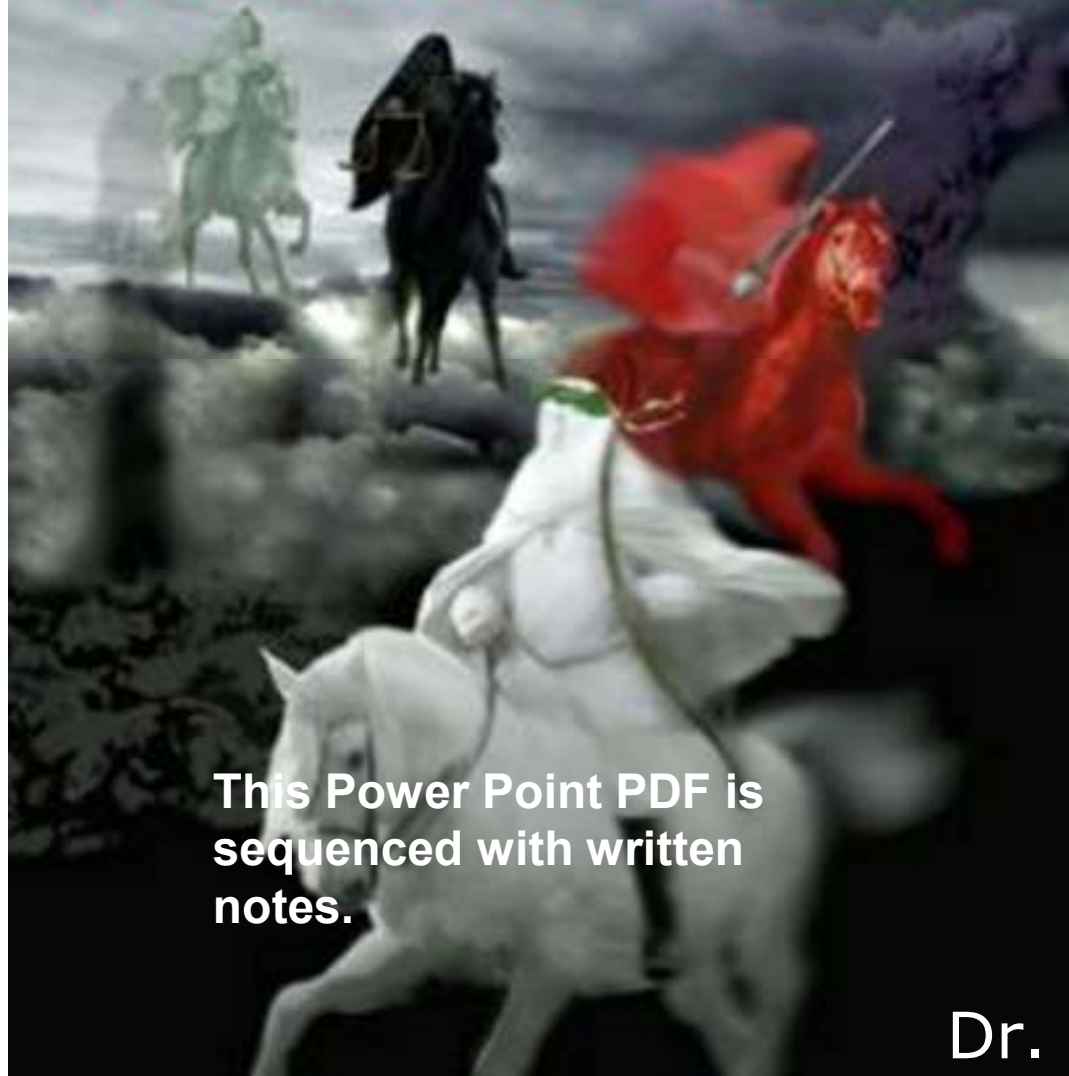


WHEN THE THIEF COMES

"A DISCUSSION OF END-TIMES"



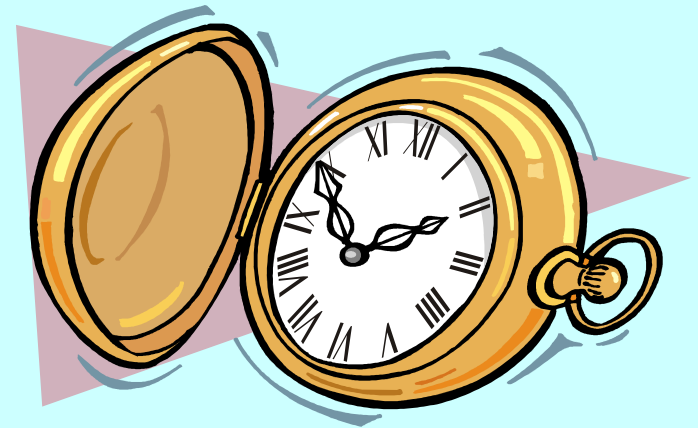
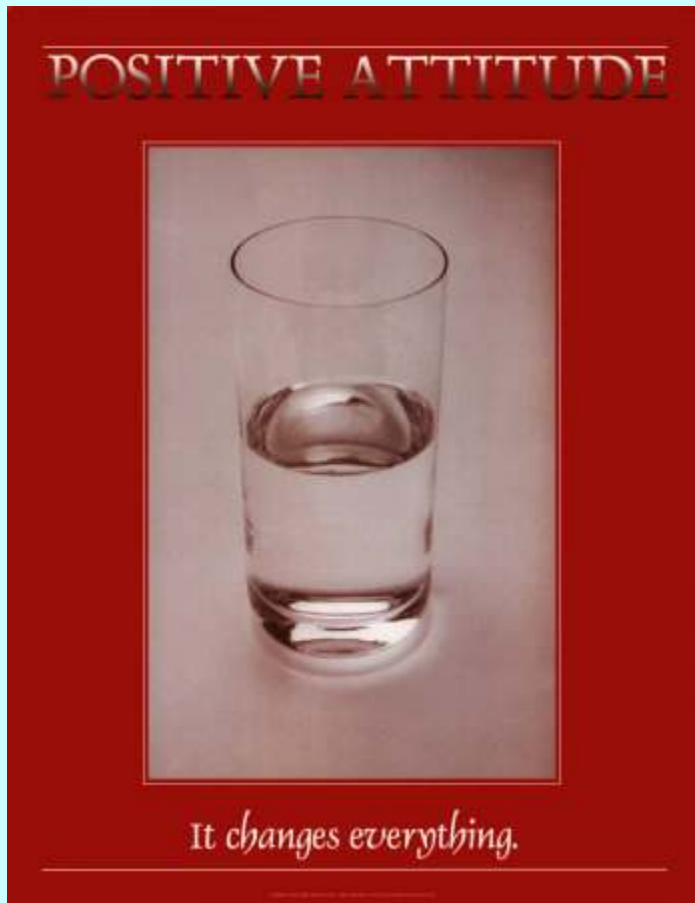
This Power Point PDF is sequenced with written notes.



2020

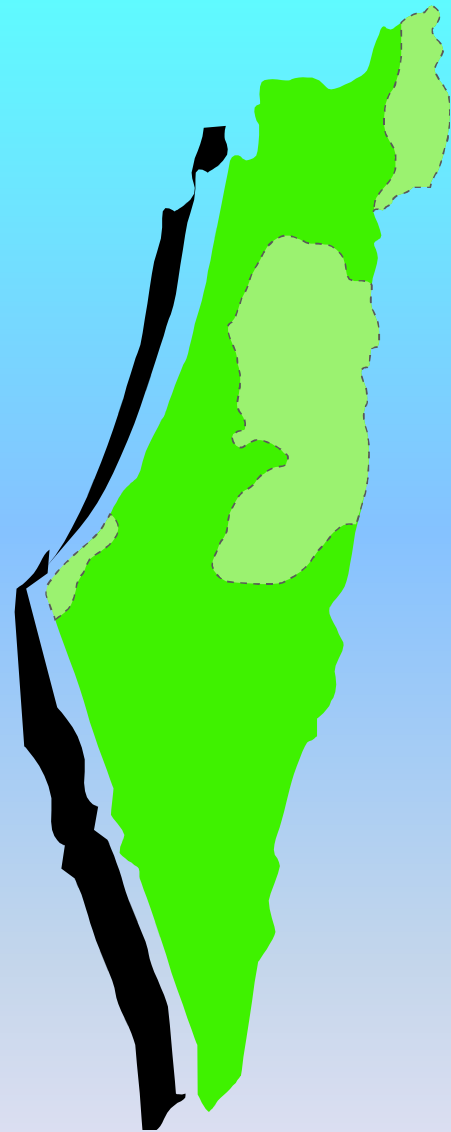
Dr. Stan Fleming

Topic One: Perspective



2011 and 2020

TRIP TO ISRAEL




A photograph of the archaeological site of Megiddo. The scene shows a hillside with various stone structures and ruins. In the foreground, there are several stone walls and foundations. In the background, a hillside rises with a small structure on top. The sky is overcast, and a palm tree is visible on the right side of the hill.

Megiddo

Revelation 16:16 "And they gathered together to the place called in Hebrew, Armageddon" (NKJV) "Har Megiddo" (Complete Jewish Bible)

Valley of Jehoshaphat

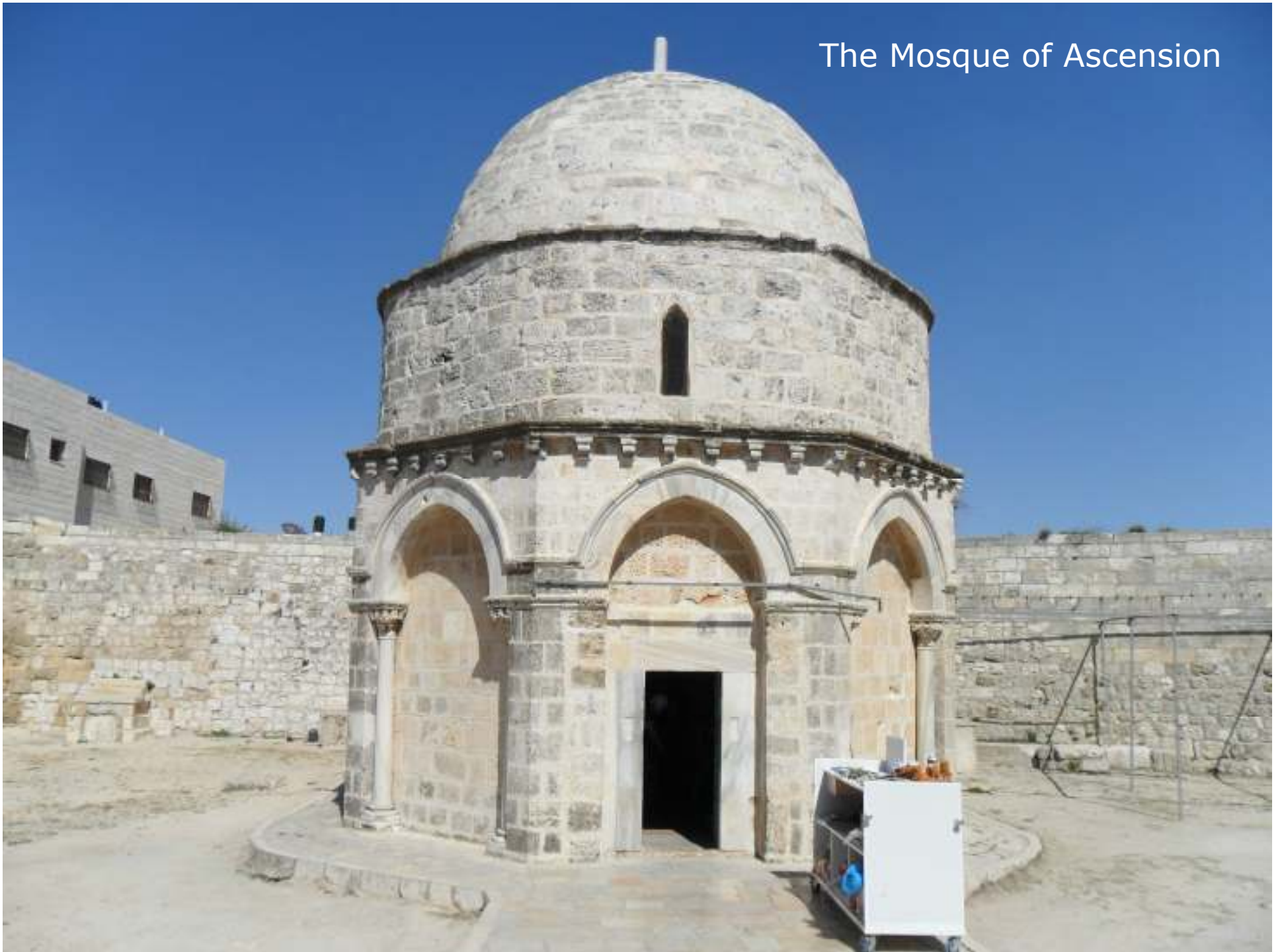
A man with glasses and a backpack stands on a balcony, smiling, with his hand on a black metal railing. The background shows a panoramic view of Jerusalem, including the Temple Mount and the Valley of Jehoshaphat. The sky is clear and blue.

Joel 3:2 "I will also gather all nations, and bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat, and I will enter into judgment with them there on account of My people, My heritage, Israel"

Church of the Holy Sepulcher



The Mosque of Ascension





The Mount of Olives

Acts 1:11 "This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in the like manner as you saw Him go into heaven."



Part one

A THIEF IN THE NIGHT

A thief in the night

- **1st Thessalonians 5:2** *"the day of the Lord comes as a thief in the night."*
- **2nd Peter 3:10** *"But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night."*
- **Revelation 3:3** *"if you will not watch, I will come upon you as a thief."*
- **Revelation 16:15** *"Behold, I am coming as a thief. Blessed is he who watches . .*

A. Various mind sets – 2nd Coming

1) **Agnostics** say, “If He comes.”

1) 2nd Peter 3:3-4 “Scoffers will come in the last day, walking according to their own lusts, and saying, ‘Where is the promise of His coming?’”

2) **Atheists** say, “He is not coming.”

1) Psalm 14:1 “The fool has said in his heart, ‘There is no God.’”

A. Various mind sets – 2nd Coming

3) **Heretics** say, “He already came.”

3) Matthew 24:5 “For many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and will deceive many.”

4) **Christians** say, “When He comes.”

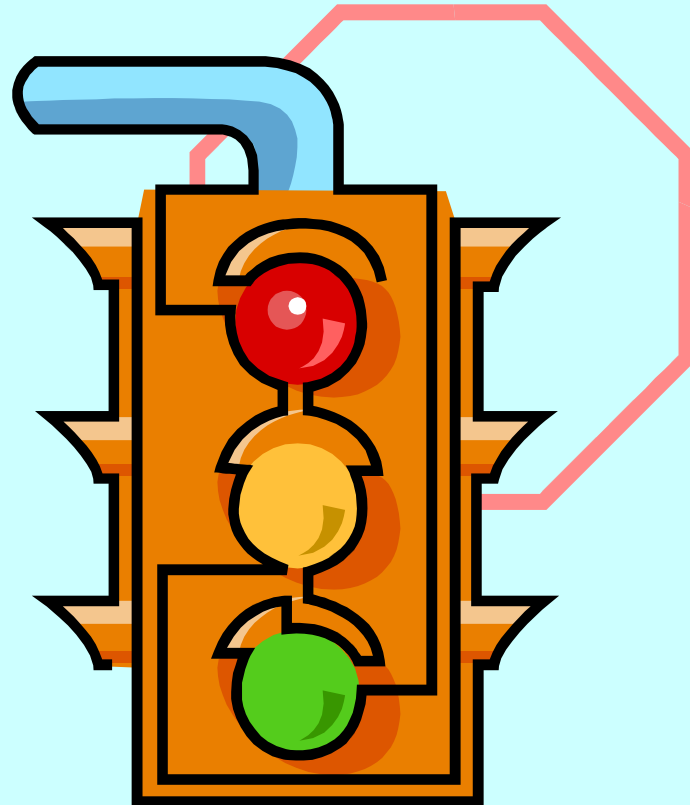
Jesus is coming again!

- **John 14: 3** *"And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also."*
- **Revelation 1:7** *"Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him."*
- **Revelation 22:20** *"He who testifies to these things says, 'Surely, I am coming quickly.' Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus!"*



II. How to approach the topic

A. Red Light Signals



2nd Timothy 2:17-18

"And their message will spread like cancer, Hymenaeus and Philetus are of this sort, who have strayed according to the truth, saying that the resurrection is already past; and they overthrow the faith of some."

a) Predicting the exact time of major end time events.

William Miller, a farmer and preacher from New York predicted that Christ would return between March 21, 1843 and March 21, 1844. He succeeded in gaining a significant following, especially after he became precise in his calculations based upon biblical prophecy.

Acts 1:7 "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority."



www.ohiohistorycentral.org



www.relijournal.com

a) Predicting the exact time of major end time events.

Edgar Whisenant wrote *The 88 Reasons for the Rapture in 1988*. The rapture was supposed to occur sometime between Sept. 11 – 13. Whisenant was quoted as saying "Only if the Bible is in error am I wrong; and I say that to every preacher in town." Later, he wrote *The 89 Reasons for the Rapture in 1989*. He continued issuing rapture predictions until 1997.

Matthew 24:36 "But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only."



www.isitsa.org



en.wikipedia.org

a) Predicting the exact time of major end time events.



Harold Camping is a Christian Radio broadcaster and the president of Family Radio, a California based radio station. He predicted that on May 21, 2011 the Lord Jesus would return, the rapture would occur, and that there would follow five months of deadly judgment, culminating on October 21, 2011.

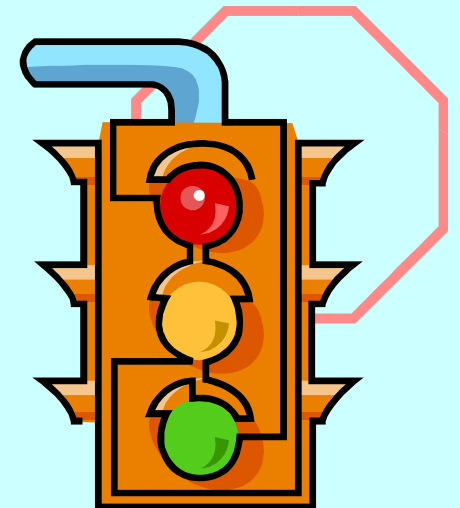
Ephesians 4:1-3

"I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, with all longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."

II. How to approach the topic

A. Red Light Signals

B. Yellow Light Signals



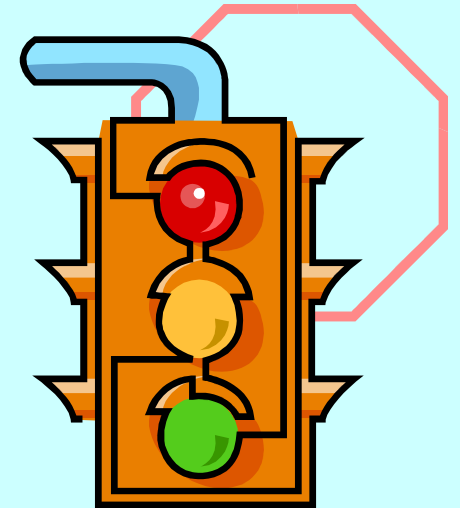
- A. Matthew 24:24 "For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect."

II. How to approach the topic

A. Red Light Signals

B. Yellow Light Signals

C. Green Light Signals



Daniel 12:4 (TLB) *"But Daniel, keep this prophecy a secret; seal it up so that it will not be understood until the end times, when travel and education shall be vastly increased!"*



Promise of a blessing!

- Revelation 1:3 “Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near.”



Part Two

WATERSHED ISSUES

I. The Great Battle over Interpretation

1) Literalists believe

a) Revelation 7:1-8: 144,000 Jews

2) Literalists say


3) Literalists believe

a) The Golden Rule of Interpretation

If the plain sense makes sense, don't look for any other sense, less you end up with nonsense.


Interpreting Scripture

- A. The Literal Method
- B. The **Spiritualizing** (Allegorical) Method
- C. Debate rages – some say - **too literal** – some say too allegorical.



"No matter which view one takes, however, it must be admitted that not until the third century A.D. and the Alexandrian School of theology was there any serious opposition to the literal method."

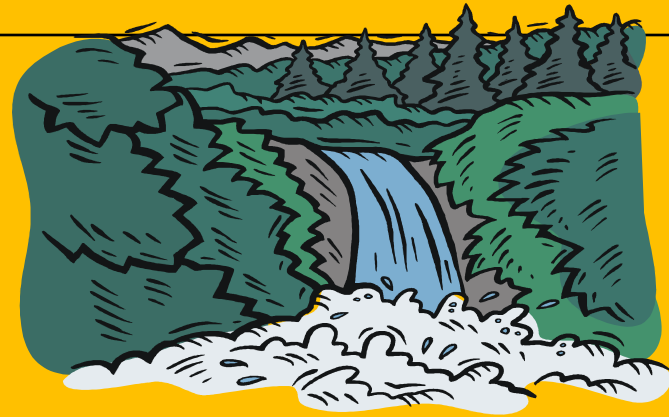
*-- Robert Lightner, *The Last Days Handbook**



*"All evangelicals do use the literal method for their understanding of most of the Bible, but some, namely those of **amillennial** and **postmillennial** persuasion, think it is best to use a less than literal hermeneutic with much unfulfilled prophecy. It is at this point that the evangelical world is divided over things to come and this is what puts prophecy in the middle of the debate."*

-- Robert Lightner, *The Last Days Handbook*

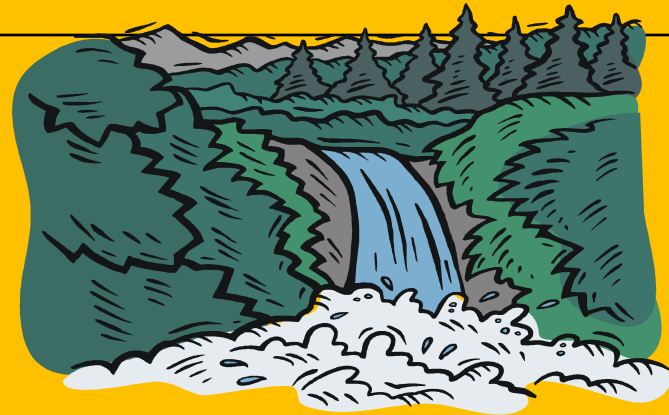
II. A Watershed: Literal v. Allegorical



- 1) With a spiritualizing or allegorical approach, the outcome will be more general and vague.
- 2) With a literal or grammatical – historical approach, the outcome will be more specific and detailed.

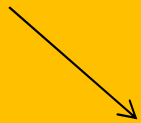
Revelation 20 – the 1,000 years is the basic watershed issue in interpretation

II. A Watershed: Literal v. Allegorical



Interpretation

More Literal



Historic
Pre-Millennial

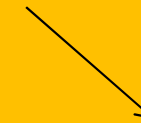


Modern
Pre-Millennial

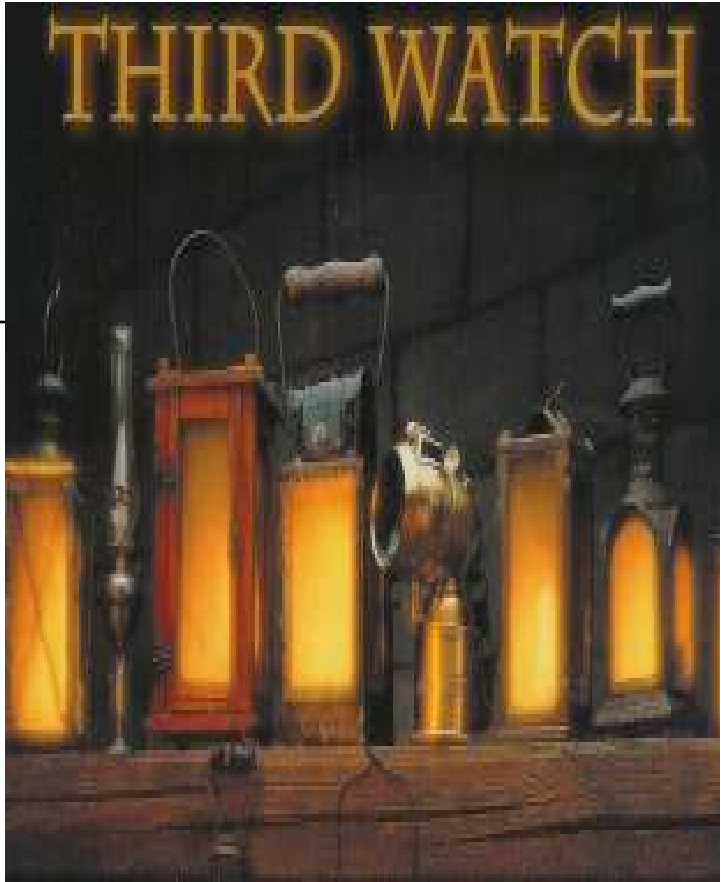
More Allegorical



Amillennial



Post-Millennial



Part Three

THE VISION OF THE THIRD WATCH

I. The actual vision and words

“The Church is entering into the third watch – the third guard.”

C. The Parable of the Watching Servants

Luke 12:35-38

"Let your waist be girded and your lamps burning; and you yourselves be like men who wait for their master, when he will return from the wedding, that when he comes and knocks they may open to him immediately. Blessed are those servants whom the master, when he comes, will find watching . . .

C. The Parable of the Watching Servants

Luke 12:35-38

“. . . Assuredly, I say to you that he will gird himself and have them sit down to eat, and will come and serve them. And if he should come in the second watch, or come in the third watch, and find them so, blessed are those servants.”



REVELATION AND APPLICATION

How the word *watch* is used

- Keeping watch. (shepherds)
- Watchman and watchtower.
- Prophetic office. (Hab. 2:1, Ez. 3:17)
- Angelic watchers. (Dan. 4)
- Vigilant watching
- Component of time

III. Comparison



- A. Old Testament: Three watches of four-hour periods.

- B. New Testament: Four watches of three-hour watches

Which time system did Jesus use?

Mark 13:35 “Watch therefore, for you do not know when the master of the house is coming – in the evening, at midnight, at the crowing of the rooster, or in the morning.”

- 1. First:** 6 pm – 9 pm: “in the evening”
- 2. Second:** 9 pm – 12 am: “at midnight”
- 3. Third:** 12 am – 3 am: “at the crowing of the rooster”
- 4. Fourth:** 3 am – 6 am: “in the morning”

Thousand Year Comparison

- **2nd Peter 3:8** “But beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as a day.”
- **Psalms 90:4** “For a thousand years in Your sight are like yesterday when it is past, and like a watch in the night.”

Hosea 6:2



"After two days He will revive us; on the third day He will raise us up, that we might live in His sight."



The midnight hour

- The Church has entered into the midnight hour of both the 3rd watch and the 3rd day since Christ came. This is a very unique time in history!



The heart of the servant

The occupation of the servant



The Servants of the Third Watch

- To have their waists girded
- To have their lamps burning
- To wait and prepare
- To be ready for the master's knock

C. The Parable of the Watching Servants

Luke 12:35-38

"Let your waist be girded and your lamps burning; and you yourselves be like men who wait for their master, when he will return from the wedding, that when he comes and knocks they may open to him immediately. Blessed are those servants whom the master, when he comes, will find watching . . ."

C. The Parable of the Watching Servants

Luke 12:35-38

" . . . Assuredly, I say to you that he will gird himself and have them sit down to eat, and will come and serve them. And if he should come in the second watch, or come in the third watch, and find them so, blessed are those servants."



Topic Two

A BRIEF SURVEY OF THE BOOK OF REVELATION



I. Various views about the Book of Revelation

A. Preterist

The Oneida Community

In 1848, John Humphrey Noyes founded the Oneida community. It was an attempt at a utopian society in upstate New York, with smaller communities in Connecticut, New Jersey, and Vermont. All property and possessions belonged to the community. Noyes taught that Christ had returned in 70 AD, thus making it possible for his followers to achieve perfection on earth. All members in the community were married to all and could have sex with any of them without committing sin. The community dissolved in 1881, eventually becoming a giant silverware company.



library.syr.edu



library.syr.edu



www2.hu-berlin.de

I. Various views about the Book of Revelation

A. Preterist

B. Historicist

C. Idealist

D. Futurist

II. The Opening of the Book

- A. Verse 1: "*The **Revelation** of Jesus Christ.*"



H. Verse 8: Alpha and Omega

1) **Genesis** = in the beginning.

2) **Genesis** **Revelation**

III. First Vision: Christ and the Church

- A. **Verse 10:** "I was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day"
- B. **Lamp stands** (V. 12)
- C. **Each church received**
- D. **One Theory** – seven ages of the church.

IV. Second Vision: Christ and the World

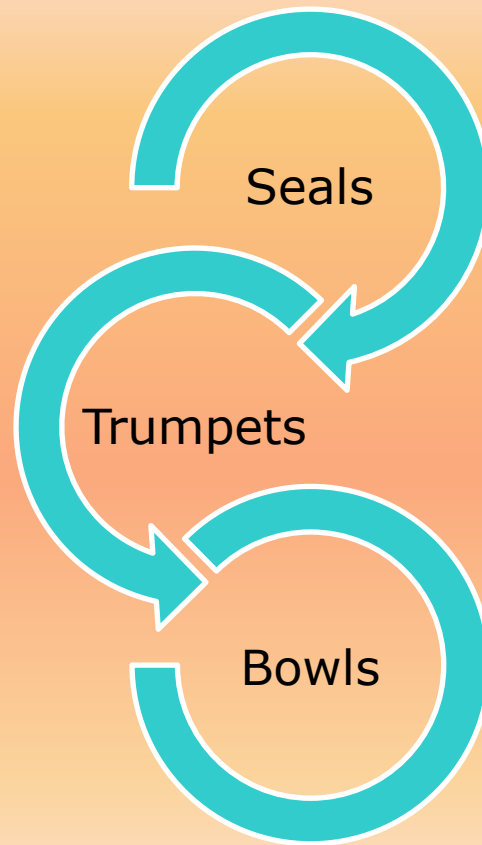
A. Revelation 4:1-2

1) Rapture verse

A. Chapter Four: The throne room

B. Chapter Five: The Lamb & seals

Transition of Judgment



D. The Tribulation

- 1) Chapters Six and Seven: The Seven Seals . . .
- 2) Chapters Eight – Eleven: The Seven Trumpets . . .

D. The Tribulation

- 1) Chapters Six and Seven: The Seven Seals
- 2) Chapters Eight – Eleven: The Seven Trumpets
- 3) Chapters Fifteen and Sixteen: The Seven Bowls of the Wrath
- 4) During the Tribulation, the Antichrist

The Fifth Trumpet and Islam???

The swift rise and military brutality of Islam, spreading its religion by sword in the seventh century, caused many to think that Islam itself is the result of the sounding of the fifth trumpet of Revelation 9:1-12. The Islamic armies comprised of fierce horsemen, wearing beards and long hair like women's, with yellow turbans and iron coats of armor possibly match the hordes of Revelation 9:7-10.



"They had tails like scorpions" – Rev. 9:10

Some of the people who have been called the Antichrist:

- Emperor Nero
- Emperor Justinian
- Early Popes
- Empr. Frederick II
- Martin Luther
- Napoleon

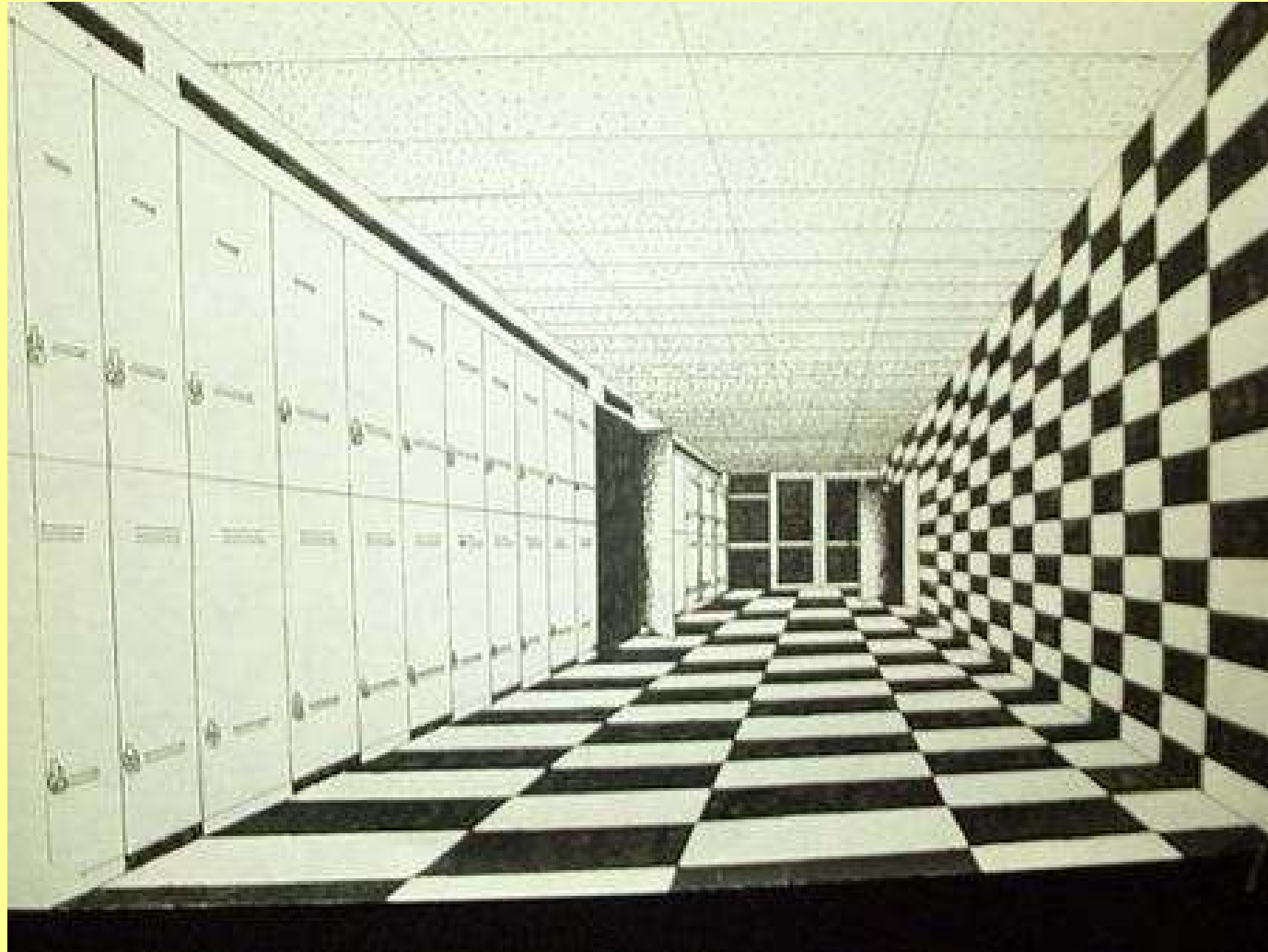
- Leon Trotsky
- Adolph Hitler
- Mussolini
- Ronald Reagan
- Gorbachev
- Osama bin Laden

Four Visions of Revelation



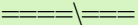







- (III.) First Vision: Christ and the Church
- (IV.) Second Vision: Christ and the World
- (V.) Third Vision: Christ and Victory
- (VI.) Fourth Vision: Christ and Eternity



Topic Three: An Overview of End Time Perspectives



I. The Historic Premillennial View (Common until 400 AD)

Cross	Church Age	Tribulation	2nd Coming & The Rapture	Millennium	White Throne Judgment	New Earth & Heavens
 At Calvary	Little distinction between Israel and the Church.  Unknown Length	 Church to go through the 7 Years	  Will happen at the same time	 1,000 years of peace & righteous rule	  Rev. 20 Judgment of the unbelievers	  Rev. 21 & 22

I. The Historic Premillennial View

A. Premillennial Post-tribulation View

- 3) "the time of Jacob's trouble" (Jeremiah 30:7)

Jeremiah 30:7 Alas! For that day is great, So that none is like it; And it is the time of Jacob's trouble, But he shall be saved out of it.

- b) Tribulation and Great Tribulation

II. The Amillennial View (400 AD – Present)

A. Held by the majority of professing Christians.



B. Augustine

C. Six questions:

1) Millennium

3) Tribulation

5) Resurrections






Cross	Church Age Israel and church equal one people of God.	2nd Coming & The Rapture	In Heaven With Jesus Forever
	Church is Kingdom on earth.	↓	☆
	////////////////	↑	
At Calvary	Unknown Length / 1,000 yrs.	Will be at same time	

Augustine's Amillennial System

Current Amillennial System






Cross	Church Age	2nd Coming & The Rapture	In Heaven With Jesus Forever
	<p>Israel and church equal one people of God.</p> <p>The Church is not the Kingdom on earth. The Kingdom promises are being fulfilled now in heaven.</p>	<p>↓</p>	<p>☆</p>
<p>✝</p> <p>At Calvary</p>	<p>////////////////</p> <p>Unknown Length / 1,000 yrs.</p>	<p>↑</p> <p>Will be at same time</p>	<p>☺</p>

III. The Preterist View

Partial Preterist View	End Times	2nd Coming & The Rapture	In Heaven With Jesus Forever
<p data-bbox="436 643 529 672">Cross</p>  <p data-bbox="396 1032 569 1062">At Calvary</p>	<p data-bbox="653 678 953 786">Most prophecies fulfilled in the first century</p>	  <p data-bbox="999 1203 1346 1232">Sometime in the future</p>	 

IV. The Postmillennial View





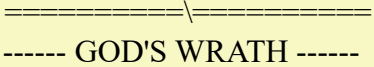





(1650 AD – Today)

Cross	Church Age	Millennium	2nd Coming & The Rapture	Heaven
	<p>Israel and church equal one people of God.</p> 	<p>The Golden Age / Good eventually overcomes Evil.</p> 	<p>↓</p> 	<p>☆</p> 
<p>At Calvary</p>	<p>Unknown Length</p>	<p>1,000 years of peace & righteous rule</p>	<p>Will happen at the same time</p>	

V. Modern Premillennial Views










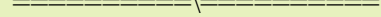


- Pre-Tribulation Rapture
- Mid-Tribulation Rapture
- Post-Tribulation Rapture
- Pre-Wrath Rapture

Pre-Tribulation Rapture (1830 – Present)

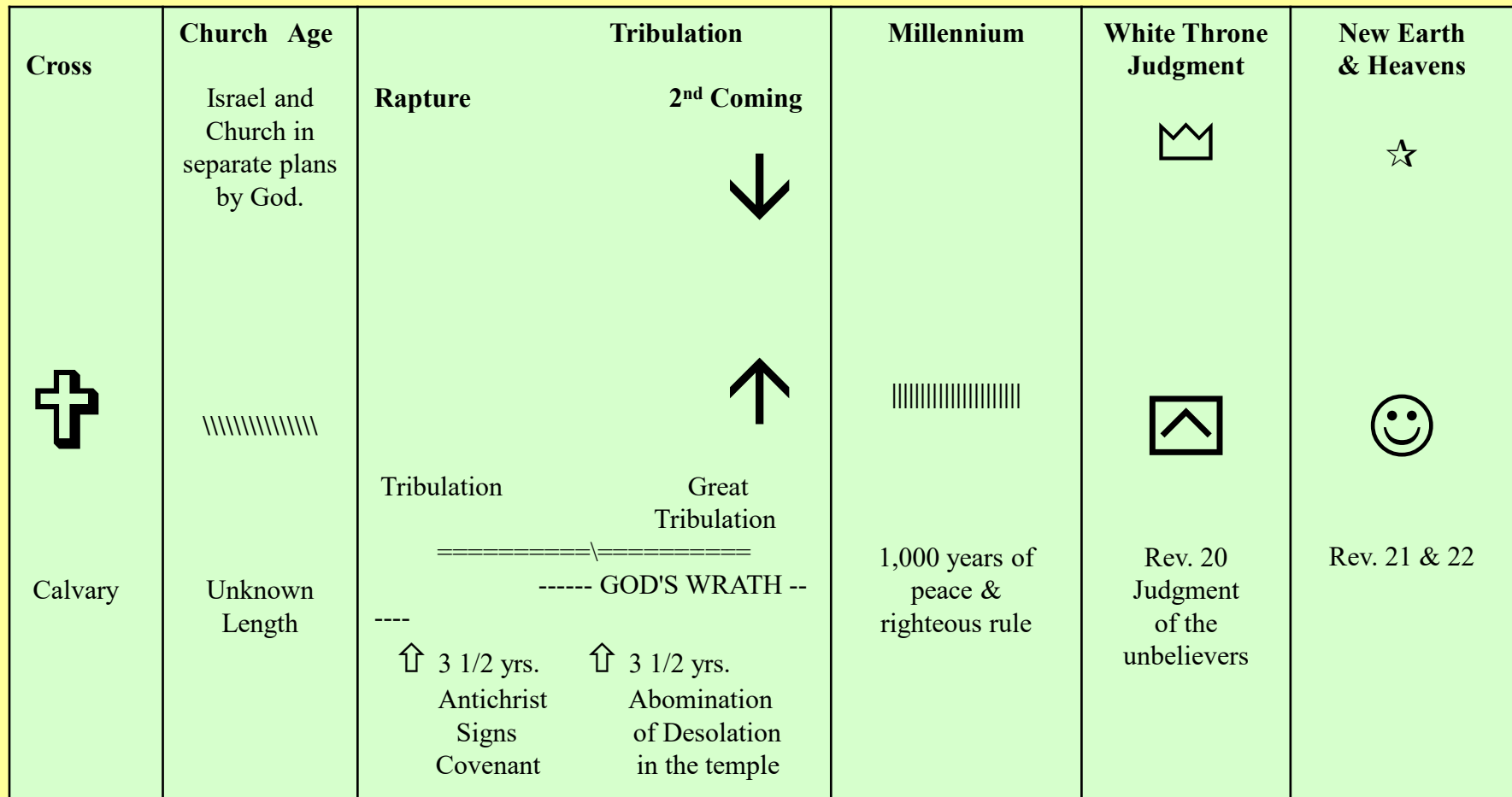
Cross	Church Age	Tribulation		Millennium	White Throne Judgment	New Earth & Heavens
 Calvary	Israel and Church in separate plans by God.  Unknown Length	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>Rapture</p>  <p>Tribulation</p> <p>↑ 3 1/2 yrs. Antichrist Signs Covenant</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>2nd Coming</p>  <p>Great Tribulation</p> <p>↑ 3 1/2 yrs. Abomination of Desolation in the temple</p> </div> </div> <p style="text-align: center;">  ----- GOD'S WRATH ----- </p>	 1,000 years of peace & righteous rule	  Rev. 20 Judgment of the unbelievers	  Rev. 21 & 22	

Mid-Tribulation Rapture

(Developed in the last 70 years)

Cross	Church Age	Tribulation		Millennium	White Throne Judgment	New Earth & Heavens
	Israel and Church in separate plans by God.	Rapture	2 nd Coming			
						
Calvary	Unknown Length	Tribulation 	Great Tribulation  ----- GOD'S WRATH -----  3 1/2 yrs. Antichrist Signs Covenant	1,000 years of peace & righteous rule	Rev. 20 Judgment of the unbelievers	Rev. 21 & 22

Post -Tribulation Rapture



Pre-Wrath Rapture

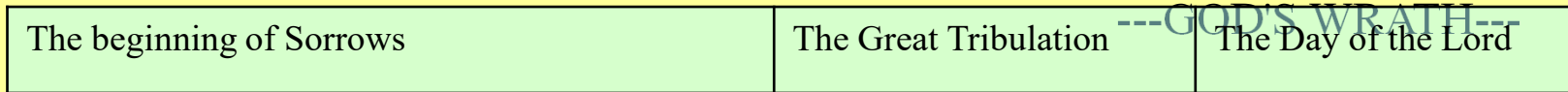
(Developed in the last 30 years)

2nd

COMING

RAPTURE

Midpoint



---GOD'S WRATH---

[----- 3 1/2 years -----][----- 3 1/2 years -----]

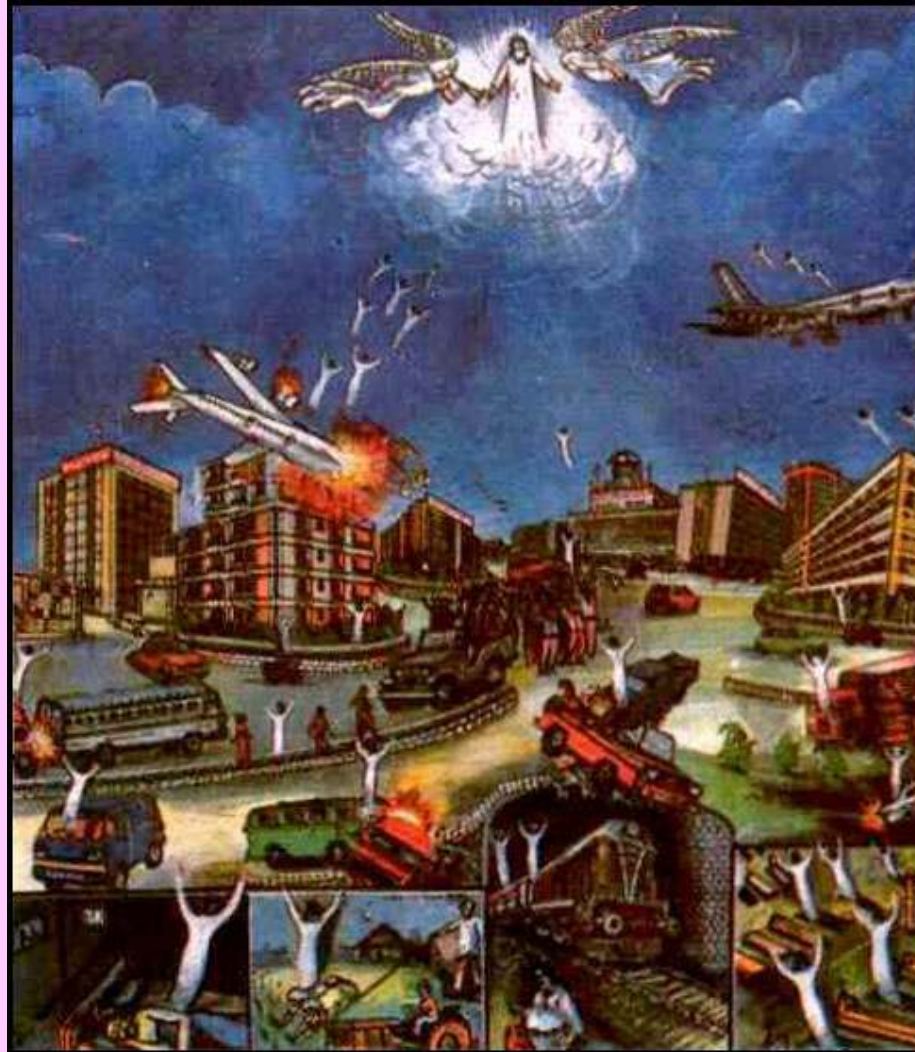


Antichrist
Signs
Covenant



Abomination
of Desolation
in the temple

Topic Four: The Rapture, Tribulation, and Millennium



Part 1: The Rapture

- I. The Rapture is a **Certainty**.

1 Thessalonians 4:16-18

For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.

Part 1: The Rapture

II. The **Chronological** Order is
Unclear and Varies with viewpoint

A. Pre-Tribulation Rapture

Revelation 4:1

After these things I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven. And the first voice which I heard was like a trumpet speaking with me, saying, "Come up here, and I will show you things which must take place after this."

B. Mid-Tribulation Rapture

- **1 Corinthians 15:51-52** Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed -- in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.
- **Revelation 11:15-16** Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!"

Pre-Wrath Rapture

Revelation 7:9-14

After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" . . .

Pre-Wrath Rapture

Revelation 7:9-14

. . . All the angels stood around the throne and the elders and the four living creatures, and fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, saying: "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom, Thanksgiving and honor and power and might, Be to our God forever and ever. Amen." Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, "Who are these arrayed in white robes, and where did they come from?" And I said to him, "Sir, you know." So he said to me, "These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

Part 2: The Tribulation

- I. The Word **Tribulation**

- II. The Length of the Tribulation (from a **pre-millennial** perspective)



heavenawaits.wordpress.com



www.gospeloutreach.net

Part 2: The Tribulation

III. The **Purpose and Principle** of the Tribulation

IV. The **Nature** of the Tribulation

V. Key **Events** of the Tribulation



On Heaven

On Heaven

On Heaven

Dr. Stan Fleming

Forbes and Pearl Stanley



“Death is total in every generation. It takes every one of us.”

C. S. Lewis

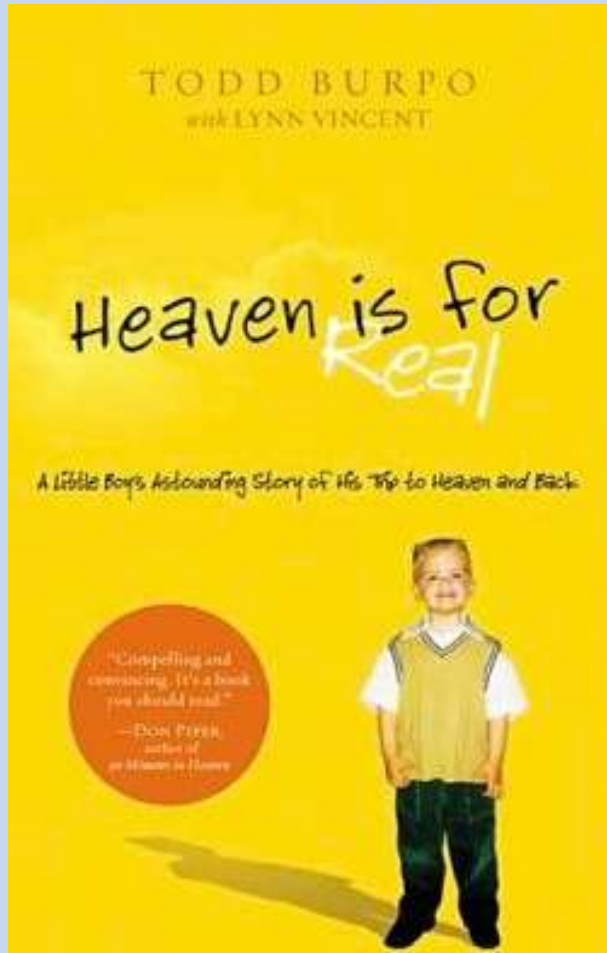
“The statistics on death are quite impressive. One out of one people die.”

George Bernard Shaw

Ian McCormick



Colton Burpo





WHY LEARN ABOUT HEAVEN?

1 Peter 3:15

“Always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you.”

2nd Corinthians 12:2-6

I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago -- whether in the body I do not know, or whether out of the body I do not know, God knows -- such a one was caught up to the third heaven. 3 And I know such a man -- whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows -- 4 **how he was caught up into Paradise** and heard inexpressible words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter.

2nd Corinthians 12:2-6

5 Of such a one I will boast; yet of myself I will not boast, except in my infirmities. 6 For though I might desire to boast, I will not be a fool; for I will speak the truth. But I refrain, lest anyone should think of me above what he sees me to be or hears from me.

2nd Corinthians 12:2-6

I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago -- whether in the body I do not know, or whether out of the body I do not know, God knows -- such a one was caught up to the **third heaven**. 3 And I know such a man -- whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows -- 4 how he was caught up into **Paradise** and heard inexpressible words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter.



WHAT IS PARADISE?

Luke 23:43

“Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise.”

Revelation 2:7

“To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God.”



**JESUS TALKED ABOUT
HEAVEN**

Matthew 4:17

“Repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

Matthew 6:9

*“Our Father in Heaven, hallowed be
Your name.”*

John 14:2

“In My Father’s house are many mansions . . . I go to prepare a place for you.”

Parables

- **The sower and the seed**
- **The wheat and tares**
- **The mustard seed**
- **The leaven**
- **The hidden treasure**
- **The pearl of great price**
- **The dragnet**

Matt. 5:3

“Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven”

Matt. 5:10

“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness sake, for theirs is the kingdom of Heaven.”

Matt. 18:3

“Unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of Heaven.”

John 3:3

“Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”



INTERMEDIATE HEAVEN

Philippians 1:21-23

“For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain. But if I live on in the flesh, this will mean fruit from my labor; yet what I shall choose I cannot tell. For I am hard-pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better.”

2nd Corinthians 5:8

“We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord.”

Luke 23:43

“And Jesus said to him, “Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise.”

Isaiah 65:17

*“For behold, I create new heavens
and a new earth.”*

2nd Peter 3:13

“Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.”

Revelation 21:1-4

- New heaven and new earth
- New Jerusalem.

What the Bible Says about Heaven

- Awareness
- Physical
- Food and drink
- Rewards / responsibilities
- Time sense
- Marriage to the Lord
- Animals
- Not boring
- Rev. 21:22 – 22:5