

THE LAST THINGS

Eschatology





**BUT FIRST
THINGS FIRST...**

WE ARE FAMILY

THIS IS COMPLEX

LOVING BELIEVERS DISAGREE

CURIOSITY... AND GRACE!



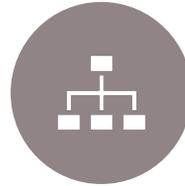
**WHAT IS
ESCHATOLOGY?**



WHY STUDY IT?



**SCRIPTURAL
CONTEXT**



FRAMEWORKS



**BRINGING IT
ALL TOGETHER**



ESCHATOLOGY

Greek eschatos (ἔσχατος), meaning “last,” and logos, meaning “word” or “significance”



Study of the Last Things to include:

Return of
Christ

Coming
judgments

His Kingdom

Glorification

Eternal
destiny





Day of the Lord

Apocalypse

Parousia

End of the Age

**HE WILL WIPE AWAY
EVERY TEAR FROM THEIR EYES,**

**AND DEATH SHALL BE NO MORE, NEITHER SHALL THERE BE MOURNING,
NOR CRYING, NOR PAIN ANYMORE,**

**FOR THE FORMER THINGS
HAVE PASSED AWAY.**

REVELATION 21:4

THE EASY PART . . .

9 And after He had said these things, He was lifted up **while they were looking on**, and a cloud received Him out of their sight.

10 And as they were gazing intently into the sky while He was going, behold, two men in white clothing stood beside them.

11 They also said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky? **This Jesus**, who has been taken up from you into heaven, **will come in just the same way** as you have watched Him go into heaven.”

- ✓ Jesus is coming back!
- ✓ Physically!
- ✓ He promised it!
- ✓ The Epistles testify to it!



GENERAL AGREEMENT HERE . . .

Observations	Source
We will be raised on the Last Day	John 6:38-40
Skepticism will harden hearts	2 Peter 3:3-4, 1 Timothy 4:1-3
Progressive apostasy will occur	2 Timothy 3:1-5
The world is against Israel	Zechariah 14:1-2
His return is imminent!	Matthew 24:36-44
We should be ready /alert	Matthew 25:13



HIS WORDS, HIS PROMISES

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.**

John 14:1-3



COMFORT ONE ANOTHER...

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** 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.**

1 Thes 4:16-18



The priority of hope in Eschatology

In light of humanity's need for hope, and eschatology's provision of hope, we cannot afford to relegate eschatology to a doctrinal appendix.

Dr. Michael J. Svigel, Professor DTS



...WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL?

WELCOME TO HERMENEUTICS!

**Branch of knowledge dealing with
Biblical interpretation**



1 Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding the key of the abyss and a great chain in his hand.

2 And he laid hold of the dragon, the serpent of old, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years;

3 and he threw him into the abyss, and shut it and sealed it over him, so that he would not deceive the nations any longer, until **the thousand years** were completed; after these things he must be released for a short time.

Revelation 20:1-3



4 Then I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was given to them. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony of Jesus and because of the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received the mark on their forehead and on their hand; and they came to life and reigned with Christ **for a thousand years.**

5 The rest of the dead did not come to life **until the thousand years were completed.** This is the first resurrection.

6 Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him **for a thousand years.**

Revelation 20:4-6



HOW DO WE INTERPRET 1000 YEARS?

Amillennialism

Postmillennialism

Classic/Historic
Premillennialism

Dispensational
Premillennialism





1000 years a spiritual concept

Kingdom of God inaugurated at resurrection

Satan “bound” at the cross

Book of Revelation largely a metaphor

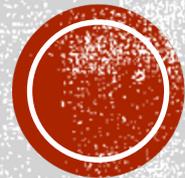
Occurs at the end of the age

Tribulation past or ongoing

Israel symbolic of the Church



Proponents: St. Augustine, Luther, Calvin, J.I. Packer



SCRIPTURAL SUPPORT



1000 used figuratively

Ps 50:10; 90:4, 2 Peter
3:8



**Second coming and
resurrection of saved
and unsaved are
simultaneous**

Dan 12:2-3; John 5:28-29



**Saints endure at least
part of the tribulation**

Revelation 13:7





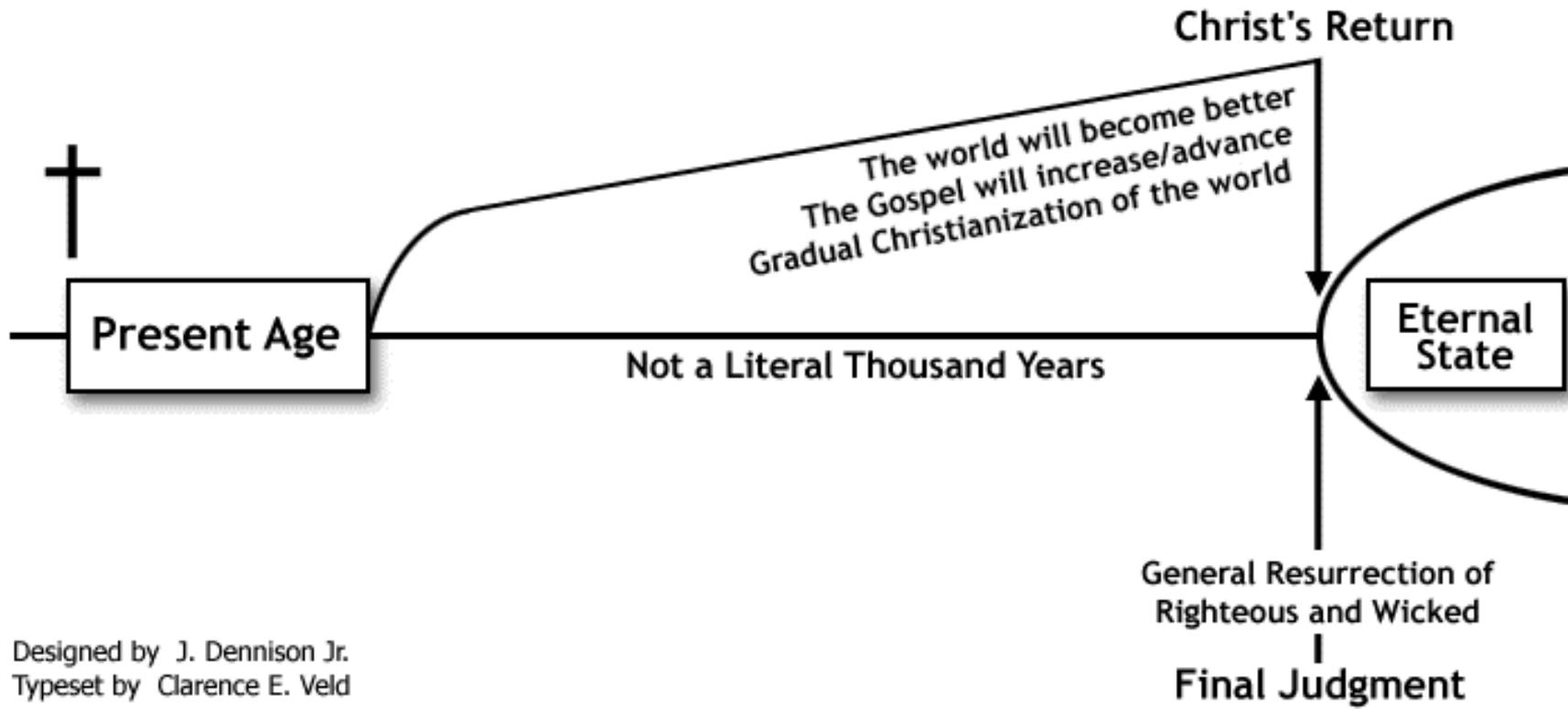
Second coming comes after the millennium

Millennium literal or figurative

Progressive defeat of Satan/evil by an expanding church, ultimately ushering in the Second Coming

The Church advances God's Kingdom

Christ reigns in Spirit during the millennium



Proponents: Edwards, Hodge, B.B. Warfield, Strong, Sproul



SCRIPTURAL SUPPORT



**First resurrection
could be spiritual**

Romans 11:13-15; Eph
2:1-4



**Second coming and
resurrection of saved
and unsaved are
simultaneous**

Dan 12:2-3; John 5:28-29



**Gospel will be
preached to all the
earth**

Matt 24:14; Mark 13:10





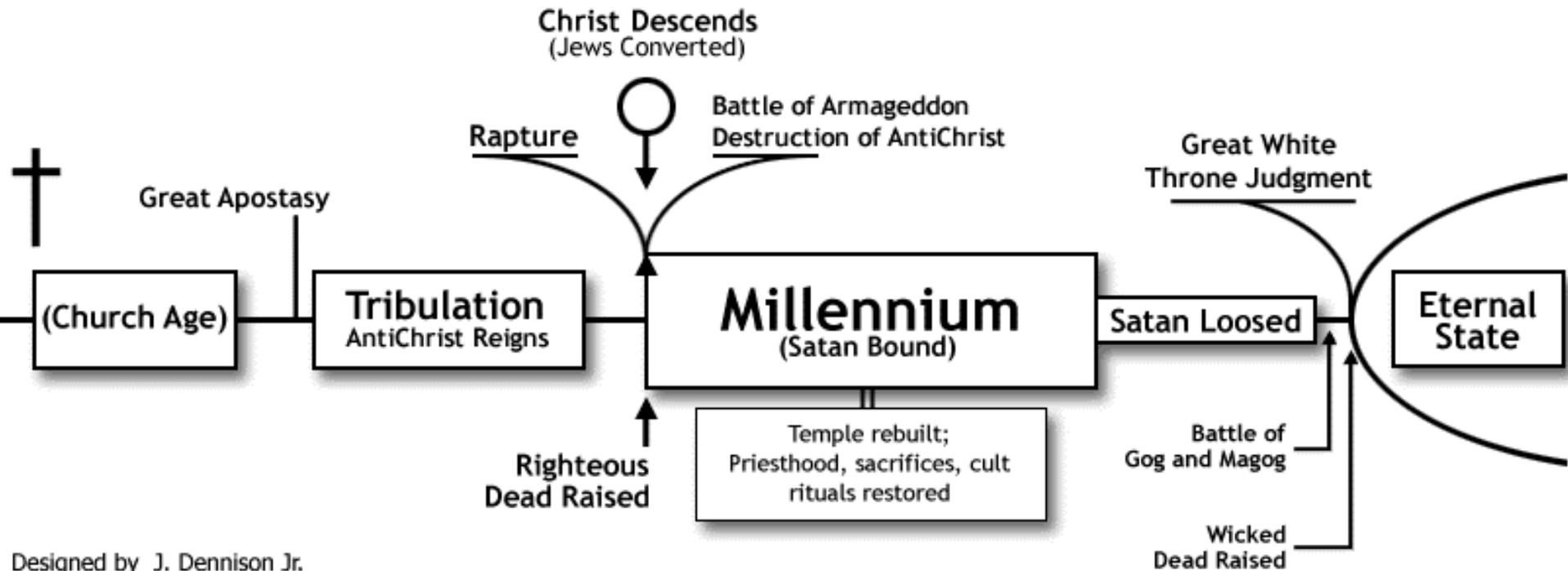
Appears to be earliest view of the end times

Literal 1000 years

Second Coming occurs first

Believers "caught up" into heaven

Various Tribulation views



Designed by J. Dennison Jr.
Typeset by Clarence E. Veld

Proponents: Didache, Barnabas, Ireneaus, Justin Martyr, Papias



SCRIPTURAL SUPPORT



**Antichrist will be
revealed first**

2 Thes 2:3-4



**Tribulation identifies
false believers**

Rev 2:22-23



**Saints endure at least
part of the tribulation**

Revelation 13:7



**DID THE CHURCH
REPLACE (OR COMPLETE)
ISRAEL (SUPERSESSIONISM)?**

**OR NOT
(DISPENSATIONALISM)?**

25 For I do not want you, brethren, to be uninformed of this mystery—so that you will not be wise in your own estimation—that a partial hardening has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in;

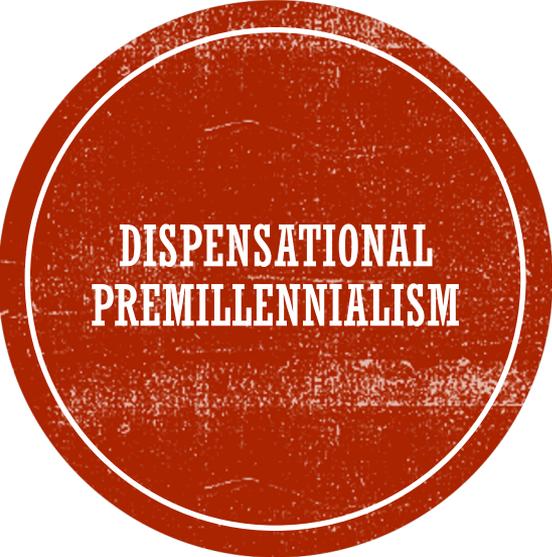
26 and so all Israel will be saved; just as it is written,

“The Deliverer will come from Zion,
He will remove ungodliness from Jacob.”

27 “This is My covenant with them,
When I take away their sins.”

Romans 11:25-27





**DISPENSATIONAL
PREMILLENNIALISM**

Similarities to premillennialism but...

Necessity of literal interpretation

Church age “interrupted” God’s plan for Israel

Israel will be restored; Jewish remnant will remain and convert, fulfilling OT promises

Great White Throne judgment is for the wicked only

SCRIPTURAL SUPPORT



The church will be removed through the Rapture

1 Thes 5; Rev 3:10



God's promises are unconditional

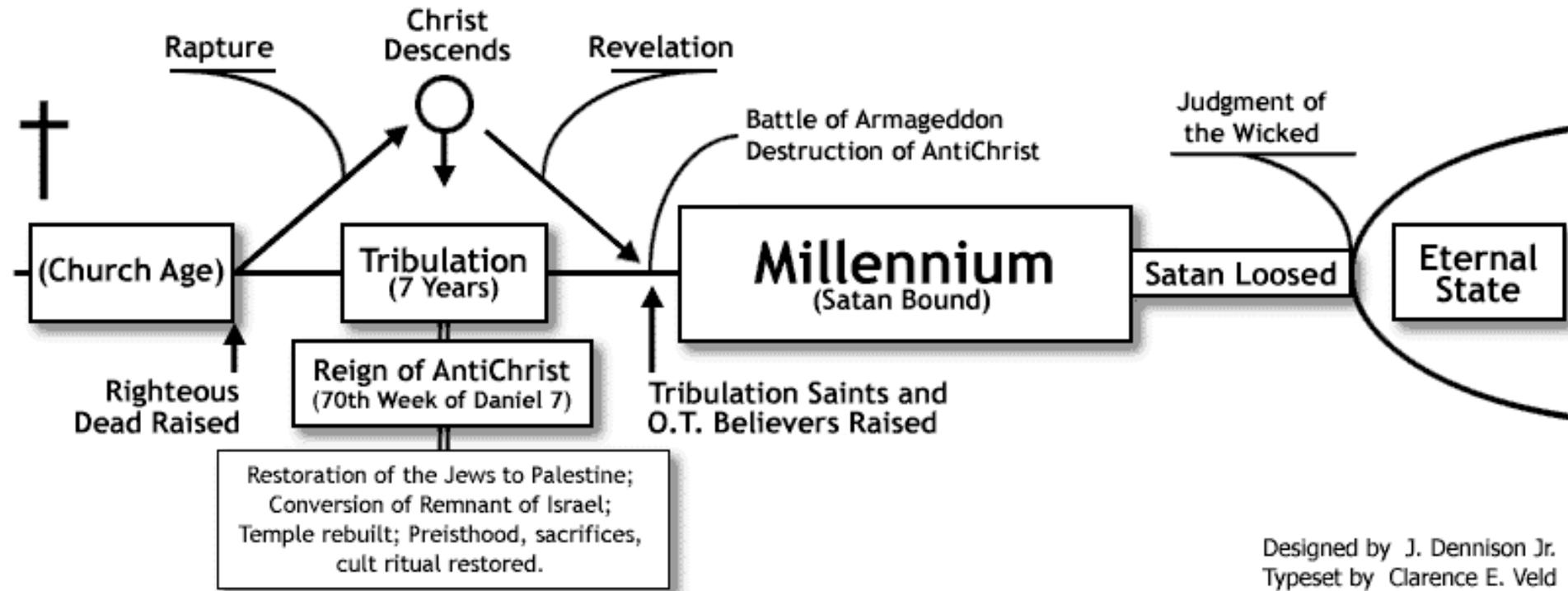
Genesis 15:7-21



The church appears absent for a large part of Revelation

Revelation 4-19





Designed by J. Dennison Jr.
Typeset by Clarence E. Veld

Proponents: Darby, Scofield, Walvoord, Ironside, Ryrie, Pentecost, Geisler, Feinberg, Swindoll



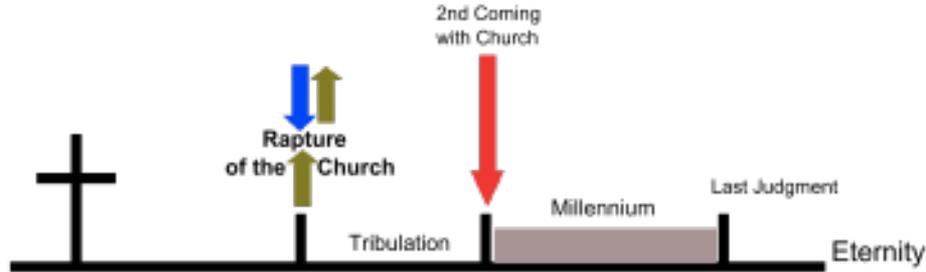
RAPTURE

- Latin word “rapio” / “rapturo” & Greek word “harpazo” = caught up
 - 1 Thes 4:17
- Sudden, forcefully, in a moment, twinkling of an eye
 - 1 Cor 15:51-52
- Christ’s ascension Rev 12:5
- Paul’s experience in Paradise: 2 Cor 12:1-4
- Supposed lack of the word “rapture” in the Bible an overreach
- Being called up to meet Jesus “in the air” an early church belief
- The question at hand has always been **WHEN**



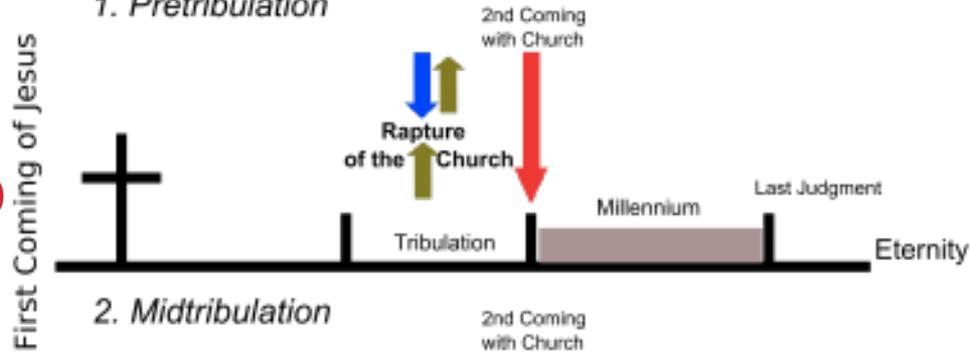
Comparison of Christian Tribulation Views

(Rev 3:10)



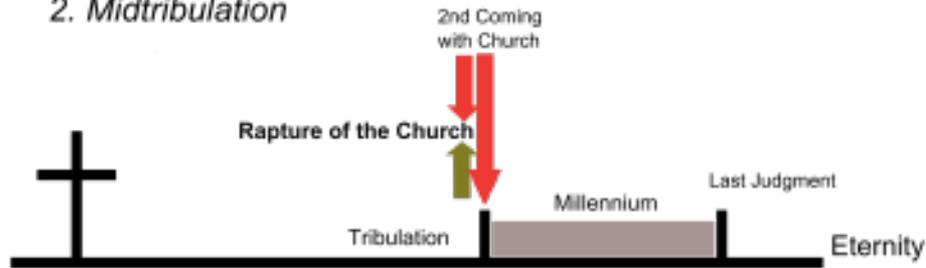
1. Pretribulation

(1 Th 5:9)



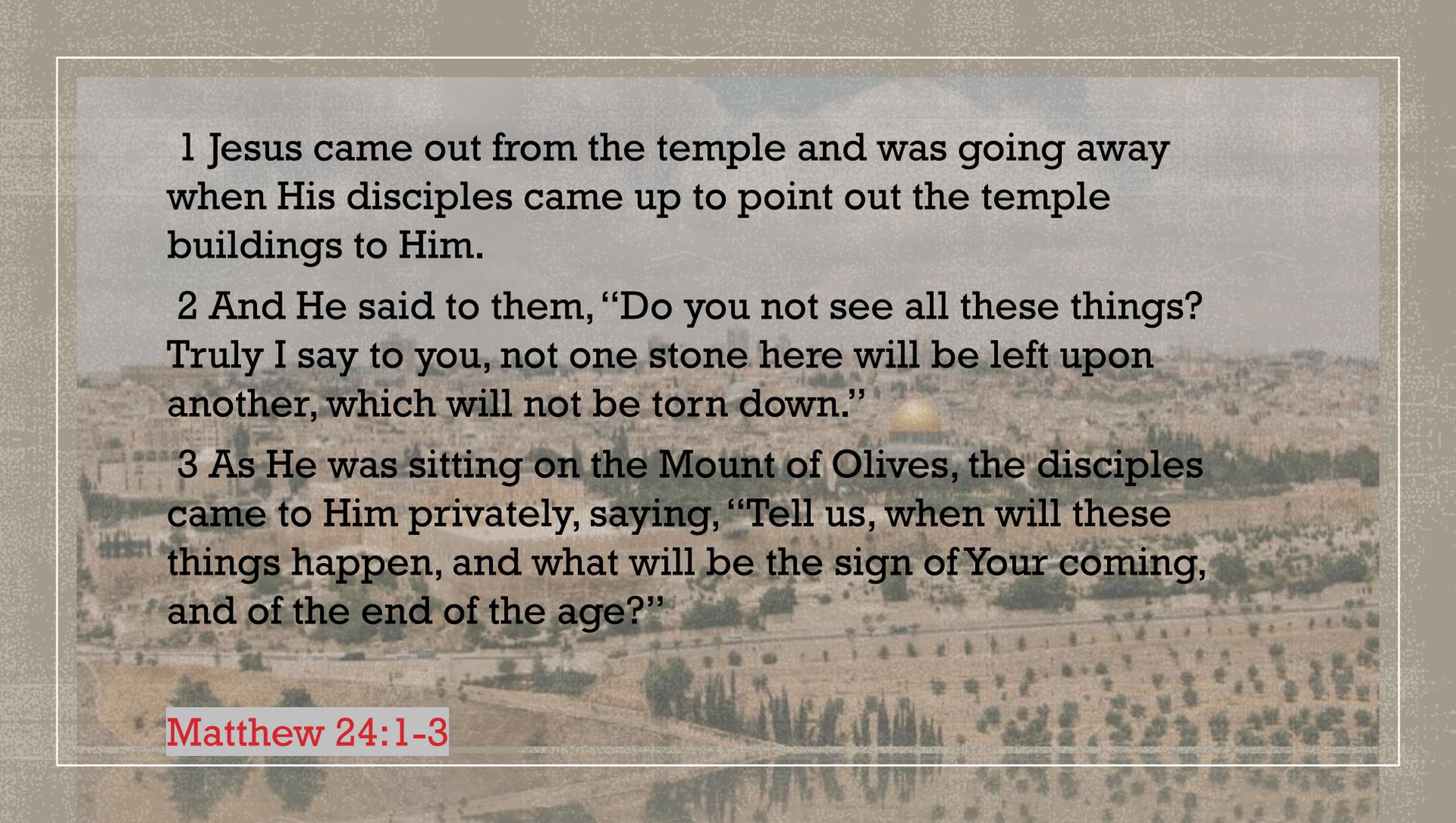
2. Midtribulation

(Matt 24:29-31)



3. Posttribulation





1 Jesus came out from the temple and was going away when His disciples came up to point out the temple buildings to Him.

2 And He said to them, “Do you not see all these things? Truly I say to you, not one stone here will be left upon another, which will not be torn down.”

3 As He was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, “Tell us, when will these things happen, and what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?”

Matthew 24:1-3

THE OLIVET DISCOURSE

When will **this** happen?:

1. Temple destruction
2. Discussed in Luke 21:6



THE OLIVET DISCOURSE

What will be the sign of your coming and the end of the age?

Birth pains /
1st Half of
Tribulation

1. False christs (24:4-5)
2. Wars and rumors of wars (24:6-7)
3. Famines (24:7)
4. Pestilence (24:7)
5. Earthquakes (24:7)

2nd Half of
Tribulation

6. Martyrs (24:8-10)
7. False prophets (24:11)
8. Increased evil and loss of love (24:12)
9. Worldwide preaching of the Gospel (24:13-14)



PRETERISM

- Hermeneutical framework
- Some, or all, biblical prophecies about end times occurred in the first century
 - Antichrist = Nero
 - Tribulation = Jewish War
 - Destruction of Temple = AD 70

Source: Four Views of The End Times

Issues:

1. Dating and authorship of Revelation matters
2. Reign of Domitian was AD 81–96
3. Alternatives are historical and futuristic approaches



Titus besieged and captures Jerusalem in AD 70



41 When He approached Jerusalem, He saw the city and wept over it,

42 saying, “If you had known in this day, even you, the things which make for peace! But now they have been hidden from your eyes.

43 “For the days will come upon you when your enemies will throw up a barricade against you, and surround you and hem you in on every side,

44 and they will level you to the ground and your children within you, and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, because you did not recognize the time of your visitation.”

Luke 19:41-44





JUDGMENT: ONE OR TWO?

- Judgment Seat of Christ
 - Known as the Bema Seat
 - **Matt 27:19; Jn 19:13**
- Great White Throne Judgment

Are these the same?

“It cannot be too strongly emphasized that the judgment is unrelated to the problem of sin, that it is more for the bestowing of rewards than the rejection of failure.”

-Chafer



JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST

9 Therefore we also have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him.

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.

2 Cor 5:9-10



JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST

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Revelation 20:4-6



GREAT WHITE THRONE JUDGMENT

11 Then I saw a **great white throne** and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them.

12 And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and **the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds.**

13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them; and they were judged, every one of them according to their deeds.

14 Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire.

15 And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

Revelation 20:11-15





**BEHOLD,
I AM COMING SOON,
BRINGING MY REWARD WITH ME,
TO REPAY
EACH ONE
FOR WHAT HE HAS DONE.**

REVELATION 22:12

RECAP

- Jesus is coming back for His “bride” (that’s us!)
- Anticipating His imminent return is Biblical
- Don’t let views of millennium, tribulation, judgment and church/Israel cloud the bigger picture
- Don’t be afraid to study eschatology
- Grace upon grace upon grace 😊