

A painting of a prophet with a long white beard, wearing a brown robe, sitting at a desk and writing on a scroll with a quill. The scene is dimly lit, with a small bowl of ink and a book visible on the desk. The background is dark and atmospheric.

Listening to the Prophets

A Study of Old Testament Major Prophets

<http://newjerusalemcommunity.blogspot.com/2011/05/old-testament-prophets.html>

Mervin W. Tapsfield



LISTENING TO THE PROPHETS

THEME:

- The prophet's words are as relevant today as they were 2600 years ago.
- “The Lord is compassionate and merciful, slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love.” [NLT]

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Lesson One

Introduction to the Major Prophets

Introduction

- The Major Prophets of the Old Testament consist of: Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and Daniel.
- Each of these books are titled by the prophet's **name**.



<https://thelehrhaus.com/scholarship/the-prophets-did-not-take-political-stands-and-you-should-too/>

- Jeremiah has two books attributed to him. He wrote, not only the book of Jeremiah, but also the book of Lamentations.
- The primary focus of the Old Testament prophets was to make Israel (Jewish northern kingdom and/or Judah (Jewish southern kingdom) turn from sin.



- After Israel's captivity in 722 B.C. by the Assyrian Empire, the focus of the prophets centered on Judah's repentance.
- Judah failed to **repent** and Babylon took them captive in 605 B.C., 597 B.C. and 586 B.C.



<https://www.worldhistory.org/image/117/neo-assyrian-empire/>

Make-Up of the New and Old Testament

- The Bible is composed of **66** books.
- There are 39 books of the Old Testament and 27 books of the New Testament.

OLD TESTAMENT 39 BOOKS			NEW TESTAMENT 27 BOOKS	
LAW 5	WISDOM/POETRY 5	MAJOR PROPH 5	GOSPELS 4	PASTORAL EPISTLES 9
GENESIS	JOB	ISAIAH	MATTHEW	1 TIMOTHY
EXODUS	PSALMS	JEREMIAH	MARK	2 TIMOTHY
LEVITICUS	PROVERBS	LAMENTATIONS	LUKE	TITUS
NUMBERS	ECCLESIASTES	EZEKIEL	JOHN	PHILEMON
DEUTERONOMY	S. OF SOLOMON	DANIEL		
HISTORY 12		MINOR PROPH 12	HISTORY 1	
JOSHUA		HOSEA	ACTS	
JUDGES		JOEL		
RUTH		AMOS		
1 SAMUEL		OBADIAH		
2 SAMUEL		JONAH		
1 KINGS		MICAH		
2 KINGS		NAHUM		
1 CHRONICLES		HABAKKUK		
2 CHRONICLES		ZEPHANIAH		
EZRA		HAGGAI		
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			ROMANS	HEBREWS
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			2 CORINTHIANS	1 PETER
			GALATIANS	2 PETER
			EPHESIANS	1 JOHN
			PHILIPPIANS	2 JOHN
			COLOSSIANS	3 JOHN
			1 THESSALONIANS	JUDE
			2 THESSALONIANS	REVELATION

- The New Testament details the birth of Christ, His death and resurrection, the formation of the Christian church (all believers of Christ), the rapture of the church, the time of tribulation, Jesus' second coming, and the formation of a new heaven and new earth.

- The Old Testament is divided into Law, History, Poetry, Major Prophets, and Minor Prophets.

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2 CHRONICLES		ZEPHANIAH	ROMANS	HEBREWS
EZRA		HAGGAI	1 CORINTHIANS	JAMES
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ESTHER		MALACHI	GALATIANS	2 PETER
			EPHESIANS	1 JOHN
			PHILIPPIANS	2 JOHN
			COLOSSIANS	3 JOHN
			1 THESSALONIANS	JUDE
			2 THESSALONIANS	REVELATION

- The New Testament is divided into the **Gospels** (material relating to Jesus' birth, ministry, death, and resurrection), history of the early church, letters by the Apostle Paul, and general letters by other New Testament writers.

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- The emphasis of this study will focus on the Major Prophets of the Old Testament.
- The study of the Old Testament Major Prophets is important in that, not only were their writings and prophecies important to Israel and Judah but they are relevant to our modern world.

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Categorical Divisions of the Old Testament and the New Testament

OLD TESTAMENT 39 BOOKS

NEW TESTAMENT 27 BOOKS

LAW 5

GENESIS
EXODUS
LEVITICUS
NUMBERS
DEUTERONOMY

WISDOM/POETRY 5

JOB
PSALMS
PROVERBS
ECCLESIASTES
S. OF SOLOMON

MAJOR PROPH 5

ISAIAH
JEREMIAH
LAMENTATIONS
EZEKIEL
DANIEL

HISTORY 12

JOSHUA
JUDGES
RUTH
1 SAMUEL
2 SAMUEL
1 KINGS
2 KINGS
1 CHRONICLES
2 CHRONICLES
EZRA
NEHEMIAH
ESTHER

MINOR PROPH 12

HOSEA
JOEL
AMOS
OBADIAH
JONAH
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NAHUM
HABAKKUK
ZEPHANIAH
HAGGAI
ZECHARIAH
MALACHI

GOSPELS 4

MATTHEW
MARK
LUKE
JOHN

PASTORAL EPISTLES 9

1 TIMOTHY
2 TIMOTHY
TITUS
PHILEMON

HISTORY 1

ACTS

PAULINE EPISTLES 9

ROMANS
1 CORINTHIANS
2 CORINTHIANS
GALATIANS
EPHESIANS
PHILIPPIANS
COLOSSIANS
1 THESSALONIANS
2 THESSALONIANS

GENERAL EPISTLES 9

HEBREWS
JAMES
1 PETER
2 PETER
1 JOHN
2 JOHN
3 JOHN
JUDE
REVELATION

- The Old Testament Prophets are grouped into two categories: Major Prophets and Minor Prophets.

- The distinguishing factor between the Major and Minor Prophets are the length of their books.

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- There are 12 Old Testament Minor Prophets and 4 Old Testament Major Prophets.
- The Minor Prophets follows the Major Prophets.

THE MINOR PROPHETS (Update)

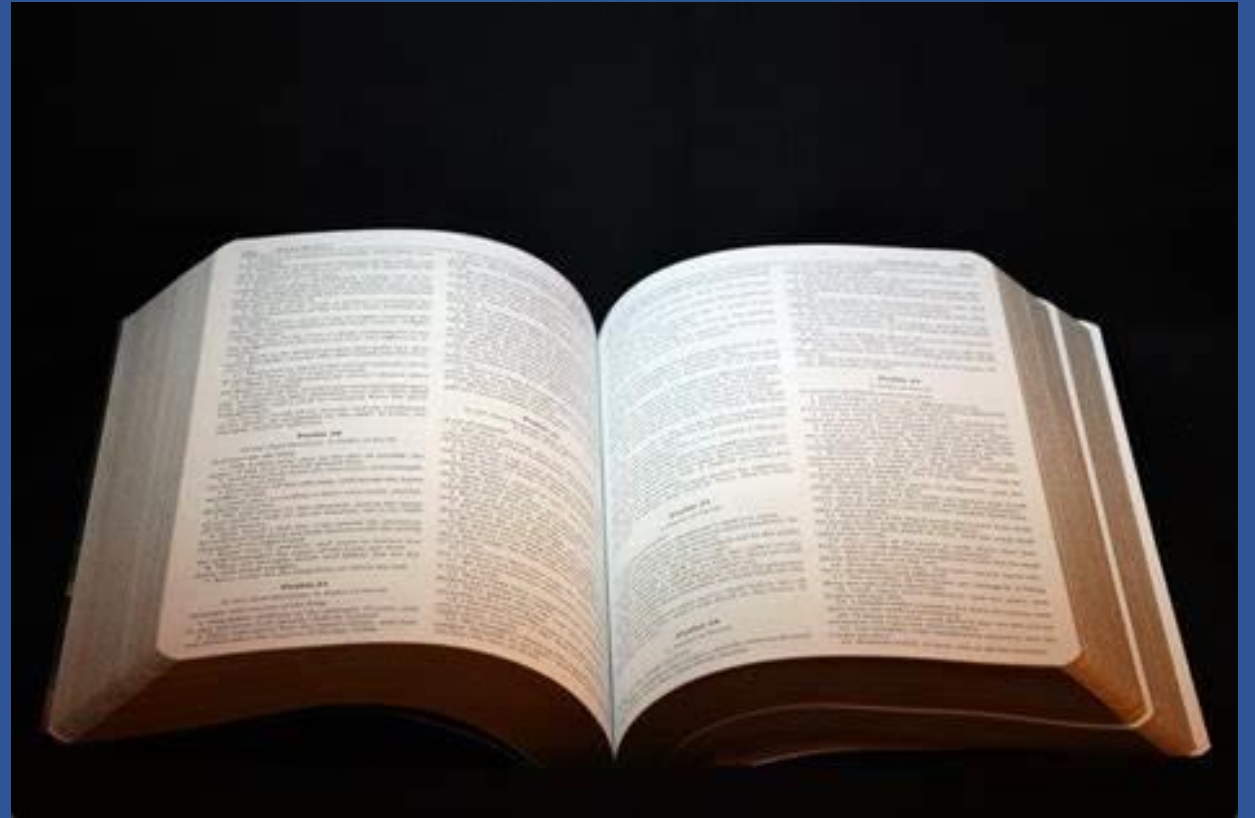
Prophet	Date (B.C.) Approx	Name Meaning	Prophecies To/About	King at Time (assumption)
Obadiah	845-750	'Servant of the Lord'	Israel/Edom	Jehoram (Ju) Joram (Is)
Joel	835-796	'Yahweh is God'	Judah	Joash (Ju) Jehu/Jehoahaz(Is)
Jonah	793-753	'Dove'	Nineveh	Jeroboam 11 (Is) Amaziah/(Ju)
Hosea	753-715	'Salvation'	Israel	Jotham/Ahaz (Ju) Jeroboam/Pekah/Hoshea (Is)
Amos	760-755	'Burden-bearer'	Israel/Judah	Jotham/Uzziah (Ju) Jeroboam/Pekah (Is)
Micah	770-710	'Who is like unto the Lord'	Israel/Judah	Jotham/Ahaz/Hezekiah(Ju) Zechariah – Hoshea (Is)
Nahum	655	'Consolation'	Nineveh	Manasseh (Ju) *
Zephaniah	625	'Yahweh hides'	Judah/Assyria. And Nations	Josiah (Ju)
Habakkuk	610	'Clings to'	Judah/Nations	Josiah/Jehoahaz/Jehoiakim
Haggai	520	'My Feast'	Judah	N/A
Zechariah	520	'Yahweh has remembered'	Judah	N/A
Malachi	460 - 420	'My Messenger'	Judah	N/A

The Major Prophets

Prophet	Date	Name	Prophecies to/about	King at Time
Isaiah	740-680 B.C	The Lord is Salvation	Judah	Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, Hezekiah, Manasseh (s)
Jeremih	627-585 B.C.	Jehovah establishes	Jews in Judea and captivity	Josiah, Jehoahaz, Jehoiakim, Jehoiachin, Zedekiah (s)
Ezekiel	592-570	God Strengthens	Judah	Future restoration of Israel
Daniel	537	God is my judge	The times of the Gentiles and Israel's kingdom	Jehoiakim (S), Nebuchadnezzar, Belshazzar, Darius, Cyrus

Ages of the Bible

- Various ages of time demonstrate God's relationship to humanity.
- These ages can help one organize the structure of the Bible.



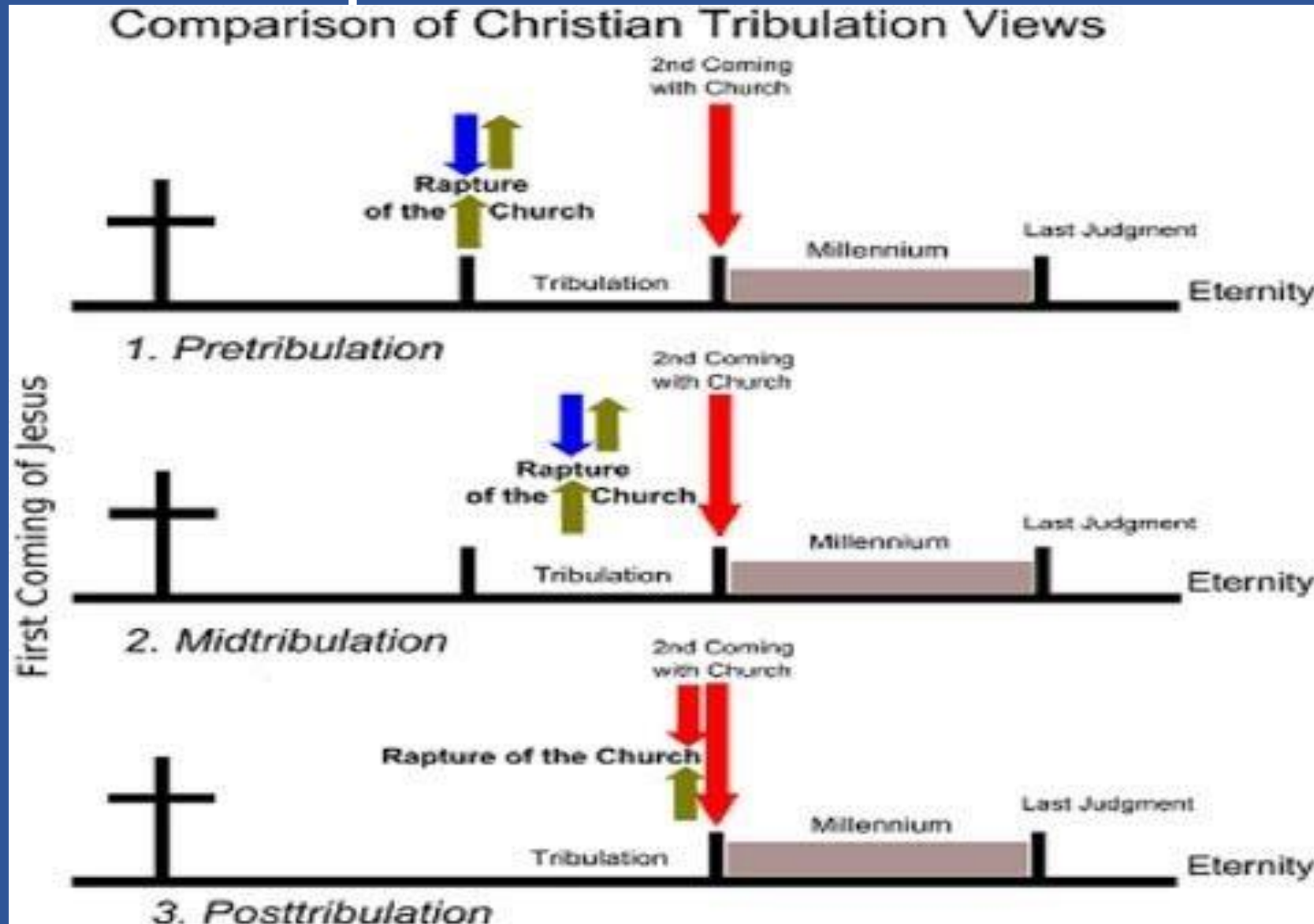
Ages of the Bible

Name	Scripture	Responsibilities	Judgment(s)
Innocency	Genesis 1:3-3:6	Keep garden; do not eat one fruit; fill, subdue earth, fellowship with God	Curses, and physical and spiritual death
Conscience [✘]	Genesis 3:7-8:14	Do Good	Flood
Civil Government	Genesis 8:15-11:9	Fill earth	Forced scattering by confusion of languages
Patriarchal Rule	Genesis 11:10-Exodus 18:27	Stay in Promised Land, believe and obey God	Egyptian bondage and wilderness wanderings
Mosaic Law	Exodus 19:1-Acts 1:26	Keep the law, walk with God	Captivities
Grace [✘]	Acts 2:1-Revelation 19:21	Believe on Christ, walk with Christ	Death, loss of rewards
Millennium	Revelation 20:1-15	Believe and obey Christ and His government	Death, Great White Throne Judgment

Three Important Words

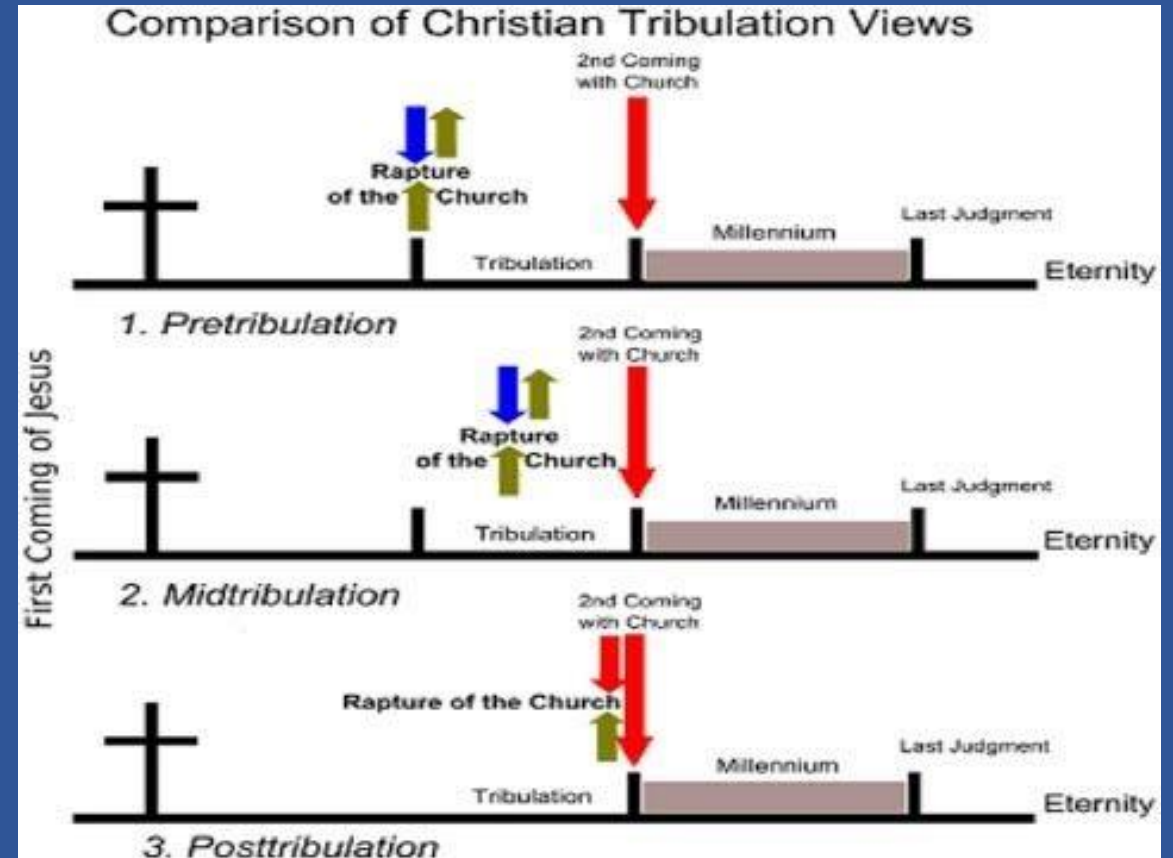
- Rapture-Jesus comes for His church
- Tribulation-7 year period of judgment
- Millennium-Christ reigns on earth for 1,000 years

Rapture of the Church

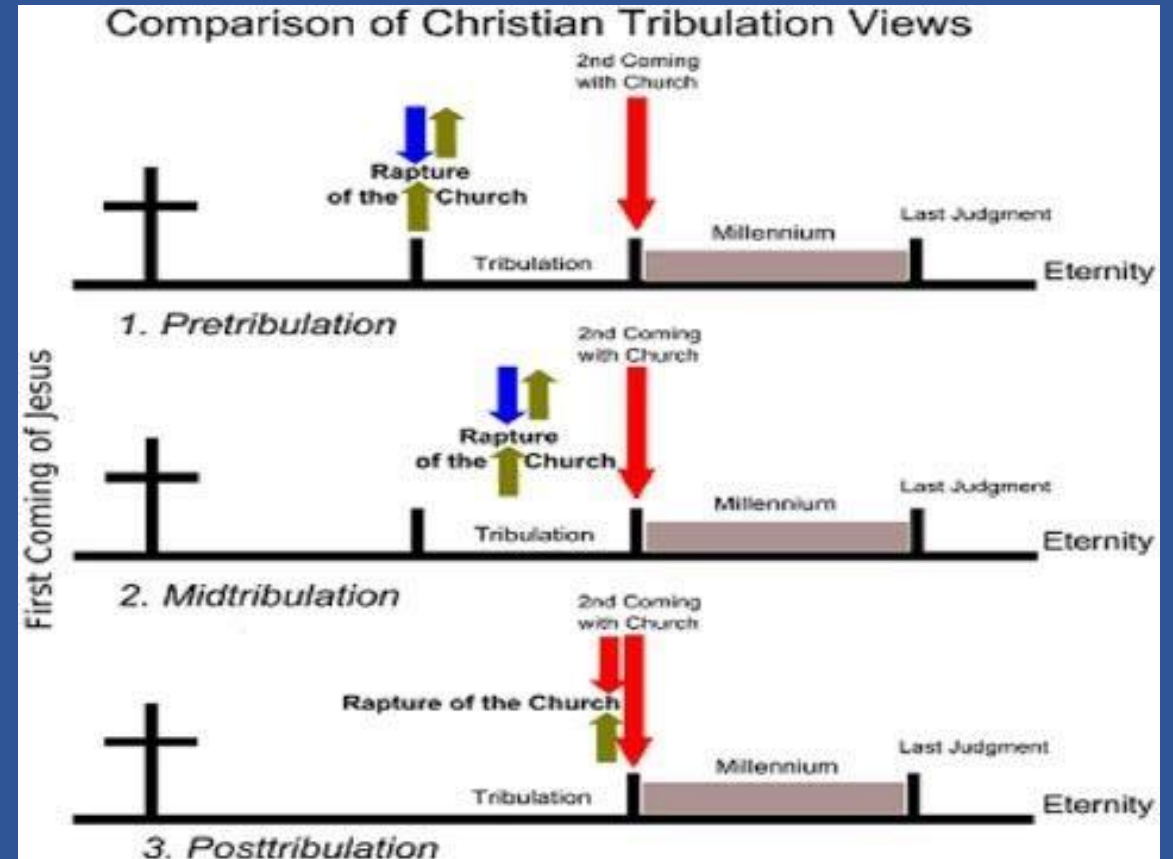


Pretribulation

- Bible scholars disagree as to whether Jesus will **rapture** (catch up) the church (believers in Jesus) prior to the Tribulation Period.
- Pretribulation is a belief that Jesus will come for the church before the Tribulation.

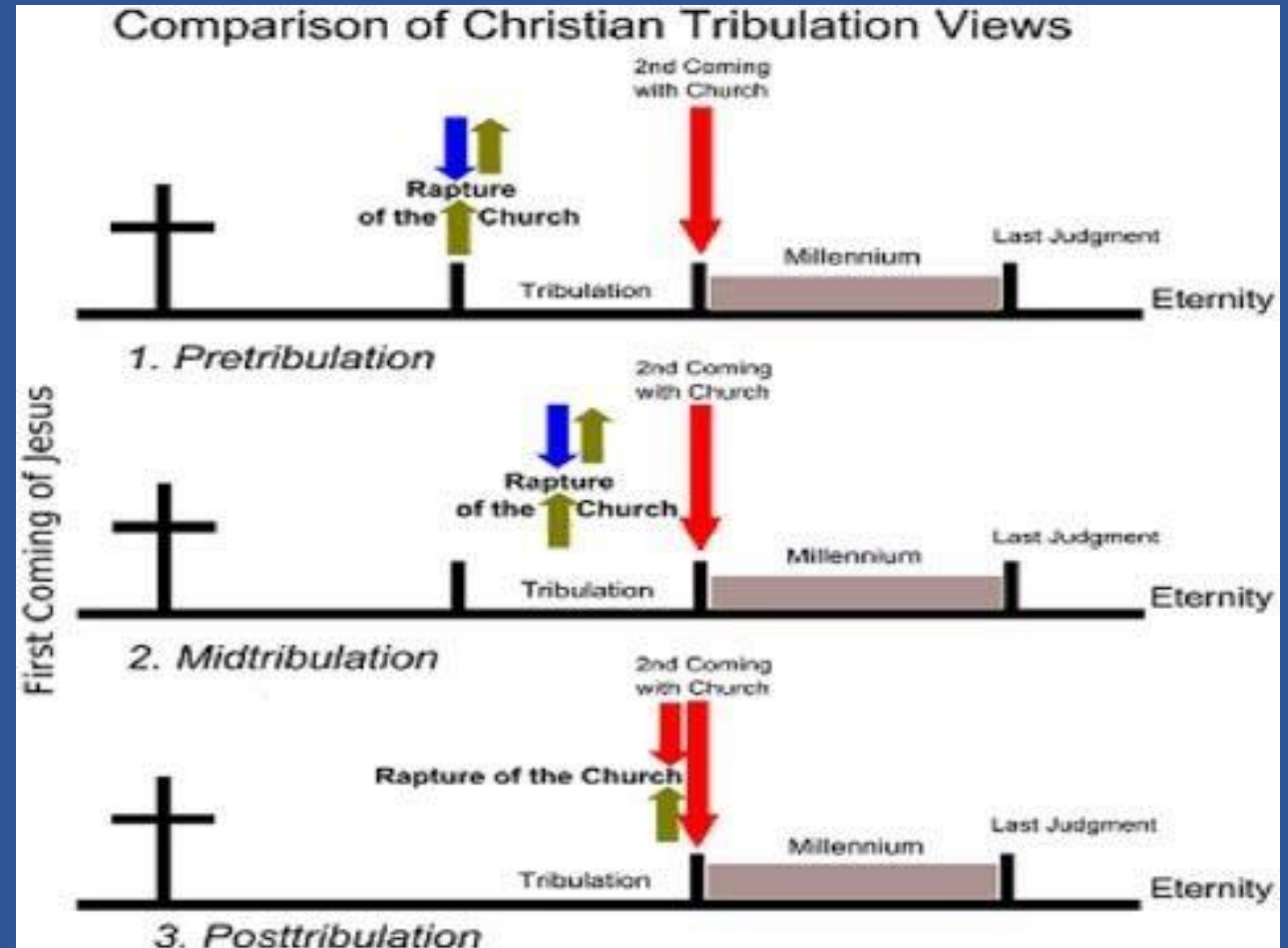


- This belief comes from 1st Corinthians 15:51-52; 1 Thessalonians 5:9; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Revelation 4:1[*]
- I will base our study on the **Pretribulation** view.



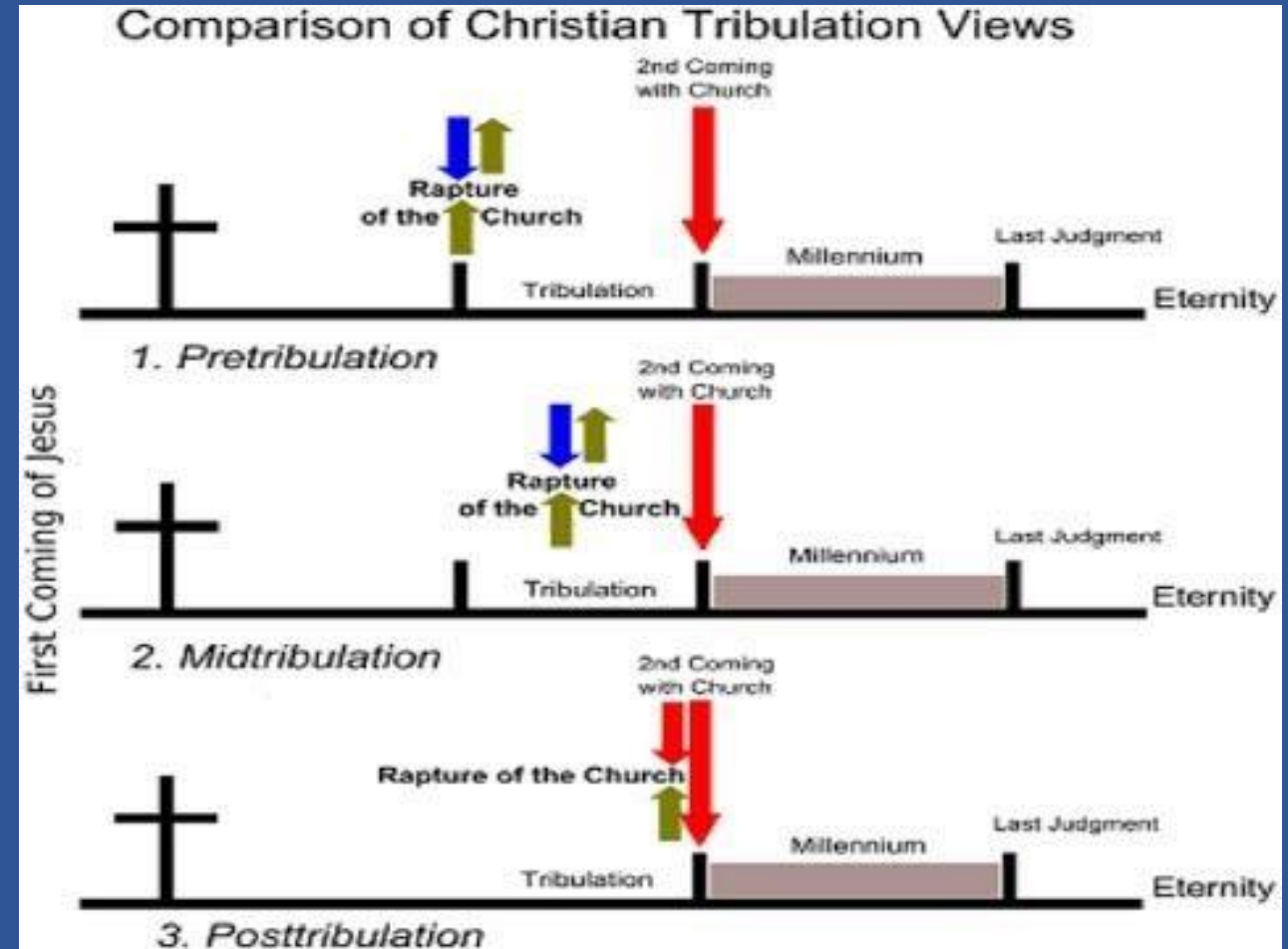
Midtribulation

- This view believes Jesus will rapture the church after the **first** 3 ½ years of the Tribulation period.³
- Midtribulationists base part of their views on Revelation 11:3-12. [∗]
- Many midtribulationists view Revelation 11 as allegorical rather than literal.



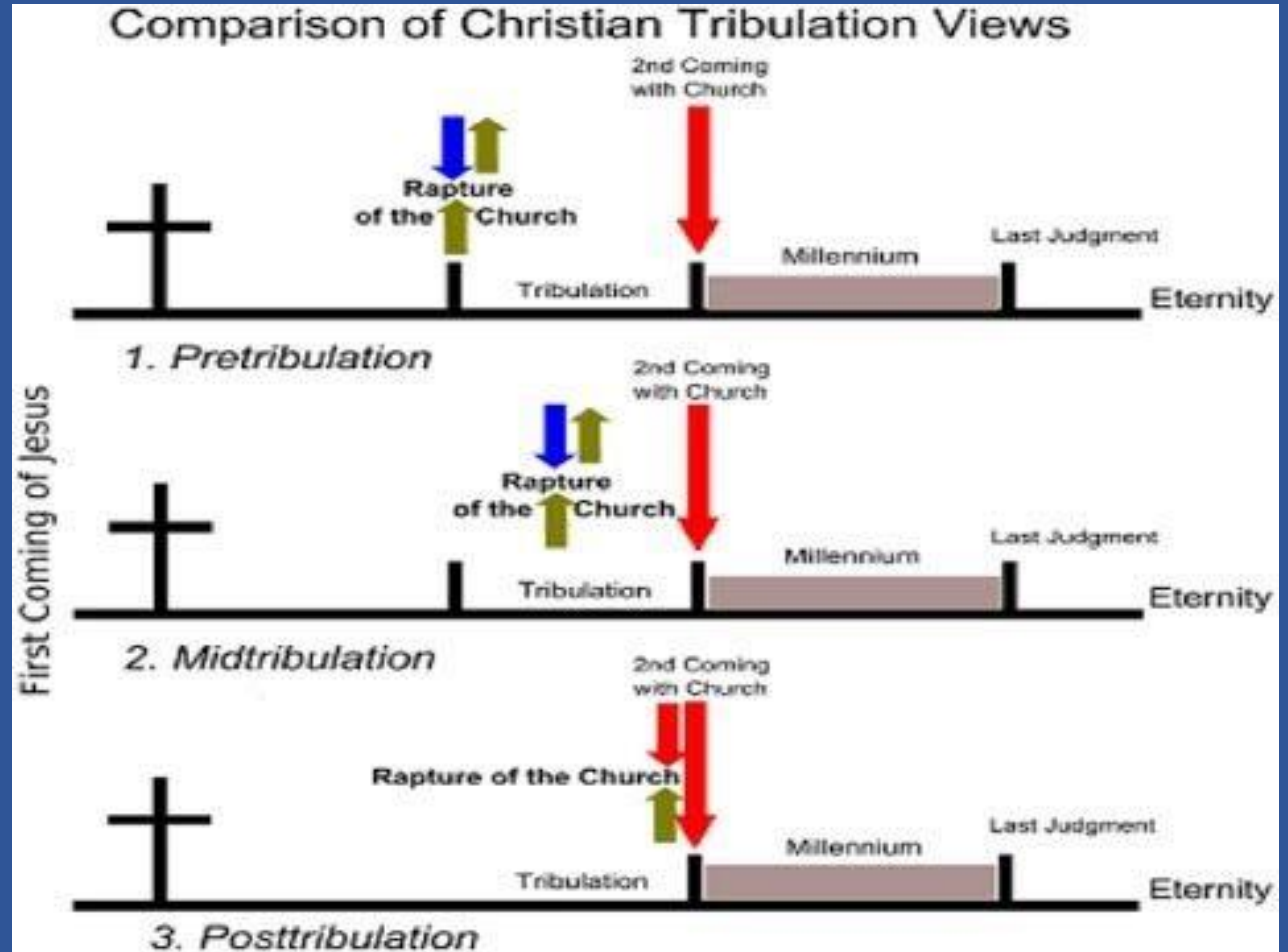
Posttribulation

- Posttribulationists believe that Jesus will come for the Church **after** the Great Tribulation.
- They feel Jesus' coming will usher in the Millennial period.



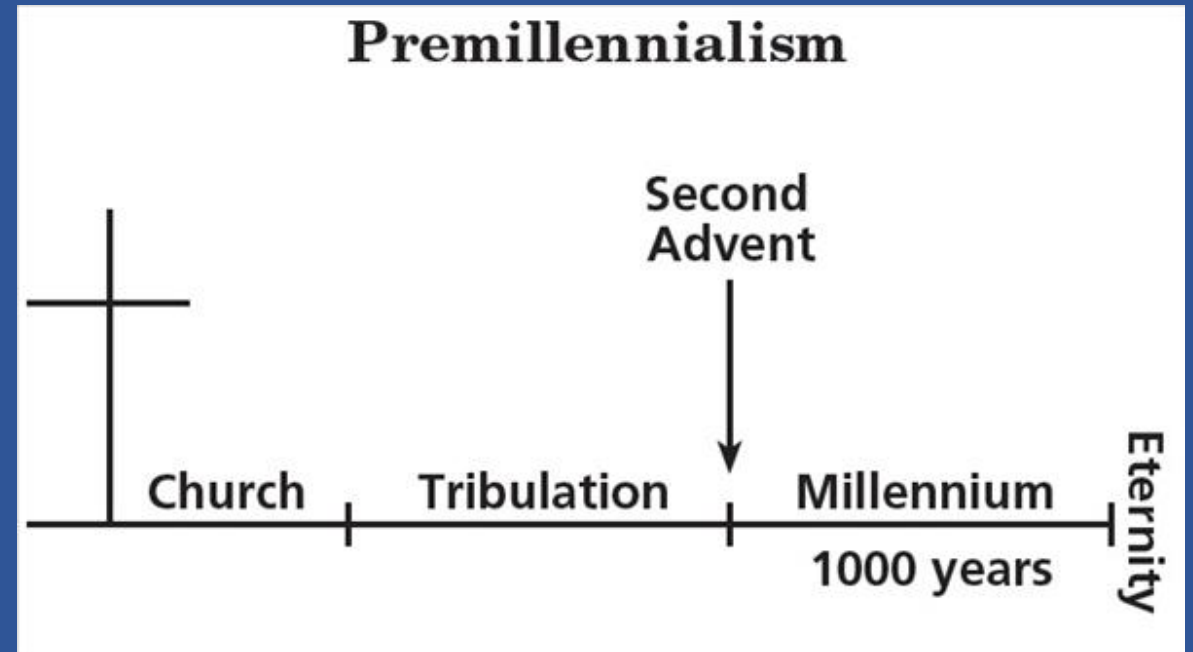
- Posttribulationists interpret Revelation 19:11-16 to mean that Jesus will come for His church after the tribulation and at the start of the Millennium.

[*]



Millennial Period

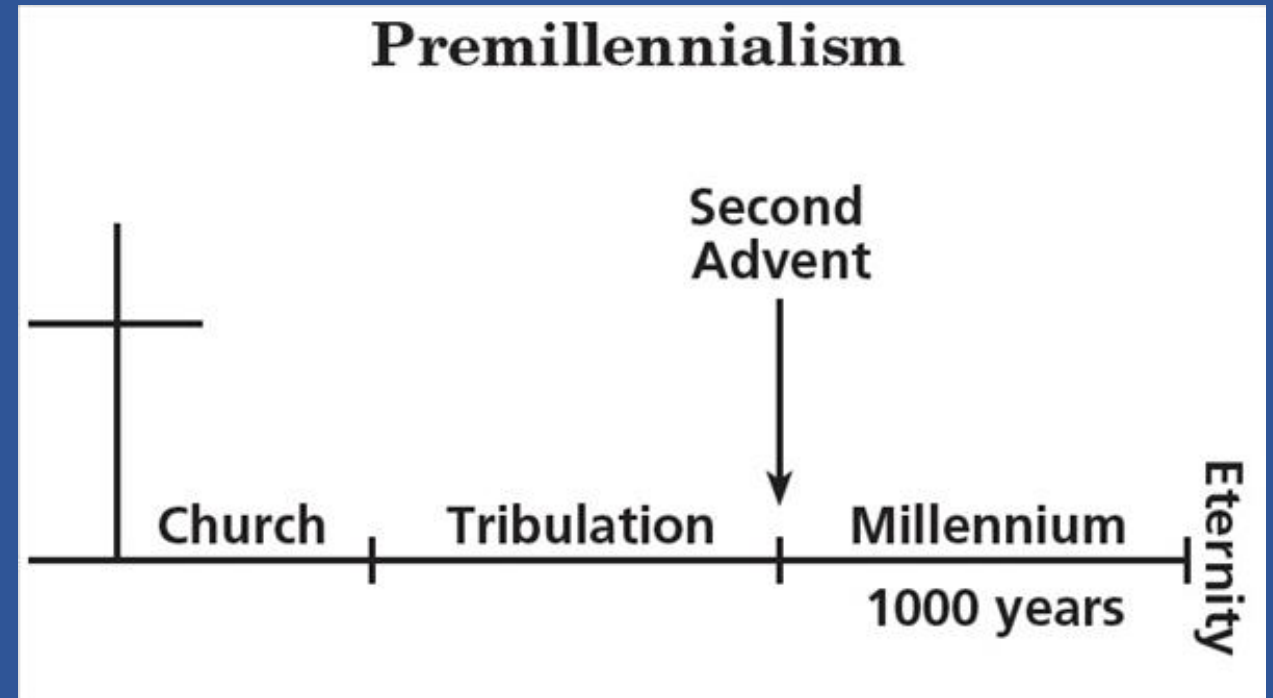
- The Bible predicts that Jesus will return to earth to establish a **millennial** (1,000 year) kingdom (Revelation 20:1-4).[*]
- Bible scholars disagree as to when Jesus will return to establish this 1,000-year rule and whether the 1,000 years is allegorical (symbolic).



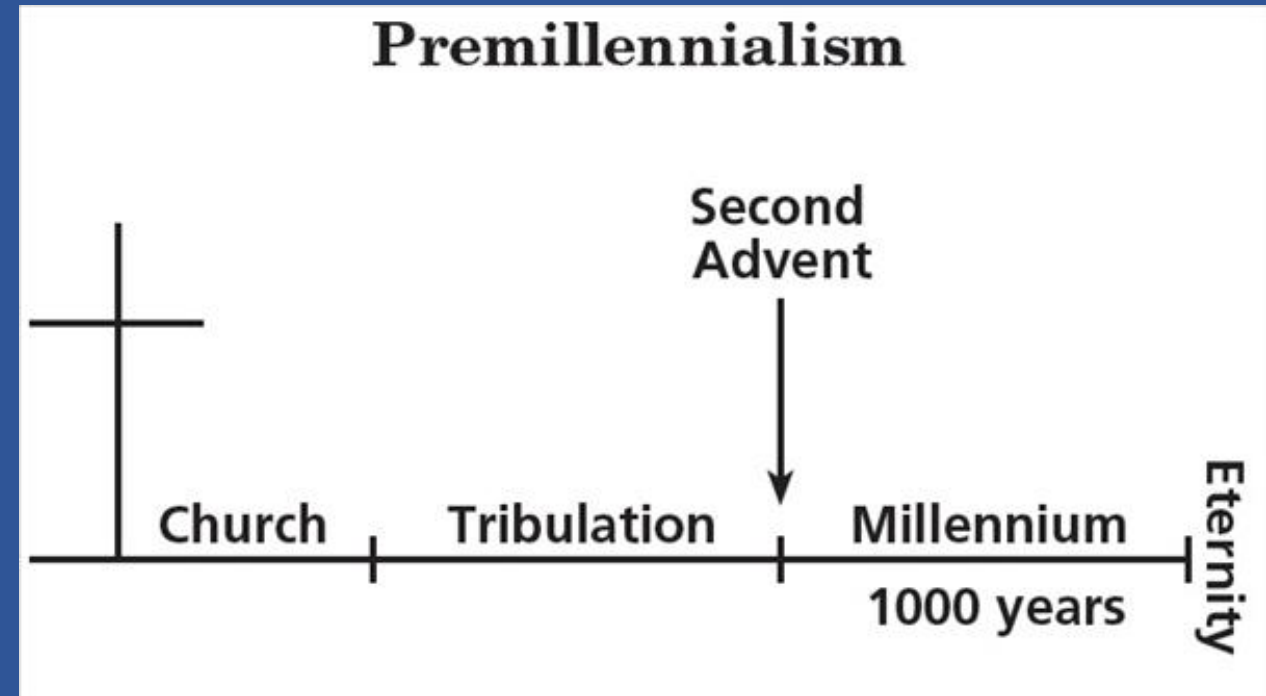
<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/306244843384859062/>

Premillennialists

- Jesus will rapture the church **before** the Tribulation period (7 years-1 Thessalonians 5:9). [✖]
- **After** the Tribulation, Jesus will bring the church back to earth to reign with Him for 1,000 years (Revelation 19:11-15). [✖]

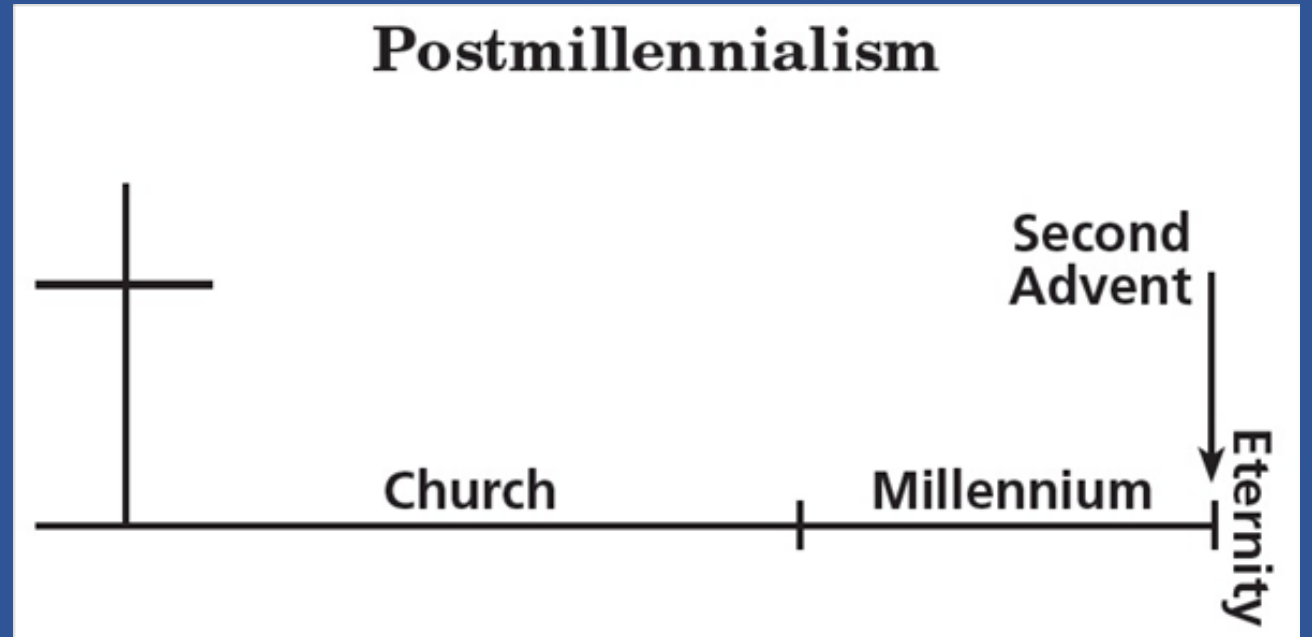


- After 1,000 years (millennialism), God will create a new heaven and a new earth (Revelation 20:1-4, 7; 21:1-2). [[*](#)]
- I will take the Premillennialist view.



Postmillennialists

- Jesus will come for the church **after** the millennial period.
- The Millennial period will constitute a time where good will eventually overrule evil (Matthew 13:36-43). [✖]
- 2nd Timothy 3:1-3 and Matthew 24:10-12 refute this theory. [✖]



<https://www.crosswalk.com/faith/bible-study/what-is-postmillennialism.html>

Amillennialism

- Amillennialism does not believe in a **literal** millennium (1,000-year period of Christ's reign on the earth).
- They interpret the millennium as a spiritual kingdom whether this kingdom is in heaven or represented by the current church age.⁴



<https://www.zeteo316.com/millennial-definitions/amillennialism/>

SUMMARY

OLD TESTAMENT 39 BOOKS**NEW TESTAMENT 27 BOOKS****LAW 5**

GENESIS
EXODUS
LEVITICUS
NUMBERS
DEUTERONOMY

WISDOM/POETRY 5

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ZECHARIAH
MALACHI

HISTORY 1

ACTS

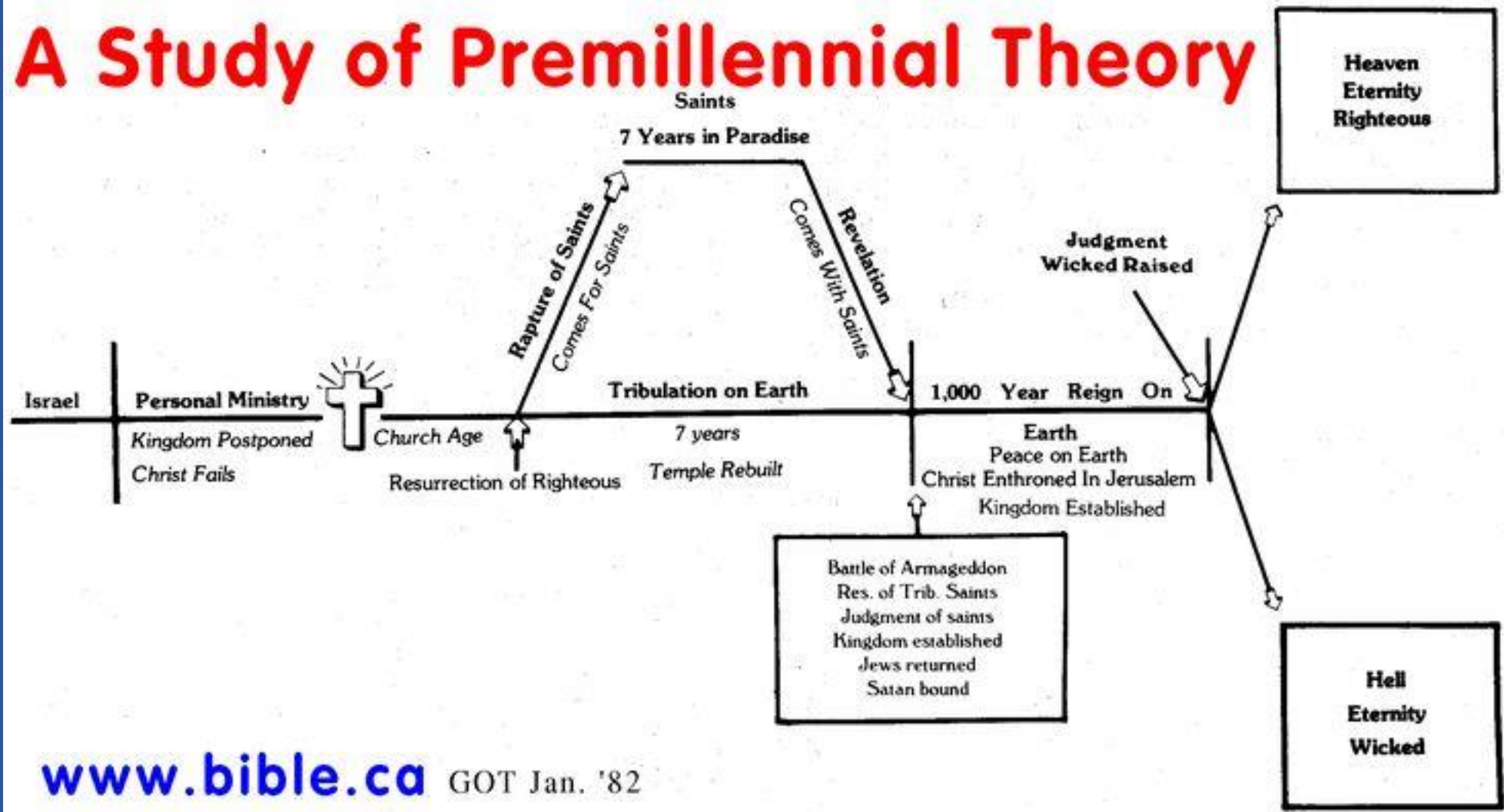
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2 JOHN
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JUDE
REVELATION

A Study of Premillennial Theory



www.bible.ca GOT Jan. '82

Summary

Israel and Judah failed to repent after many warnings by the Old Testament prophets. As a result, foreign countries captured Israel and Judah. Israel was taken in 722 BC and Judah was taken in three waves by the Babylonians (605 BC, 597 BC, and 586 BC). After 70 years of captivity, the Judean captors allowed them passage back to Jerusalem.

The Old Testament Major prophets prophesied of Israel and Judah's demise, their contemporary restoration, and their future restoration during Jesus' millennial reign. The prophecies prove amazingly accurate. Their future prophecies are yet to come.

God has given us a timeline of ages that help to clarify His dealing with humanity. Within each timeline, there are three stages: God's requirement for humanity, man's failure to meet those requirements, and God's punishment for not adhering to the requirements.

Since the Jewish nation refused to accept Jesus, the church age was born on the day of Pentecost. The church consists of anyone (Jew and Gentile) that has accepted Jesus Christ as their personal lord and savior.

[Over---]

1st Corinthians 15:51-52 states that one day Jesus will return in the sky and rapture all believers and take them to heaven. After the rapture, there will be a seven-year tribulation period in which evil will reign under the leadership of the Antichrist. After the seven-year period, Revelation 19:14 states that Jesus will come back to earth with all believers, and we will reign with Him for one-thousand years (the millennium). Revelation 21:1 states that after the one-thousand years, God will create a new heaven and a new earth and all believers will live with God forever-AMEN!

[Over---]

LISTENING TO THE PROPHETS

THEME:

- The prophet's words are as relevant today as they were 2600 years ago.
- “The Lord is compassionate and merciful, slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love.” [NLT]

[End---]

1st Corinthians 15:51-52

51 Behold, I am telling you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed, 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.

1 Thessalonians 2,5:9

2 For you yourselves know full well that the day of the Lord is coming just like a thief in the night...9 For God has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ...

[Over---]

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

17 Then we who are alive, who remain, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore, comfort one another with these words.

[Over---]

Revelation 4:1

1 After these things I looked, and behold, a door *standing* open in heaven, and the first voice which I had heard, like *the sound* of a trumpet speaking with me, said, “Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after these things.” [*]

Revelation 11:3-12

3 And I will grant *authority* to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for 1,260 days, clothed in sackcloth.” 4 These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands that stand before the Lord of the earth... 11 And after the three and a half days, the breath of life from God came into them, and they stood on their feet; and great fear fell upon those who were watching them. 12 And they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, “Come up here.” And they went up into heaven in the cloud, and their enemies watched them.

[*]

Revelation 19:11-16

11 And I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and He who sat on it *is* called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and wages war...15 From His mouth comes a sharp sword, so that with it He may strike down the nations, and He will rule them with a rod of iron; and He treads the wine press of the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty. 16 And on His robe and on His thigh He has a name written: "KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS."

[*]

Revelation 20:1-4

- 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 took 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.

[Over---]

-

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 foreheads and on their hands; and they came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. [✱]

1 Thessalonians 5:9

9 For God has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ...[*]

Revelation 19:11-15

11 And I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and He who sat on it *is* called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and wages war. 12 His eyes *are* a flame of fire, and on His head *are* many crowns; and He has a name written *on Him* which no one knows except Himself. 13 *He is* clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. 14 And the armies which are in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white *and* clean, were following Him on white horses. 15 From His mouth comes a sharp sword, so that with it He may strike down the nations, and He will rule them with a rod of iron; and He treads the wine press of the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty. [✱]

- Revelation 20:1-4,7
- 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 took 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.

Over---

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 foreheads and on their hands; and they came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years...7 When the thousand years are completed, Satan will be released from his prison...

Over---

Revelation 21:1-2

Revelation 21:1-2

1 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer *any* sea. 2 And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. [[*](#)]

Matthew 13:36-43

36 Then He left the crowds and went into the house. And His disciples came to Him and said, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.” 37 And He said, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man, 38 and the field is the world; and *as for* the good seed, these are the sons of the kingdom; and the weeds are the sons of the evil *one*; 39 and the enemy who sowed them is the devil, and the harvest is the end of the age; and the reapers are angels.

[Over---]

40 So just as the weeds are gathered up and burned with fire, so shall it be at the end of the age. 41 The Son of Man will send forth His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all stumbling blocks, and those who commit lawlessness, 42 and they will throw them into the furnace of fire; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. 43 Then THE RIGHTEOUS WILL SHINE FORTH LIKE THE SUN in the kingdom of their Father. The one who has ears, let him hear. [✱]

2nd Timothy 3:1-3

1 But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come. 2 For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, slanderers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, 3 unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good...

Matthew 24:10-12

10 And at that time many will fall away, and they will betray one another and hate one another. 11 And many false prophets will rise up and mislead many people. 12 And because lawlessness is increased, most people's love will become cold. [*]

GRAVES INTO GARDENS

I searched the world, but it couldn't fill me
Man's empty praise and treasures that fade are never enough
Then You came along and put me back together
And every desire is now satisfied here in Your love

Oh, there's nothing better than You
There's nothing better than You
Lord, there's nothing
Nothing is better than You

I'm not afraid to show You my weakness
My failures and flaws, Lord, You've seen 'em all, and You still
call me friend
'Cause the God of the mountain is the God of the valley
There's not a place Your mercy and grace won't find me again

[Over---]

Oh, there's nothing better than You
There's nothing better than You
Lord, there's nothing
Nothing is better than You

Oh, there's nothing better than You
There's nothing better than You
Lord, there's nothing
Nothing is better than You

You turn mourning to dancing
You give beauty for ashes
You turn shame into glory
You're the only one who can

You turn mourning to dancing
You give beauty for ashes
You turn shame into glory
You're the only one who can

You turn graves into gardens
turn bones into armies
You turn seas into highways
You're the only one who can
You're the only one who can

Oh, there's nothing better than You
There's nothing better than You
Lord, there's nothing
Nothing is better than You

[Over---]

Oh, there's nothing better than You
There's nothing better than You
Lord, there's nothing
Nothing is better than You

You turn graves into gardens
You turn bones into armies
You turn seas into highways
You're the only one who can

You turn graves into gardens
You turn bones into armies
You turn seas into highways
You're the only one who can
You're the only one who can
You're the only one who can



Romans 1:18-21

18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness; 19 because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. 20 For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse: 21 because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. [✱]