Thursology 81: If the Rapture and the 2nd Coming are the SAME event…the Pre-Trib View is WRONG!!! (Rapture #4)

(*Thursology Live!* 5/12/2022)

--**Review**:

--Clarification #2: Regardless of WHEN the *Rapture* happens…the *Rapture* and the "*Second Coming*" are *not* the same EVENT

--Christ's return: *One* Event…or *Two*???

--Key Concept: For the Pre-Trib view to even be _____…its proponents must show that the Rapture and the 2nd Coming passages point to different _____…with different _____…and different _____

--A logical corollary: Unless the *Rapture* and the *2nd Coming* are _____ events…then the _____-Trib view of Rapture timing is the *only* possible _____ view

--The Old Testament mystery of two comings of Christ

--A potential historical parallel: If the Rapture and the 2nd Coming are _____ events…it *wouldn't* be the _____ time that God's people failed to anticipate…_____ comings of Christ

--Dan 9:25-26: So you are to know and discern that from the issuing of a decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince there will be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks…Then after the sixty-two weeks *the Messiah will be cut off* and have nothing…

--Summary: Messiah would be _____ off

--7:21-22, 27: I kept looking, and that horn was waging *war* with the saints and overpowering them until the Ancient of Days came and judgment was passed in favor of the saints of the Highest One, and the time arrived when the saints took possession of the kingdom…Then the sovereignty, *the dominion and the greatness of all the kingdoms under the whole heaven will be given to the people of the saints of the Highest One; His kingdom will be an everlasting kingdom*, and all the dominions will serve and obey Him.

--Summary: Messiah would come as a _____…_____ His people…and set up an everlasting _____ for them

--53:3-5, 8-9: Surely our griefs He Himself bore, and our sorrows He carried…But He was *pierced through for our transgressions*, He was crushed for our iniquities; the chastening for our well-being fell upon Him…By oppression and judgment He was taken away; and as for His generation, who considered that *He was cut off out of the land of the living*…? His *grave* was assigned with wicked men, yet He was with a rich man *in His death*…

--Summary: Messiah would _____ for our _____

--Isa 9:6-7: For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; and *the government will rest on His shoulders*; and His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace, *on the throne of David and over his kingdom*, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness from then on and *forevermore*.

--Summary: Messiah would set up His _____ and reign from David's throne _____

--The obvious resolution of these disparate prophecies being fulfilled: One _____…with two _____*!!!*

--What they missed: What they thought was _____ future coming…was actually _____ separate events

--The Pre-Tribulational Rapture View:

--Definition: Christ will resurrect the dead believers…change the bodies of the living believers, and _____ the Church up into the _____ to meet Him…_____ the 7-year Tribulation begins

--Strengths:

--Strength #1: It _____ the dramatic _____ between the _____ described in the Rapture passages and the 2nd Coming passages

--Second Coming Passages:

--Luke 21:10-12, 16-27: Then He continued by saying to them, "*Nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom*, and there will be *great earthquakes*, and in various places *plagues and famines*; and there will *be terrors and great signs from heaven*. "But before all these things, they will *lay their hands on you and will persecute you, delivering you* to the synagogues and prisons, bringing you before kings and governors for My name's sake…But *you will be betrayed* even by parents and brothers and relatives and friends, and *they will put some of you to death*, and *you will be hated* by all because of My name. Yet not a hair of your head will perish. By your endurance you will gain your lives. But when you see *Jerusalem surrounded by armies*, then recognize that her desolation is near. Then those who are in Judea must flee to the mountains, and those who are in the midst of the city must leave, and those who are in the country must not enter the city; because *these are days of vengeance*…for there will be great distress upon the land and wrath to this people; and they will fall by the edge of the sword, and will be led captive into all the nations; and *Jerusalem will be trampled* under foot by the Gentiles *until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled*. There will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth *dismay among nations*, in perplexity at the roaring of the sea and the waves, men *fainting from fear* and the expectation of the things which are coming upon the world; for *the powers of the heavens will be shaken*. Then they will see *the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory*.

--Mark 13:3-27 (Vv. 24-26): But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers that are in the heavens will be shaken. Then *they will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory*.

--Matt 24:3-31 (Vv. 29-31): But immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from the sky, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. And then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky with power and great glory. And He will send forth His angels with a great trumpet and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other.

--Zech 12:3-14:9 (Vv. 12:3, 9 & 14:3-5): It will come about in that day that I will make Jerusalem a heavy stone for all the peoples; all who lift it will be severely injured. And all the nations of the earth will be gathered against it…And *in that day I will set about to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem*…Then *the Lord will go forth and fight against those nations, as when He fights on a day of battle*. In that day *His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives*, which is in front of Jerusalem on the east; and the Mount of Olives will be split in its middle from east to west by a very large valley, so that half of the mountain will move toward the north and the other half toward the south…you will flee just as you fled before the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah. Then *the Lord, my God, will come, and all the holy ones with Him*!

--Rev 16 & 19: (Vv. 16:14, 16, 18, 21 & 19:11, 14-16, 19): "…they are spirits of demons, performing signs, which go out to the kings of the whole world, *to gather them together for the war of the great day of God*, the Almighty…And they gathered them together to the place which in Hebrew is called *Har-Magedon*…And there were *flashes of lightning and sounds and peals of thunder; and there was a great earthquake*, such as there had not been since man came to be upon the earth, so great an earthquake was it, and so mighty…And *huge hailstones*, about one hundred pounds each, came down from heaven upon men; and *men blasphemed God* because of the plague of the hail, because its plague was extremely severe…And I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and He who sat on it is called Faithful and True, and *in righteousness He judges and wages war*…And *the armies which are in heaven*, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, were following Him on white horses. From His mouth comes a sharp sword, so that with it *He may strike down the nations, and He will rule* them with a rod of iron; and He treads the wine press of the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty. And on His robe and on His thigh He has a name written, "KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS."…And I saw the beast and *the kings of the earth and their armies assembled to make war against Him* who sat on the horse and against His army.

--Rapture Passages:

--I Cor 15:51-58: Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed…for this mortal must put on immortality. But when…this mortal will have put on immortality, then will come about the saying that is written, "Death is swallowed up in *victory*. O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?" The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law; but *thanks be to God*, who gives us the *victory* through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brethren, *be steadfast, immovable, always abounding* in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord.

--John 14:1-3: Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also.

--I Thess 4:13-18: But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, so that you will not grieve as do the rest who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus. For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and *the dead in Christ will rise* first. Then we who are alive and remain will be *caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air*, and so we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words.

--Summary Question: Are the Rapture and the 2nd Coming different _____…with different _____…and different _____???

--Key Concept: While the Scripture clearly establish that the 2nd Coming and the Rapture are _____ events…this does not _____ that the Pre-Trib Rapture view is right…but it does mean that this view is _____

--<u>Application</u>: The _____ focus on the Rapture…will make us _____ useful in the world…not _____!!!

--<u>A strong concern about the Church focusing on…or even teaching about…the Rapture</u>: It can make believers too _____-worldly…and remove the incentive to help Christ bring His _____ to _____ world

--<u>A classic comment that's been stated by many theologians</u>: "When the church thinks too much about the _____…it makes them too _____-minded to be of any _____ good.

--<u>John 17:15</u>: "I do not ask You to take them <u>*out of the world*</u>, but to keep them from the evil one."

--"<u>*Too much Rapture teaching*</u>"???

--"To much focus on Christ returning to take Christians home to heaven can be a form of 'escapism'. This 'Beam me up, Scottie!!!' approach to the future may lead believers to abandon their earthly responsibilities. It can lead them to have little concern for the poor, the oppressed, and the marginalized because they're so focused on the <u>*next*</u> world that they don't pay attention to obeying Christ's commands to improve <u>*this*</u> world. And this means that they are at risk for sitting around anticipating an event that may still be centuries away."

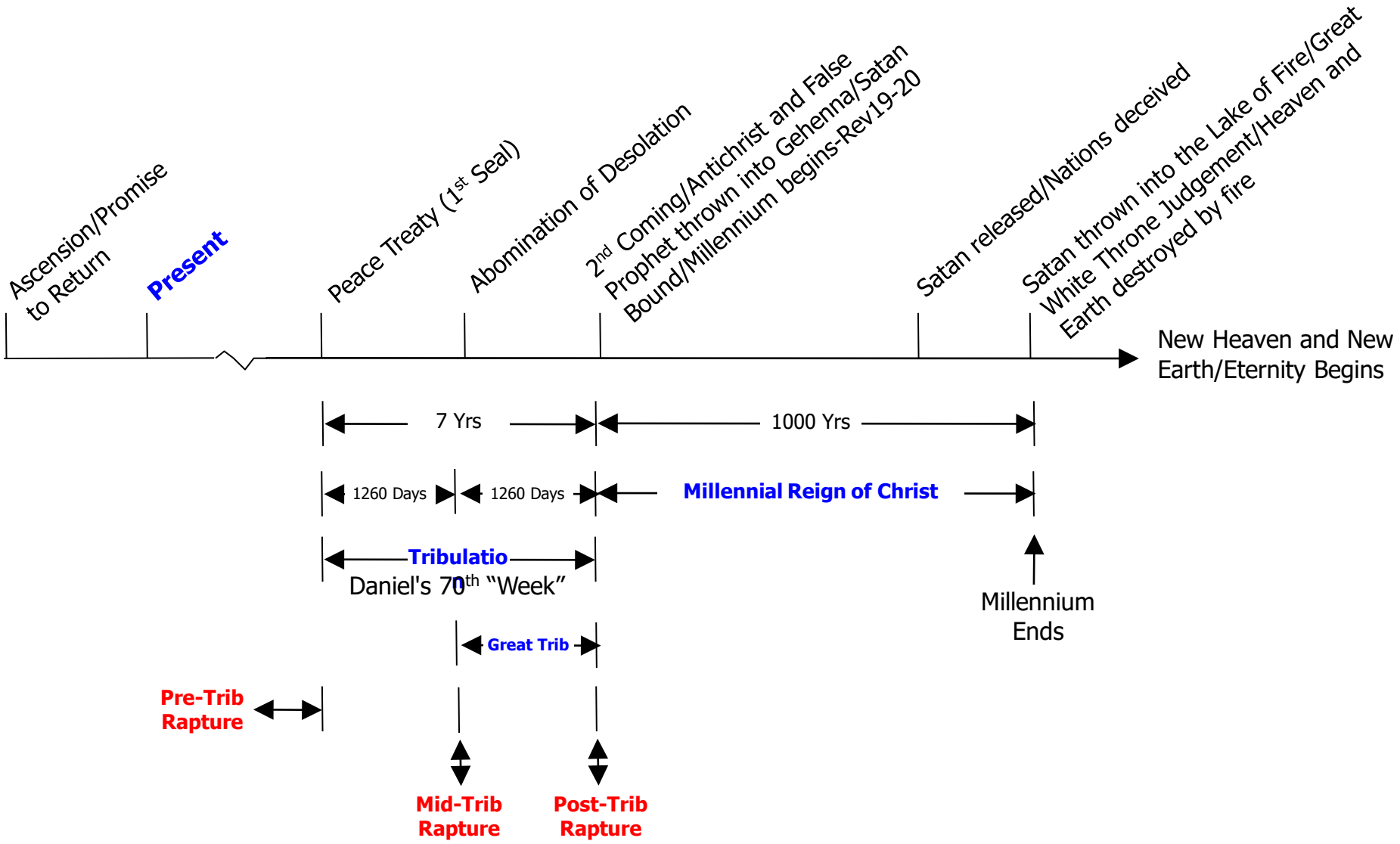
--<u>In the Olivet Discourse…Jesus points out the very opposite concern</u>:

--<u>Matt 24:45-46, 48-50</u>: Who then is the faithful and sensible slave whom his master put in charge of his household to give them their food at the proper time? Blessed is that slave whom his master finds so doing when he comes…But if that evil slave says in his heart, '<u>*My master is not coming for a long time*</u>,' and begins to beat his fellow slaves and eat and drink with drunkards; the master of that slave will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour which he does not know…"

--<u>Matt 25:34-40</u>: "Then the King will say to those on His right, 'Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me something to drink; I was a stranger, and you invited Me in; naked, and you clothed Me; I was sick, and you visited Me; I was in prison, and you came to Me.' Then the righteous will answer Him, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry, and feed You, or thirsty, and give You something to drink? And when did we see You a stranger, and invite You in, or naked, and clothe You? When did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?' And the King will answer and say to them, 'Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me.'"

--<u>Matt 25:41-46</u>: "Then He will also say to those on His left, 'Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry, and you gave Me nothing to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me nothing to drink; I was a stranger, and you did not invite Me in; naked, and you did not clothe Me; sick, and in prison, and you did not visit Me.' Then they themselves also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry, or thirsty, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not take care of You?' Then He will answer them, 'Truly I say to you, <u>*to the extent that you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me*</u>.' These will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

The Revelation Timetable of the Future



Comparison of Rapture and 2nd Coming Passages: One Event or Two???

Undisputed Passages	Rap-ture Vs. 2nd Com.	Catastrophic natural signs: Earthquakes, famine, pestilence	Judgment, tribulation or distress	War Battles	Death	Nations, tribes or armies Vs. Believers	Human response	Destination	Believers changed or caught up with the Lord	Trumpet	Resur-rection Dead raised
Luke 21	2nd C V. 27	Vv. 11, 25	22, 25, 26	10, 20	23, 24	V. 23	Vv. 25, 26				
Mark 13:3-27	2nd C V. 26						Vv. 7-23				
Matt 24:3-31	2nd C V. 30	Vv. 7, 29	9, 15-22	6-7	9, 28	V. 30	Vv. 9-10, 30			V. 31	
Zech 12 & 14	2nd C 14:5		12:9; 14:2	12:1-3 14:3	14:12	12:9; 14:2	Vv. 12:11; 14:13	Vv. 14:4-5			
Rev 16 & 19	2nd C 19:11-16	Vv. 16:17-21	Vv. 19:15; 20-21	19:11, 19	19:17-21	19:15, 19	16:21; 19:19	16:16; 19:14			
I Cor 15:51-58	Rap Vv. 51-52				Victory death Vv. 53-55	only Vv. 50, 58	Vv. 54, 57-58		Vv. 51-52	V. 52	51-52
John 14:1-3	Rap V. 3					only V. 1	V. 1	V. 3	V. 3		
I Thess 4:13-18	Rap V. 17				Victory death Vv. 13-14	only V. 13	V. 18	V. 17	V. 17	Vv. 16-17	Vv. 16-17

Thursology 80: Rapture Controversies Aside: What We Know FOR SURE About "The Meeting in the Air" (Rapture #3)

(*Thursology Live!* 5/5/2022)

--The integration of the Rapture timing views…with the Millennial views:

--The three classical teachings about the Millennium:

--PRE-millennialism:

Christ Returns Final Judgment

The utterly **EVIL** world gathered for **WAR** → I← **MILLENNIUM** →I → Eternity

I Christ *establishes* His Kingdom I

--POST-millennialism:

Christ Returns

Church **EVANGELIZES** the world →I← **MILLENNIUM** →I → Eternity

I World "Christianized" I

--Amillennialism:

Christ Returns

Church evangelizes the world (**NO** Millennium) I → Eternity

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--The summary of the Millennial Timing Views:

--Premillennialism: Christ returns **BEFORE** the 1000 years and **ESTABLISHES** His Millennial Kingdom

--Postmillennialism: Christ returns **AFTER** the 1000 years and **RECEIVES** the Kingdom that the **CHURCH** has established for Him

--Amillennialism: There is **NO** Millennium *at all*…rather Christ abruptly ends this present **AGE**…and then **ETERNITY** begins

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--**Rev 4:1-2**: After these things I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven, and the first *voice* which I had heard, like the sound of a *trumpet* speaking with me, said, "*Come up here*, and I will show you what must take place after these things." Immediately I was in the Spirit; and behold, a throne was standing in *heaven*, and *One* sitting on the throne.

--John hears a **VOICE** and a **TRUMPET**…and then he's caught **UP** into **HEAVEN**

--According to its advocates: This is a picture of the **PRE**-Trib Rapture

--**Rev 6:1-2**: "…I looked, and behold, a white horse, and he who sat on it had *a bow*; and a *crown* was given to him, and he *went out conquering and to conquer*.

--The Tribulation begins with a great leader…having been "**CROWNED**" by the world…feigning **PEACE**…but fully intending to **CONQUER**

--**Rev 11:3, 7, 11-12**: And I will grant authority to *My two witnesses*, and they will prophesy for *twelve hundred and sixty days*, clothed in sackcloth."…When they have finished their testimony, the *beast* that comes up out of the abyss will make war with them, and overcome them and *kill them*…But after the three and a half days, *the breath of life from God came into them*, and they stood on their feet…And they heard a loud *voice* from heaven saying to them, "Come up here." Then *they went up into heaven in the cloud*…

--**3 ½** years into the Tribulation…the witnesses are **RESURRECTED**…they hear a loud **VOICE**…and they're caught **UP** into heaven

--According to its advocates: This is a picture of the **MID**-Trib Rapture

--**Rev 19:11, 14-16**: And I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and He who sat on it is called Faithful and True, and *in righteousness He judges and wages war*…And the armies which are in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, were following Him on white horses. From His mouth

comes a sharp sword, so that with it He may *strike down the nations*, and *He will rule* them with a rod of iron; and He treads the wine press of *the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty*. And on His robe and on His thigh He has a name written, "*KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS*."

--The **POST**-Trib Rapture and Christ's 2nd Coming to **CONQUER** Satan and His armies

--**Rev 20:1-4**: Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding the key of the abyss and a great chain in his hand. And he took hold of the dragon, the serpent of old, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him *for a thousand years* and he threw him into the *abyss* and shut it and *sealed* it over him, so that he *would not deceive the nations* any longer, until the *thousand* years were completed…And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony of Jesus…and they came to life *and reigned with Christ for a thousand years*.

--Immediately after the 2nd Coming of Christ…an angel **BINDS** Satan in the abyss…those who were beheaded during the Tribulation for refusing the **MARK** of the Beast are resurrected…and they **REIGN** with Christ…for **1000** years

--**20:7-8, 10-12**: When the *thousand years* are *completed*, *Satan will be released from his prison, and will come out to deceive the nations* which are at the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to *gather them together for the war*…And the *devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire* and brimstone…Then I saw a *great white throne* and Him who sat upon it…And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and *books* were opened; and another *book* was opened, which is *the book of life*; and *the dead were judged* from the things which were written in the *books*, according to their *deeds*.

--The Millennium is **COMPLETE**…Satan is *released* to **DECEIVE** the nations…his **ARMIES** are conquered…he's thrown into the Lake of **FIRE**…and unbelievers face the **FINAL** judgment at the "Great White Throne"

--Some important clarifications about the Rapture and the 2nd Coming:

--Clarification #1: *All three* classic **RAPTURE** views have Christ's Second Coming happening **BEFORE** the 1000-years…and are, thus, **PRE**-Millennial

--Clarification #2: Regardless of **WHEN** the *Rapture* happens…the *Rapture* and the "*Second Coming*" are *not* the same **EVENT**

--Clarification #3: During the *Rapture*…the *dead* in Christ and the *living* in Christ…**ASCEND** to meet Him in the **AIR**

--Key Concept #1: *Regardless* of which view is held…the **DIRECTION** of the *Rapture*…is **UP**

--Key Concept #2: The *purpose* of the *Rapture* is for Christ to **MEET** His **FOLLOWERS**

--Clarification #4: The 2nd Coming is when Christ **DESCENDS** to the **EARTH** with His *angels* and His *Church*…and **WINS** the Battle of Armageddon

--Key Concept #3: The **DIRECTION** of the 2nd Coming…is **DOWN**

--Key Concept #4: The *purpose* of the *2nd Coming* is for Christ to **DEFEAT** His **FOES**

--Clarification #5: Much **CONFUSION** comes from the fact that the **CASUAL** student of End Times prophecy often uses the terms "Rapture" and "2nd Coming"…**INTERCHANGEABLY**

--Clarification #6: The word "Rapture" is a *misunderstood* term…because of the *controversy* surrounding its **TIMING**…but…the *event itself*…is unequivocally **BIBLICAL**

--The meaning of "harpazo" in Greek…"rapturo" in Latin…and "rapture" in English: →

--"to **CATCH** **AWAY**"

--Two foundational concepts about the Rapture:

--Foundational Concept #1: There is **NO** controversy in classical theology about **WHETHER** the "rapture"…Christ "catching the Saints away to be with Him"…will **OCCUR**

--Foundational Concept #2: Essentially **ALL** of the differences and controversies are about the **TIMING** of the Rapture

--The things that we can be absolutely sure of…about the Rapture:

--**Rapture Fact #1**: *We can be sure* that the *catching away* of **LIVING** saints to be with God has happened **BEFORE**

--**Enoch**: Gen 5:21-24: Enoch lived sixty-five years, and became the father of Methuselah. Then Enoch *walked with God* three hundred years after he became the father of Methuselah, and he had other sons and daughters. So all the days of Enoch were three hundred and sixty-five years. Enoch walked with God; *and he was not*, *for God took him*.

--Heb 11:5: By faith Enoch was *taken up* so that *he would not see death*; and he was not found because *God took him up*; for he obtained the witness that before his being taken up he was pleasing to God.

--**Elijah**: II Kings 2:9-12: When they had crossed over, Elijah said to Elisha, "Ask what I shall do for you before *I am taken* from you." And Elisha said, "Please, let a double portion of your spirit be upon me." He said, "You have asked a hard thing. Nevertheless, if you see me when *I am taken* from you, it shall be so for you; but if not, it shall not be so." As they were going along and talking, behold, there appeared a chariot of fire and horses of fire which separated the two of them. And *Elijah went up* by a whirlwind *to heaven*. Elisha saw it and cried out, "My father, my father, the chariots of Israel and its horsemen!" And he saw Elijah no more…

--**Rapture Fact #2**: *We can be sure* that the *catching away* **WILL** happen **AGAIN***!!!*

--I Thess 4:15-17: For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and *the dead in Christ will rise first*. Then we who are alive and remain *will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air*, and so we shall always be with the Lord.

--**Rapture Fact #3**: *We can be sure* of the **ORDER** of the Rapture **EVENTS**…even though we *can't* be absolutely sure of **WHEN** it will happen

--John 14:1-3: "Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. If I go and prepare a place for you, *I will come again and receive you to Myself*, that where I am, there you may be also.

--I Cor 15:51-53: Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality.

--The order of the unfolding of the Rapture events:

1. The Lord will **DESCEND** from His Father's house where He has been **PREPARING** a place for **US** (John 14:1-3; I Thess 4:16)
2. The Lord will **SHOUT** as He **DESCENDS**
   --I Thess 4:16: "For the Lord *Himself* will *descend* from heaven with a *shout*…"
3. We will hear the **VOICE** of the **ARCHANGEL**
4. We will hear the **TRUMPET** call of God…His last **TRUMPET** for the Church
5. The Lord will **RESURRECT** believers who have **DIED**
6. The **DECOMPOSED** bodies of the resurrected saints will be changed into **PERFECT**, **IMMORTAL** bodies
   --I Cor 15:52-53: "…and *the dead will be raised imperishable*…For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality.
7. Preceding the **LIVING** saints…the resurrected saints…now in their Immortal Bodies…will **RISE** up to **MEET** the Lord (I Thess 4:15-16)

--I Thess 4:15-16: "…we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord, *will not precede those who have fallen asleep*…*the dead in Christ will rise first*.

8. The bodies of the **LIVING** saints will be **CHANGED** into Immortal Bodies…without going through **DEATH** (I Cor 15:51, 53)

--I Corinthians 15:51-53: Behold, I tell you a mystery; *we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed*, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and *we will be changed*…for…this mortal must put on immortality.

9. The **LIVING** saints will be **CAUGHT** up with the **RESURRECTED** saints (I Thess 4:17)
10. The resurrected and the living saints will **MEET** together in the **CLOUDS** (I Thess 4:17)

--I Thess 4:16-17: "…the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain *will be caught up together with them in the clouds*…

11. All of the **RAPTURED** saints…both the dead who've been *resurrected* and the living who've been *changed*…will **MEET** the Lord…in the **AIR** (I Thess 4:17)

--I Thess 4:17: Then we who are alive and remain will be *caught up together with them* in the clouds *to meet the Lord in the air*…

12. The Lord will **RECEIVE** us to Himself…and we will finally see Him **FACE** to **FACE** (John 14:3)
13. Christ will finally fulfill the **GREATEST** promise of all time…"That where I **AM**…there you may **BE** also." (John 14:3)
14. From that time forward…we will **ALWAYS** be **WITH** the Lord!!! (I Thess 4:17-18)

--I Thess 4:17-18: Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so *we shall always be with the Lord*. Therefore *comfort* one another with these words.

--Application: *Every* warning to the CHURCH about Christ's APPEARING…has ALREADY been given…so consider yourself…WARNED*!!!*

--"The Day of the Lord."

--Isa 30:3: "For the day is near, even *the day of the Lord* is near…*a time of doom for the nations*.

--Joel 2:11: The *day of the Lord* is indeed great and very awesome, and *who can endure it*?

--Zeph. 1:14, 18: Near is *the great day of the Lord*, near and coming very quickly; listen, the *day of the Lord*! In it the warrior cries out bitterly…Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to deliver them on the day of the Lord's wrath; and *all the earth will be devoured in the fire*…

--Joel 3:14: Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of *decision*! For *the day of the Lord* is near in the valley of *decision*.

--Zech 2:11: Many nations will join themselves to the Lord *in that day* and will *become My people*. Then *I will dwell in your midst*, and you will know that the Lord of hosts has sent Me to you.

--Key Concept: The "Day" of the Lord is actually the "**AGE**" or "**ERA**" of the Lord…and is made up of **MANY** individual events…across a **VAST** period of time

--Some of the WARNINGS to NON-believers that happen DURING the Day-of-the-Lord Era:

--The **144,000** who are sealed and supernaturally protected…and witness to the truth about Christ's coming (Rev. 7)

--The two **WITNESSES** who preach the Gospel throughout the first half of the Tribulation…and warn the world what's coming (Rev. 11)

--The **ANGEL** that preaches the Eternal Gospel to every tribe, tongue, and nation…and warns the world what's coming (Rev. 14)

--God banishing the **DECEIVER** during the Millennium…taking away every **EXCUSE** for unbelief (Rev. 20)

--For 1000 years…Jesus Himself continuously announcing the **GOSPEL** as He reigns as the Perfect King…and warns the world what's coming (Rev. 20)

--When Christ comes for *BELIEVERS*…
--Revelation 16:15: "Behold, *I am coming like a thief*. Blessed is the one who *stays awake*…"
--Matt 24:42-44: "Therefore *be on the alert*, for *you do not know* which day your Lord is coming. But be sure of this, that *if* the head of the house *had known at what time* of the night the thief was coming, he *would have been on the alert* and would not have allowed his house to be broken into. For this reason *you also must be ready*; for the Son of Man is coming at an hour *when you do not think He will*.
--Matt 25:5-6: Now *while the bridegroom was delaying*, they *all got drowsy* and began to *sleep*. *But at midnight there was a shout*, 'Behold, the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.'
--Matt 24:40-41: Then there will be two men in the field; one will be *taken* and one will be *left*. Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be *taken* and one will be *left*.

--Key Concept #1: Don't **CONFUSE** "The Day-of-the-Lord" **ERA**…with the **RAPTURE** of the Church

--Key Concept #2: During *the Day of the Lord*…there are **MANY** warnings given for what's coming…because *unbelievers* **NEED** the Word!!!

--Key Concept #3: In contrast…for the *Rapture of the Church*…there are **NO** warnings given…because *believers* already **HAVE** the Word…and shouldn't **NEED** any more warning!!!

--Key Concept #4: For the *world*…the warning is in the **SIGNS**…but for the *Church*…the warning is in the **WORD**!!!

--Key Concept #5: The Church is **KNOWINGLY** waiting for Christ's return…while the world is **UNKNOWINGLY** waiting for it

--Key Concept #6: Despite the fact that the Church **KNOWS** that Christ's return is *imminent*… tragically…compared to the *world*…there's little **DIFFERENCE** in their **ANTICIPATION**!!!

--The most UNDER-recognized truth about the Last Days: While it will take more than a **THOUSAND** years to fulfill God's promises to the *world* and to Israel…**EVERY** promise left for the **CHURCH**…will be fulfulled…in an **INSTANT**!!!