

Meeting in the Air

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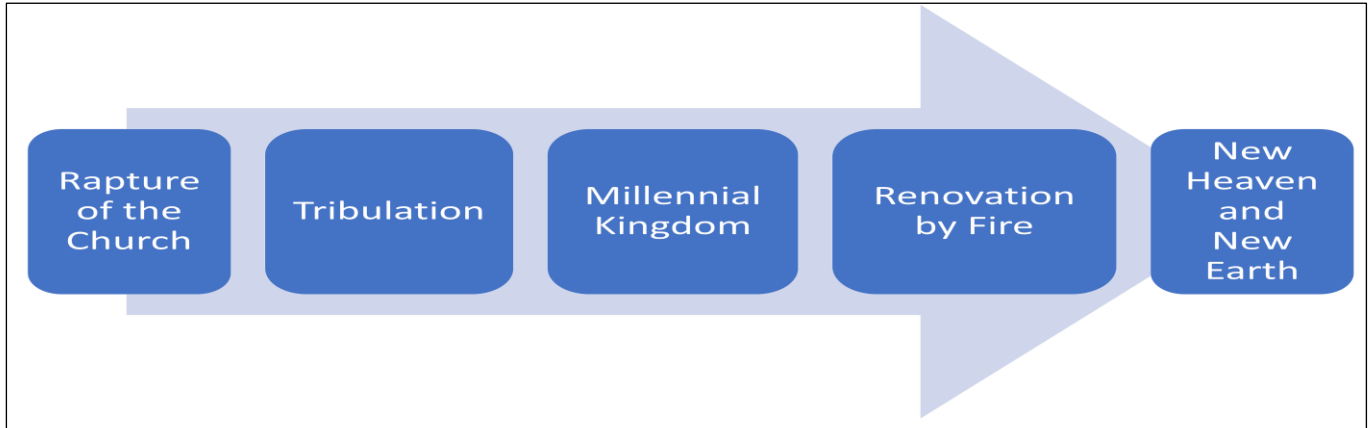
The next event on the biblical timeline is the rapture of the church. Jesus said that He was going away to prepare a place for His children and afterwards that He was coming back to take us to live with Him for all eternity.

Jesus has instructed us to not let our hearts be troubled. Paul exhorted the church at Thessalonica to comfort each other with the reminder of the promise of His coming. Church, our labor is not in vain. We must remain steadfast for our Lord is soon coming. This is our living hope! He said He was coming back. Do you believe it? Then set your affection on things above and not on the things of this earth for our life is in Christ, and when He appears, we will also appear with Him in glory!

The last greatest event on the biblical timeline was the resurrection of our Lord and savior, Jesus the Christ, and afterwards, His ascension back to Heaven, where He said they were many dwelling places. He said that He was going there to prepare a place for the members of His church, and

“When everything is ready, then I will come and get you, so that you can always be with me where I am. If this weren’t so, I would tell you plainly.” (John 14:3, The Living Bible, Paraphrased)

This promise points to the next greatest event on the biblical timeline: the rapture of the church – our meeting in the air with Jesus.



They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. “Men of Galilee,” they said, “why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven. (Acts 1:10–11, NIV)

His Coming is Our Deliverance

Jesus has given us, His church a promise. He’s coming back to get us and to rescue us from this evil world of sin. He is going to save us from the day of God’s wrath upon this earth.

“For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him. Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.” (1 Thessalonians 5:9–11, NIV)

His Coming is Our Encouragement

“Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed—in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.” (1 Corinthians 15:51–52, NIV)

“Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?” (1 Corinthians 15:55, NIV)

“Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.” (1 Corinthians 15:58, NIV)

His Coming is Our Hope

“Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is. And everyone who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.” (1 John 3:2–3, NASB95)

His Coming Ignored

The revelation of things to come had no affect on the lives of people living in the days of Noah and so it is today. The cares of life and the things of this world can eclipse the truth and hope of His Coming.

Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day will close on you suddenly like a trap. For it will come on all those who live on the face of the whole earth. Be always on the watch, and pray that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man. (Luke 21:34–36, NIV)

Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. (1 John 2:15, NIV)

The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever. (1 John 2:17, NIV)

His Coming Desired: The return of our Lord should be our eager expectation.

When we are forced to wait patiently for an event that we so eagerly desire to happen, we find ourselves longing for it with great anticipation. We go to it in our minds, and it brings joy into our heart just to think about it. We find delight in the hope of its expectation.

“Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.” (2 Timothy 4:8, NIV)

“Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.” (Colossians 3:1–4, NIV)

Jesus is Coming Soon! Therefore, we must be on our mark; we must be set; we must be ready to go!

The bible tells us how to do this.

Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. “But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. (Matthew 6:19–21, NASB95)

But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. “So do not worry about tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own. (Matthew 6:33–34, NASB95)