

Pre-Tribulation Rapture

Pre-Tribulation acronym

- P:** Place of the Church.
- R:** Removal of the restrainer.
- E:** Exemption from divine wrath.
- T:** Twenty four elders in Heaven before it starts/
Tribulation (7 yr.) is related to the Jews & Jerusalem
- R:** Rapture of Church vs. Return of Christ differences
- I:** Imminence.
- B:** Blessed hope.

- P:** None of the key New Testament passages that deal with the Tribulation (Revelation 6-18) mention the presence of the Church.
- R:** Something or someone is holding back the full evil that is to come when the antichrist is revealed the restrainer is removed 2 Thessalonians 2:6, 7.
- E:** The Bible promises God's people are exempt from wrath Nahum 1:2; Romans 5:9; 1 Thessalonians 1:10; 5:9.
- T:** The 24 elders representative of the Church are described as redeemed from the earth and having crowns are in Heaven before the Tribulation begins in Revelation 6 with the opening of the first seal.
- R:** There are two comings revealed in scripture (Rapture and Return) each with different characteristics.
- I:** The Rapture is presented as an imminent event, could occur at any moment, and Believers are to be looking for it all the time. Only the pre-trib position allows for an imminent, any moment, without preceding signs of the coming of Jesus for us.
- B:** The Rapture is intended to be a comfort and blessing to the Lord's people. It is our Blessed Hope Titus 2:13.

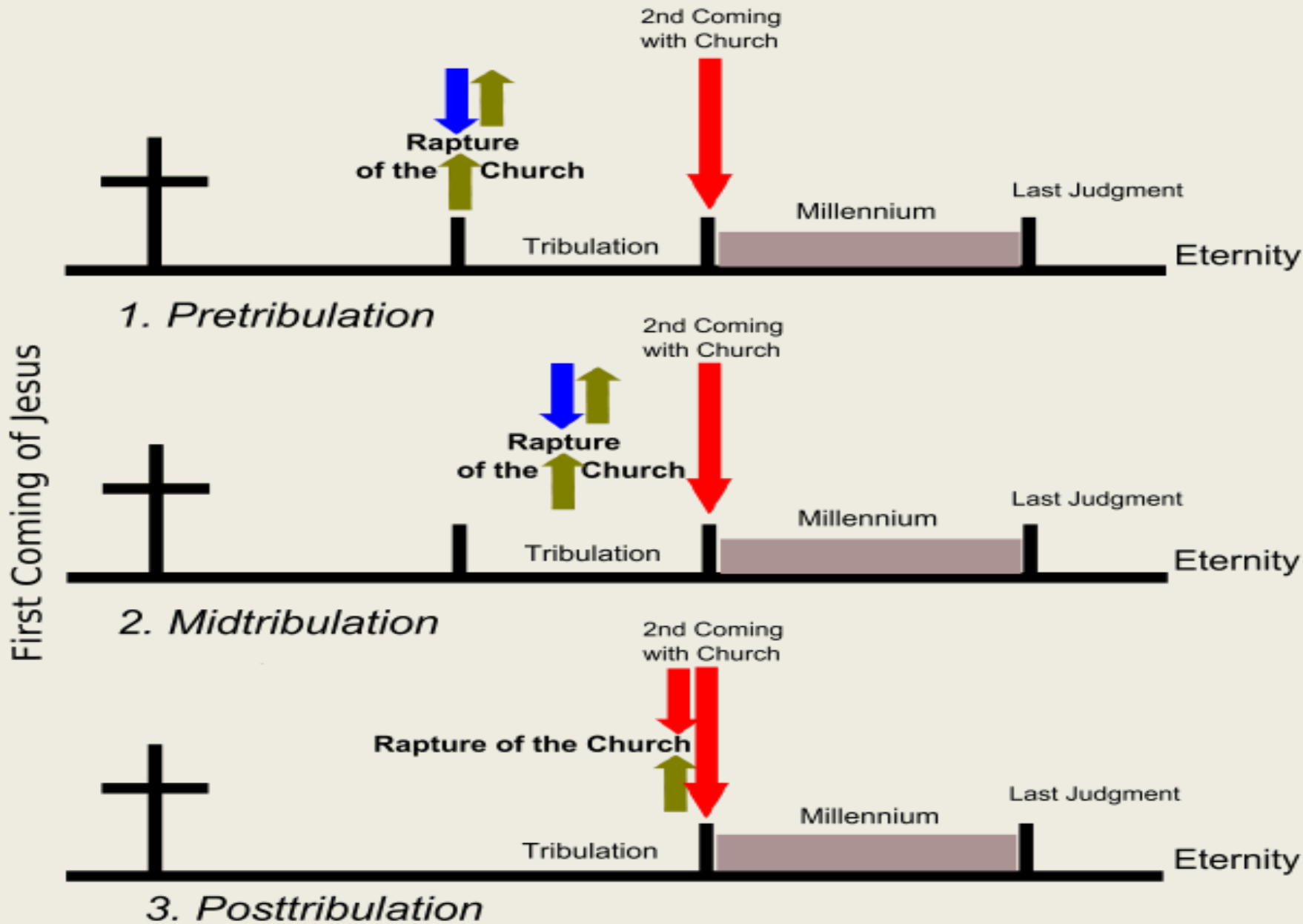
RAPTURE

1. Jesus comes for us Jn. 14:1-3.
2. Jesus will appear in the sky
1 Thess. 4:17; Believers will rise to meet Him and go to Heaven
Col. 3:4; Phil. 3:20,21.
3. Only Christians will see His appearing
Heb. 9:28, hear the shout and sound of the trumpet Rev. 4:1,2;
1 Cor. 15:52; 1 Thess. 4:16.
4. The only physical changes will be our mortal bodies 1 Cor. 15:51,52.
5. Resurrection of dead and change of the living.

SECOND COMING

1. Jesus comes with us Rev. 17:14; 19:14;
Zech. 14:5; Jude 14,15
2. Jesus will physically touch the earth, and the Church will be with Him; destination is earth Ac. 1:11
3. Every eye shall see Him Mtt. 24:30
every knee bow, every tongue confess
Mtt. 24:26, 27,29
4. The physical changes--the moon sun, stars will be darkened, Jesus will return as lightning from the east to the west and destroy Antichrist in the brightness of His rising 2 Thess. 2:8 Earthquakes & Mt. of Olives splits Zech. 14:4-8
5. Removal of wicked & satan

Comparison of Christian Tribulation Views



Pre-Tribulation Rapture of the Church

1. It is a part of the mystery once kept secret and a grace event. Not understood in OT or Gospels.
2. It is a way God has used before to remove bodies from Earth.
3. It is consistent with God's character and pattern of removing the righteous before releasing wrath.
4. We must distinguish between Jesus' two Comings or the Rapture vs. the Return.
5. The Jewish cycles of harvest fits the Pre-Trib position for the Church.
6. The Tribulation is totally a Jewish event determined upon "thy people" Dan. 9:24 and called the time of Jacob's trouble Jer. 30:7.
7. The Apostle John looking ahead is himself in Heaven in Rev. 4 as the Church is in Heaven before the breaking of the seals, angelic trumpets, and viols.

Pre-Tribulation Rapture of the Church

8. Rev. 19:11-21 which documents the 2nd Coming doesn't mention a resurrection nor does its OT counterpart Zech. 14:1-15.
9. The Rapture is on an unknown day and called an imminent event whereas the 2nd Coming (Return) is a known day.
10. If the Rapture occurs at the 2nd Coming (we go up and come back), when the wicked are resurrected and taken to hell who will be left to populate the Earth during the Millennium?
11. The other Tribulation views (Mid and Post) allow no time for the judgment seat of Christ, marriage of the Lamb or the Marriage Supper of the Lamb which Rev. 19 places before Jesus Returns to Earth.
12. There is a distinction in the trumpets found at both events: The Trump of God (1 Thess. 4:16) and the Last Trump (1 Cor. 15:52) and the seven Angelic Trumpets that trigger plagues and woes.
13. The Rapture is never referred to as the Day of the Lord or as a thief in the night; these speak of the 2nd Coming or His Return.