BOOK OF REVELATION - INTRODUCTION END TIME VIEWS

THE THINGS SEEN AND ARE AND WHAT SHALL TAKE PLACE By Kevin E. Hughes

The Author of the Book of Revelation

The opening verses in **Revelation** plainly state, the book was written by John. From the first century to the present, orthodox Christians have almost unanimously agreed that he is the Apostle John.

Dating the Writing of the Book of Revelation

Most evangelical scholars affirm that Revelation was written in the first century (95–96 AD), near the end of Roman Emperor Domitian's reign (81–96 AD).

Writing in the second century, Irenaeus (130-202 AD) declared that Revelation had been written toward the end of **Domitian's** reign, in his "Against Heresies", 5.30.3, 2.22.5¹. Later writers, such as

Clement of Alexandria (180 AD), Origen (184 – 253 AD), Victorinus (269-271 AD)²,

Eusebius (260/265 – 339/340 AD)³, and Jerome (342–347 – 420 AD) affirm the Domitian date.

Although some date the writing of Revelation during Roman Emperor Nero's reign (54–68 AD),

before the destruction of the Temple in **70** AD, their arguments conflict with the view of the early church. Their belief assumes that most, if not all events mentioned in **Revelation**, have already occurred in the Past. Therefore, they are now Historical events.

For a Defense of the Roman Emperor Domitian Date (95-96 AD)

See Mark L. Hitchcock's Dissertation, "A Defense of Domitianic Date of Book of Revelation", 245 pages https://www.pre-trib.org/media/k2/assets/Documents/hitchcock-dissertation.pdf

based on his PhD dissertation from Dallas Theological Seminary.

Mark L. Hitchcock, is a Futurist, Pre-Mill, Dispensational, Non-Denominational

For a Defense of the Roman Emperor Nero Date (64-68 AD)

See Kenneth Gentry's Book, "Before Jerusalem Fell: Dating the Book of Revelation", 400 pages https://www.amazon.com/Before-Jerusalem-Fell-Dating-Revelation/dp/0982620608

based on his PhD dissertation from Whitefield Theological Seminary.

Kenneth Gentry, is a Partial-Preterist, Post-Mill, Reformed, Presbyterian, and Partial-Futurist.

For Ken Gentry's Partial-Preterist PAST fulfillment of Revelation position to be true, Revelation would need to have been written before AD 70.

As Gentry writes,

If the late-date of around AD 95-96 is accepted, a wholly different situation would prevail. The events in the mid to late 60s of the first century would be absolutely excluded as possible fulfillments.⁴

By contrast, if one is a FUTURIST, like Mark L. Hitchcock, one could hold to either the early-date or the latedate of Revelation. Either view would still make Revelation Future for the Futurist. Therefore, the dating of Revelation is relatively inconsequential for the Futurist, but it is absolutely essential for the Preterist interpreter. If Revelation is dated to AD 95, which has been the traditional dating for the last 1,900 years, then this would render Preterist's past fulfillment of Revelation position to be obsolete to Bible believers.

Preterists and Partial-Preterist have a Reformed (Covenant) Theology and usually Presbyterian As is Kenneth Gentry and R. C. Sproul of Ligonier Ministries.

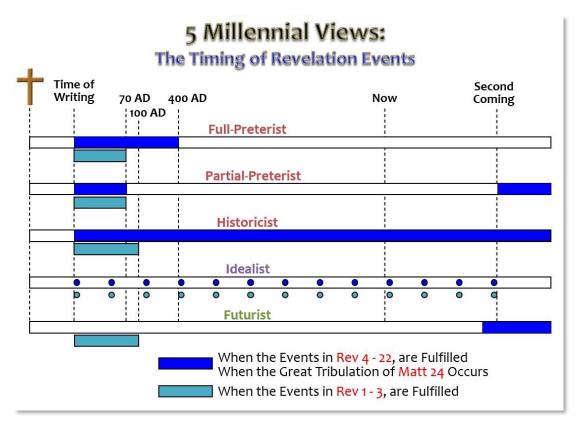
¹ Irenaeus, Domitian Date, <u>https://www.newadvent.org/fathers/0103530.htm</u>, <u>https://www.newadvent.org/fathers/0103222.htm</u> ² Victorinus, Domitian Date, <u>https://www.newadvent.org/fathers/0712.htm</u>

Eusebius, Domitian Date, https://www.newadvent.org/fathers/250105.htm, https://www.newadvent.org/fathers/250103.htm

Gentry, Kenneth L. The Beast of Revelation, 1989. Page 111.

I. Book of Revelation – Types of Approaches

- A. Three Major Approaches Historicism, Idealism, and Futurism
 - 1. (Historicism), Assumes MOST if not All Events, <u>WERE Fulfilled Historically</u>.
 - a. (Full-Preterist), Assume ALL Events, WERE Fulfilled Historically mostly BEFORE 70 AD
 - i. Revelation is a Prophecy that was <u>Completely</u> fulfilled in the First Century.
 - ii. Advocates are primarily of Reformed (Covenant) Theology.
 - b. (Partial-Preterist), Assume MOST Events, WERE Fulfilled Historically BEFORE 70 AD
 - i. Revelation is a Prophecy that was <u>Mostly</u> fulfilled in the First Century.
 - ii. Advocates are primarily of Reformed (Covenant) Theology.
 - iii. All (Partial-Preterist) are also (Partial-Futurist)
 - a. (Part-Futurist), 2nd Coming, <u>WILL be Fulfilled, in the Future</u>.
 - b. (Part-Futurist), General Resurrection with Rapture WILL be Fulfilled, in the Future.
 - c. (Part-Futurist), Last Judgment, <u>WILL be Fulfilled, in the Future</u>.
 - d. (Part-Futurist), New Heavens and Earth, <u>WILL be Fulfilled</u>, in the Future.
 - c. (Historicist), Assume MOST Events ARE being Fulfilled Historically as Progressively Unfolding.
 - i. Revelation is Church History, from the Time of John to the End of the World.
 - ii. Advocates are primarily of Reformed (Covenant) Theology.
 - 2. (Idealism), Assume <u>NO</u> Events have a <u>Historical Fulfillment</u>.
 - a. Revelation is Non-Historical and Non-Prophetic drama about spiritual realities.
 - b. Revelation is a spiritual conflict of Good and Evil.
 - i. Advocates are primarily of Reformed (Covenant) Theology.
 - 3. (Futurism), Assumes MOST if not All Events, WILL BE Fulfilled, in the Future.
 - a. Revelation is a Prophecy primarily about the End of the World. (Rev 4 Rev 22)
 - i. Advocates are primarily of Dispensational Theology.



II. Millennial Views: on Timing of Jesus's Second Coming

- A. Millennial VIEWS OR WHEN Jesus' 2nd Coming WILL be Fulfilled
 - 1. Amillennialism, (A-Mill), Jesus' 2nd Coming, WITHOUT a Millennial Kingdom
 - a. The Millennial Kingdom, is a "present spiritual reality", with a "spiritual reign of Jesus"
 - b. Christ will return AFTER A <u>Symbolized Non-Literal "thousand years" age</u>, it is a <u>present</u> time, Christ will Reign from Heaven, Christ's Kingdom is Now.
 - i. Advocates are primarily of Reformed (Covenant) Theology.
 - 2. Postmillennialism, (Post-Mill), Jesus' 2nd Coming, AFTER a Millennial Kingdom
 - a. The Millennial Kingdom, is a "future spiritual reality", with a "spiritual reign of Jesus"
 - b. Christ will return AFTER A Symbolized Non-Literal "thousand years" age, a coming age in which the gospel will triumph as to thoroughly transform the world's societies and cultures. During this age Christ is reigning in Heaven, not on Earth; but He exercises His reign through His Spirit and the Church's preaching of the Gospel.
 - i. Advocates are primarily of Reformed (Covenant) Theology.
 - 3. Historic Millennialism, (Hist-Mill), Jesus' 2nd Coming, BEFORE a Millennial Kingdom
 - a. The Millennial Kingdom, is a "future physical reality", with a "physical reign of Jesus"
 - b. Christ will return **BEFORE** a future Literal 1000 year age, with Christ reigning on Earth.
 - i. Advocates are primarily of Reformed (Covenant) Theology.
 - 4. Premillennialism, (Pre-Mill), Jesus' 2nd Coming, BEFORE a Millennial Kingdom
 - a. The Millennial Kingdom, is a "future physical reality", with a "physical reign of Jesus"
 - b. Christ will return **BEFORE** a future Literal 1000 year age, with Christ reigning on Earth.
 - i. Advocates are primarily of Dispensational Theology.

Millennial View – Based on a Theology

Reformed (Covenant) Theology

Amillennialism

Postmillennialism

Historic Premillennialism

"An Evening of Eschatology", (**3 Views**), John Piper (Reformed Theologian) https://www.desiringgod.org/interviews/an-evening-of-eschatology "The End? Finding Hope in the Millennial Maze", (**3 Views**), R. C. Sproul (Reformed Theologian) 1999 National (Ligonier Ministries) Conference", https://www.ligonier.org/learn/conferences/orlando 1999 national conference/

Key Prophetic Passages > Interpreted "Allegorically (Spiritually)"

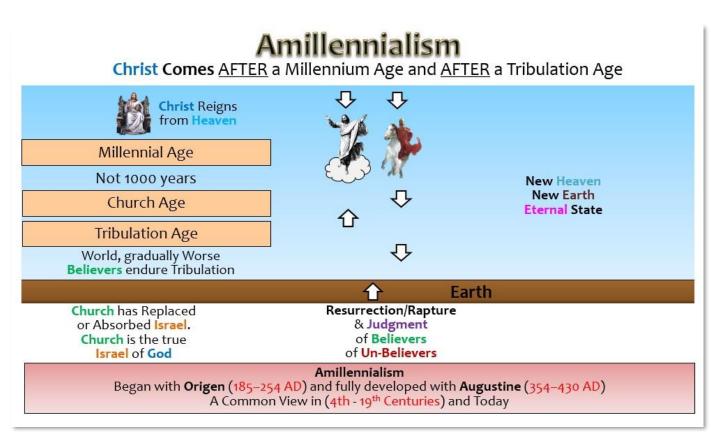
Dispensational Theology

Contemporary Premillennialism

Key Prophetic Passages > Interpreted "Literally"

Millennial Views - Are Not Very Helpful

because they don't show <u>HOW</u> advocates came to that View, they only show <u>WHAT</u> View they came to.



(Reformed) Amillennialism

Amillennialism assumes MOST, if not All Events in Revelation, WERE Fulfilled Historically, except

the Rapture, 2nd Coming, and Resurrection/Judgment of Believers/Unbelievers are <u>FUTURE</u> Events. The Second Coming of Christ will occur <u>AFTER</u> (a Non-Literal, Not a 1000 year, Millennial Kingdom). Millennial Kingdom is <u>NOW</u>, a long period of time, NOT a 1000-years, and aligns with the Church Age. Christ is Ruling the Earth <u>NOW</u>, Spiritually (Non-Physically) through Hearts of Believers, from Heaven. Satan is Bound or Restrained <u>NOW</u>.

Nation of Israel is Cursed and <u>replaced</u> or <u>superseded</u> by the Church, as "<u>the people of God</u>", (Rom 9:6–8). The Church is the "New Israel" of God, (Gal 6:16, Rom 9:6),

The **Church** fulfills Prophetic Promises given to Israel by God in OT.

Great Tribulation is <u>NOW</u>, a period of Tribulation of Believers during the Church Age.

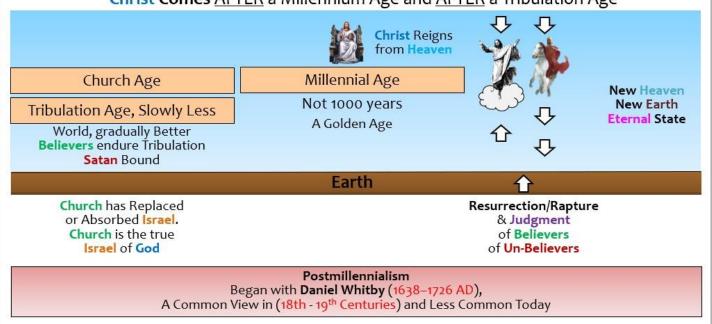
First Resurrection, Rev 20:4-6, is a Spiritual (Non-physical) Resurrection, of Believers or Regeneration. Second Resurrection, Dan 12:2-3, is a Physical (Non-Spiritual) Resurrection, of Believers and Unbelievers. Judgement of Believers and Unbelievers, at Second Coming.

Proponents of (Reformed) Amillennialism

Origen* (185-254 AD), Augustine* (354-430 AD), John Calvin* (1509-1564), Martin Luther* (1483-1546), Louis Berkhof (1873-1957), Herman Bavinck (1854-1921), Geerharhus Vos (1862-1949), **Modern Proponents** Sinclair Ferguson (Ligonier), J.I. Packer, Tim Keller, Sam Storms, Jay E. Adams, Leon Morris,

Reformed Theologians, Roman Catholic Church, Eastern Orthodox Church

Postmillennialism Christ Comes AFTER a Millennium Age and AFTER a Tribulation Age



(Reformed) Postmillennialism

Postmillennialism assumes MOST Events in Revelation, WERE Fulfilled Historically, except

the Rapture, 2nd Coming, and Resurrection/Judgment of Believers/Unbelievers are FUTURE Events. The Second Coming of Christ will occur AFTER (a Non-Literal, Not a 1000 year, Millennial Kingdom). Millennial Kingdom is FUTURE, a long period of time, NOT a 1000-years, a "Golden Age". Christ will Rule the Earth in FUTURE Spiritually (Non-Physically) through His Spirit/Church, from Heaven. Satan is Bound or Restrained <u>NOW</u>.

Nation of Israel is Cursed and <u>replaced</u> or <u>superseded</u> by the Church, as "<u>the people of God</u>", (Rom 9:6–8). The Church is the "New Israel" of God, (Gal 6:16, Rom 9:6),

The Church fulfills Prophetic Promises given to Israel by God in OT.

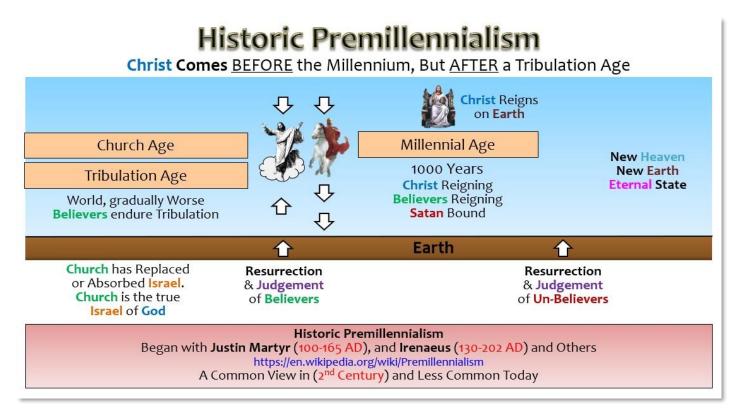
Great Tribulation is a period of Tribulation of Believers during the Church Age that gradually subsides. First Resurrection, Rev 20:4-6, is a Spiritual (Non-physical) Resurrection or Regeneration, of Believers. Second Resurrection, Dan 12:2-3, is a Physical (Non-Spiritual) Resurrection, of Believers and Unbelievers. Judgement of Believers and Unbelievers, at Second Coming.

Proponents of (Reformed) Postmillennialism

Augustine* (354-430 AD), Joachim of Fiore (1135-1202 AD), John Calvin* (1509-1564), William Perkins (1558-1602), Daniel Whitby (Founder) (1638-1726), Jonathan Edwards (1703-1758), Charles Hodge (1797-1878), George Whitefield (1714-1770), B. B. Warfield (1851-1921), A. A. Hodge (1823-1886), James H. Thornwell (1812-1862)

Modern Proponents

Kenneth Gentry, R. C. Sproul (Ligonier Ministries, formerly A-Mill), Doug J. Wilson, Hank Hanegraaff, Loraine Boettner, Keith Mathison, Gary DeMar, Reformed Theologians, Christian Reconstructionists



(Reformed) Historical Premillennialism

Historical Premillennialism assumes MOST Events in Revelation, WERE Fulfilled Historically, except

the Rapture, 2nd Coming, and Resurrection/Judgment of Believers/Unbelievers and Millennium are <u>FUTURE</u> Events.

The Second Coming of Christ will occur <u>BEFORE</u> (a Literal, **1000-year Millennial Kingdom**).

Millennial Kingdom is <u>FUTURE</u>, a 1000-years, a future event.

Christ will Rule the Earth in <u>FUTURE</u> Physically (Non-Spiritually), from Earth.

Satan is the Ruler of the World <u>NOW</u> (Not Bound or Restrained).

Nation of Israel is Cursed and <u>replaced</u> or <u>superseded</u> by the Church, as "<u>the people of God</u>", (Rom 9:6–8). The Church is the "New Israel" of God, (Gal 6:16, Rom 9:6),

The **Church** fulfills Prophetic Promises given to Israel by God in OT.

Great Tribulation is a period of **Tribulation** of **Believers** during the **Church Age** that gradually increases. A common **historicist view** is that the **Tribulation** began with Constantine in the latter years of the Roman Empire (circa 313 AD). They believe that since that time, most of the seal, trumpet, and bowl judgments of Revelation have occurred or are being fulfilled.

First Resurrection, Rev 20:4-6, is a Physical (Non-Spiritual) Resurrection, of Believers.

Second Resurrection, Rev 20:11-15, is a Physical (Non-Spiritual) Resurrection, of Unbelievers.

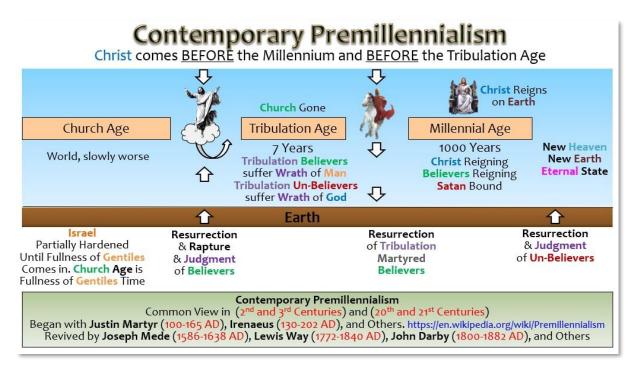
Judgement of Believers before Millennium and Unbelievers, at Second Coming, (Rev 20:11:15)

Proponents of Historic (Reformed) Premillennialism

Irenaeus* (125-202 AD), Justin Martyr (165-180 AD), Papias (60-130 AD), Charles Spurgeon* (1834-1892), George Eldon Ladd (1911-1982), James M. Boice (1938-2000), Francis Schaeffer (1912-1984)

Modern Proponents

John S. Piper, Albert Mohler, Wayne Grudem, D. A. Carson, Bryan Chapell, Richard Stortz (Ligonier), Millard Erickson, Reformed Theologians



(Dispensational) Contemporary Premillennialism

Contemporary Premillennialism assumes MOST Events in **Revelation**, <u>Will Be Fulfilled in the Future</u>. **The Second Coming of Christ** will occur <u>BEFORE</u> (a Literal, **1000-year Millennial Kingdom**). <u>Millennial Kingdom</u> is <u>FUTURE</u>, **1000-year** event.

Christ will Rule the Earth in the FUTURE, Physically (Non-Spiritually), from Earth, from Jerusalem. Satan is the Ruler of this World <u>NOW</u> (Not Bound or Restrained). (Jn 12:31, 2 Cor 4:4, Rev 12:7-9) Nation of Israel is Cursed <u>NOW</u>, Not Rejected (Rom 11:1), But <u>Restored</u> in <u>FUTURE</u>. (Jer 30:1-3, 31:27-40) The Church is primarily Elect <u>Gentiles</u> (Eph 3:1-21) with a Remnant of Elect Israel (Rom 11:5) Israel fulfills Prophetic Promises to Israel in OT, all OT Promises and Covenants belong to Israel, (Rom 9:4) The Tribulation Period is the 70th Week of Daniel, Dan 9:26-27, and a 7-year <u>FUTURE</u> Tribulation. During The 7-year Tribulation Period, God's Wrath is Poured out on <u>Unbelieving Mankind</u>. During The 7-year Tribulation Period, Mankind's Wrath is Poured out on Believing Mankind. The First 3 1/2 years of the Tribulation, God's Wrath is with the Seal and Trumpet Judgments, Rev 6:1-11:19 The Great Tribulation is the last 3 1/2 years of a 7-year <u>FUTURE</u> Tribulation, Rev 12:1-18:24 For these 3 1/2 years, Satan's Wrath is on the Nation of Israel, Rev 12:1-6

But, for these **3 1/2 years**, the **Nation of Israel**, flees to the Wilderness, Rev 12:13-14 For these **3 1/2 years**, **the Beast (Antichrist)** is given authority to **War** with **the Saints**, Rev 13:7 For these **3 1/2 years**, **God's Wrath** is with the **Bowl Judgments**, Rev 15:1-16:21 **First Resurrection**, Rev 20:4-6, is a **Physical** (Non-Spiritual) **Resurrection**, of **Killed Tribulation Believers**. **Second Resurrection**, Rev 20:11-15, is a **Physical** (Non-Spiritual) **Resurrection**, of **Dead Unbelievers**. **God Judges Believers** at (**Rapture**), (2 Cor 5:10) and **Unbelievers**, after **Millennial Kingdom**, (Rev 20:11:15)

Proponents of Contemporary (Dispensational) Premillennialism

Justin Martyr* (100-165 AD), Irenaeus* (130-202 AD), Joseph Mede (1586-1638), Lewis Way (1772-1840 AD), John N. Darby (1800-1882), C. I. Scofield (1843-1921), Lewis Sperry Chafer (1871-1952), **Modern Proponents**

John Walvoord, Charles Ryrie, Dwight Pentecost, Tim LaHaye, John MacArthur, David Jeremiah, Charles R. Swindoll, Charles Feinberg, John Feinberg, Alva McClain, Tim LaHaye, Robert L. Thomas, Thomas Ice, Dispensational Theologians

It is often said, that (Dispensational) Premillennialism was invented by John N. Darby (1800-1882) and made popular by C. I. Scofield (1843-1921). There is much evidence to the contrary as explained in:

"Dispensationalism before Darby", by William C. Watson and "Ancient Dispensational Truth, Refuting the Myth that Dispensationalism is New", by James C. Morris

III. Tribulation Views: on Timing of Jesus's Rapture (Resurrection) of Believers

The Resurrection OR (Rapture) OR Catching Up of Believers in Christ, 1 Thes 4:13-18

The (**Rapture**) is the event in which:

"the Lord himself descends from Heaven"

"the Lord himself" comes with "those who have fallen asleep in Jesus (the spirits of dead Believers)" the Lord himself will first "rise" (resurrect) "the dead in Christ (the bodies of dead Believers)" the Lord himself will second catch up ("caught up") the "alive" in Christ (the bodies of alive Believers). Both "the dead in Christ" and the "alive" in Christ will be "caught up"/snatched away, from Earth. They both will "meet the Lord in the air", "in the clouds" "to always be with the Lord". Believers are to "comfort one another with these words (of Rapture/Resurrection)".

The (**Rapture**) is described primarily in 1 Thes 4:13–18 and 1 Cor 15:50–54.

God will <u>Resurrect</u> all dead believers from <u>Grave</u> and give them new spiritual bodies. (Resurrection)
Their Old Natural Bodies will be <u>Raised</u>, from <u>Grave</u>, and united with their spirits already with the Lord.
God will catch up all living believers, not in <u>Grave</u>, and give them new spiritual bodies. (Rapture)
Their Old Natural Bodies Not in <u>Grave</u>, will be "caught up", and united with their spirits.

All **Christianity** believes in the **Resurrection** of **Believers**, 1 Thes 4:13-18, 1 Cor 15:12-58 All **Millennial Views** believe in the **Resurrection** (**Rapture** or **Catching Up**) of **Believers** Scholars <u>disagree</u> as to <u>WHEN</u> the (**Rapture**) will occur: (**Pre-Trib**), (**Mid-Trib**), (**Late-Trib**), or (**Post-Trib**).

The (Rapture or Catching Up) is a "MYSTERY" Revealed in the NT

The (**Rapture**) is a "*MYSTERY*" <u>NOT</u> Revealed in the OT, But Revealed later in the NT, 1 Cor 15:51-52 Behold, I tell **you** a **mystery; we** (alive) will not all sleep (not dead), but we will all be <u>changed</u> (bodily),

in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the **dead** will be <u>raised</u> imperishable (bodily), and <u>we</u> (alive) will be <u>changed</u> (bodily). 1 Cor 15:51-52

Tribulation (Rapture/Catching Up) or Resurrection Views: 1 Thes 4:13-18, 1 Cor 15:12-58 Pre-Tribulational (Rapture/Catching Up) or Resurrection (Pre-Trib) Christ's (Rapture) Coming, <u>BEFORE</u> a 7-year Tribulation, to Resurrect the Church

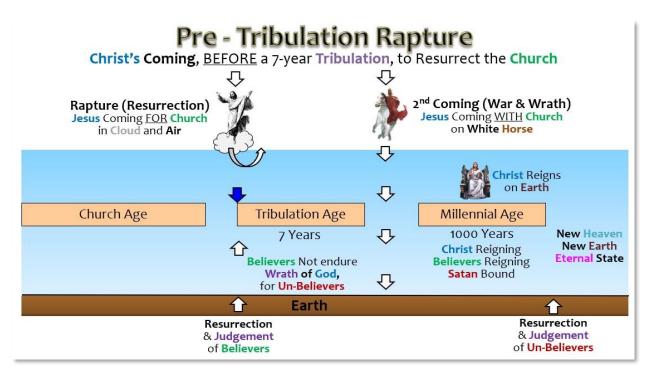
Mid-Tribulational (Rapture/Catching Up) or Resurrection (Mid-Trib) Christ's (Rapture) Coming, <u>MIDDLE</u> of a 7-year Tribulation, to Resurrect the Church

3/4 - Tribulation (Pre-Wrath) (Rapture/Catching Up) or Resurrection (Late-Trib) Christ's (Rapture) Coming, LATE in 7-year Tribulation, to Resurrect the Church

Post-Tribulational (Rapture/Catching Up) or Resurrection (Post-Trib) Christ's (Rapture) Coming, <u>AFTER</u> a 7-year Tribulation, to Resurrect the Church

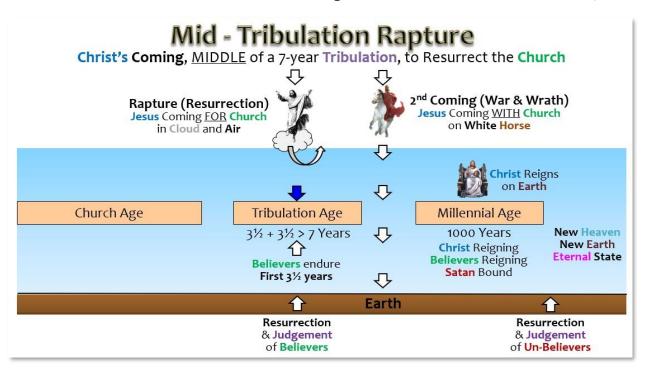
Other Resurrections or (Rapture/Catching Up) in the Bible

Enoch, Gen 5:24, Heb 11:5, Elijah, 2 Kings 2:1, OT Saints, Matt 27:52-53, Jesus, Matt 28:6, Luke 24:50, Acts 1:9, Two Witnesses, Rev 11:12, Tribulation Saints, Rev 20:4-6



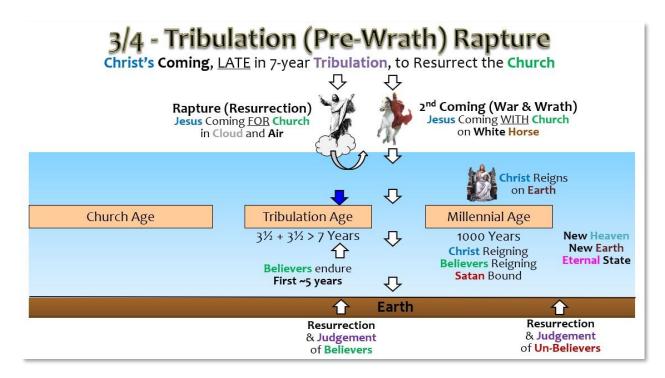
Pre-Tribulational (Rapture) Resurrection (Pre-Trib)

 Christ's (Rapture) Coming, <u>BEFORE</u> a 7-year Tribulation, to Resurrect the Church The Resurrection (Rapture) of <u>Believers</u> is <u>BEFORE</u> the Second Coming of Christ. is <u>BEFORE</u> a 7-year Tribulation Age, the 70th Week of Daniel, Dan 9:26-27,
 Jesus Comes <u>FOR</u> Believers, at Resurrection (Rapture), 1 Thes 4:13-18
 Jesus Comes <u>WITH</u> Believers, at Second Coming of Christ, 1 Thes 3:13, Zech 14:5, Rev 19:4



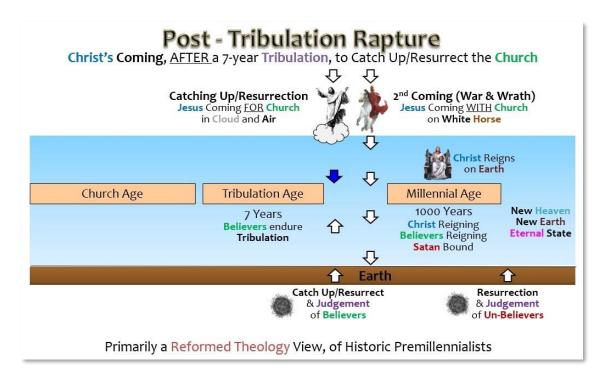
Mid-Tribulational (Rapture) Resurrection (Mid-Trib)

 Christ's (Rapture) Coming, <u>MIDDLE</u> of a 7-year Tribulation, to Resurrect the Church Is in <u>MIDDLE</u> of a 7-year Tribulation Age, the 70th Week of Daniel, Dan 9:26-27,
 Jesus Comes <u>FOR</u> Believers, at Resurrection (Rapture), 1 Thes 4:13-18
 Jesus Comes <u>WITH</u> Believers, at Second Coming of Christ, 1 Thes 3:13, Zech 14:5, Rev 19:4



3/4 - Tribulation (Pre-Wrath) (Rapture) Resurrection (Late-Trib)

Christ's (Rapture) Coming, LATE in 7-year Tribulation, to Resurrect the Church is LATE in a 7-year Tribulation Age, the 70th Week of Daniel, Dan 9:26-27,
 Jesus Comes FOR Believers, at Resurrection (Rapture), 1 Thes 4:13-18
 Jesus Comes WITH Believers, at Second Coming of Christ, 1 Thes 3:13, Zech 14:5, Rev 19:4



Post-Tribulational (Rapture) Resurrection (Post-Trib) (Reformed)

Christ's (Rapture) Coming, <u>AFTER</u> a 7-year Tribulation, to Resurrect the Church is <u>AFTER</u> a 7-year Tribulation Age, the 70th Week of Daniel, Dan 9:26-27,
 Jesus' Coming <u>FOR</u> Believers, at a coinciding (Rapture) / Second Coming of Christ.