

Eschatology

The Study of End Times



LBC Statement of Faith

We believe in the coming of Christ: that His return will be personal, visible, pretribulational, premillennial, and glorious – a blessed hope, the time being presently unrevealed, yet always imminent; that when He comes, He will first remove His church from the earth by resurrection and translation, then pour out God's righteous judgments on the unbelieving world during the tribulation period, afterward descend with His church and establish His glorious Kingdom over all nations for a thousand years, at the close of which He will raise the unrighteous for their final judgment.

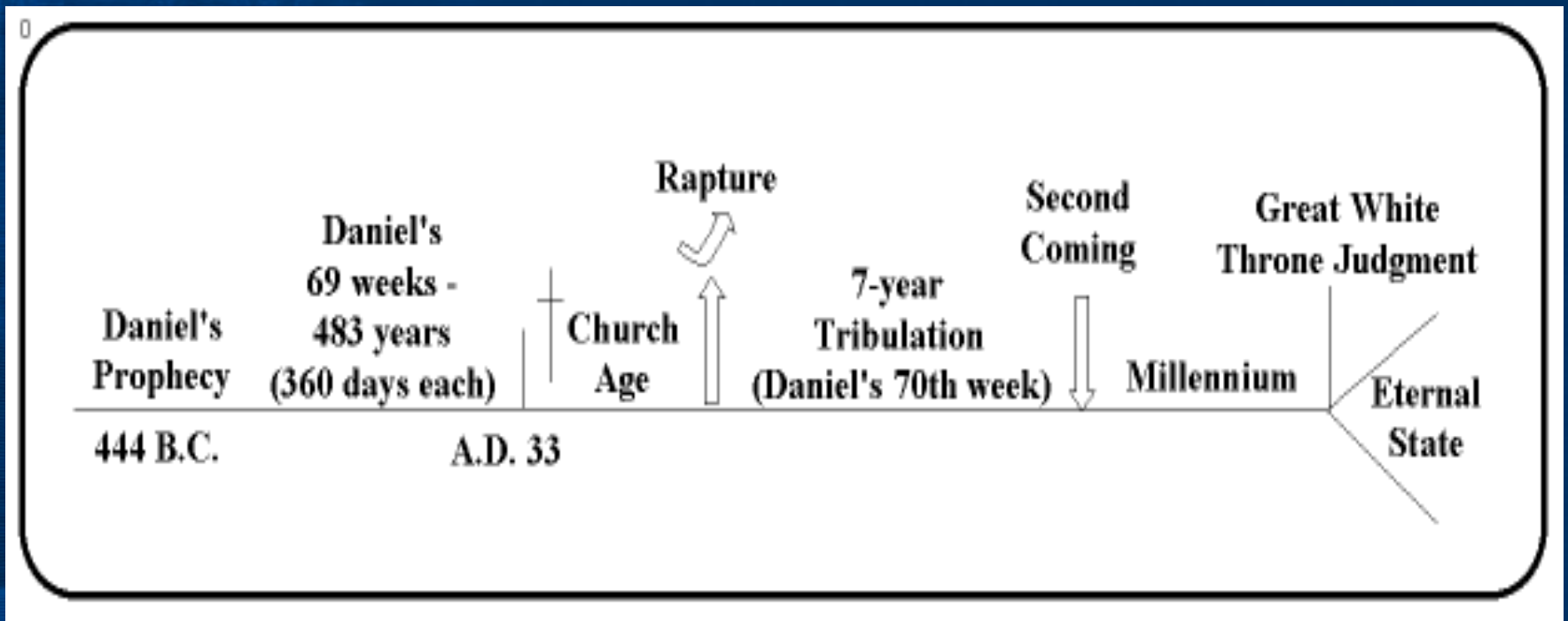
What are the key questions?

1. Does the Bible teach a time of tribulation on earth before Jesus' coming?
2. Does the Bible describe one coming or two translation events?
3. If there are two different events, then what is the timing relationship between them?
4. What is the rapture?



What is the rapture?

God's taking of the church up into heaven. From the Latin word "*rapto*" which is used in Vulgate of 1 Thessalonians 4:17. There the original word means "to seize and carry off."



Three Presuppositions for a Pretribulational Rapture

1. Premillennialism precedes pretribulationism.
 - Postmillennialism view history as progressing toward Christendom without a timeframe defined as tribulation
 - Amillennialism has no kingdom or tribulation.
2. A futuristic view of the book of the Revelation precedes pretribulationism.
3. A position that distinguishes a difference between the future of ethnic Israel and the church precedes pretribulationism.

Are there two translation events?

Rapture

1. Christ comes for His own
(1 Thess 4:17)
2. He comes in the air
(1 Thess 4:17)
3. He claims His Bride
(1 Thess 4:17)
4. Removal of believers
(1 Thess 4:17)
5. Only His own see Him
(1 Thess 4:17)

Second Coming

1. Christ comes with His own
(Rev 19:14)
2. He comes to the earth
(Zech 14:4)
3. He comes with His Bride
(Rev 19:6-14)
4. Manifestation of Christ
(Mal 4:2)
5. Every eye will see Him
(Rev 1:7)

Are there two translation events?

Rapture

6. Saved are delivered from wrath (1 Thess 1:10)
7. No sign precedes the rapture (1 Thess 5:1-3)
6. World is deceived (2 Thess 2:3-12)
7. Focus: Lord and Church (1 Thess 4:13-18)

Second Coming

6. Unsaved experience God's wrath (Rev 6:12-17)
7. Signs precede the second coming (Luke 21:11,15)
8. Satan is bound (Rev 20:1-2)
9. Focus: Israel and Kingdom (Matt 24:14)

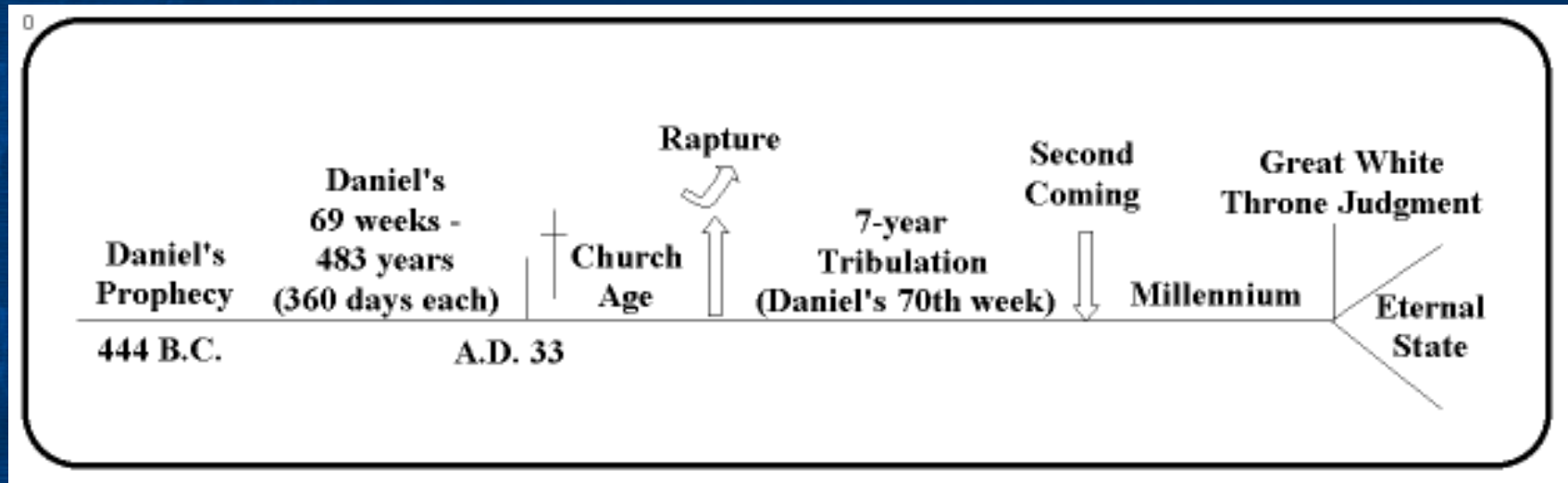
Principles that Suggest Pretribulationism

1. The Concept of “Imminent”

Definition – “hanging over one’s head, ready to fall or overtake one; close at hand in its incidence”

- “Imminence is the combination of two conditions: certainty and uncertainty. By an imminent event we mean one which is certain to occur at some time, uncertain at what time.”
- Scriptural Support: 1 Corinthians 1:7, 4:5, 15:51-52; Phil 3:20, 4:5; 1 Thess 1:10, 4:17, 5:1-11; Titus 2:13; 1 John 2:28; Rev 3:11, 22:7, 12, 17, 20.

Principles that Suggest Pretribulationism



2. Prophecy of the Seventy Weeks of Daniel

3. The Day of the Lord in the Old Testament

- Within the OT the “Day of the Lord” is referred to about 20 times. It refers to a day of judgment and eventual restoration for Israel (Joel 2, 3; Jeremiah 30:7).

Principles that Suggest Pretribulationism

4. The Concept of Being Saved from Wrath

The promise in Revelation 3:10-11 is: “Because you have kept my admonition to endure steadfastly, I will also keep you from the hour of testing that is about to come on the whole world to test those who live on the earth.” Although the promise is given specifically to the Philadelphian church (Rev 3:7), the promise is applicable to all believers (Rev 3:13).

1 Thessalonians 1:10, 5:9; 2 Thes 2:3: Each indicates within an eschatological context that the church will not endure the coming wrath of God.

