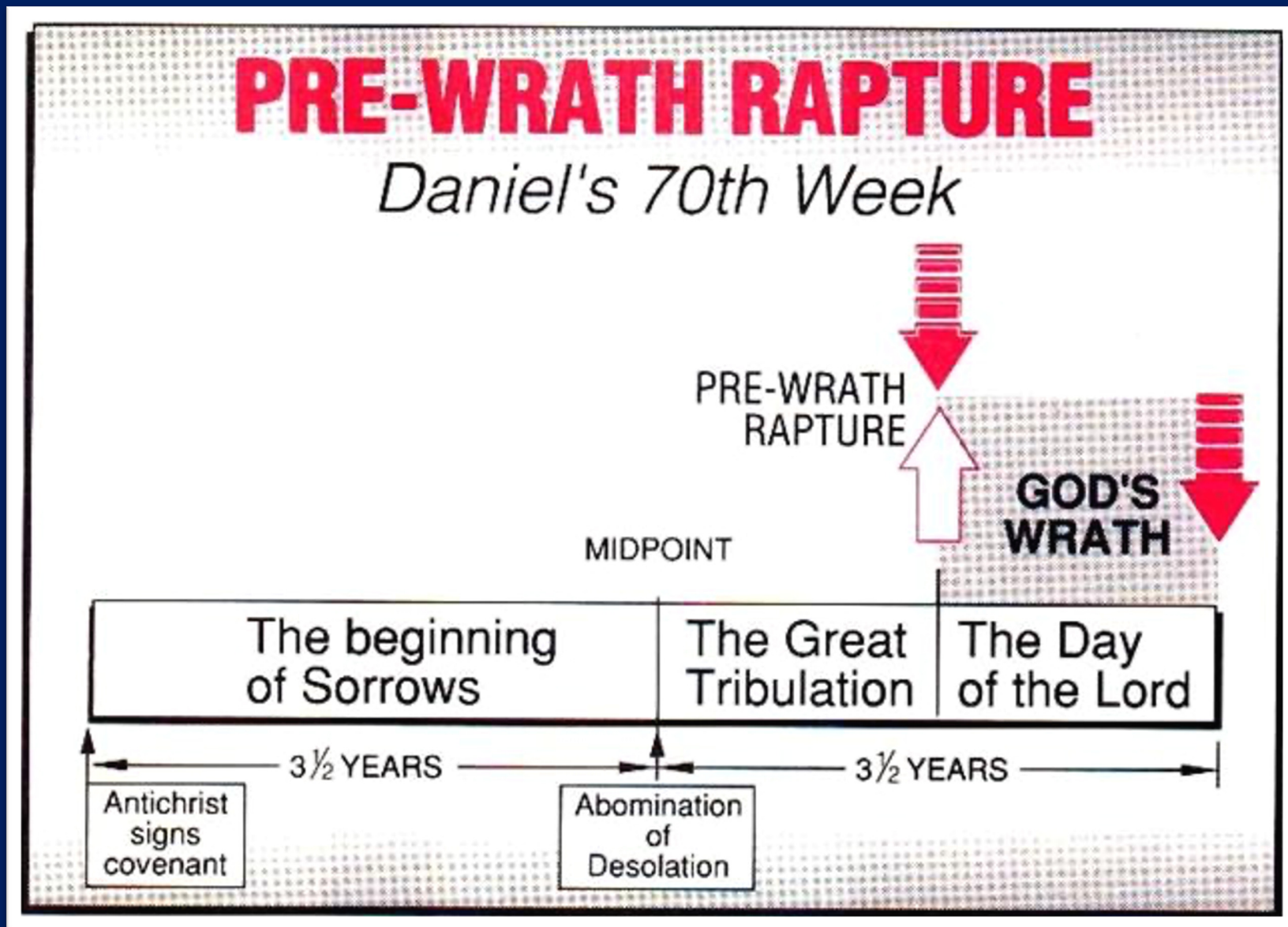
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Marvin J. Rosenthal, *The Pre-Wrath Rapture of the Church: A New Understanding of the Tribulation, and the Second Coming* (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 1990), 112.



1st Six Seals (Revelation 6)

SEAL 1 – 6:1-2 – Advent of antichrist

SEAL 2 – 6:3-4 – War

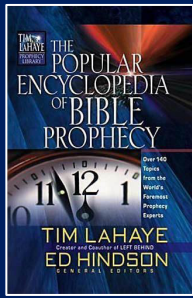
SEAL 3 – 6:5-6 – Famine

SEAL 4 – 6:7-8 – Death

SEAL 5 – 6:9-11 – Martyrdoms

SEAL 6 – 6:12-17 – Cosmic disturbances

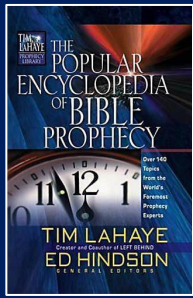




Tony Kessinger

“The doctrine of imminence holds that Christ can come to rapture His church at any moment. Believers in the early church, including the apostle Paul, believed that Christ could come in their lifetime (1 Thessalonians 1:10; 4:13-15; Titus 2:13). The church sees this doctrine as an incentive for ministry and godly living. Does this mean that Christ's return for His church will be at any moment, without any sign, and with no yet-to-be-fulfilled prophesied event to precede it?”

Tony Kessinger, "Pre-Wrath Rapture," in *The Popular Encyclopedia of Bible Prophecy: Over 140 Topics from the World's Foremost Prophecy Experts*, ed. Tim LaHaye and Ed Hindson (Eugene, OR: Harvest, 2004), 293.



Tony Kessinger

“Pre-wrath rapturists argue that Christ could come in any generation but that signs will herald the general time. Those signs include (1) the emergence of the antichrist, (2) wars and rumors of war, (3) famine, (4) pestilence, and (5) cosmic disturbance. Pre-wrath rapturists emphasize Christians' expectancy of Christ's return rather than its imminency. This expectancy of Christ's return is the catalyst for holy living.”

Tony Kessinger, "Pre-Wrath Rapture," in *The Popular Encyclopedia of Bible Prophecy: Over 140 Topics from the World's Foremost Prophecy Experts*, ed. Tim LaHaye and Ed Hindson (Eugene, OR: Harvest, 2004), 293.

Robert Lightner

Robert Lightner, *Last Days Handbook: A Complete Guide to the End Times, Including the Meaning of the Year 2000 in Bible Prophecy*, rev. ed. (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1997), 95.



“The prewrath Rapture view is different from the normal pretribulation view in that it does not consistently distinguish between God's program with Israel and His program with the church. The way it differs is that it has the church in Israel's seventieth week and does not hold to the doctrine of imminency”

II. Pre-Wrath Rapture Theory Problems

- A. Places the Church in Daniel's 70th Week
- B. Fails to acknowledge the missing Church (Rev. 4–22)
- C. Confines God's wrath to only a portion of the Tribulation's second half
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- F. Misinterprets the restrainer (2 Thess. 2:6-7) as Michael the Archangel rather than the Holy Spirit

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.”



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."



Titus 2:13

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

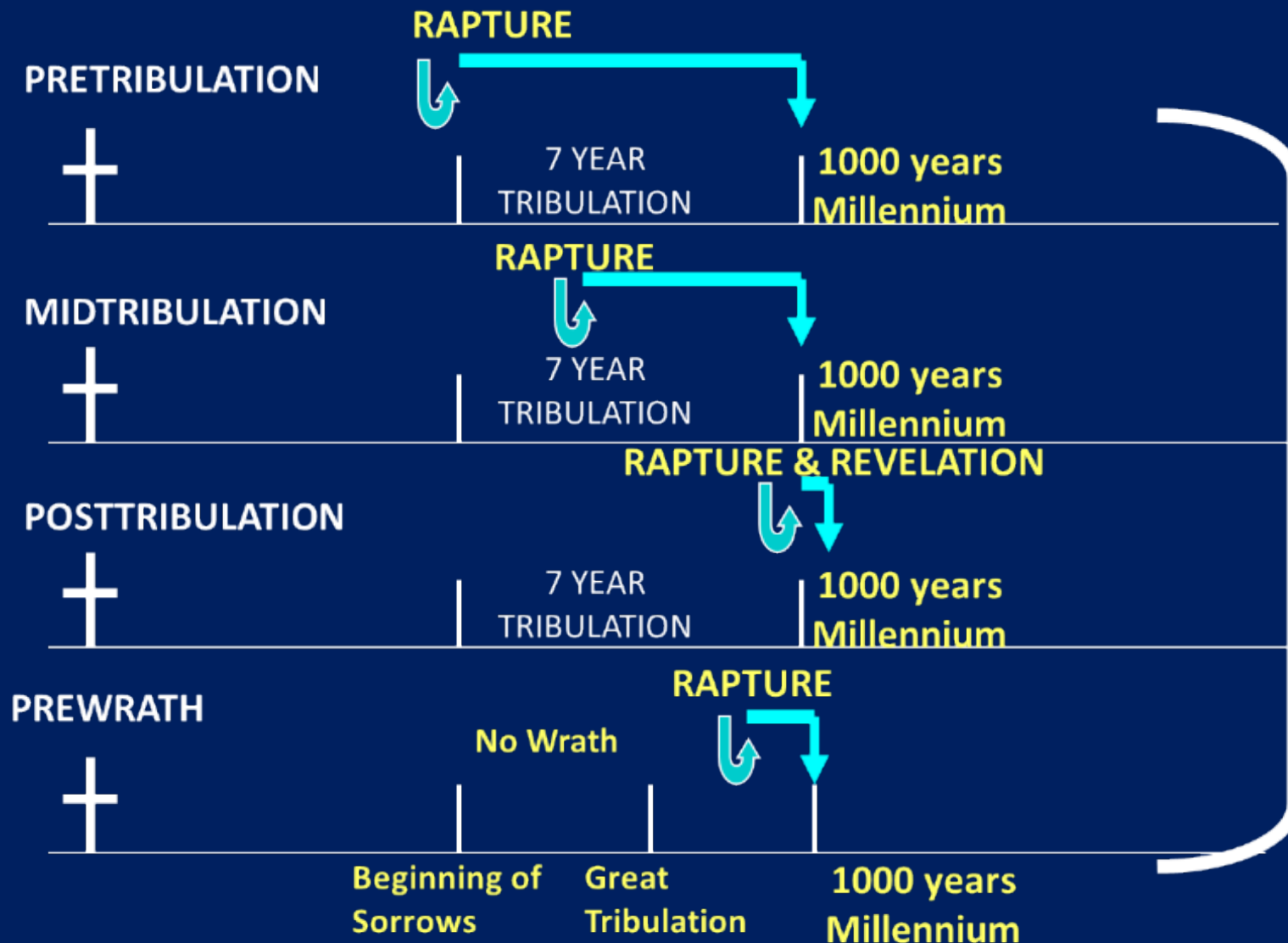
Hope
Hope



Hope
Hope

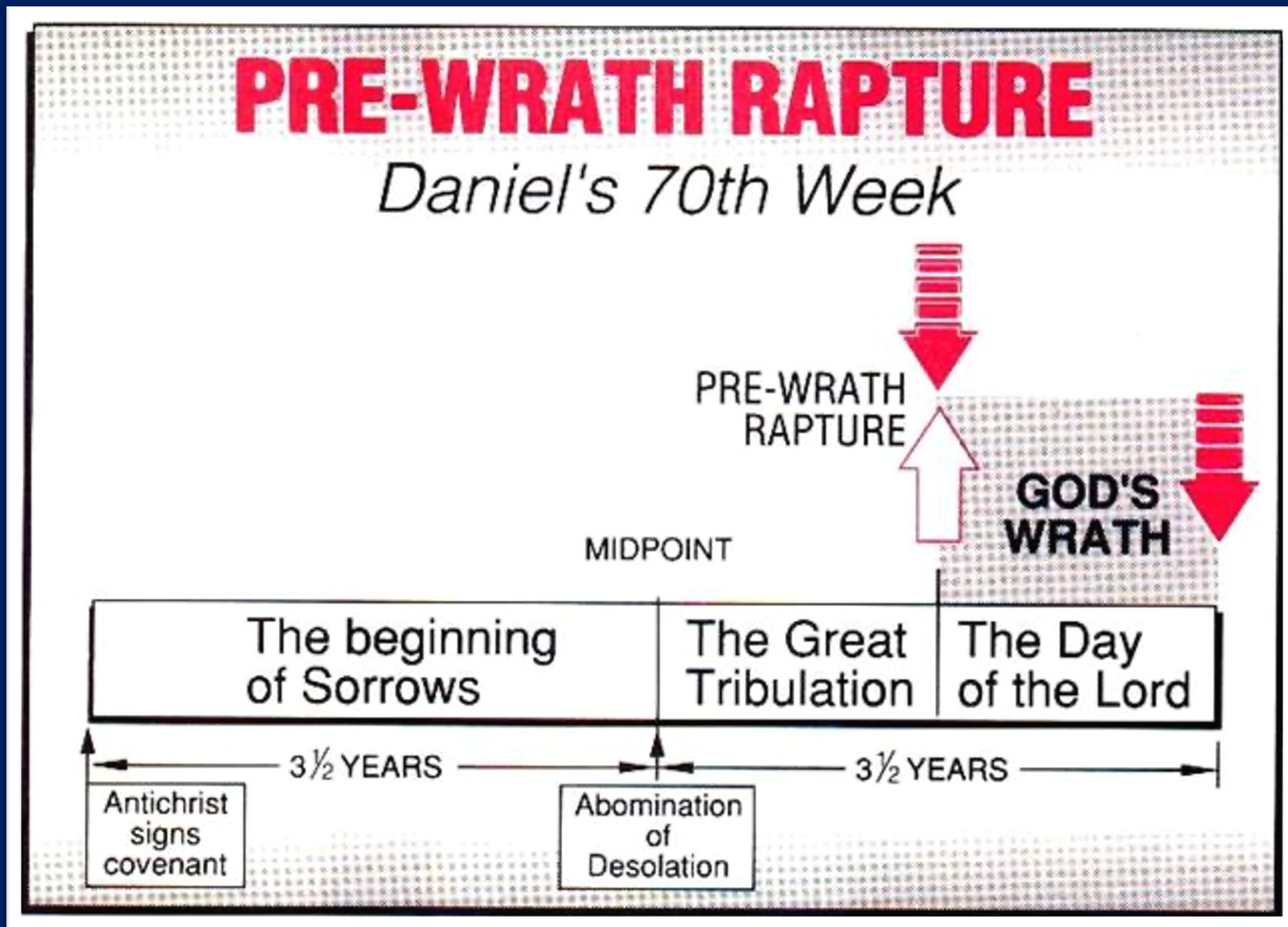


RAPTURE VIEW COMPARISON



Y-H-Z-M-H

Marvin J. Rosenthal, *The Pre-Wrath Rapture of the Church: A New Understanding of the Tribulation, and the Second Coming* (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 1990), 112.



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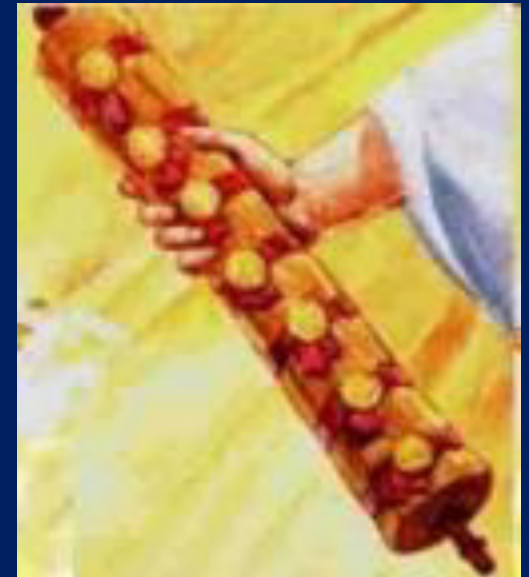
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SEAL 6 – 6:12-17 – Cosmic disturbances



Donald Grey Barnhouse

Cited in Mark Hitchcock, "An Overview of Pretribulational arguments,"
online: www.pre-trib.org, accessed 27 August 2013, 29-30.



“Jesus may come today, Glad day! Glad day!

And I would see my friend;

Dangers and troubles would end If Jesus
should come today.

Glad day! Glad day! Is it the crowning day?

I’ll live for today, nor anxious be, Jesus, my

Lord, I soon shall see;

Glad day! Glad day! Is it the crowning day?”

Donald Grey Barnhouse

Cited in Mark Hitchcock, "An Overview of Pretribulational arguments,"
online: www.pre-trib.org, accessed 27 August 2013, 29-30.



By way of parody, Dr. Barnhouse also pointed out that if the midtrib or posttrib advocates sang this song, it would instead have to say: "Jesus can't come today, Sad day! Sad day! And I won't see my friend; Dangers and troubles won't end Because Jesus can't come today. Sad day! Sad day! Today is not the crowning day? I won't live for today, and anxious I'll be, The Beast and the False Prophet I soon shall see, Sad day! Sad day! Today is not the crowning day?"

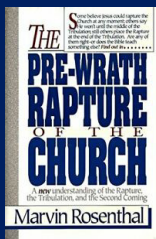
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2 Thessalonians 2:6-7

⁶And you know what restrains [*katechon; neuter*] him now, so that in his time he will be revealed. ⁷For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only he who now restrains [*katechōn; masculine*] will do so until he is taken out of the way.



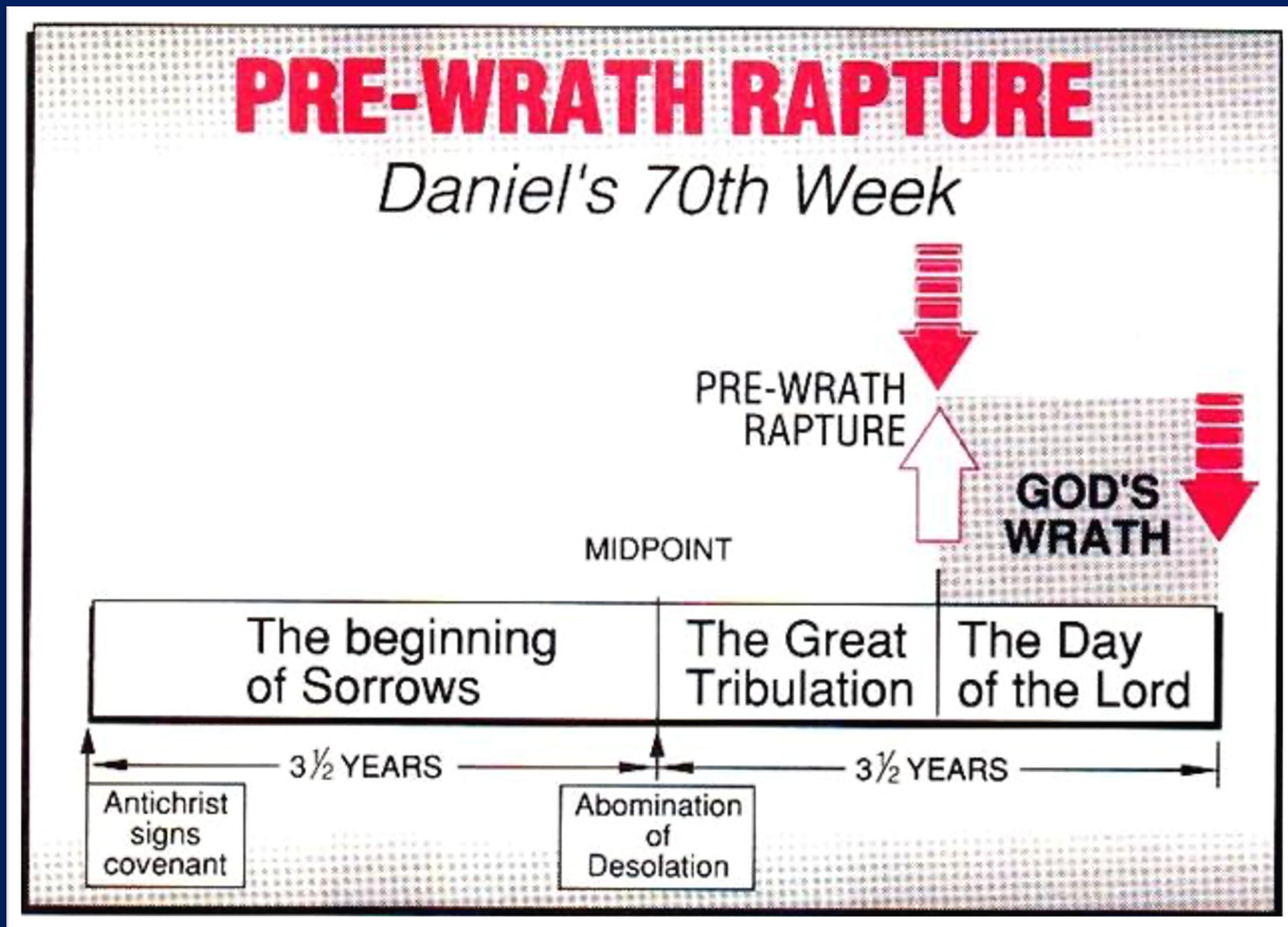


Marvin Rosenthal

“...of paramount importance is the identification of the one who restrains or hinders the Antichrist until ‘he [the restrainer] be taken out of the way.’ The restrainer is neither the Holy Spirit nor human government. Evidence is strained to support either of those contentions. There is, however, substantial evidence to identify the restrainer. He who restrains until ‘he be taken out of the way’ is the Archangel Michael.”

Marvin J. Rosenthal, *The Pre-Wrath Rapture of the Church: A New Understanding of the Tribulation, and the Second Coming* (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 1990), 112.

Marvin J. Rosenthal, *The Pre-Wrath Rapture of the Church: A New Understanding of the Tribulation, and the Second Coming* (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 1990), 112.



2 Thessalonians 2:9

“that is, the one whose coming is in accord with the activity of Satan, with all power and signs and false wonders.”



Jude 9

“But Michael the archangel, when he disputed with the devil and argued about the body of Moses, did not dare pronounce against him a railing judgment, but said, ‘The Lord rebuke you!’”



Daniel 12:1

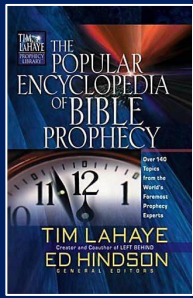
“Now at that time Michael, the great prince who stands guard over the sons of your people [Israel], will arise. And there will be a time of distress such as never occurred since there was a nation until that time; and at that time your people, everyone who is found written in the book, will be rescued.”



2 Thessalonians 2:6-7

⁶And you know what restrains [*katechon; neuter*] him now, so that in his time he will be revealed. ⁷For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only he who now restrains [*katechōn; masculine*] will do so until he is taken out of the way.



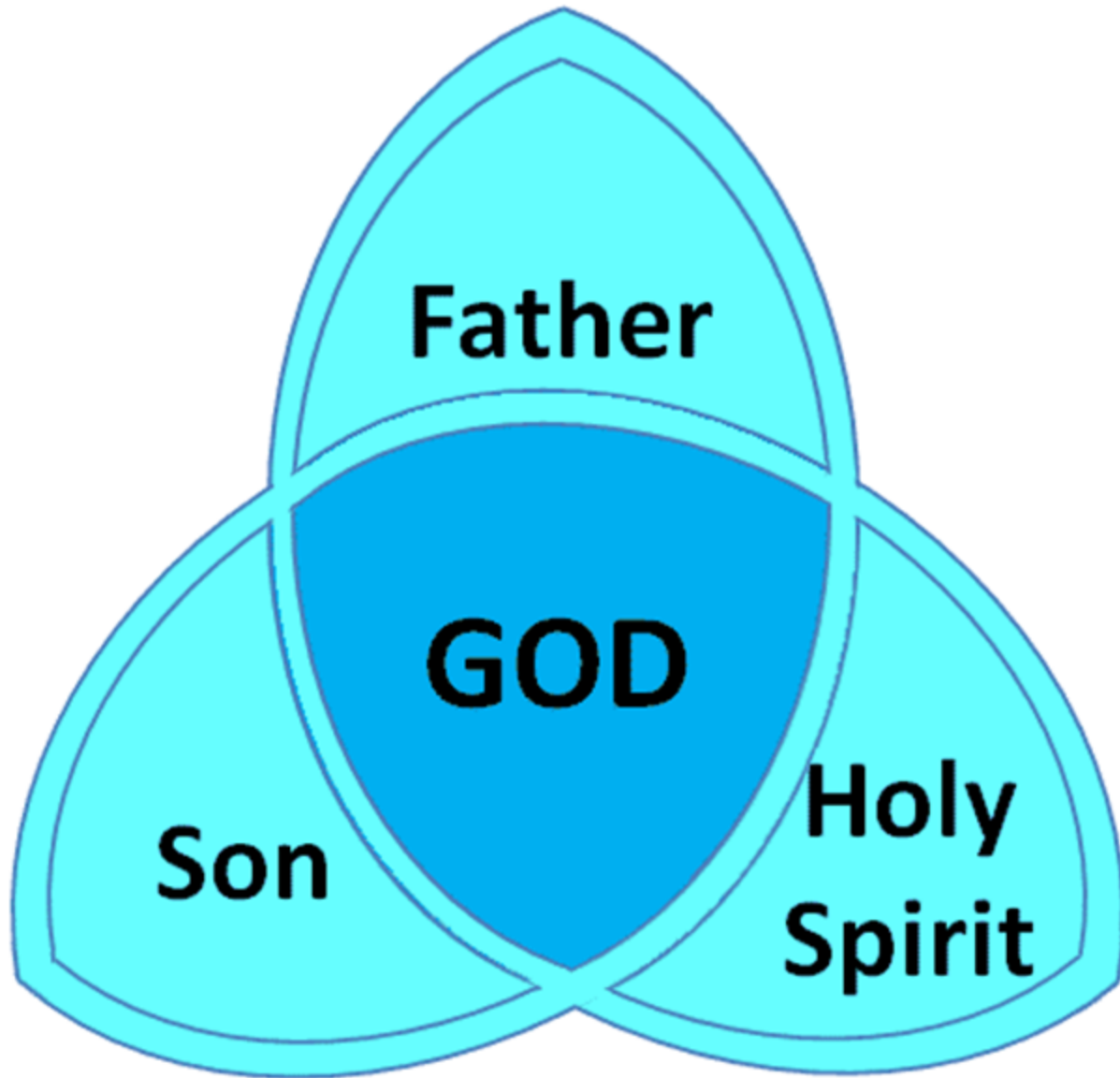


Tony Kessinger

“The pre-wrath view holds to the rather inventive idea that Michael the archangel is the restrainer. This concept fails to take into consideration Michael's special protective ministry toward Israel.”

Tony Kessinger, "Pre-Wrath Rapture," in *The Popular Encyclopedia of Bible Prophecy: Over 140 Topics from the World's Foremost Prophecy Experts*, ed. Tim LaHaye and Ed Hindson (Eugene, OR: Harvest, 2004), 294.

TRINITY



3 Reasons Why the Restrainer is the Holy Spirit

(2 Thessalonians 2:6-7)

1. The Holy Spirit is omnipotent
2. The Holy Spirit view handles well the switch in gender from the neuter (vs. 6) to the masculine (vs. 7)
3. The Holy Spirit is active in the world (Gen. 6:3; John 16:7-11)



Restrainer Must First be Removed

- Restrainer holds back the Antichrist (2 Thess 2:6-7)
- Restrainer = the omnipotent Holy Spirit (2 Thess 2:9)
- Holy Spirit permanently indwells all Christians (John 14:16; Rom 8:9)
- Spirit indwelt Christians must first be removed prior to the Antichrist's advent



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Pre-Wrath Rapturism

- I. Description of the view
- II. Six problems with the view considering prior Pre-Tribulational Arguments
- III. Three additional problems with the view**



III. Additional Problems with Pre-Wrath Rapturism

- A. It imposes an unnatural construct on Daniel's 70th Week
- B. It places the Rapture in Revelation 7:9-17
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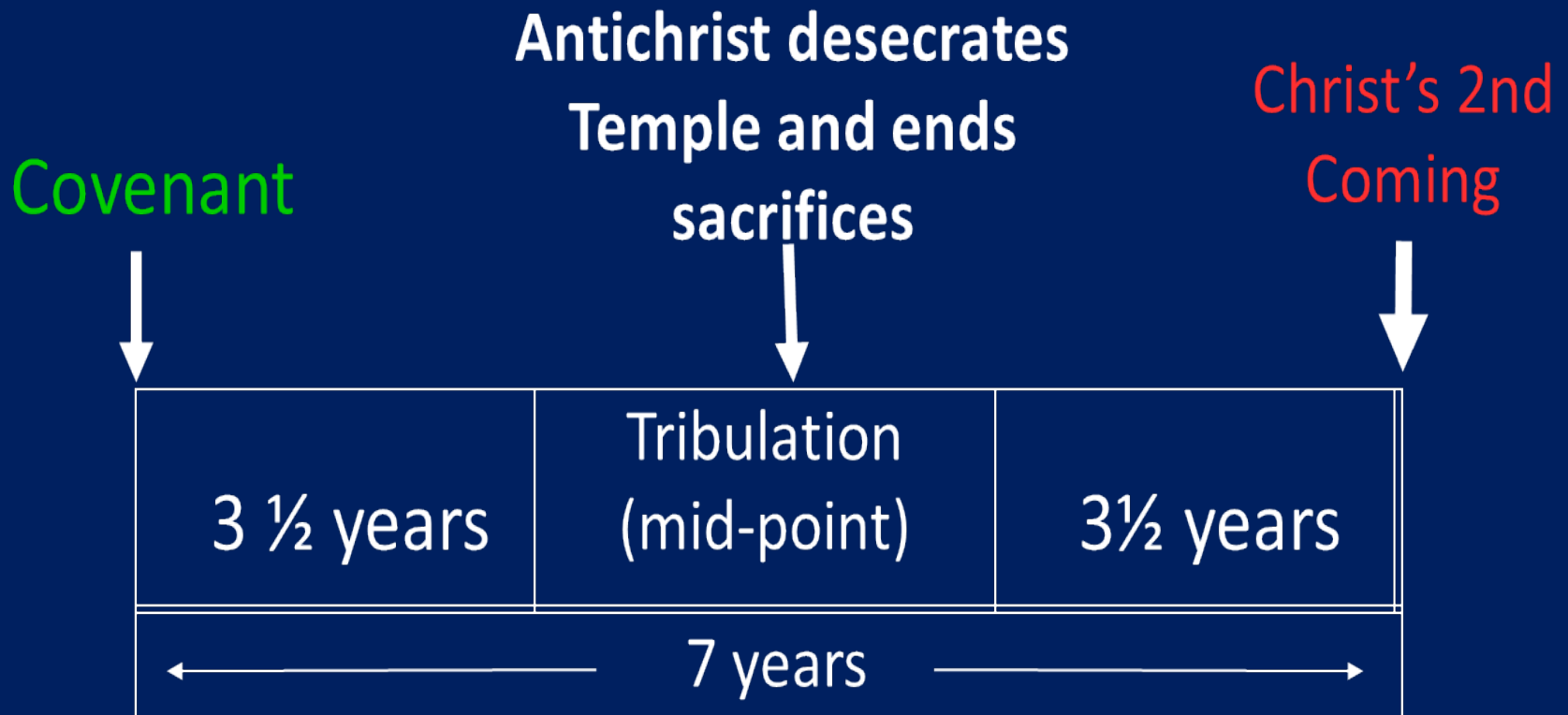


Daniel 9:27

And he will make a firm covenant with the many for one week, but in the middle of the week he will put a stop to sacrifice and grain offering; and on the wing of abominations *will come* one who makes desolate, even until a complete destruction, one that is decreed, is poured out on the one who makes desolate.



DAN 9:27 OVERVIEW OF TRIBULATION PERIOD



PROPHETIC SYNONYMNS

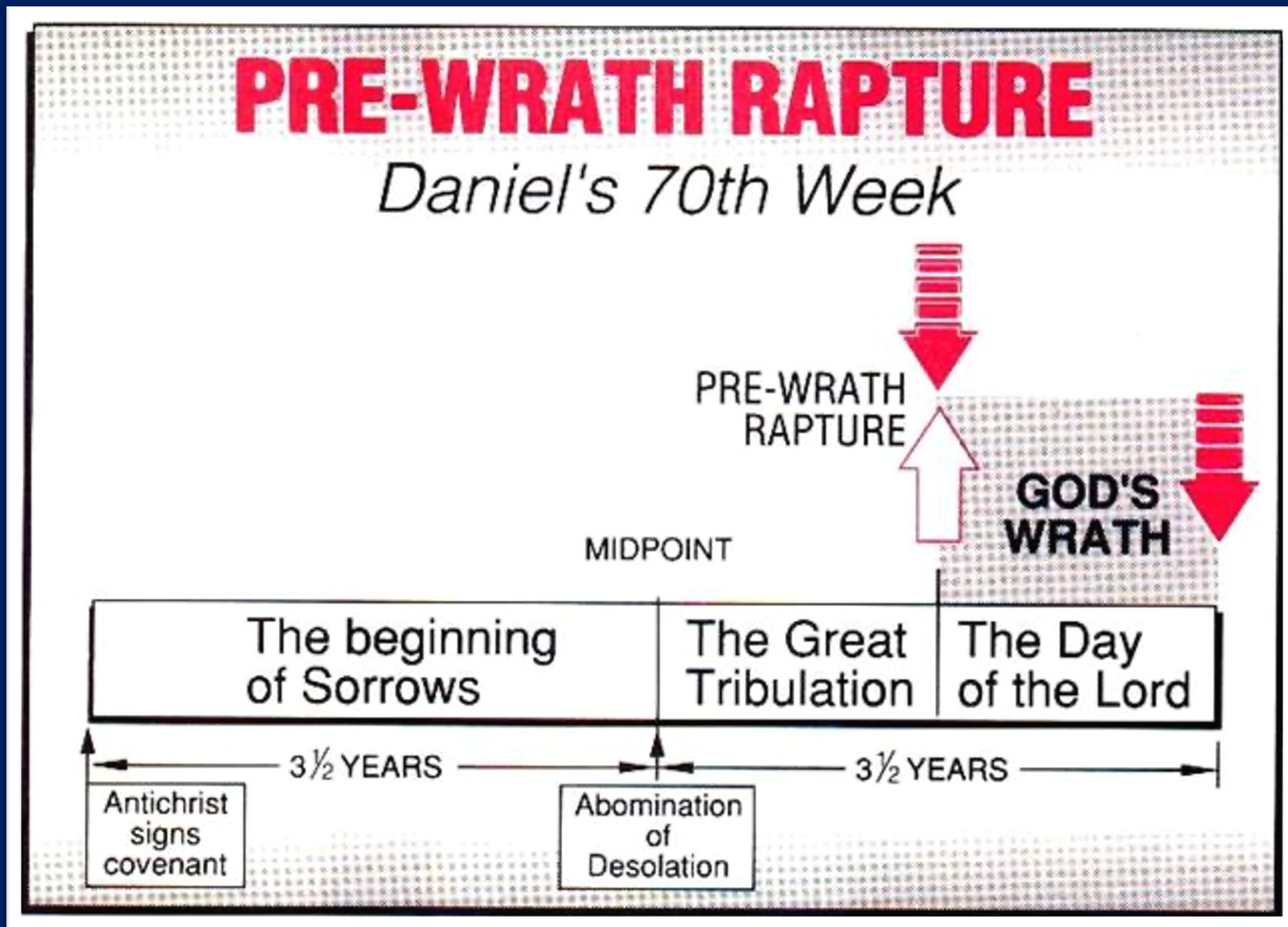
- A. Division of the Tribulation into two 3½ year periods
 - 1. 42 months - Rev. 11:2; 13:5
 - 2. 1260 days – Rev. 11:3; 12:6
 - 3. Time, times, and a half a time – Dan. 7:25; 12:7; 12:14

Matthew 24:15-16, 20

“¹⁵ Therefore when you see the ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION which was spoken of through Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand) ¹⁶ then those who are in Judea must flee to the mountains...²⁰ But pray that your flight will not be in the winter, or on a Sabbath.”



Marvin J. Rosenthal, *The Pre-Wrath Rapture of the Church: A New Understanding of the Tribulation, and the Second Coming* (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 1990), 112.



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Revelation 7:9, 13-14

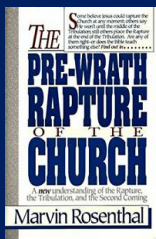
“⁹ After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could count, from every nation and all the tribes, peoples, and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, and palm branches were in their hands...¹³ Then one of the elders responded, saying to me, . . .



Revelation 7:9, 13-14

. . . ‘These who are clothed in the white robes, who are they, and where have they come from?’ ¹⁴ I said to him, ‘My lord, you know.’ And he said to me, ‘These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation [*thlípsis*], and they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.’”





Marvin Rosenthal

“That great multitude represents the true Church which goes into the Seventieth Week of Daniel. They are rapture and at the end of the great tribulation but before the Day of the Lord begins. They are raptured before God’s wrath is poured out but are not exempt from the ultimate rebellion of unregenerate men...Therefore, in chapter 7 the Church is raptured. But immediately prior to the rapture of the Church the 144,000 Jews are sealed...The 144,000 must be sealed for protection to go through the Day of the Lord before the Church can be caught up to the throne in heaven.”

Marvin J. Rosenthal, *The Pre-Wrath Rapture of the Church: A New Understanding of the Tribulation, and the Second Coming* (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 1990), 185.

Ephesians 2:20

“having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner *stone*.”





Rev. 7:14

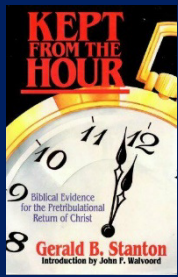
Robert L. Thomas, *Revelation 1–7: An Exegetical Commentary*, ed. Kenneth Barker (Chicago: Moody, 1992), 497, n. 119.

"A third possible understanding that it is a departure after the Great Tribulation is completed (Marvin Rosenthal, *The Pre-Wrath Rapture of the Church* [Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1990], p. 185) can be dismissed because it neglects the ongoing nature of the departure indicated by the present participle ἐρχόμενοι and rests on an unwarranted distinction between the Great Tribulation and the day of the God's wrath."

1 Corinthians 15:52

“in a moment [*atomos*], 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.”





Gerald B. Stanton

“However, the innumerable multitude is not like the Church, which goes to heaven as a group at the rapture. Rather, they are martyrs who one at a time lay down their lives throughout the seven-year period. The Greek present tense in Revelation 7:14 stresses that they ‘continually come’ out of great Tribulation, and obviously do not go to heaven as a single group. It is likewise strange, if they do represent the Church, that John could not recognize them, for John was an apostle of Christ, a member of the early Church, and part of its essential foundation. Also, the Church is composed of all believers since Pentecost, and cannot be limited solely to Tribulation martyrs.”

Gerald B. Stanton, *Kept from the Hour: Biblical Evidence for the Pretribulational Return of Christ* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1956; reprint, Miami Springs, FL: Schoettle, 1991), 390.

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

III. Additional Problems with Pre-Wrath Rapturism

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Matthew 24:31

“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.”



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 15:50-51

“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.”



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

“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.”

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

Preview of Matthew 24–25

- I. The problem
- II. The larger context
- III. The immediate context (23:37-39)
- IV. The Disciples' questions (24:1-3)
- V. The Tribulation's first half (24:4-14)
- VI. The Tribulation's mid-point (24:15-20)
- VII. The Tribulation's second half (24:21-22)
- VIII. The Second Advent (24:23-31)
- IX. Eight parabolic exhortations (24:32–25:46)



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!’”



Matthew 24:31

“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.”



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!



Isaiah 11:11-12

Then it will happen on that day that the Lord Will again recover the second time with His hand The remnant of His people, who will remain, From Assyria, Egypt, Pathros, Cush, Elam, Shinar, Hamath, And from the islands of the sea.¹² And He will lift up a standard for the nations And assemble the banished ones of Israel, And will gather the dispersed of Judah From the four corners of the earth.



Conclusion

Pre-Wrath Rapturism

- I. Description of the view
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