

The Rapture & End Time Events

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BEHOLD, I AM COMING QUICKLY!
THE BOOK OF REVELATION



88
REASONS
why
the Rapture
is in 1988

The Feast of Trump (Rash Hash Ana)

September 11-12-13

Edgar C. Whisenant

Two Books in one — See other Cover

John's Revelation of the Future

WHAT YOU HAVE SEEN

Salutation (1:1-8)
Vision of Jesus Christ (1:9-20)

THE THINGS WHICH ARE

7
CHURCHES
(2 - 3:22)

HEAVENLY VISION (4 - 5:14)

Seven-sealed Book

7
SEALS
(6 - 8:5)



7
TRUMPETS
(8:7 - 11:19)



7
KEY
PERSONS
(12:1 - 13:18)

7
BOWLS
(15 - 16:21)



7
DOOM ON
BABYLON
(17 - 18:24)



RETURN
OF
CHRIST
(19:1-21)

MILLENNIAL
KINGDOM
(20:1-10)



ISRAEL
RULES THE
NATIONS

7
NEW
THINGS
(21- 22:5)



Farewell Testimony (22:6-21)

Daniel's prophecy of 70 Weeks

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."

The Hebrew word for weeks is *shabuwa*, meaning: seven, a period of seven. "God's program would be consummated in 70 'sevens.' Since Daniel had been thinking of God's program in terms of years (v. 1; cf. Jer. 25:11–12; 2 Chron. 36:21), it would be most natural for him to understand these 'sevens' as years. So the phrase Seventy 'sevens,' means a span of 490 years."

Dwight Pentecost

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By the time these 490 years run their course, God will have completed six things for Israel as seen in Daniel 9:24:

1. “to finish the transgression”
2. “to make an end of sin”
3. “to make atonement for iniquity”

The basis for the first three is Christ’s death on the cross.

4. “to bring in everlasting righteousness”
5. “to seal up vision and prophecy”
6. “to anoint the most holy *place*”

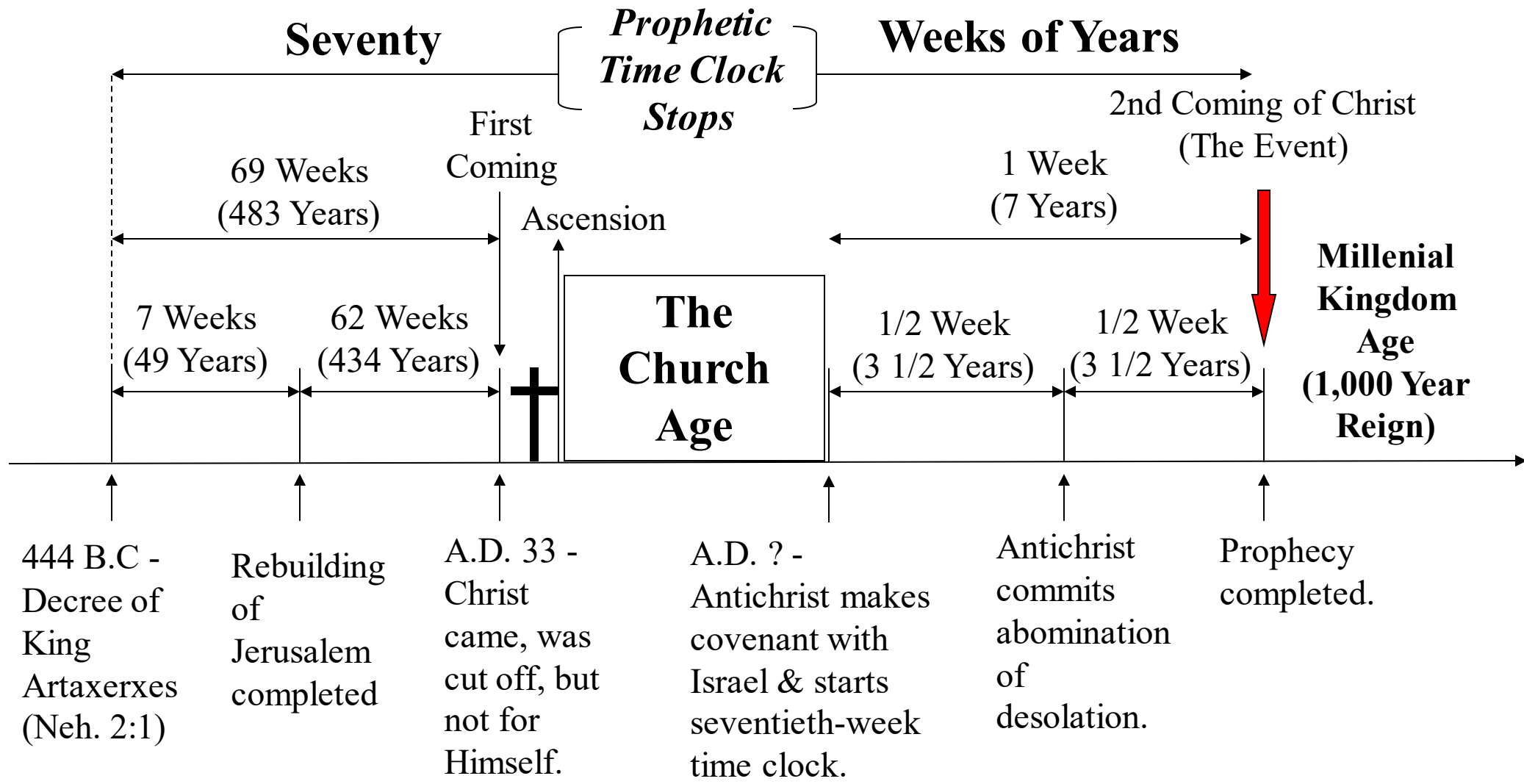
All six will be realized at Christ’s second coming.

9:25 "So you are to know and discern that from the issuing of a decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince there will be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; it will be built again, with plaza and moat, even in times of distress."

A specific time frame of 69 weeks is given from the issuing of the decree to rebuild Jerusalem in 444 BC until the Messiah.

"A century ago in his book *The Coming Prince*, Sir Robert Anderson gave detailed calculations of the sixty-nine weeks, using 'prophetic years,' allowing for leap years, errors in the calendar, the change from B.C. to A.D., etc., and figured that the sixty-nine weeks ended on the very day of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, five days before his death."

Bill MacDonald



Daniel's Seventy Weeks

26 "Then after the sixty-two weeks the Messiah will be cut off and have nothing..."

“According to Daniel 9:26 the Messiah was not ‘cut off’ in the 70th ‘seven’; He was cut off after the 7 and 62 ‘sevens’ had run their course. This means that there is an interval between the 69th and 70th ‘sevens.’ Christ’s crucifixion, then, was in that interval, right after His Triumphal Entry, which concluded the 69th ‘seven.’ This interval was anticipated by Christ when He prophesied the establishing of the church (Matt. 16:18). This necessitated the setting aside of the nation Israel for a season in order that His new program for the church might be instituted.”

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In confronting the Jewish leaders Christ predicted the setting aside of the nation of Israel in Matt. 21:42–43:

“Jesus said to them, Did you never read in the Scriptures, 'The stone which the builders rejected, This became the chief corner stone; This came about from the Lord, And it is marvelous in our eyes '?

Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you, and be given to a nation producing the fruit of it.”

The present Church Age is the interval between the 69th and 70th “sevens.”

9:26b... and the people of the prince who is to come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. And its end will come with a flood; even to the end there will be war; desolations are determined.

The **prince who is to come** is the final head of the Roman Empire, the Antichrist. “It is significant that **the people of the prince** not the prince himself, will destroy Jerusalem and the sanctuary. The **people** of that ruler must be the Romans themselves. The Romans, under Titus, destroyed Jerusalem and its magnificent gold-trimmed white marble temple in A.D. 70. ...**The end will come with a flood.** The city was leveled as if by a flood. Not one stone of the temple, for instance, was left on another.”

Dwight Pentecost

9:27 "And he will make a firm covenant with the many for one week..."

“This verse unveils what will occur in the 70th seven years. The prince who will come (Antichrist) will make a firm covenant that will mark the beginning of this seven-year period. This covenant will be made with many, that is, with Daniel’s people, the nation Israel. The covenant he will make will evidently be a peace covenant, in which he will guarantee Israel’s safety in the land... This ruler will pose as a prince of peace, and Israel will accept his authority.”

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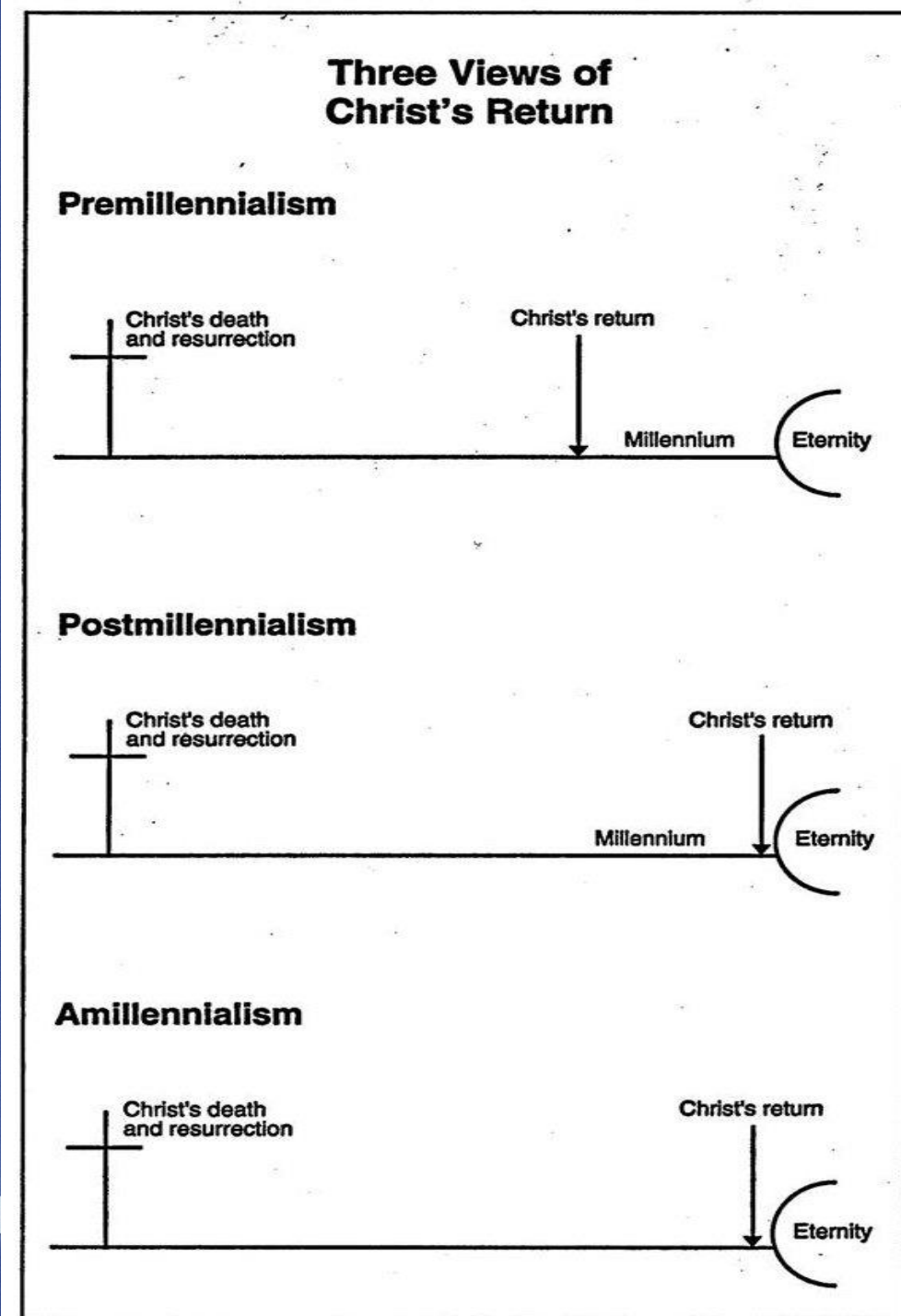
9:27”...but in the middle of the week he will put a stop to sacrifice and grain offering; and on the wing of abominations will come one who makes desolate, even until a complete destruction, one that is decreed, is poured out on the one who makes desolate.”

As we’ll see later in Revelation, the Antichrist will gain worldwide political and religious power. He will cause the world to worship him (2 Thes. 2:4; Rev. 13:8). To gain this worship, he will end organized religions. The Antichrist will be an abomination to Jewish religion and make desolate their temple.

Three Views of Christ's Return

- Premillennialism
 - » Rapture; Second Coming prior to onset of Christ's earthly kingdom
- Postmillennialism
 - » No Rapture; Second Coming at end of Millennial Kingdom which was brought on by the Church
- Amillennialism
 - » No Rapture; No Millennial Kingdom. Single event: Christ Return, Resurrections, Judgment, Eternity

Buck Anderson



What about the Rapture?

1Thess. 4:16-17: “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 shall rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and thus we shall always be with the Lord.”

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What is the Rapture?

The word “Rapture” is not found in Scripture, but neither are the words Trinity or Missions, but these words all describe Biblical truths. It is from the Latin for “caught up” in 1Thess 4:17. The Greek term is *harpazo*, meaning: *1) to seize, carry off by force 2) to claim for one's self eagerly 3) to snatch out or away*

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The Rapture

1. Christ comes in the air (1Thess. 4:17).
2. He comes for His saints (1 Thess. 4:16,17)
3. The Rapture is a mystery, i.e., a truth unknown in OT times (1 Cor. 15:51).
4. Christ's coming for His saints is never said to be preceded by celestial signs.
5. Identified w/ "Day of Christ" (1 Cor 1:8, 2 Cor 1:14, Phil 1:6,10)
6. The Rapture is presented as a time of blessing (1 Thess. 4:18).
7. The Rapture takes place in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye (1 Cor. 15:52). Implies that it will not be witnessed by the world.

The Revelation/Second Coming

1. He comes to the earth (Zech 14:4).
2. He comes with His saints (1 Thess. 3:13; Jude 14).
3. The Revelation is not a mystery; it is the subject of many OT prophecies (Ps. 72; Isa. 11; Zech 14).
4. His coming with His saints will be heralded by signs in the heavens (Matt. 24:29, 30).
5. The Revelation is identified with the "Day of the Lord" (2 Thess. 2:1–12, NU Text).
6. The main emphasis of the Revelation is on judgment (2 Thess. 2:8–12).
7. The Revelation will be visible world-wide (Matt. 24:27; Rev. 1:7).

The Rapture

8. The rapture seems to involve the church primarily (John 14:1–4; 1 Cor. 15:51–58; 1 Thess. 4:13–18).

9. Those taken are taken for blessing (1 Thess. 4:13–18). Those left are left for judgment (1 Thess. 5:1–3).

10. No dating system is given for events preceding the Rapture.

The Revelation/Second Coming

8. The Revelation involves Israel primarily, then also the Gentile nations (Matt. 24:1–25:46).

9. Those taken are taken for judgment. Those left are left for blessing (Matt. 24:37–41, Luke 17:34–37).

10. An elaborate dating system is given for the Revelation, such as 1260 days, 42 months, 3½ years (see Dan. 7:25; 9:24–27; 12:7,11,12; Rev. 11:2; 12:14; 13:5).

Adapted from *Here's the Difference* by Bill MacDonald

THREE VIEWS ON THE RAPTURE OF THE CHURCH

<p style="text-align: center;">PRE-TRIBULATIONAL (LITERAL VIEW)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">MID-TRIBULATIONAL (PRE-WRATH)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">POST-TRIBULATIONAL</p>
<p>Distinguishes between Israel and the Church</p>	<p>Church and Israel are mixed during the Tribulation</p>	<p>The Church and Israel are identical; go through the Tribulation together</p>
<p>Imminent – prior to the beginning of the Tribulation</p>	<p>Rapture follows 3 ½ + years of Tribulation – not imminent</p>	<p>Rapture follows 7 years of Tribulation – not imminent</p>
<p>Last Trumpet for Believers (1 Cor. 15:52; 1 Thes. 4:16); gathered to be with the Lord</p>	<p>Last Trumpet in series of seven Israel; announces Jesus' future reign (Rev. 10:7)</p>	<p>Trumpets at Second Coming (Isa. 27:13; Zech. 9:14; Matt. 24:31) to gather believers on earth</p>
<p>Believers rescued from wrath (1 Thes. 1:10; 5:9; Rom. 5:9; Rev. 3:10)</p>	<p>Believers only rescued from Great Wrath</p>	<p>Believers rescued from last wrath upon unbelievers</p>
<p>Day of the Lord comes "like a thief in the night (1 Thes. 5:4)</p>		<p style="text-align: right;">Buck Anderson</p>

The Post Tribulation Rapture Theory

The church will continue on earth until the second coming of Christ at the end of the tribulation. The Rapture and 2nd coming of Christ take place at the same time.

Problems with the Post- Tribulation Rapture:

1. It is based on a denial of dispensationalism and all dispensational distinction. See John 1:17
It places the church in the “time of Jacobs trouble” (Jer. 30:7)
2. It denies a distinction between the church and Israel.

adapted from Dwight Pentecost

The Post Tribulation Rapture Theory

3. It denies the distinction between the rapture and the second advent.
4. It denies the doctrine of imminence (The Lord could come at anytime)
5. It applies major passages of Scripture that outline God's program for Israel (Matt. 13, Matt. 24 & 25, Rev. 4-19) to the Church.

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The Pre-wrath Rapture Theory

The church is present for at least the 1st half of the 7-year Tribulation. The Rapture of the Church occurs some time after the mid-point but before the Great Tribulation.

Points of agreement with the Pre-wrath position:

- The literal 1000-year Millennium and the Pre-millennial return of Christ to reign.
- The Great Tribulation will come before the Millennium
- The church will not experience the wrath of God.

The promise of the rapture does not mean that the church will be exempt from suffering, sorrow, trials, tribulation and persecution. John 16:33

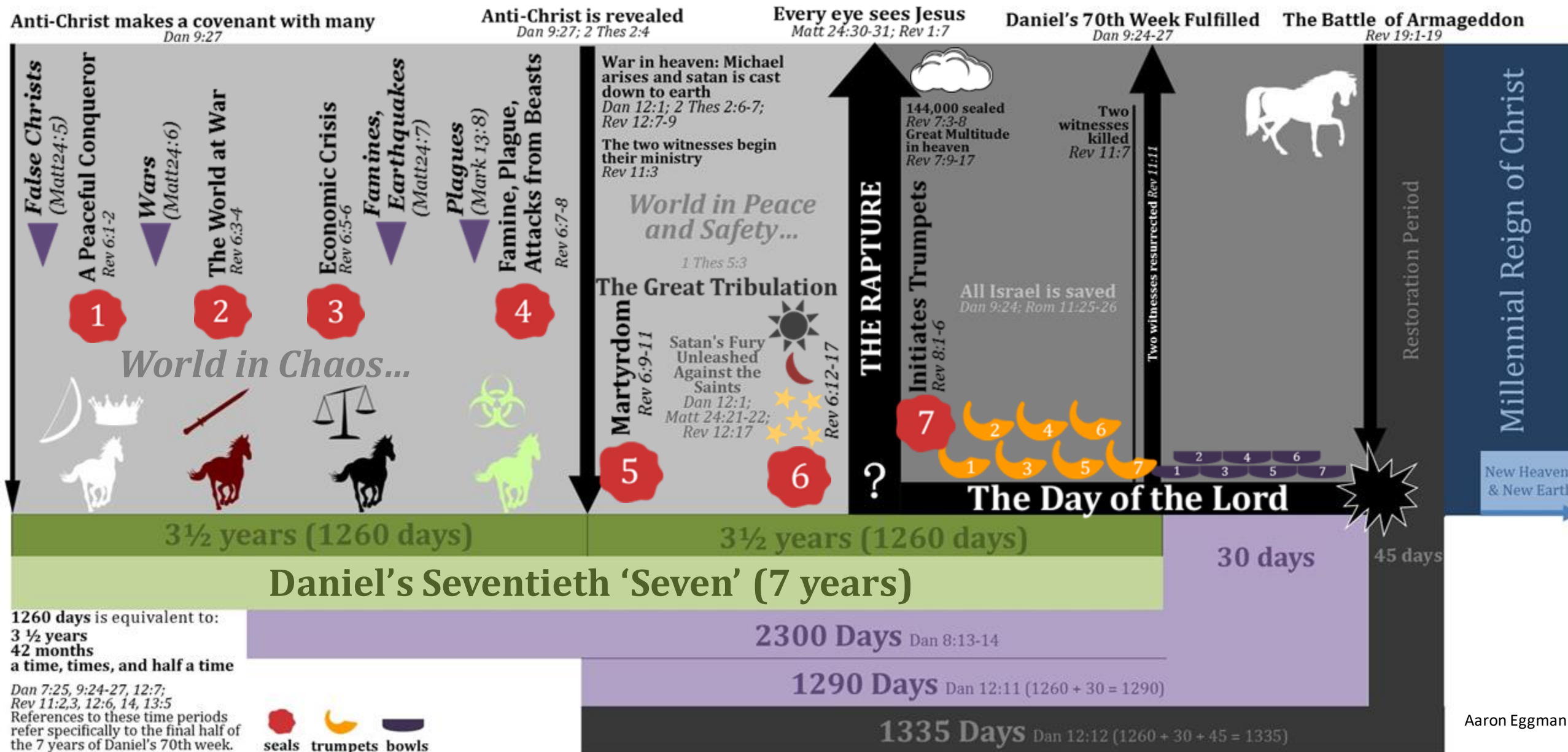
“The basic difference is that the Pre-Tribulation view places the Rapture before the coming seven year Tribulation or Daniel's 70th Week.

The Pre-Wrath view places the rapture of believers as occurring sometime during the middle of the Tribulation. It concludes that believers, of this present Church Age, will experience the beginning years of the Tribulation, but be raptured before God pours His wrath upon the earth. Thus... the reason for the title, "Pre-Wrath Rapture."

Cooper Abrams

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The Day of the Lord in the Book of Revelation (Pre-Wrath View)



Some problems with the Pre-wrath view:

1) The timing of the Pre-wrath rapture relies heavily on the Olivet discourse of Christ in Matt. 24 which primarily deals with Israel and Christ's 2nd Coming (not the Rapture).

In Matt 24:15 Jesus says, "when you see the abomination of desolation which was spoken of through Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place..." Christ is making direct reference to Daniel's prophecy in Dan. 9:24-27 that says, "Seventy weeks have been decreed for your people (Jews) and your holy city (Jerusalem)."

“The Olivet discourse... points forward to the Tribulation Period and the Lord’s Second Coming (not the Rapture). It primarily, though not exclusively, concerns the nation of Israel. Its locale is obviously Palestine; for example, “let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains” (24:16). Its setting is distinctly Jewish; for example, “Pray that your flight may not be ... on the Sabbath” (24:20).

Bill MacDonald

Christians in this age are not under the Mosaic Law and do not keep the Sabbath. It is important to recognize the distinction between Israel and the church.

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Distinctions between Israel & the Church

Adapted from Lewis Sperry Chafer

Israel

Church

- | | | |
|-------------------------|---|--------------------------------|
| 1. Divine promises: | earthly, in covenants | heavenly, in the gospel |
| 2. Birth: | physical birth | spiritual birth |
| 3. Nationality: | from one nation | from all nations |
| 4. Dispensations: | seen in all ages from Abraham | seen in this age |
| 5. Ministry: | no missionary activity &
no gospel to preach | great commission to fulfill |
| 6. Christ: | Messiah, Immanuel, King | Savior, Lord, Bridegroom, Head |
| 7. The Holy Spirit: | came upon temporarily | indwells all believers |
| 8. Governing principle: | Mosaic Law | grace |

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Israel

Church

9. Farewell discourses:	Olivet: Matt. 24, Luke 21	upper room: John 13-17
10. Christ's return:	in power & glory for judgment	to receive us to Himself
11. Position:	a servant	members of the family
12. Christ's earthly reign:	subjects	co-reigners
13. Priesthood:	had a priesthood	is a priesthood
14. Marriage:	unfaithful wife	bride
15. Judgments:	must face judgment	delivered from judgment

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Matthew 24:22 "And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened."

* Who are the elect here?

- The Pre-wrath position is the elect are the church.
- The Pre-Trib position is that many, both Jew and Gentile will be saved during the Tribulation and referred to as the elect.

Fineberg: "Those to whom the Olivet discourse was given would have understood the term elect in the context of the OT, not the NT, which had not yet been given."

The church is not found in the prophecies or parables of the Olivet discourse.

2. The Pre-wrath view teaches that the Seal Judgments of Rev. 6 are the wrath of Satan and the Antichrist, or man, and not the judgment or wrath of God.

But according to Rev. 5 who is worthy and has the authority to open the 7 sealed book that hold the coming judgments of God?

Revelation 5:3 states: "And no man in heaven, nor in earth, neither under the earth, was able to open the book, neither to look thereon."

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Who broke the 7 seals that initiated these terrifying events? **Rev. 6:1** “**And I saw when the Lamb broke one of the seven seals...**”

Cooper Abrams: “It is the Lamb Himself who opens the first seal.... It is the Lamb who initiates the beginning of the seven years of the Tribulation. Further, Revelation 6:3, states that ‘He’ referring to the Lamb of verse 1, and verses 5, 7, 9, and 12, continues in opening each of the subsequent seal judgments.”

It is Jesus Christ who opens each of the seals in Chapter 6 culminating in the 6th seal that causes men both great and small to hide in caves and say to the mountains and to the rocks, “Fall on us and hide us from the presence of Him who sits on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb (Rev. 6:16).”

“Yes, it is the Antichrist who persecutes God's people and all peoples on earth, but he does so at the discretion of Jesus Christ. God will be using the Antichrist as the instrument of His wrath. Many times in Biblical history God used the enemies of Israel to chasten and judge them... It is Almighty God who is using the Seal Judgments. This begins His plan to purge the earth of sin.

It should be recognized that if the Seal Judgments are the wrath of God, the Pre-Wrath position is refuted.” The Pre-Wrath position teaches that the first 5 seals in Rev 6 are not the wrath of the Lamb, and that believers in the church will experience them.

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Pre-Tribulation Rapture:

The church is Raptured prior to the 7-year Tribulation

In 1 Thess. 5 Paul instructs the Thessalonians concerning the Day of the Lord, an extended period including the Tribulation, the 2nd coming and the Millennium. Vs 3,4 “While they are saying Peace and Safety then destruction will come upon them suddenly, like birth pangs upon a woman with child and they shall not escape. But you brethren are not in darkness that the day should overtake you like a thief.”

Why? Vs 5 “for you are all sons of light and sons of day...”

Vs 9 "For God has not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ".

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Pre-Tribulation Rapture:

Revelation 3:10 “Because you have kept the word of My perseverance, I also will keep you from the hour of testing, that hour which is about to come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell upon the earth.”

The Greek *tereo ek* means to keep out of, or keep from.

Walvrod: “This is an explicit promise that the Philadelphia church will not endure the hour of trial which is unfolded, beginning in Revelation 6...

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“If Christ had meant to say that they would be preserved through a time of trouble, or would be taken out from within the Tribulation, a different verb and a different preposition would have been required... keeping the church “through” (*dia*), a preposition which is not used here.... Even though the church at Philadelphia would go to glory via death long before the time of trouble would come, if the church here is taken to be typical of the body of Christ standing true to the faith, the promise seems to go beyond the Philadelphia church to all those who are believers in Christ”

The church is mentioned multiple times in Rev. chapters 1-3.

“Nowhere in Rev 4:1 to 19:7 are Church Age saints mentioned. Every reference to believers is those saved during the Tribulation” Cooper Abrams

1Cor 15:51,52 “Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed, 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.”

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The Lord could come for us at any moment! This anticipation and expectation is sometimes referred to as Christ's imminent return. Here are some verses that speak of that expectation, some of them exhorting us how we should live in light of His soon return:

Rom. 13:12: "The night is almost gone, and the day is near. Therefore let us lay aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light."

Phil. 3:20: "For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ"

1 Thes. 1:10: "and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, that is Jesus, who delivers us from the wrath to come."

1Thes. 4:17 “Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and thus we shall always be with the Lord.”

James 5:8 “You too be patient; strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.

1Pet 4:7: “The end of all things is near; therefore, be of sound judgment and sober spirit for the purpose of prayer.”

1 John 2:28 “Now, little children, abide in Him, so that when He appears, we may have confidence and not shrink away from Him in shame at His coming.”

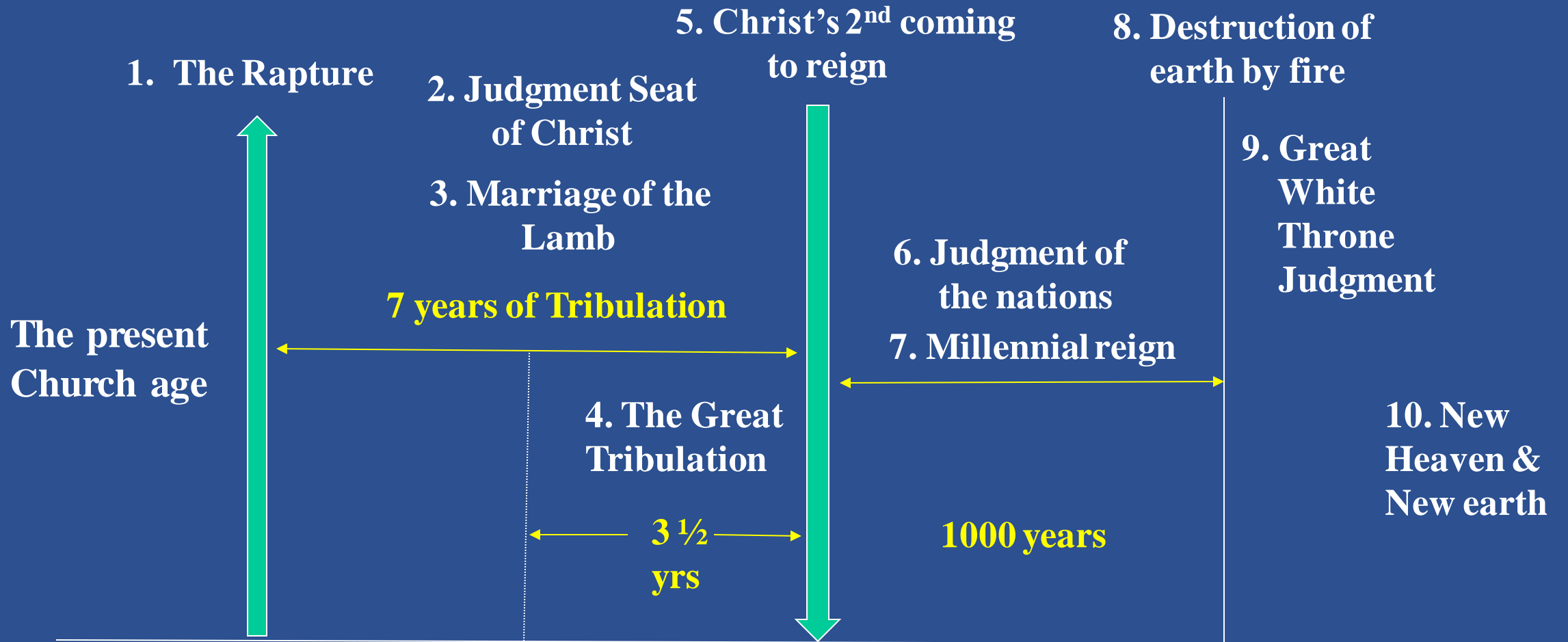
Rev. 22:7: "And behold, I am coming quickly. Blessed is he who heeds the words of the prophecy of this book."

John 14:1-3 "Let not 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. And 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."

Events associated w/ the Rapture

- A. Christ returns for His saints. John 14:2,3; 1Thess 4:16,17
- B. In that moment we will receive glorified bodies. 1 Cor 15:52-53
- C. The Restrainer will be removed. 2 Thess 2:7
- D. Believers appear before the Judgment seat of Christ.
1 Cor 3:10-15; 2 Cor 5:10
- E. The Marriage of the Lamb Rev. 19:7,8

End Time Events



In the midst of a chaotic and changing world it is wonderful to know that Christ is coming back to take us to be with Him forever. Darby said it well: “It is neither knowledge nor prophecy that can satisfy the heart; but the thought that Jesus is coming to take me to Himself...” May we daily live & serve in light of that sure hope, being faithful to the One who said, “Behold, I am coming quickly. Blessed is he who heeds the words of the prophecy of this book.”

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