

**“Prelude to Chapter Four -
Where is the Church?”**

1 Thessalonians 5: 1-10

July 12, 2020

Facts regarding the missing entity - *The Church*

- 1) **The Church** had its start at Pentecost and will continue until the Rapture
- 2) **The Fullness of the Gentiles** - there is a set number and a set time for the Church - **Romans 11: 25-26**
- 3) **The Church's commission** is given by Jesus to every believer - **Matthew 28:19-20**

God's plan for planet earth, *to know Him*, started with the nation of Israel

Israel (*in disobedience over hundreds of years*) rejected God and served the gods of other nations

The Result: God divorced the 10 Northern Tribes (*Jeremiah 3: 8*) in 722 BC, Assyrian Captivity

Judah, *although seeing what God did,*
played the harlot; they went into
Babylonian Captivity in 586 BC

Because of the Davidic Covenant,
(2 Samuel 7: 12-16), God was not
divorced from Judah, but was
separated from her

Daniel was given a prophecy called the 70 weeks Prophecy - Daniel 9: 24-27

- 1) *“Seventy weeks are determined for your people and your holy city”*
- 2) This would total 490 years; at year 483, Messiah would be cut off (*killed, rejected*) by the nation of Israel
- 3) At this point, time stopped for Israel, 7 years short of the 490 years

- 4) Israel was set apart for a time as God refocused His attention on a new entity, *the Church*

- 5) The gap between the years 483-490 is called *the Church Age*

Decree
Issued

Walls
Finished

Messiah
Cutoff

Covenant
Made

7 sevens

62 sevens

CHURCH AGE

Seven

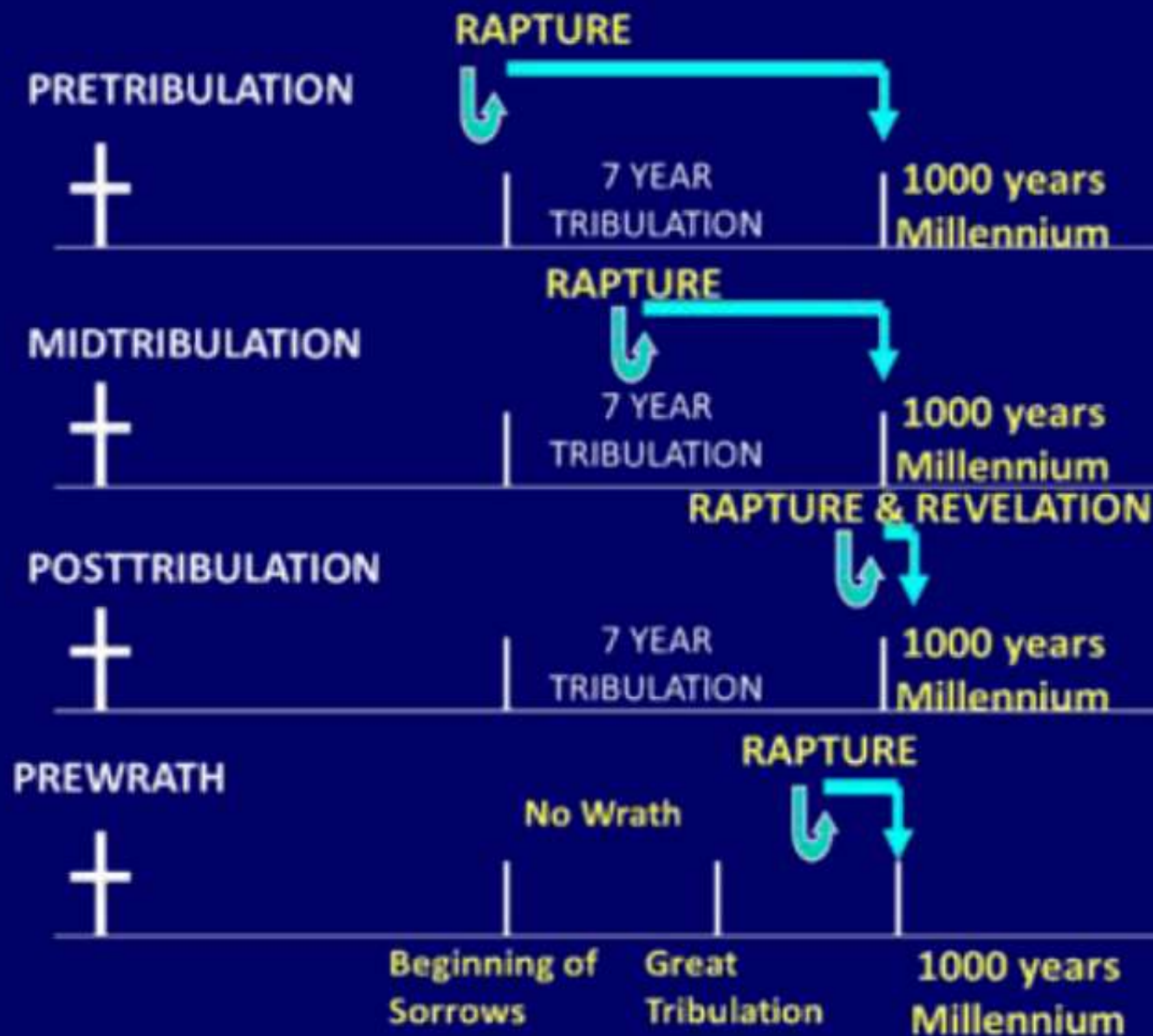
70 SEVENS



- 6) With the Church removed at the Rapture, God will refocus on the nation of Israel and complete the last week of years - *the 7-year Tribulation period*
- 7) To be consistent with Daniel's prophecy, the Church must be removed at the beginning of the "last week" - *the Church must be gone for the entire week*

8) This is an important concept that one must grasp to understand the significance of a *Pre-Tribulation Rapture*

RAPTURE VIEW COMPARISON



THIRD-TIME

9) God's focus, *in the Tribulation*,
is on **Israel returning to Him**;
His focus is not on the Church

Why the Church is not present:

The Church will not experience the wrath of God - Romans 1: 18-19

What is the Day of the Lord?

A time when Christ takes over complete control of earth - Revelation 11: 15

*It begins with the **Tribulation Period** and extends through the **Millennial Reign of Christ***

In the **“*eternal state*”**, everything is made new; all rebellion in the universe is put down forever

The Church will not experience the **Day of the Lord** (*the wrath of God*)

1 Thessalonians 5: 9-10

Revelation 3: 10

An important point to consider, God uses people to carry out His wrath -

2 Chronicles 36: 15-17;

Psalms 106: 40-41; Ezra 5: 12



1 Thessalonians 4: 16-17

The Rapture Sequence

- 1) ***“For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven”*** - He returns to earth’s atmosphere, but does not touch the ground
- 2) ***“. . .with a shout”*** - a military command as a Chief Commander to His subordinates
- 3) ***“. . .with the voice of an archangel”*** - Michael repeats the order heard from Christ

- 4) ***“ . . .with the trumpet of God”*** - soldiers will know what to do based on the sound of the trumpet

- 5) ***“ . . .and the dead in Christ will rise first”*** - out of the graves their bodies are transformed to their promised incorruptible, eternal bodies and will meet their spirit in the air that has come back with Christ

6) *“Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air”* - We, who are still alive at this time, will meet the Lord in the clouds and be glorified
NEW INCORRUPTIBLE BODY - YEAH!!

5) *“And thus we shall always be with the Lord”* - we return to heaven with Jesus for the Marriage Ceremony (*Church only, Bride only*)
Revelation 19: 7-8

The sequence of events for the Bride in Heaven:

- 1) All will be judged - Luke 21: 34-36
- 2) The believer is judged for works done after salvation - 2 Corinthians 5: 10
- 3) Believers are rewarded for quality of work, not quantity of work - 1 Corinthians 3: 10-15

The sequence of events for the Bride in Heaven:

- 4) The Marriage Ceremony -
Revelation 19: 7-8
- 5) Marriage Supper of the Lamb - on earth, with Old Testament and Tribulation believers -
Revelation 19: 9

There are three reasons for the Tribulation Period and none of them are for the Church (*taken from Arnold Fruchtenbaum, "Footsteps of the Messiah"*)

- 1) To make an end of wickedness and the wicked one - Isaiah 13: 9**
- 2) Great worldwide revival - Revelation 7: 9-10**
- 3) Break the will of the holy people - Daniel 12: 7**

Recall what the Jewish people must do:

- 1) They must confess their national sin of rejecting Messiah**
- 2) They must plead for Him to return**

The Tribulation Period is designed to break the will of the holy people

God's focus is on Israel during the 70th week of Daniel - *the final 7 years of history*

It is of utmost importance that you grasp what has been taught this week

Incredible changes are occurring in our world today, all a prelude to this incredible time called the **Day of the Lord** - a horrific, terrifying time; *I simply cannot over state this!*

What we have discussed is all *true!*

Things are unravelling in our world
at a breakneck pace!

What we have been discussing is
time sensitive!

These are scary times, but *exciting
times!*

For we who believe

Our Battle Cry is this

MARANATHA!!

***EVEN SO COME
LORD JESUS!!!***