

1 Thessalonians 4:15-18 ESV

15 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. 16 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. And the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 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. 18 Therefore encourage one another with these words

Caught Up: Harpazo G726:

I. to seize, carry off by force

II. To seize on, claim for oneself eagerly

III. To snatch out or away

1 Corinthians 15:51-52 ESV

51 Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed

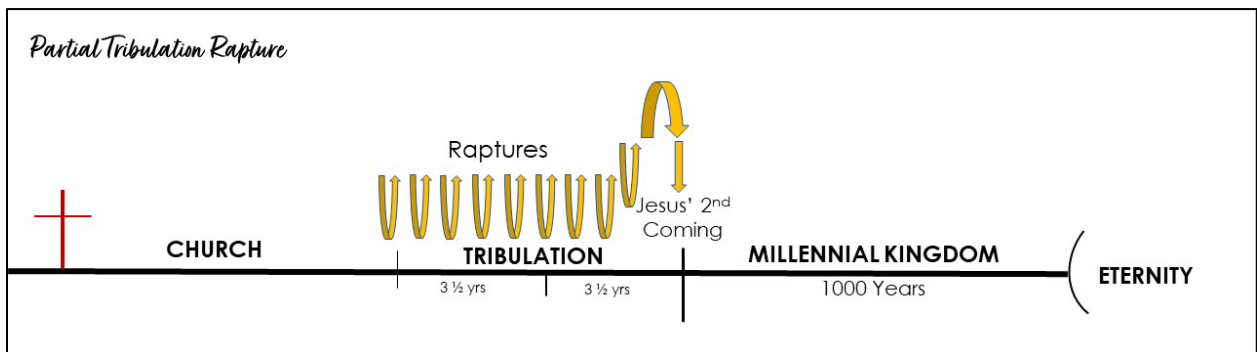
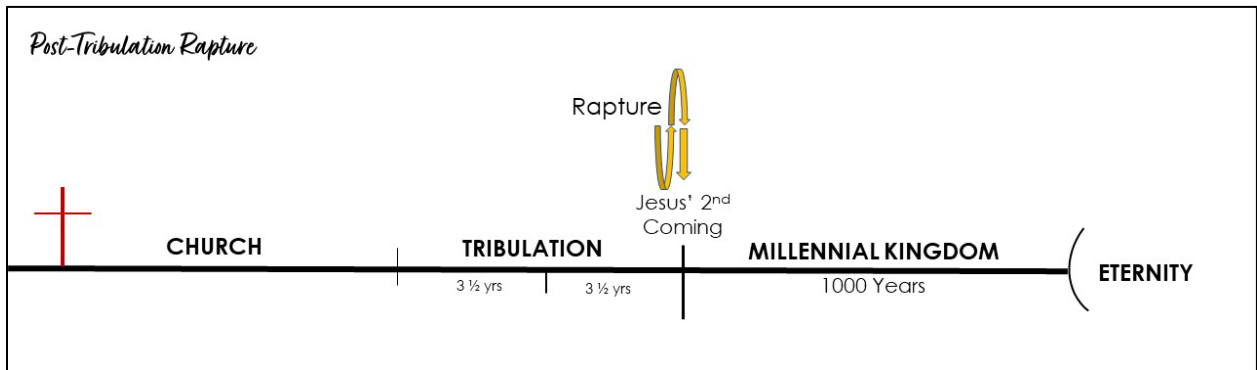
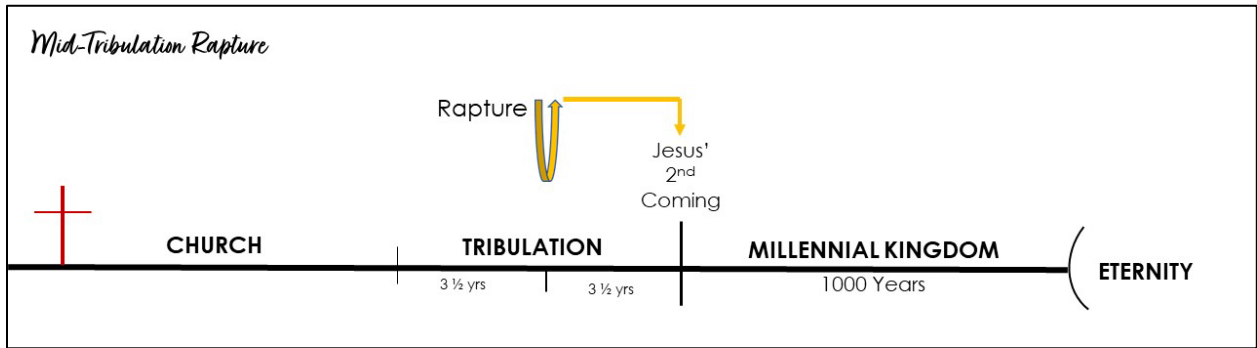
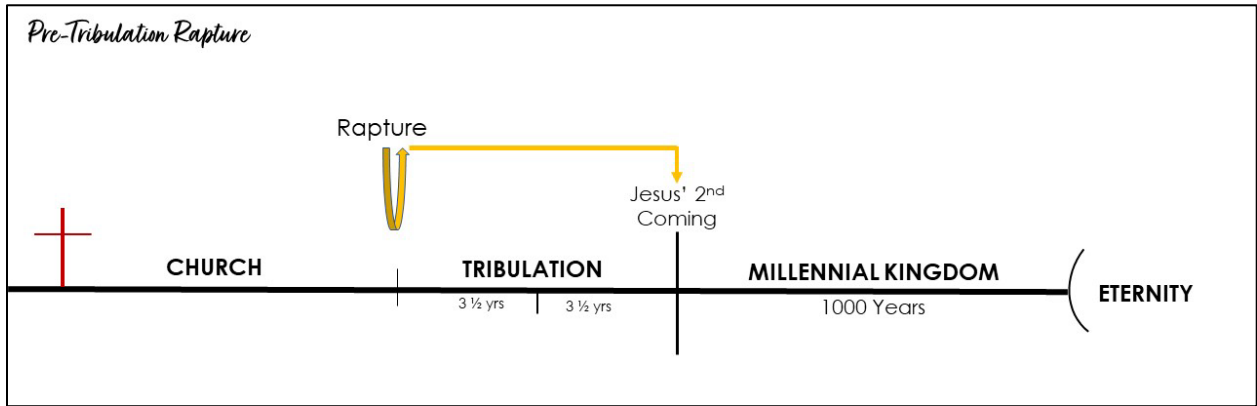
Rapture Theories

↑ _____
Those who believe that the church will be snatched away _____ the tribulation _____. The church will be in heaven with Jesus for the marriage supper of the Lamb. Then will return with Him at His Second Coming.

↑ _____
Those who believe that the church will go through the first half of the tribulation and will be raptured to heaven at the _____. The church will then return with Jesus at His Second Coming.

↑ _____
Those who believe that the church will go through the entire tribulation and be raptured _____ with _____ to the earth in His Second Coming.

↑ _____
Those who believe that only the _____, "true church," will be raptured _____ the tribulation while the _____ of the church will go through the tribulation.



The Millennium

The millennium refers to the thousand-year reign of Christ found in Revelation 20.

Revelation 20:4 ESV

Then I saw thrones, and seated on them were those to whom the authority to judge was committed. Also I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for the testimony of Jesus and for the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.

Within the church there is varying views as to when and what the millennial reign will be. There are three beliefs:

1. _____-Millennialism
2. _____-Millennialism
3. _____

Pre-Millennialism

One thing that pre, mid, and post-rapture believers have in common is that they are all pre-millennialists. They all believe that Christ will rule on the earth for 1000 years following His second coming. During this time Satan is bound but will be re-released for a short period afterward. Satan will war against Christ, only to be defeated and then thrown into the lake of fire. Then He will establish a new heaven and a new earth for eternity.

Post-Millennialists

Those who believe that the church will overcome the world and bring the millennial period of peace to the earth. The earth is "Christianized" through the work of the church. The church progressively brings righteousness and peace for one thousand years. Following a brief time of tribulation, Christ will return, banish Satan, and establish a new heaven and new earth.

Amillennialism

This means "no millennium." They believe there will be no specific period of tribulation. Jesus will simply come at the end of the age, banish Satan, judge all people, and then eternity starts.

Isaiah 2:2-4; 2 Samuel 7:16; Psalm 2:7-8