

# The Rapture



## *Future (Eschatology) Presentation 9*

Dr. Rick Griffith • Jordan Evangelical Theological Seminary • [BibleStudyDownloads.org](http://BibleStudyDownloads.org)

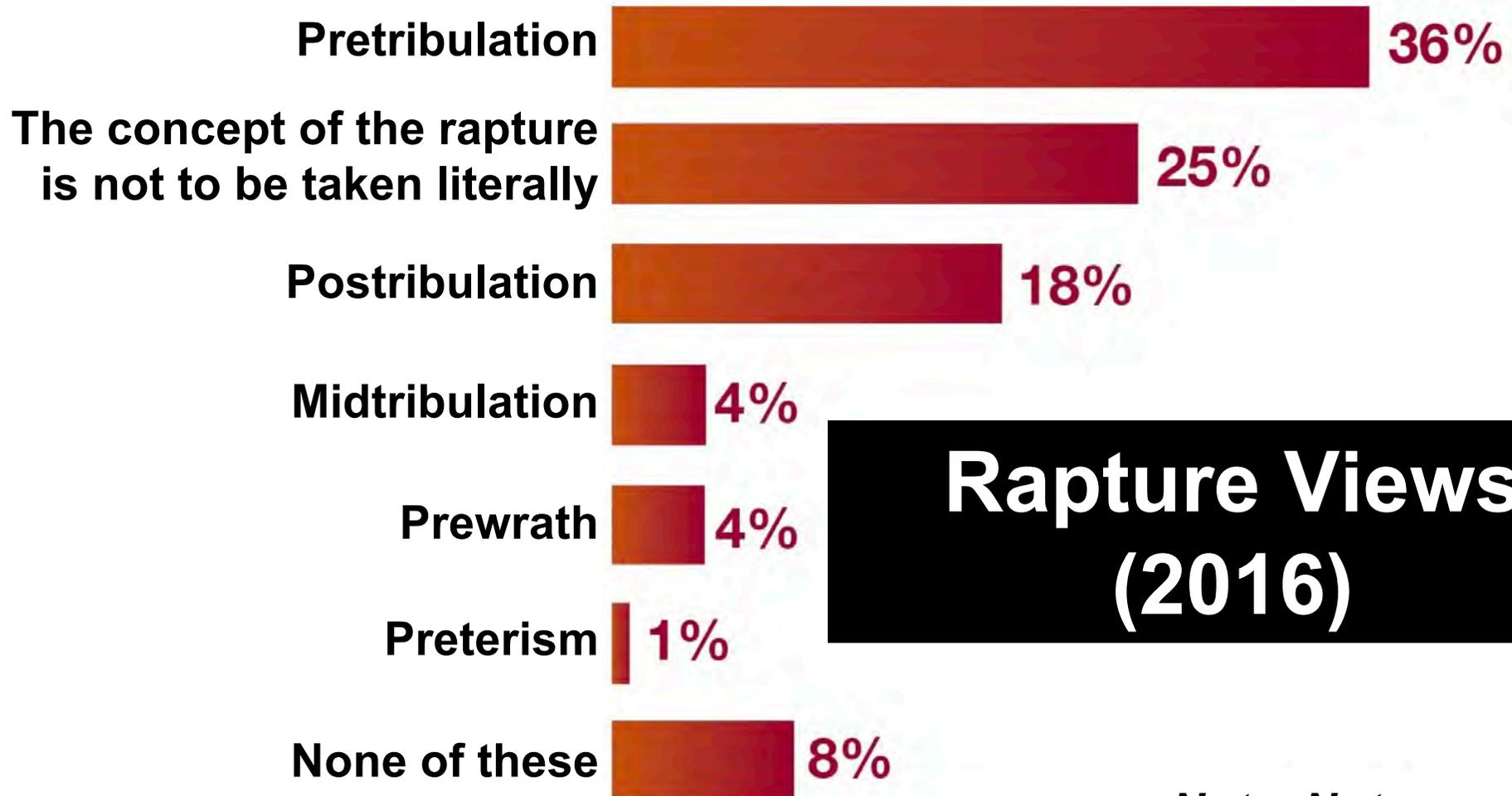
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*Among Protestant Pastors:*

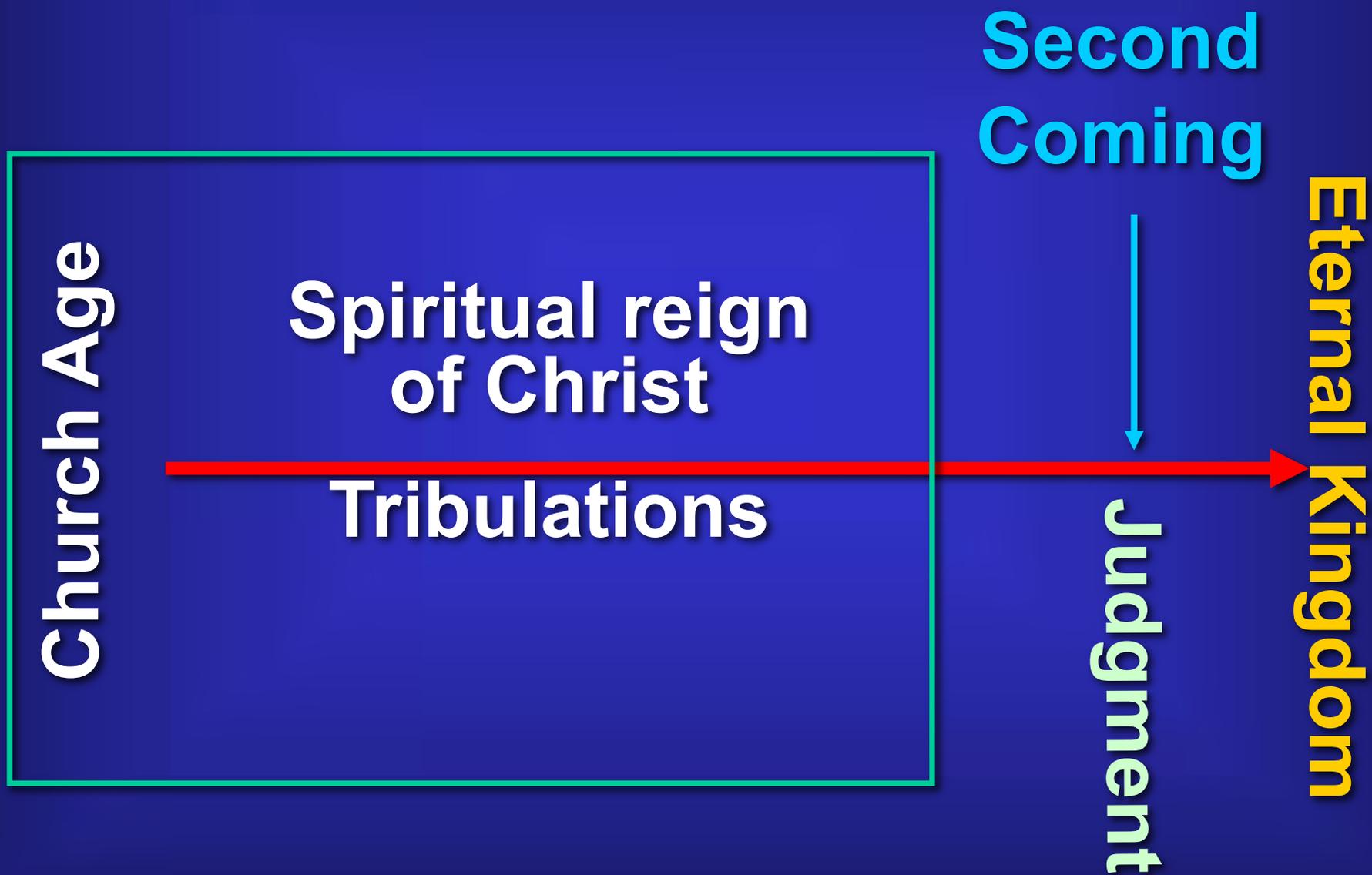
## Which of the following statements best describes your view on when the biblical rapture will occur?



### Rapture Views (2016)

*Note: Not sure 4%*

# Amillennialism



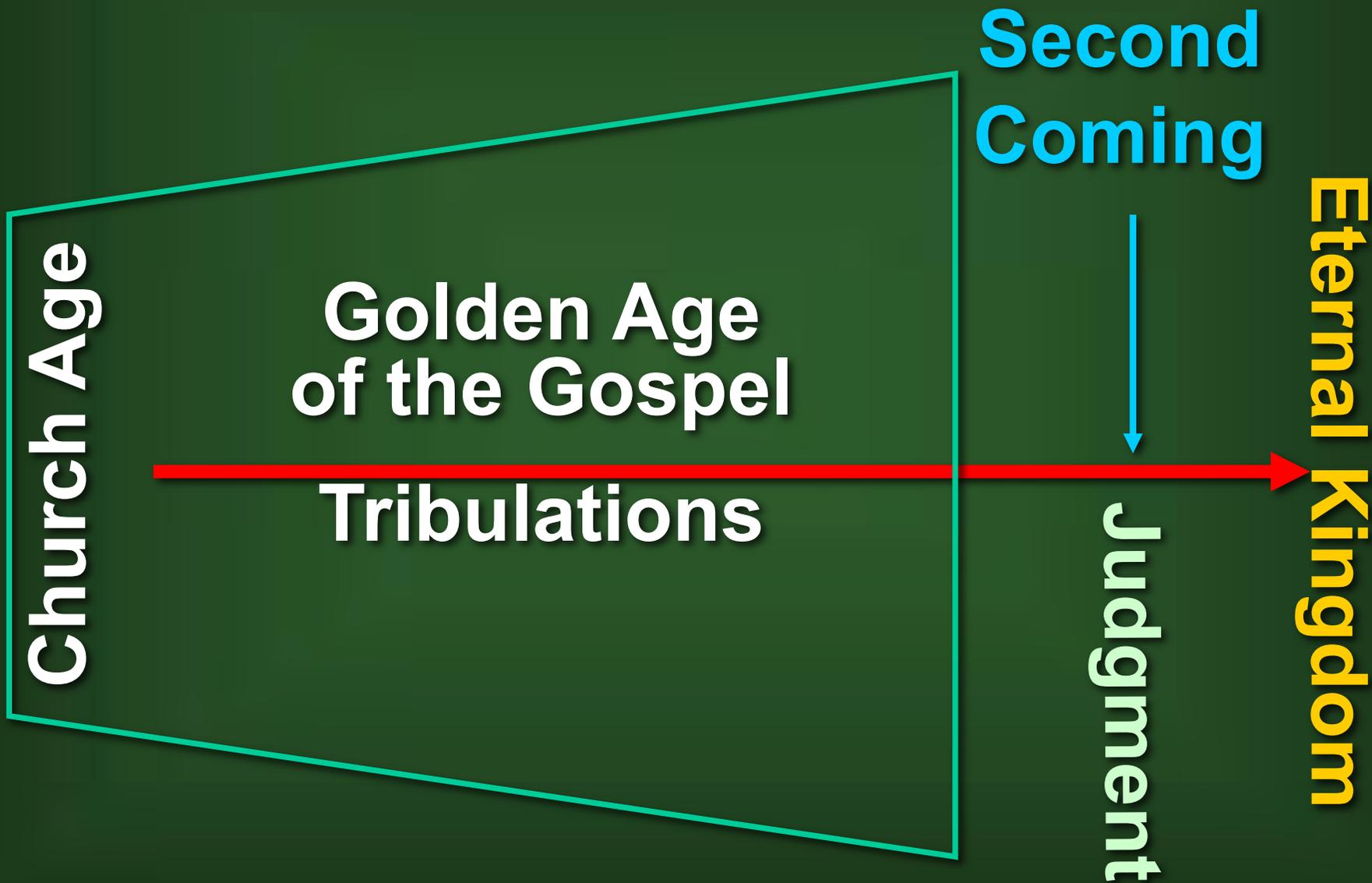
# Critiques of Covenant Theology

- **Spiritualizing approach (83-84)**
- **See dispensations but insist on one covenant of grace (8)**
- **Biblical covenants have elements besides redemption (85)**
- **Goal of history not broad enough—excludes purposes for Israel, church, angels, universe (85-86)**

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- **Older views not necessarily right (the issue is scriptural)**
- **“Covenant of grace” and “covenant of works” are never found in the Bible (82)**
- **Passages cited (Deut. 6:5, 10-12; 30:15-20) = life in the Promised Land (not heaven) (Ryrie, 189)**
- **Use of deductive (not inductive) interpretation rather than clear statements (Ryrie, 189-90)**
- **Reads the NT back into the OT (Ryrie, 191-93)**
- **Abrahamic Covenant conditional**

# Postmillennialism



# Premillennialism

Second Coming = Second Advent

Church Age

Tribulation

Millennium

7 years

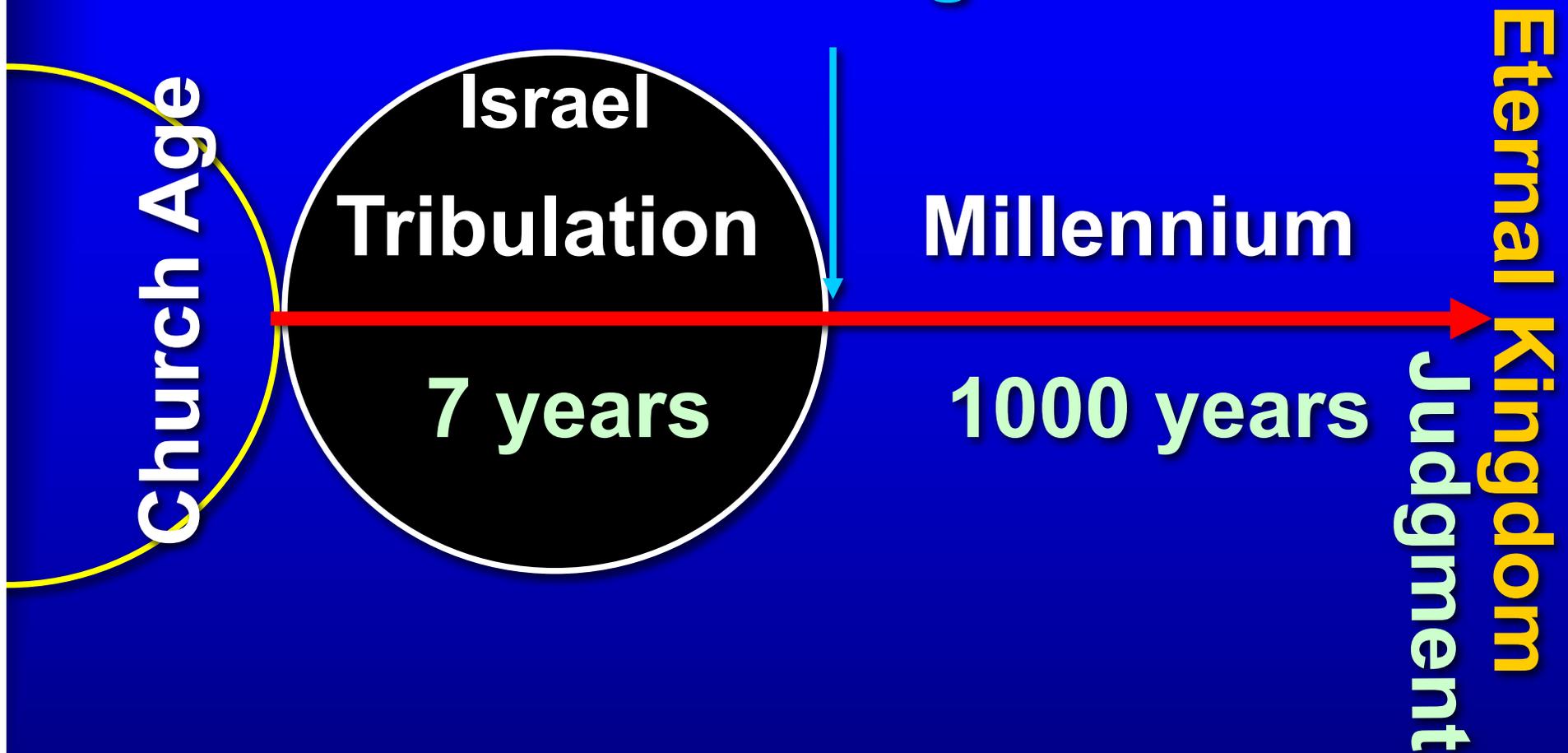
1000 years

Eternal Kingdom  
Judgment

ALL 5 RAPTURE VIEWS  
ARE PREMILLENNIAL

# Dispensationalism

Second  
Coming

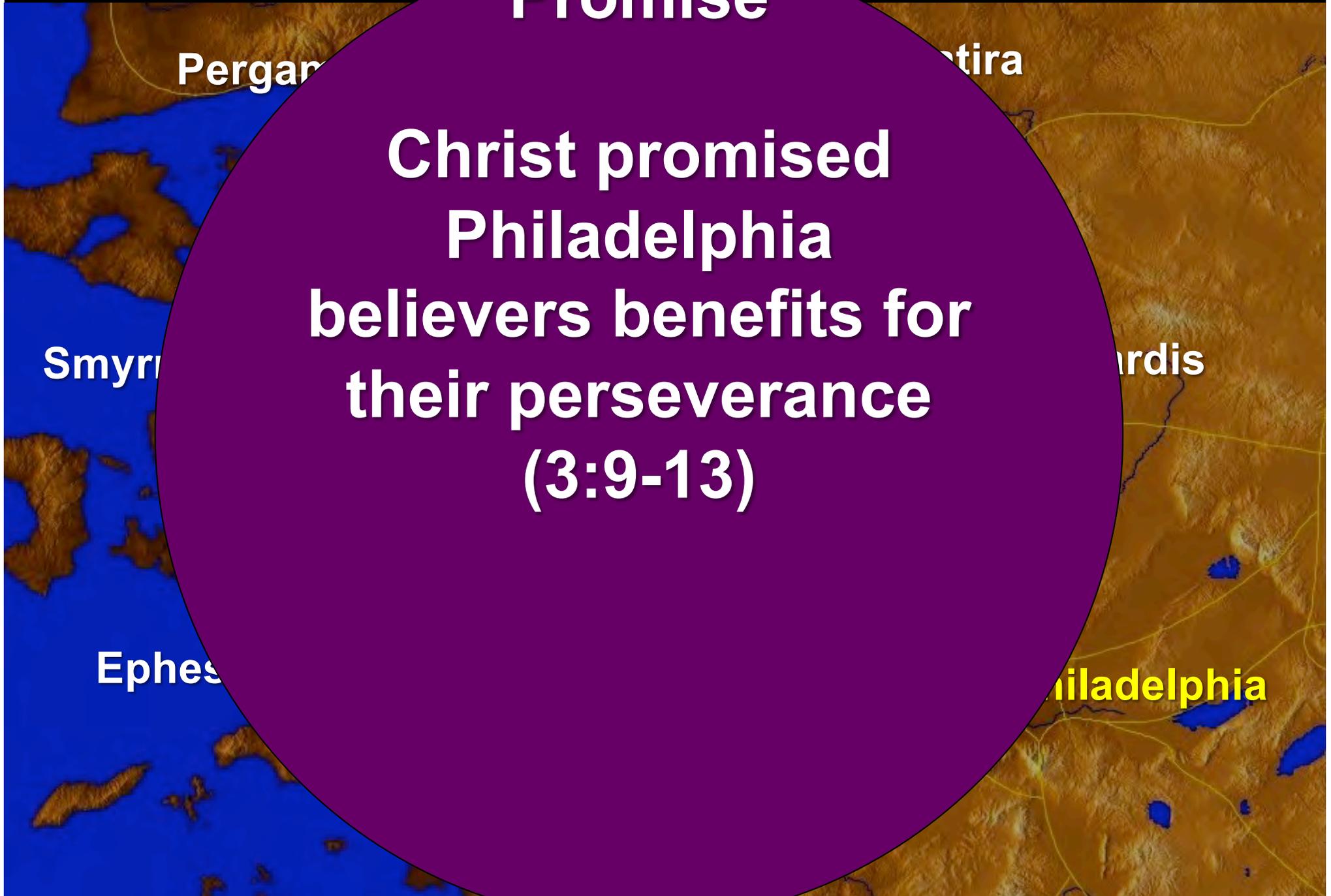


# When will the Rapture occur?

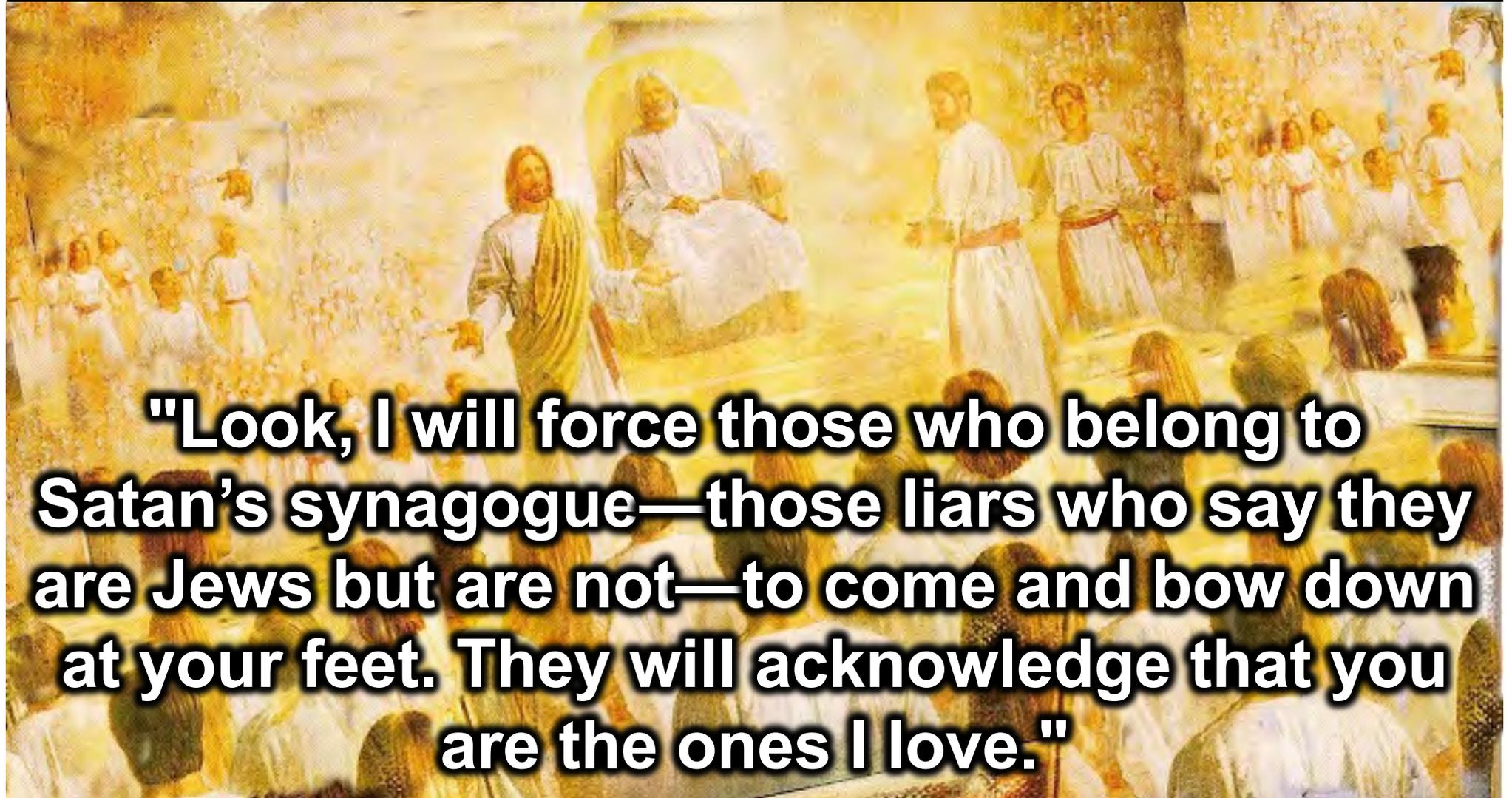


**Promise**

**Christ promised  
Philadelphia  
believers benefits for  
their perseverance  
(3:9-13)**



# Christ promises honor before enemies (3:9).

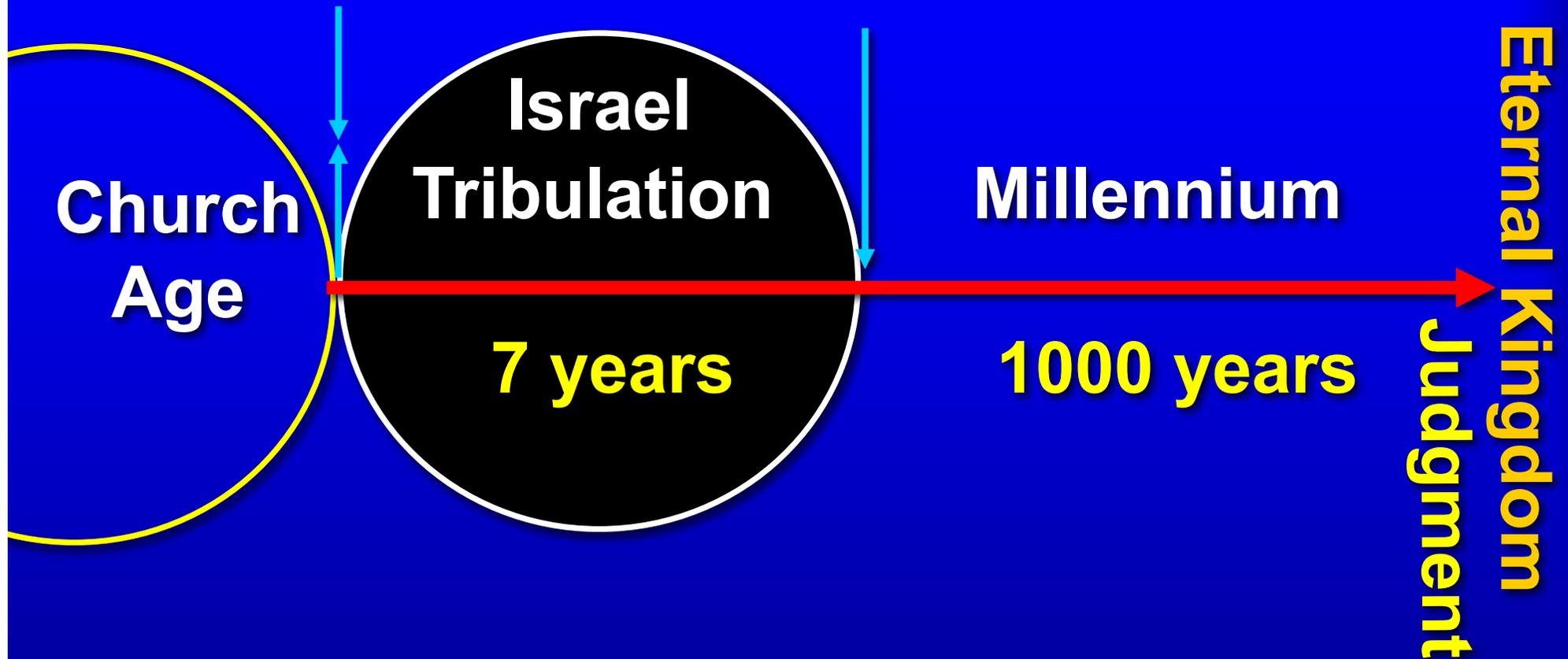


**"Look, I will force those who belong to Satan's synagogue—those liars who say they are Jews but are not—to come and bow down at your feet. They will acknowledge that you are the ones I love."**

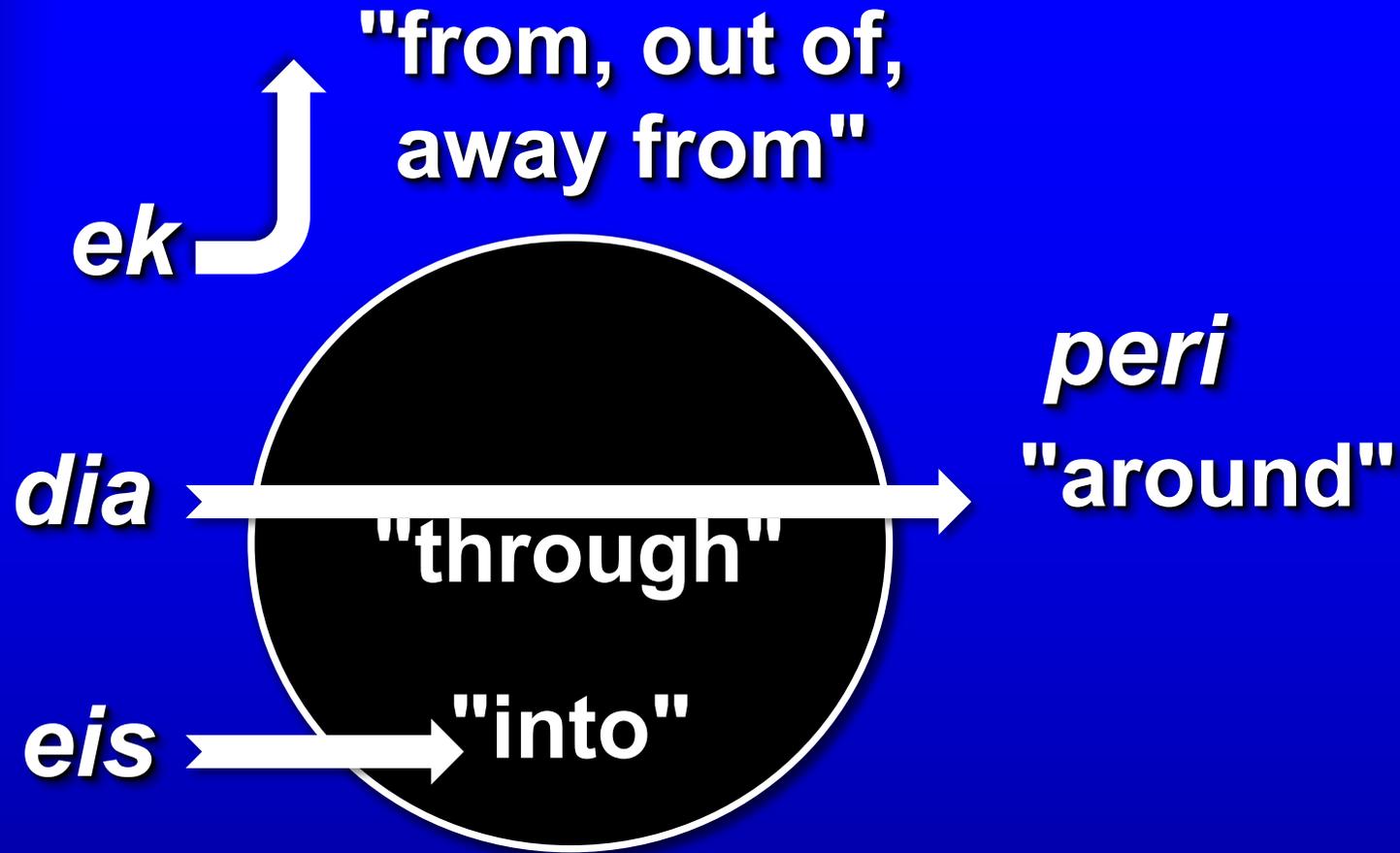
# Deliverance from the Tribulation

208  
362

## Second Coming



# Greek Prepositions



# Premillennialism

**Second Coming = Second Advent**

**Church Age**

**Tribulation**

**Millennium**

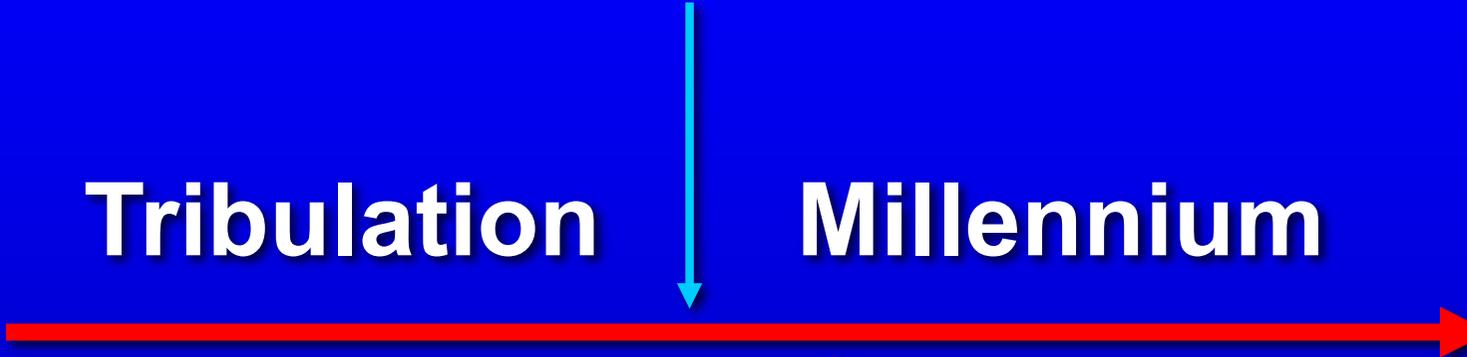
**Eternal Kingdom**

**Judgment**

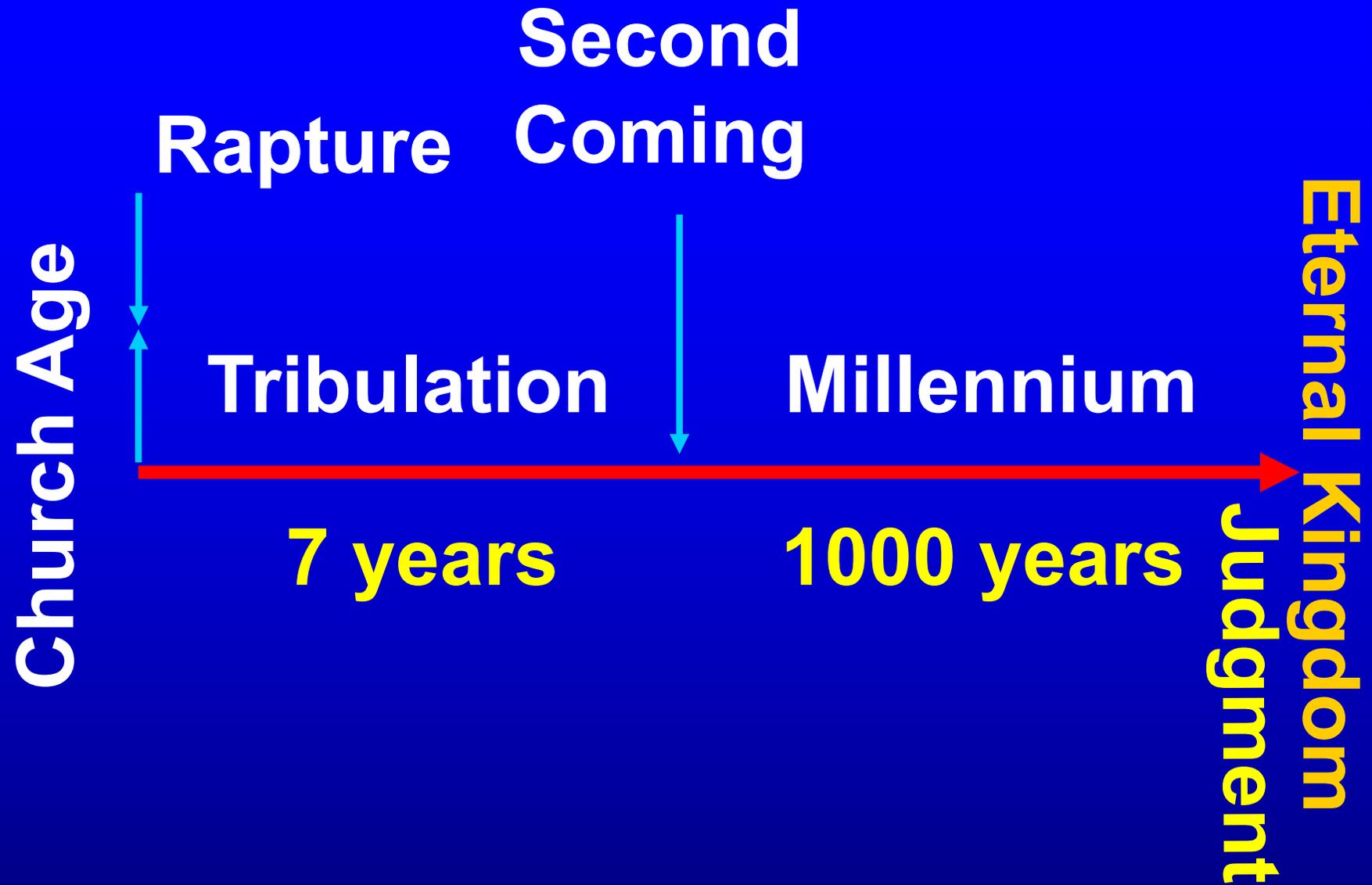
**7 years**

**1000 years**

**ALL 5 RAPTURE  
VIEWS ARE  
PREMILLENNIAL**



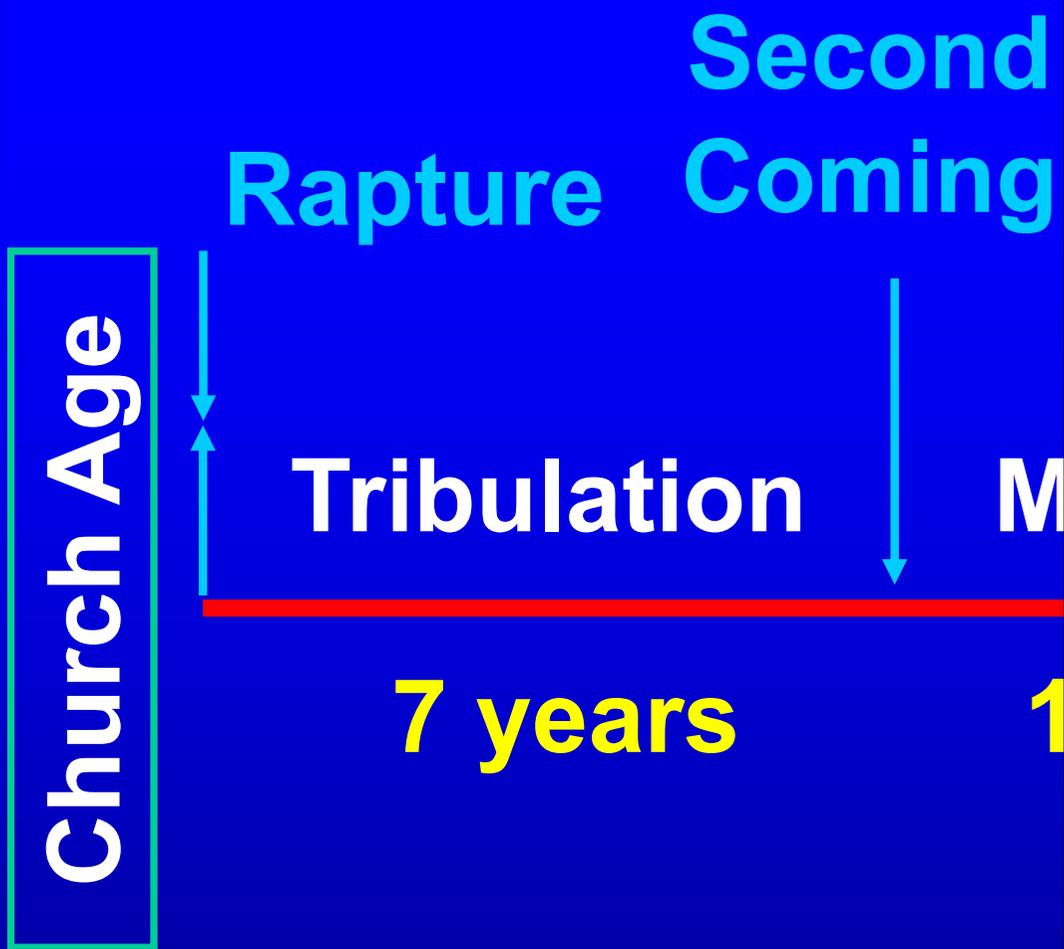
# "Pre-Trib" Rapture



# Why Am I Pretrib?

1. **Believers will be kept from (ek) this "hour," or time period (Rev. 3:10).**

# "Pre-Trib" Rapture



1. "I will keep you from (ek) the hour of testing that will come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell upon the earth"

(Rev. 3:10)

# "Pre-Trib" Rapture



1. "I will keep you from (ek) the hour of testing that will come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell upon the earth"

(Rev. 3:10)

# The Only Other NT Occurrence of "Keep From" (*tereo ek*)

209  
362

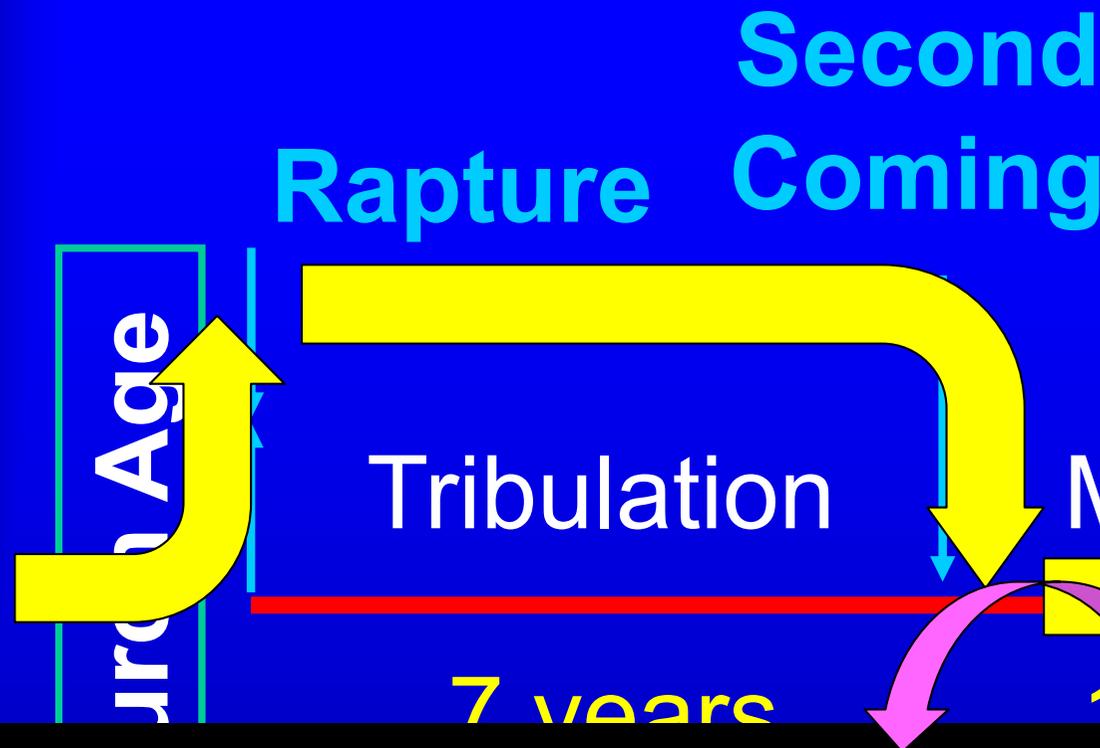
The idea of being taken out of the world relates to being **removed** from the world

1. "I do not ask you to take them out of (*ek*) the world, but to **keep** them **from** (*ek*) the evil one" (John 17:15)

*ek* → sphere of "the evil one"  
"from, out of, away from"

Not kept in Satan's sphere parallels  
not kept in Tribulation Period

# "Pre-Trib" Rapture



Each time this "phrase occurs... **the enemies** of the church are always in mind" (Mounce, 120)

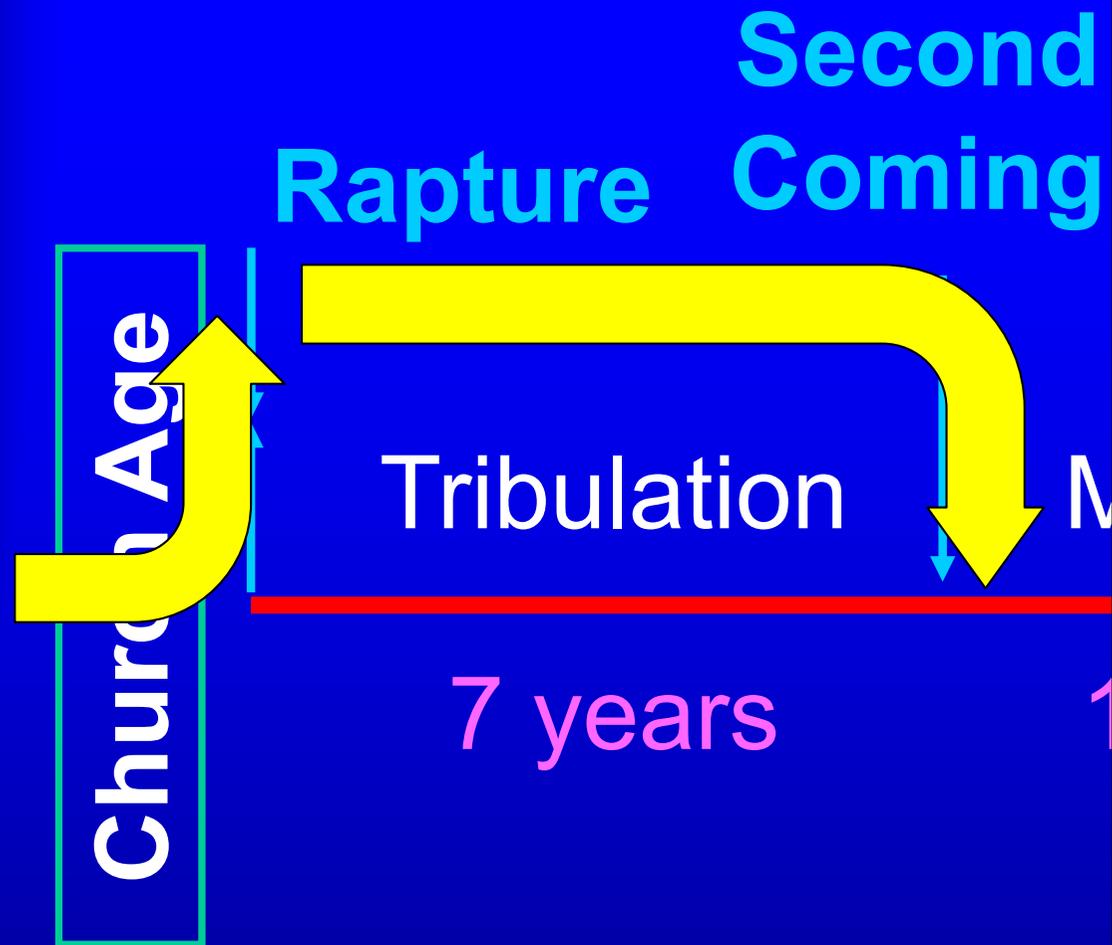
2. "I will keep you from (*ek*) the hour of testing that will come upon the whole world, **to test those who dwell upon the earth**"

(Rev. 3:10)

# Why Am I Pretrib?

- 1. Believers will be kept from (ἐκ) this "hour," or time period (Rev. 3:10)**
- 2. The Tribulation tests unbelievers (Rev. 3:10)**
- 3. Believers are not under God's wrath (Rev. 6:16-17)**

# "Pre-Trib" Rapture



3. The Church will never come under God's wrath:

- John 5:24
- Rom. 5:9; 8:1
- 1 Thess. 1:10; 5:9
- Rev. 6:15-17
- Rev. 11:18
- Rev. 14:10, 19

# Why Am I Pretrib?

1. Believers will be kept from (ἐκ) this "hour," or time period (Rev 3:10)
2. The Tribulation tests unbelievers (3:10)
3. Believers are not under God's wrath (Rev 6:16-17)
4. The Holy Spirit's work of restraining evil will be absent (2 Thess 2:6-7).

τὸ κατέχον ("what restrains" = neuter, 2:6 = gospel preaching)  
 ὁ κατέχων ("he who restrains" = masculine, 2:7 = a person)  
 πνεῦμα ("Spirit" = neuter noun but used of a person)

# Why Am I Pretrib?

5. **The church is never mentioned in the Tribulation chapters (Rev. 4–19) except as the "tabernacle of God" in heaven (13:6; cf. Eph. 2:21-22)**

# Why Am I Pretrib?

6. **The Rapture is imminent ("can happen at any time"), so it must also be pretribulational:**
  - a. **"...the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night" (1 Thess. 5:2)**
  - b. **"I will come back and take you to be with me" (John 14:3) = "I am coming" in immediate future without signs**
  - c. **James 5:8-9; Tit. 2:13; Heb. 9:28; 1 Pet. 1:6-7; 1 John 2:28; 3:2-3; Rev. 22:10, 12**

# Stages of the Second Coming

60

The Rapture	The Revelation
1 <u>Pretribulational</u> (Rev. 3:10)	<u>Posttribulational</u> (Rev. 19:11-21)
2 Christ will <u>come in the air</u> (1 Thess. 4:16)	Christ will <u>come to the earth</u> , His feet touching the Mt. of Olives (Zech 14:4)
3 A coming <u>for</u> the saints (John 14:1-2; 1 Thess. 4:15-17)	A coming <u>with</u> the saints (Matt. 25:31; 1 Thess. 3:13; Rev. 19:14)
4 <u>Saints</u> (dead and alive) will be <u>caught up</u> ("raptured") from the earth to meet the Lord in the air and taken to heaven (1 Thess. 4:16-17)	<u>Saints</u> already on earth will <u>remain on the earth</u> (no Rapture) to be ushered into the Millennium (Acts 15:16; Rev. 5:10; cf. Matt. 6:10; chap. 24)
5 Produces <u>comfort and hope</u> (1 Thess. 4:18)	Produces <u>fear and judgment</u> (Matt. 24:27-31; Luke 21:20-28; Rev. 6:15-17)

# Stages of the Second Coming

60

The Rapture	The Revelation
6 <b><u>Mystery</u></b> truth revealed only in the New Testament age (1 Cor. 15:51)	<b><u>Central</u></b> in OT prophecy but clarified in the NT (Jer. 30:7; Zech 14:1-3; Matt. 24:30; Col. 3:4)
7 <b>Bodies of church saints glorified</b> (1 Cor. 15:51-58; Phil. 3:20-21) and brought to heaven for seven years (1 Thess. 4:17)	<b>Bodies of tribulation saints left in mortal state</b> to continue to live on the earth in the millennium (Matt. 25:31-34)
8 <b><u>Imminent</u></b> , no signs needed (1 Thess. 4:16)	<b><u>Not imminent</u></b> but preceded by spectacular signs in the heavens and on the earth (Matt. 24:29-31; Luke 21:25-28; Acts 2:19-21; Rev. 1:7; chs. 6-19)
9 <b>Primary purpose is <u>deliverance</u></b> of the saints from this world (1 Thess. 1:10)	<b>Primary purpose is <u>judgment</u></b> of unbelieving (Matt. 25:31-46)

# Stages of the Second Coming

60

The Rapture	The Revelation
<p>1 <u>Invisible</u> and private as only 0 believers see Christ and since God sends a powerful delusion through the Antichrist (2 Thess. 2:11)</p>	<p><u>Visible</u> and public since "every eye shall see Him" (Rev. 1:7)</p>
<p>11 Fulfills a promise to the <u>Church</u> where Jew-Gentile distinctions do not exist (1 Thess. 4:15; cf. John 14:1-3; Eph. 2:11-16)</p>	<p>Fulfills promises to <u>Israel</u> of covenants made in the Old Testament (Gen. 12:1-3; Ps. 89; Isa. 11:11-14; cf. Rom. 11:26-27)</p>
<p>1 Evil begins to <u>increase</u> (2 Thess. 2 2:1-12)</p>	<p>Evil is <u>suppressed</u> (2 Thess. 1:7; Ps. 37:9-10)</p>
<p>1 <u>Church</u> removed (1 Thess. 4:13- 3 18)</p>	<p><u>Satan</u> removed (Rev. 20:1-3)</p>

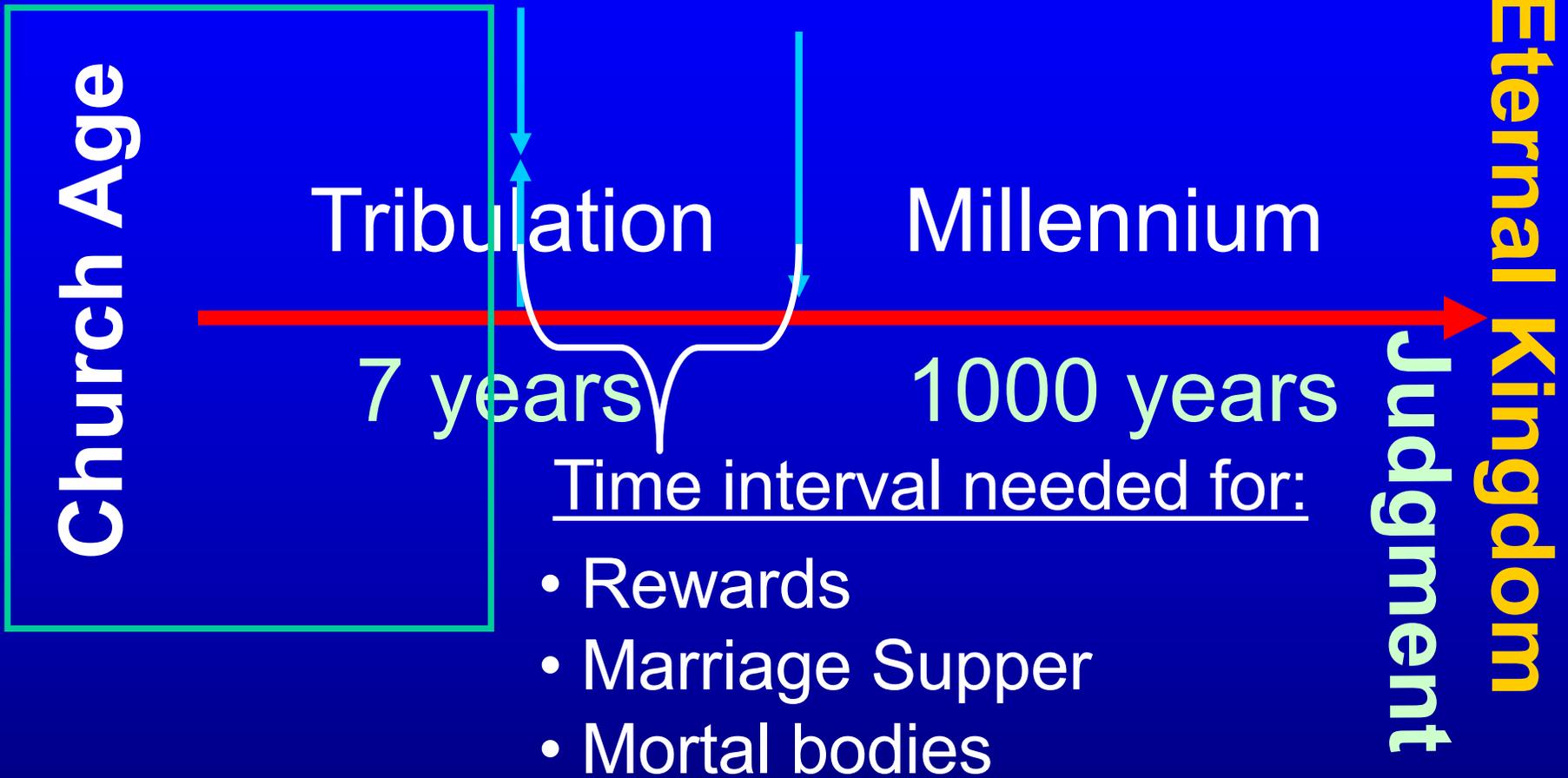
# Stages of the Second Coming

60

The Rapture	The Revelation
1 Christ shown as <u>Head</u> of the 4 Church and all things (Eph. 1:10, 22; 4:15; Col. 1:18; 2:10)	Christ vindicated as <u>Messiah</u> to Israel (Zech. 14:3-4; cf. Acts 1:6 with v. 11)
1 Judgment seat of Christ for 5 <u>believers</u> (2 Cor. 5:10; 1 Cor. 3:13)	Judgment of <u>Israel and Gentiles</u> (Ezek. 20:34-38; Matt. 25; Zech. 14:4; cf. p. 160)
1 The <u>Lord</u> is at hand (Phil. 4:5) 6	The <u>kingdom</u> is at hand (Matt. 24:14)
1 Nature subsequently <u>ruined</u> 7 (Rev. 6–16)	Nature subsequently <u>restored</u> (Rom. 8:19-22; Isa. 11:6-9; 35:9; 65:25)

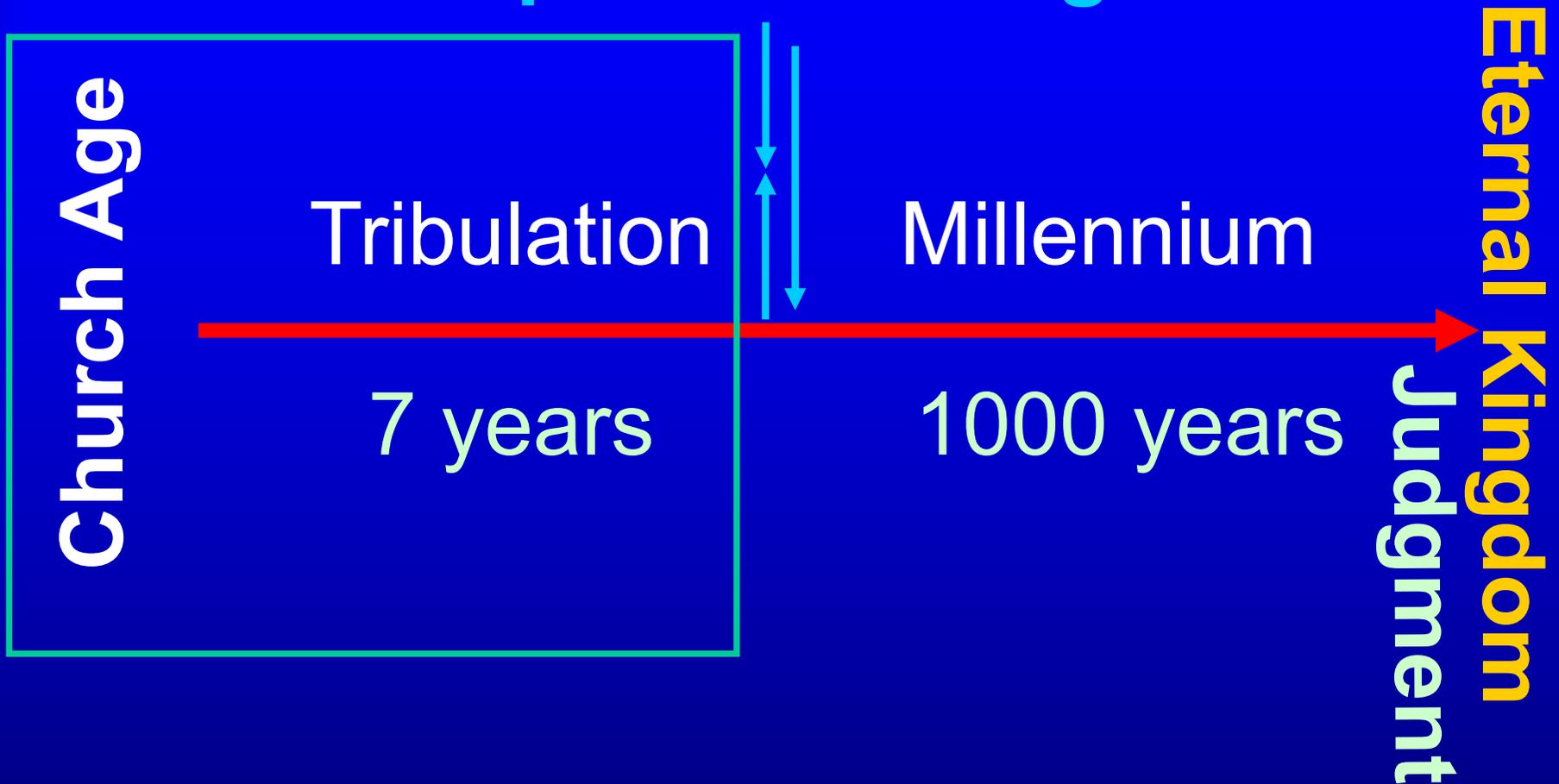
# "Mid-Trib" Rapture

## Second Rapture Coming



# "Post-Trib" Rapture

**Second  
Rapture Coming**



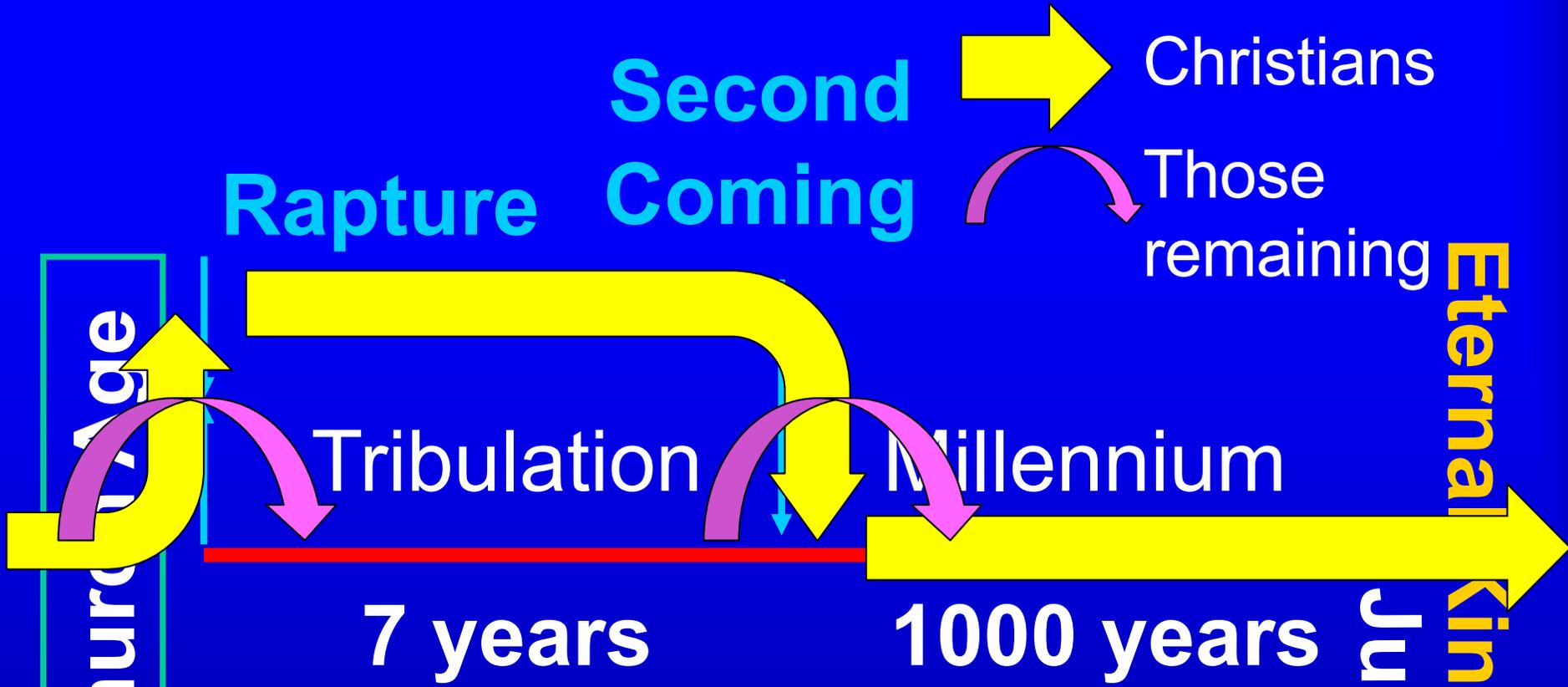
# Critiques of a “Post-Trib” Rapture 70

- 1 Historical: a doctrine being new does not make it invalid, J.N. Darby was not first “pre-tribber” anyway (245-48)
- 2 Nature of the Tribulation period is a time of God’s wrath, beginning in Rev. 6 (248-52)
- 3 Nature of the Church as distinct from Israel, to whom the Tribulation is directed (253-56)
- 4 Dissimilarity between Rapture & Second Coming texts, despite similar terminology (256-57)
- 5 Time needed between Rapture & Second Coming for rewards, marriage supper and mortal bodies (257-58)
- 6 Imminency denied: nothing had to be fulfilled by the time Peter grew old (John 21:18-19; cf. 1 Pet 4:7)
- 7 Olivet Discourse concerns Israel and lacks a resurrection or glorifying of the church (259-60)
- 8 Need for non-glorified bodies in the millennium and presence of “sheep” at “sheep and goat” judgment (260)

## Why Am I *Not Posttrib*?

8. If posttrib, then sheep would already be separated from goats (Matt. 25:31-46).
  
9. Some people in the millennium will die (Isa. 65:20), but a posttrib rapture gives a glorified body to *all* believers; therefore, some people must trust Christ in the Tribulation and enter the Millennium in their mortal bodies.

# A "Pre-Trib" Rapture explains how the Millennium will have both babies & death

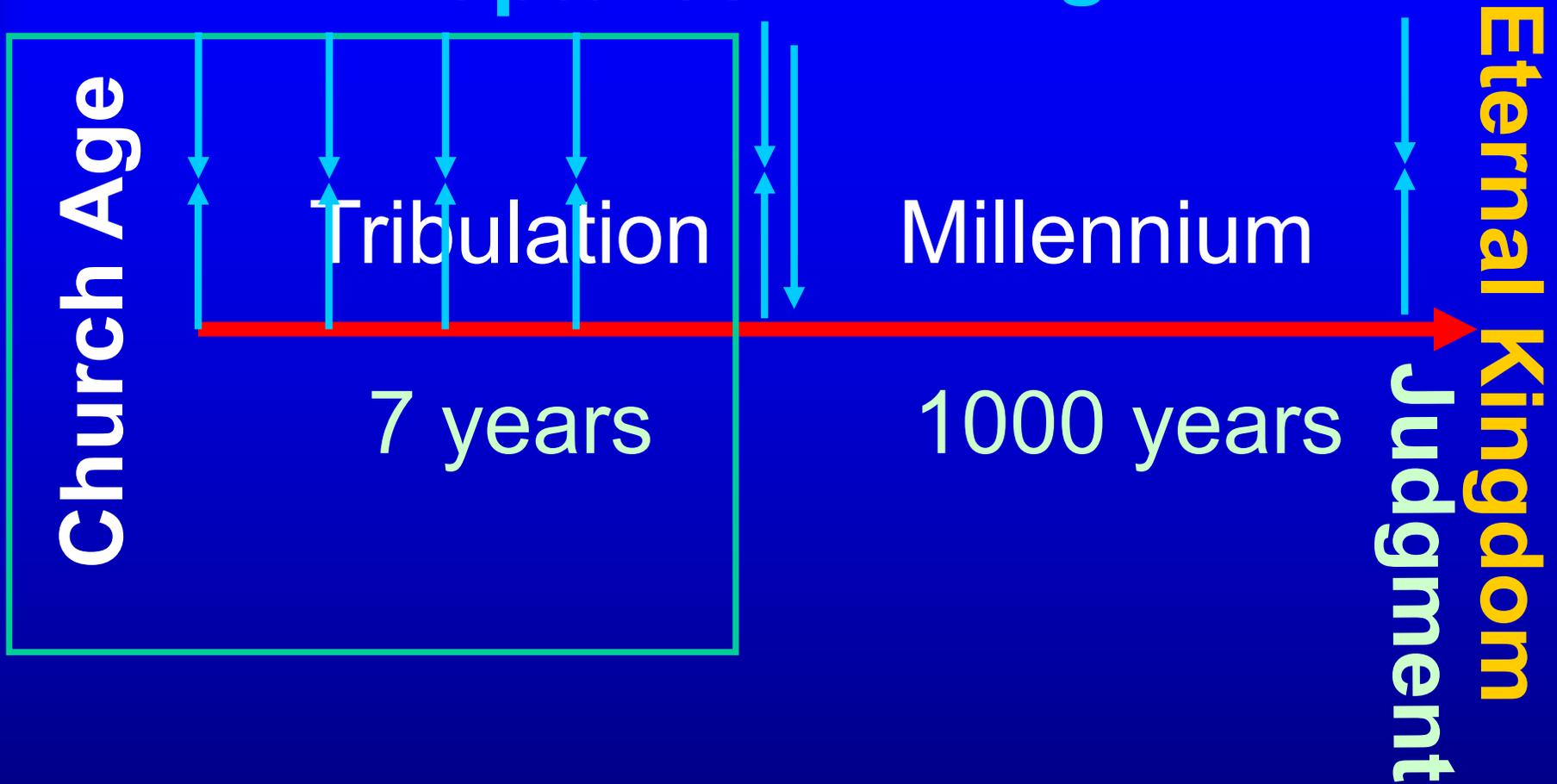


At the Rapture, believers will go to heaven and unbelievers remain on earth—the Tribulation will start 0% Christian.

After the Tribulation, believers on earth will enter the Millennium in their mortal bodies—the Millennium will start 100% Christian.

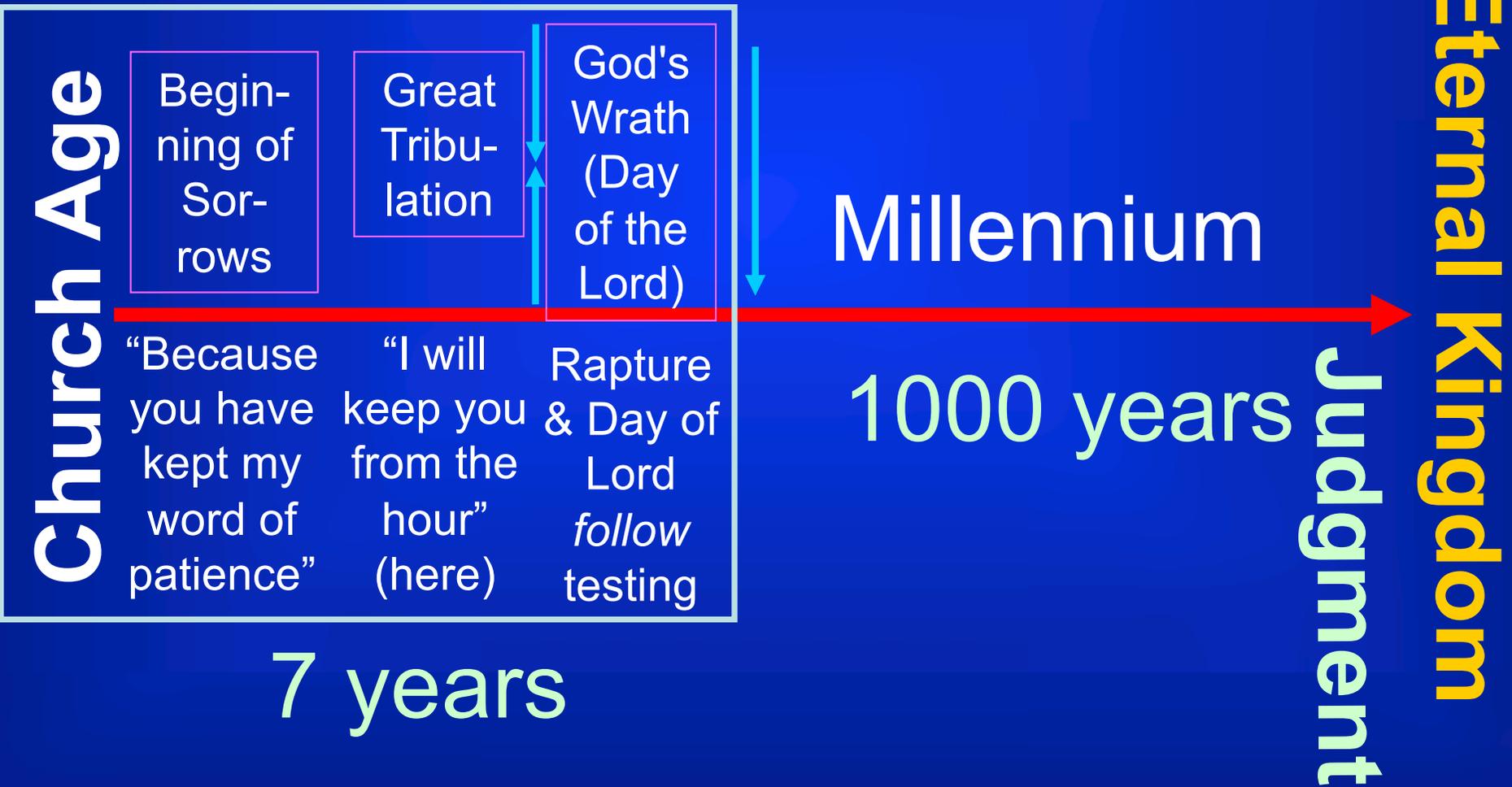
# "Partial" Rapture

## Second Raptures Coming

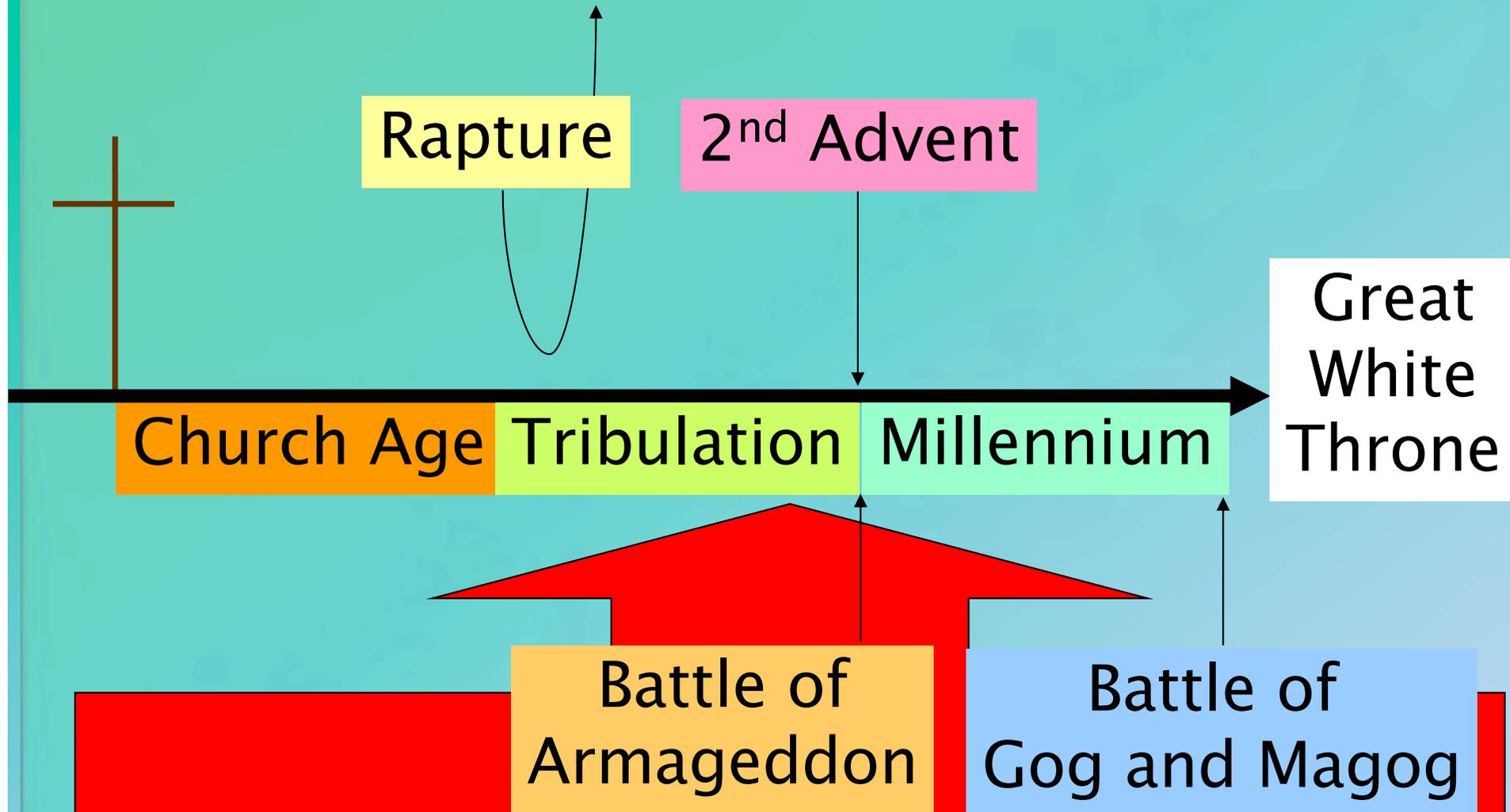


# "Prewrath" Rapture

## Pre-Wrath Rapture      Second Coming



# Pretribulational Premillennialism



"How awful that day will be! None will be like it. It will be a time of Jacob's trouble but he will be saved out of it"  
(Jer. 30:7)

“We will rise to  
meet Him”  
(1 Thess. 4:16)



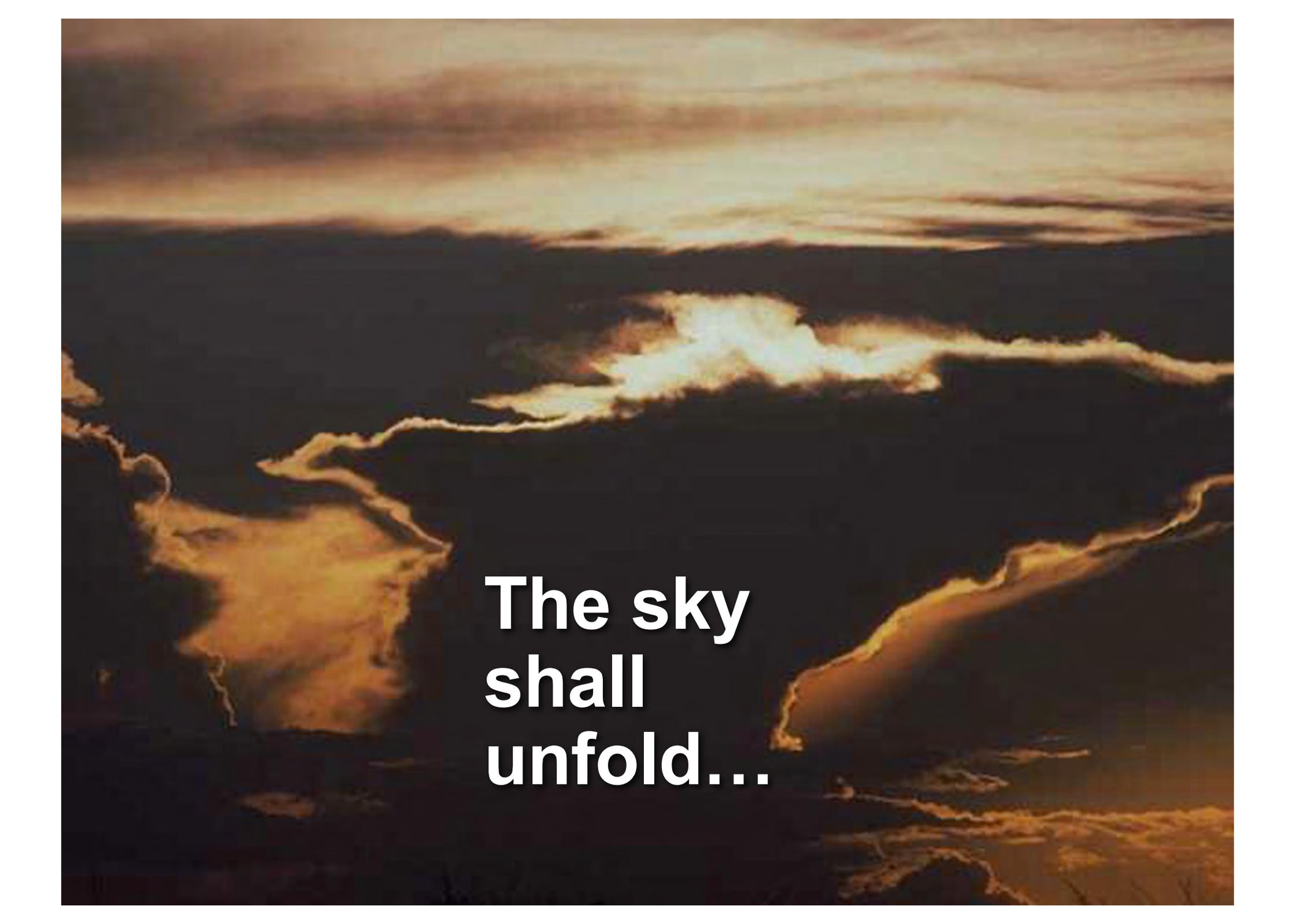
We will join him in the clouds



# **“We Shall Behold Him”**



***Sung by Sandi Patti***

A dramatic sky at sunset or sunrise. The sky is filled with dark, swirling clouds, and a bright, glowing light source is breaking through the center, creating a large, bright, and somewhat irregular shape. The overall color palette is dominated by dark blues, blacks, and oranges, with a bright white and yellow glow from the light source.

**The sky  
shall  
unfold...**

**...preparing His entrance**





**The stars  
shall  
applaud Him  
with  
thunders of  
praise**

**The  
sweet  
light in  
His eyes  
shall  
enhance  
those  
awaiting**



**And we shall behold Him  
then face to face**





**We shall behold Him**  
**We shall behold Him**



**...face to face  
in all of His glory**



**We shall  
behold Him**

**We shall  
behold Him**

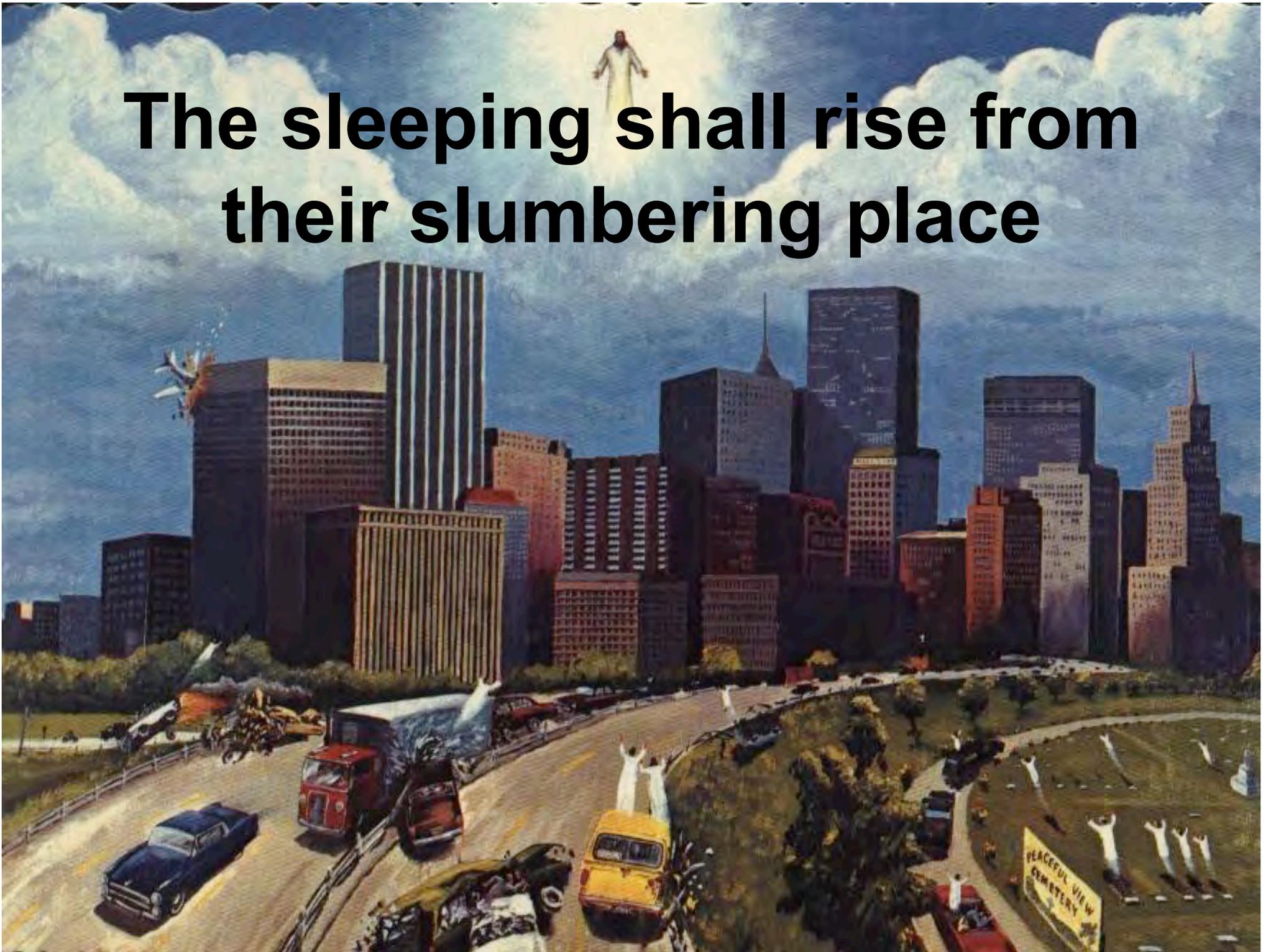
A dramatic sunset or sunrise over a dark, stormy sea. The sun is a bright, glowing orb partially obscured by dark, swirling clouds. The sky is filled with deep orange and red hues, with some lighter, wispy clouds catching the light. The overall mood is intense and awe-inspiring.

**...face to face,  
our Savior and Lord**



**The angels shall sound the  
shout of His coming**

**The sleeping shall rise from  
their slumbering place**



**And those who remain shall  
be changed in a moment**



**And we shall behold Him  
then face to face**





**We shall behold Him**

**We shall behold Him**

**...face to face  
in all of His glory**





**We shall behold Him**  
**We shall behold Him**

**...face to face,  
our Savior and Lord**

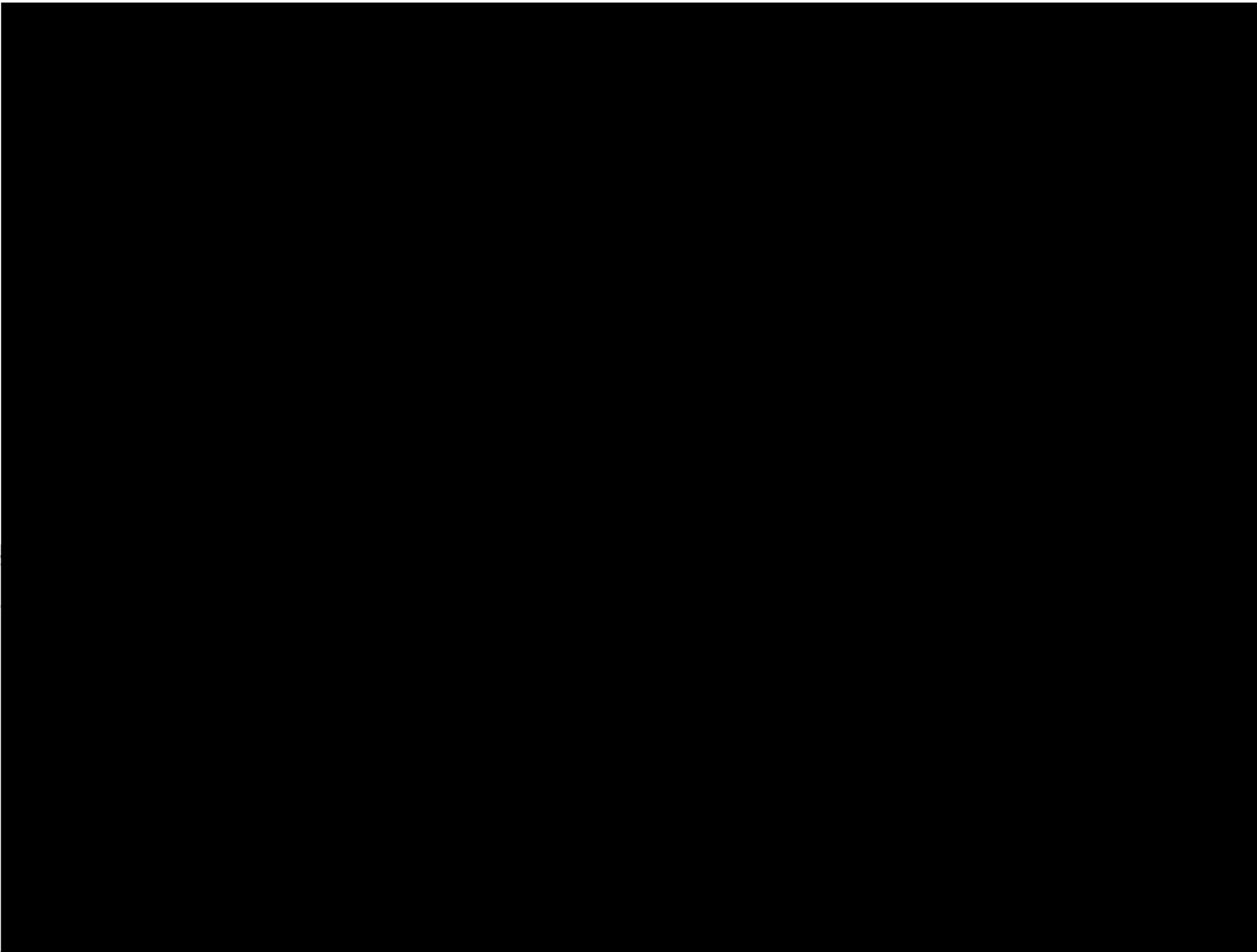




**We shall behold Him,  
our Savior and Lord!**

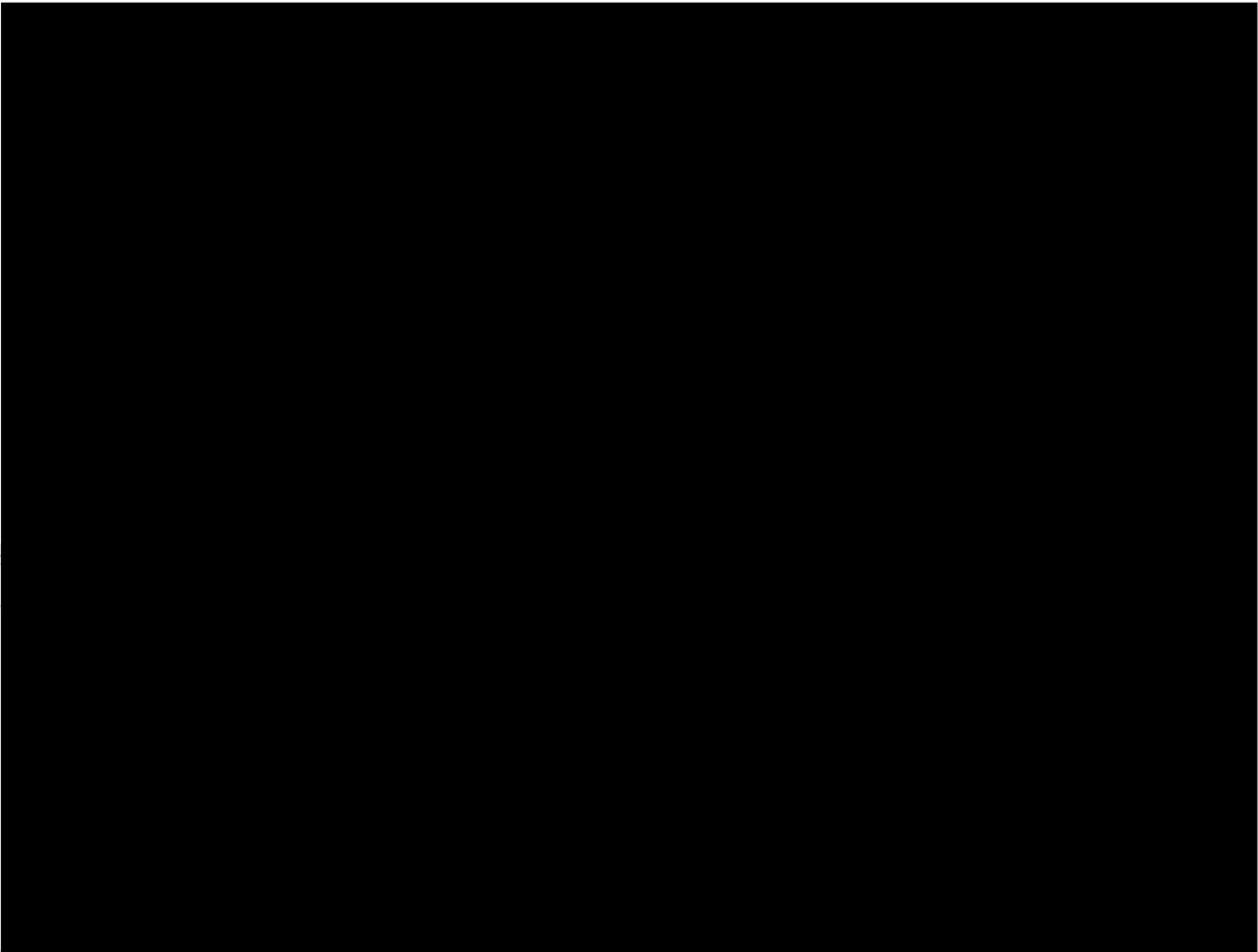


**...our Savior and Lord!**





**We will live forever  
with the One who flung  
stars into space!**



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