

# A Brief Study on End Times Prophecy

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Session 3: Tribulation & Rapture Details

# Study Guide

01

Setting the stage – identify players & define terms

02

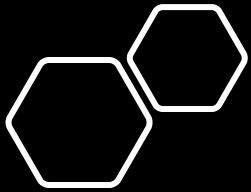
Revelation account (Ch 6-20) – Seals, trumpets, bowls

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Tribulation Details – Daniel's 70 weeks

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Millennial Kingdom – Rev. 20 – Literal, spiritual



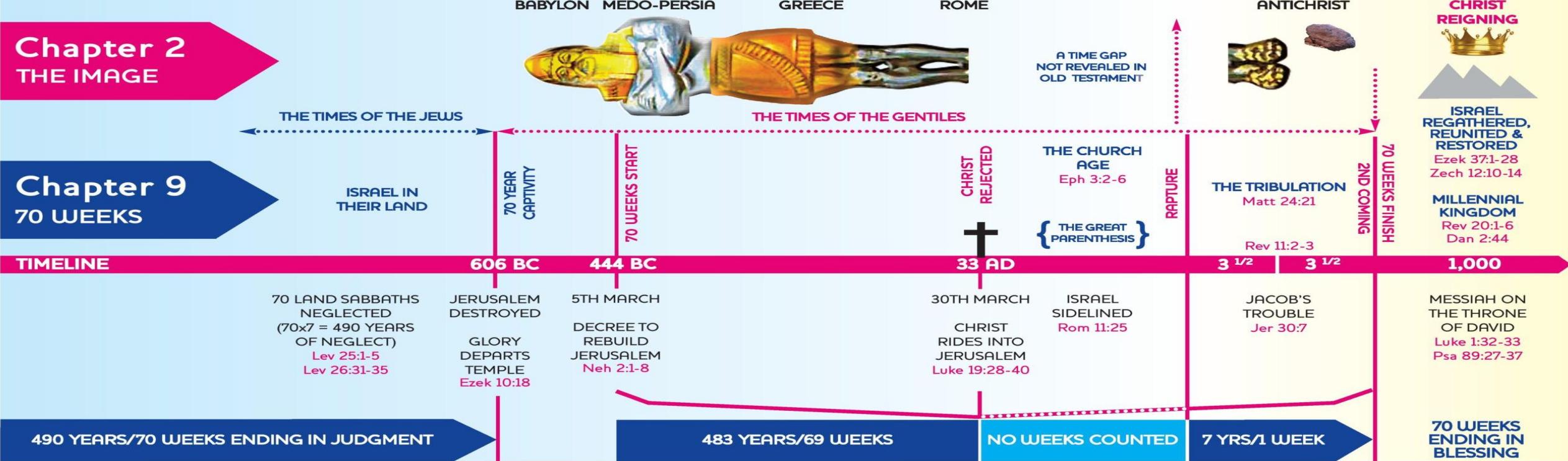
# Jesus' Account of End Times (Matt. 24)

[see also Mark 13 & Luke 21]

- And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what *shall be* the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?
- Many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many & many false prophets shall rise
- Hear of wars and rumours of wars & nation shall rise against nation
- There shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes
- Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake.
- The gospel shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.
- **When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains.**
- For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.
- For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be
- **Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken:**
- Then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.
- **He shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.**
- But of that day and hour knoweth no *man*, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only.

## Chapter 2 THE IMAGE

## Chapter 9 70 WEEKS



# Daniel's Prophecy of the Seventy Weeks

### Daniel 9:20-27

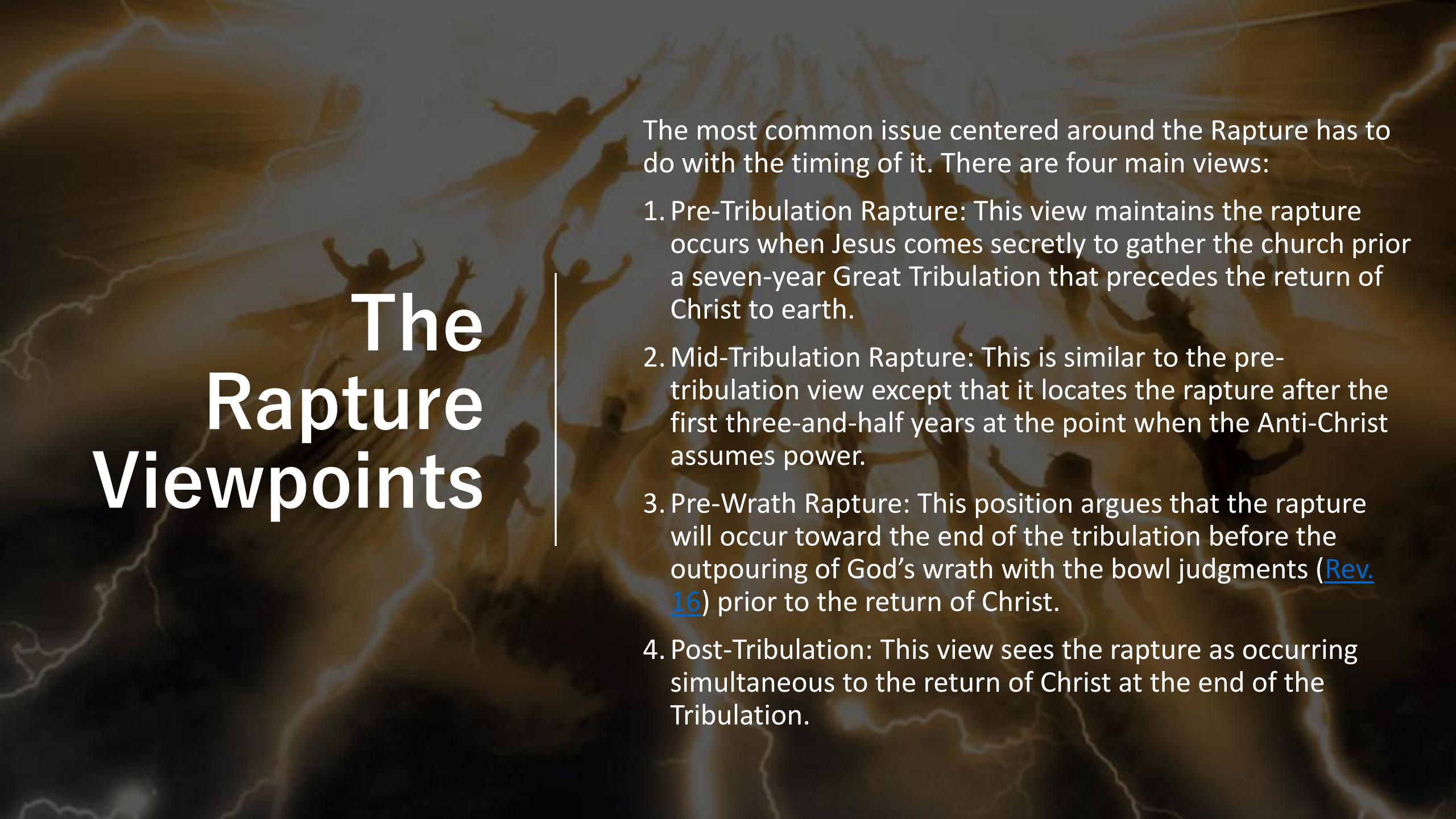
- Gabriels' talks with Daniel... and said, O Daniel, I am now come forth to give thee skill and understanding.
- **Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city**, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy.
- Know therefore and understand, *that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks (7x7), and threescore (30x2) and two weeks (2x7): the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times.*
- And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof *shall be* with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined.
- And he shall **confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate**, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate

# 70<sup>th</sup> Week of Daniel

- GOD HAS A WEEK OF PROPHETIC HISTORY LEFT FOR THE JEWS = THE EVENTS OF THE 70TH WEEK - Israel has seven years left to fulfill this prophecy,
- Before the establishment of the Messianic kingdom at the return of Christ, God will pour his wrath out upon the world opposed to his rule.
- The Tribulation is a time of preparation for Israel's restoration and regeneration (Deut. 4:29-30; Jer. 30:4-11; Ezek. 20:22-44; 22:13-22).
- The church is promised reprieve from this wrath, and the rapture is the means by which it is protected.



Replacement theology teaches that the church is the replacement for Israel and that the many promises made to Israel in the Bible are fulfilled in the Christian church, not in Israel.

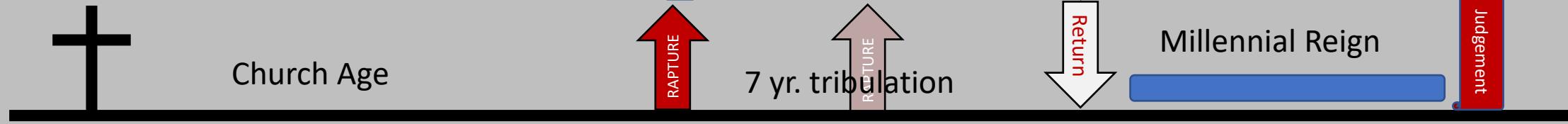


# The Rapture Viewpoints

The most common issue centered around the Rapture has to do with the timing of it. There are four main views:

1. Pre-Tribulation Rapture: This view maintains the rapture occurs when Jesus comes secretly to gather the church prior a seven-year Great Tribulation that precedes the return of Christ to earth.
2. Mid-Tribulation Rapture: This is similar to the pre-tribulation view except that it locates the rapture after the first three-and-a-half years at the point when the Anti-Christ assumes power.
3. Pre-Wrath Rapture: This position argues that the rapture will occur toward the end of the tribulation before the outpouring of God's wrath with the bowl judgments ([Rev. 16](#)) prior to the return of Christ.
4. Post-Tribulation: This view sees the rapture as occurring simultaneous to the return of Christ at the end of the Tribulation.

## Dispensational Pretribulation | Premillennialism



## Historical Premillennialism | Posttribulation

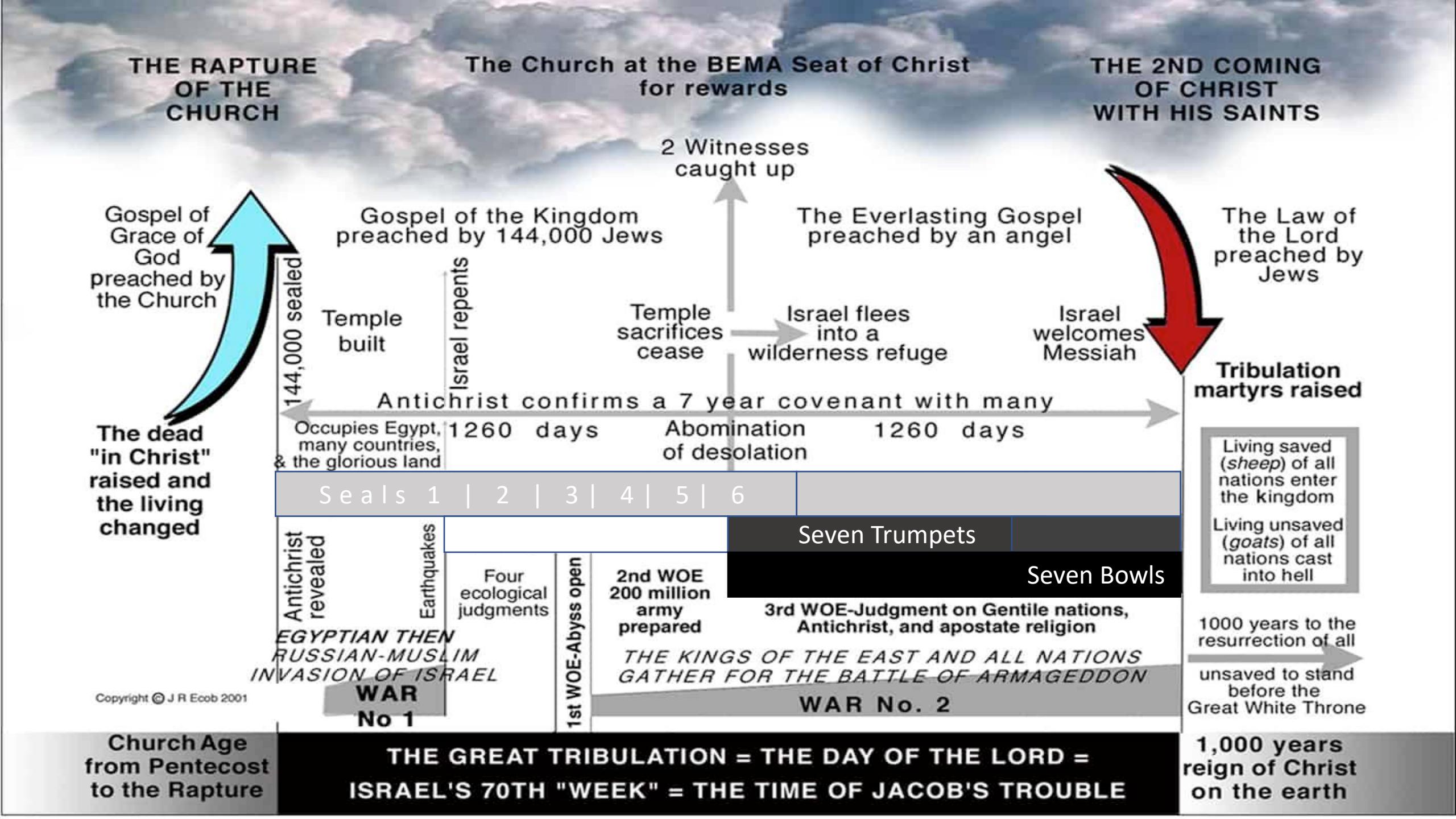


## Postmillennialism

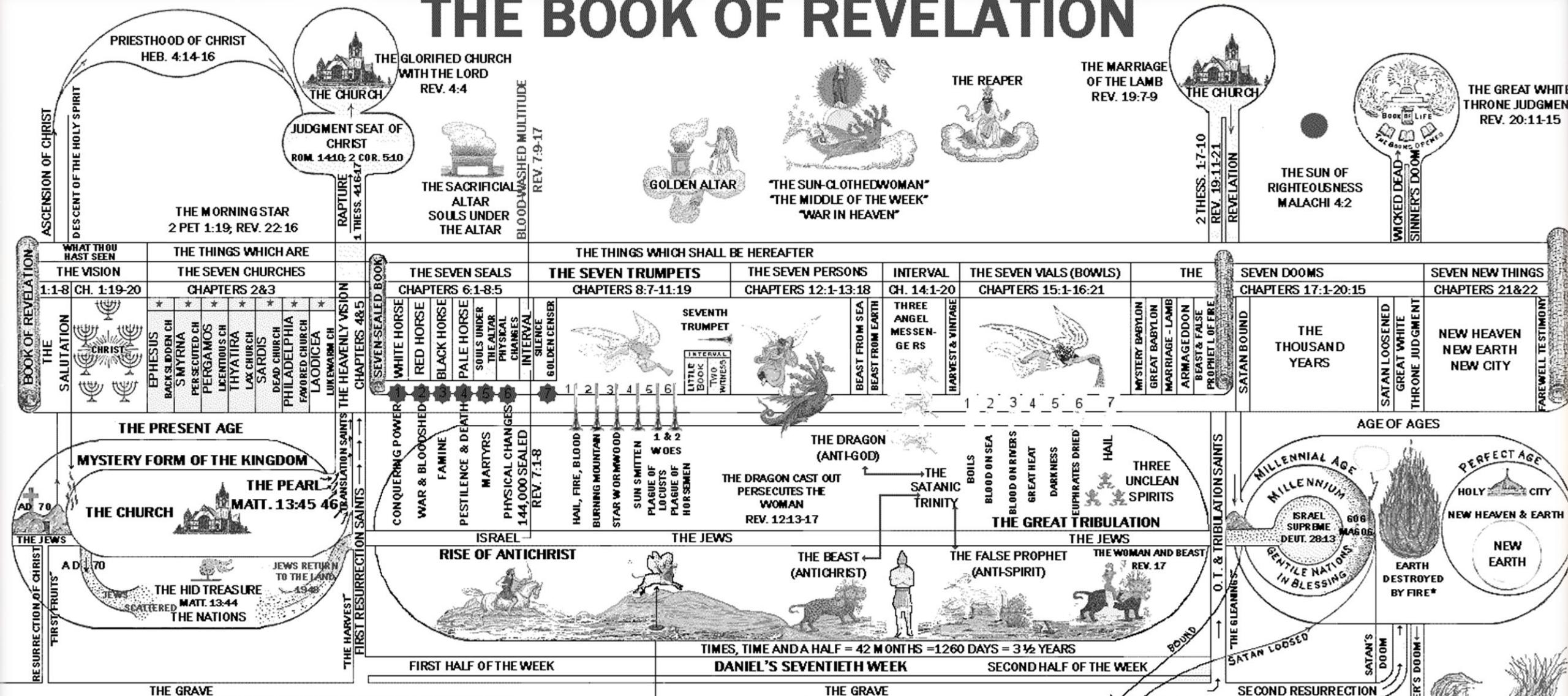


## Amillennialism





# THE BOOK OF REVELATION



**\*MOST SCHOLARS  
BELIEVE THE EARTH  
WILL BE DESTROYED  
BY FIRE AND NOT JUST  
RENOVATED**

# Two fundamental perspectives on Christ’s Return

## Immanent Return

- Christ’s can/will return at any moment
- Conditions have been met
- Return can/will be sudden without warning

## Precursor Return

- Christ will return only after certain conditions are met (precursor)
- Conditions have yet to be met (e.g., falling away and man of lawlessness revealed)
- Conditions build “as labor pains upon a pregnant woman.” (1 Thess. 5:3 NKJV)

# The Rapture: Event

- Rapture is often referenced primarily in 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 and 1 Corinthians 15:51-52 This resurrection will occur in the last days at or near the time when Jesus returns to earth.
- The question is whether or not the rapture is a separate and distinct event from the second coming of Christ or if it occurs simultaneously when Christ returns to earth at the end of the tribulation.
- Those who affirm a pre-tribulation, mid-tribulation, and pre-wrath view of the rapture see it as a separate or secret return of Christ for the church occurring well before he actually returns to the earth publicly.
- Those who affirm a post-tribulation view see the rapture as occurring simultaneous to the return of Christ at the end of the Tribulation.

1 Thess. 4:16-17: For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: **and the dead in Christ shall rise first:** Then we which are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, **to meet the Lord in the air:** and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

1 Cor. 15:51-52: Behold, I shew you a mystery; **We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment,** in the twinkling of an eye, **at the last trump:** for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

# The Rapture: When

- When the rapture occurs centers on several aspects; which are all debated.
- Secret immanent rapture separate from 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming or precursors
- What is “the day of the Lord (DoL)” relationship to the rapture & tribulation?
  - DoL = 7 yrs Trib. | 24 hr. at the end of the Trib. | Last 3.5 yrs of the Trib.

2 Thess. 2:3 Let no man deceive you by any means: for **that day shall not come**, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin (lawlessness ESV) be revealed, the son of perdition; (see also v6)

2 Thess. 2:5-6 Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things? And now ye know what withholdeth **[what is restraining (NKJV)]** that he might be revealed in his time.

Acts 2:20 The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, **before the day of the Lord comes**, the great and magnificent day. (see also Joel 2:31)

Matt 24: 36-41: ... **that day (return of Christ) and hour knoweth no man**, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only. But as the days of Noe *were*, so shall also **the coming of the Son of man** be. ... as before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark, And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Two **women shall be** grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left. **[Is this referring to the Rapture?]**

1 Thess. 5:2-3 (NKJV) For you yourselves know perfectly **that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night**. For when they say, “Peace and safety!” then sudden destruction comes upon them, **as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape**

2 Peter 3:10 But **the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night**; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. (see also 1 Thess. 5:2)

Malachi 4: 5-6 Behold, I will **send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD**: And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse. {THE END OF THE PROPHETS.}

# A Dispensational Pretribulation Viewpoint

Church not mentioned during tribulation Rev. 6:18

Promise to protect us from wrath – great tribulation – no warning in scripture to prepare for tribulation (1 Thess. 1:10)

DOL as a theft in the night – be ready Matt. 24:44 (10 virgin parable (Matt. 25))

Restrainer is removed (church?) before lawlessness is revealed (2 Thess. 2:7-8)

God must fulfill His promise to Israel -70<sup>th</sup> week (remove the church)

Rev 3:10 (protect you from the hour of testing), 4:1-2 (after these things John was called up to heaven by a voice like a trumpet (1 Thess. 4:16-17))

Will meet Christ “in the air” 1 Thess. 4:15 not on land with Christ return to reign

Need group of saved to populate the millennial kingdom

....It will come as suddenly as the pains that come upon a woman in labor, and people will not escape (1 Thess. 5:3)

Symbolic examples Noah & Lot (Matt. 24:38-41)

Challenge: Matt. 24 - Immediately after the tribulation the sun, moon & stars be darkened and then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven & elect gathered; Multiple returns of Christ (not supported in Matt 24); 1 Thess. 4 – DOL after man of lawlessness revealed (gap theory); New doctrine (~1830) not taught be early church

# A Posttrib - Historical Premill Viewpoint

God can deals with both the Church & Israel during tribulations and protects his elect

*..for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed (2 Thess. 2:3)*

The rapture and the beginning of the day of the Lord occur at the same time

Taught by early church fathers for over 19 centuries

Immediately after the tribulation the sun, moon & stars be darkened and then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven & elect gathered (Matt: 24)

Christ return is singular - ...we will all be changed —in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet (1 Cor. 15:51-52)

Jesus indicates believers will go thru the great tribulation (run away after Abom-Des)

Christ's return is visible not a secretive rapture of the church before actual return of Christ... *shall descend from heaven with a shout & trumpets...* (1 Thess. 4:16)

Challenge: Rev 20 – millennial kingdom; promise to keep church from wrath

# A Pre-wrath Viewpoint

Rapture after mid-point and after opening of 6th seal (Rev. 6:17)

The day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin (lawlessness ESV) be revealed (2 Thess. 2:3)  
– happens after mid-point

The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and the terrible day of the LORD come. And it shall come to pass, *that whosoever shall call on the name of the LORD shall be delivered: for in mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as the LORD hath said, and in the remnant whom the LORD shall call.* (Joel 2:30-31)

Church will be present during the first thru fifth seals; these seals are NOT God's wrath but precursors to his wrath

For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ, Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him (1 Thess. 5:9-10)

A remnant of saved to populate the millennial kingdom

Challenge: Imminence : 2 Peter 2:10 & Matt. 24 – DOL comes as a theft in the night and the Noah examples given by Jesus; ..then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Two *women* shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left; *For when they say, "Peace and safety!" then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape* (1 Thess. 5:3)

# Millennial Reign/Kingdom-

Rev. 20 – Literal, spiritual



# DANIEL'S SEVENTY WEEKS (DANIEL 9:24-27)

"Seventy sevens are decreed about your people..." (i.e., Israel v. 24)

