

Corrections to Last Week!

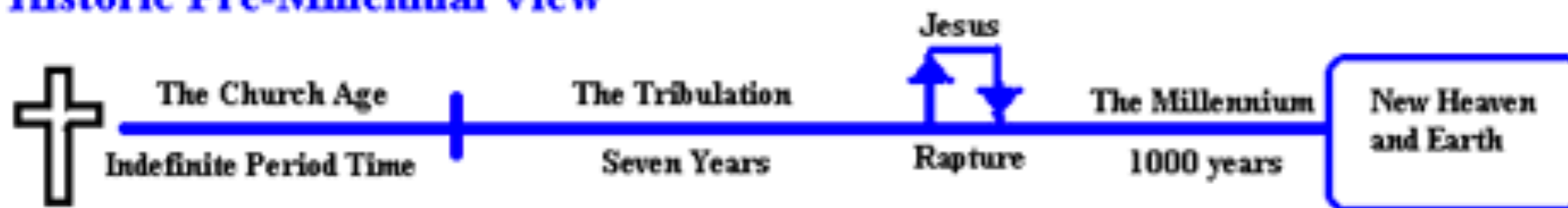
Last week I labeled Dr. John MacArthur and Dr. Danny Akin as **Historical** Premillennialists.

This was incorrect. They are very clearly professed **Dispensational** Premillennialists.

They both believe and defend a pre-tribulation rapture.

END TIME VIEWPOINTS

Historic Pre-Millennial View



Amillennial View



Postmillennial View



Modern Premillennial View



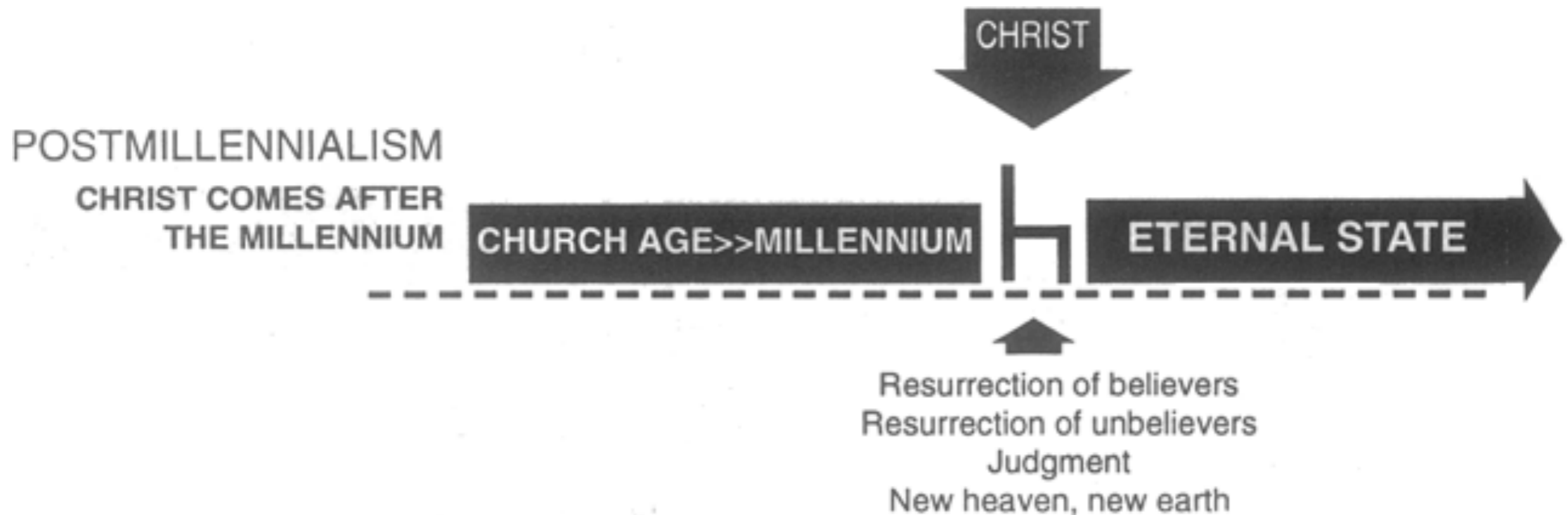
Post-millennialism

- The prefix post- means “after.” According to this view, Christ will return after the millennium.
- According to this view, the progress of the gospel and the growth of the church will gradually increase, so that a larger and larger proportion of the world’s population will be Christians. As a result, there will be significant Christian influences on society, society will more and more function according to God’s standards, and gradually a “millennial age” of peace and righteousness will occur on the earth. This “millennium” will last for a long period of time (not necessarily a literal one thousand years), and finally, at the end of this period, Christ will return to earth believers and unbelievers will be raised, the final judgment will occur, and there will be a new heaven and new earth. We will then enter into the eternal state.

Post-millennialism

- The primary characteristic of postmillennialism is that it is very optimistic about the power of the gospel to change lives and bring about much good in the world. Belief in postmillennialism tends to increase in times when the church is experiencing great revival, when there is an absence of war and international conflict, and when it appears that great progress is being made in overcoming the evil and suffering in the world.

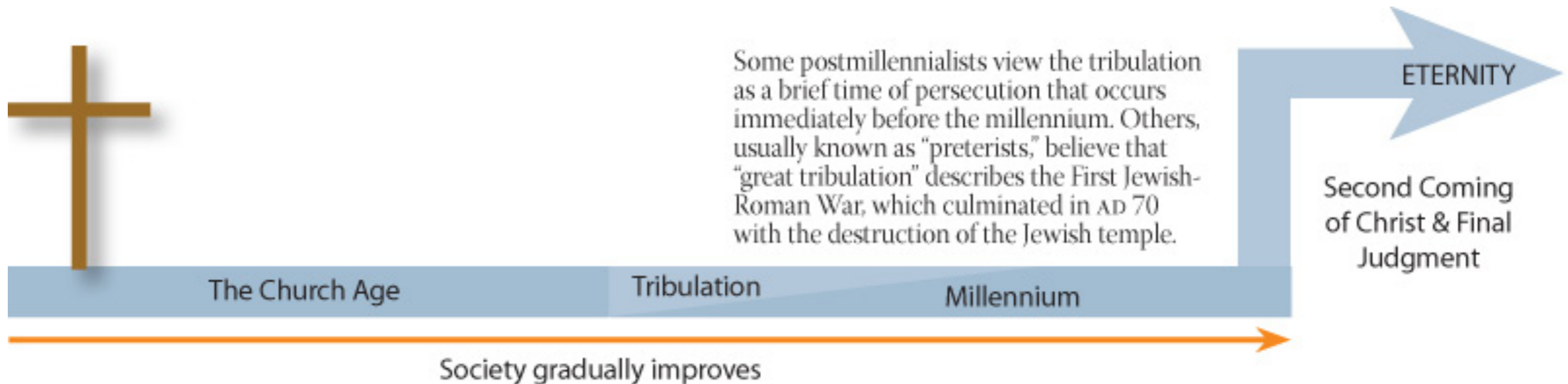
Post-millennialism



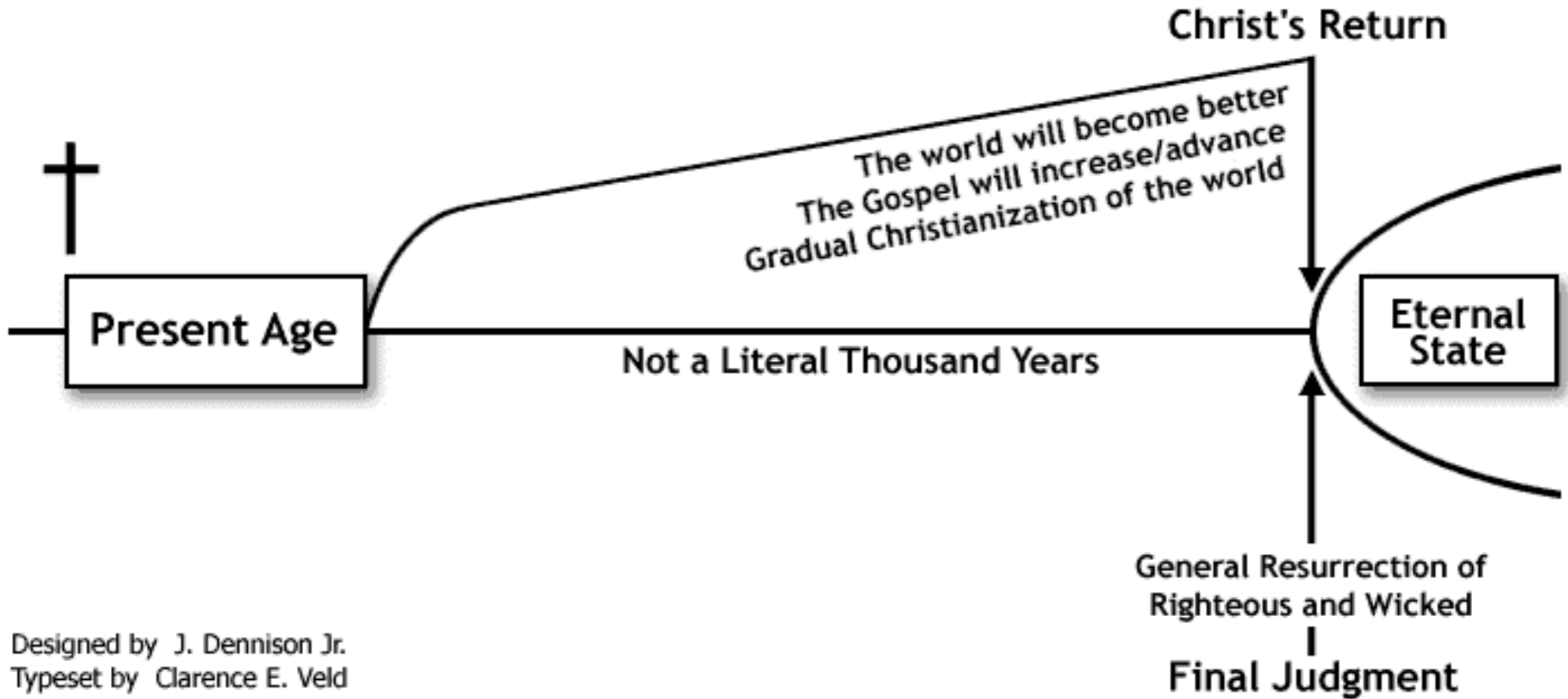
Postmillennialism

Kingdom Came and is Yet to Come—but Jesus Won't Return Until the Millennial Kingdom Is Complete: Postmillennialism: (Post-Millennial: “After the millennium”)

Jesus will return to earth *after* (“post-”) a millennium when the overwhelming majority of persons throughout the world embrace the gospel. This millennium may last exactly one thousand years, or “thousand years” may symbolize an extended era of gospel peace. In either case, Jesus will not be physically present on the earth during the millennium; he reigns spiritually through the spread of his gospel around the globe. Postmillennialists see a unified relationship between Israel and the church.

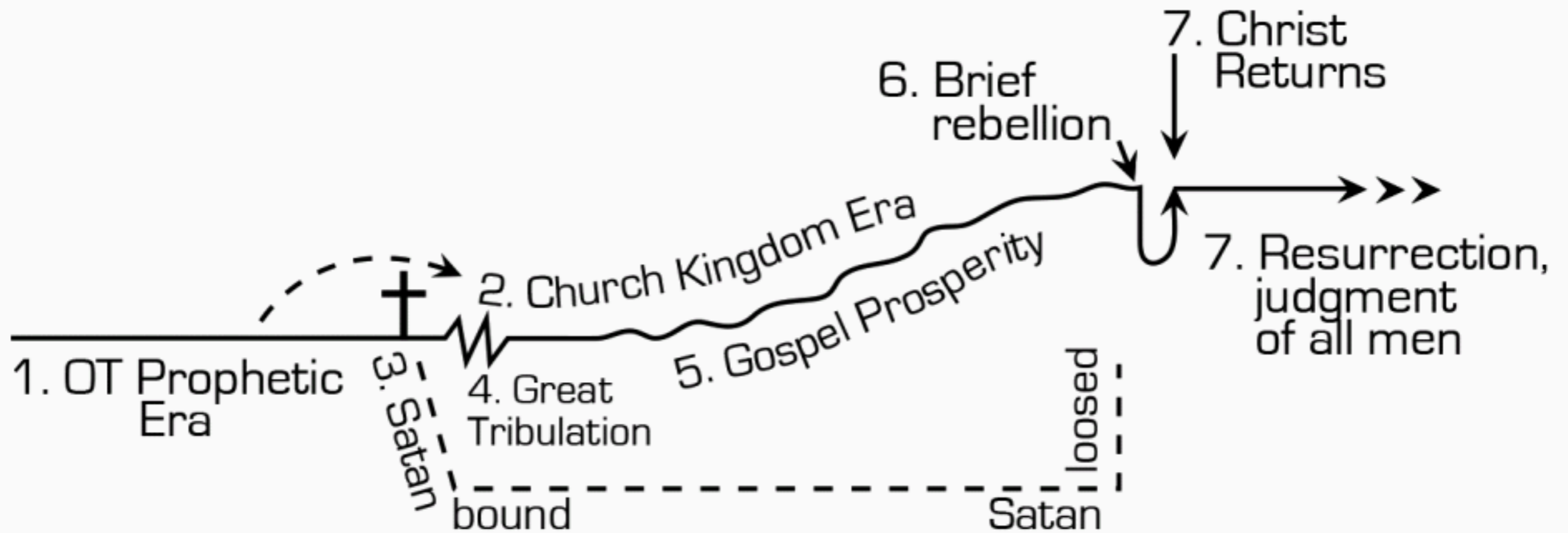


Post-millennialism



Designed by J. Dennison Jr.
Typeset by Clarence E. Veld

POSTMILLENNIALISM



Post-millennialism

Final Notes

- In contrast to the a-millennial view, the a-millennial view says that we are in the millennium right now and that the world will progress worse and worse till the return of Jesus. The post-millennial view says that the millennium is coming in the future after an improving progress of the church in the world.

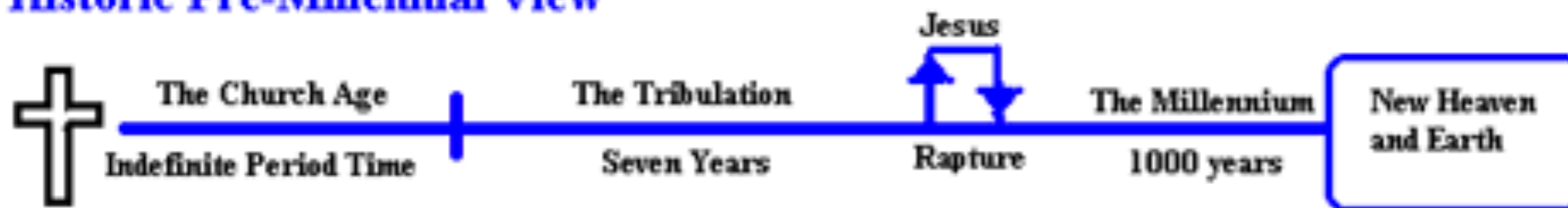
Post-millennialism

Final Notes

- This is the most positive view of the End Times. Things will get better and Christ will step onto a mostly redeemed earth.
- Post-Millennialism is a minority view of the end times.

END TIME VIEWPOINTS

Historic Pre-Millennial View



Amillennial View



Postmillennial View



Modern Premillennial View



What is the Rapture?

- **RAPTURE** God's taking the church out of the world instantaneously. The Latin term *rapio*, which means to "snatch away" or "carry off," is the source of the English word. While there are differing views of the millennium (Rev. 20:2–7) in relation to Christ's second coming (e.g., premillennial, postmillennial, and amillennial), nevertheless, all evangelicals affirm a literal return of Christ to the earth preceding the eternal state. In premillennialism, however, the distinct event of the rapture is often emphasized.
- Pete Schemm, "Rapture," ed. Chad Brand et al., *Holman Illustrated Bible Dictionary* (Nashville, TN: Holman Bible Publishers, 2003), 1366.

THE 3 MAIN VIEWS OF THE TIMING OF THE RAPTURE



Comparison of Christian Tribulation Views

First Coming of Jesus



1. *Pretribulation*



2. *Midtribulation*



3. *Posttribulation*

What is the Rapture?

- The main biblical passage for the rapture (Gk. *harpazo*) of the church is 1 Thess. 4:15–17. Other texts often used to support the doctrine of the rapture are John 14:1–3 and 1 Cor. 15:51–52.

What is the Rapture?

- 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 (HCSB) 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the archangel's voice, and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then **we who are still alive 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.

What is the Rapture?

- John 14:1-3 (HCSB) 1 “Your heart must not be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in Me. 2 In My Father’s house are many dwelling places; if not, I would have told you. I am going away to prepare a place for you. 3 If I go away and prepare a place for you, **I will come back and receive you to Myself**, so that where I am you may be also.

What is the Rapture?

- 1 Corinthians 15:51-52 (HCSB) 51 Listen! I am telling you a mystery: We will not all fall asleep, but we will all be changed, 52 in a moment, in the blink of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we will be changed.

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What is the Rapture?

- There are three main approaches to understanding the rapture in premillennialism: (1) In the pretribulational view Christ raptures the church before any part of the seven-year tribulation begins (For the Tribulation Passages - see Dan. 9:24–27; Matt. 24:3–28; Rev. 11:2; 12:14). Upon Christ's coming in the air, which is distinct from and that precedes His coming to the earth, believers will be "caught up together ... in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air" (1 Thess. 4:17 HCSB). In this view believers are delivered "from the coming wrath" (1 Thess. 1:10; Rev. 3:10) by being taken out of the world.
- Pete Schemm, "Rapture," ed. Chad Brand et al., Holman Illustrated Bible Dictionary (Nashville, TN: Holman Bible Publishers, 2003), 1366.

What is the Rapture?

- 1 Thessalonians 1:10 (HCSB) and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead — **Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.**

What is the Rapture?

- Revelation 3:10 (HCSB) Because you have kept My command to endure, **I will also keep you from the hour of testing that is going to come over the whole world** to test those who live on the earth
- Those who oppose pretribulationism understand the phrase [“I will keep”] to mean “I will guard”; that is, believers will be guarded throughout the seven years and then emerge from it at the second coming of Christ.
- However, the promise of Revelation 3:10 not only guarantees being kept from the trials of the Tribulation period but being kept from the time period of the Tribulation. The promise is not, “I will keep you from the trials.” It is, “I will also keep you from the hour of trial” (Charles Ryrie)

What is the Rapture?

- (ESV SB Notes on Revelation 3:10) Many who hold a “pretribulation rapture” position believe that this verse means Christ will take them out of the world before a literal “great tribulation” period begins. Other interpreters, however, see this as God's promise to safeguard and remain faithful to believers who endure patiently in the midst of “the hour of trial that is coming,” though it does not imply that he will take believers out of the world at that time (cf. a similar but not identical Gk. expression in James 1:27, where it does not imply removal from the world).

Who Believes in the Pre-Tribulational Rapture?

Charles Spurgeon: “Whenever the Lord lays bare his arm for war he first gathers his saints into a place of safety. He did not destroy the world by the flood till Noah and his family were safe in the ark. He would not suffer a single firedrop to fall on Sodom till Lot had escaped to Zoar. He carefully preserves his own; nor flood, nor flame, nor pestilence, nor famine shall do them ill. We read in the Revelation that the angel said, “Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads.” Vengeance must sheath her sword, till love has housed its darlings. When Christ cometh to destroy the earth, he will first catch away his people. Ere the elements shall melt with fervent heat, and the pillars of the universe shall rock and reel beneath the weight of wrathful deity, he will have caught up his elect into the air, so that they shall ever be with the Lord.”

Who Believes in the Pre-Tribulational Rapture?

Dr. John MacArthur - “Now the question is, “Which of these three is the correct view? Is the correct view, the pre-trib, mid-trib, or post-trib?” Now I’m convinced that the correct view is pre-trib. So when asked, I reply, “I am premillennial, pre-tribulation,” which means I’m committed to the fact that Jesus will come to set up a literal earthly kingdom, and that He will come seven years before the kingdom, He will come prior to the tribulation.”

Taken from Dr. MacArthur from <https://www.gty.org/library/sermons-library/1324/will-the-church-go-through-the-tribulation-part-1>

Who Believes in the Pre-Tribulational Rapture?

Danny Akin

“Beginning in 1979 with the Conservative Resurgence in the SBC and moving into the present, with only one exception, every President of the SBC has been pre-tribulational and pre-millennial. The one exception happens to be one of my closest friends, James Merritt.

Moreover, there is no way to really measure the tremendous influence of men like Billy Graham, John MacArthur, Warren Wiersbe, Chuck Swindoll, David Jeremiah, W.A. Criswell, Adrian Rogers, Jerry Vines and Paige Patterson, all of whom believe in a pre-tribulation, pre-millennial eschatology.”

Taken from the sermon, “A Rapture You Can’t Miss, a Judgment You Must Face, and Supper You Will Want to Attend”
Preached on November, 13, 2009.

THE 3 MAIN VIEWS OF THE TIMING OF THE RAPTURE



What is the Rapture?

- (2) **A midtribulation view** also sees the rapture as a distinct event that precedes Christ's second coming and delivers believers from the last half of the seven-year period, the "great tribulation" (Matt. 24:15–28; Rev. 16–18).
- Pete Schemm, "Rapture," ed. Chad Brand et al., *Holman Illustrated Bible Dictionary* (Nashville, TN: Holman Bible Publishers, 2003), 1366.

THE 3 MAIN VIEWS OF THE TIMING OF THE RAPTURE



What is the Rapture?

- (3) **A posttribulational view** holds that the rapture and the second coming occur at the same time. Therefore, the church remains on earth during “the time of Jacob’s distress” (Jer. 30:7 NASB). Unlike the world, however, believers who go through the tribulation will be protected from the devastating outpouring of God’s wrath and judgment (1 Thess. 5:9).
- Pete Schemm, “Rapture,” ed. Chad Brand et al., *Holman Illustrated Bible Dictionary* (Nashville, TN: Holman Bible Publishers, 2003), 1366.

What is the Rapture?

- Matthew 24:29-31 (HCSB) 29 “Immediately after the tribulation of those days: The sun will be darkened, and the moon will not shed its light; the stars will fall from the sky, and the celestial powers will be shaken. 30 “Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the peoples of the earth will mourn; and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. 31 He will send out His angels with a loud trumpet, and they will gather His elect from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other.

Who Believes in the Post-Tribulation Rapture?

Al Mohler - “When it comes to understanding the distinctive understanding of the Rapture of the premillennial dispensationalists: that's a very recent phenomenon in the Church. Basically, there's very little evidence that anyone in the Church ever believed that until, say, the last 200 years or so. And so when you look at that- I'll just say that the most natural reading of the text (and I'm obligated to the most natural reading of the text) is to assume that the Church will be, indeed, on this earth during that time of Tribulation, that the Church is told to endure and to continue in faithfulness, and the Church is promised that the Lord will protect and preserve His church during that. I would find it very difficult to know what to do with all those passages unless, indeed, the Church is there [during the Great Tribulation].”

(From Ask Anything Wednesday, March 31, 2010)