

“The Book of Revelation - Introduction”

**1 Thessalonians 4: 16-17
and 5: 9-10**

We are embarking on a
concentrated study of
“Eschatology” (the study of last things)

A key point to remember for
serious study of the Bible:

*Do not blindly accept anything
any teacher has to say*

Be a Berean: Acts 17: 11

Acts 20: 27 - our reliance is on the
“whole counsel of God”, in context!!

Presuppositions:

The only barrier to truth is the
presumption that you already
have it!

THE BIBLE IS THE FOUNDATION FOR OUR STUDY

God chose a book to convey must know information to those on planet earth -

Bible prophecy authenticates His message to His creation

- 1) The Old Testament contains over 330 prophecies concerning His first coming
- 2) There are over 2,100 prophecies concerning His second coming

Christ's second coming deals with Christ establishing His Kingdom

The Bible shapes one's worldview accurately and reveals where history is heading

The accuracy of Biblical transmission:

- 1) No work in antiquity compares with the accuracy of the transmission of Scripture
- 2) The Bible has proven to be 98.5% textually pure

Author	Work	Date written by or between	Earliest manuscript	Time gap in years	Manuscript copies
Homer	<i>Iliad</i>	800 BC	c. 400 BC	400	1800+
Herodotus	<i>Histories</i>	480-425 BC	AD 900	1,350	109
Plato	Tetralogies	400 BC	AD 895	1,300	210
Caesar	<i>Gallic Wars</i>	58-44 BC	AD 900	950	250+
Livy	<i>History of Rome</i>	59 BC - AD 17	early 5th century	400+	90 partial 60 full
Tacitus	<i>Annals</i>	AD 100	AD 850	750	31
Thucydides	<i>History of Peloponnesian War</i>	460-400 BC	3rd century BC	200	96
	New Testament	AD 50-100	AD 130	50	5,838
	Greek New Testament		AD 400-500	300-400	18,520+

Worldview:

- The lens one looks through to determine what is true and what is not true
- How an individual will view their world

A worldview attempts to answer four questions:

- 1) Who am I?**
- 2) How did I get here?**
- 3) Why am I here?**
- 4) Where am I going?**

I believe that Christianity answers these questions better than any other worldview!

There are many worldviews:

**Secular, Eastern, New Age,
Wiccan, Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist,
Atheist, Christian, etc.**

**The question that each person must
answer is which worldview is correct?**

***YOUR ANSWER TO THAT QUESTION
HAS ETERNAL CONSEQUENCES!***

THE RAPTURE OF THE CHURCH

1 Thessalonians 4: 16-17

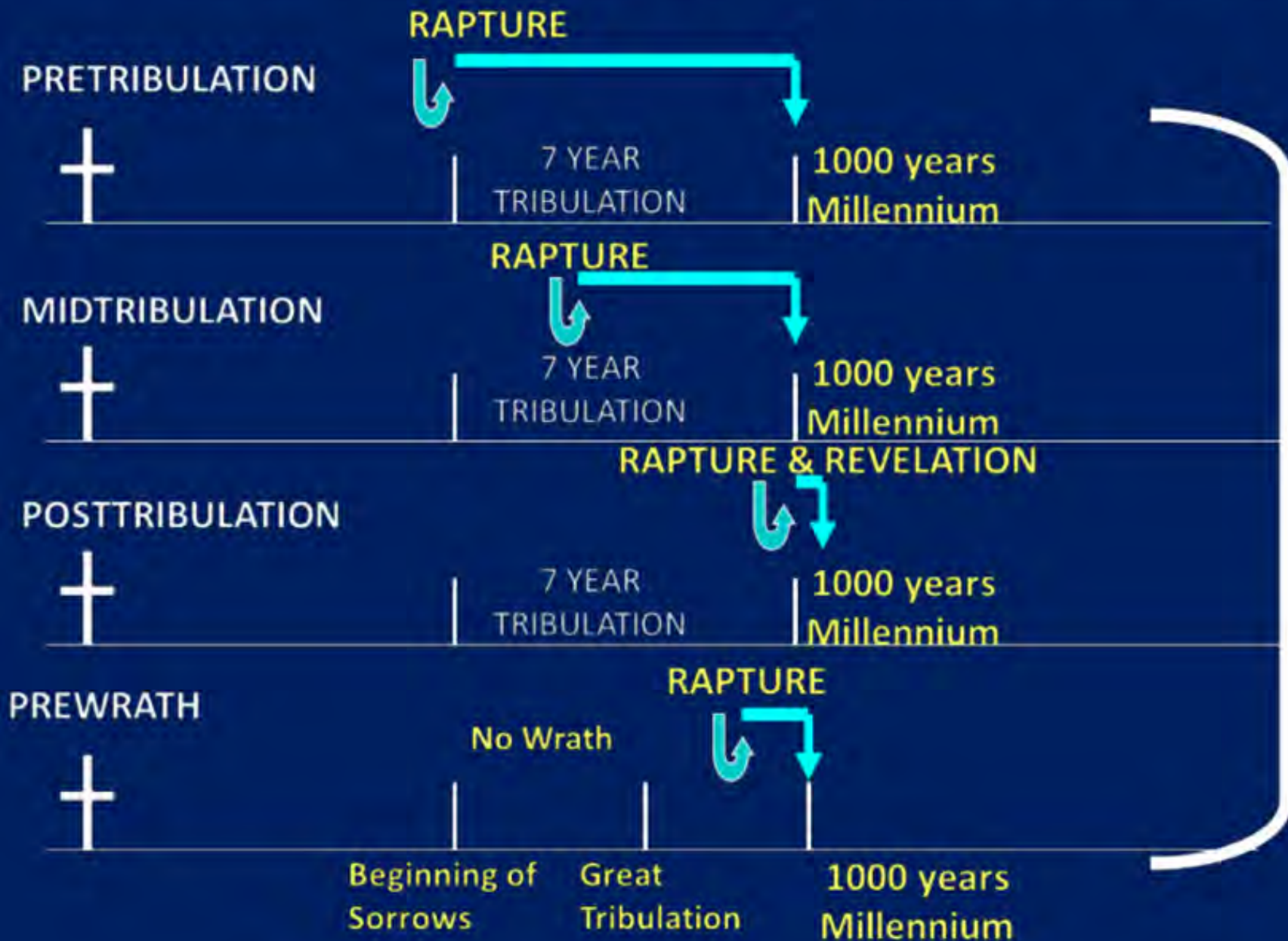
The Greek term is *“harpazo”* = to be forcibly caught up
1 Thessalonians 4:17

There are different views of the timing of the rapture

A question to ask yourself:

Are we looking for Christ to return,
or are we looking for the antichrist?

RAPTURE VIEW COMPARISON



Y-H-Z-M-H-M

“Pre-Wrath” Rapture



Is the blessed hope the Rapture or the Second Coming?

Rapture Distinct from Second Advent

Rapture

(1 Thess 4:13-17; 1 Cor 15:51-57)

Christ comes in the air (1 Thess 4:16)

For His saints (1 Thess 4:15-17)

Blessing (1 Thess 4:18)

Effects only believers (1 Thess 4:16)

Invisible (1 Thess 4:16)

Announced only by an archangel (1 Thess 4:16)

Resurrection (1 Cor 15: 51)

Rescue of the church (1 Thess 1:10)

Second Coming

(Rev 19:11-16)

Christ comes to the earth (Zech 14:4)

With His saints (Rev 19:14)

Judgment (Rev 19:15)

Effects both believers and unbelievers (Rev 19:15)

Visible to all (Rev 1:7)

Involves myriads of angels (Jude 14)

No resurrection

Rescue of Israel (Matt 23:37-39)

Scriptures that talk about the Rapture:

1) The *promise* -
John 14: 1-3

2) The *process* -
1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18

3) The *purpose* -
1 Corinthians 15: 50-55

4) The *prophetic profile* -
2Thessalonians 2: 3

The **Book of Revelation** takes prophecies scattered throughout the **Old Testament** and puts them into an order that the sequence of events can be determined.

Revelation was written by **John** (in 96 A.D.) on the island of Patmos because of his Christian stand -
Revelation 1: 9



ASIA

AEGEAN
SEA

Pergamum

Thyatira

Smyrna

Sardis

Philadelphia

Laodicea

Ephesus

PATMOS

RHODES

MEDITERRANEAN SEA

Schools of Interpretation:

- 1) Symbolic view - interprets Revelation as a picture of spiritual truth
- 2) Preterist View - sees all of Revelation fulfilled in the 1st century
- 3) Historic View - sees Revelation as a panoramic view of Church history
- 4) Futurist view - sees Revelation Chapters 6-22 as yet future - Literal Interpretation View

Millennialism:

Premillennialism - Christ will come to earth *before the Millennium* to rule the world

Postmillennialism - The Second Coming of Christ is *after the Millennium*

Amillennialism - *no Millennium*; there is no literal reign of Christ on earth

CONCLUSION:

The marching orders for the Church are clear - *True Christianity is active, not passive!*

- 1) *“As the Father has sent Me, I also send you” - John 20: 21-22*
- 2) *“Be My witnesses, even to the remotest part of the earth” - Acts 1: 8*

- 3) *“Go into the world and preach the gospel to all creation” - Mark 16: 15-16*
- 4) *“That repentance for forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in His name to all the nations” - Luke 24:7*
- 5) *“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you” - Matthew 28: 19-20*

The Book of Revelation will tell us what to expect as our world winds down, how things end.

There is a new world coming; God wants everyone to be part of His new world. *The invitation goes out to all!*

Think of this:

We are still here; we still have the honor and the privilege of serving our Lord.

These Scriptures are clear, this is what God expects from us.

Don't waste your life - engage in things that will last for eternity.

You will be absolutely ecstatic that you did!!

Next Week:

*Our Revelation Journey
Begins*

Selah!