

The Millennium: Part 5 The Rapture

Figure 1: Amillennialism

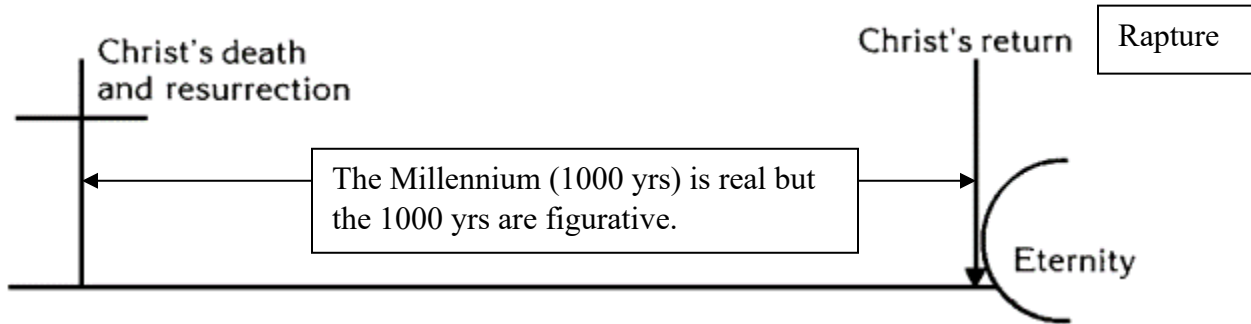


Figure 2: Premillennialism

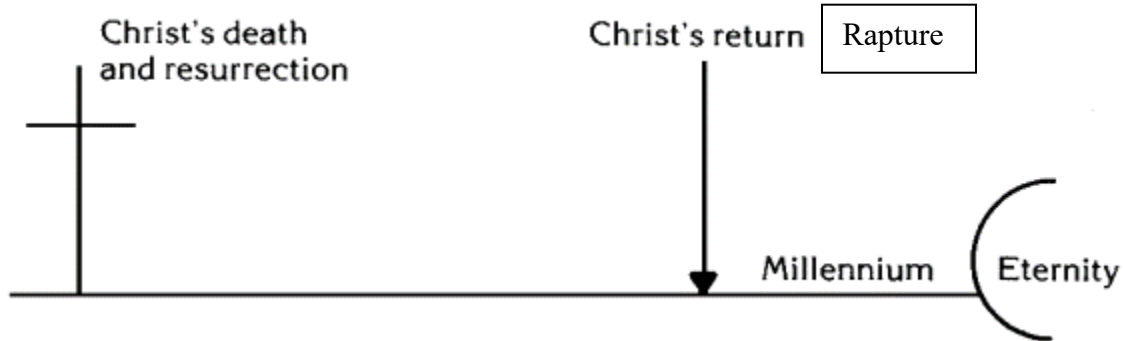


Figure 3: Postmillennialism

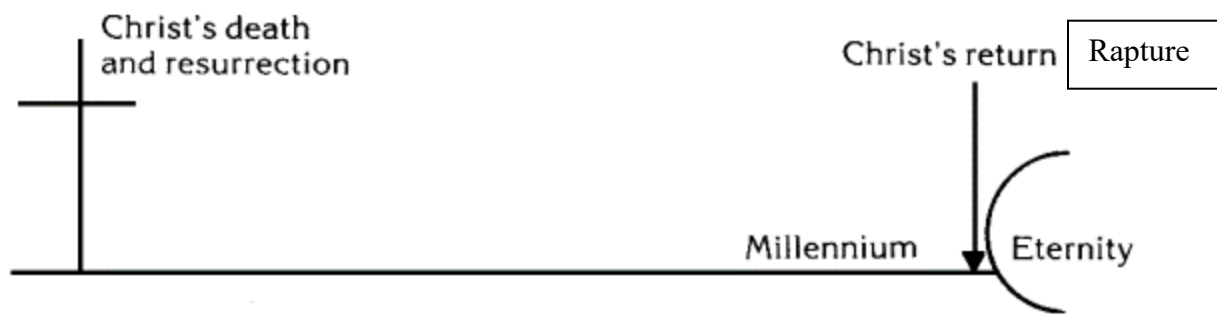
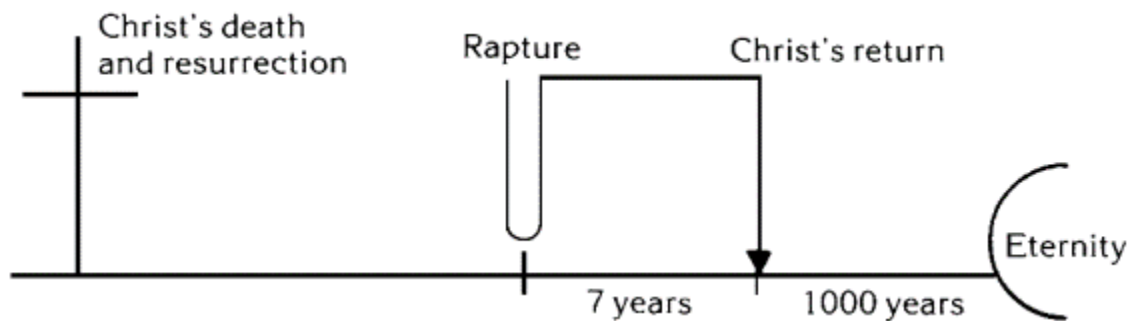


Figure 4: Dispensational Pretribulation Premillennialism



1.1. I was assaulted at the Country Kitchen! In 3 ways!

1.2. Millennial views. (Figs. from Ryrle *What You Should Know About the Rapture*)

2. Is there such a thing as the Rapture? Is it in the Bible? Yes or No?

2.1. Latin Vulgate: *Rapio*

2.2. 1 Thessalonians 4:17. Gr. *Harpazo* - grab/seize suddenly; snatch/take away.

3. What do Dispensationalists teach about the rapture?

3.1. Distinct from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming of Christ.

3.1.1. "For" the saints: Genesis 5:21-24. "Enoch, "translated that he should not see death"

(Heb. 11:5) before the judgment of the Flood, is a type of those saints who are to be translated before the apocalyptic judgments (1 Thes. 4:14–17). Noah, left on the earth, but preserved through the judgment of the Flood, is a type of the Jewish people, who will be kept *through* the apocalyptic judgments (Jer. 30:5–9; Rev. 12:13–16) and brought as an earthly people to the new heaven and new earth (Isa. 65:17–19; 66:20–22; Rev. 21:1)."

(Scofield SB)

3.1.2. "For" the saints: John 14:1-3. "This promise of a second advent of Christ is to be distinguished from His return in glory to the earth; it is the first intimation in Scripture of "the day of Christ" (1 Cor. 1:8, *note*). Here He comes for His saints (1 Thes. 4:14–17), there (e.g. Mt. 24:29, 30) He comes to judge the nations, etc." (Scofield SB)

3.1.3. "For" the saints: 1 Thess. 4:13-18 (16-18).

3.1.4. "With" the saints: 1 Thess. 3:11-13.

3.1.5. "With" the saints: 1 Thess. 4:13-18 (13-14).

3.2. Secret

3.2.1. "Dispensationalists tell us that the Rapture will be both invisible and inaudible (as far as men in general are concerned). One dispensationalist projects his thoughts into the future, and produces a newspaper — an EXTRA — such as he thinks will come from the press the day after Christ's first second coming. This paper describes

a man who, upon awaking, discovers to his horror that his wife is not beside him in bed! His daughter, too, has mysteriously disappeared. All over the city the story is the same: people of every social position have simply vanished without leaving a trace. These are the true believers who have been snatched up in order that for seven years they may enjoy supreme delight with their Lord in the sky. This is called the Wedding of the Lamb." (Hendriksen p.217)

### 3.3. Limited Resurrection

3.3.1. "At this point in history only the dead in Christ will be raised; that is, only Christians. Although there have been many believers since Adam, no believer was placed "in Christ" until the day of Pentecost when the baptism of the Holy Spirit first occurred (Acts 2). So those raised at the rapture include all believers from the day of Pentecost until the rapture." (Ryrie p. 29)

### 3.4. Heavenly Destination

3.4.1. "According to the pretribulational view, the church will be judged and rewarded in heaven while the seven years of Tribulation are being experienced on earth; then Christ and His church will return in great glory to the earth at the end of the Tribulation to execute other judgments and to establish His millennial kingdom." (Ryrie p. 30)

## 4. What does the Bible say? 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

4.1. Context: some question/concern about believers who have died. Possible that it could be some are saying there is no resurrection similar to 1 Corinthians 15:12.

### 4.2. Content:

4.2.1. Rapture? Yes! But not two distinct events

4.2.1.1. V.13 Paul is going to teach about THE RESURRECTION -of those who are asleep i.e.. believers (the elect, the one people of God) who have died.

4.2.1.2. Asleep is used throughout the New Testament to describe believers who have died. Text does not give a time limit. All the way back to Adam!

4.2.1.3. V. 14 The resurrection of Jesus, who “died and rose” is the basis of our (believers/the elect/the people of God) hope of resurrection. When Jesus returns to earth, He will bring with Him the souls of those who have died.

4.2.2. V. 15 There is a sequence to the events of Christ's return.

4.2.3. V. 16 This event will not be secret. It will be loud and clear. “This has been called the noisiest verse in the Bible. It surely indicates that the coming of the Lord will be public and audible.” (Hendriksen p. 223)

4.2.3.1. Command of the Lord

4.2.3.2. Voice of an archangel and the sound of the trumpet of God.

4.2.4. The dead in Christ will rise first. This in no way limits the resurrection, Paul is simply focusing on believers, those who have died and those who have not.

Dispensationalists will say this proves that there will be another resurrection after the 1000 years. They want to interpret the passage this way: “And the dead in Christ shall rise first; then, a thousand years later, the dead who are not in Christ shall rise.” (Hendriksen p. 222)

4.2.5. V. 17 then those believers who are alive are raptured (caught up) along with the believers who have just been resurrected.

4.2.5.1. To meet the Lord in the air. Does the text say that He turns around and goes back to heaven?

4.3. Consequence:

4.3.1. V. 17d we will always be with the Lord.

4.3.2. V. 18 Encourage one another.