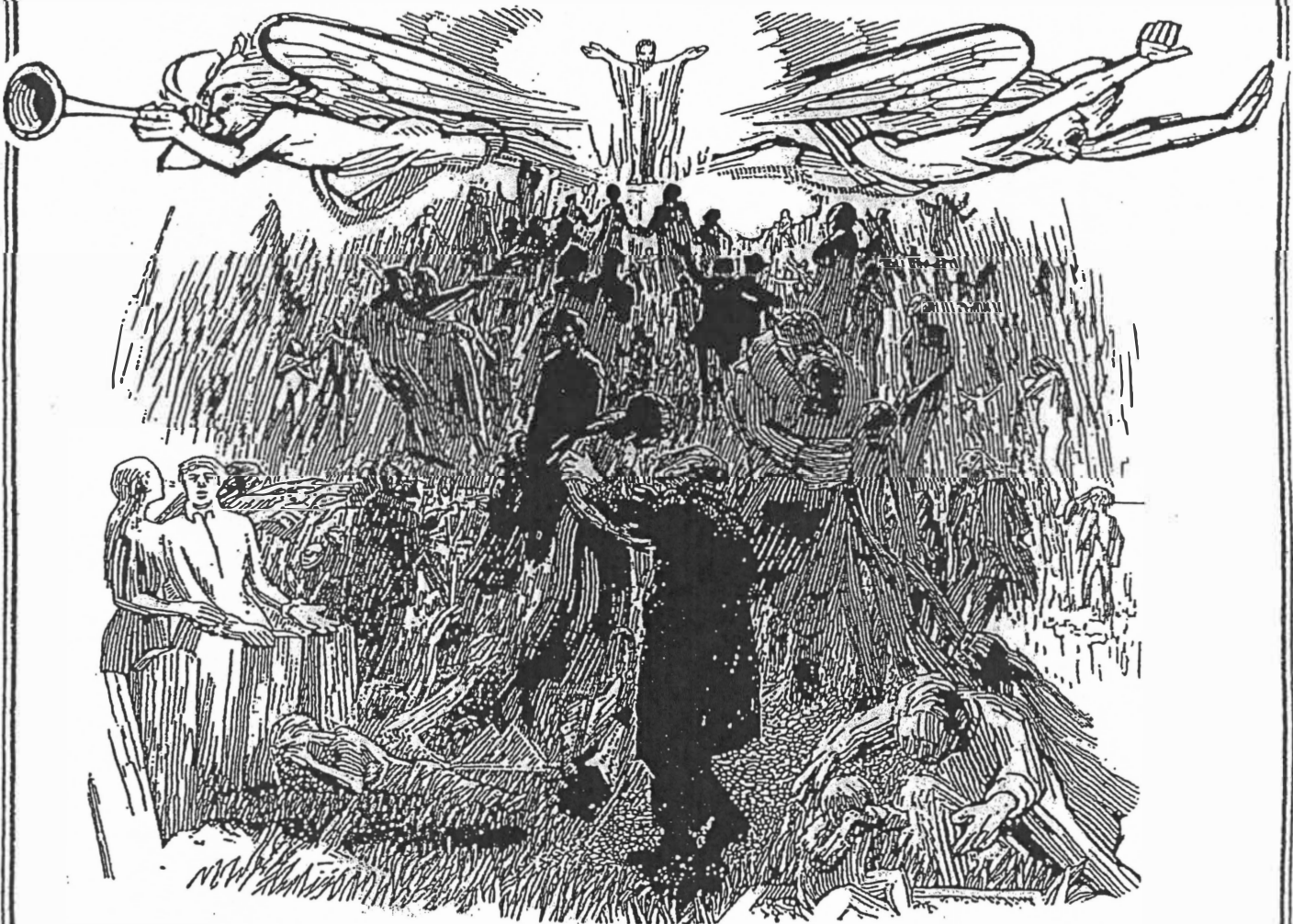


WHAT ARE THE MAIN PROOFS  
for the  
PRE-TRIBULATIONAL RAPTURE?



Manfred E. Kober, Th.D.

# Eschatology Timeline

JUDGMENT  
SEAT  
OF CHRIST



MARRIAGE OF  
THE LAMB



CELEBRATION



GREAT WHITE  
THRONE  
JUDGMENT

RAPTURE  
FOR US

RETURN

REVELATION  
WITH US



CHURCH

TRIBULATION

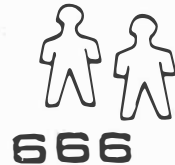
MILLENNIUM

ETERNITY

PREPARATION

PROTECTION

PERSECUTION



Manfred E. Kober, Th.D.



### **3A. THE PROOF FOR THE PRE-TRIBULATIONAL RETURN:**

#### 1b. Passages dealing with the any-moment return of Christ:

Even those who do not subscribe to the pretribulational Rapture, agree that the New Testament teaches the vivid expectation of Christ's imminent coming. Numerous passages could be cited; two must suffice.

- 1c. Phil. 3:20 "For our citizenship is in heaven from which we look for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ."

The words translated "look for" speak of eager anticipation and intense yearning. The Second Advent of Christ is preceded by various signs (Matt. 24; Rev. 19). The Rapture could occur at any moment.

- 2c. Titus 2:13 "Looking for that blessed hope and the glorious appearance of the great God and our Savior, Jesus Christ."

The term "looking for" means to await eagerly. For the Christian the Rapture can be joyfully anticipated, for it will deliver him from sin, suffering and the coming tribulation (1 Thess. 1:10; 5:9).

#### 2b. Passages declaring the believer's exemption from wrath:

- 1c. 1 Thess. 1:10 "And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come."

- 2c. 1 Thess. 5:9 "For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ."

The context suggests that the wrath in these verses is not a reference to God's eternal wrath but to the wrath upon the Christ-rejecting world during the seven-year Tribulation.

#### 3b. The clearest text indicating the believer's exemption from the very period of tribulation:

There is a clear verse which, taken in its normal historical-grammatical sense, forcefully teaches the pretribulational rapture.

Revelation 3:10: "Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth."

- 1c. The promise:

Christ's promise to the church at Philadelphia (and to any subsequent church, Rev. 3:11) is that the believers will experience **protection from**, not **preservation during**, the period of tribulation.

2c. The protection:

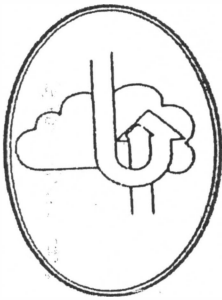
The phrase "keep from" is used only one other time in the New Testament, in John 17:15, where our Lord prays that believers be kept from the evil one. This He does by transferring us into the kingdom of His beloved Son (Col. 1:13).

To be "kept from" is not the same as being "saved in."

Believers in the tribulation will not be exempt from judgment or death (Rev. 6:9-11; 7:9-14, 14:1-3, etc.).

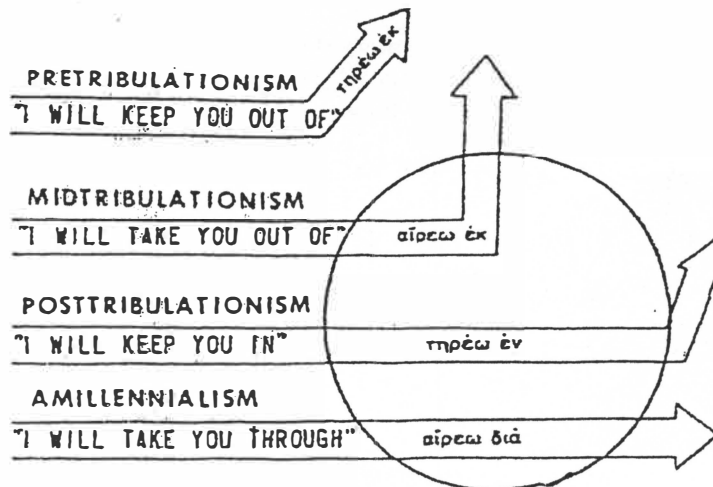
As Charles Ryrie observes: "If the church will not be raptured before the hour begins, then the promise will not be fulfilled because many saints simply will not be preserved in the tribulation but will suffer and die along with unsaved people" (*Revelation*, 1996, 34).

If you should be asked to present a clear proof text for the pretribulational rapture, Revelation 3:10 would be it. Charles Ryrie shares the logical implications of the passage: "But how clear and plain the promise is. 'I . . . will keep you from the hour of testing.' Not from just any persecution, but the coming time that will affect the whole earth. (The only way to escape worldwide trouble is not to be on the earth.) And not from just the events, but from the time. And the only way to escape the time when events take place is not to be in a place where time ticks on. The only place that meets those qualifications is heaven" (*What You Should Know About the Rapture*, 1981, 117).



The Removal from Temptation: Rev. 3:10b

- 1c. Protection: "Keep thee from the hour of temptation"
- 2c. Preservation: "Keep the from the hour of temptation"
- 3c. Period: "Keep thee from the hour of temptation"



# The proof for the pretribulation rapture:

## THE RAPTURE

NO SIGNS

CHRIST WILL COME

CERTAINLY

JN. 14:3

And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, [there] ye may be also.

SUDDENLY

1 COR. 15:52

In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

UNEXPECTEDLY

1 THESS. 5:2

For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.

PHIL. 3:20

For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ:

## THE REVELATION

MANY SIGNS

1.

ATMOSPHERIC SIGNS:

ZECH. 14:6-7

And it shall come to pass in that day, [that] the light shall not be clear, [nor] dark: But it shall be one day which shall be known to the LORD, not day, nor night: but it shall come to pass, [that] at evening time it shall be light.

2.

ASTRONOMIC SIGNS:

MT. 24:29-30

Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken: 30 And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

3.

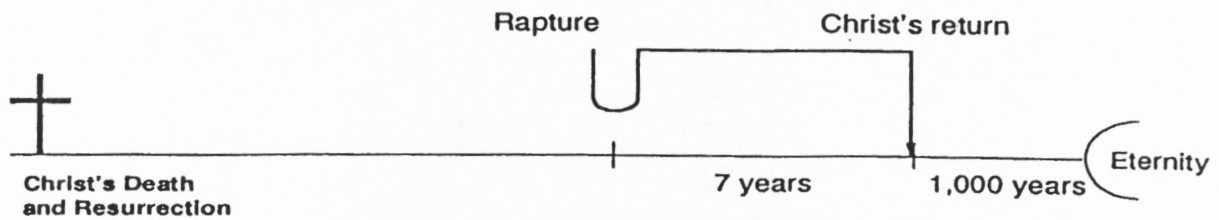
AUTHENTICATING SIGNS:

ZECH. 12:10

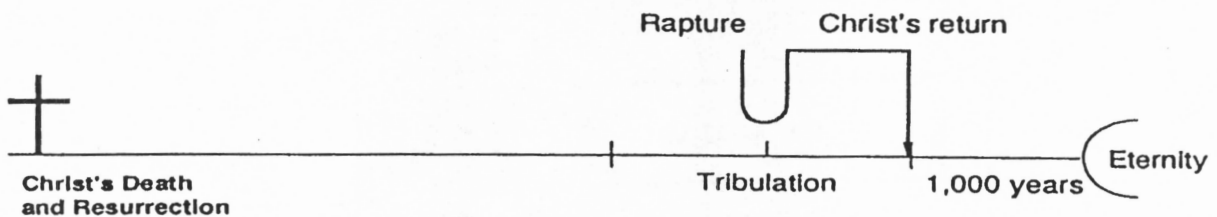
And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for [his] only [son], and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for [his] firstborn.

# The Five Rapture Positions

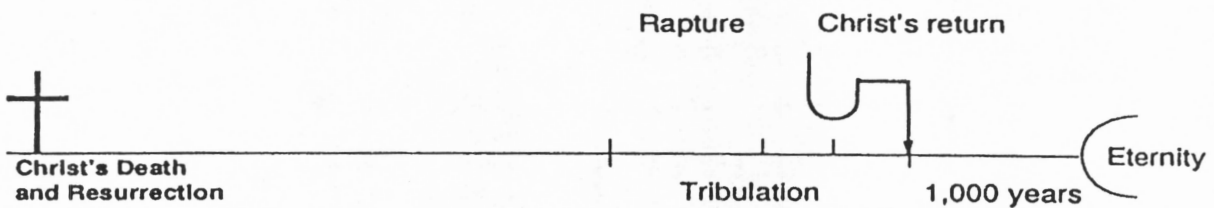
## PRETRIBULATIONISM



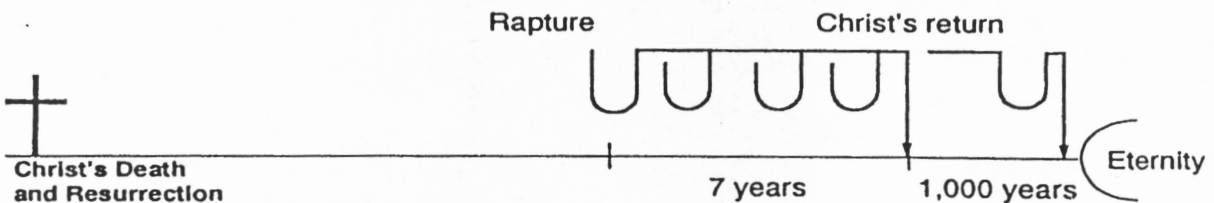
## MIDTRIBULATIONISM



## PRE-WRATH RAPTURE



## PARTIAL RAPTURE



## POSTTRIBULATIONISM

