Daniel 9:24-27

There is nothing more dangerous that you will do in your life than to OPEN, READ and STUDY the BIBLE!

The reason for this is that THERE ARE SO MANY DIFFERENT WAYS IN WHICH PEOPLE SEE AND INTERPRET WHAT IS GOING ON IN THE BIBLE.

For example, look at the number of ways that people, pervert and distort the gospel (Galatians 1:6-7).

Galatians 1:6-7

⁶I am amazed that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you by the grace of Christ, for a different gospel;

⁷ which is *really* not another; only there are some who are disturbing you and want to distort the gospel of Christ.

And one of the dangers is that the bible is written where it can be easily confused. (Isaiah 28:12-13)

Isaiah 28:12-13

¹² He who said to them, "Here is rest, give rest to the weary," and, "Here is repose," but they would not listen.

13 So the word of the LORD to them will be,
"Order on order, order on order,
Line on line, line on line,
A little here, a little there,"
That they may go and stumble backward, be broken, snared and taken captive.

This is why there are so many different denominations and so many different sects and movements all under the CHRISTIAN UMBRELLA, and they each one use the same Bible but when they open the Bible they see God saying different things.

And each one claims they are right.

But only one way of seeing or reading the bible is truth.

There is only one way of Salvation

because the need of Salvation is the same for everyone and God is immutable.

Some people open this book and see there is no hell; God is not a God of perfect righteousness; He is only LOVE.

Others do not see His love, only His RIGHTEOUS JUDGMENTS.

Then there are those who see that there really is no morality that GOD LOVES AND APPROVES OF EVERYONE.

While others see a GOD WHO HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH PEOPLE WHO ARE IMMORAL IN AREAS THAT OFFEND THEM.

So some of the many results of all this is that there are those who claim to be saved but in truth are not. There are people who claim they are living the Christian life, but in truth are not.

Then we go to all the different views on the **Holy Spirit**, on **JESUS CHRIST** and on **God the Father**.

So, again, the most dangerous thing you will do in your life is to open the Word of God.

And this is well demonstrated by studying Daniel 9:24-27

The Great Single Prophecy in The Bible

Jewish history

This is for the Jew.

²⁴ "Seventy weeks have been decreed for your people and your holy city...

To Finish Things Up

- 1 to finish the transgression.
- 2 to make an end of sin.
- 3 to make atonement for iniquity.
- 4 to bring in everlasting righteousness.
- 5 to seal up vision and prophecy.
- 6 to anoint the <u>most holy place.</u>
 "holy place"... Holy of Holies—sacred part of the temple

- ²⁵ So you are to know and discern *that* from…
- from... introduces the beginning of a time span prophesied here
 - ²⁵ ··· the issuing of a decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until···
- until… introduces the ultimate stage of fulfillment
 - weeks and sixty-two weeks; it will be built again, with plaza and moat, even in times of distress.…
 - 26 ··· Then after···
- after... from, until after -very important to time structure
 - 26 ··· the sixty-two weeks···
- 1st historical event after the 7 weeks and 62 weeks unfold—historical event #1 26 ··· the Messiah will be cut off and have nothing,···

then historical event

- #2 26 ... and the people of the prince who is to come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. ...
- Jerusalem, but which Jerusalem; which temple? The temple that the Jews built after return from Babylonian dispersion—this happened in 70 AD

²⁶ ... And its end *will come* with a flood; even to the end there will be war; desolations are determined.

There has been no place on this earth that has seen so long a period of wars and desolations —by more great empires and armies than Jerusalem—ironic—Jerusalem means city of peace —Fought over by the Assyrians, Babylonians, Media Persia, the Greeks, Macedonians, Egyptians, Selucids, Ptolomies, Romans—Crusaders, Muslims, Turks, and Britains. Prophesied this would happen right down to the end.

Verse 27--The Final Week....

And he will make a firm covenant with the many for one week, but in the middle of the week he will put a stop to sacrifice and grain offering; and on the wing of abominations will come one who makes desolate, even until a complete destruction, one that is decreed, is poured out on the one who makes desolate."

So many issues are determined on how you interpret the bible. Whether or not you are saved eternally and how you live each day of your life is determined by how you interpret the bible, how you understand what is written in the bible.

And there is one more area that is dangerous and that is in how you see history as recorded in the Bible. How you understand prophecy in the bible.

While multitude of people do not think prophecy is that important, we will see –from the Bible—how important the correct understanding of the future is in your life.

- 1 To give comfort to the believer regardless of what is going on in history.
- 2 Helps to understand what has eternal value and what has limited value.
- Gives stability in the midst of confusion, such anti-God, anti-Christ, anti-Bible and anti-Semitism.
- 4 Stabilizes in life because you know what the future holds.
- 5 To know what endures and what does not so you can determine your priorities in life.
- 6 You do not have to be in fear because of war, or because of people who claim man will self-destruct, or man will destroy his environment through global warming or some disease, etc.
- 7 Gives wisdom on how to live under any circumstance any environment and any government control system.

THERE ARE SO MANY REASONS WHY PEOPLE DO NOT WANT TO STUDY OR KNOW ABOUT PROPHECY.

- 1-> It is too controversial
- 2-> Too many different views
- 3-> There is just too much detail to understand

AND MOST POPULAR REASON FOR AVOIDING PROPHECY

It is concerned with things that are too far in the future and I won't be there anyway.

So, I am just going to concern myself with Salvation and Spirituality or living the Christian Way of Life.

Another problem is that <u>many people do spend all their time on</u> Prophecy,

just so they do not have to spend time on how they live each day;

- how they treat their husband
- how they treat their wife
- how they treat their family
- Loving One Another
- Serving One Another, etc.

This is a problem with many Biblical or Christian crusades people get caught up in, to avoid how they live their own personal lives.

But as we will see a correct understanding of Prophecy, actually encourages daily study of the Word of God, daily prayer and living in a way that touches time and eternity.

So you love the Lord, and you love His Word...do you?

Bible Scholar Walter Kaiser writes: "the number of prophecies in the bible is so large, and their distribution so evenly spread through both Testaments and all types of literary forms that the interpreter is alerted to the fact that he or she is dealing with a major component of the Bible"

J. Barton Payne calculated that 27% of the Bible deals with Prophecy. He further observes that only Ruth and The Song of Solomon in the Old Testament, and only the epistles of Philemon and 3rd John in the New Testament have no prophetic portions at all.

"The highest percentages of predictive material are found in the small books of **Zephaniah** (89%) **Obadiah** (81%) and **Nahum** (74%). In the New Testament the honors go to **Revelation** (63%), **Hebrews** (45%) and **2 Peter** (41%)" - Kai ser

So this brings us to how studying the bible is the most dangerous thing you will do in your life.

Not only in the all-important doctrines, as God, JESUS CHRIST, Holy Spirit, Salvation, Spirituality; but also in **Prophecy**.

There are two main ways or interpretations of future events. That is...

- 1 Israel and the Church.
- 2 The Church and the Kingdom.

The Kingdom is that time in history when the Messiah will rule over Israel and as King will rule over all nations on earth for 1000 literal years.

There are those who do not believe in a rule of JESUS CHRIST as King over all Israel and over all the earth. They do not believe in a millennium at all. Most of these people believe that JESUS CHRIST will come and rule over the church and then the end of time will come.

What is the relationship of the Church and the Kingdom?

There are three fundamental interpretations of Scripture on this question.

"Kingdom" here means RULE OF CHRIST ON EARTH.

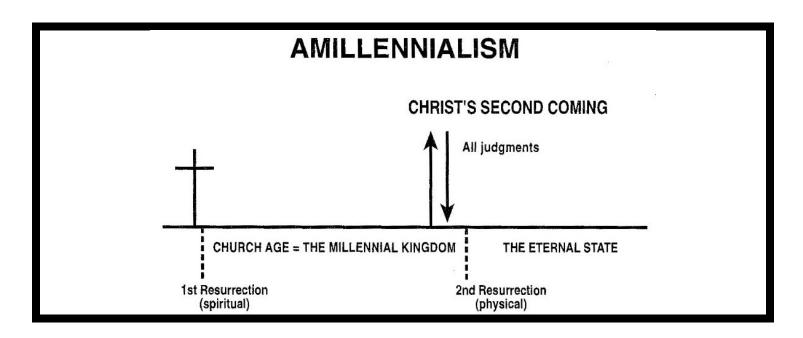
I Amillennial

II Postmillennial

III Premillennial

- Amillennial (Amil); Millennium of course, means **1000**, with the alpha negative meaning—<u>no</u> and <u>Mille</u> + <u>annus</u> are Latin and comes to mean 'thousand" and years thus... <u>millennium means 1000 years</u>.
 - A They believe there will be no literal, future 1000 years reign of Christ on earth.
 - B Most 'Amils' do believe that there is a present spiritual form of the Kingdom.
 - C They teach that from the ascension of JESUS CHRIST in the 1st century until His Second coming both good and evil will increase on earth.

- D There is no Rapture
- E When JESUS CHRIST returns, the end of the world will occur at which time there will be a resurrection and judgment of all people.
- F They spiritualize all the Kingdom prophecies.
- G This view was not present in the early church. It appears to have developed as opposition to Premillennial literalism
- H Of the three prophetic views, 'Amil' is the only prophetic view that is officially held by denominations today. It is the official position of the Lutheran Church (Missouri Synod), the Orthodox Presbyterian Church, and the Christian Reformed Church. It is the unofficial position of the Churches of Christ, most Baptist conventions and Roman Catholic Church and the Anglican Church.
- I Amil became so popular when the early Roman Catholic Church theologian **Augustine** (354-430) switched from Premillennial to Amillennial.

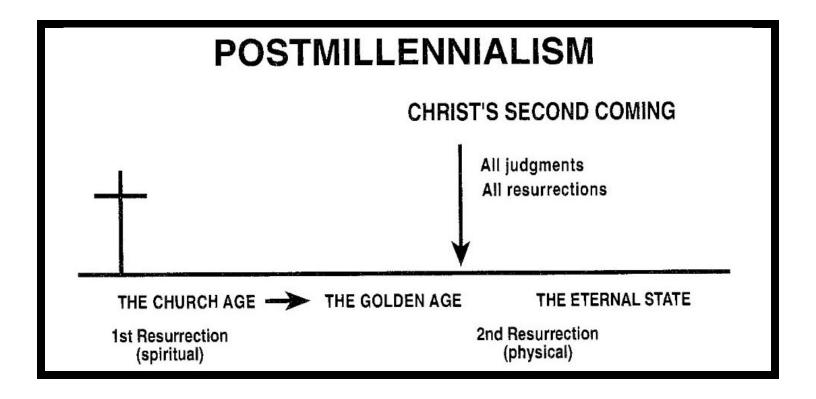




Postmillennialism (this one is a little more complicated)

- A The Church will slowly bring in the Kingdom. The Church slowly will conquer and subdue the world to form the Kingdom.
- B Postmillennialists believes that the Church is going to slowly produce the Kingdom in history.
- C JESUS CHRIST conquers and fulfills His mission through the Church completely. the Messianic Kingdom was started by JESUS CHRIST in His First Advent.
- D The Church becomes the transformed Israel. (Replacement Theology)
- E The Kingdom of God is formed by a Christianization of the world and when this is completed, JESUS CHRIST will return. The fundamental nature of this kingdom is redemptive and Spiritual.
- G Christ Kingdom will exercise a transformational cultural influence in history. This will happen as more and more people are converted to Christ. Christ personal presence on earth is not needed for the expansion of His kingdom. During this time the overwhelming majority of people and nations will be Christianized, righteousness will abound, wars will cease, and Prosperity and Safety will flourish.

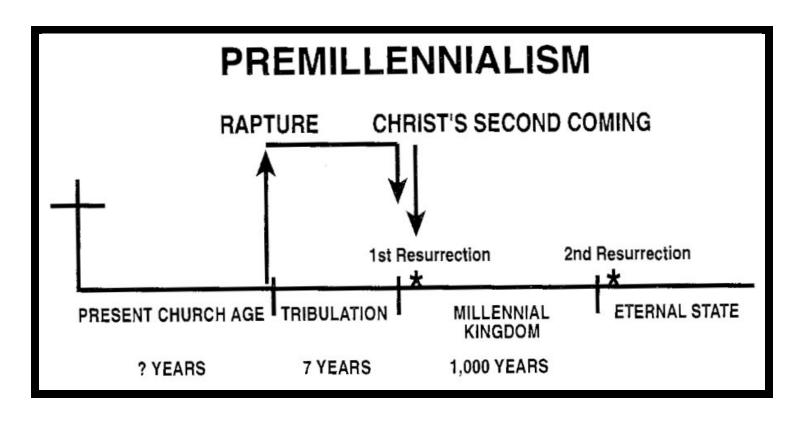
H JESUS CHRIST will return after the Millennium, that is, after the Church has brought into existence the Kingdom of God on earth. At which time a literal resurrection and a judgment will introduce the consummation of the Kingdom in eternal form.



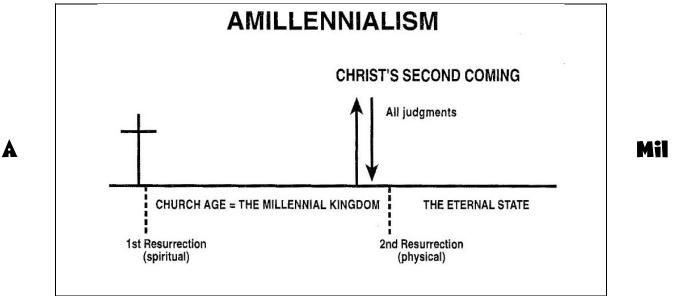


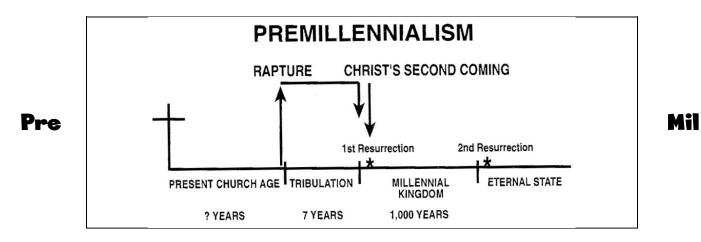
Premillennialism

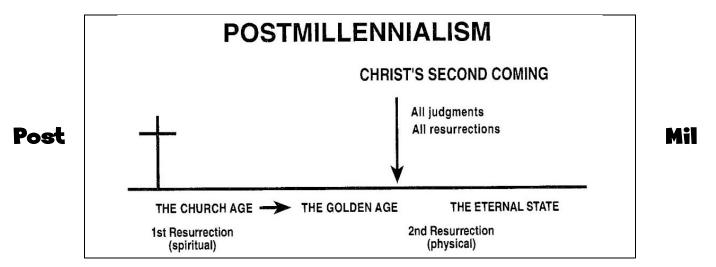
- A The Church is not the kingdom.
- B JESUS CHRIST returns physically to the earth, before He sets up His kingdom on the earth. (Revelation 20:1-7)
- C That JESUS CHRIST will physically reign on earth before He sets up His kingdom for 1000 years in a literal, physical kingdom, not a spiritualized kingdom.
- D After His reign for 1000 years the eternal state will begin.
- E Premil was the earliest of the three millennial systems.
- F The Premillenial interpretation is the only one that takes literal approach to interpretation of Scripture.



Summary: Three MILLENNIAL Viewpoints







There are several important questions that are related to the Millennium. Here is where it starts making a difference which one you believe is taught in the Bible.

Historical Question One:

What is the relationship of JESUS CHRIST return to earth, to the end of history?

- Under Amil and Postmil, Christ's return ends history.
- 2 Under Premil, Christ's return does not end history. His return ushers in the 1000 years reign of JESUS CHRIST here on earth.

Historical Question Two:

Will the kingdom of Christ ever dominate all human cultures?

The answer to this question is very important.

All through history, man has tried to have some system dominate all human cultures. It may be something like political utopia of Karl Marx's Communism, which he was certain would be the antithesis to all cultural answers and finally dominate as a utopia. But of course it did not and is not going to.

Then there is the religious-political—Islamic which by its own Koran seeks to *force* everyone to become Islamic... by death, if necessary. Then there is religious control sought by the Roman Catholic Church.

Now in reference to our question, under the Premillennial and Postmillennial, the Kingdom of God **WILL**, at some time, literally dominate this world's culture. But never under the Amillennial.

Historical Question Three:



This question deals with the issue of evil. Will there be evil as long as history endures?

Under Postmillennialism, evil will not exist at the end of human history. The Church will conquer the forces of evil to prepare the way for the return of JESUS CHRIST. His presence is not necessary to end all evil.

But under Premillennialism and Amillennialism Evil will exist on earth. Yes, Satan will be incarcerated during the 1000 years reign of JESUS CHRIST, but remember mankind will still possess an Inherited Sin Nature which is always opposed to JESUS CHRIST. And there will be demonic power in operation during the 1000 years reign of JESUS CHRIST.

Reality of Premillennialism

1 JESUS CHRIST return to the earth does not end human history. (Key passage is Revelation 20)

Premillennialism teaches that JESUS CHRIST's return is taught in Revelation 20 as inaugurating a 1000 years reign of JESUS CHRIST on earth.

Another passage that is essential in grasping the introduction to the Millennial reign of JESUS CHRIST is Matthew 24 and 25.

The judgment of Matthew 24-25 is a removal of all unbelievers (Jews and Gentiles) from the world, (Baptism of Fire) leaving only believers from the Tribulation to enter into the Millennial Kingdom.

Correctly understanding... Matthew 24-25 describes the Return of JESUS CHRIST and the immediate beginning of His Kingdom.

The Kingdom of God will someday dominate this mortal world's culture.

This starts in Genesis 1:26 giving man dominion over the earth.

In Premillennium and in the Postmillennium, the Kingdom of God, ruled by Son of Man, JESUS CHRIST, must show itself to effectively rule over mankind Politically, Socially and Spiritually, all in harmony with each other, which can only be accomplished in the rule of JESUS CHRIST.

Alvin McClain states the reality of the dominance of Christ's kingdom as follows:

"Premil say that life here and now in spite of the tragedy of sin is nevertheless something worthwhile and therefore all efforts to make it better are also worthwhile. All the true values of human life will be preserved and carried over into the coming Kingdom. Nothing worthwhile shall be lost." The most important aspect of the Kingdom of God dominating this world's culture is that man will learn that PERFECT ENVIRONMENT WILL NOT SOLVE MAN'S PROBLEMS. Perfect environment did not solve it in the garden even before man sinned and possessed a sin nature.

The true happiness of man can be realized only by the presence of JESUS CHRIST in society and in the soul of the people.

It will be demonstrated in the Kingdom of God, the all importance of the **Salt Principle**... where believers with the Holy Spirit ruling in their souls and a love of the Word of God will so influence all society for the best of mankind.

There are so many wonderful things to learn from the Kingdom of God, when JESUS CHRIST rules for 1000 years.

Remember that during the Millennial rule of JESUS CHRIST mankind will still possess an **Inherited Sin Nature**, yet JESUS CHRIST will set up a kingdom whereby the believer, **Filled with the Holy Spirit**, **influenced by Doctrine in the Soul** that society over all the earth has never been better.

All the functions of society today will continue in the Millennium. Commerce, art, sports, music, technology, science, etc., will continue in the Millennium. Christ is not going to put a stop to these things. When the Millennium starts it will begin with believers only, believers Filled with the Holy Spirit and influenced by biblical thinking. These believers will be writing the music, producing the art, and sport and science, etc., with Christ Ruling.

One of the erroneous accusations about Premil is that we have a negative, pessimist attitude about culture. Nothing can be further from the truth. In fact throughout history much of man's development has been by Christians. But in the Millennium it will start out completely being accomplished by Christians. The judicial system has never been more fair and righteous in any time in history.

Isaiah 2:2-4

- Now it will come about that In the last days the mountain of the house of the LORD Will be established as the chief of the mountains, and will be raised above the hills; and all the nations will stream to it.
- ³ And many peoples will come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; that He may teach us concerning His ways and that we may walk in His paths." For the law will go forth from Zion and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

 ⁴ And He will judge between the nations, and will render decisions for many peoples; and they will hammer their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not lift up sword against nation, and never again will they learn war.

Premillenialists realize that there will be sin in the Kingdom of God here on earth.

Another passage that describes the Millennial reign of JESUS CHRIST:

Isaiah 65:20-25

- "No longer will there be in it an infant who lives but a few days, or an old man who does not live out his days;
 For the youth will die at the age of one hundred and the one who does not reach the age of one hundred will be thought accursed.
- ²¹ "They will build houses and inhabit *them*; They will also plant vineyards and eat their fruit.
- They will not build and another inhabit, They will not plant and another eat; For as the lifetime of a tree, so will be the days of My people, and My chosen ones will wear out the work of their hands.
- ²³ "They will not labor in vain, or bear *children* for calamity;

For they are the offspring of those blessed by the LORD, and their descendants with them.

²⁴ It will also come to pass that before they call, I will answer; and while they are still speaking, I will hear.

The wolf and the lamb will graze together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox; and dust will be the serpent's food. They will do no evil or harm in all My holy mountain," says the LORD.

Daniel's 70th week is concerned with the nation of Israel at the end of The Time of the Gentiles.

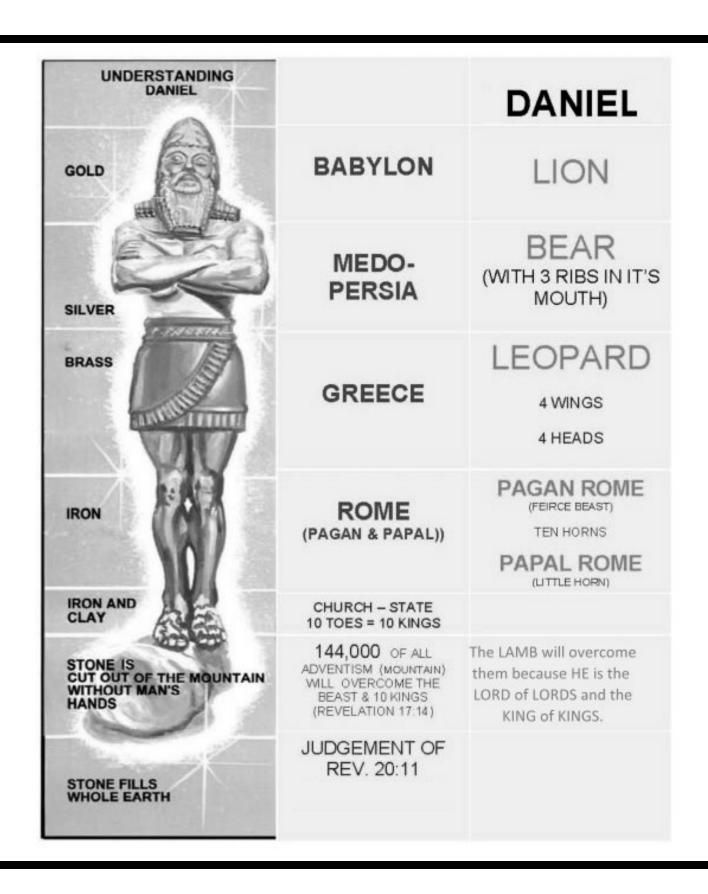
And of course there is confusion and different interpretations about this last prophesied 7 years period.

What is so amazing as we look at the different views of the End of the Church Age and what is called...

'The Tribulation'

- 1 Thessalonians 4:18
- ¹⁸ Therefore comfort one another with these words.

And what has the church done with these comforting words? The Church has made them a source of division and confrontation!! So much of all interpretation of prophecy in the bible depends on how you interpret Daniel 2. THE CORRECT UNDERSTANDING OF ALL OF CHAPTER 2 serves as a guide and foundation to correctly interpreting Daniel's 70th week.



The next important point you must always bear in mind in studying Prophecy, especially Daniel 9:24-27, is that to understand history from God's perspective is to remember that God interpretation of man's history is from the standpoint of the Jews; of the nation Israel. This will serve to guide in interpretation.

This is one reason for Anti-Semitism throughout history.

This is one of the lessons in the study of Jacob, Joseph and his brothers.

Jacob had so favored Joseph with coat of many colors that Joseph's brothers became jealous of him and sought to kill him or at least get rid of him.

The world has become jealous of the Jews and now of the nation of Israel and hates them and seeks to get rid of them.

But the fact remains that to understand history from God's perspective, you must understand that God determines history around the Jews and the nation of Israel. Israel is God's time piece for history and you must understand this to understand the time of the Gentiles, and the end of time.

Daniel's 70th week deals with Israel, **not the church.**Gabriel says, 'your people"—Jews and your holy city --Jerusalem.

So we must take a look at the major views of this period of 7 years called The Tribulation.

But in fact they are the last 7 years promised to Israel.

And the great issue in approaching these last 7 years of Daniel's 70th week is to determine <u>what</u> happens to the Church and <u>when</u> it happens Remember Daniel's 70th week is concerned with Israel, **not the Church**. The Church is not involved.

†††† PreTrib – pretribulationism ††††

Biblical Basis

1 Thessalonians 4:17

 17 Then we who are alive and remain...

This refers to believers in the Church Age who are alive when the Rapture of the Church occurs. Alive on planet earth

1 Thessalonians 4:17 continued

17 ···will be caught up together with them ···

believers who have died

1 Thessalonians 4:17 continued

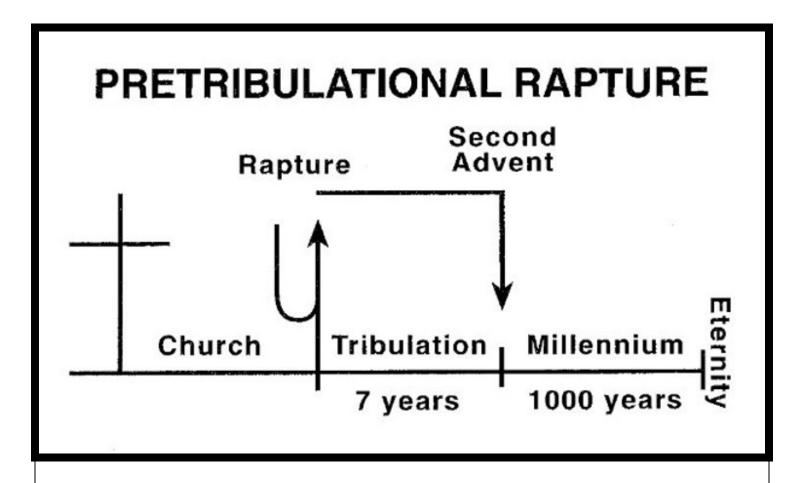
¹⁷ ... in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord..

The key word here is the Future Passive of the Greek 'harpazo' which means to seize upon or snatch away, to seize upon with force.

The future tense refers to the time of the Rapture, and the Passive Voice means that we <u>receive</u>, being seized upon or caught up by the power of **God The Holy Spirit.**

The word 'Rapture' comes from the Latin translation of the Greek. Every believer in the Church Age is seized upon or snatched away from earth by the power of the Holy Spirit.

The difference of opinion comes from **when this Rapture** of the Church Age believers takes place in reference to **The Tribulation**. Like many doctrines, such as the Trinity, determining when this occurs depends on an Accurate Interpretation of Scripture and the Harmonizing of Many Different Passages in the bible.



Thomas Ice had developed four fundamental doctrines to provide the biblical basis for pretribulationism.

- 1. Consistent literal interpretation
- 2. Premillennialism
- 3. Futurism
- 4. A distinction between Israel and the Church.

1 Consistent literal interpretation

We are back to how dangerous it is to open the Bible.

At some point as you study the Bible you will have to decide if you believe this is the Divinely inspired, infallible, inerrant, Word of God. then you have to decide how you are going to study it. 1) Spiritualize things throughout; 2) allegorize passages or 3) a consistent literal interpretation.

People that really come up with some weird teaching mix these three as they study the bible. So it is important to have a consistent literal interpretation.

What does literal interpretation mean?

The dictionary says literal interpretation involves an approach based on the actual words in their ordinary meaning. <u>This can only be accomplished</u> <u>through the grammatical, historical, contextual methods of interpretation.</u>

2 Premillennialism:

The corresponding premillennialism supports pretribulationism. These two harmonize that the second advent will occur before Christ's 1000 year reign upon earth from Jerusalem.

1 Futurism:

A literal interpretation of the words of the bible makes it clear that the Tribulation is a future event.

2 Distinction between Israel and the Church:

To claim that the church replaces Israel cannot be supported by literal interpretation. Understanding that from God's perspective all history is about the Jews and Israel. The purpose of the rapture is to end the Church Age, so that God may complete His program for Israel and the return of JESUS CHRIST fulfills God's plan for the Savior-Messiah- King.

Thomas Ice list six specific biblical arguments for PreTribulationism.

(we will not elaborate much more than just listing them.)

- 1 The Imminent Coming of Christ: Nothing needs to take place for Jesus Christ to return to earth
- 2 The Purpose of the Tribulation: First to fulfill the 390 years God promised Israel in Dan. Nowhere in the Bible does it even hint that the Church will go through the Tribulation with Israel. In fact throughout OT the Church is unknown.
- 3 The Nature of the Church: The Church is referred to as a mystery. The Church is never mentioned after the rapture and never associated with the Second Advent. The Church is promised deliverance from the time of God's wrath during the Tribulation. (Rev. 3:10; 1 Thess. 1:9-10 and 5:9)
- 4 The Work of the Holy Spirit: A careful study of 2 Thessalonians 2 clearly reveals that the 'restrainer of evil' is the Holly Spirit and the Lawless One –the beast of the Tribulation cannot be revealed until the restrainer is taken away, it follows that the Tribulation cannot occur until the Church is removed.
- 5 Contrast between the two comings of JESUS CHRIST: The First Coming is to provide eternal salvation and after His resurrection He departs.

However, in Christ's Second Advent, He comes with His Saints—the Church—Revelation 19 occurs when He descend from heaven and arrives on earth to stay and set up His Messianic Kingdom during the Millenium **6 An Interval Needed Between Comings:** The Pretribulation Understanding of the bible harmonizes a number of events.

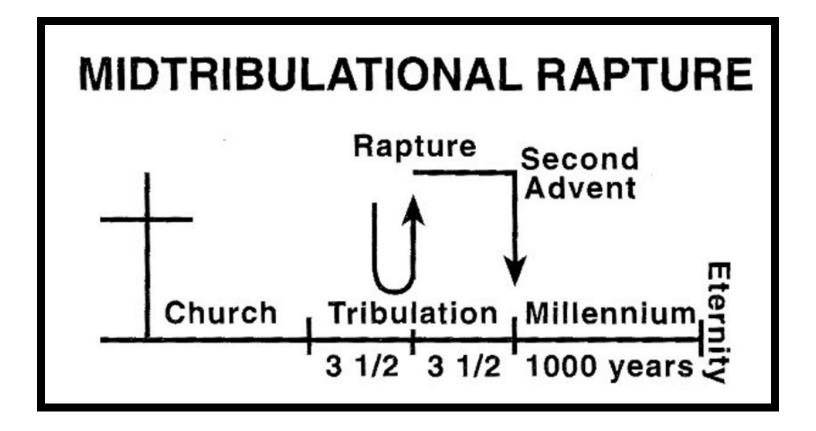
So what does all of this have to do with our daily lives?

Dr. Renald Showers clearly states how the Pretribulational View has practical implications in our lives.

"The fact that the glorified, Holy Son of God could step through the door of heaven at any moment is intended by God to be the most pressing, incessant motivation for holy living (in Holy Spirit) and aggressive ministry (including missions, evangelism and Bible Teaching) and the greatest cure for lethargy and apathy. It (PreTribulationism) should make a major difference in every Christian's values, actions, priorities and goals."

†††† Midtribulational Rapture. ††††

This view teaches that all believers will be taken in the Rapture at some point around the middle (after the first three and half years of The Tribulation.)

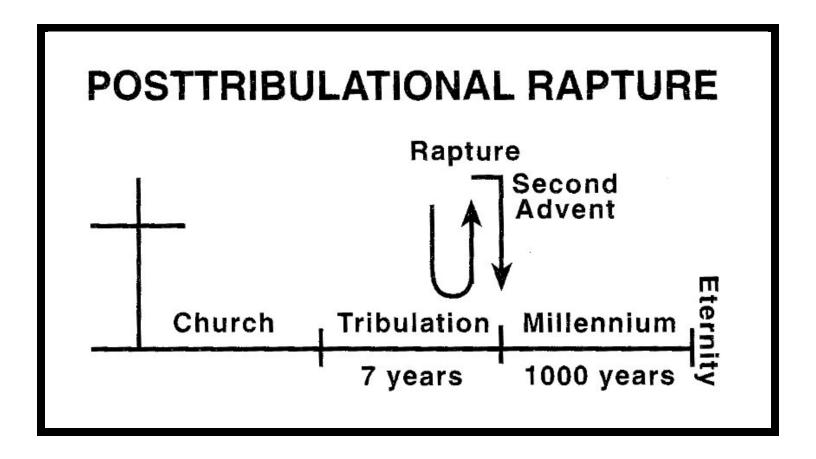


1 Thessalonians 4:18

 17 Then we who are alive and remain...

†††† Posttribulational Rapture ††††

Post-Trib teaches that all Christians will be taken in the rapture at the end of the seven years Tribulation. Some who hold this view do not distinguish between the Rapture and Second Coming of JESUS CHRIST, believing that the Rapture occurs moments before the Second Coming so that those Raptured may return with Christ.



Summary: Three RAPTURE Viewpoints

