

The Return of Christ



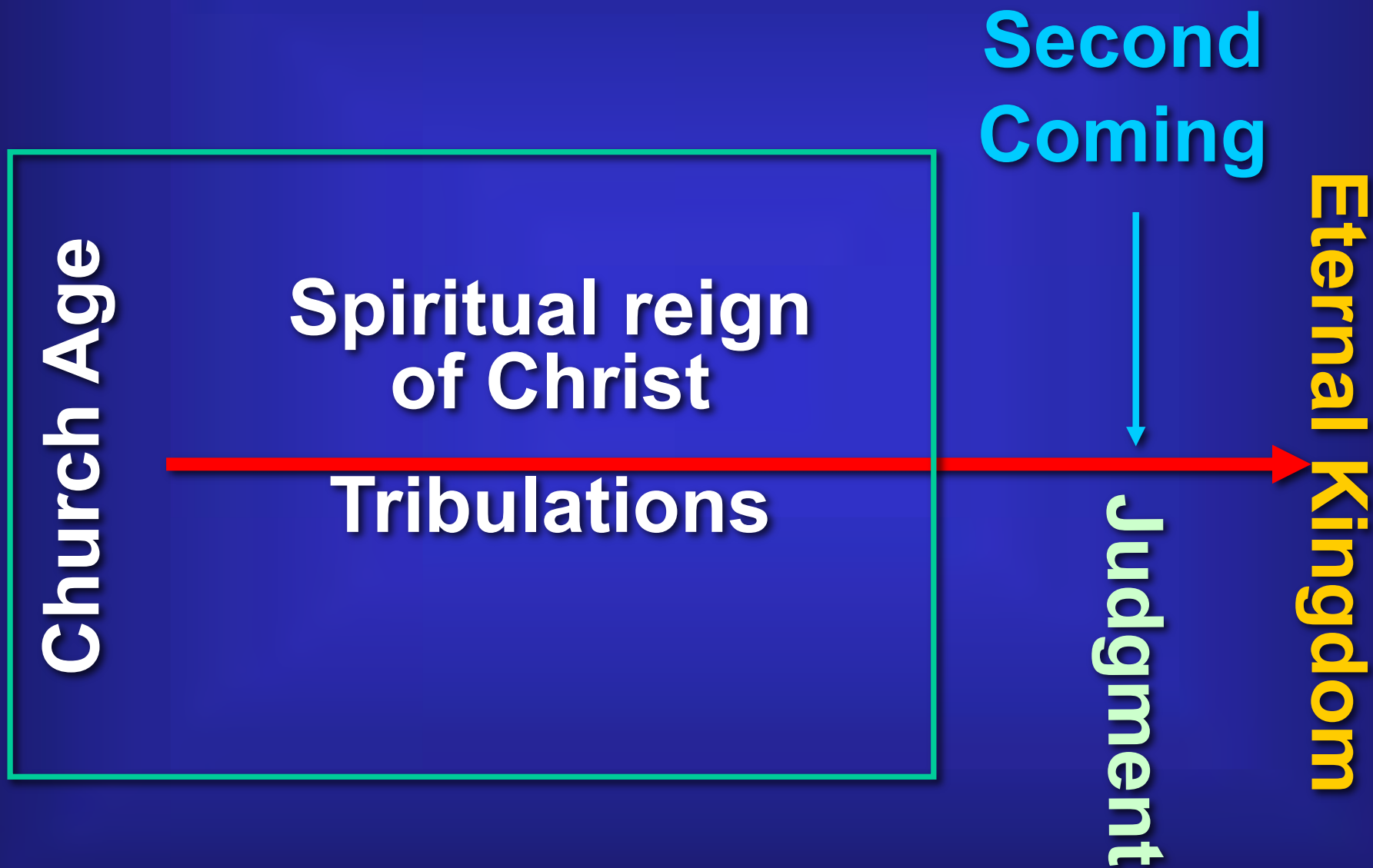
Christology: The Person & Work of Jesus

Dr. Rick Griffith • Jordan Evangelical Theological Seminary • BibleStudyDownloads.org

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binary vixen

Amillennialism

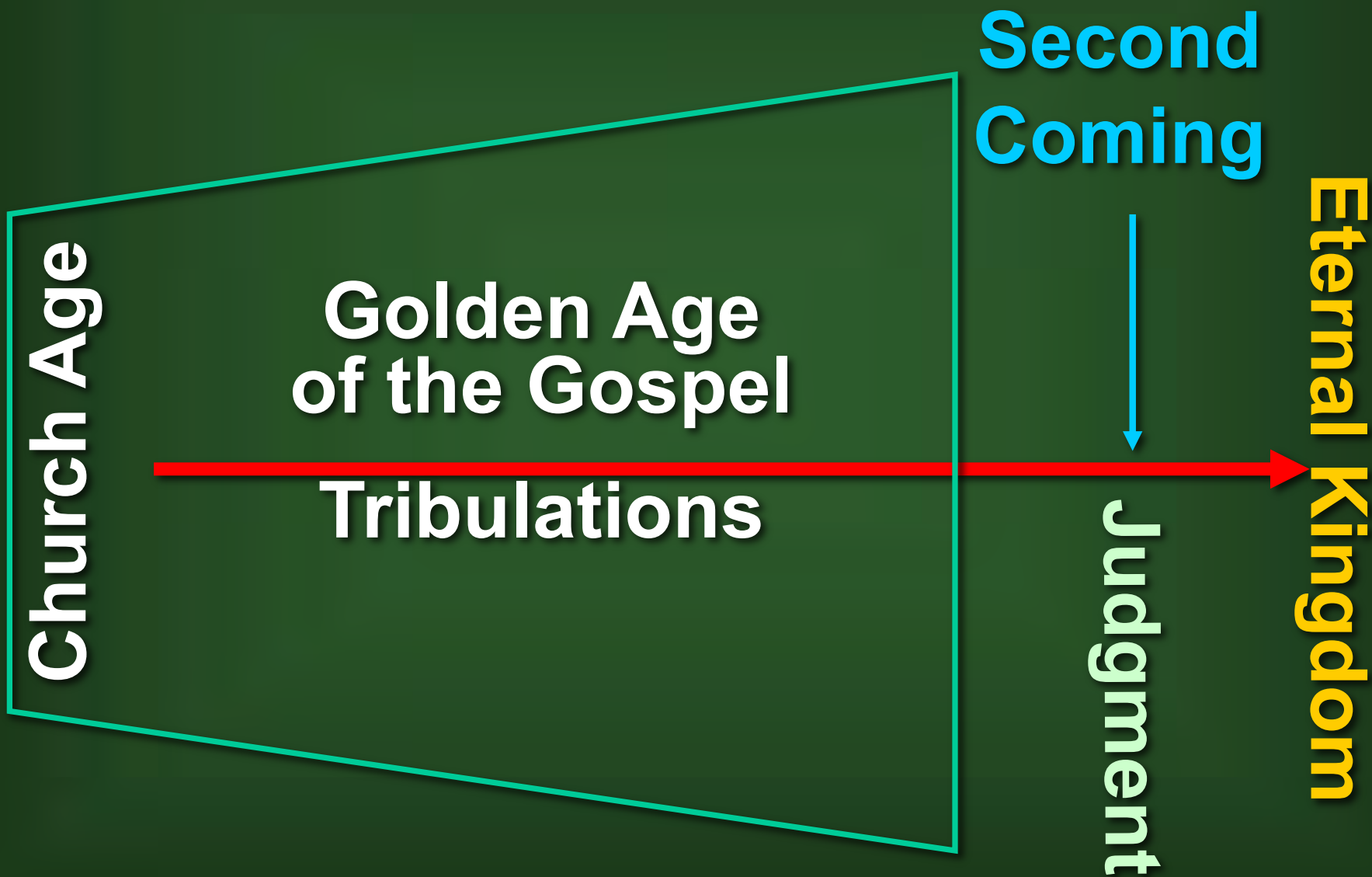


Critiques of Covenant Theology

- **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)**

- **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

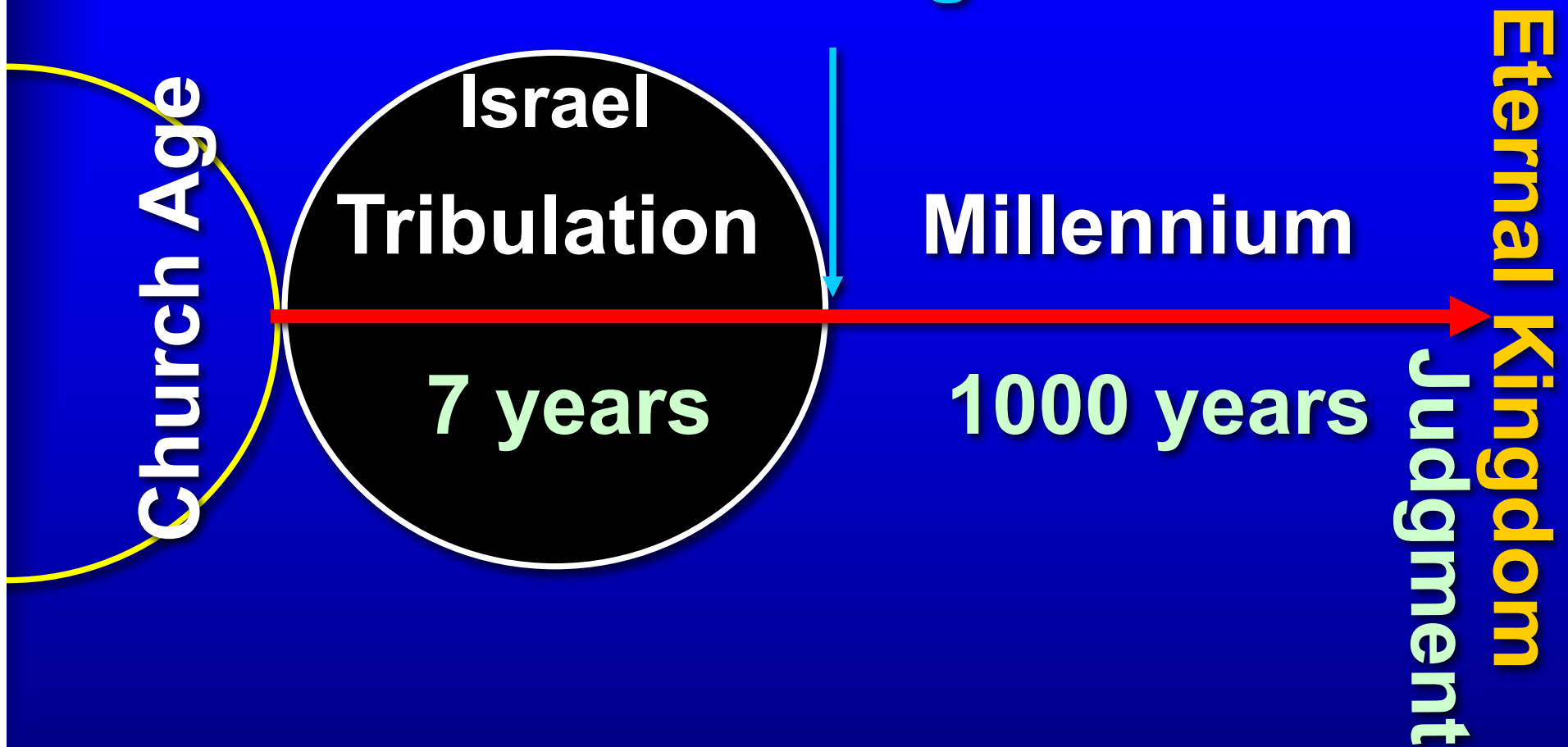
1000 years

Eternal Kingdom
Judgment

ALL 5 RAPTURE VIEWS
ARE PREMILLENNIAL

Dispensationalism

Second
Coming

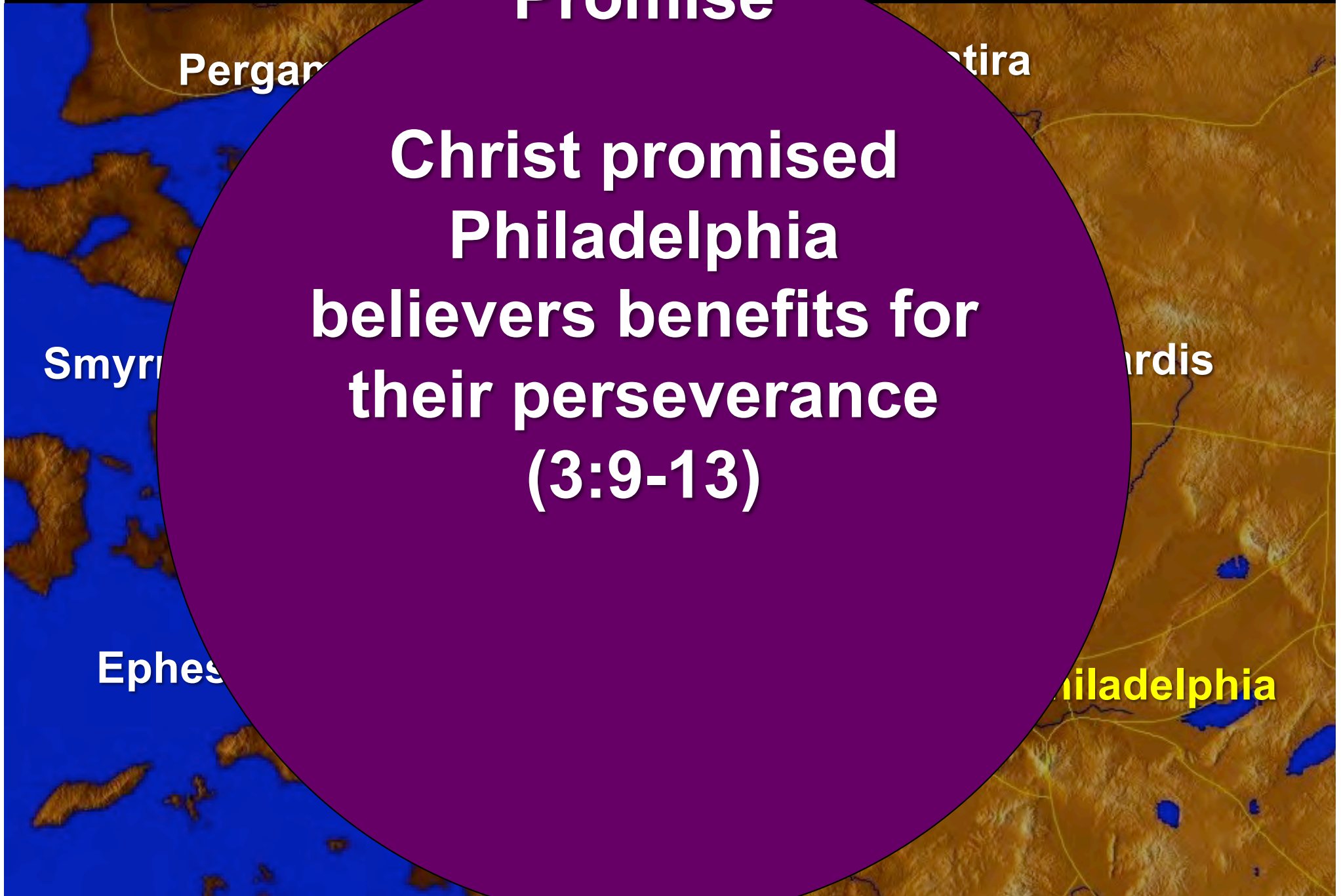


When will the Rapture occur?

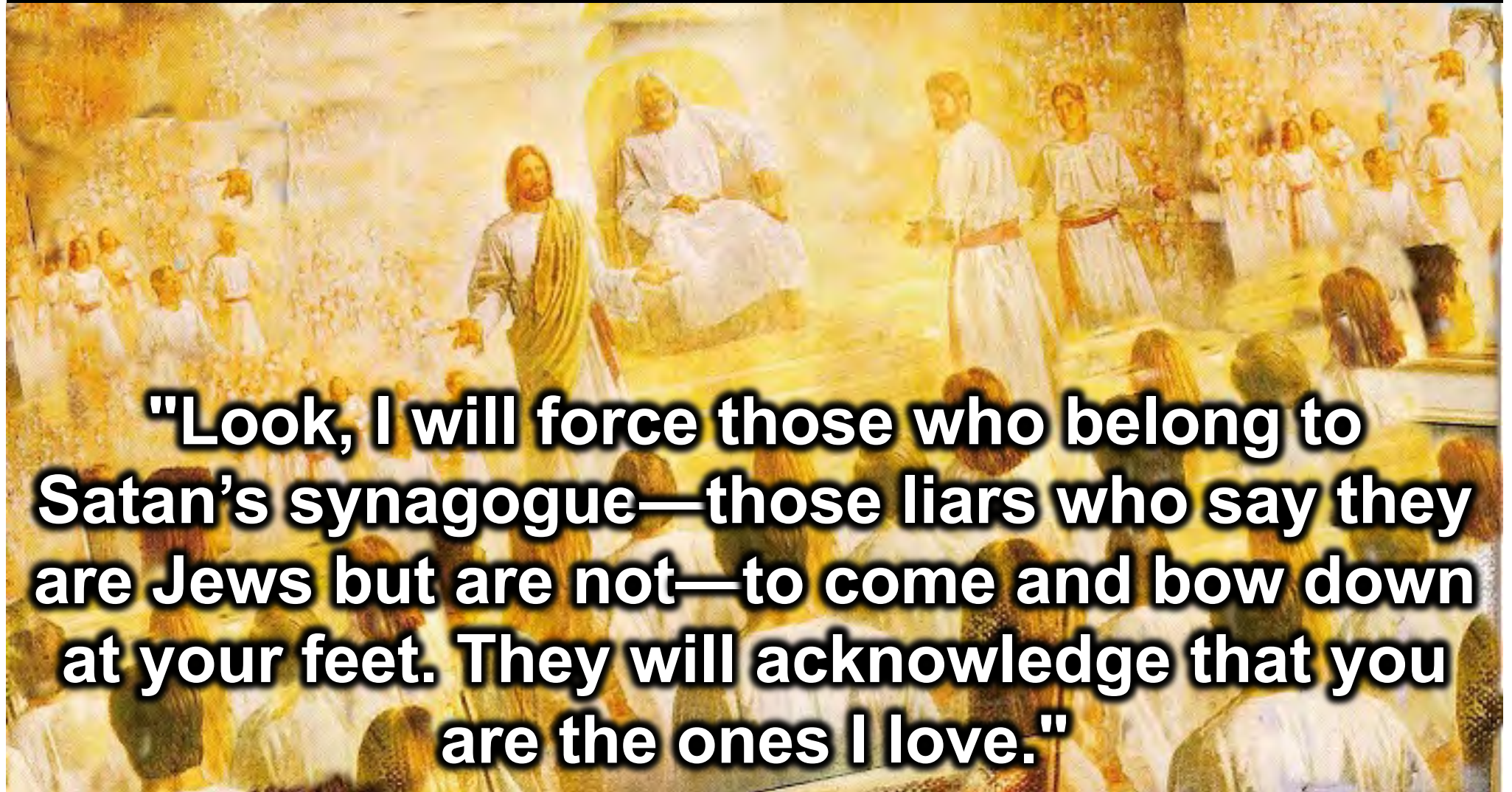


Promise

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

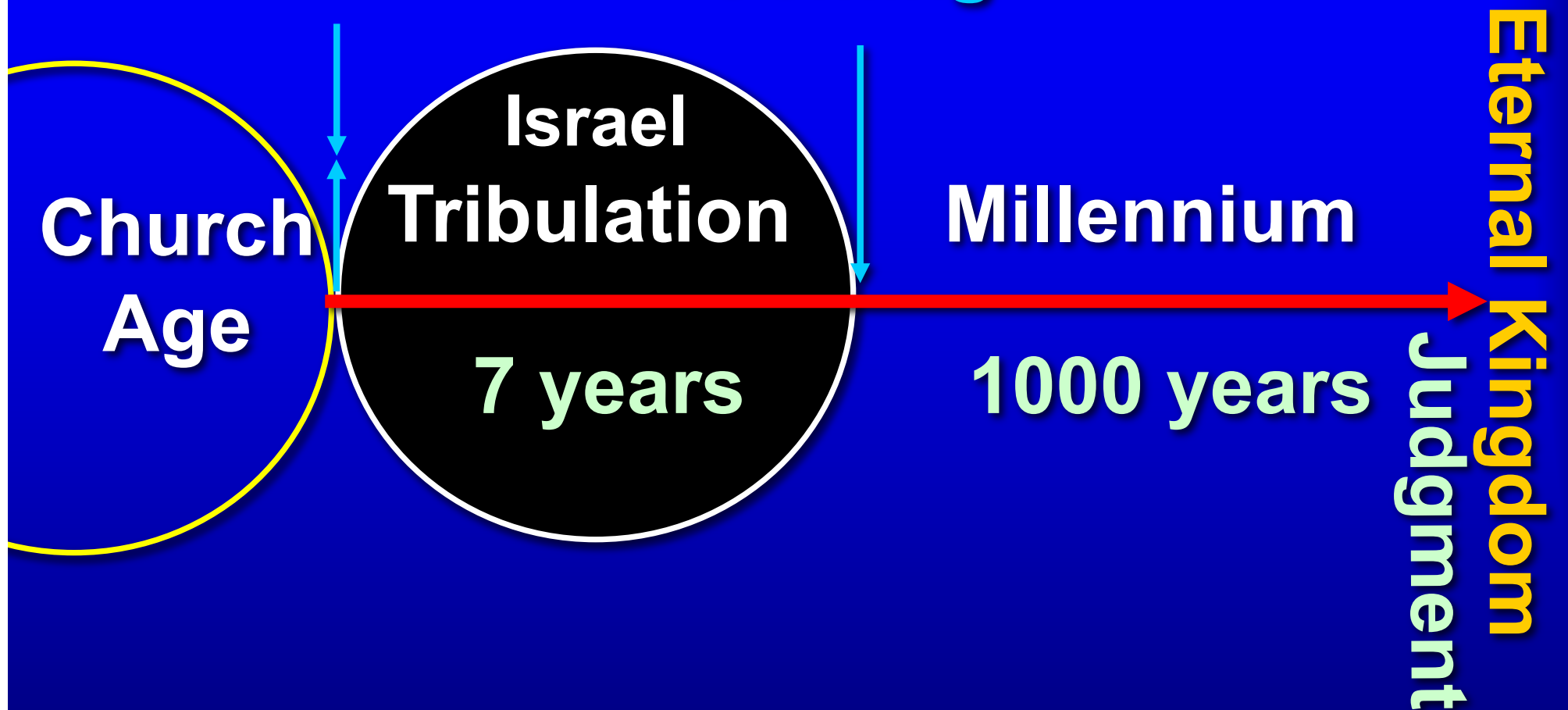


Christ promises honor before enemies (3:9).

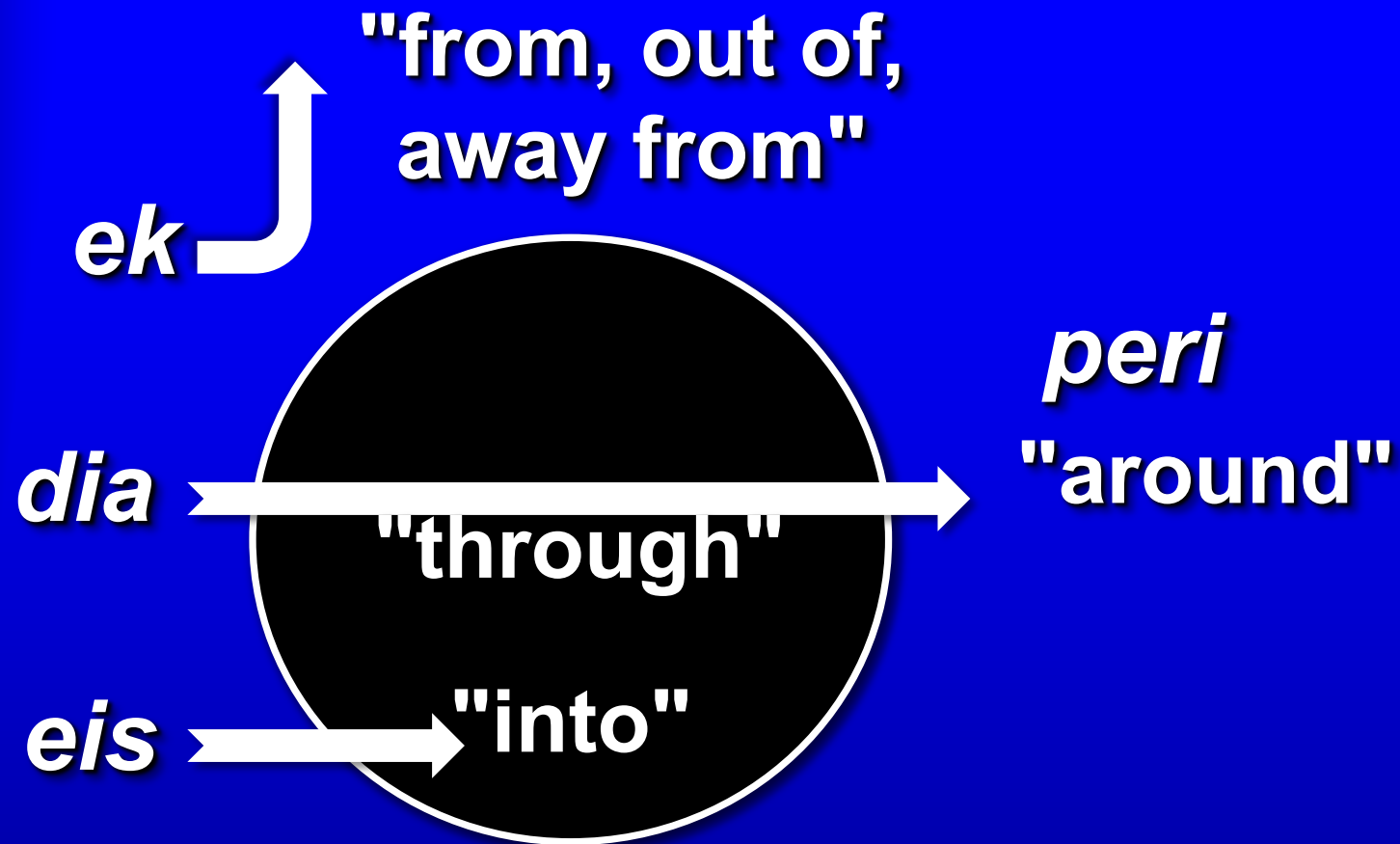


Deliverance from the Tribulation

Second
Coming



Greek Prepositions



Premillennialism

Second Coming = Second Advent

Church Age

Tribulation

Millennium

7 years

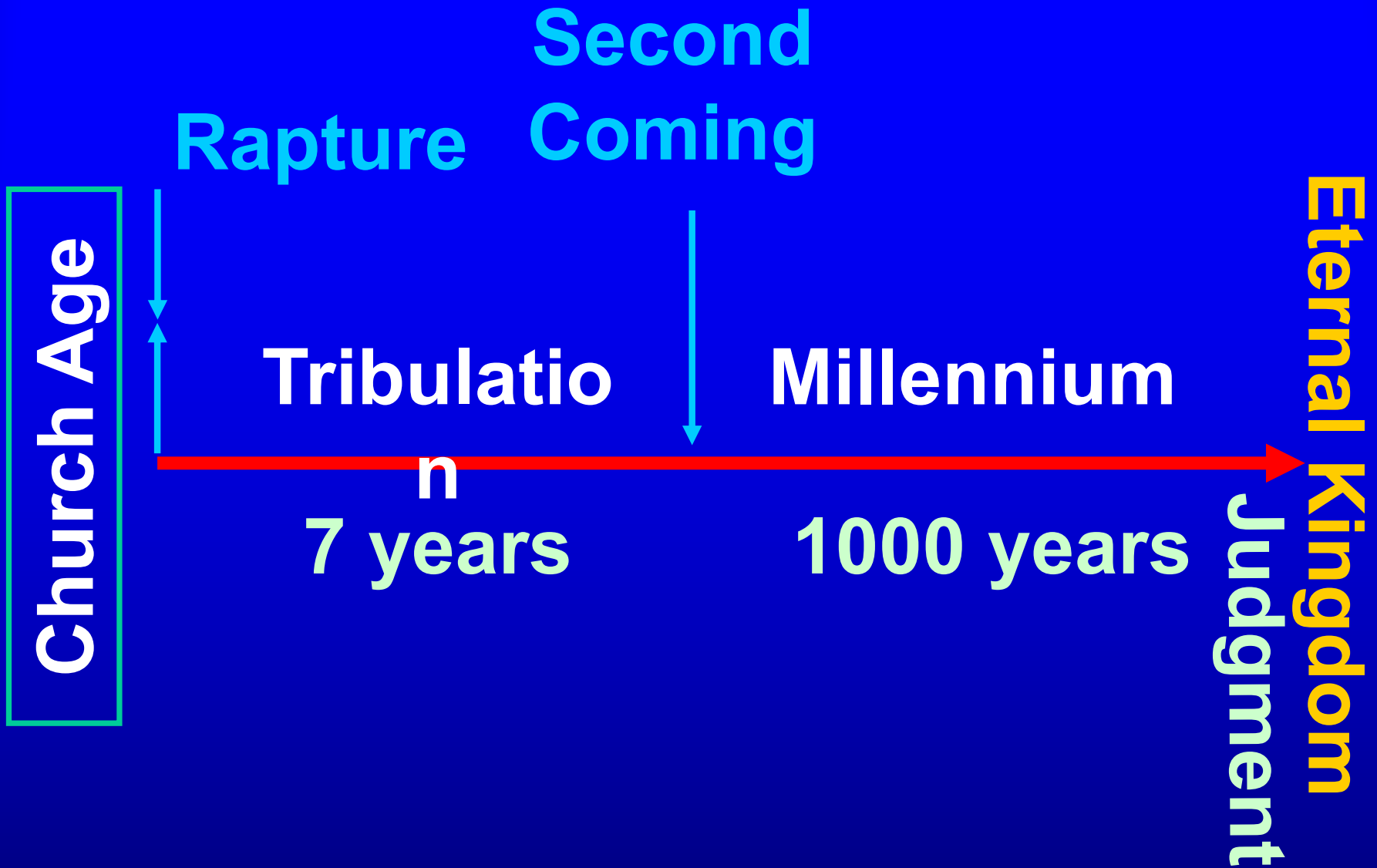
1000 years

Judgment

Eternal Kingdom

ALL 5 RAPTURE VIEWS ARE PREMILLENNIAL

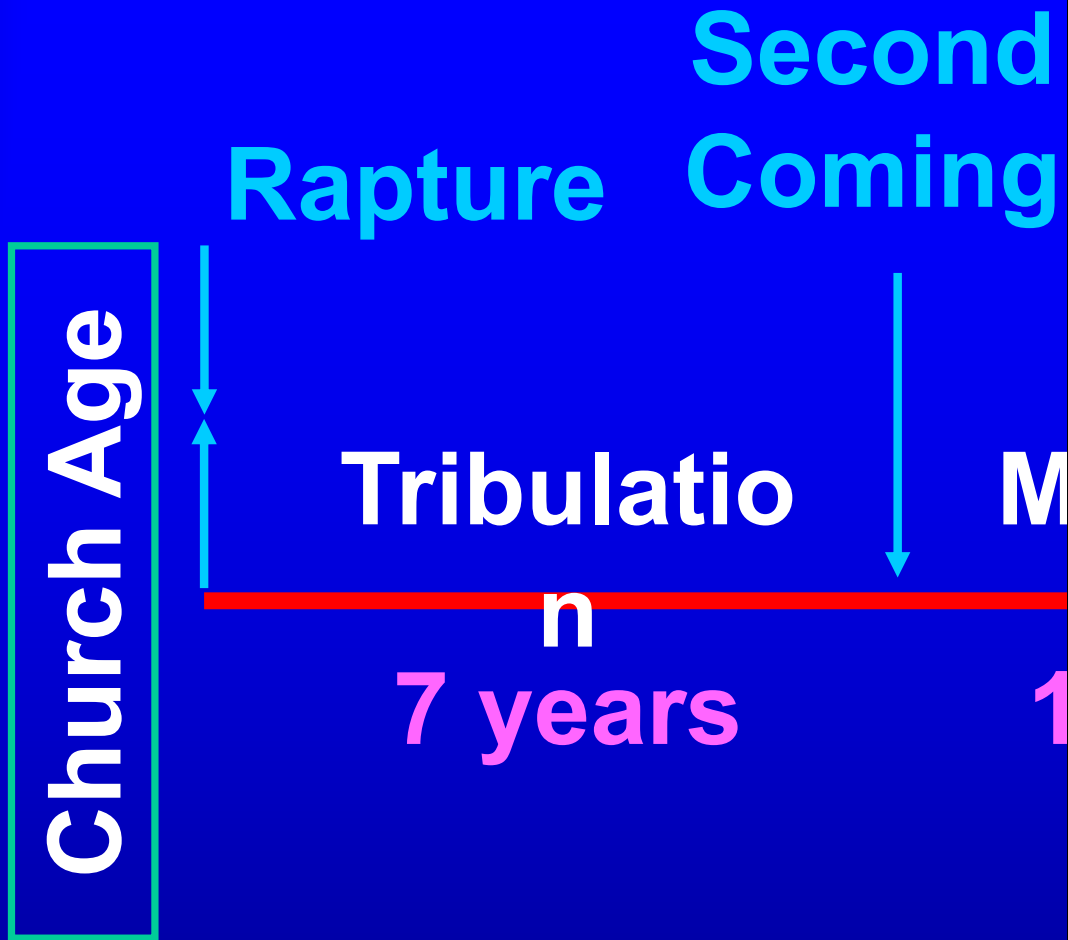
"Pre-Trib" Rapture



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*)

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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)

sphere of
"the evil
one"

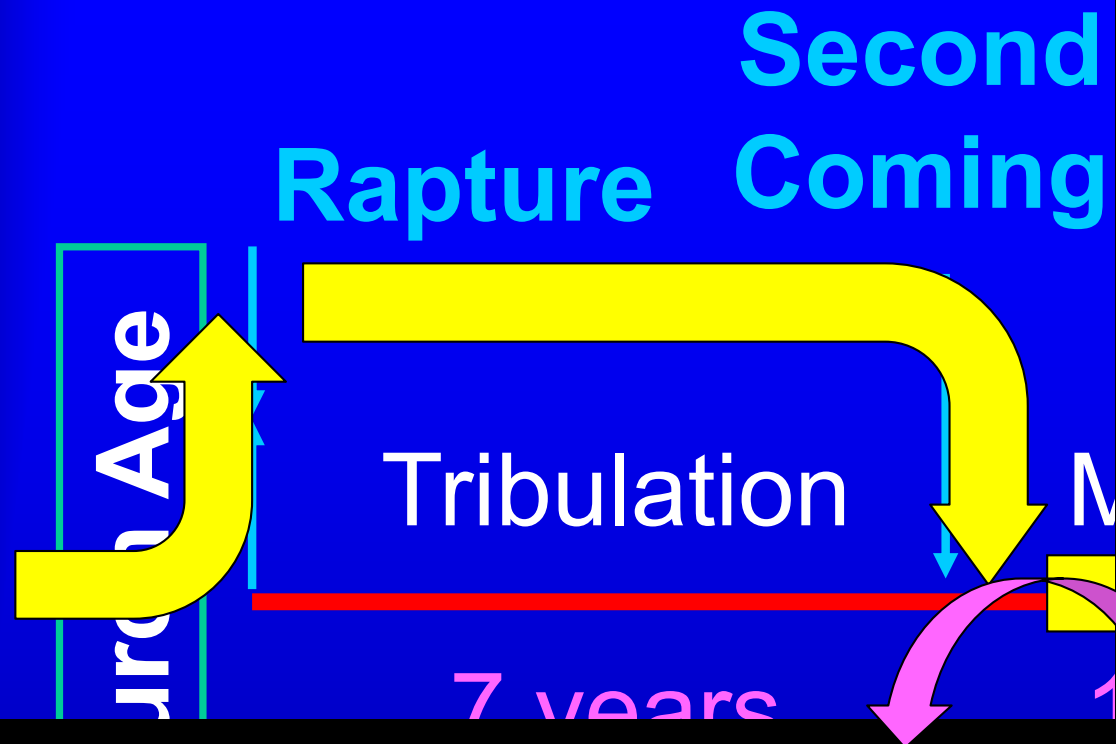
ek



"from, out of,
away from"

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

"Pre-Trib" Rapture



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)

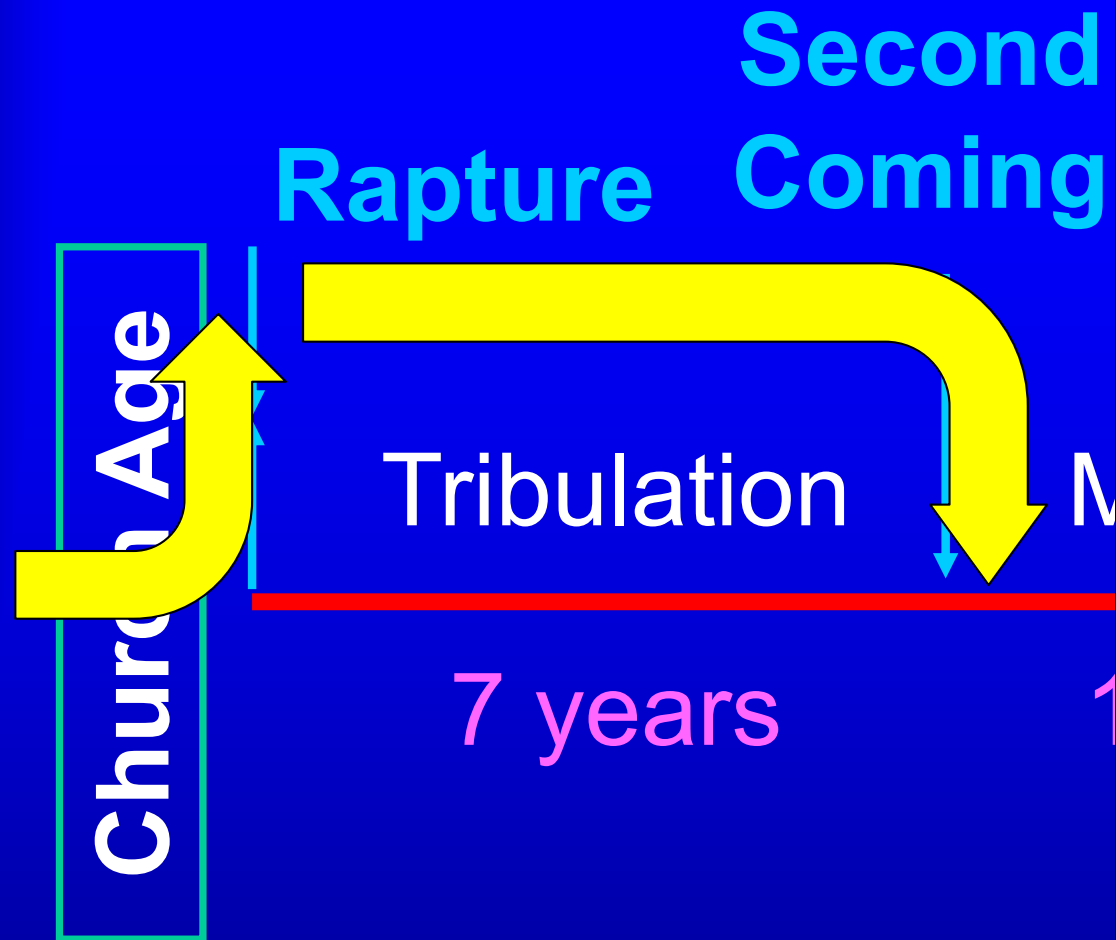
Each time this "phrase occurs... **the enemies** of the church are always in mind"

- Mounce, 120

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 (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:**
 - e. "...the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night" (1 Thess. 5:2)
 - f. "I will come back and take you to be with me" (John 14:3) = "I am coming" in immediate future without signs
 - g. 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

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

1 Christ shown as Head of the
4 Church and all things (Eph.
1:10, 22; 4:15; Col. 1:18; 2:10)

1 Judgment seat of Christ for
5 believers (2 Cor. 5:10; 1 Cor.
3:13)

1 The Lord is at hand (Phil. 4:5)
6

1 Nature subsequently ruined
7 (Rev. 6–16)

The Revelation

Christ vindicated as Messiah to
Israel (Zech. 14:3-4; cf. Acts 1:6 with
v. 11)

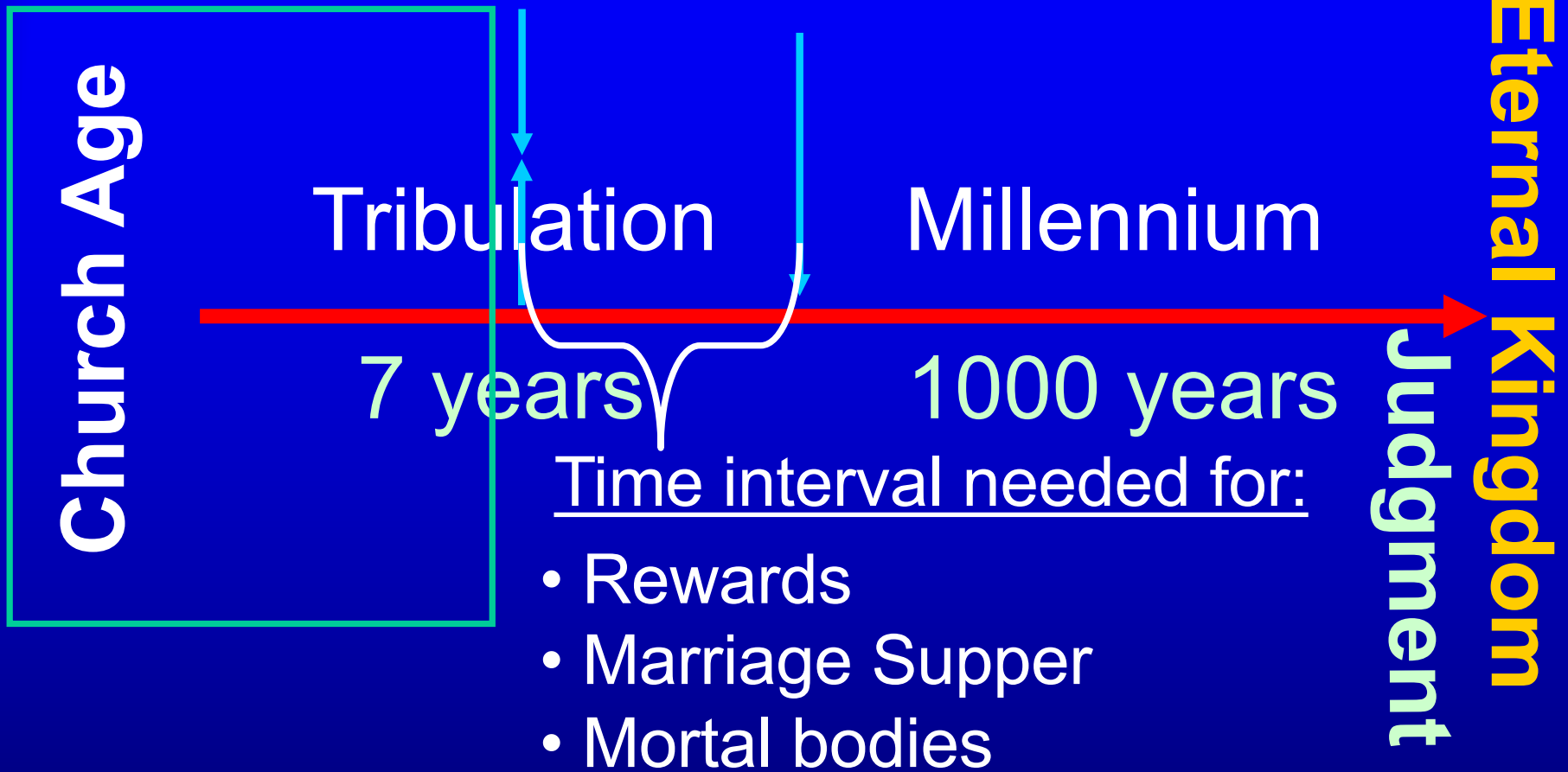
Judgment of Israel and Gentiles
(Ezek. 20:34-38; Matt. 25; Zech.
14:4; cf. p. 160)

The kingdom is at hand (Matt.
24:14)

Nature subsequently restored
(Rom. 8:19-22; Isa. 11:6-9; 35:9;
65:25)

"Mid-Trib" Rapture

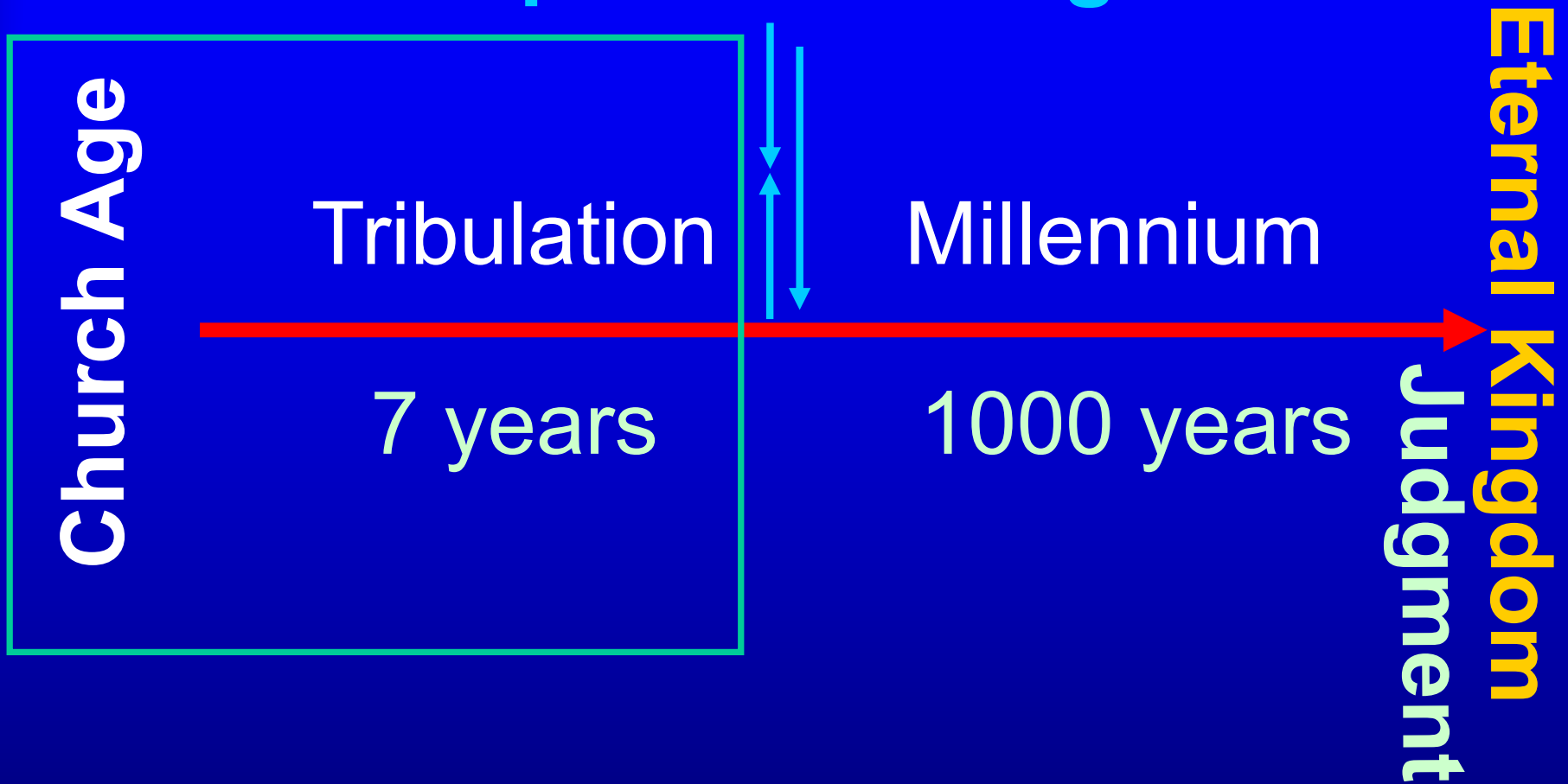
Second Rapture Coming



- Time interval needed for:
- Rewards
 - Marriage Supper
 - Mortal bodies

"Post-Trib" Rapture

**Second
Rapture Coming**



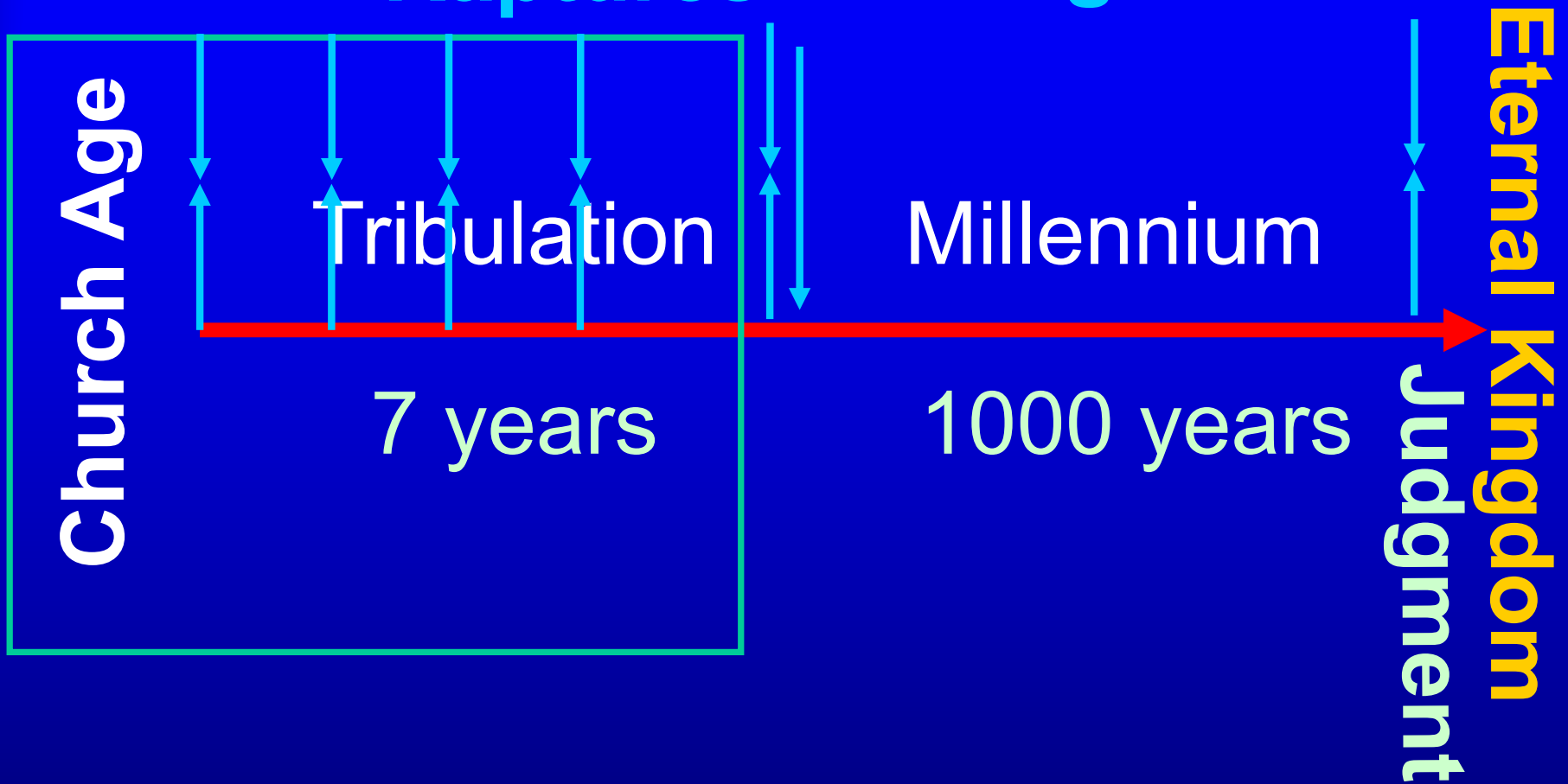
- 1 Historical: a doctrine being new does not make it invalid, J.N. Darby was not first “pre-tribber” anyway (245-48)
- 2 Nature of the Tribulation period is a time of God’s wrath, beginning in Rev. 6 (248-52)
- 3 Nature of the Church as distinct from Israel, to whom the Tribulation is directed (253-56)
- 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.

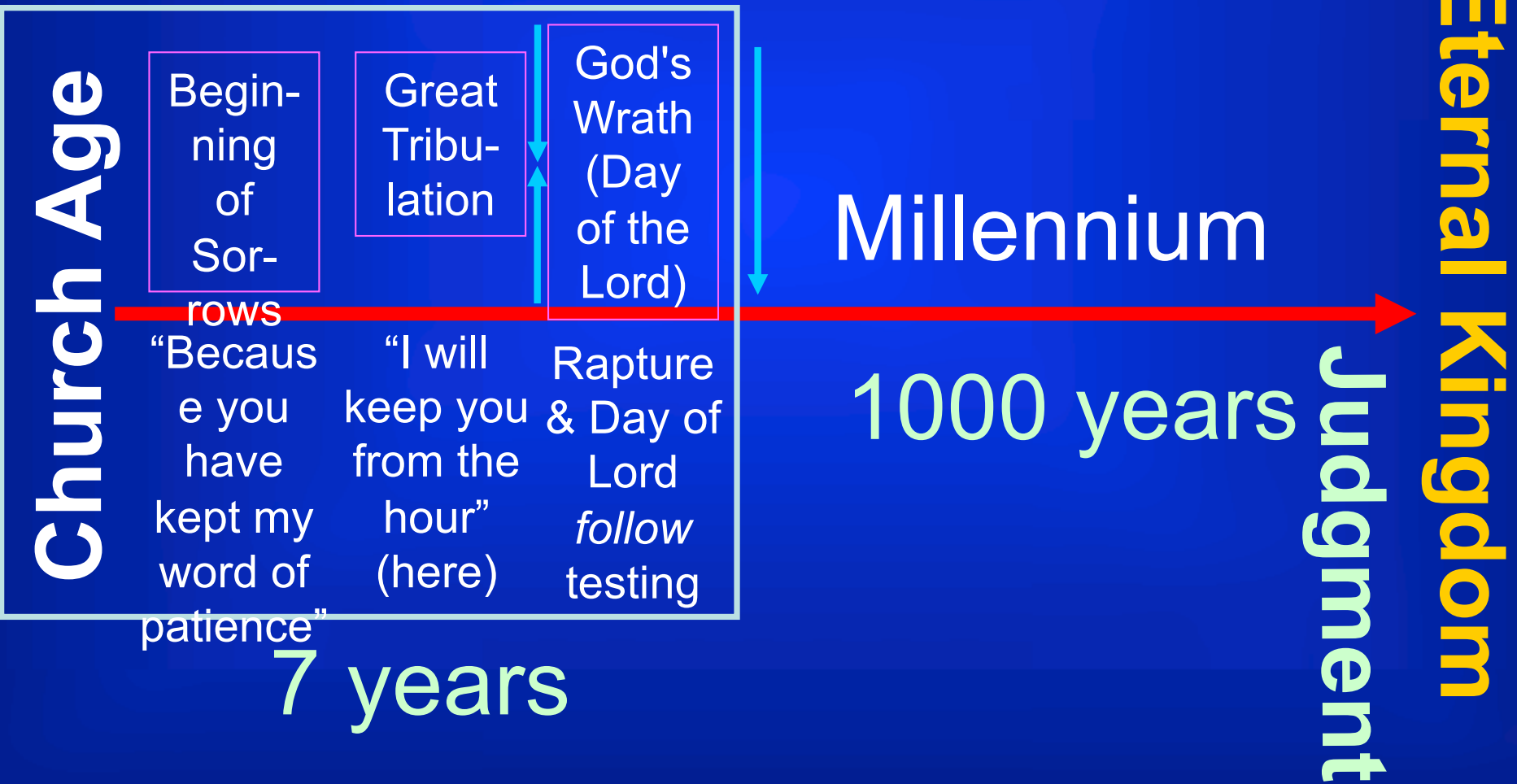
"Partial" Rapture

Second Raptures Coming

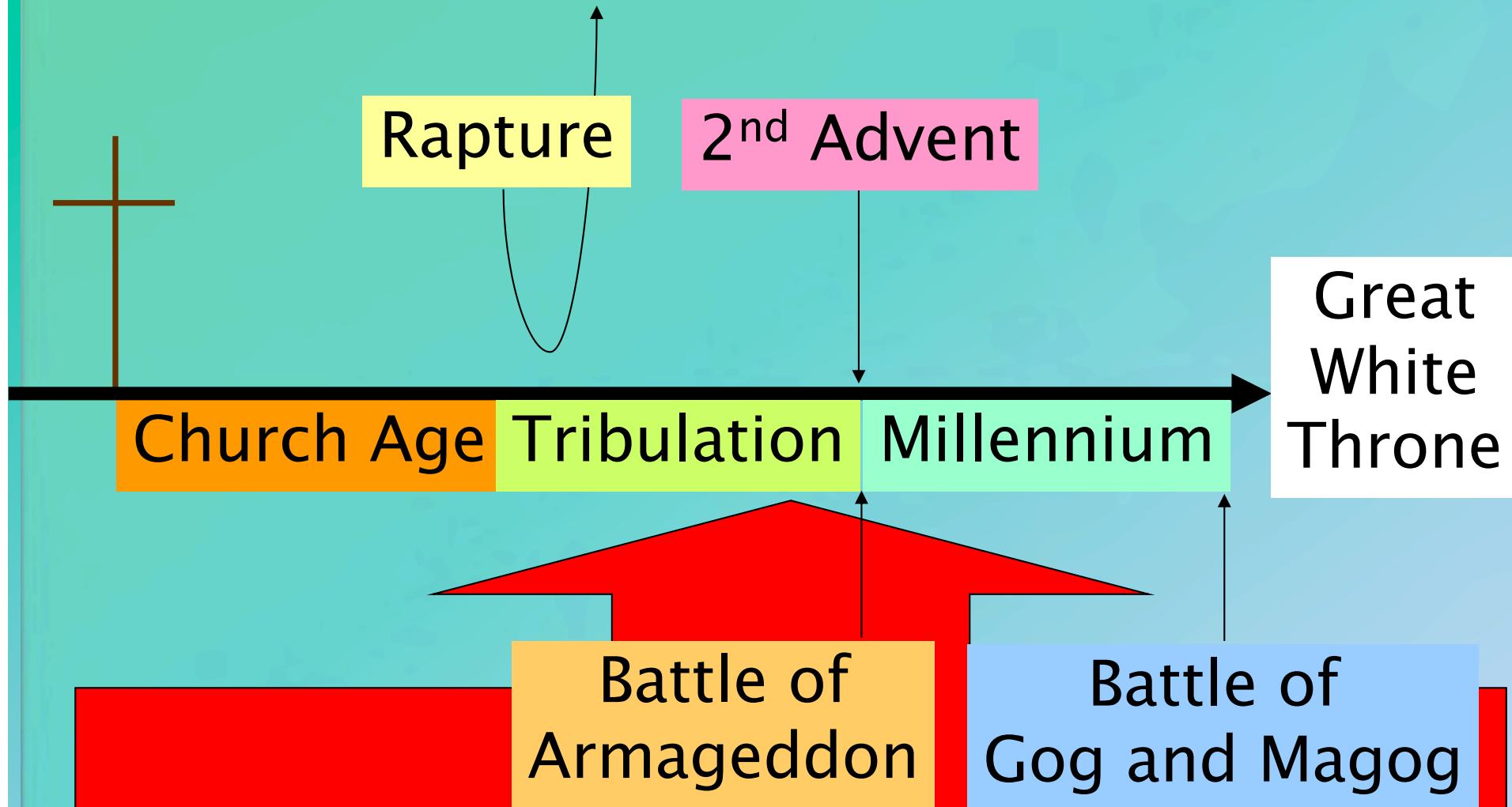


"Prewrath" Rapture

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 a gap in the clouds, creating a bright, golden glow. The overall scene is dark and atmospheric, with a sense of mystery and awe.

**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 a mix of deep orange, red, and black, with 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**





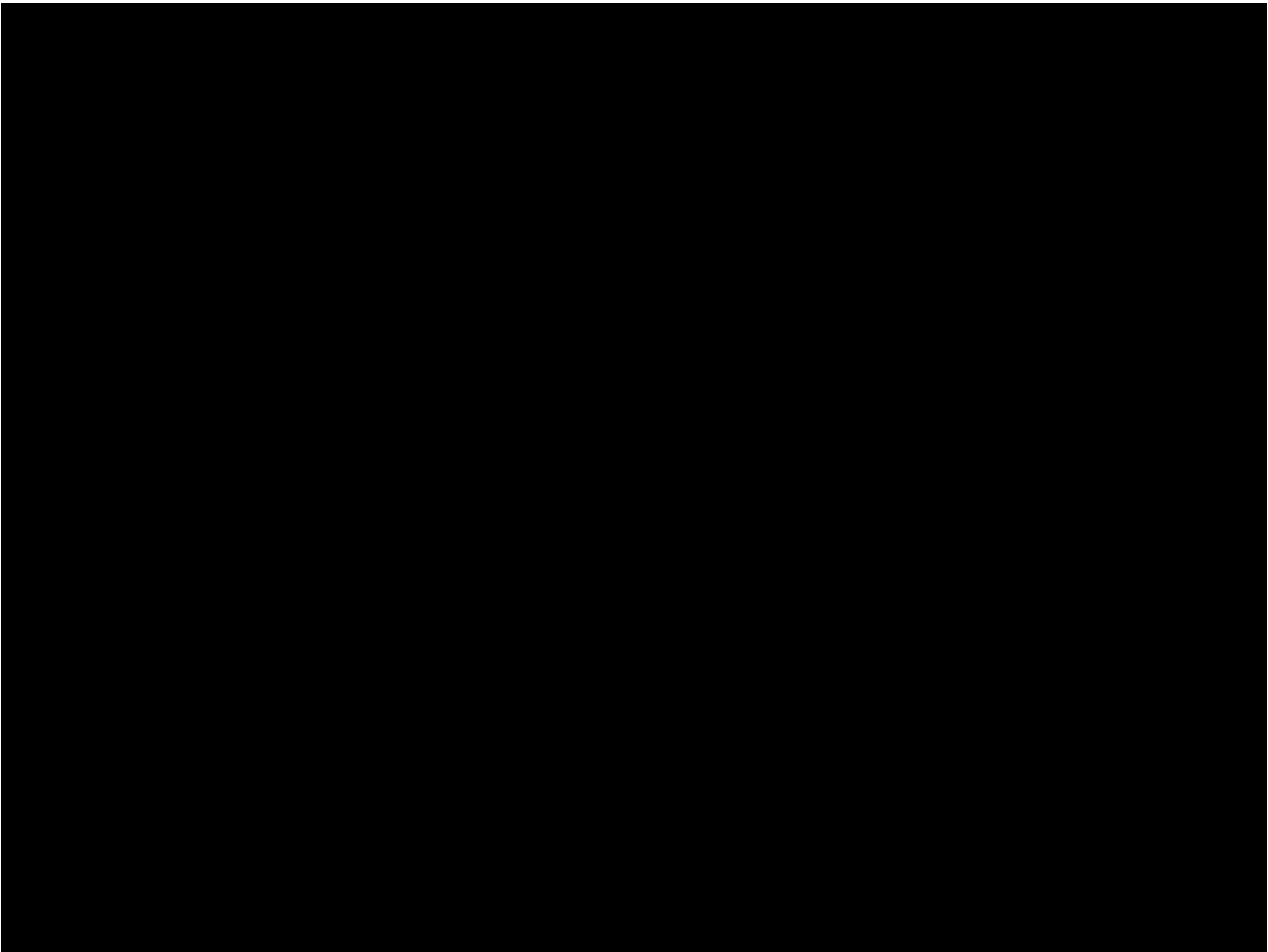
**We shall behold Him,
our Savior and Lord!**



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



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



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