

# **The Blessed Hope**

**The Great Tribulation**

**Titus 2:13 & 1 John 3:3**

## Titus 2:12-13

(12) . . . we should live . . .

(13) looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,

## 1 John 3:2-3

(2) Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when **He** is revealed, we shall be like **Him**, for we shall see **Him** as **He** is.

(3) And everyone who has this hope in **Him** purifies himself, just as **He** is pure.

## **Two Major Questions To Be Answered:**

- **When will the return of Jesus be in relationship to the Millennium?**
- **When will the return of Jesus be in relationship to the Great Tribulation?**

**Jesus and the New Testament Speak of a  
Period of Time Called the Great Tribulation**

## Matthew 24:21-22

(21) For then there will be **great tribulation**, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be.

(22) And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened.

## Revelation 3:10

(10) Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon **the whole world**, to test those who dwell on the earth.

## **Additional References Where the Great Tribulation is Alluded To Explicitly or Implicitly**

- Revelation 6:9-11
- Revelation 7:9-17
- Revelation 13
- Revelation 20
- 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12

# The Length of Time of the Great Tribulation

- Several verses of Scripture refer to a specific length of time using various units of time measure, but all seem to indicate the Great Tribulation will last approximately  $3\frac{1}{2}$  years:

# The Length of Time of the Great Tribulation

- **Revelation 11:2-3**
- (2) But leave out the court which is outside the temple, and do not measure it, for it has been given to the Gentiles. And they will tread the holy city underfoot *for* **forty-two months**.
- (3) And I will give *power* to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy **one thousand two hundred and sixty days**, clothed in sackcloth."

# The Length of Time of the Great Tribulation

- **Revelation 12:6**
- (6) Then the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, that they should feed her there **one thousand two hundred and sixty days.**

# The Length of Time of the Great Tribulation

- **Revelation 13:5**
- (5) And he was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, and he was given authority to continue for **forty-two months**.

# The Length of Time of the Great Tribulation

- **Daniel 7:25**
- (25) He shall speak *pompous* words against the Most High, Shall persecute the saints of the Most High, And shall intend to change times and law. Then *the saints* shall be given into his hand For **a time and times and half a time.**

# The Rapture In Relationship to the Tribulation

- **3 views:**
- Pretribulation Rapture or **Pre-trib** View
- Post-tribulation Rapture or **Post-trib** View
- Mid-tribulation Rapture or **Mid-trib** View

# The Tribulation and the Rapture

## The Pretribulation View

The rapture spoken of in 1 Thessalonians 4 will take place prior to the tribulation. Those raptured will be taken off the earth and kept safe during this time of tribulation. (Note: for those who hold this view, the rapture and the return of Christ are separate events.)

# The Tribulation and the Rapture

## The Post-tribulation View

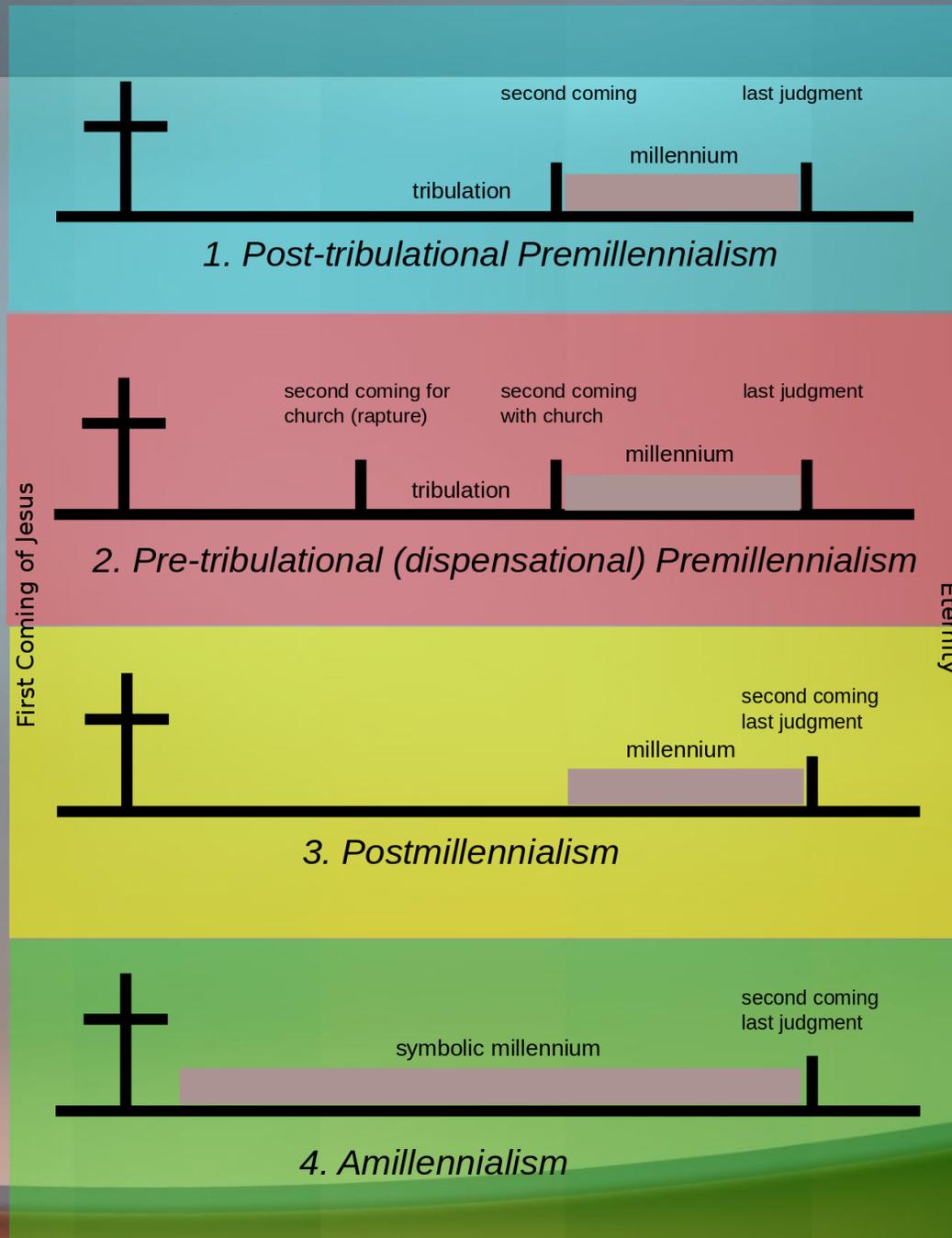
The rapture will bring the Great Tribulation to a conclusion. Christ will raise the dead saints to life. They will be caught up along with the saints who are alive at that time to **meet** Him in the air. This will take place as He returns to earth to destroy the Antichrist and set up His literal 1,000 year Kingdom on earth.

# The Tribulation and the Rapture

## The Mid-tribulation View

The rapture will take place in the middle of a seven year period of tribulation, just prior to the 3½ year period of the Great Tribulation. Those raptured will be taken off the earth and kept safe during this time of tribulation. (Note: for those who hold this view, the rapture and the return of Christ are separate events.)

# Comparison of Christian millennial teachings



# The Tribulation and the Rapture

- **Matthew 24:29-31**
- (29) **"Immediately after the tribulation of those days** the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. (30) Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

# The Great Tribulation and the Rapture

- **Matthew 24:29-31**
- (31) And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.
- **Acts 1:11 & Zechariah 14:4**