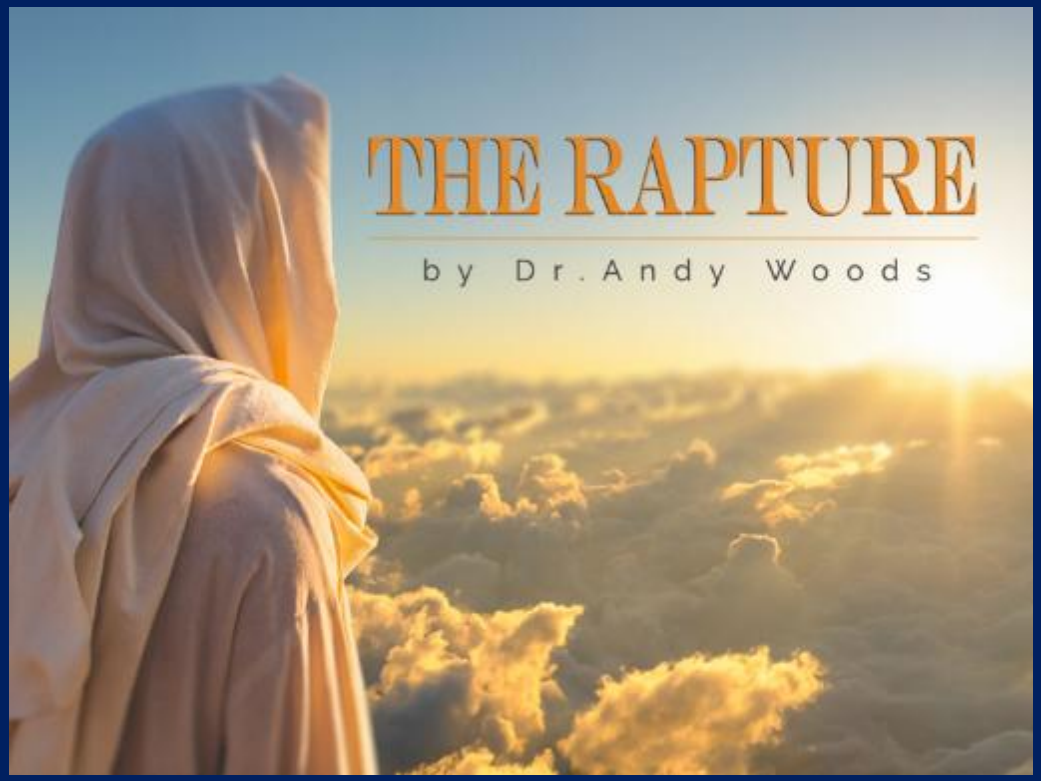
THE RAPTURE

What and When? – Part 39





Andrew Marshall Woods, Th.M., JD., PhD.

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

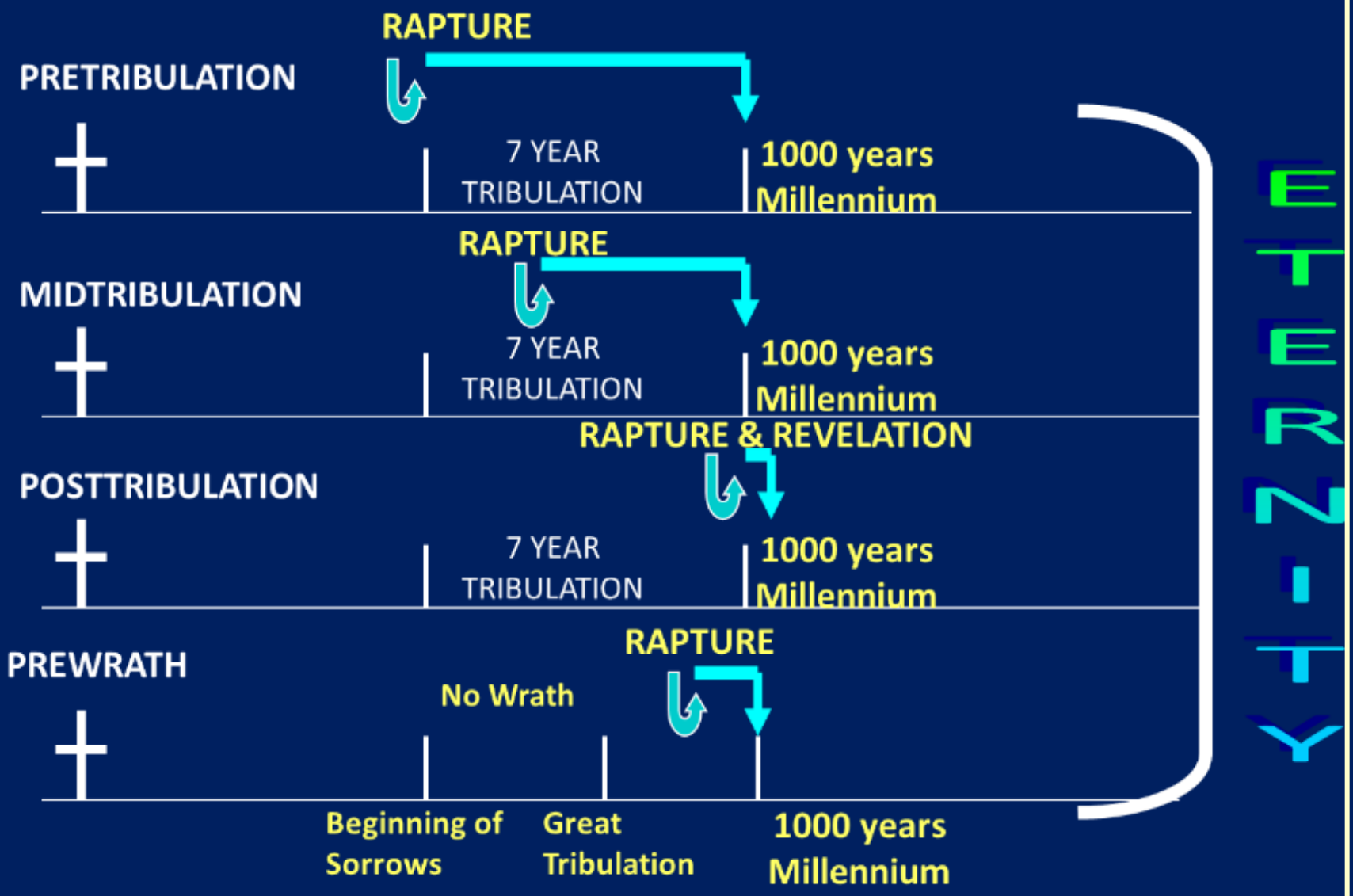


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RAPTURE VIEW COMPARISON



Post-tribulation Rapture Theory

1. According to 1 Thessalonians 4:16 and 1 Corinthians 15:52, the rapture will take place at the sounding of the last trumpet which, according to Matthew 24:30-31, will take place upon Christ's return at the end of the Tribulation period.

2. The Rapture is found in Revelation 19:11-21.

3. According to Revelation 20:4-6, the resurrection of all believers will transpire at the end of the Tribulation period thereby necessitating that the rapture will also take place at this time.

Post-tribulation Rapture Theory

4. Although the church is exempted from God's wrath, the church will be on the earth during the entire Tribulation period because the Book of Revelation portrays God's people being supernaturally protected from many of the apocalyptic judgments during this time period.

5. The post-tribulational rapture position has been the dominant view held by theologians throughout the history of the church.

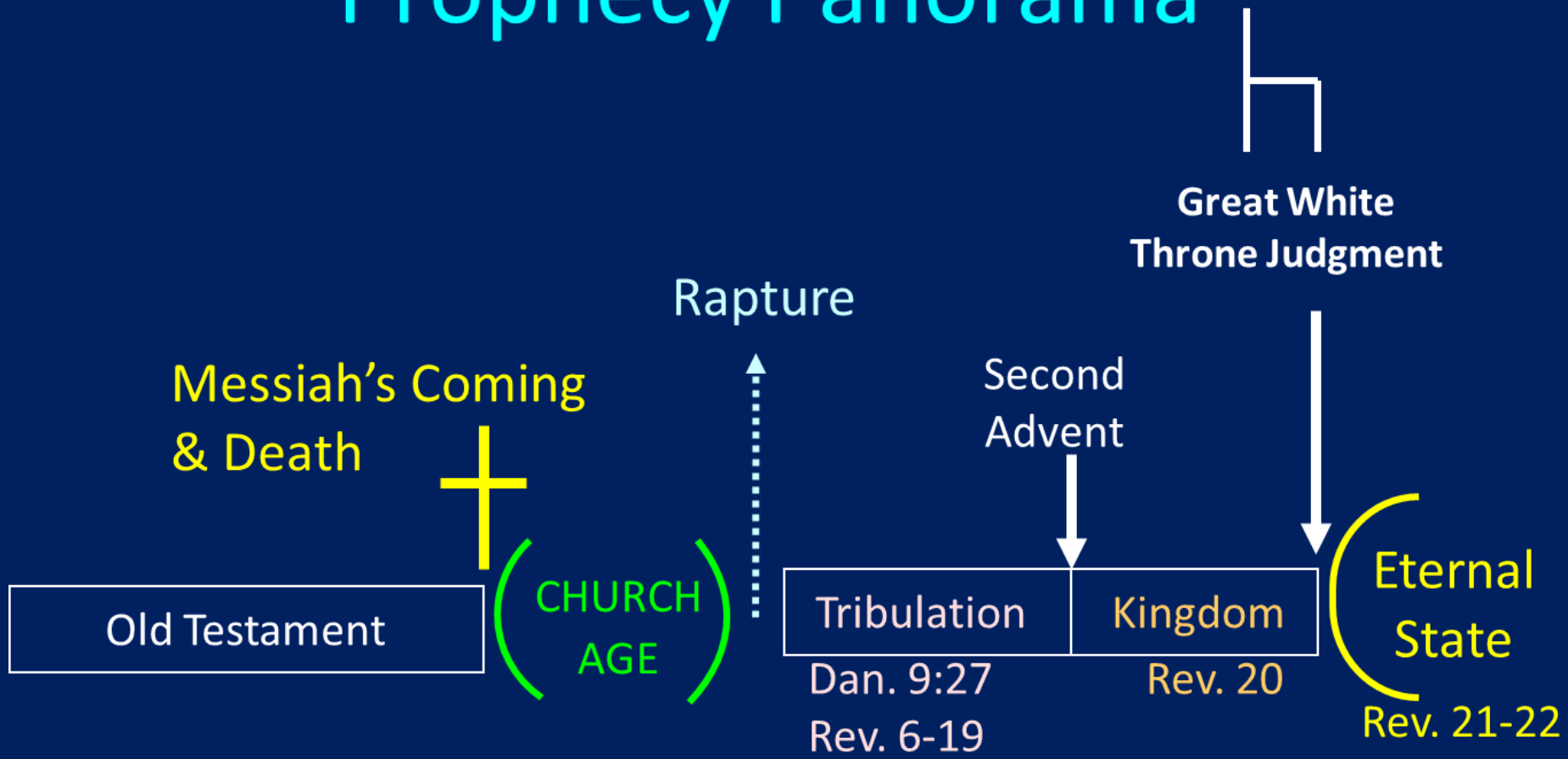
Post-tribulation Rapture Theory Problems

1. Who will populate the millennium?
2. The Hebrew Wedding Sequence.
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Prophecy Panorama



Matthew 24:21-22

“21 For then there will be a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever will. 22 Unless those days had been cut short, no life would have been saved; but for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short.”



Ezekiel 20:33-38

33 “As I live,” declares the Lord GOD, “surely with a mighty hand and with an outstretched arm and with wrath poured out, I shall be king over you. 34 **I will bring you out from the peoples and gather you from the lands where you are scattered**, with a mighty hand and with an outstretched arm and with wrath poured out; 35 and I will bring you into the wilderness of the peoples, and **there I will enter into judgment** . . .



Ezekiel 20:33-38

…**with you face to face**. 36 As I entered into judgment
with your fathers in the wilderness of the land of Egypt,
so I will enter into judgment with you,” declares the
Lord GOD. 37 “I will make you pass under the rod, and I
will bring you into the bond of the covenant; 38 **and I
will purge from you the rebels and those who
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Scripture's Four Judgments

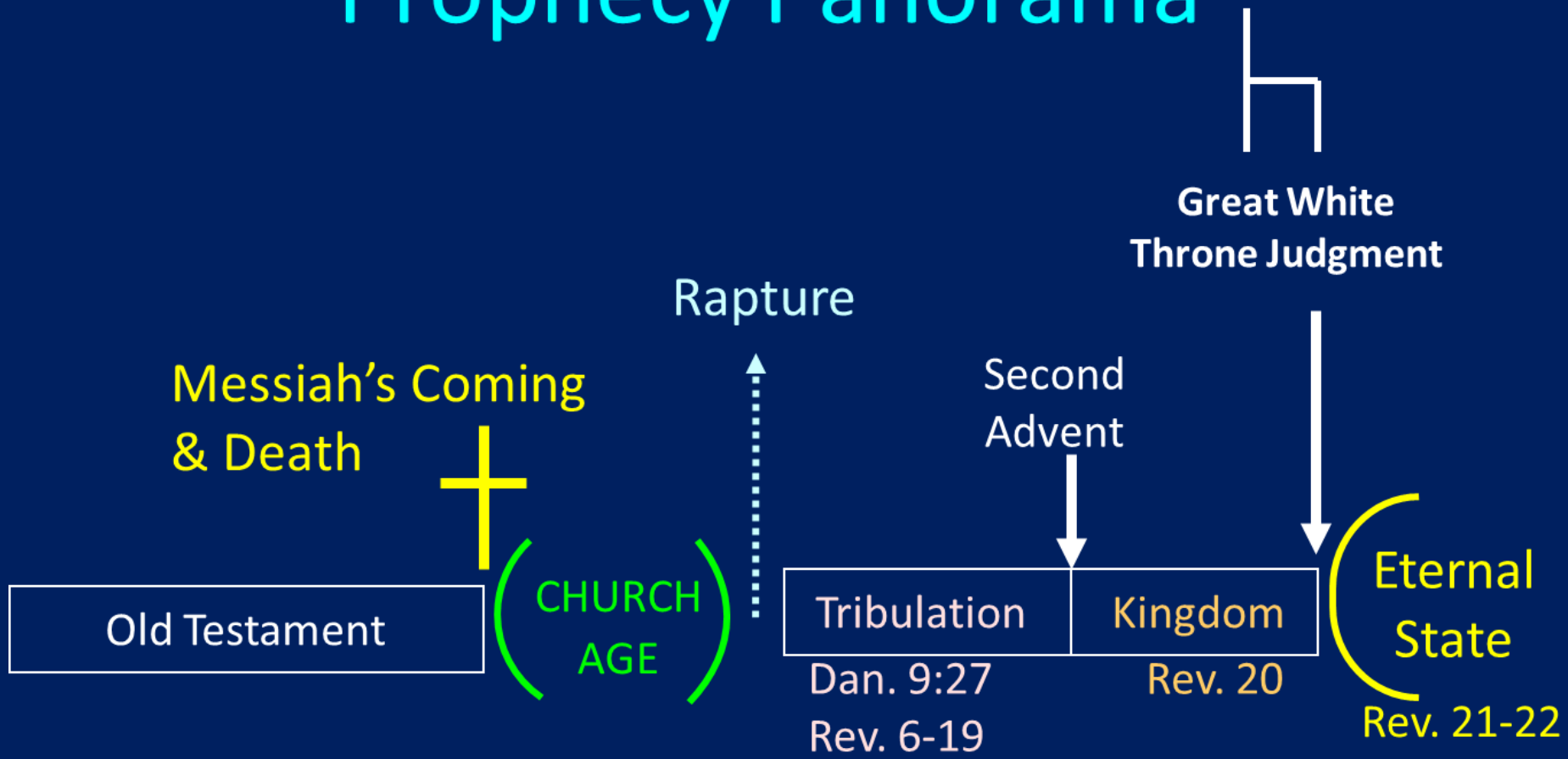
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SCRIPTURE	Matt 25:31-46	Ezek 20:33-44	1 Cor 3:10-15	Rev 20:11-15
PLACE	Earth, Jerusalem	Earth, wilderness	Heaven	Earth
AUDIENCE	Gentile Tribulation survivors	Jewish Tribulation survivors	Church Age believers	All unsaved
WHEN	After Tribulation	After Tribulation	After rapture	After Millennium
PURPOSE	Saved Gentiles enter kingdom	Saved Jews enter kingdom	Reward believers	Degree of punishment in hell
EVALUATION	Treatment of Christ's brethren	Passing under shepherd's rod	Works taken through fire	Not in the book; judged by books

Revelation 20:7-9

“[7] When the thousand years are completed, Satan will be released from his prison, [8] and will come out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together for the war; **the number of them is like the sand of the seashore**. [9] And they came up on the broad plain of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city, and fire came down from heaven and devoured them.



Prophecy Panorama



Mortal Millennial Kingdom Activities

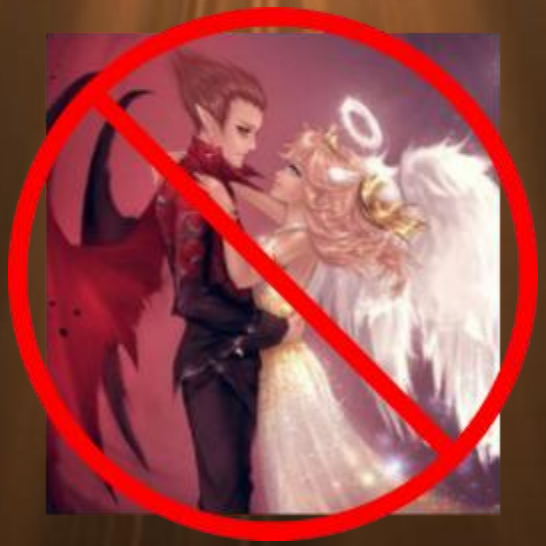
1. Childbearing (Isa. 65:20, 23)
2. Labor (Isa. 65:21-23)
3. Death (Isa. 65:20)
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Matthew 22:30

"For in the resurrection they neither **marry** nor are given in **marriage**, but are like angels **in heaven**."



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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.”



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Psalm 51:5

"Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity,
And in sin my mother conceived me."



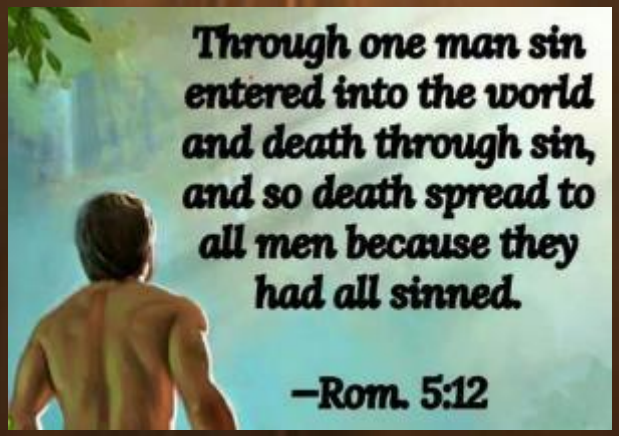
Jeremiah 17:9

"The **heart** is more **deceitful** than all else And is desperately **sick**; Who can **understand** it?."



Romans 5:12

"Therefore, just as through **one man** sin entered into the world, and **death** through sin, and so **death spread to all men**, because all sinned—."



Mortal Millennial Kingdom Activities

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Zechariah 14:16-18

“Then it will come about that any who are left of all the nations that went against Jerusalem will go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to celebrate the Feast of Booths. 17 And it will be that whichever of the families of the earth does not go up to Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, there will be no rain on them. 18 If the family of Egypt does not go up or enter, then no *rain will fall* on them; it will be the plague with which the LORD smites the nations who do not go up to celebrate the Feast of Booths.”



Revelation 20:7-9

“7 When the thousand years are completed [*teleō*], Satan will be released from his prison, 8 and will come out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together for the war; the number of them is like the sand of the seashore. 9 And they came up on the broad plain of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city, and fire came down from heaven and devoured them.”



Genesis 8:21

The Lord smelled the soothing aroma; and the Lord said to Himself, “I will never again curse the ground on account of man, for **the intent of man’s heart is evil from his youth**; and I will never again destroy every living thing, as I have done.[emphasis mine].



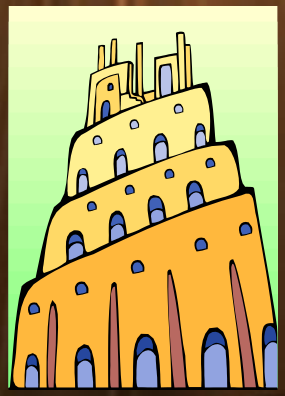
Genesis 9:20-21

“[20] Then Noah began farming and planted a vineyard. [21] He drank of the wine and became **drunk**, and uncovered himself inside his tent.”



Genesis 11:6

The Lord said, “Behold, they are one people, and they all have the same language. And this is what they began to do, and **now nothing which they purpose to do will be impossible for them**.”



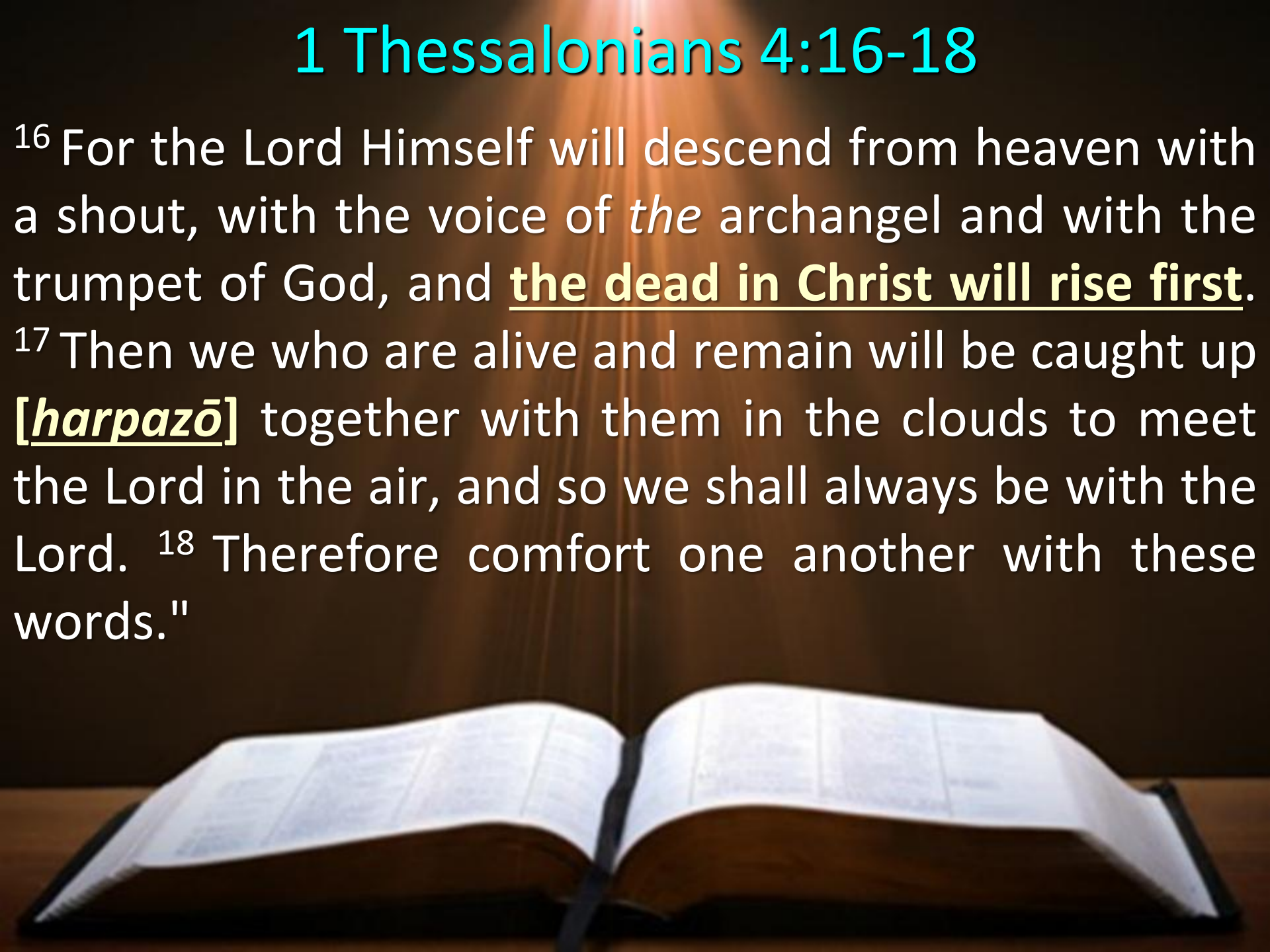
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a shout, with the voice of *the* archangel and with the
trumpet of God, and **the dead in Christ will rise first**.
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[***harpazō***] together with them in the clouds to meet
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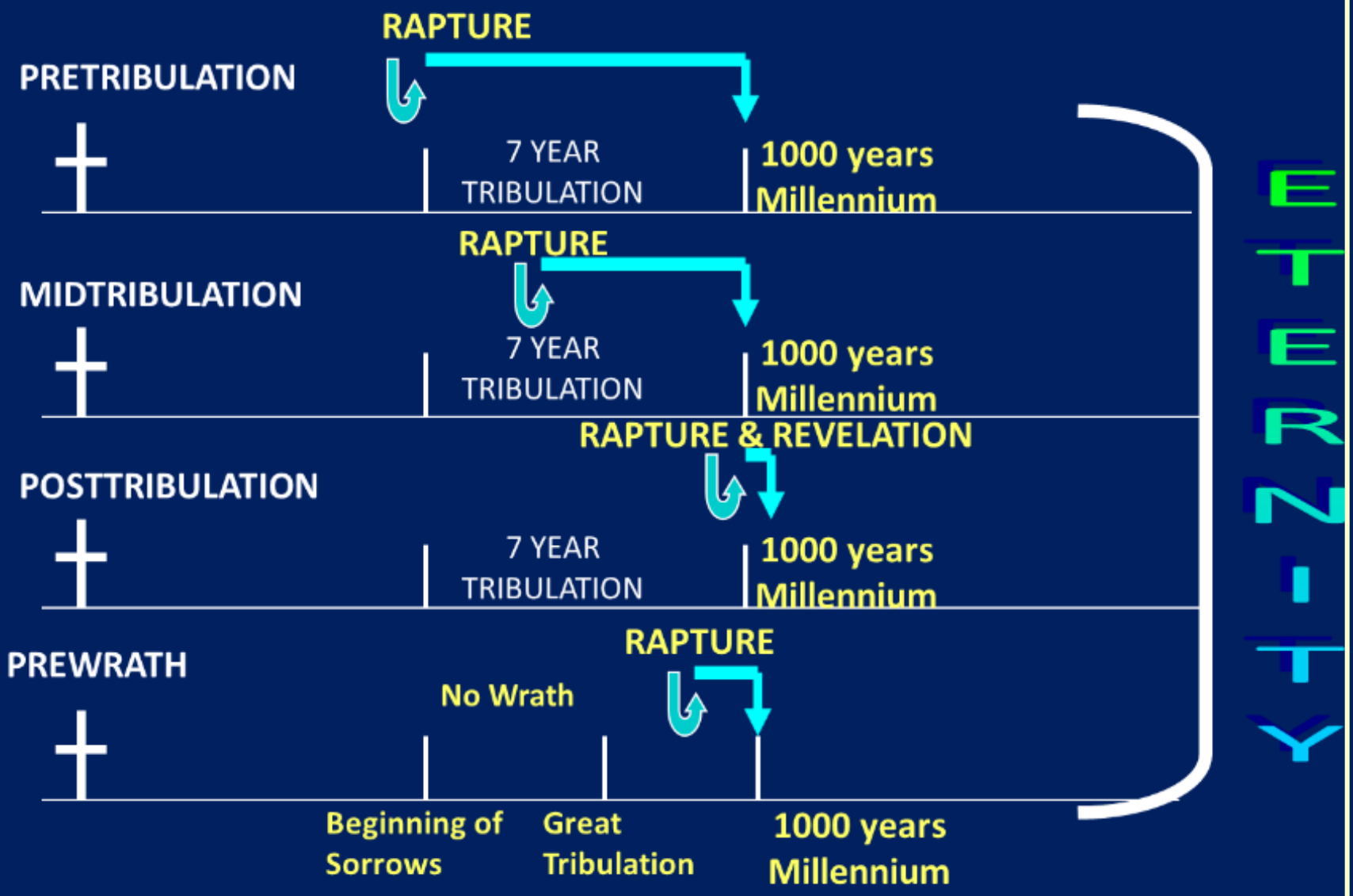


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RAPTURE VIEW COMPARISON



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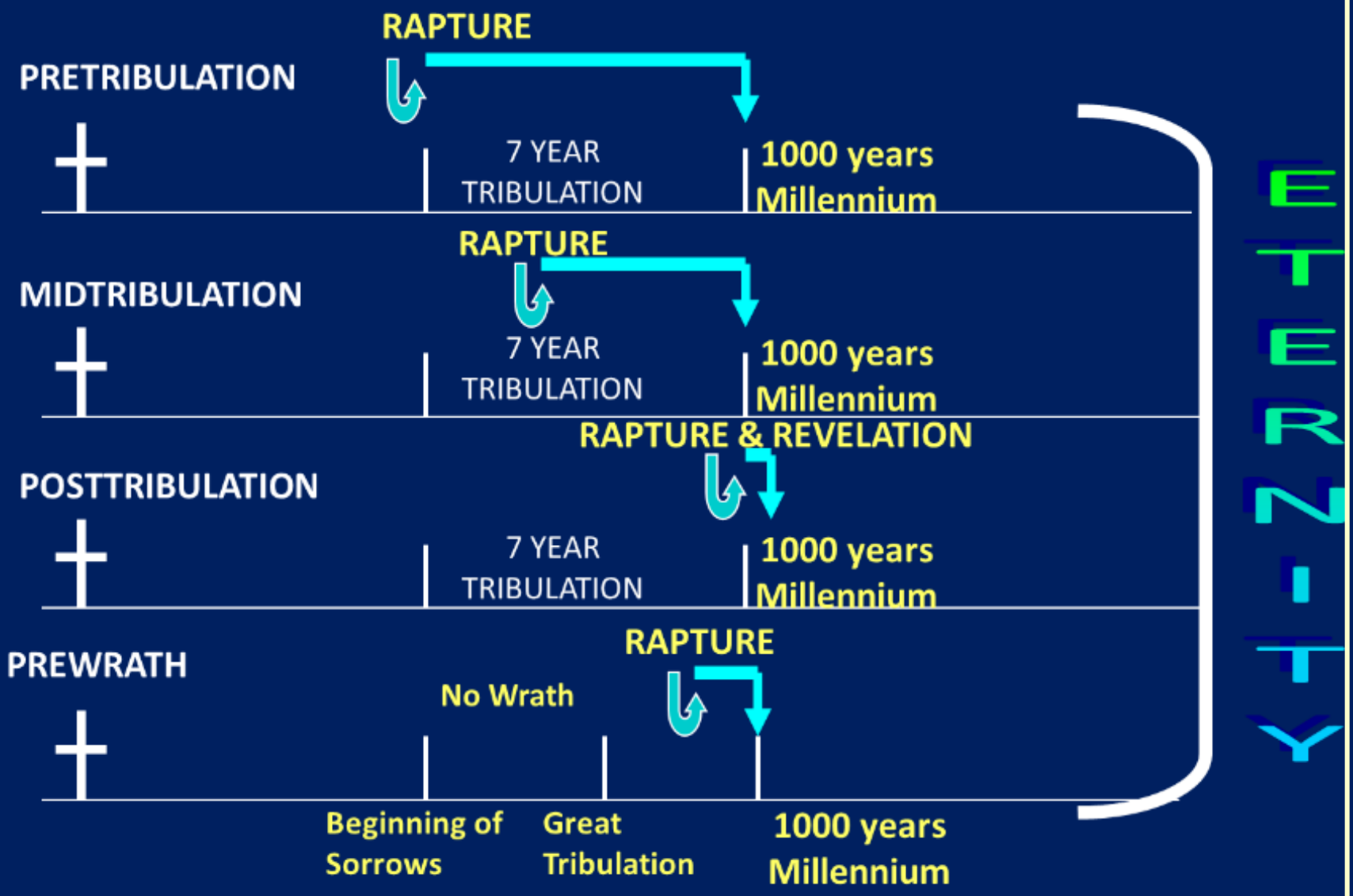


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RAPTURE VIEW COMPARISON





Ron Rhodes

Ron Rhodes, *The Big Book of Bible Answers: A Guide to Understanding the Most Challenging Questions* (Eugene, OR: Harvest, 2013), 276.

"If post-tribulationism is correct, then who will populate the millennial kingdom in mortal bodies? That is a very good question. Scripture is clear that people who become believers during the tribulation period will enter into Christ's millennial kingdom in their mortal bodies. Scripture says they will be married, bear children, grow old, and die (see Isaiah 65:20; Matthew 25:31–46). This is where the problem emerges for post-tribulationism. Obviously, if all believers are raptured at the second coming, no believers are left to enter the millennial kingdom in their mortal bodies. This is no problem for pretribulationism, which teaches that after the rapture, many will become believers during the tribulation."

Post-tribulation Rapture Theory Problems

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2 Corinthians 11:2-3

“[2] For I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy; for I betrothed you to one husband, so that to Christ I might present you as ***a pure virgin***. [3] But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted by from the simplicity that is in Christ.” (Italics mine)



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)
3. Bridal chamber prepared	Groom separates from bride and returns to his father's house to prepare bridal chamber	Christ's 2000-year separation from church; Ascension; return to heaven to prepare dwellings (John 14:2; Acts 1:9-11)

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

Jewish Marriage Analogy

STEP	JEWISH MARRIAGE	CHURCH ANALOGY
4. Betrothal period	Loyalty test	Reward determined by orthodoxy and orthopraxy (Jas. 4:4)
5. Bride retrieved	Groom returns at unknown time preceded by a shout with escorts to retrieve bride	Rapture at unknown time (John 14:3; 1 Thess. 4:16-17)
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 70th Week
7. Bride cleansed	Bride undergoes ritual cleansing prior to wedding ceremony	Bema Seat Judgment (1 Cor 3:10-15; 2 Cor 5:10)

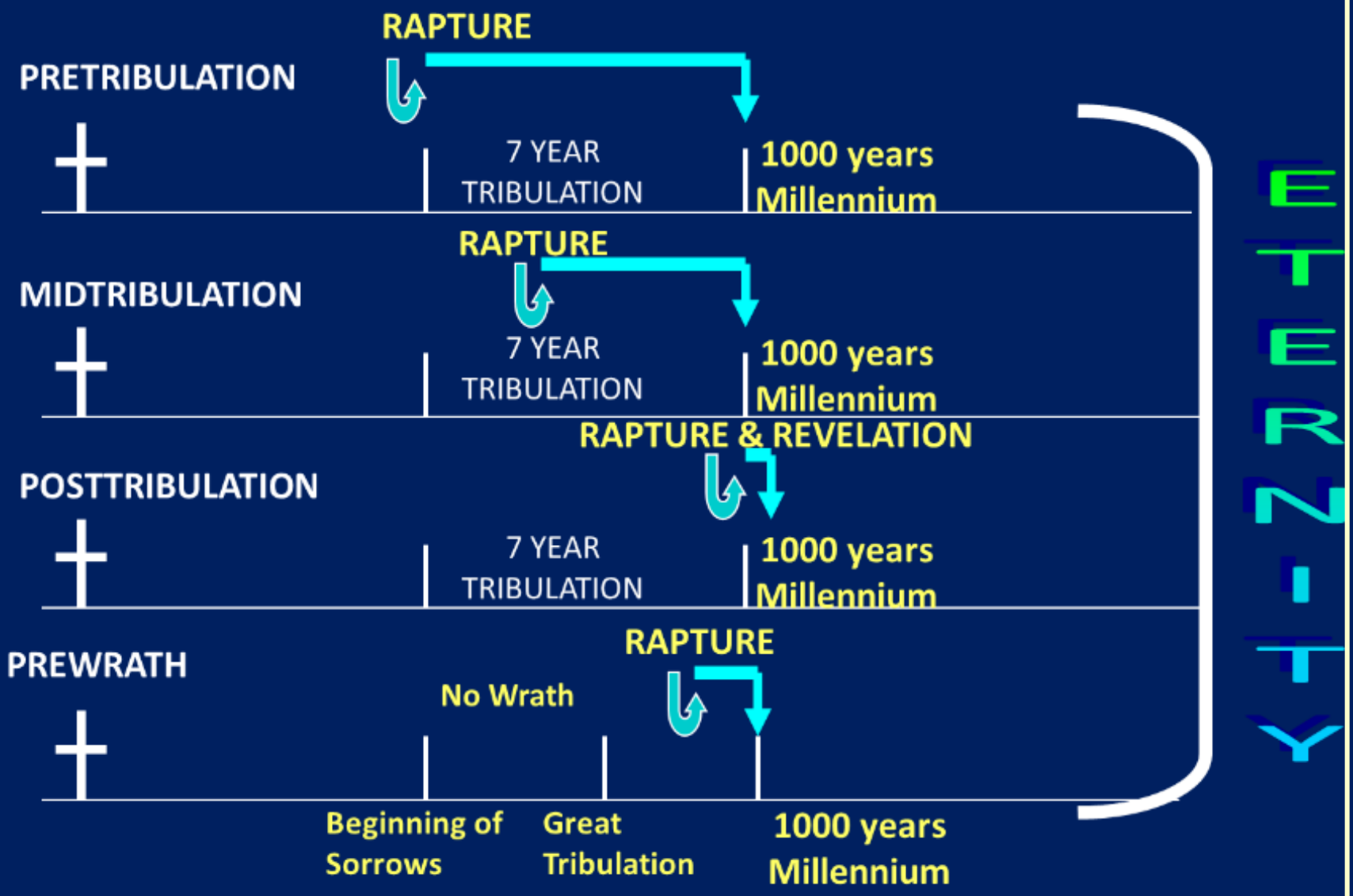
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Jewish Marriage Analogy

STEP	JEWISH MARRIAGE	CHURCH ANALOGY
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

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

RAPTURE VIEW COMPARISON





Charles Ryrie

What You Should Know About the Rapture, Current Christian Issues (Chicago: Moody, 1981), 61.

"In Revelation 19:7–9 the wedding feast is announced, which, if the analogy of the Hebrew marriage customs means anything, assumes that the wedding has previously taken place in the father's house. Today the church is described as a virgin waiting for her bridegroom's coming (2 Corinthians 11:2); in Revelation 21 she is designated as the wife of the lamb, indicating that previously she has been taken to the groom's father's house. Pretribulationists say that this requires an interval of time between the rapture and the second coming. Granted, it does not say seven years' time, but it certainly argues against posttribulationism, which has no time between the rapture and second coming."

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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.”



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Exegesis of John 14:1-4



- vs. 2 – In My Father's house are **many dwelling places**…I go to prepare a place for you.
  - Many dwelling places
    - "Mansions" – mistranslation of Tyndale; KJV from Vulgate
    - *Monē* = temporary dwelling place (inn)

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Parallels

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)

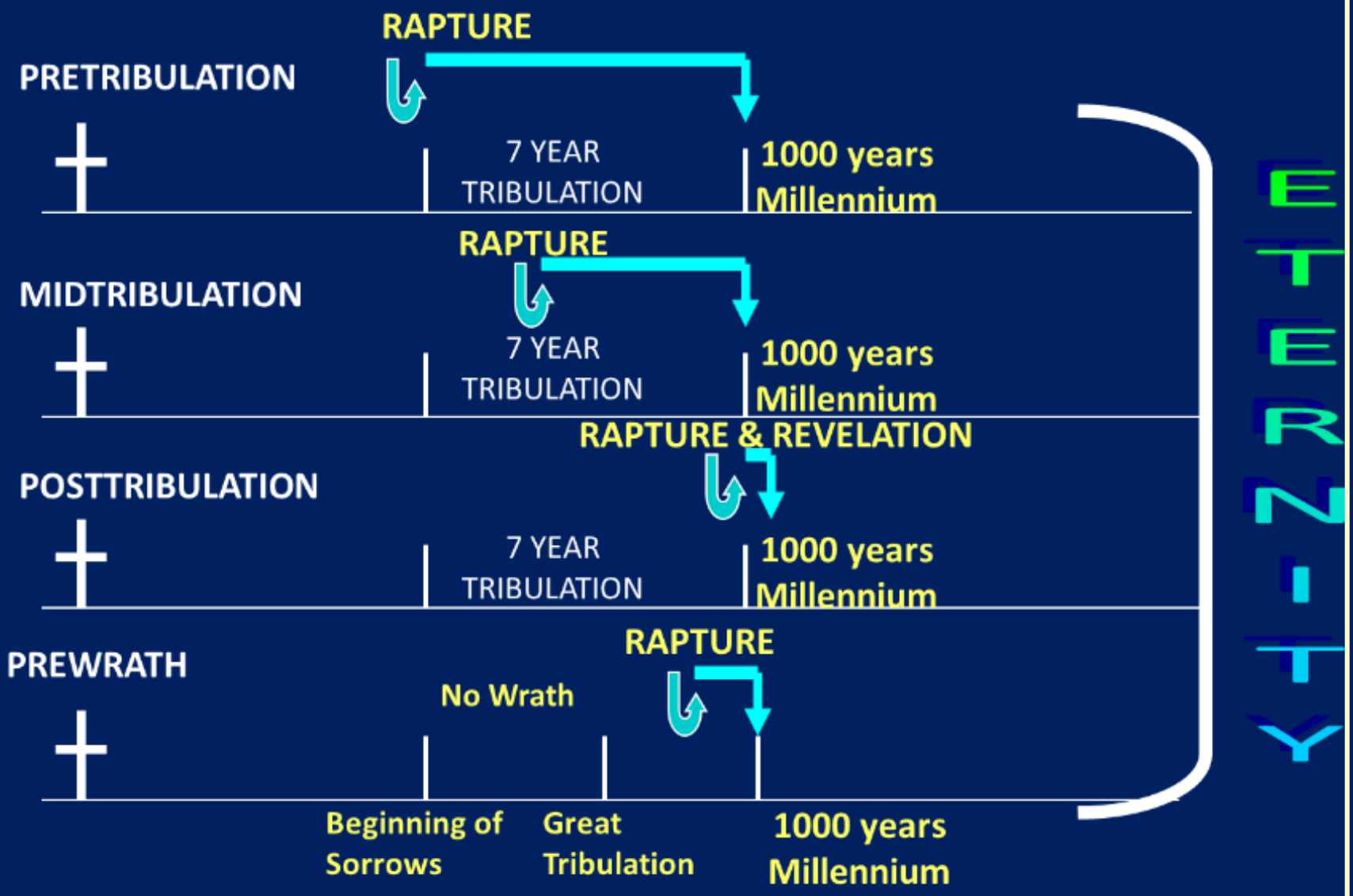
J. B. Smith, A Revelation of Jesus Christ: A Commentary on the Book of Revelation, 311-13

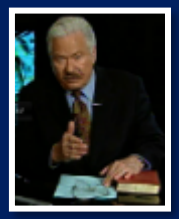
1 Thessalonians 4:16-18

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[*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."



RAPTURE VIEW COMPARISON





Where He Is?

"Since He says He is going to come in order that we may be with Him **where he is**, we would have to be with Him here on earth. Do you see the problem? The dwelling places in the Father's house would be unused...This makes Jesus' whole promise ridiculous. Why would He speak of preparing a place for us in the Father's house if He didn't mean that His return would take us there?"

Hal Lindsey, *The Rapture*, 43.

Post-tribulation Rapture Theory Problems

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2 Corinthians 5:10

"For **we must all** appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that **each one** may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad."



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."





J. Dwight Pentecost

Things to Come, Page 221

"It is scarcely necessary to point out that this examination must take place in the sphere of the heavenlies. It is said in 1 Thessalonians 4:17 that 'we shall be caught up... in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air.' Since the bema follows the translation, the 'air' must be the scene of it. This is further supported by 2 Corinthians 5:1-8, where Paul is describing events that take place when the believer is 'absent from the body, and...present with the Lord.' Thus, this event must take place in the Lord's presence in the sphere of the 'heavenlies.'"

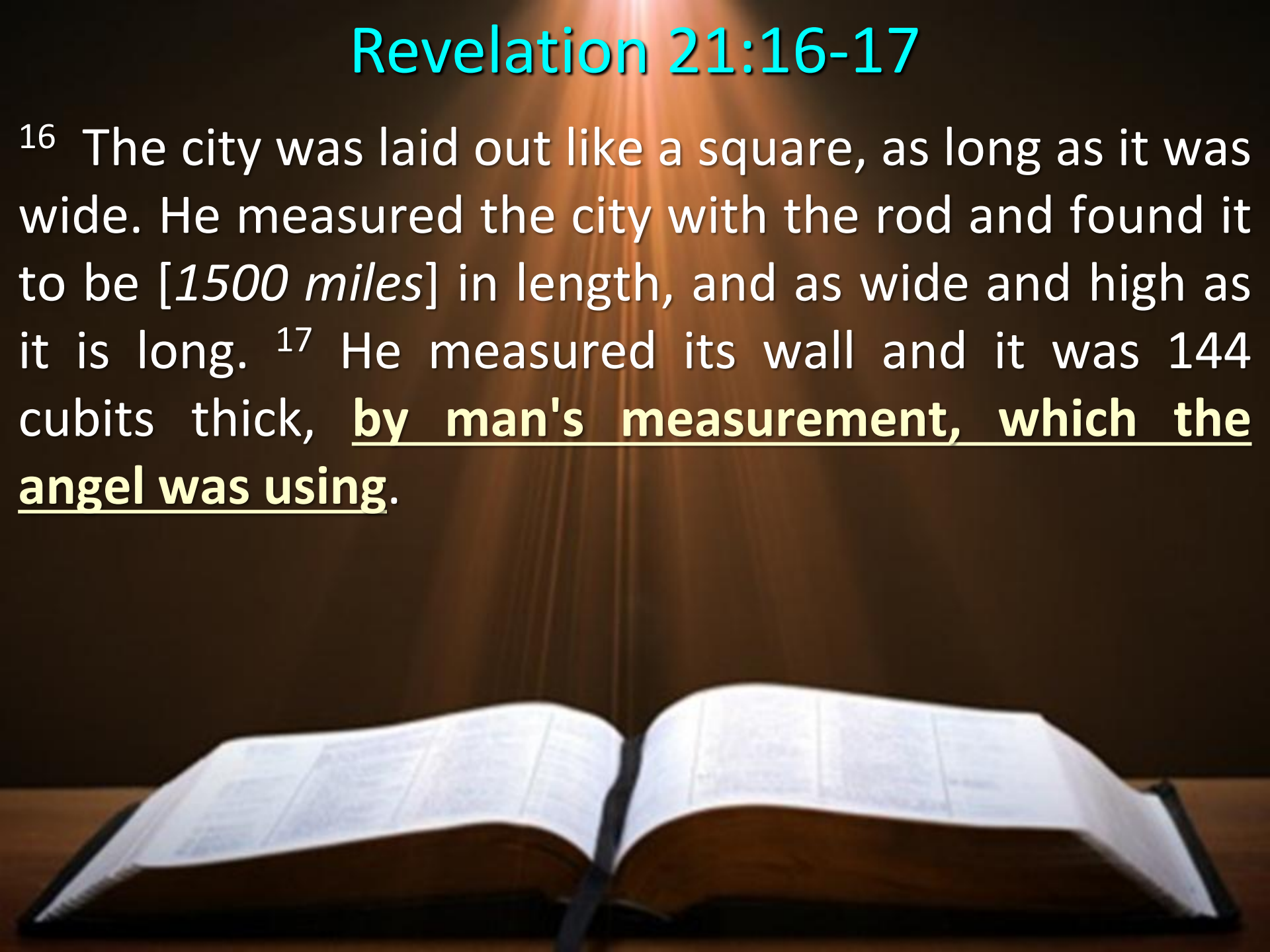
Revelation 19:7-9

“7 Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and His **bride** has made herself ready.” 8 It was given to her to clothe herself in fine linen, bright and clean; for **the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints**. 9 Then he said to me, “Write, ‘Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.’” And he said to me, “These are true words of God.”



Revelation 21:16-17

16 The city was laid out like a square, as long as it was wide. He measured the city with the rod and found it to be [*1500 miles*] in length, and as wide and high as it is long. 17 He measured its wall and it was 144 cubits thick, **by man's measurement, which the angel was using**.

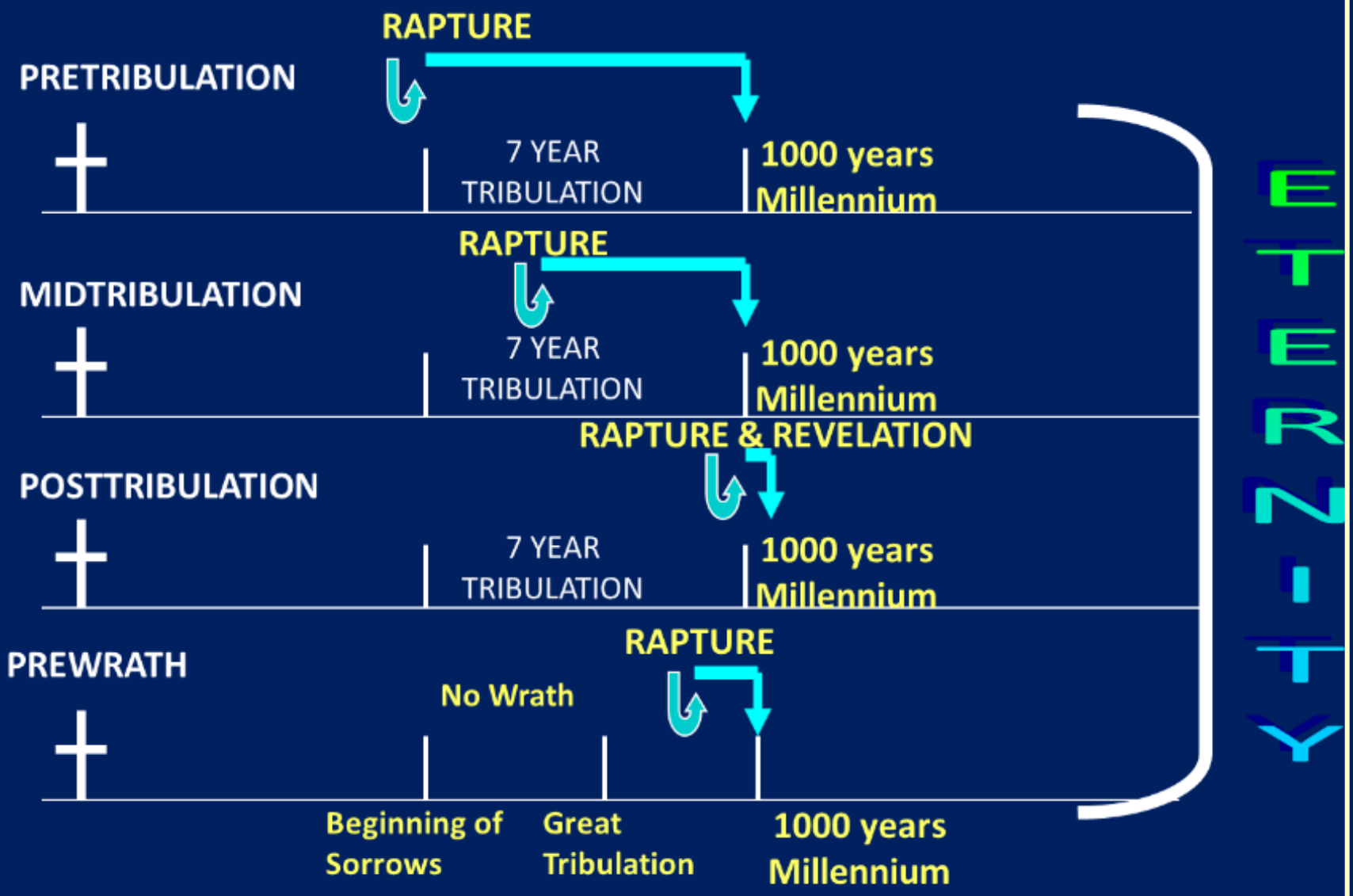


Genesis 1:14

Then God said, “Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night, and let them be for **signs and for** seasons **and for** days **and** years.”



RAPTURE VIEW COMPARISON



Post-tribulation Rapture Theory Problems

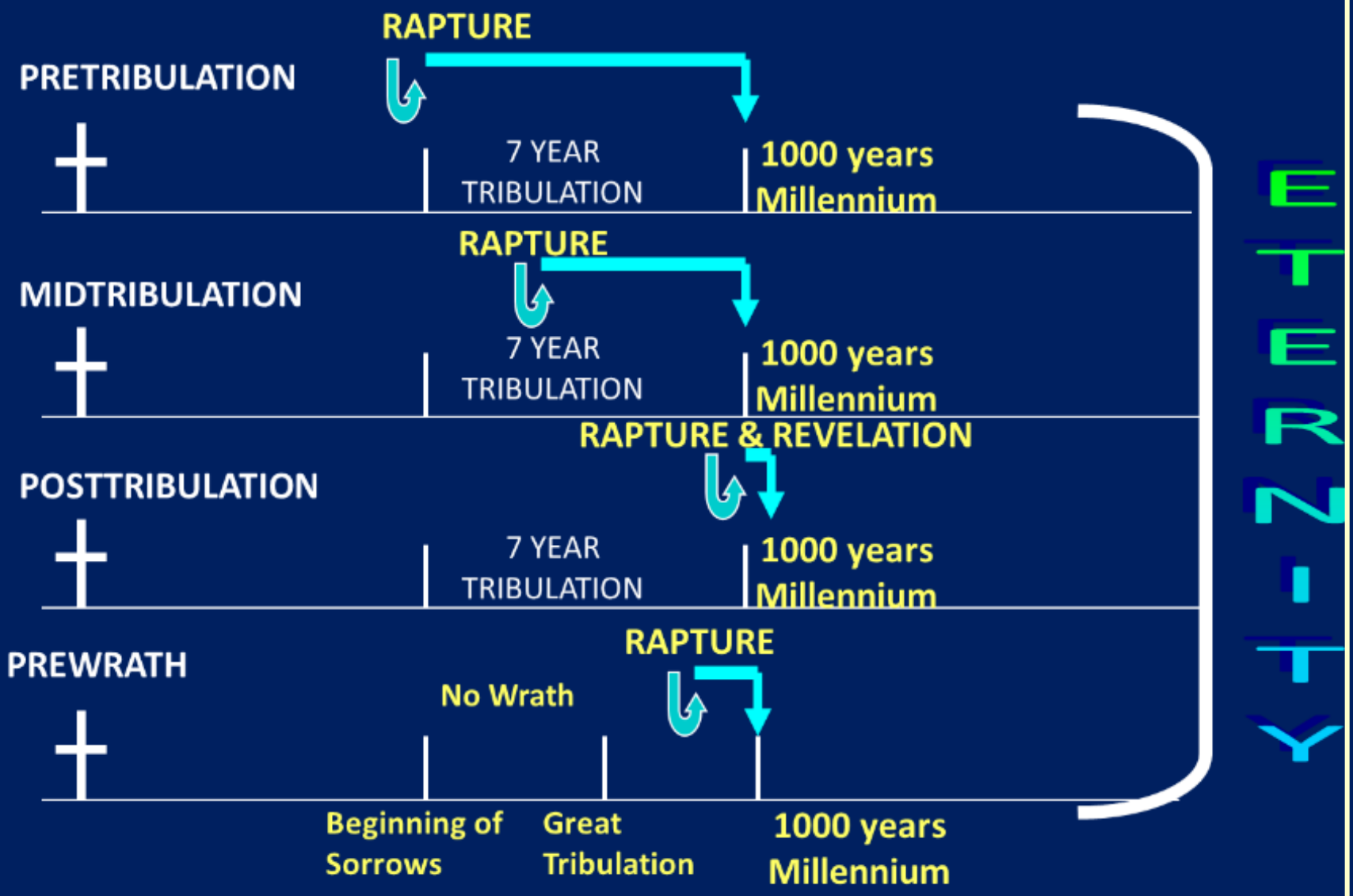
1. Who will populate the millennium?
2. The Hebrew Wedding Sequence.
3. The Pointlessness of the Preparation of the Believers' Heavenly Dwelling Places in John 14:1-3.
4. The Lack of Time necessary for the Bema Seat Judgment of Christ and the Marriage of the Lamb.
5. **The Pointlessness of the Church Being Caught Up Only to Immediately Return to the Earth.**

Revelation 5:10

"You have made them to be a **kingdom and priests** to our God; and **they will reign [*basileuō*]** upon **the earth [*gē*]**."



RAPTURE VIEW COMPARISON



Conclusion

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

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



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Post-tribulation Rapture Theory

1. According to 1 Thessalonians 4:16 and 1 Corinthians 15:52, the rapture will take place at the sounding of the last trumpet which, according to Matthew 24:30-31, will take place upon Christ's return at the end of the Tribulation period.

2. The Rapture is found in Revelation 19:11-21.

3. According to Revelation 20:4-6, the resurrection of all believers will transpire at the end of the Tribulation period thereby necessitating that the rapture will also take place at this time.

Post-tribulation Rapture Theory

4. Although the church is exempted from God's wrath, the church will be on the earth during the entire Tribulation period because the Book of Revelation portrays God's people being supernaturally protected from many of the apocalyptic judgments during this time period.

5. The post-tribulational rapture position has been the dominant view held by theologians throughout the history of the church.

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