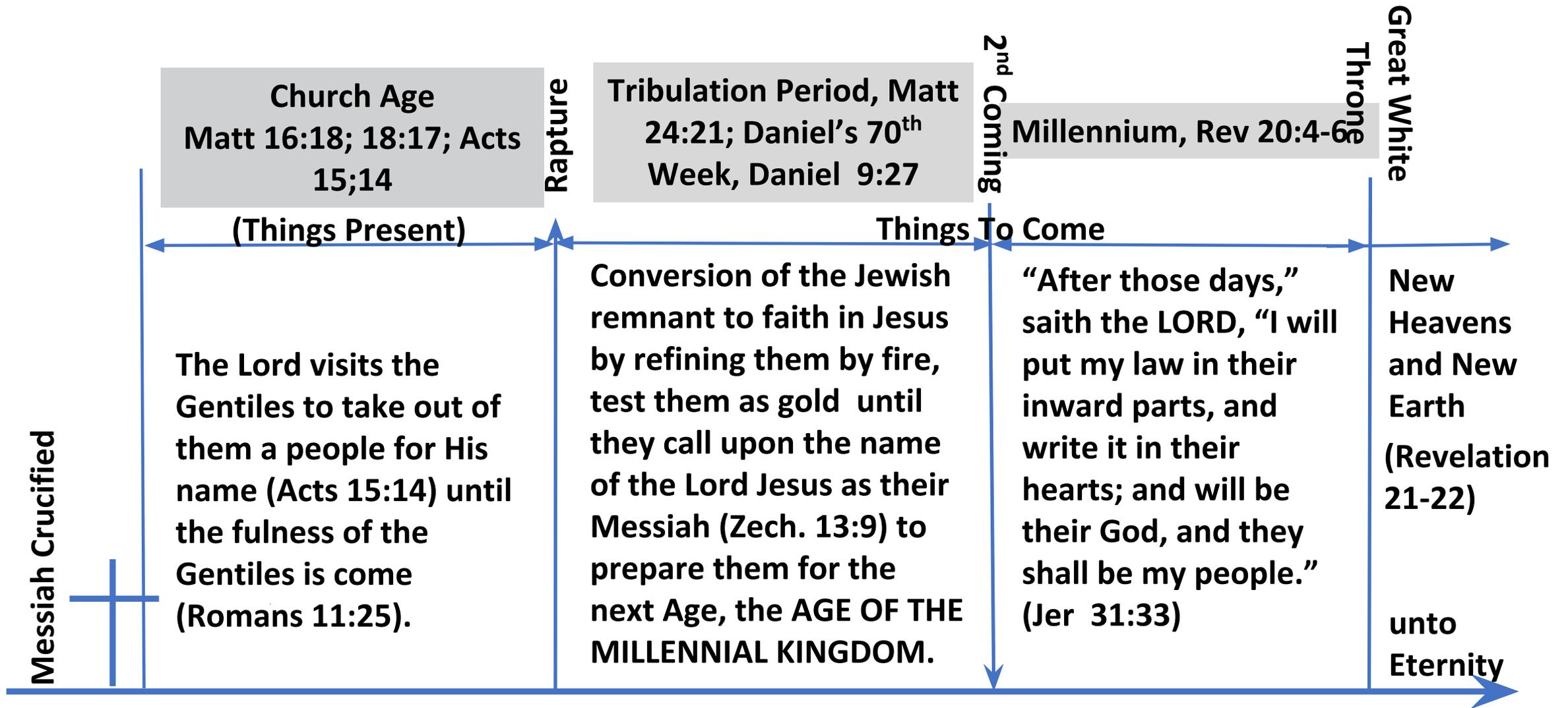


Rapture of the Church



Plotting The End Times

The Word – “Rapture”

- Rapture is the term “caught up” (Gr, *harpazo*, 1 Thess 4:17; Acts 8:39; 2 Cor. 12:2, 4);
- Rapture is first mentioned in Jn 14:1-3;
- Rapture is described: 1 Thess 4:13-17; 1 Cor 15:51-53
- Rapture will involve an instantaneous transformation of our physical bodies to glorified bodies to fit us for eternity. “We know that when He [Christ] appears, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is” (1 John 3:2).
- Rapture is a mystery, 1 Corinthians 15:51 (unknown in OT but revealed in NT). Colossians 1:26 “Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints.”

Rapture vs Second Coming

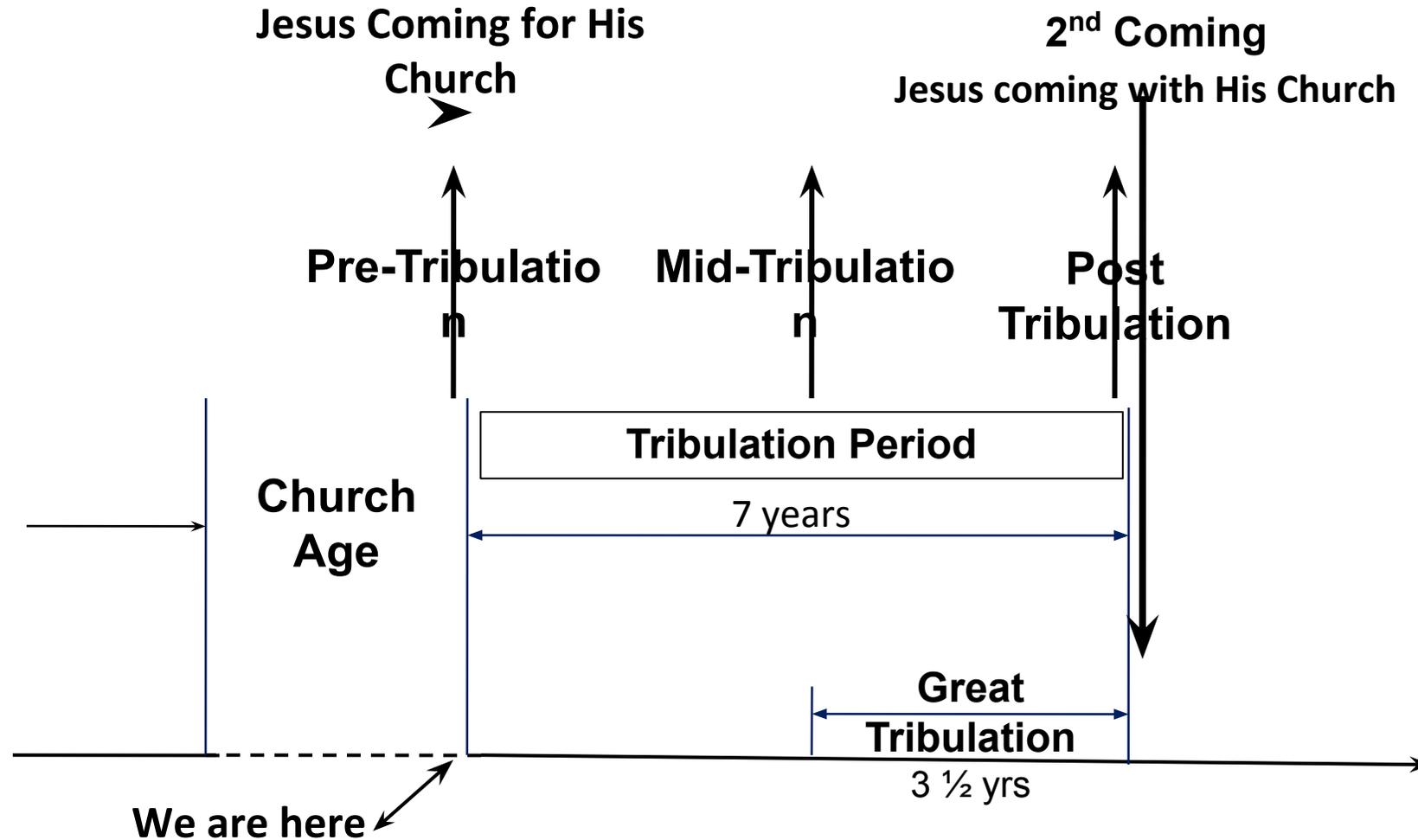
Rapture introduces the Tribulation Period

1. Christ comes in the air (1 Thess 4:16-17)
2. He comes for His saints and transform them into glorified bodies (1 Thess 4:16-17; 1 Cor. 15:51-58)
3. Rapture is a mystery, a truth unknown in OT (1 Cor. 15:51)
4. Not preceded by signs in the heavens.
5. It comforts and gives a blessed hope (1 Thess 4:18)
6. Rapture takes place in a moment (1 Cor 15:52)
7. Rapture involves the church primarily and Messianic Jews (Jn 14:1-4; 1 Cor 15:51-58)

Second Coming of Jesus concludes the Tribulation Period

1. He comes to earth (Zech 14:4)
2. He comes with His saints who are already in their glorified bodies (1 Thess 3:13; Jude 14)
3. **Not a mystery** being subject of OT prophecies (Ps 72; Isa 11; Zech 14)
4. **Heralded by celestial forewarning** (Matt 24:29-30 sun darkened, moon, stars fall)
5. Emphasis is on judgment (2 Thess 2:8-12)
6. Visible worldwide, every eye shall see Him (Matt 24:27; Rev. 1:7)
7. Involves Israel primarily, then Gentile nations (Matt 24:15-21; 25:31-46)

Different Views Of Rapture and 2nd Coming



Some False Views About The Rapture

- POST TRIBULATION. That the Rapture and the Second Coming are one and the same. They are not the same. Rapture starts the Tribulation Period and the Second Coming of Jesus concludes it. The two events are separated by 7-Yr period. If this were true:
- There would be no one to govern during the Millennium because everyone alive would be in their glorified bodies.
- The marriage supper of the Lamb occurs in heaven but those that will be raptured after tribulation cannot reach heaven to be married with the Lamb.
- If Rapture is the same as the 2nd coming of Jesus, this would negate the prophecy of Jesus that it will be like in the days of Noah. How can those who are to be raptured go on as business as usual when the world will be chaotic and cataclysmic because of the great tribulation. No, the two events are not the same.

Some False Views About The Rapture

- PARTIAL RAPTURE. Rapture includes only “spiritual Christians” leaving carnal believers behind to endure the seven-year for purification (Protestants’ purgatory). But only the blood of Jesus Christ can wash our sins and not by suffering even suffering the great tribulation.
 - Support for partial rapture is based on exhortations to watch or look for the coming of the Lord coupled with the teaching that those who fail to watch will not be ready when Jesus comes. (Matt 24:42-51; 25:13; 1Thess 5:6; Heb 9:26-28)
 - Partial rapture divides the body of Christ while Bible teaches unity and not division of the body of Christ. (1 Cor. 1:10; Ephesians 4; Ps 133:1). It divides the bride of Christ. Shall the marriage of the Lamb be a partial marriage?
 - Even the carnal Christian of Corinth are declared by Paul to be include in the rapture.

Some False Views About The Rapture

- MID-TRIBULATION means that the rapture will not happen until the middle of the tribulation period, thus, the entire church will have to go through the first 3 ½ years which may be thought of as the beginning of sorrows (Matt 24:8) and before the great tribulation of Matt 24:21, the 2nd half of the Tribulation, the Church is then raptured. Problems connected with Mid-Trib:
 - It destroys the imminency of Christ's return; It creates a date setting chronology
 - It denies assurance that we will escape divine wrath (cf. slides on Pre-Tribulation). The Tribulation is to punish the world in rebellion against the Lord Jesus.

Why Pre-Tribulation Rapture?

- It distinguishes between Israel and the Church and the Lord's respective program for each. The whole 70 weeks and the 70th weeks (Tribulation) is determined upon the nation Israel. (Daniel 9:24-27)
- The Tribulation Period is interpreted as a time of preparation for Israel's restoration as the Kingdom of God (Deut. 4:29-30; Jer 30:4-11). It is not a preparation for the Church for glory.
- None of Old Testament passages on Tribulation mention the Church (Deut. 4:29-30; Jer 30:4-11; Dan 8:24-27; 12:1-2)
- None of NT passages on Tribulation mentions the Church (Matt. 13:30, 39-42, 48-50; 24:15-31; 1 Thess 1:9-10; Revelation chap 4-19)

Why Pre-Tribulation Rapture?

- The Church is not appointed unto wrath of God that is to come but salvation through Jesus. (Rom 5:9; 1 Thess 1:9-10; 5:9; Rev 3:10; 6:17)
- “The Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished.” (2 Pet 2:5-9, e.g., Noah, Lot)
- 1 Thess 4:18, “Comfort one another with these words” is true only in the case of pre-tribulation rapture and contradicts partial wrath, mid-trib and post-trib rapture teachings
- Tit 2:13 “...looking for that blessed hope” means you are expecting for the best. It loses its significance if rapture happens during the Tribulation.

Why Pre-Tribulation Rapture?

- 2 Thess 2:6-8 says the restrainer (Holy Spirit in the Church) is to be taken out of the way before the “lawless one” (antichrist) is revealed.
- Jesus Christ comes for His bride before the wedding feast and wedding feast happens before 2nd Coming (Rev. 19:7-10). How can the wedding feast happen if the saints are raptured only at the end of tribulation to meet the Lord only in the air and turn back to join the Lord on His way to earth to defeat His enemies? (Rev 19:11-21)
- Living tribulation saints are not translated at the second coming of Jesus but will populate the Millennial kingdom doing ordinary occupations (farming, building houses) and they will bear children (Isa 65:20-25). There would be no one to populate the Kingdom and none to be governed if all saints (living and dead) were all translated to glorified bodies at the second coming of the Lord to the earth, as post-tribulationists claim.

Challenges of the Rapture

- The child of God is to attend services of the Lord regularly. Hebrews 10:25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.
- He is to observe the Lord's supper with the rapture in mind. 1Co 11:26 For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come.
- He is to love believers and all men. 1Th 3:12-13 And the Lord make you to increase and abound in love one toward another, and toward all men...at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints.
- He is to be patient. James 5:8 Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh.
- He is to live a life holy and separated from the world. Tit 2:12-13 Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; Looking for that blessed hope (expectation of the best), and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;

Challenges of the Rapture

- He refrains from judging others. 1Co 4:5 Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts:
- He is to comfort the bereaved that there will be a rand reunion of all Christians in the presence of the Lord Jesus. 1Th 4:18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words.
- He is to preach the word of God. Pe 5:2, 4 Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind ... And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.
- He is to be heavenly minded. Col 3:2, 4 Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth....When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.
- He is to live ready, watching and eagerly waiting for the 2nd coming of the Lord Jesus. Heb 9:28 So Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who love His appearing. (2 Tim 4:8)