



1 Thessalonians

LIVING FOR CHRIST'S SOON RETURN



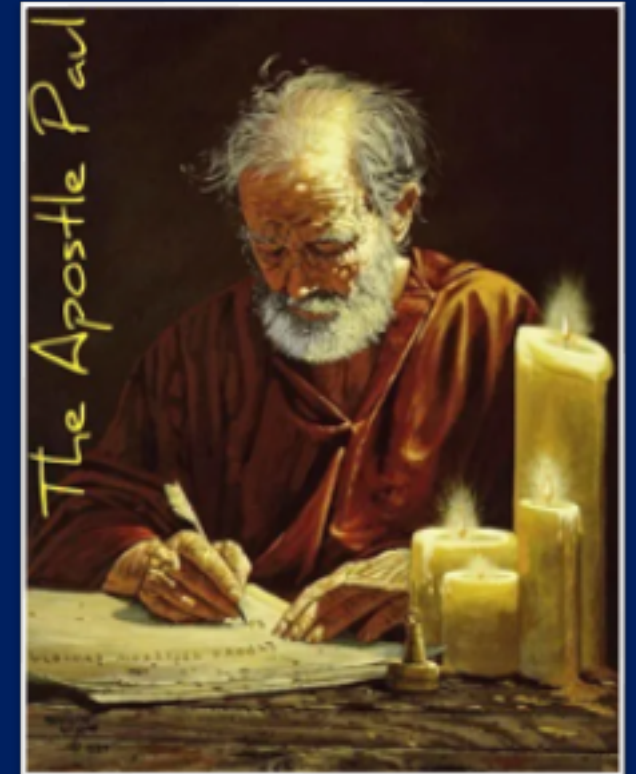
Dr. Andy Woods

Senior Pastor – Sugar Land Bible Church

President – Chafer Theological Seminary

Structure

1 THESSALONIANS 1-3	1 THESSALONIANS 4-5
▪ Personal Experience	▪ Practical Exhortation
▪ Looking Back	▪ Looking Forward



Structure



■ Personal (1–3)

- ◆ Genuine conversion (1)
- ◆ Impure motives (2:1-16)
- ◆ Lack of concern (2:17–3:13)

■ Practical (4–5)

- ◆ Immorality (4:1-8)
- ◆ Laziness (4:9-12)
- ◆ Eschatology (4:13–5:11)
- ◆ Ministry imbalances (5:12-15)
- ◆ Progressive sanctification (5:16-28)

Structure

■ Personal (1–3)

- ◆ Genuine conversion (1)
- ◆ Impure motives (2:1-16)
- ◆ Lack of concern (2:17–3:13)

■ Practical (4–5)

- ◆ Immorality (4:1-8)
- ◆ Laziness (4:9-12)
- ◆ Eschatology (4:13–5:11)
- ◆ Ministry imbalances (5:12-15)
- ◆ Progressive sanctification (5:16-28)

Day of the Lord (5:1-11)

- Description (5:1-3)
- Application (5:4-11)

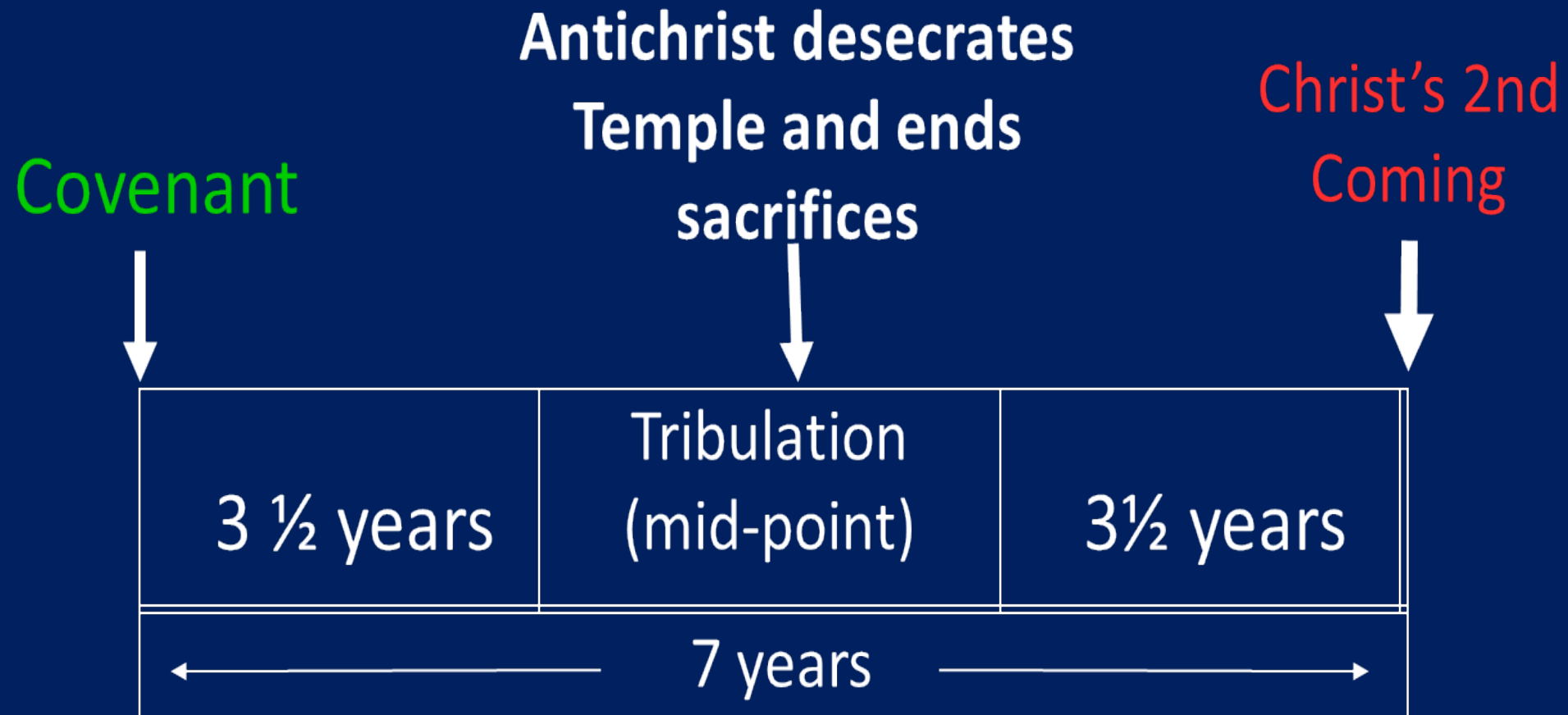


Day of the Lord (5:1-11)

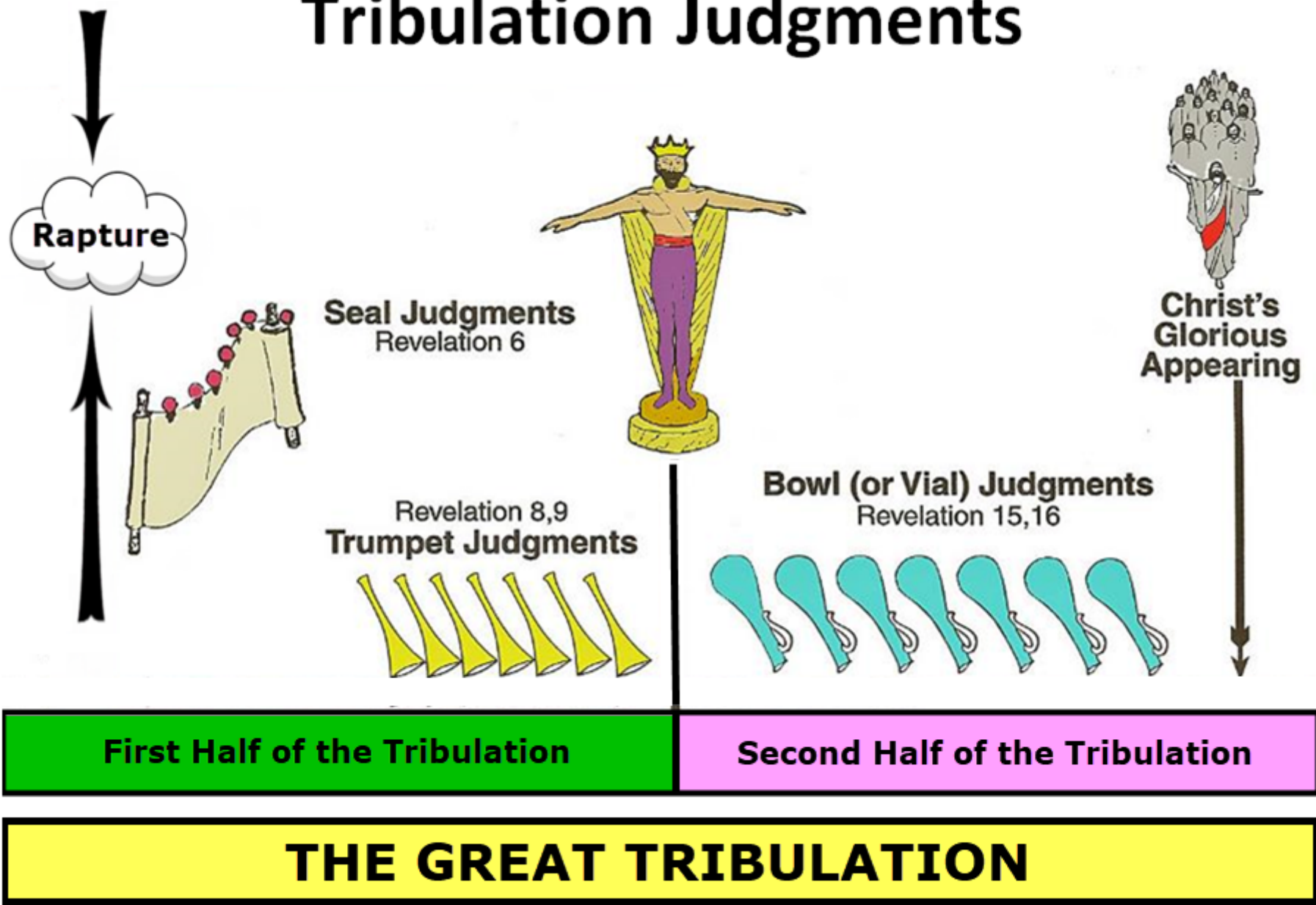
- Description (5:1-3)
- Application (5:4-11)



DAN 9:27 OVERVIEW OF TRIBULATION PERIOD



Tribulation Judgments



Day of the Lord (5:1-11)

- Description (5:1-3)
- Application (5:4-11)



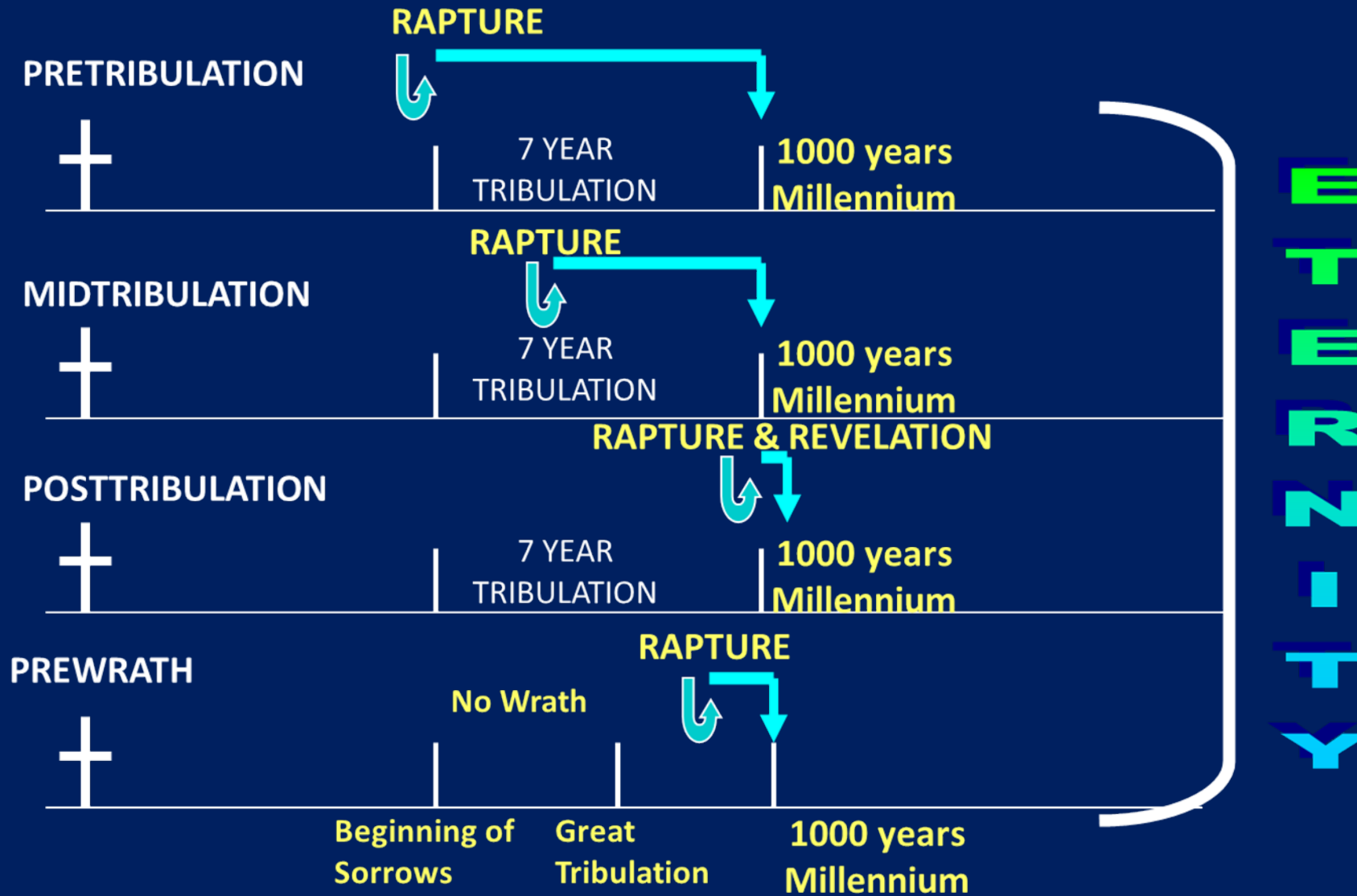
Three Reasons Believers Will Not Be in the Tribulation

(1 Thess. 5:9-11)

1. We are not appointed unto wrath (9)
2. We are exempted from wrath whether morally asleep or awake (10)
3. Promises of comfort (11)



RAPTURE VIEW COMPARISION



Three Reasons Believers Will Not Be in the Tribulation

(1 Thess. 5:9-11)

1. We are not appointed unto wrath (9)
2. We are exempted from wrath whether morally asleep or awake (10)
3. Promises of comfort (11)



Promised Exemption from Divine Wrath

- The promise (1 Thess 1:10; 5:9; Rom 5:9; 8:1; Rev 3:10)
- Tribulation = divine wrath/anger (Rev 6:16-17; 11:18; 14:10; 15:1, 7; 16:1, 19; 19:15)



WRATH

Three Reasons Believers Will Not Be in the Tribulation

(1 Thess. 5:9-11)

1. We are not appointed unto wrath (9)
2. We are exempted from wrath whether morally asleep or awake (10)
3. Promises of comfort (11)



1 Corinthians 15:51

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



Problems with Partial Rapturism?

1. Every divine blessing is given on the basis of His grace and not human effort (Eph. 2:8-9; Rom. 12:6)
2. Symbolic parallels mandate that carnal as well as sanctified Christians will be taken up in the rapture (Gen. 19:22; 2 Pe. 2:7)
3. The promise of the rapture is mentioned in Paul's letter to the carnal Corinthian church (1 Cor. 15:51)
4. A partial rapture would sever Christ's body (1 Cor 12:12-14)
5. The partial rapture view subjects believers to God's wrath (Thess 1:10)

Problems with Partial Rapturism?

6. Partial rapturism makes the Bema Seat Judgment unnecessary (1 Cor. 3:10-15)
7. Partial rapturists never objectively quantify the exact degree of faithfulness or spiritual maturity that is necessary to participate in the rapture
8. Partial rapturists appear individually biased
9. Partial rapturists dispensationally misapply Bible passages (Matt. 25:1-13)
10. Partial rapturists misapply passages promising a reward to faithful believers (Rev. 3:11)

Three Reasons Believers Will Not Be in the Tribulation

(1 Thess. 5:9-11)

1. We are not appointed unto wrath (9)
2. We are exempted from wrath whether morally asleep or awake (10)
3. Promises of comfort (11)



1 Thessalonians 5:11

“Therefore, encourage one another and build one another up, just as you also are doing.”



1 THESSALONIANS



1 Thessalonians 5:11

Therefore, encourage one another and build one another up, just as you also are doing.”



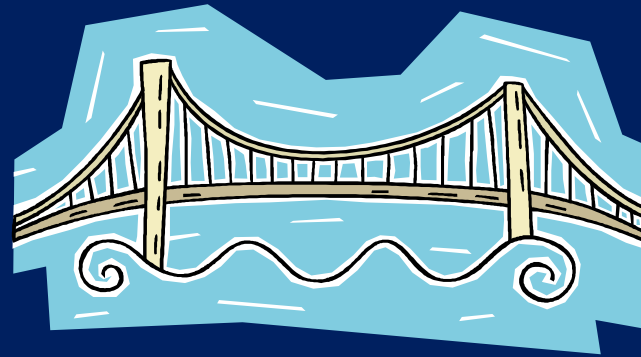
1 THESSALONIANS



Ephesians 4:1

Therefore...

1-3



4-6

Ephesians: What Is Inside?

1–3

4–6

Relationship

Responsibility

Doctrine

Deed

Orthodoxy

Orthopraxy

Knowledge

Wisdom

Belief

Behavior

Position

Practice

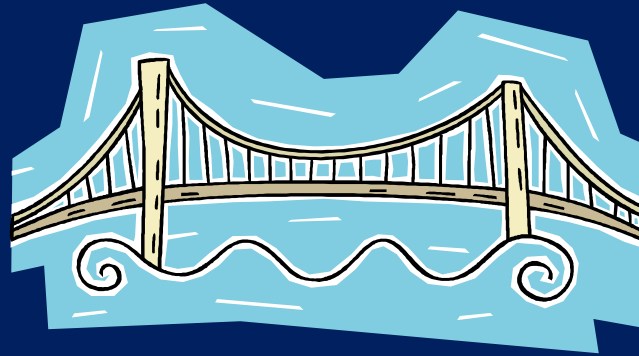
Privileges

Responsibility

Galatians 5:1

Therefore...

1-4

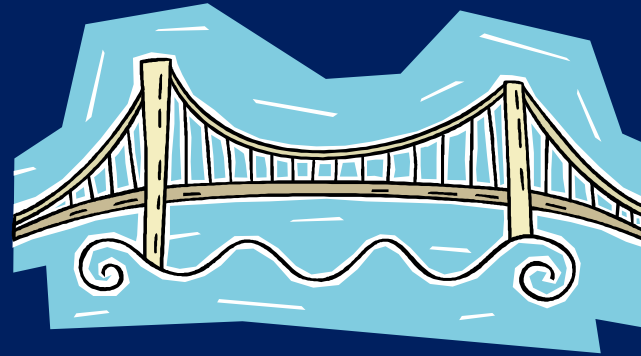


5-6

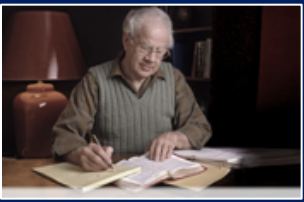
Romans 12:1

Therefore...

1-11



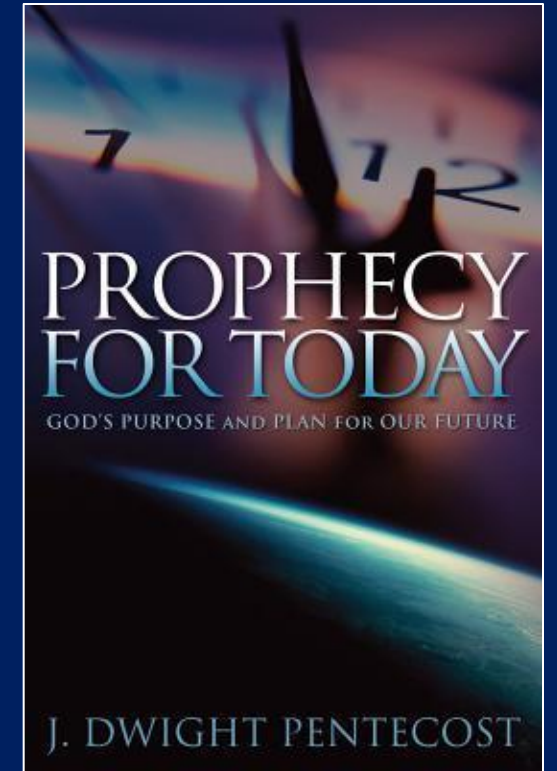
12-16



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 anew 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.”



2 Peter 3:10-11

“¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up. ¹¹ Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness.”



1 Thessalonians 5:11

“Therefore, encourage one another and build one another up, just as you also are doing.”

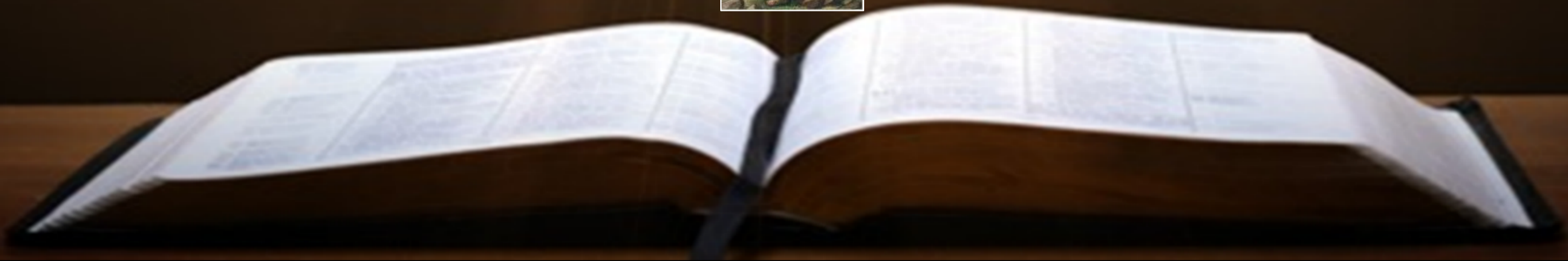


1 THESSALONIANS



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

...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.**"



Titus 2:13

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

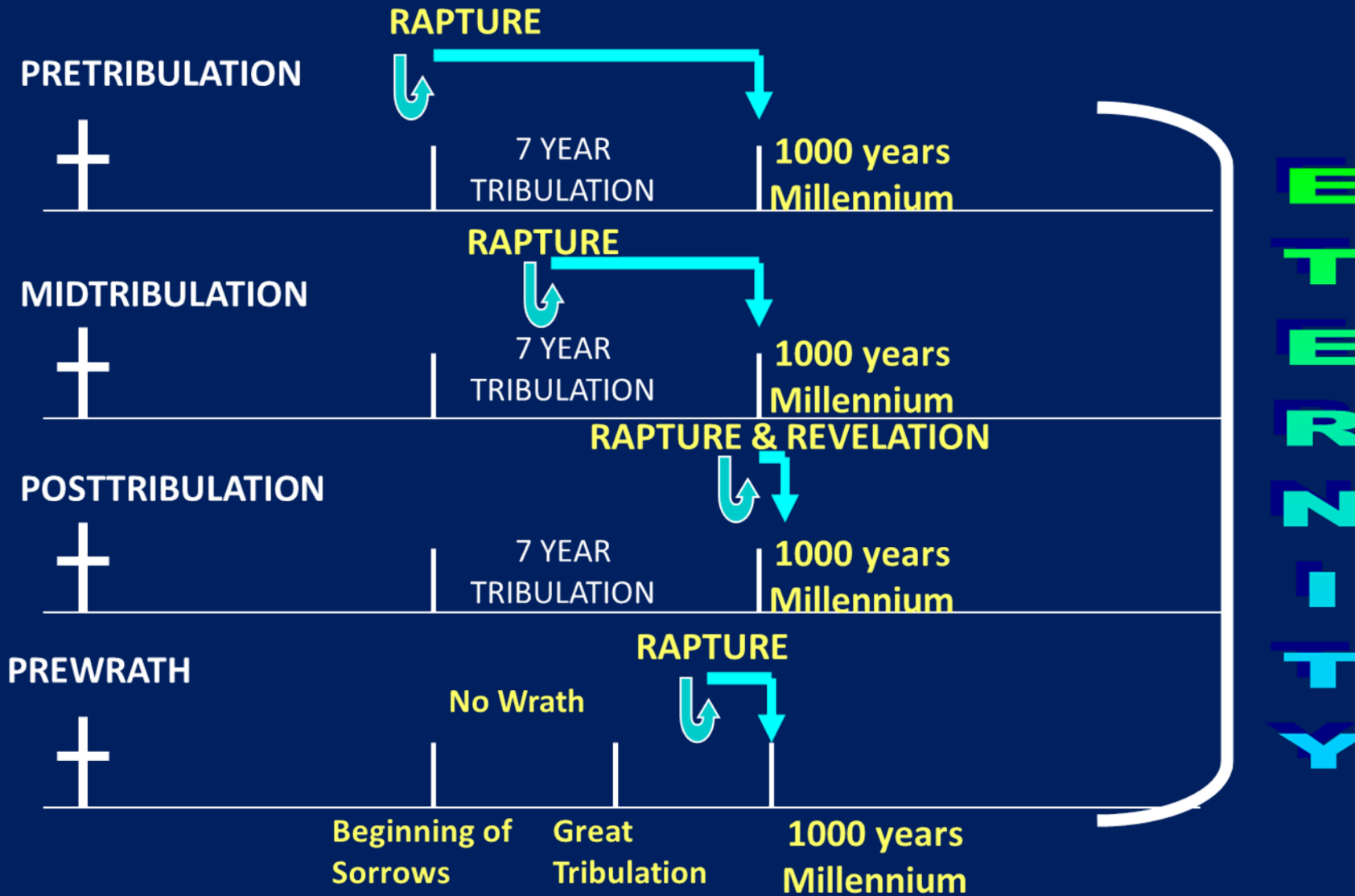
Hope
Hope

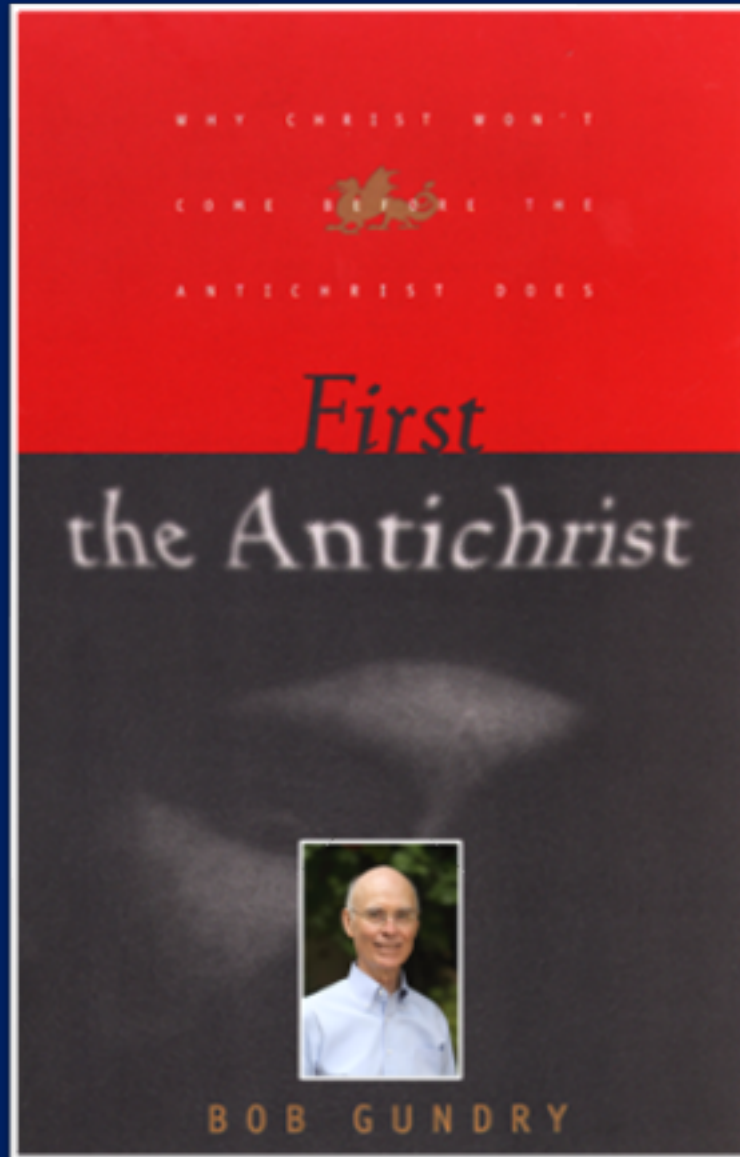


Hope
Hope



RAPTURE VIEW COMPARISION





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

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

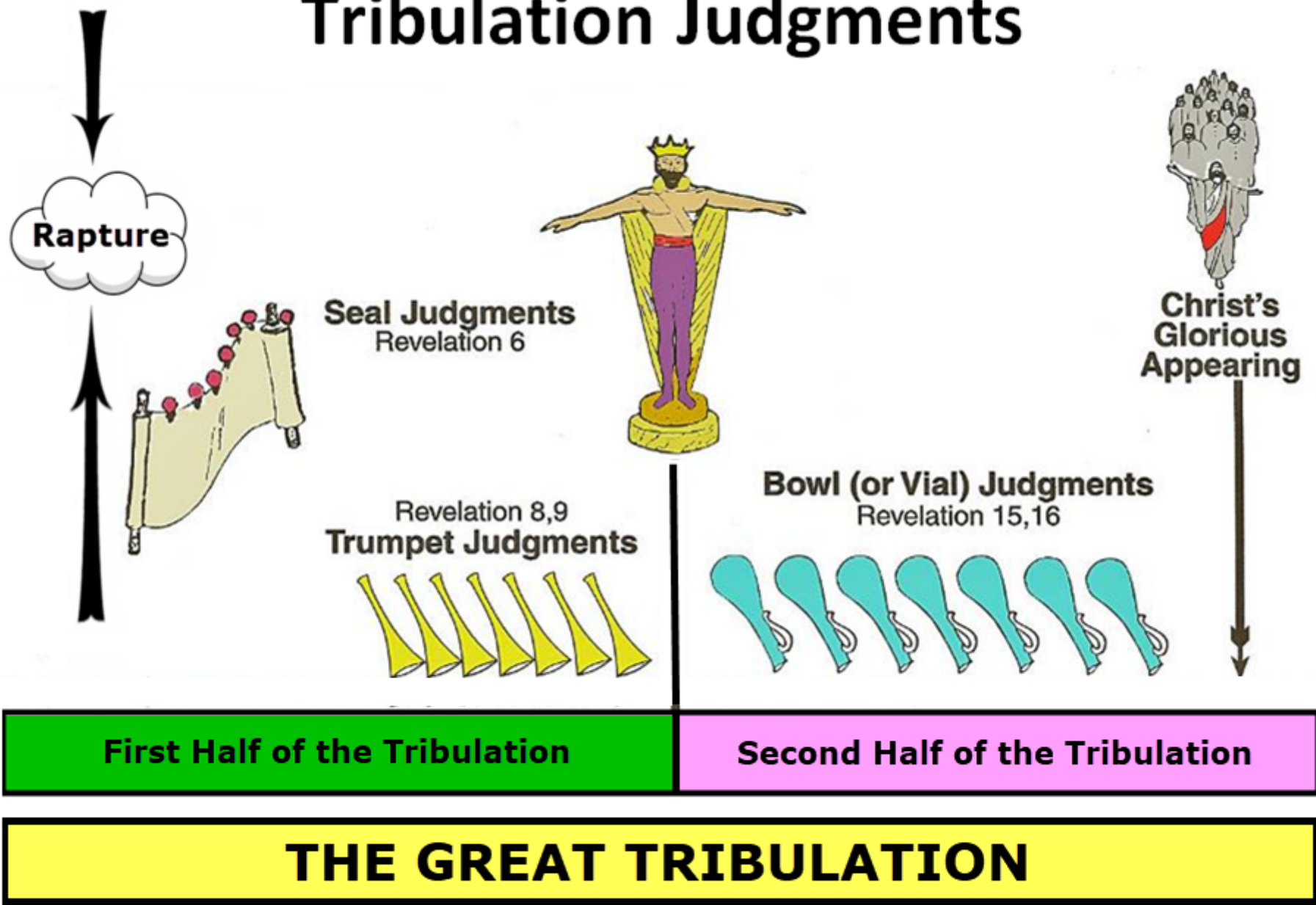
SEAL 4 – 6:7-8 – Death

SEAL 5 – 6:9-11 – Martyrdoms

SEAL 6 – 6:12-17 – Cosmic disturbances



Tribulation Judgments



1 Thessalonians 5:11

“Therefore, encourage one another and build one another up [*oikodomeō*], just as you also are doing.”



1 THESSALONIANS



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.”



Ephesians 4:11-16

“¹¹ And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, ¹² for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ;”



Ephesians 4:11-16

“¹³ until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ. ¹⁴ As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming;”



Ephesians 4:11-16

“¹⁵ but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ, ¹⁶ from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.”



1 Thessalonians 5:11

“Therefore, encourage one another and build one another up, just as you also are doing.”



1 THESSALONIANS



Conclusion

Structure

■ Personal (1–3)

- ◆ Genuine conversion (1)
- ◆ Impure motives (2:1-16)
- ◆ Lack of concern (2:17–3:13)

■ Practical (4–5)

- ◆ Immorality (4:1-8)
- ◆ Laziness (4:9-12)
- ◆ Eschatology (4:13–5:11)
- ◆ Ministry imbalances (5:12-15)
- ◆ Progressive sanctification (5:16-28)

Day of the Lord (5:1-11)

- Description (5:1-3)
- Application (5:4-11)



Structure



■ Personal (1–3)

- ◆ Genuine conversion (1)
- ◆ Impure motives (2:1-16)
- ◆ Lack of concern (2:17–3:13)

■ Practical (4–5)

- ◆ Immorality (4:1-8)
- ◆ Laziness (4:9-12)
- ◆ Eschatology (4:13–5:11)
- ◆ Ministry imbalances (5:12-15)
- ◆ Progressive sanctification (5:16-28)