

Jesus Will Return

What will that look like?

Seven C's of history

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

Seven C's of history

1. Creation

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

Seven C's of history

1. Creation
2. Corruption
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.

Seven C's of history

1. Creation
2. Corruption
3. Catastrophe
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.

Seven C's of history

1. Creation
2. Corruption
3. Catastrophe
4. Confusion
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.

Seven C's of history

1. Creation
2. Corruption
3. Catastrophe
4. Confusion
5. Christ
- 6.
- 7.

Seven C's of history

1. Creation
2. Corruption
3. Catastrophe
4. Confusion
5. Christ
6. Cross
- 7.

Seven C's of history

1. Creation
2. Corruption
3. Catastrophe
4. Confusion
5. Christ
6. Cross
7. **Consummation**

Eschatology

Eschatology comes from the Greek word *eschatos* (ἔσχατος), which means “last.”

So eschatology is the study of last things.

Failed predictions of Christ's return

William Miller, a Baptist preacher from New York, stated in 1842, "My principles in brief, are, that Jesus Christ will come again to this earth, cleanse, purify, and take possession of the same, with all the saints, sometime between March 21, 1843, and March 21, 1844."

Failed predictions of Christ's return

When this did not happen, he then recalculated and determined the correct date to be October 22, 1844. This date became known as “The Great Disappointment” by the Millerites (his followers) after Jesus failed to return. Thousands of them had sold their possessions and were awaiting the coming of Christ.

Failed predictions of Christ's return

The Watchtower Society (Jehovah's Witnesses) have predicted that Christ would come in 1914, 1918, 1920, 1925, 1941, 1975, and 1994. When He failed to return each time, they reinterpreted these dates to refer to "spiritual" events in heaven.

Failed predictions of Christ's return

Hal Lindsey, author of the book *The Late, Great Planet Earth*, predicted no less than four times a date for the return of Christ: 1981, 1988, 2007, and 2040.

Failed predictions of Christ's return

Edgar Whisenant wrote a book entitled, 88 Reasons Why the Rapture Is in 1988. When that prediction failed, he “recalculated” and came out with revised predictions of 1989 and then 1993.

Failed predictions of Christ's return

In addition to Hal Lindsey, other authors wrote of the year 1988 being the rapture of the church based on it being 40 years, or one “generation,” after the founding of the modern nation of Israel in 1948.

Failed predictions of Christ's return

Harold Camping, an American Christian radio broadcaster, famously predicted that Jesus would return on May 21, 2011. Followers of Camping donated millions of dollars to purchase radio ads and billboards to warn people of the coming apocalypse. When the day passed without the predicted return, Mr. Camping "recalculated" the date to be October 21, 2011, again a failed prediction.

Failed predictions of Christ's return

In an interview in 2012, World Bible Society President F. Kenton Beshore stated that Christ's return will occur sometime between 2018 and 2028.

Common ground - three terms

1. Rapture
2. Tribulation
3. Millennium

Common ground - Rapture

For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God...

1 Thessalonians 4:15-18

Common ground - Rapture

...And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

1 Thessalonians 4:15-18

Common ground - Rapture

Where is “rapture” in 1 Thessalonians 4:15-18?

"Rapture" is derived from the Middle French *rapture*, via the Medieval Latin *raptura* ("seizure, kidnapping"), which derives from the Latin *raptus* ("a carrying off").

Wikipedia, “Rapture”

We get the word from the Latin Vulgate translation of the NT.

Common ground - Tribulation

...

Matthew 24:15-31

Common ground - Millennium

...

Revelation 20:1-10

Common ground - Millennium

Where is “millennium” in Revelation 20:1-10?

Millennium is derived from the Latin *mille*, thousand, and *annus*, year.

Wikipedia, “Millennium”

Common ground - six truths

1. We don't know when Christ will return
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

Common ground - We don't know when Christ will return

Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

Matthew 24:44

Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

Matthew 25:13

Common ground - We don't know when Christ will return

But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.

2 Peter 3:10

Common ground - We don't know when Christ will return

He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

Revelation 22:20

Common ground - six truths

1. We don't know when Christ will return
2. Jesus will return in bodily form
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

Common ground - Jesus will return in bodily form

And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, and said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

Acts 1:10-11

Common ground - Jesus will return in bodily form

For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God.

1 Thessalonians 4:15-18

Common ground - Jesus will return in bodily form

Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is.

1 John 3:2

Common ground - Jesus will return in bodily form

Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even so. Amen.

Revelation 1:7

Common ground - six truths

1. We don't know when Christ will return
2. Jesus will return in bodily form
3. Everyone will experience a bodily resurrection
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

Common ground - Everyone will experience a bodily resurrection

“...And there shall be a time of trouble, such as never has been since there was a nation till that time. But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone whose name shall be found written in the book. And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt...”

Daniel 12:1-2

Common ground - Everyone will experience a bodily resurrection

“But this I confess to you, that according to the Way, which they call a sect, I worship the God of our fathers, believing everything laid down by the Law and written in the Prophets, having a hope in God, which these men themselves accept, that there will be a resurrection of both the just and the unjust.”

Acts 24:14-15

Common ground - six truths

1. We don't know when Christ will return
2. Jesus will return in bodily form
3. Everyone will experience a bodily resurrection
4. There will be a judgment day
- 5.
- 6.

Common ground - There will be a judgment day

So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.

2 Corinthians 5:9-10

Common ground - There will be a judgment day

“Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. From his presence earth and sky fled away, and no place was found for them. And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done.”

Revelation 20:11-15

Common ground - There will be a judgment day

“And the sea gave up the dead who were in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them, and they were judged, each one of them, according to what they had done. Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. And if anyone’s name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.”

Revelation 20:11-15

Common ground - six truths

1. We don't know when Christ will return
2. Jesus will return in bodily form
3. Everyone will experience a bodily resurrection
4. There will be a judgment day
5. Believers will be with God forever
- 6.

Common ground - Believers will be with God forever

“Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man.”

Revelation 21:1-4

Common ground - Believers will be with God forever

“He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.”

Revelation 21:1-4

Common ground - six truths

1. We don't know when Christ will return
2. Jesus will return in bodily form
3. Everyone will experience a bodily resurrection
4. There will be a judgment day
5. Believers will be with God forever
6. Unbelievers will be punished forever

Common ground - Unbelievers will be punished forever

“Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. And if anyone’s name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.”

Revelation 20:14-15

Common ground - Unbelievers will be punished forever

“But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death.”

Revelation 21:8

Common ground - three terms

1. Rapture
2. Tribulation
3. Millennium

Common ground - six truths

1. We don't know when Christ will return
2. Jesus will return in bodily form
3. Everyone will experience a bodily resurrection
4. There will be a judgment day
5. Believers will be with God forever
6. Unbelievers will be punished forever

Preterism and Futurism - two more terms

The term *preterism* comes from the Latin *praeter*, which Webster's 1913 dictionary lists as a prefix denoting that something is “past” or “beyond.”

Wikipedia, “Preterism”

“Partial” preterism? Think Hebrew

Matthew 24:3-25:30

1. 24:3 Disciples ask Jesus two (or three) questions
2. 24:4-14 Period between the comings of Christ
3. 24:15-22 Fall of Jerusalem in AD 70
4. 24:23-26 The end times
5. 24:27-31 The second coming of Christ
6. 24:32-25:30 Instructions to prepare and watch

Several key differences

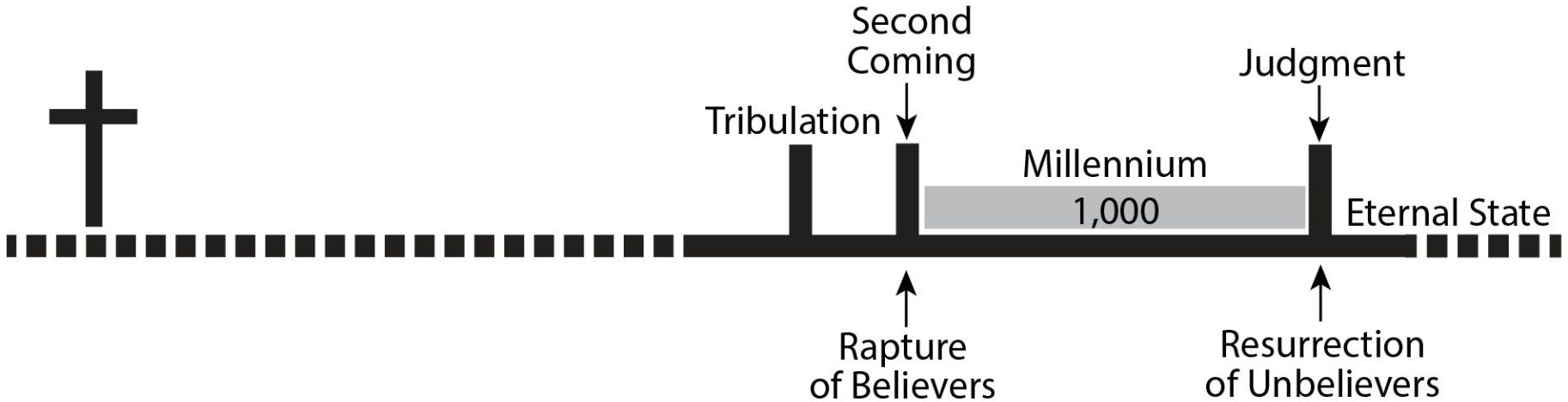
1. How Israel and the Church relate to each other
2. The timing and duration of certain events - specifically the rapture, the tribulation, and the millennium
3. What those events will look like

These differences have resulted in different views of how the end times will play out.

Five views of the end times

1. Historical (Post-tribulational) Premillennialism
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

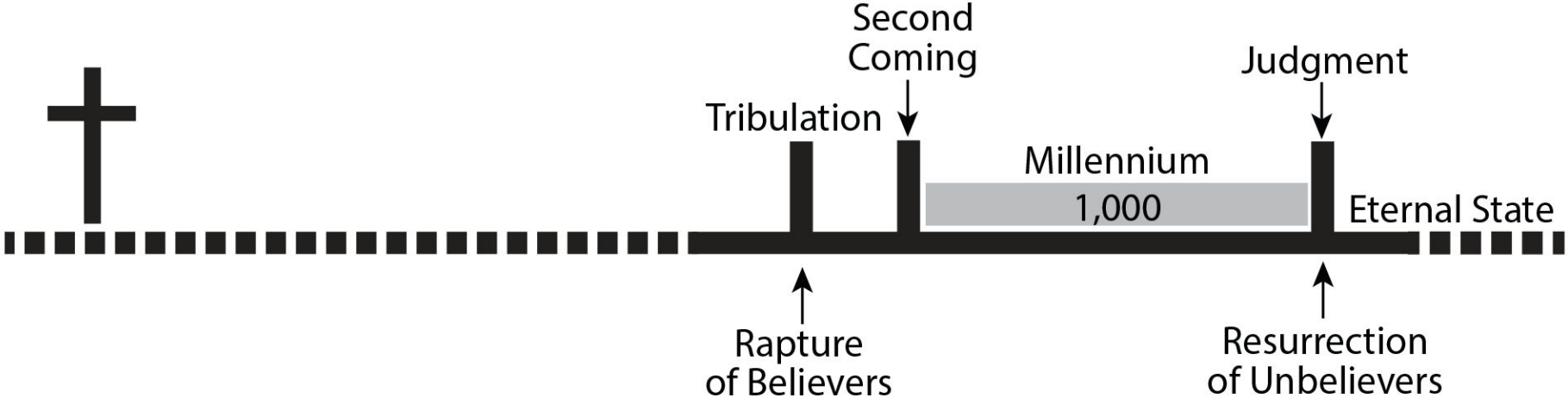
Historical (Post-tribulational) Premillennialism



Five views of the end times

1. Historical (Post-tribulational) Premillennialism
2. Dispensational (Pre-tribulational) Premillennialism
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

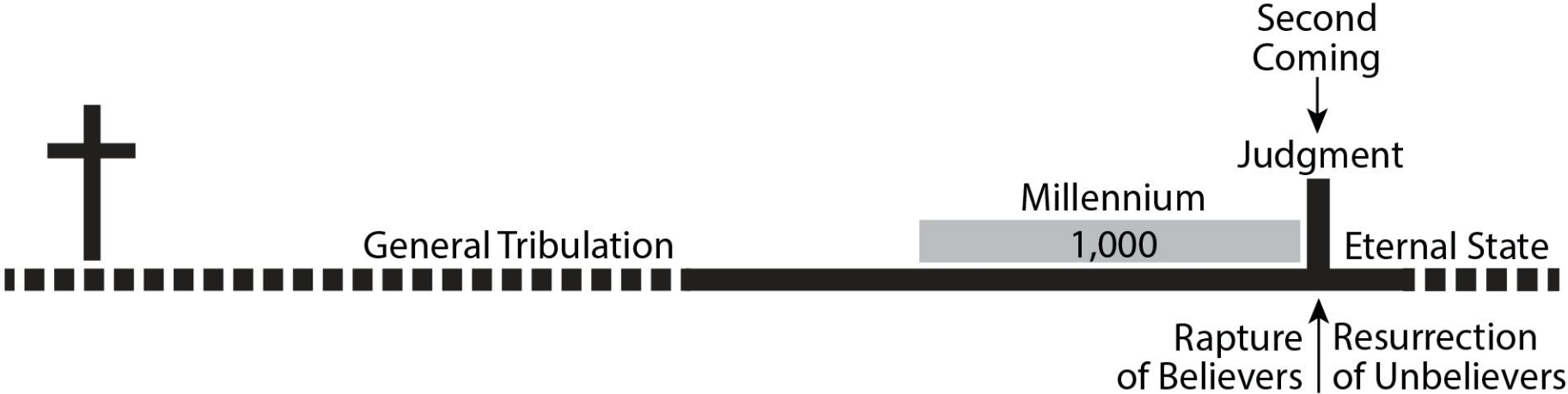
Dispensational (Pre-tribulational) Premillennialism



Five views of the end times

1. Historical (Post-tribulational) Premillennialism
2. Dispensational (Pre-tribulational) Premillennialism
3. Postmillennialism
- 4.
- 5.

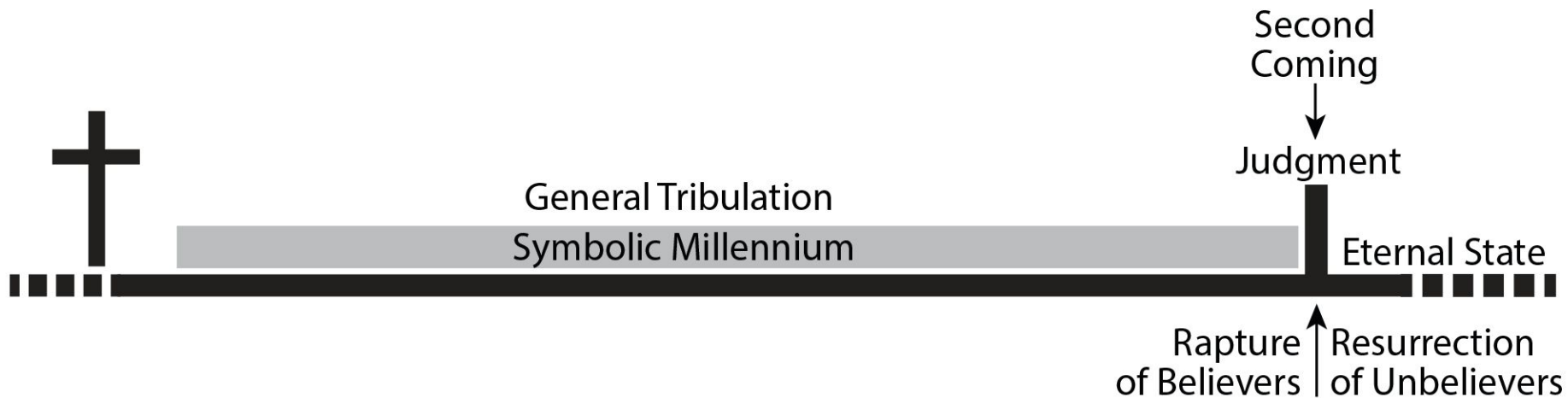
Postmillennialism



Five views of the end times

1. Historical (Post-tribulational) Premillennialism
2. Dispensational (Pre-tribulational) Premillennialism
3. Postmillennialism
4. Amillennialism
- 5.

Amillennialism



Five views of the end times

1. Historical (Post-tribulational) Premillennialism
2. Dispensational (Pre-tribulational) Premillennialism
3. Postmillennialism
4. Amillennialism
5. Panmillennialism

Panmillennialism

The postmodern(?) doctrine(?) which asserts that any of the possible choices for the the thousand year reign are valid(?), and that it will all work out in the end.

Panmillennialism

Absolute certainty about the end times is not realistic, since each position seems to have at least some biblical validity, and no position handles all the end times passages in a completely satisfying manner.

But it doesn't really matter since it will all pan out in the end the way God wants it to, so don't get too bent out of shape about future events. There are more important things to be concerned with.

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

Titus 2:11-14

What about you?

Does your eschatology influence the way you live?

How?

Looking ahead: the final lesson in our three-year Sunday school journey

- New Heaven and New Earth (December 3)
- Ideas for December 10, 17, and 31?
- Planning to start the book of Acts on January 7, 2018