

*Living in Light of His Return*

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# The Rapture of the Church

Adult SS ~ June 7, 2015

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*“Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a desire fulfilled is a tree of life.”*  
*Proverbs 13:12*



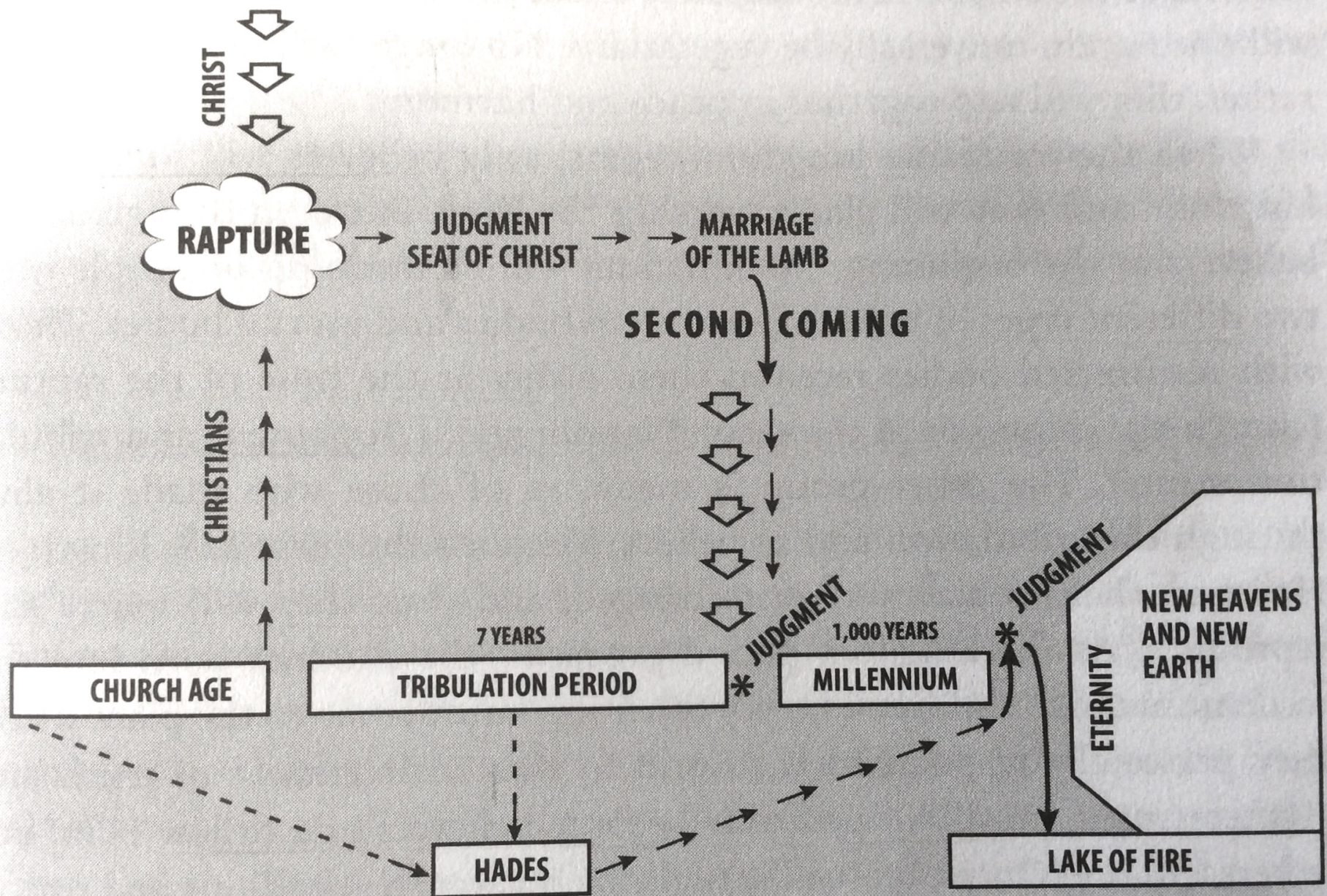
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# Class Overview

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- ❖ Introduction to Eschatology (5/31)
- ❖ The Rapture of the Church (6/7)
- ❖ The Judgment Seat of Christ (6/14)
- ❖ The Tribulation (6/21 & 6/28)
- ❖ The Marriage Supper of the Lamb (7/5)
- ❖ The Second Coming of Christ (7/12 & 7/19)
- ❖ The Millennial Kingdom (7/26 & 8/2)
- ❖ The Great White Throne Judgment (8/9)
- ❖ The Eternal State (8/16 & 8/23)

# AN OVERVIEW OF FUTURE EVENTS



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# Simple Definition

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- ❖ “The Greek word from which we take the term 'rapture' appears in 1 Thessalonians 4:17, translated 'caught up.' The Latin translation of this verse used the word *rapturo*. The Greek word it translates is *harpazo*, which means to snatch or take away. Elsewhere it is used to describe how the Spirit caught up Philip near Gaza and brought him to Caesarea (Acts 8:39) and to describe Paul's experience of being caught up into the third heaven (2 Cor. 12:2–4). Thus there can be no doubt that the word is used in 1 Thessalonians 4:17 to indicate the actual removal of people from earth to heaven.” —Charles Ryrie, *Basic Theology*, 462

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# Key Texts

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- ❖ 1 Thessalonians 4:13–18
- ❖ John 14:1–3
- ❖ 1 Corinthians 15:51–53
- ❖ Philippians 3:20–21
- ❖ Titus 2:13
- ❖ James 5:7–9



Why do you think that every rapture  
passage is set in the context of  
motivations for growing in godliness?

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# Sequence of Events

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1. The Lord Himself will descend from His Father's house, where He is preparing a place for us (John 14:1–3; 1 Thessalonians 4:16).
2. He will come again to receive us to Himself (John 14:1–3).
3. He will resurrect those who have fallen asleep in Him (deceased believers whom we will not precede—1 Thessalonians 4:14–15).
4. The Lord will shout as He descends (“loud command,” 1 Thessalonians 4:16 NIV). All this will take place in the “twinkling of an eye” (1 Corinthians 15:52).
5. We will hear the voice of the archangel (perhaps to lead Israel during the seven years of the Tribulation as he did in the Old Testament—1 Thessalonians 4:16).

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# Sequence of Events, Continued

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6. We will also hear the trumpet call of God (1 Thessalonians 4:16), the last trumpet for the church. (Don't confuse this with the seventh trumpet of judgment upon the world during the Tribulation in Revelation 11:15.)
7. The dead in Christ will rise first (the corruptible ashes of their dead bodies are made incorruptible and joined together with their spirits, which Jesus brings with Him—1 Thessalonians 4:16–17).
8. Then we who are alive and remain will be changed (or made incorruptible by having our bodies made “immortal”—1 Corinthians 15:51, 53).
9. We will be caught up (raptured) together (1 Thessalonians 4:17).
10. We will be caught up in the clouds (where dead and living believers will have a monumental reunion—1 Thessalonians 4:17).

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# Sequence of Events, Continued

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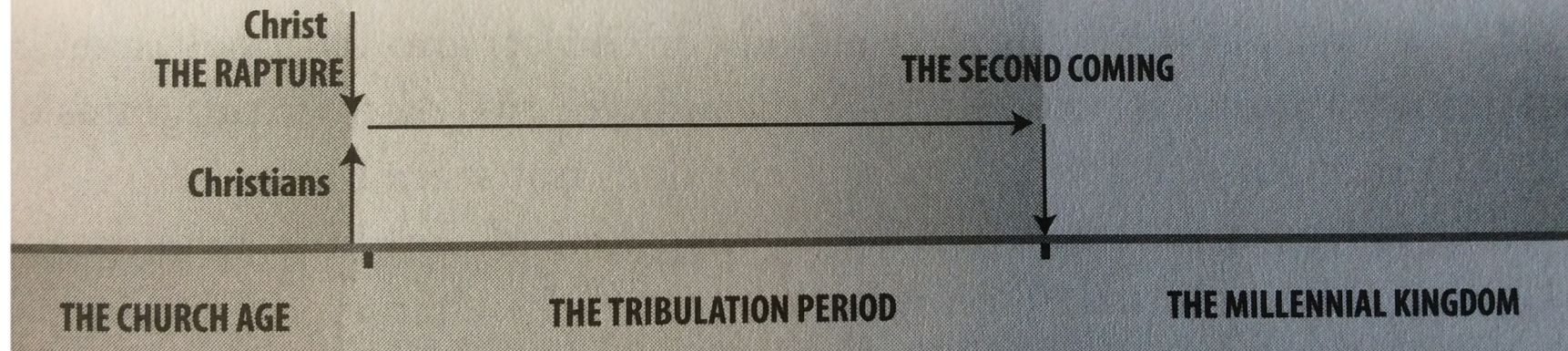
11. We will meet the Lord in the air (1 Thessalonians 4:17).
12. Christ will receive us to Himself and take us to the Father's house "that where I am, there you may be also" (John 14:3).
13. "And so we shall always be with the Lord" (1 Thessalonians 4:17).
14. At the call of Christ for believers, He will judge all things. Christians will stand before the judgment seat of Christ (Romans 14:10; 2 Corinthians 5:10), described in detail in 1 Corinthians 3:11–15. This judgment prepares Christians for...
15. The marriage of the lamb. Before Christ returns to earth in power and great glory, He will meet His bride, the church, and the marriage supper will take place. In the meantime, after the church is raptured, the world will suffer the unprecedented outpouring of God's wrath, which our Lord called "the great tribulation" (Matthew 24:21).

# Results of the Rapture

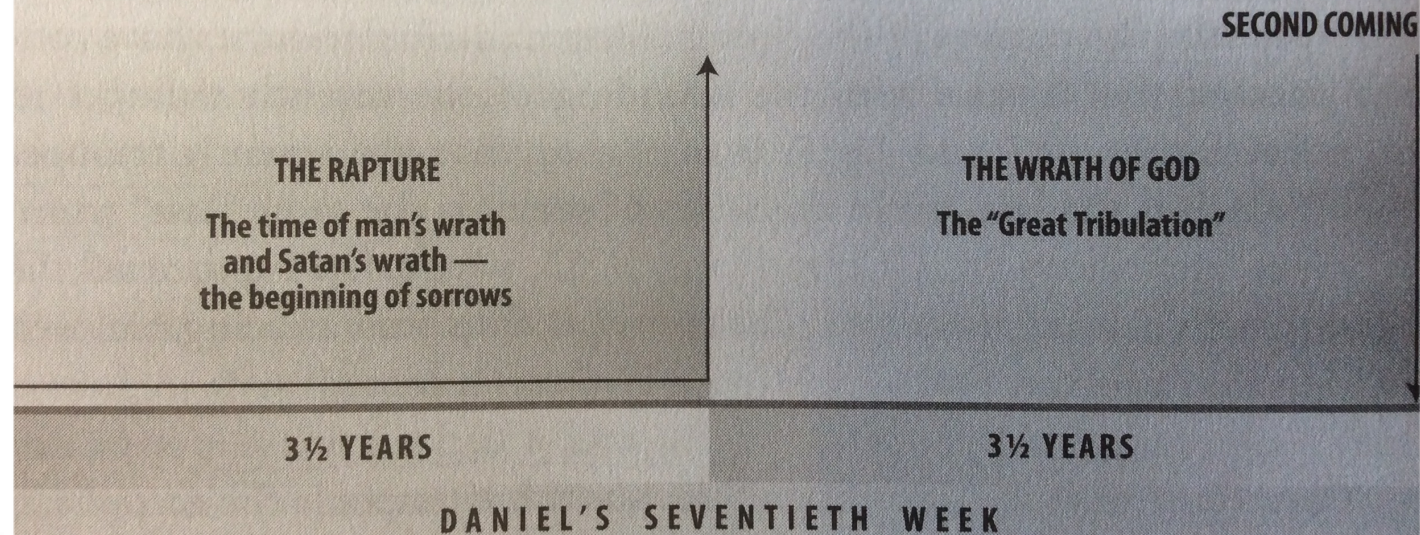
- ❖ A Promise Will Be Fulfilled
- ❖ Our Salvation Will Be Complete
- ❖ All Believers Will Be United



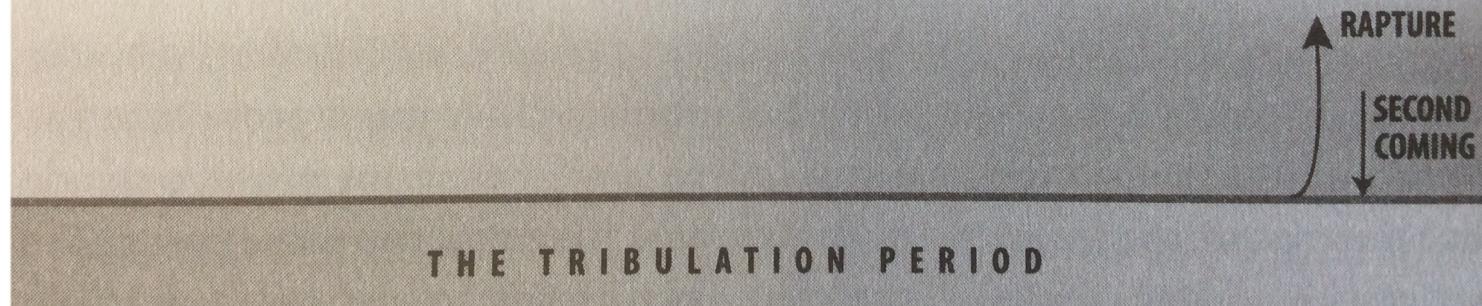
## THE PRETRIBULATIONAL RAPTURE



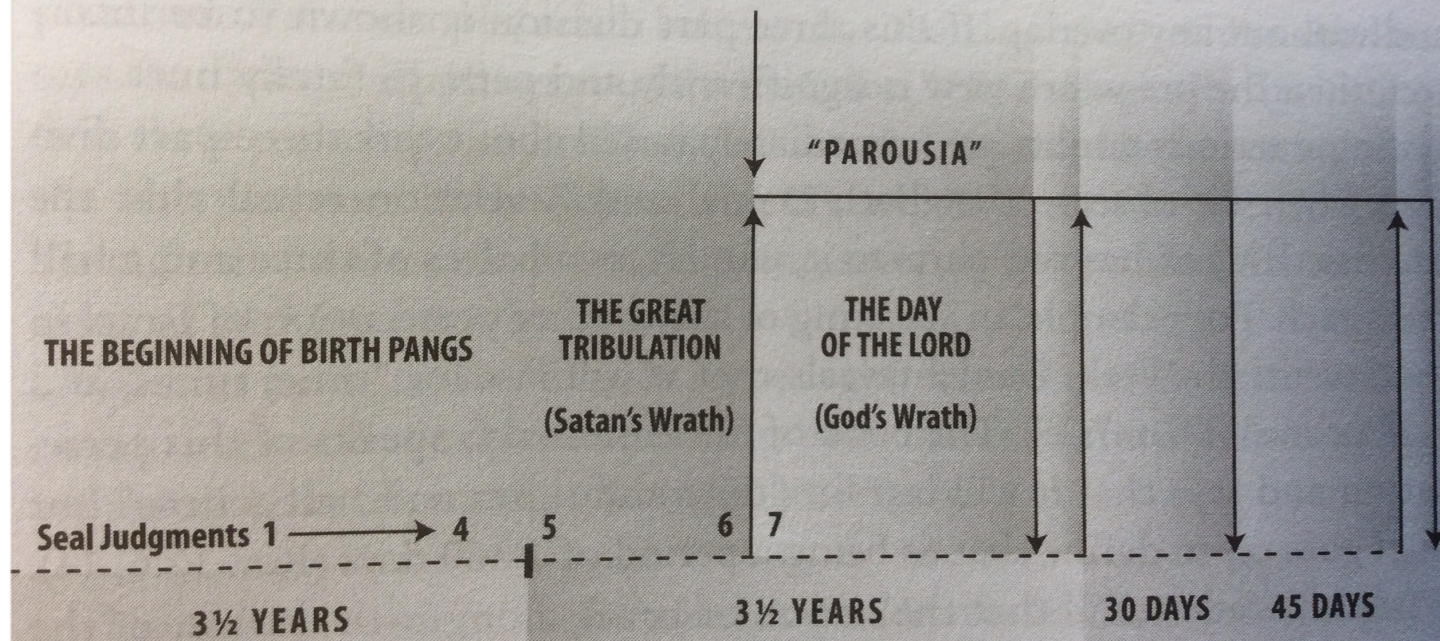
## THE MIDTRIBULATIONAL RAPTURE THEORY



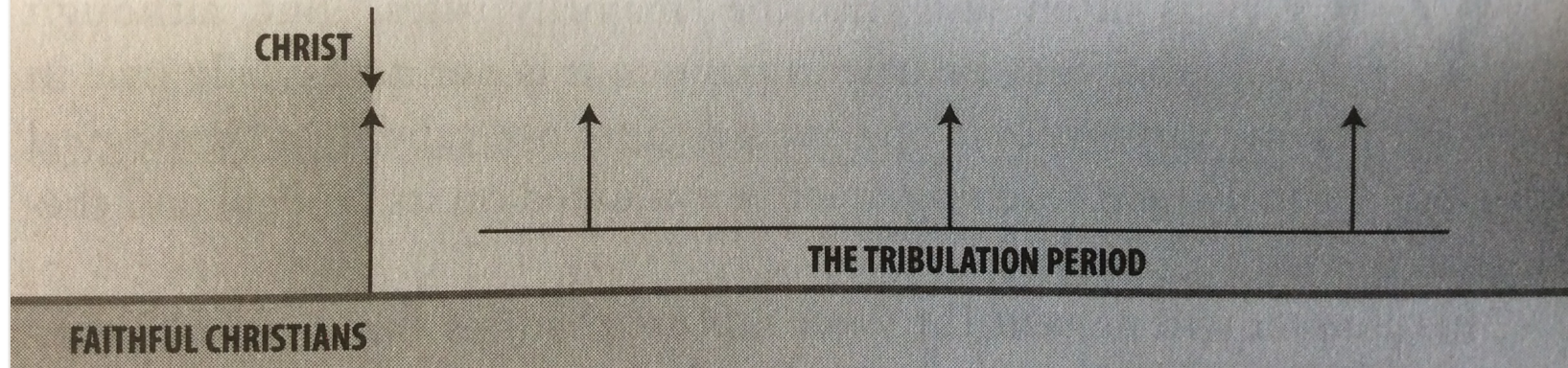
## THE POSTTRIBULATIONAL RAPTURE THEORY



## THE PRE-WRATH RAPTURE THEORY



## THE PARTIAL RAPTURE THEORY





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# Timing of the Rapture

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- ❖ Precedent to Israel's Future
- ❖ Imminent in Nature
- ❖ Distinct from the Second Coming
- ❖ Absent from the Wrath of God

As you think about the rapture,  
what are some different ways to  
live in light of His return?

