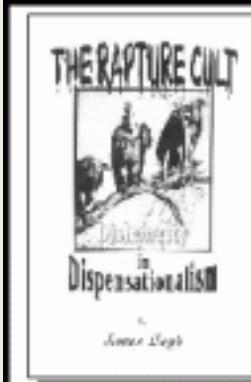


Jesus and the Rapture

Dr. Andy Woods



THE RAPTURE CULT

Dishonesty in Dispensationalism

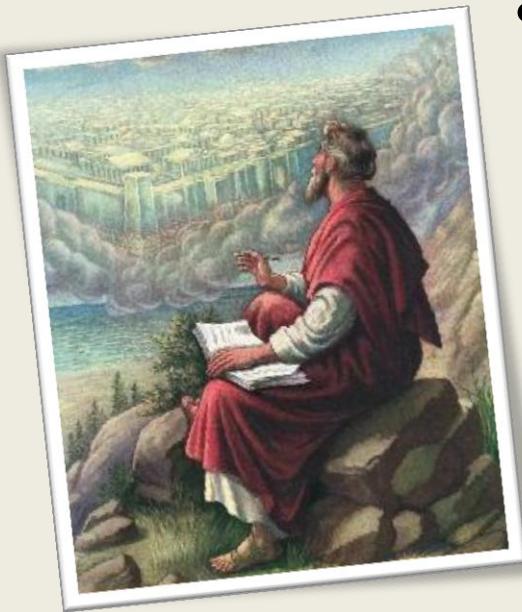
Here's a case history of prominent Rapture teachers caught in plagiarism and obvious intentional distortions of the anecdotal literature on the doctrine, including information on Hal Lindsey, Chuck Missler, Grant Jeffrey, Chuck Smith and more.

This is the first book on the rapture written by James Lloyd. *The Rapture Cult* demonstrates how the scriptures clearly show the pre-tribulation rapture doctrine to be a fallacy. It further asserts that the Bible actually predicts the rapture doctrine will appear during the end times, and it will be one of the signals of the departure from the historic Gospel of Jesus Christ.

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

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

John 14:1-4



- "Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, *there* you may be also. And you know the way where I am going."

Preview (John 14:1-4)

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

John 14:1–4

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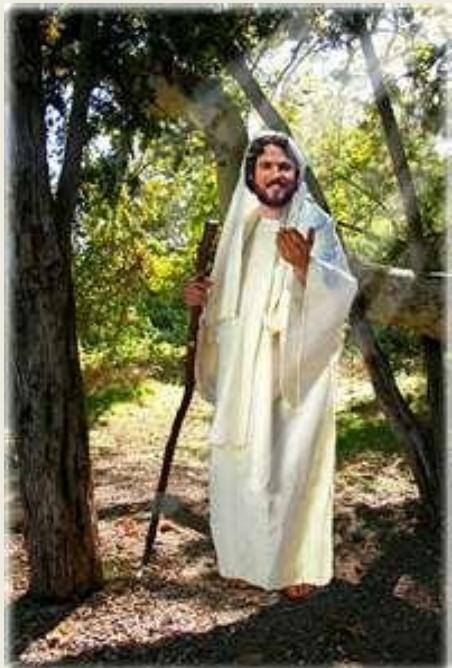
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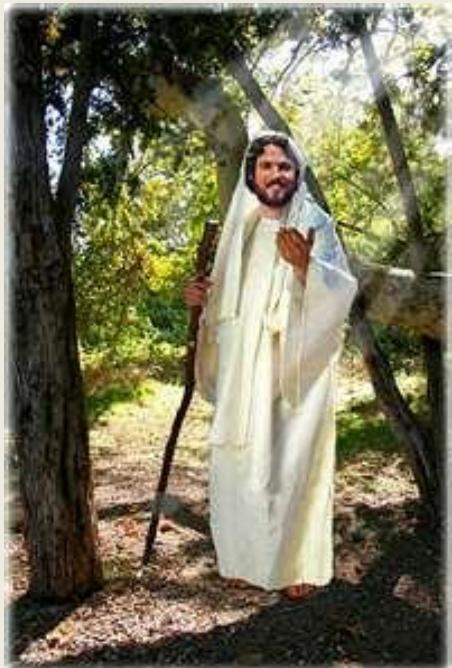
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I. Preliminary Reasons



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

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OUTLINE of JOHN

1:1-18	HEAVENLY GENEALOGY (Explains who Jesus is)
1:19-11:57	PUBLIC MINISTRY (7 signs & discourses)
12:1-50	TRIUMPHAL ENTRY (public national rejection of Christ-12:37)
13-17	UPPER ROOM DISCOURSE (new dispensation)
18-21	PASSION NARRATIVES (crucifixion to resurrection)

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“7 SIGNS” in Gospel of John

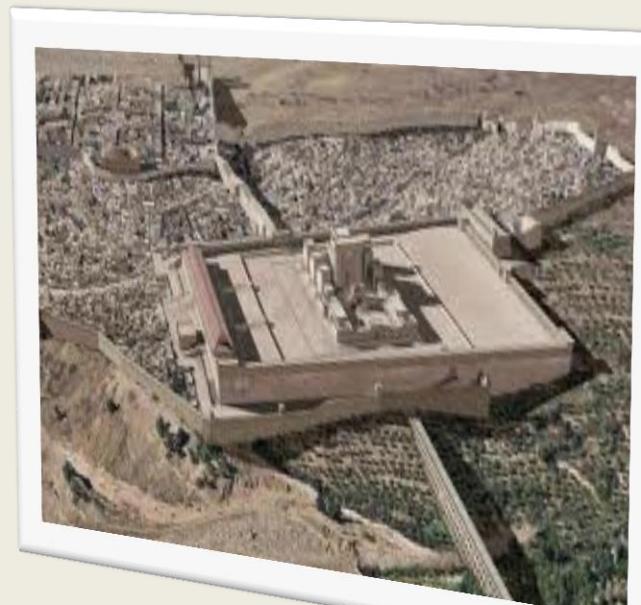


Changing Water into Wine	2:11
Healing official's son	4:46-54
Healing an invalid at the Pool of Bethesda	5:1-18
Feeding the 5,000	6:5-14
Walking on water	6:16-21
Healing a blind man	9:1-7
Raising dead Lazarus	11:1-45



Christ's Five Trips to Jerusalem

Feast	Verse
Passover	2:23
Unnamed	5:1
Tabernacles	7:2
Dedication	10:22
<u>Passover</u>	<u>13:1</u>



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Chafer



- "The Upper Room Discourse, in which the above passage is found, is the seed-plot of that form of doctrine which is later developed in the Epistles. It is not strange, therefore, that the Apostle Paul takes up this great theme for further elucidation."

Chafer, *Systematic Theology*, 1:111.



Seed Truths (John 13–17)

- believers' oneness in Christ (John 17:20-23; Eph 2:11-22)
- Spirit's permanent residence in the believer (John 14:16; Eph 4:30)
- believer's union with Christ (John 14:20; Gal 2:20; Rom 6:1-14)
- believer's opposition to the world (John 15:18-19; Jas 4:4; 1 John 2:15-17)
- necessity of believer to stay in fellowship with Christ (John 13:10; 15:1-17; 1 John 1:5-7, 9)



Seed Truths (John 13–17)

- abiding in Christ as a prerequisite for fruit bearing (John 15:1-7; Philip 4:13)
- believer's election (John 15:16; Eph 1:4)
- Christ as the ultimate model of sacrificial living and service (John 13:1-20; Philip 2:5-11)
- necessity of divine discipline in the believer's life (John 15:2; Heb 12:5-11)
- Satan as the god of this age (John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11; 2 Cor 4:4; Eph 2:2)



Seed Truths (John 13–17)

- defeat of Satan at the cross (John 12:31; 16:11; Col 2:15; Heb 2:14)
- Spirit as the inspirer of all Scripture (John 14:26; 16:13; 2 Tim 3:16; 2 Pet 1:20-21)
- the Spirit as the illuminator of all Scripture (John 14:26; 16:13; 1 Cor 2:14; 1 John 2:20, 27)
- Christ's provision of peace in the midst of adversity (John 14:27; Philip 4:7)
- necessity of the Sprit's convicting ministry as a prerequisite for salvation (John 16:7-11; 1 Cor 2:14; 2 Cor 4:4)

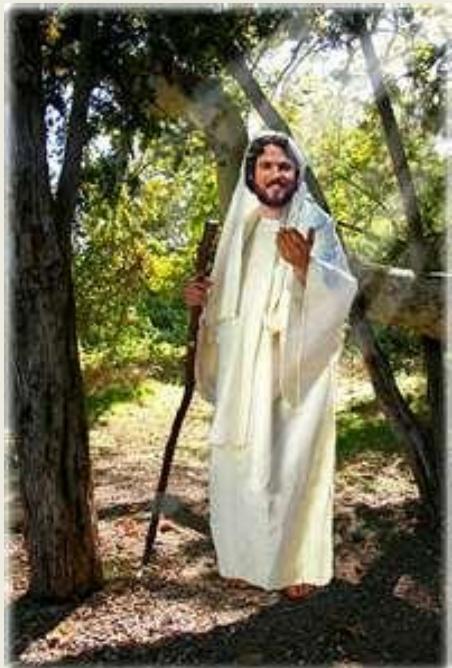


Seed Truths (John 13–17)

- normalcy of tribulations in the present age (John 16:33; Jas 1:2-4)
- believer as the ultimate overcomer (John 16:33; 1 John 4:4; 5:4-5)
- Christ's present session at the Father's right hand (John 14:12-14; 17:5; Heb 7:3b, 25)
- power of prayer (John 14:12-14; Eph 6:18-20; Jas 5:16)
- inerrancy of Scripture (John 17:20; 2 Tim 3:16)
- disclosure of Eschatology (John 16:13; 2 Thess 2:1-12)

<u>Discourse</u>	Olivet	Upper Room
<u>Scripture</u>	Matt 24–25	John 13–17
<u>Location</u>	Mount of Olives	Upper Room
<u>Passion Week</u>	Third day	Sixth day
<u>General focus</u>	Farewell: Israel	Farewell: Church
<u>Specific focus</u>	Israel's future	Divine provisions
<u>Prompting</u>	Temple's destruction	Christ's imminent departure
<u>Explanations</u>	Written OT	Unwritten NT

I. Preliminary Reasons



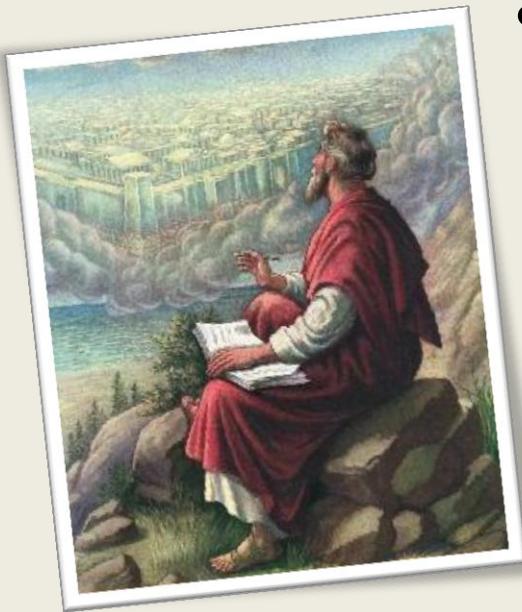
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John's Eschatological Statements

- two final resurrections (John 5:29; Dan 12:2; Acts 24:15; Rev 20:4-5)
- Israel's future acceptance of the future Antichrist in lieu of the true Christ (John 5:43; Dan 9:27a)
- Christ's promise to preserve and resurrect the believer in the last day (John 6:39-40, 44, 54; 11:25-26)
- coming of the Spirit who will disclose "things to come" (John 16:7, 13)

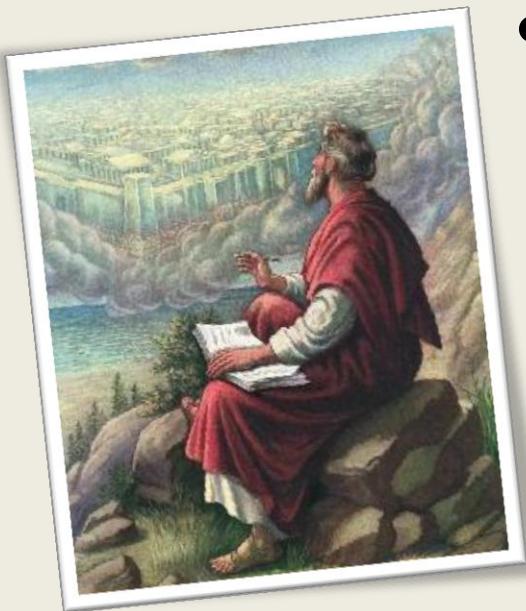
John 20:30-31



- “Therefore many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.”

John 21:25

- “And there are also many other things which Jesus did, which if they were written in detail, I suppose that even the world itself would not contain the books that would be written.”



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Ante-Nicene Fathers: “Heavenly and Eschatological” Interpretation of John 14:1-4

- Papias (AD 110)
- Irenaeus (AD 130-202)
- Tertullian (AD 196-212)
- Origen (AD 182-251)
- Cyprian (AD 258)



Ante-Nicene Fathers: “Heavenly and Eschatological” Interpretation of John 14:1-4

- “Interestingly, references to John 14:1-3 virtually disappear when perusing the writings of the Nicene and Post-Nicene fathers. This is a bit surprising, given the abundance of material in these later writers when compared with the Ante-Nicenes. I would assume that with the rise of Augustinian amillennialism and its optimistic interpretation regarding the present arrival of the Kingdom of God, the kind of hope held out in John 14:1-3 ceased to hold relevance.”

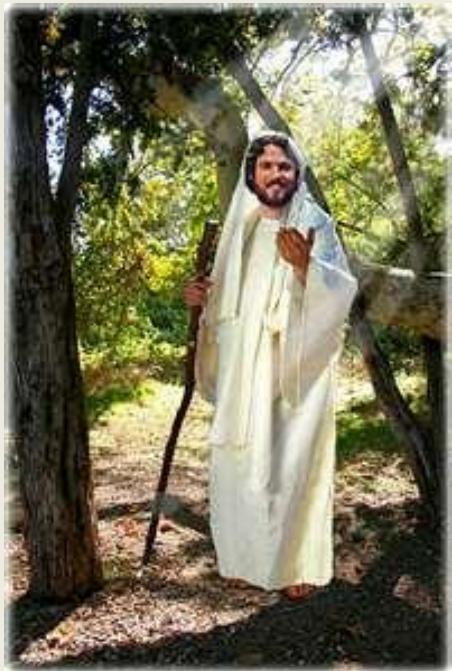
Every Geographical Location in Acts/Episles



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.”

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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)
<u>3. Bridal chamber prepared</u>	<u>Groom separates from bride and returns to his father's house to prepare bridal chamber</u>	<u>Christ's 2000 year separation from church; Ascension; return to heaven to prepare dwellings</u> <u>(John 14:2; Acts 1:9-11)</u>
4. Betrothal period	Loyalty test	Reward determined by orthodoxy and orthopraxy (Jas. 4:4)
<u>5. Bride retrieved</u>	<u>Groom returns at unknown time preceded by a shout with escorts to retrieve bride</u>	<u>Rapture at unknown time</u> <u>(John 14:3; 1 Thess. 4:16-17)</u>

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

Jewish Marriage Analogy

STEP	JEWISH MARRIAGE	CHURCH ANALOGY
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 70 th Week
7. Bride cleansed	Bride undergoes ritual cleansing prior to wedding ceremony	Bema Seat Judgment (1 Cor 3:10-15)
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

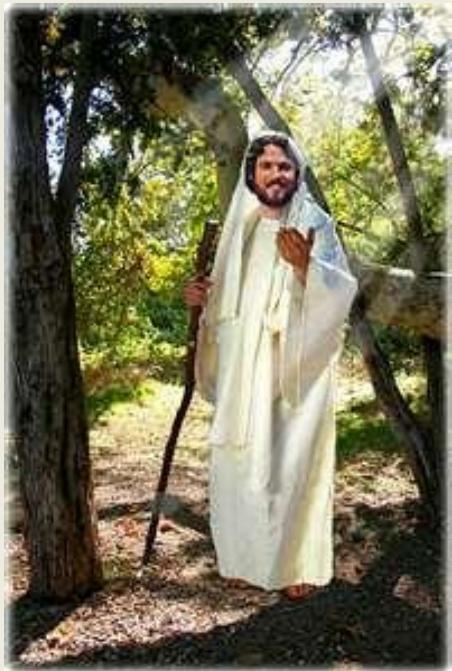
Scripture's Four Judgments

Name	Sheep and Goat	Judgment of the Jews	<u>Bema Seat</u>	Great White Throne
Scripture	Matt 25:31-46	Ezek 20:33-44	<u>1 Cor 3:10-15</u>	Rev 20:11-15
Place	Earth, Jerusalem	Earth, wilderness	<u>Heaven</u>	Earth
Audience	Gentile Tribulation survivors	Jewish Tribulation survivors	<u>Church Age believers</u>	All unsaved
When	After Tribulation	After Tribulation	<u>After rapture</u>	After Millennium
Purpose	Saved Gentiles enter kingdom	Saved Jews enter kingdom	<u>Reward believers</u>	Degree of punishment in hell
Evaluation	Treatment of Christ's brethren	Passing under shepherd's rod	<u>Works taken through fire</u>	Not in the book; judged by books

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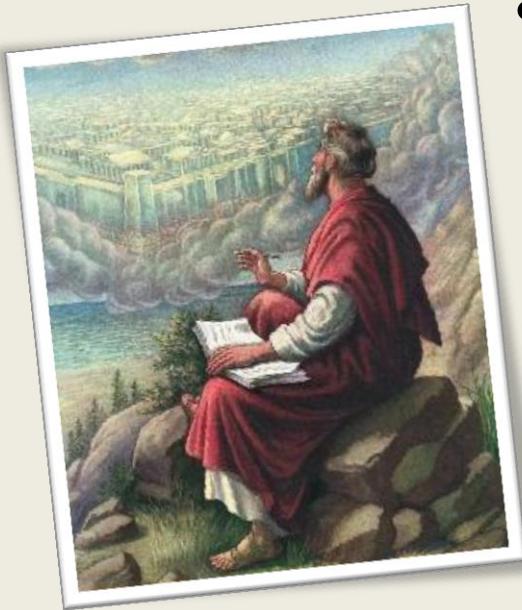


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1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

- "But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, so that you will not grieve as do the rest who have no hope. ¹⁴ For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus. ¹⁵ For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁶ For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord. ¹⁸ Therefore comfort one another with these words."

John 14:1-4



- "Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, *there* you may be also. And you know the way where I am going."

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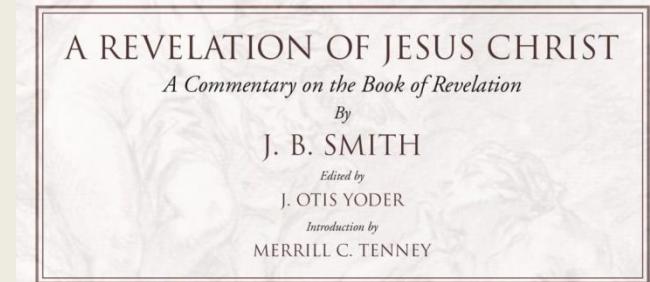
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John 14:1-4; 1 Thess 4:13-18 Parallel

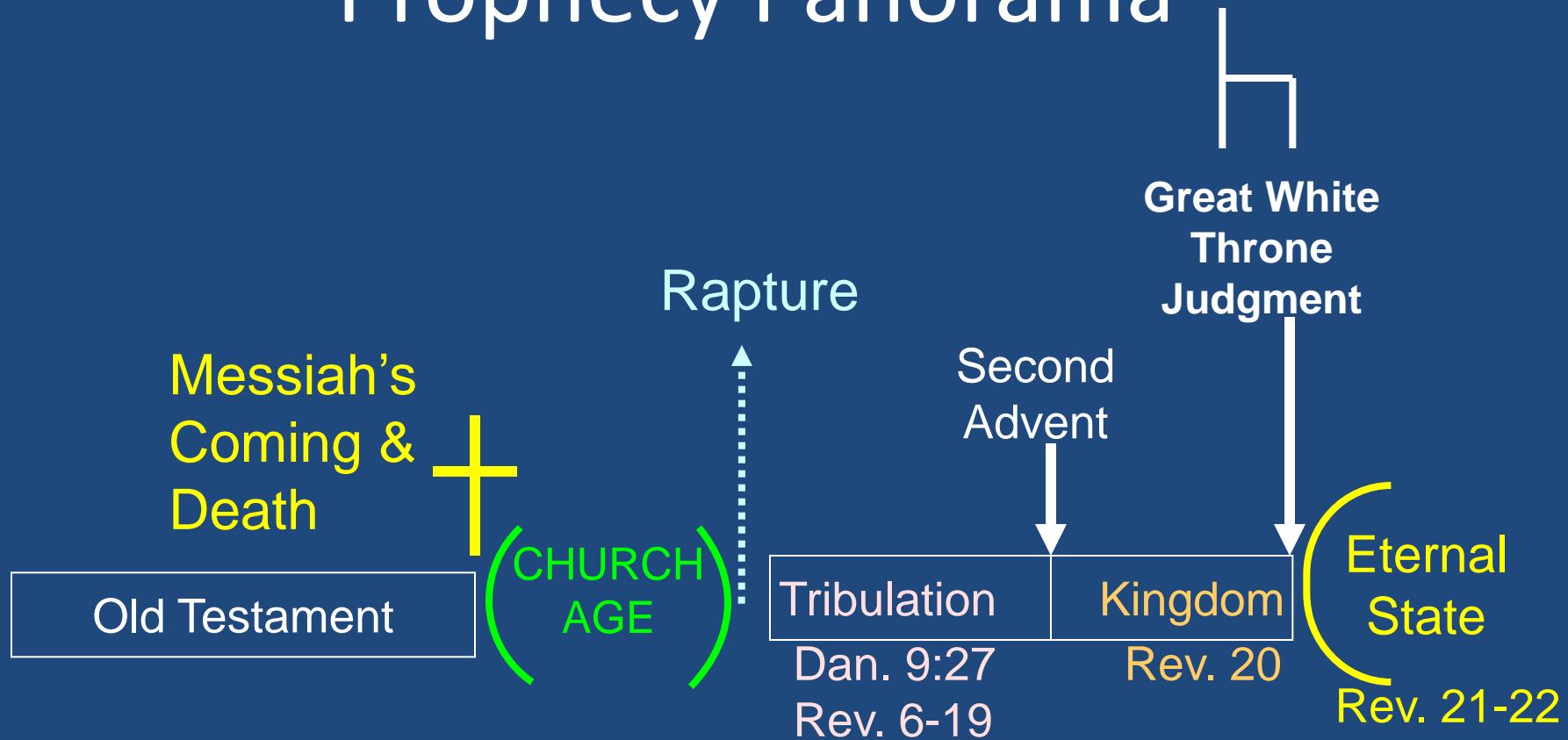
John 14:1-4	1 Thess 4:13-18
trouble (1)	sorrow (13)
Believe (1)	believe (14)
God, me (1)	Jesus, God (14)
told you (2)	say to you (15)
come again (3)	coming of the Lord (15)
receive, you (3)	caught up (17)
to myself (3)	to meet the Lord (17)
be where I am (3)	ever be with the Lord (17)

“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* (Scottdale, PA: Herald Press, 1961), pp. 312-13.

Prophecy Panorama



“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.”



A REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST

A Commentary on the Book of Revelation

By

J. B. SMITH

Edited by

J. OTIS YODER

Introduction by

MERRILL C. TENNEY



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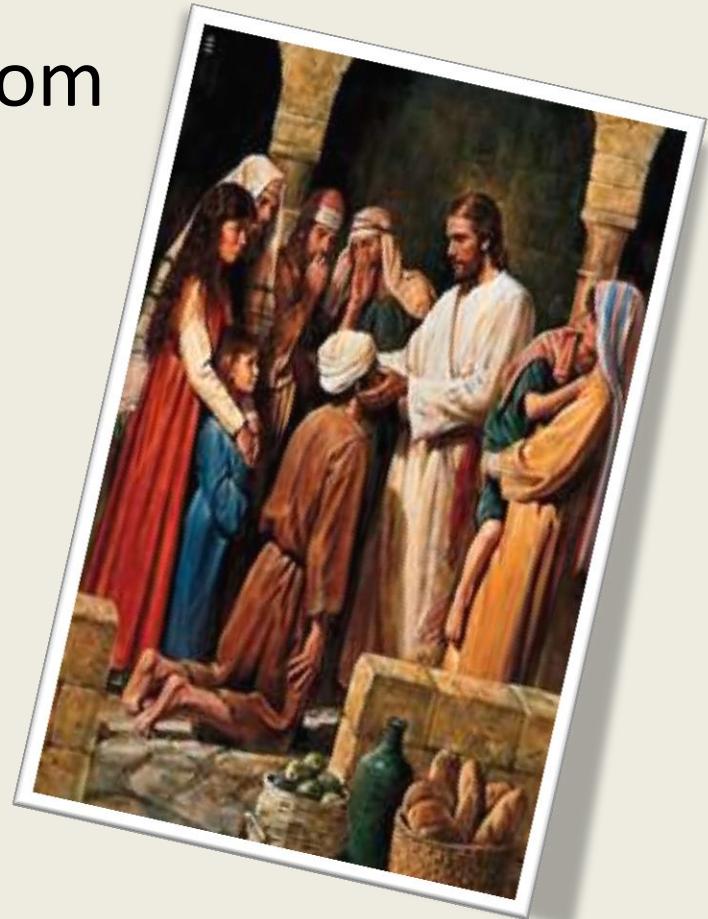
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