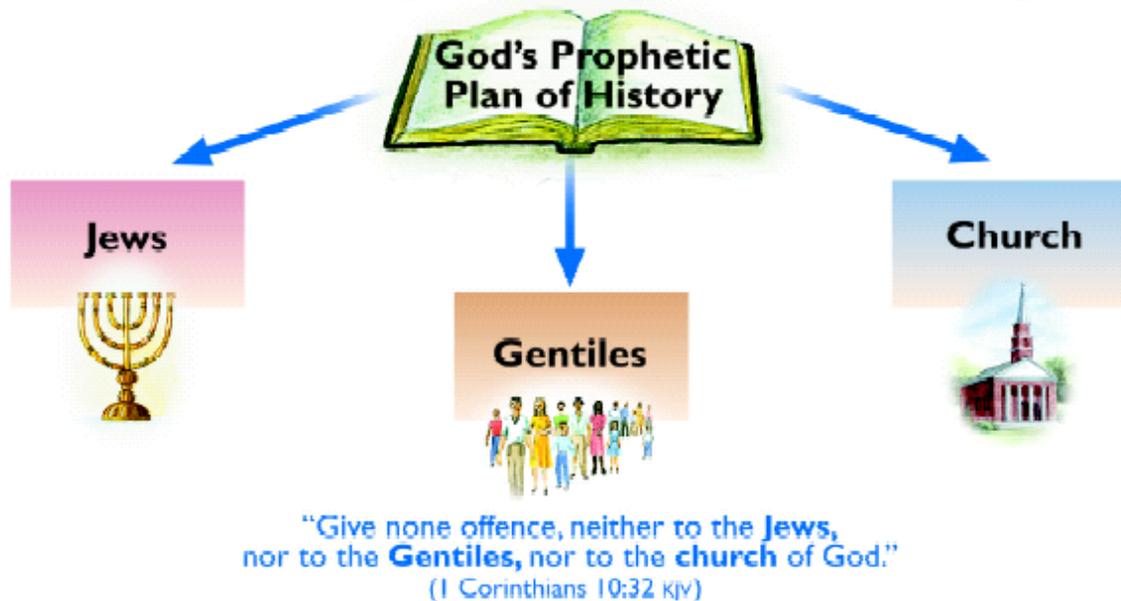


Eschatology

The Three Groups of People in Bible Prophecy



Distinguishing between the three classes of people is imperative in discerning whom God is addressing during the key events of the end times.

Gentile: One who is not by race a Jew.

Jew: One who is of the natural lineage of Abraham.

The Church: Those who have genuine faith in the saving blood of Christ.

Theological point: Up until the time of Abraham, all people were Gentiles, including Adam, Enoch and Noah. There were saved Gentiles, such as Adam, Seth, Noah, and Shem, and there were unsaved Gentiles, such as Cain, Lamech, and Nimrod. Which means that the first man was a Gentile, and Gentiles have continued to exist throughout the entire span of human history.

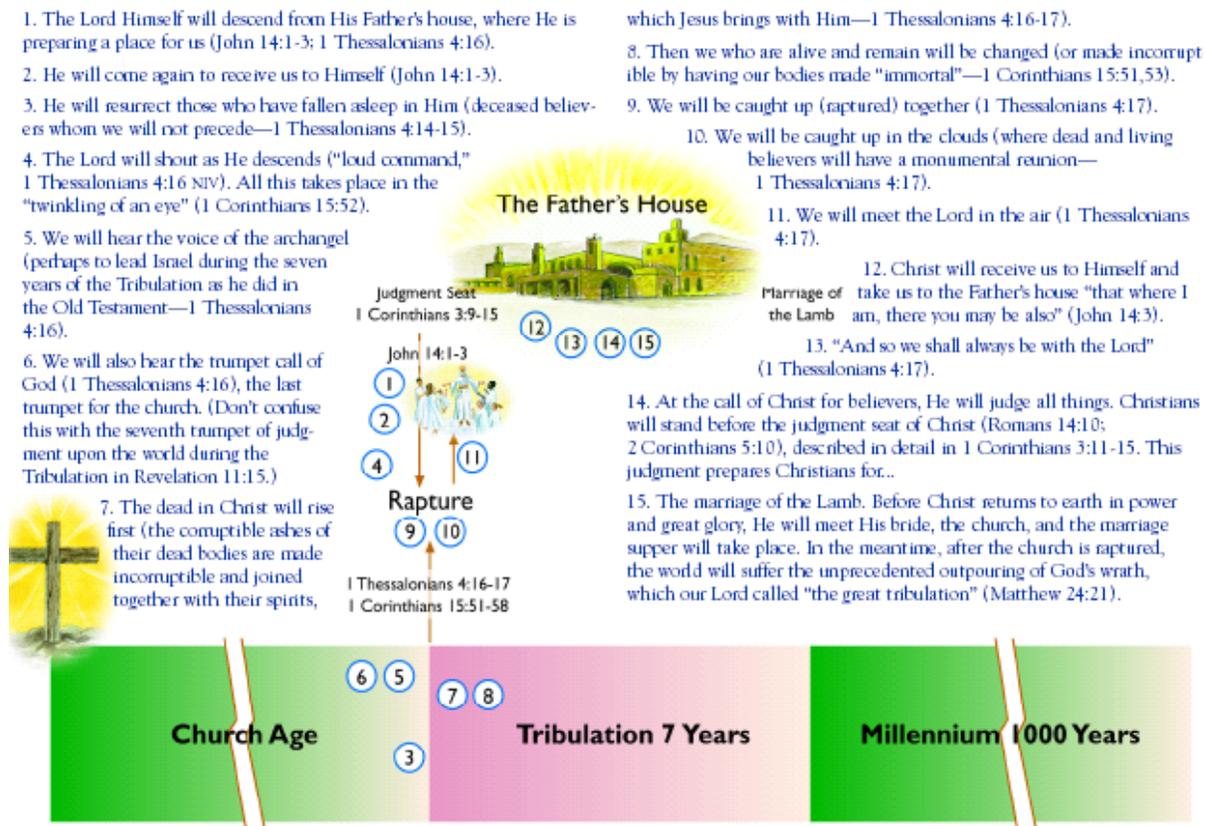
The Rapture of the Church

The Greek word for “caught up” is *harpidzo*, which means “snatched up.” The familiar word Rapture does not appear in the Greek NT, for it is a Latin word. Those who translated the Greek NT into Latin used Rapture to describe “snatched up” or “caught away” because it suggests a joyous exaltation – which is not the case when a person is snatched away by a kidnapper or someone who plans to harm him.

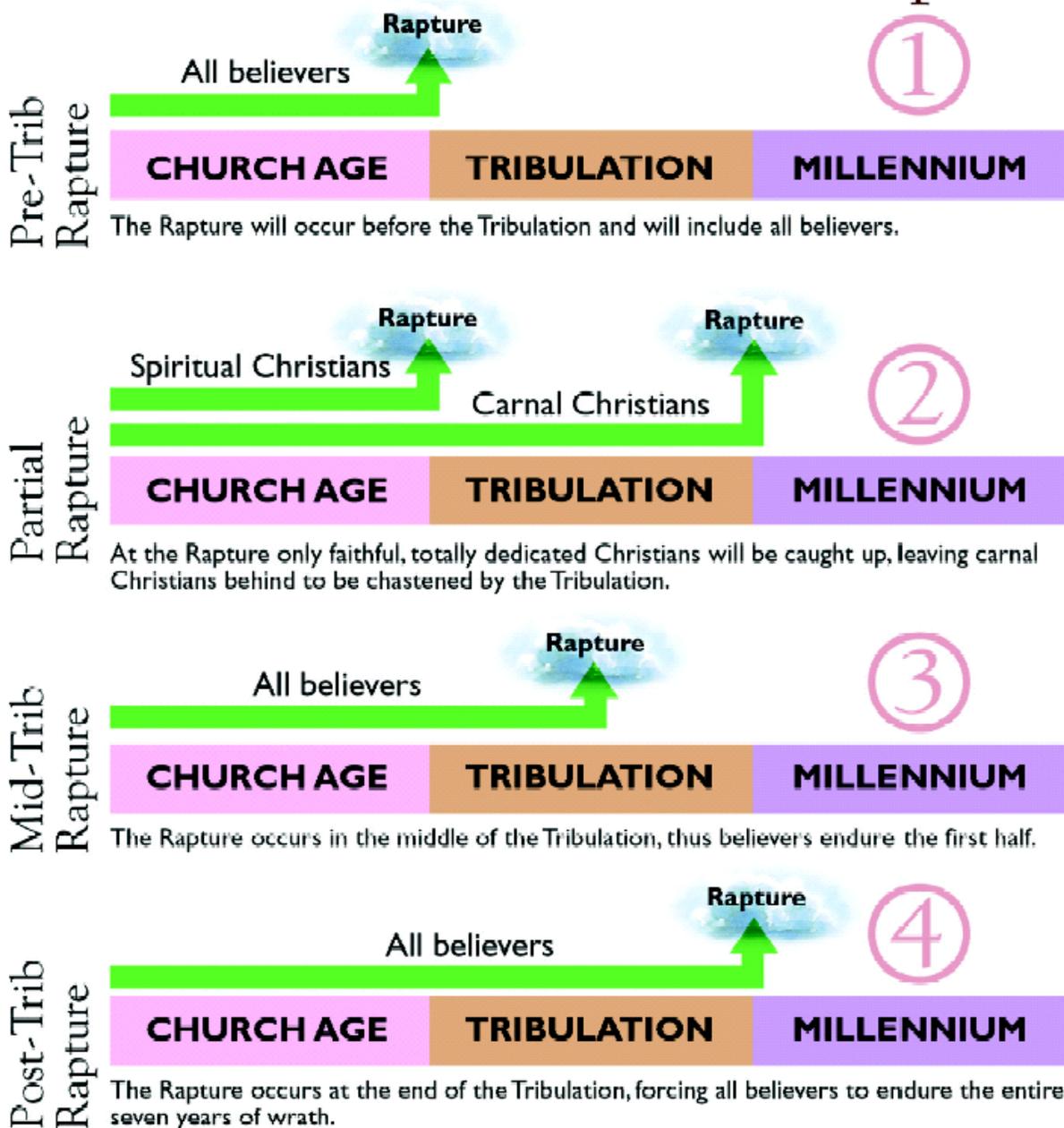
The scripture references for the rapture of the church are found in:

John 14: 1- 3 1Cor. 15:51-52 1Thess. 4:13-18

EVENTS OF THE RAPTURE



The Various Views of the Rapture



As previously discussed in the introduction, the **method** in which you interpret the prophecies **will determine** what theological view you will have in regards to the timing of the rapture.

Post-Trib View

“They Say”:

Rev 20:4-6 indicates that all believers will be resurrected at the end of the Tribulation, just before the Millennium, to live and reign with Christ for a thousand years.

The Bible says:

Rev. 20:4-6 is speaking of the believers who will have died during the Tribulation, not of those resurrected at the Rapture (1Thess. 4:1-17).

“They Say”:

Rev 3:10 can mean saved from Satan’s wrath while the Tribulation is going on. It need not mean pre-tribulation rapture.

In context, this statement about being saved “out of” the time of trial does mean saved from it (not through it). One cannot be saved from an entire hour by being in any part of it.

Mid-Trib View

“They Say”:

The seventh trumpet is in the middle of the Tribulation (Rev. 11:15-19); Paul said the church would be raptured at the last trumpet (1Thess.4:16-17).

The Bible says:

That the seventh trumpet is at the end of the Tribulation, when all earthly kingdoms crumble (Rev.11:15; Daniel 2:34-35). Also, the rapture is nowhere called the “seventh trumpet”; it is the “trumpet of God”(1Thess. 4:16-17) and “the last trumpet” (1Cor. 15:52).

“The Say”:

Jesus placed His return before the end of the Tribulation (Matt.24:29-30).

Matthew 24 does refer to the end of the Tribulation but is not the same as the Rapture, which does not have signs associated with it (1Cor.15:51-52).

Partial-Trib View

Teaches that only those believers who are “watching” and “waiting” for the Lord’s return will be found worthy to escape the terrors of the Tribulation by being rewarded with being taken away in the Rapture.

Problems with this view:

- 1Cor.15:51-52 plainly states that ALL will be changed, not some.
- 1Cor.12:13 states that the baptism of the Holy Spirit places ALL believers into the body of Christ, thus all will experience the promise of the Rapture.
- The Tribulation is never spoken of as a time of chastening for the church or part of the church. It is the time of Jacob’s trouble (Jer.30:7).
- The Rapture is not a reward for godly living; godly living will be rewarded with crowns, not rapture (1Cor.9:25; Rev.2:10; 1Pet.5:2-4; 2Tim.4:8; 1Thess.2:19-20).

Why Pre-Trib View?

- Christ promised to deliver the church (Rev.3:10; Matt.24:21-22).
- The Church is to be delivered from to come (1Thess.1:10; 2Thess.2:1-12)
- Christians are not appointed to wrath (1Thess.5:9 put in context with 1Thess.4:13-18).
- The Church is not acknowledged from Rev.4-18.
- The Rapture of the Church and the 2nd coming of Christ are different:

RAPTURE

2ND COMING

Meeting them *in the air* (1Thess.4:17)

Taking them *to the earth* (Zech.14:4; Acts 1:11)

Taking believers to heaven (John 14:3)

Bringing believers back to earth (Rev. 19:14)

Coming *for* his saints (2Thess.2:1)

Coming *with* his saints (Jude 14)

Only believers see Christ (1Thess.4:17)

All people see Christ (Rev.1:7)

No signs precede it (1Thess.5:1-3)

Many signs precede it (Matt.24:3-30)

The Tribulation begins (2Thess.1:6-9)

The Millennium begins (Rev.20:1-7)