

CHRISTOLOGY – The Doctrine of Jesus Christ

Part 8 The Second Coming Part 1

The Second Coming Foretold

At the Ascension

Acts 1:10-11

And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, who also said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This *same* Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven.”

Returning to the Mount of Olives

Zechariah 14:4

And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, Which faces Jerusalem on the east. And the Mount of Olives shall be split in two, From east to west, *Making* a very large valley; Half of the mountain shall move toward the north And half of it toward the south.

He is Coming with Clouds

Revelation 1:7

Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen.

Matthew 26:63-64

But Jesus kept silent. And the high priest answered and said to Him, “I put You under oath by the living God: Tell us if You are the Christ, the Son of God!” Jesus said to him, “*It is as you said. Nevertheless, I say to you, hereafter you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power, and coming on the clouds of heaven.*”

He is Coming with Angels

Matthew 25:31

“*When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory.*”

He is Coming Again, The Second Time

Hebrews 9:28

so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation.

- In fact, in the New Testament alone it [the 2nd Coming] is referred to over 300 times.ⁱ

Revelation 19 & 20 – The Second Coming of Christ

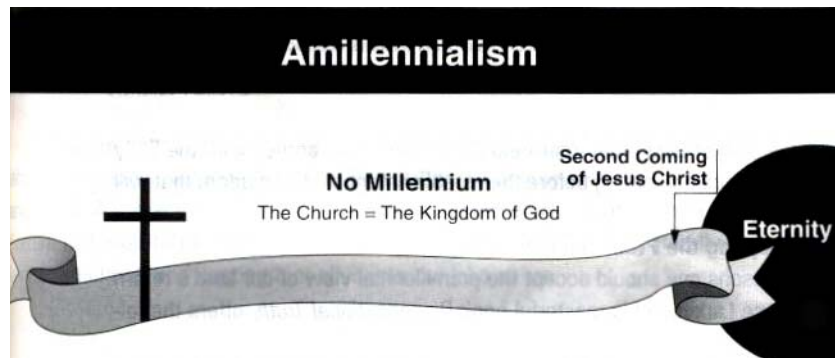
When?

Matthew 24:3

Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, “Tell us, when will these things be? And what *will be* the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?”

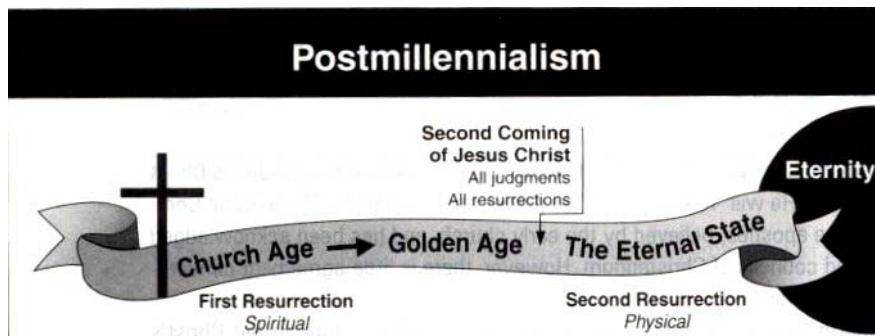
3 Different Views Concerning the Second Coming

Amillennialism = No Millennium



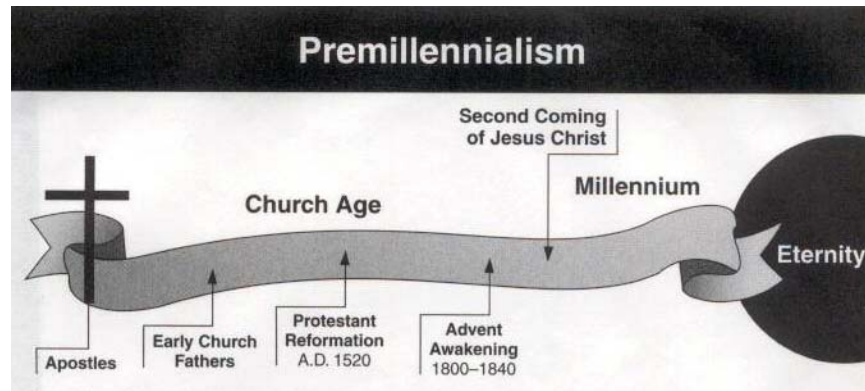
- Amillennialism, promoted by Augustine in the fourth century, has been the favored eschatological position in the Catholic Church for the past 1600 years. Amillennialists interpret the Millennium as the Church Age from Pentecost to the Second Coming; the thousand years, therefore, is symbolic of a much longer period. They also believe that Christ bound Satan during His earthly ministry, that the first resurrection is the new birth, and that Christ will physically return in glory to judge but that this Coming will begin eternity, not the Millennium. Currently, the kingdom is the spiritual presence of the risen Christ in the physical Church. Amillennialists believe that unfulfilled Old Testament prophecies are being fulfilled spiritually through the Church.

Postmillennialism = After the Millennium



- Most postmillennialists believe that the Millennium is not a literal one thousand year reign of Christ, but a period of time that begins during the Church Age and extends to the Second Coming. The Millennium, according to postmillennialists, is that latter part of the Church Age characterized by revival-the successful permeation of the Gospel throughout the earth. According to postmillennialists, kingdom analogies like the mustard seed's growth into a tree (Matt. 13:31-32) and leaven leavening an entire lump (Matt. 13:33) are said to imply that Christ returns to a world that has responded to the gospel. Therefore, to postmillennialists, the Church's call to conquer unbelief, therefore, is accompanied by the assurance that it will succeed without Jesus' physical presence, and that Christ will return when faith reigns supreme in the world. Postmillennial writing diminished after World War II, but there is a renewed interest today that is often conjoined with preterism (the belief that most prophecies were fulfilled at the time of Jerusalem's destruction in 70 A.D.).

Premillennialism = Before the Millennium



- Premillennialists believe that Christ will return at the end of the Church Age and establish a physical kingdom on earth for a literal thousand years. Most premillennialists believe that the return of Christ is preceded by the seventieth week (of years) of Daniel (Dan. 9:27) which includes a seven-year Tribulation. Premillennialists disagree as to whether the Church will be raptured before (pretribulationism), in the middle of (mid-), or after (post-) the Tribulation. Dispensational premillennialists do not hold that Old Testament promises to Israel apply to the Church, but rather that the nation of Israel will one day be restored and converted to faith in Christ during the Tribulation.

VIEWS CONCERNING LAST THINGS ⁱⁱ

Categories	Amillennialism	Postmillennialism	Historic Premillennialism	Dispensational Premillennialism
Second Coming of Christ	Single event; no distinction between rapture and second coming; Introduces eternal state.	Single event; no distinction between rapture and second coming; Christ returns after Millennium.	Rapture and second coming simultaneous; Christ returns to reign on earth.	Second coming in two phases: rapture for church; second coming to earth 7 years later.
Resurrection	General resurrection of believers and unbelievers at second coming of Christ.	General resurrection of believers and unbelievers at second coming of Christ.	Resurrection of believers at beginning of Millennium. Resurrection of unbelievers at end of Millennium.	Distinction in resurrections: 1. Church at rapture. 2. Old Testament/Tribulation saints at second coming. 3. Unbelievers at end of Millennium.
Judgments	General judgment of all people.	General judgment of all people.	Judgment at second coming. Judgment at end of Tribulation.	Distinction in judgment: 1. Believers works at rapture; 2. Jews/Gentiles at end of Tribulation. 3. Unbelievers at end of Millennium.

Categories Continued	Amillennialism	Postmillennialism	Historic Premillennialism	Dispensational Premillennialism
Tribulation	Tribulation is experienced in the present age.	Tribulation is experienced in this present age.	Posttrib view: church goes through the future Tribulation.	Pretrib view: church is raptured prior to Tribulation.
Millennium	No literal Millennium on earth after second coming. Kingdom present in church age.	Present age blends into Millennium because of progress of gospel.	Millennium is both present and future. Christ is reigning in heaven. Millennium is not necessarily 1,000 years.	At second coming Christ inaugurates literal 1,000-year Millennium on earth.
Israel and the Church	Church is the new Israel. No distinction between Israel and church	Church is the new Israel. No distinction between Israel and church	Some distinction between Israel and church. Future for Israel but church is spiritual Israel.	Complete distinction between Israel and church. Distinct program for each.
Adherents	L. Berkhof O.T. Allis G.C. Berkhouwer	Charles Hodge B.B. Warfield W.G.T. Shedd A.H. Strong	G.E. Ladd A. Reese M.J. Erickson	L.S. Chafer J.D. Pentecost C.C. Ryrie J.F. Walvoord

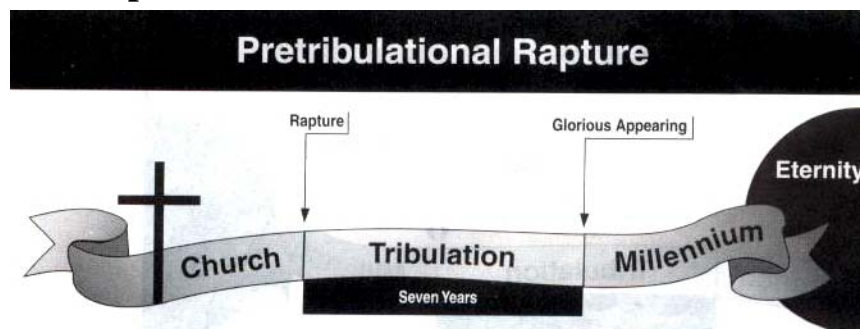
At LEAST! 3 Different Views Concerning the Rapture

- Rapture, from the Latin “Raptus”
 - Translated from the Greek “Harpazo” = to snatch away
 - Translated “caught up” in...

1 Thessalonians 4:17

Then we who are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.

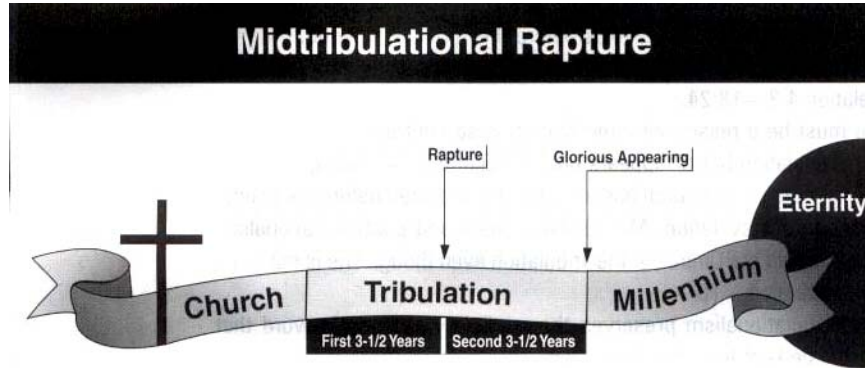
Pretribulational Rapture = Church Removed Before the Tribulation



- Pretribulationists hold to the future fulfillment of the seventieth week of Daniel in which the Antichrist makes a covenant with the nation of Israel, which is followed by the seven-year Tribulation period. Prior to this entire seven-year period, the Church will be resurrected, raptured with living saints, taken to the Father's house (John 14:1-3), and judged/rewarded for good works done in the body (2 Cor. 5:10) following their conversion to Christ. After the seven years, Christ will return in glory, destroy the Antichrist and the False Prophet, bind Satan, and cast him into the "bottomless pit" (Rev. 20:3). Christ will then set up a physical kingdom of His saints who will rule with Him

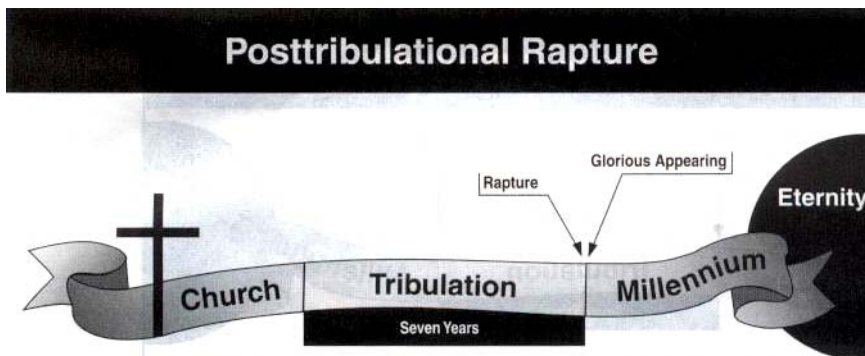
over the world. This view is characterized by a belief in the literal thousand-year Millennium, a physical distinction between Israel and the Church, a differentiation between the Rapture and the Second Coming, and the imminence of Christ's return.

Midtribulational Rapture = Church Removed in the Middle of the Tribulation



- The midtribulational view is similar to the pretribulational view, except that midtribulationalists believe that the rapture of the Church (1 Cor. 15:52; 1 Thess. 4:16-17) takes place in the middle (Matt. 24:15,21; Rev. 11:12) of the Tribulation. Proponents of this view state that the first half of the Tribulation is characterized by the persecuting, local wrath of the Antichrist on the Church while the second half begins the universal and inescapable wrath of God. The prophecy of the Two Witnesses (Rev. 11) is used by midtribulationalists as evidence for the Church's rapture prior to God's wrath.

Posttribulational Rapture = Church Removed After the Tribulation

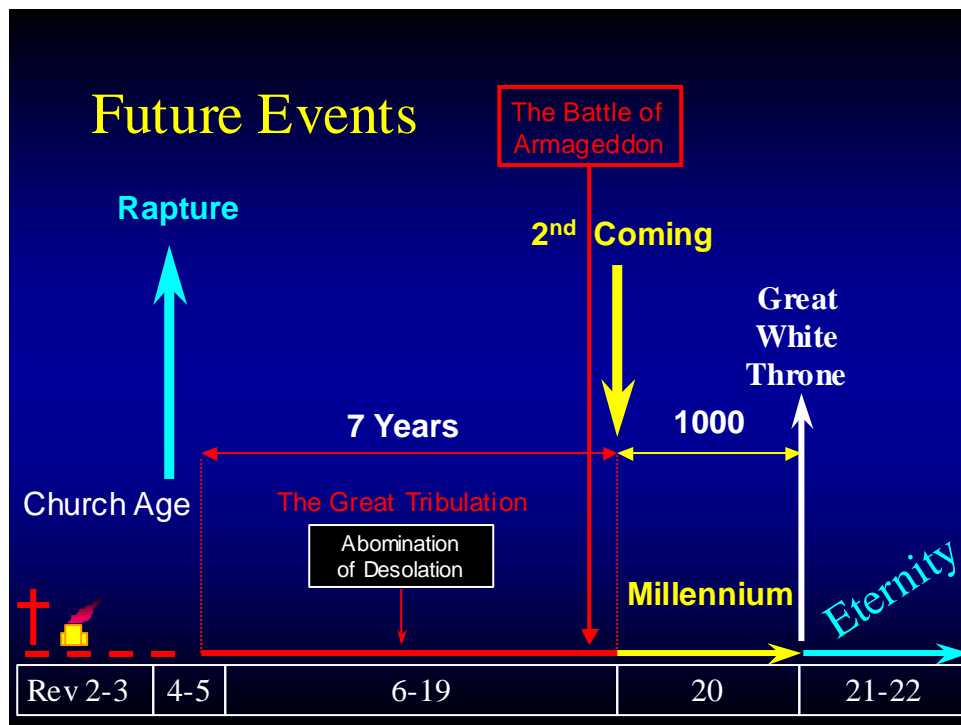


- According to the posttribulational view, the Church will endure the entire seventieth week of Daniel, including either a three-and-a-half or seven-year Tribulation. Posttribulationalists identify the Rapture with the Second Coming and restrict the imminence of Christ's return to unbelievers (1 Thess. 5:4). They also believe the Lord will rapture (snatch) His Church into the air but immediately afterward descend with it to earth. Surviving unbelievers will enter the Millennial Kingdom in natural bodies (Zech. 14:16-19), and the Lord Jesus and His Church will reign over them with a rod of iron (Rev. 2:27; 12:5; 19:15). Some posttribulationists state that Israel is converted nationally at the very end but not taken into the Church. According to posttribulationalists, the Millennium is a mix of resurrected saints (the Church), believing Jews (national Israel), and unbelievers.

Pretrib / Premillennial View

- Church Age
- Church Removed (raptured)
- 70th Week of Daniel / Great Tribulation / Anti-Christ
 - Bema Seat of Believers in Heaven
 - Marriage Supper of the Lamb in Heaven
- The Second Coming
- The Millennial Reign of Christ
- The Great White Throne Judgment of Unbelievers
- The New Heavens and Earth / Eternity

A Pretribulational Premillennial Timeline



ⁱYoungblood, R. F., Bruce, F. F., Harrison, R. K., & Thomas Nelson Publishers. (1995). *Nelson's new illustrated Bible dictionary*. Rev. ed. of: Nelson's illustrated Bible dictionary.; Includes index. Nashville: T. Nelson.

ⁱⁱEnns, P. P. (1997, c1989). *The Moody handbook of theology* (383). Chicago, Ill.: Moody Press.