

Finding Hope in a Worried World

¹³Now we don't want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, so you won't grieve as others do who have no hope. ¹⁴For since we believe that Jesus died and rose, in the same way, through Jesus, God will take with Him those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁵For we tell you this by a word from the Lord that we who are alive, who survive until the Lord's appearing, will definitely not precede those who have fallen asleep.

¹⁶For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a loud command, with an archangel's voice, and with God's trumpet-call. And the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷Then we who are alive, who survive, will be snatched up at the same time together with them in the clouds to greet the Lord in the air, and thus we will always be with the Lord.

¹⁸Therefore, encourage one another with these words. ■

THE QUESTION (13)

THE BASIS FOR AN ANSWER (14-15)

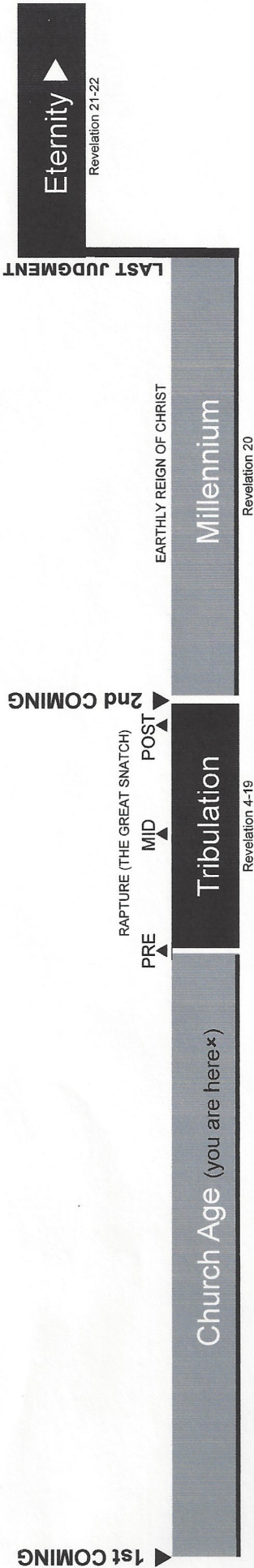
THE DETAILS OF THE ANSWER (16-17)

THE PURPOSE FOR THE ANSWER (18)

When does Jesus return to get His people?

PREMILLENNIAL APPROACH with three sub-views

¹Thessalonians 4:15-18 / Matthew 24:31



PRE-TRIBULATION

The Church does not go through the tribulation

STRONG POINTS

- This is a blessed hope & comfort (Ti 2:13)
- Common meaning of imminence
- Church unmentioned in Rev 4-19
- Keeps Church & Israel distinct

WEAKNESSES

- Not held until 1800s
- Not mentioned in Rev (4:1??)
- Church is promised tribulation throughout age; is only last generation saved from it?

MID-TRIBULATION

The Church does not go through the tribulation

STRONG POINTS

- 1Th 5:9 / 1:10
- 2Tim 3:12
- Many signs precede any possible rapture (Ma 24)
- Anti-Christ must come first (2Th 2:3-4)

WEAKNESSES

- A recent hybrid view (19**)
- Not mentioned in Rev (11:13-19?? 14:14-16??)
- The believers are there during second half in Mt 24:15-28

POST-TRIBULATION

The Church is guarded from the wrath

STRONG POINTS

- Simplest reading of Jesus & Revelation
- This is like Israel during the plagues
- Rev 3:10 is same language as Jo 17:15
- meaning of "meeting" in 1Th 4:17

WEAKNESSES

- Hard to account for many unglorified people who enter the millennium
- Church not mentioned in Rev 4-19
- How is this a blessed hope?