

Premillennialism – The Rapture Lesson 7

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

- "We believe that next on the program of God comes the rapture when He takes the Church out of the world." (THE RAPTURE COMES NEXT, J. McGee, page 4).

Premillennialism - The Rapture

What Is The Rapture?

- The word "rapture" comes from the Latin word "rapare" and is translated from the Greek word "harpazo" which is translated "caught up" in 1 Thessalonians 4:17.
- It means, "to snatch or catch away" (VINES EXPOSITORY DICTIONARY OF NEW TESTAMENT WORDS, Vol. 1, Pg. 174).
- The point of contention then is the Biblical concept of being "caught up" versus the premillennial concept of the "rapture".

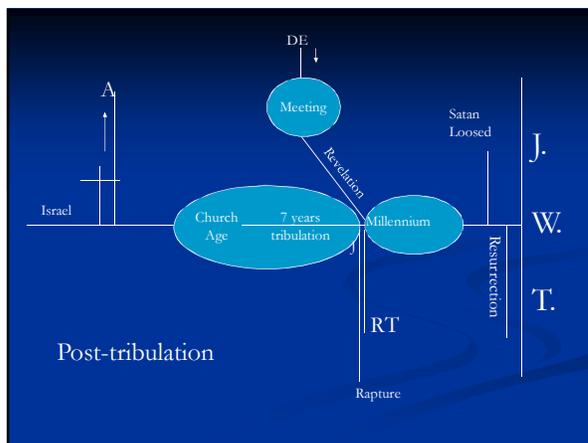
Different Views Of Premillennialists Of The Rapture

Post-tribulationism.

- "One of the leading views regarding the rapture of the church is that this event will occur in connection with Christ's return to establish His millennial kingdom ... this follows rather than precedes the time of the tribulation..." (THE MILLENNIAL KINGDOM, John Walvoord, pg. 248).

Different Views Of Premillennialists Of The Rapture

- "This theory holds that the church will continue on the earth until the second advent at the end of this present age, at which time the church will be caught up..." (THINGS TO COME, J. Pentecost, pg. 164).
- According to this theory of the rapture, the church will experience the great tribulation caused by the Antichrist.



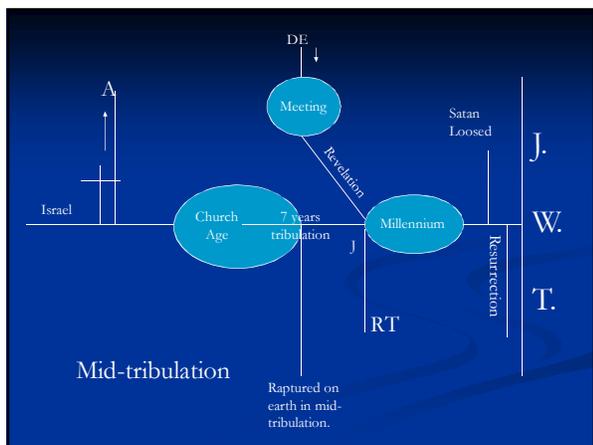
Different Views Of Premillennialists Of The Rapture

Mid-tribulationism.

1. "A compromise position between post-tribulationism and pre-tribulationism has attracted some scholars who have held that the church will be raptured before the great tribulation, but not before some of the preceding events." (THE MILLENNIAL KINGDOM, John Walvoord, pg. 250).

Different Views Of Premillennialists Of The Rapture

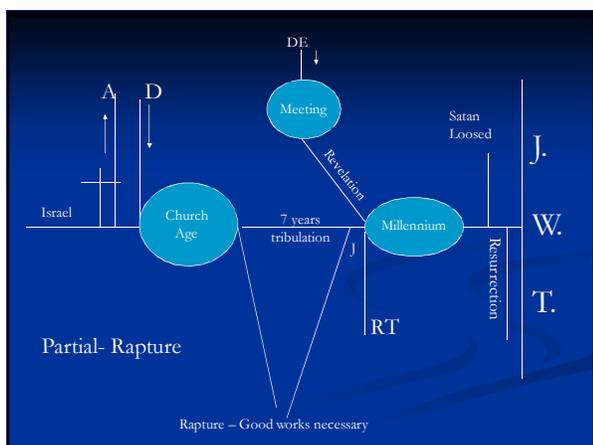
2. According to this theory of the rapture, the church will be on earth for the first half of the tribulation, but will miss the second half, or the great tribulation itself.
3. This position is not held by very many with dispensational premillennial ideas.



Different Views Of Premillennialists Of The Rapture

Partial-rapture.

1. "...only especially qualified saints will be raptured before the tribulation, and that others will be raptured during the tribulation or at its close when they qualify spiritually." (THE MILLENNIAL KINGDOM, John Walvoord, pg. 250-251).
2. According to this theory, "good works are necessary to qualify for the rapture" (Walvoord) seeming to imply that one earns the right to be raptured.
3. Of all the different rapture theories this one is the least popular.

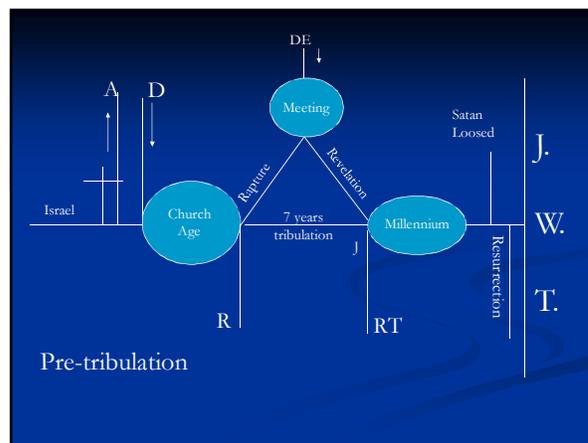


Different Views Of Premillennialists Of The Rapture

- Pre-tribulationism.
- 1. "This point of view holds that the rapture of the church occurs before the entire seven year period of Daniel's seventieth week and can be expected at any moment of any day, and therefore emphasizes the immanency of the Lord's return." (THE MILLENNIAL KINGDOM, John Walvoord, pg. 251).

Different Views Of Premillennialists Of The Rapture

- 2. According to this theory of the rapture, the church will leave the earth and be with Christ before the tribulation begins and will remain there until the tribulation ends.
- 3. Of all the different rapture theories, this is the most popular.



The Errors Of The Premillennial View Of The Rapture.

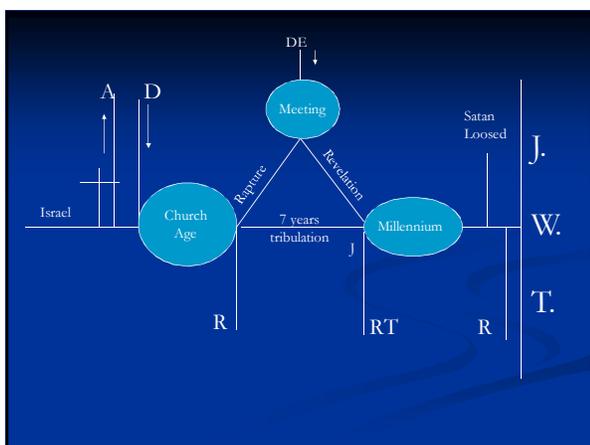
Too many comings of Christ.,

1. The Bible says Christ will come a second time (Acts 1:9-11; Heb. 9:28; 1 Cor. 15:23-24).
2. The premillennialists has Christ coming a second and third time and try to justify this by saying it is the second coming in phases.

The Errors Of The Premillennial View Of The Rapture.

Too many resurrections from the dead.

1. Because of the misunderstanding of Rev. 20:4-6 dispensationalists by necessity must teach a plurality of resurrections.
 - (1) Church raised at the rapture.
 - (2) O.T. saints and tribulations saints raised when Christ comes to set up his kingdom.
 - (3) Wicked raised after millennium.



Revelation 20:1-6

- a. This context is dealing with Christians who have been martyred.
- b. This is picturing the victory of the martyrs underneath the altar (Rev. 6:9).
- c. Those who had suffered under the great persecution are victorious in Christ.

Revelation 20:1-6

- d. The cause for which they died has made them triumphant, and this is the first resurrection, that of the cause.
- e. This is a spiritual resurrection and not a physical one; there is no justification for making this a bodily resurrection.

WHAT REVELATION 20:1-6 DOES NOT TEACH NOR MENTION

- The Second Coming of Christ.
- Reign of Christ on Earth.
- Jerusalem of Palestine.
- Thousand year reign of Christ on earth.
- A Bodily Resurrection.
- Rev. 20:1-6 does not mention us.

The Bible Teaches There Is Only One Resurrection Of The Dead

- a. John 5:28-29 ALL the dead are included in this resurrection; there are two groups, the righteous and the wicked, but only one resurrection.
- b. Acts 24:15- A (singular) resurrection which includes both righteous and wicked.

The Bible Teaches There Is Only One Resurrection Of The Dead

- c. Mt. 25:31-46 - The judgment scene showing both righteous and wicked are there at the same time, implying they were all raised at the same time.

The Errors Of The Premillennial View Of The Rapture.

The nature of the dispensational rapture is contrary to the Bible.

1. "However, in the Rapture, only Christians see Him - it's a mystery, a secret." *THE LATE GREAT PLANET EARTH*, H. Lindsey, pg. 131.
2. The passage used to teach this theory of the rapture is 1 Thess. 4:13-17, but consider the context.

The Errors Of The Premillennial View Of The Rapture.

Further this passage teaches anything but a secret, mystery rapture.

- (1) The Lord will descend with a SHOUT.
- (2) With the VOICE of the archangel.
- (3) With the TRUMPET of God.
- (4) "If any one can interpret that to mean something secret it is because language is robbed of its meaning" *MILLENNIAL STUDIES*, G. Murray, pg. 137.

Review Of What The Bible Says Will Occur At The Second Coming.

- The dead shall be raised, only one resurrection (1 Thess. 4:13-18; John 5:28-29).
- The living shall be changed. 1 Cor. 15:50-54

Review Of What The Bible Says Will Occur At The Second Coming.

- At the resurrection comes the end of all physical things including physical death (1 Cor. 15:23-26; 54-55).
- It shall be an event that all know about.
 1. All shall see him (Rev. 1:7).
 2. There will be a great noise (1 Thess. 4:16; 2 Pet. 3:10).

Review Of What The Bible Says Will Occur At The Second Coming.

- C. This is the time that the world will be judged (Acts 17:31; Mt. 25:31-46).
- D. All those faithful Christians shall depart and be with the Lord forever (1 Thess. 4:17-18).

Review Of What The Bible Says Will Occur At The Second Coming.

- The Bible likens the coming of the Lord to a bridegroom coming for his bride. Mt. 25:1-13.
1. Both the wise and foolish heard the midnight call. (vs. 6-7).
 2. Some were ready, some were not (vs. 8-10).
 3. Those ready met him with joy, those not ready received his judgment (vs. 10-12).