



THE RAPTURE

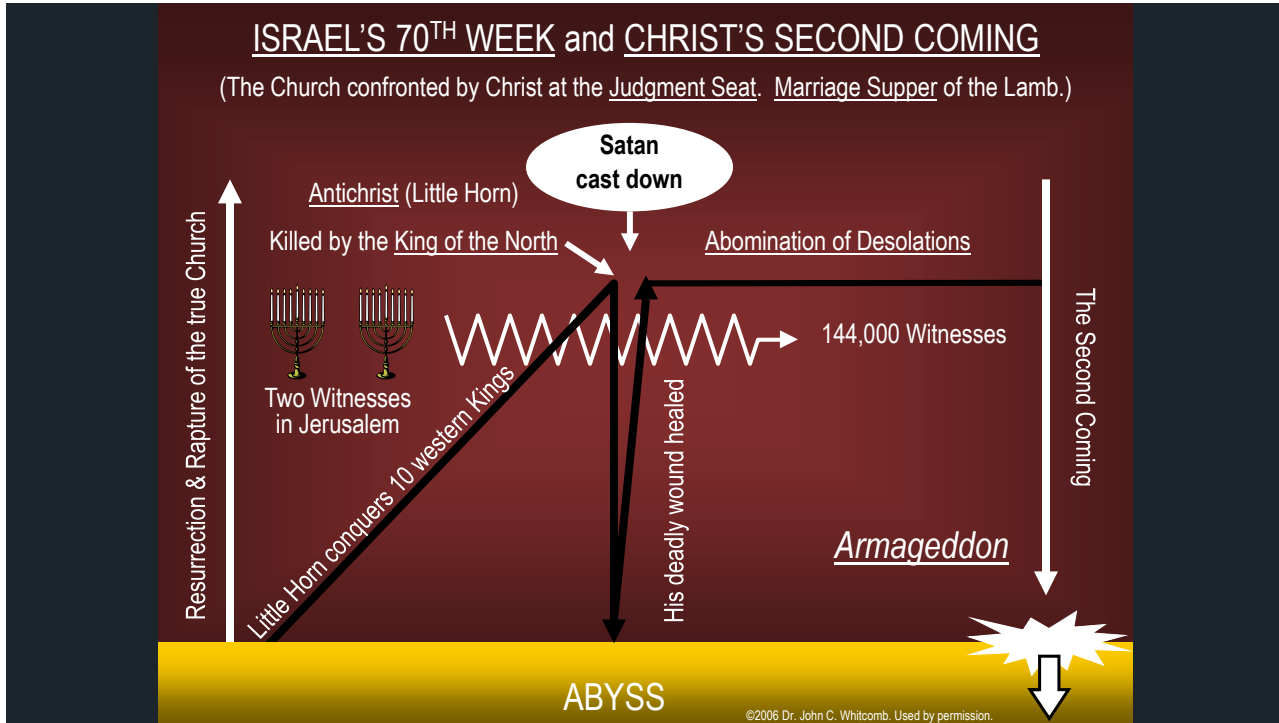
SESSION 2 / PAUL SCHARF

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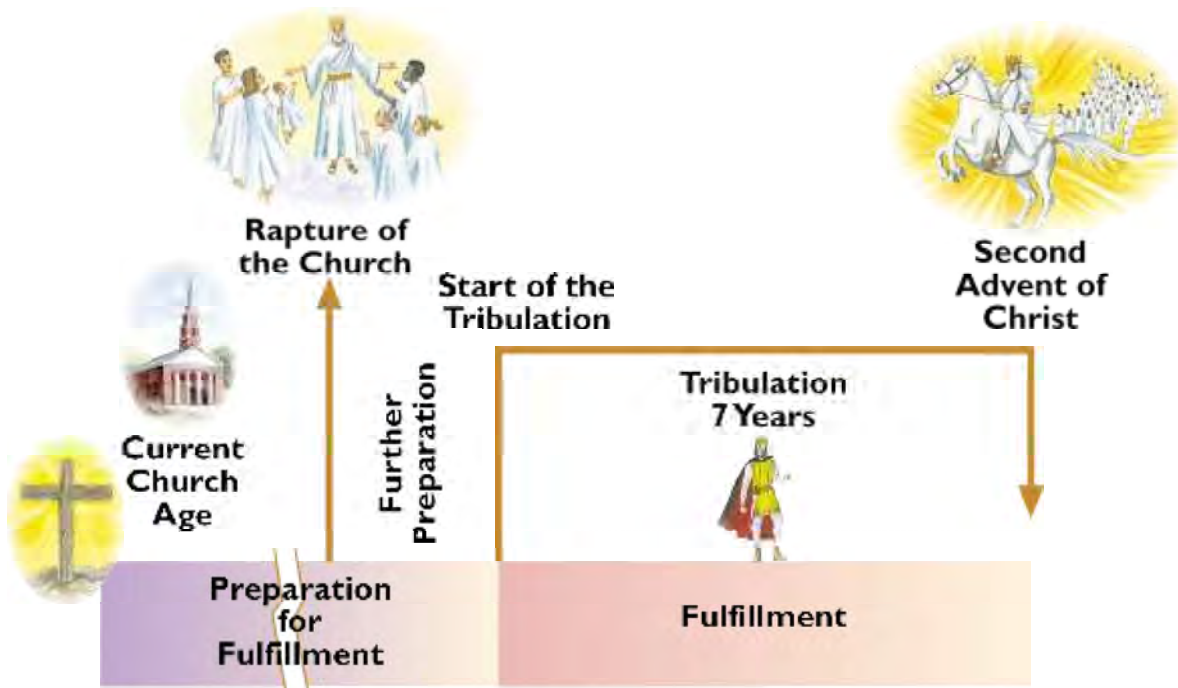
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4

“Hypocrites! You know how to discern the face of the sky, but you cannot *discern* the signs of the times.”

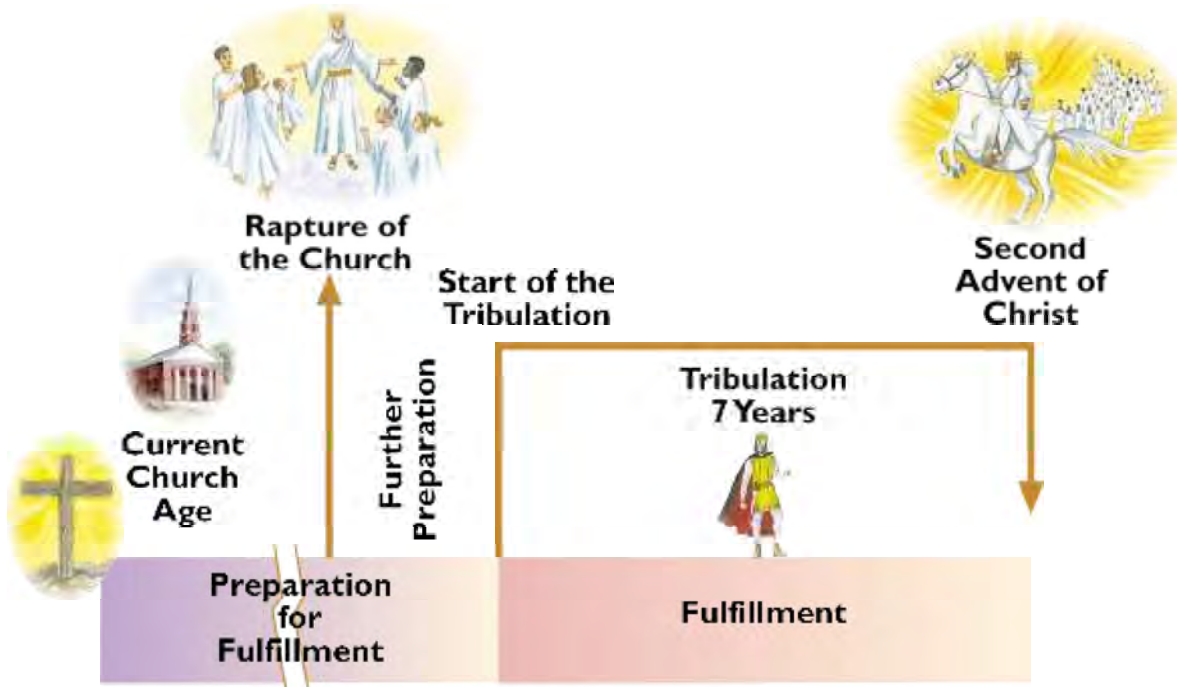
Matthew 16:3, NKJV



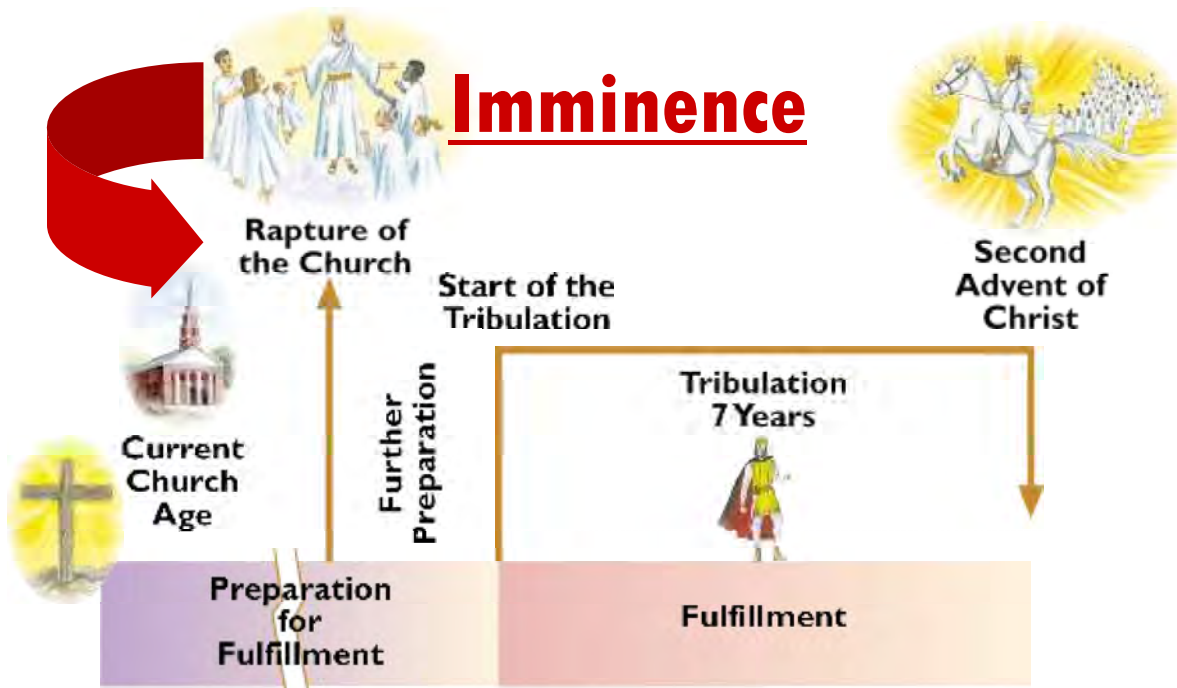
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The rapture, being imminent, is a signless event. This means that there is nothing which *must* take place before Christ can return to rapture His church.

6



7



8

Notice that this
does not necessarily
mean that certain
events *cannot*
happen in the
intervening period.

9

The point is that there
is no occurrence which *must*
happen before Christ can return,
nor are there any events
by which we can date
the timing of the rapture.

10

**“Now the Spirit expressly says that
in latter times some will depart
from the faith, giving heed
to deceiving spirits and
doctrines of demons.”**

1 Timothy 4:1, NKJV

11

**“But know this,
that in the last days
perilous times will come.”**

2 Timothy 3:1, NKJV

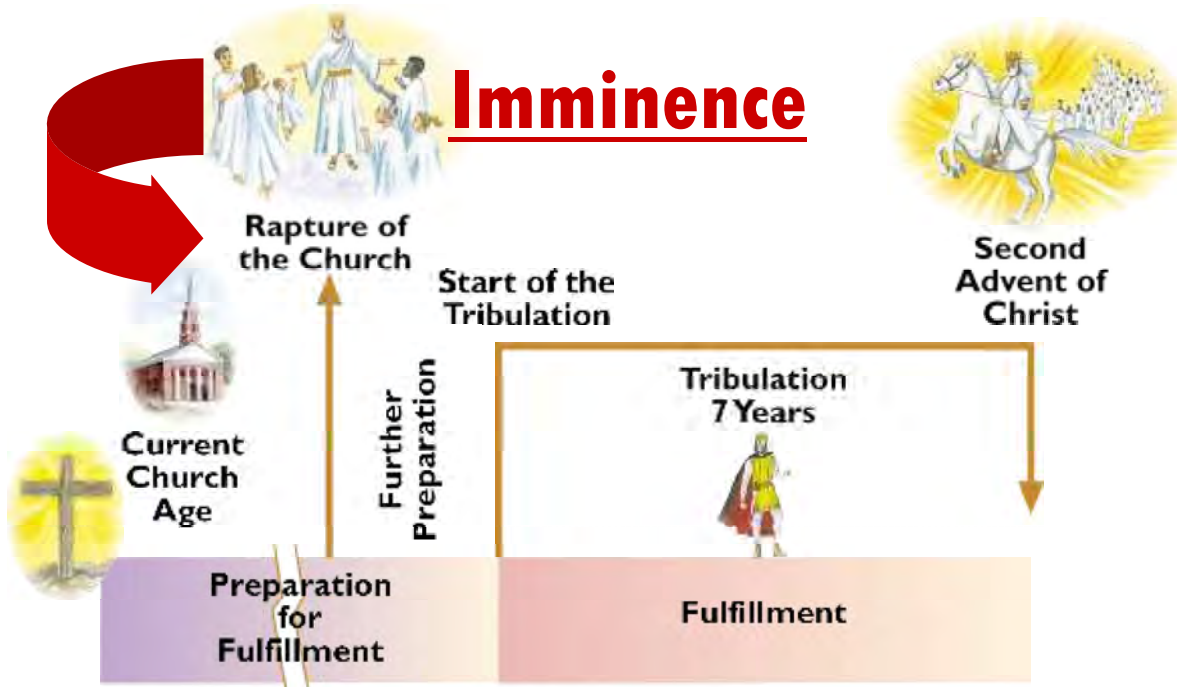
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Therefore, we do not
believe in *date-setting*
for the rapture.

13

But we do
believe in *stage-setting*
for the rapture.

14



15

All Bible-believers believe in a rapture! The only issue is its timing.

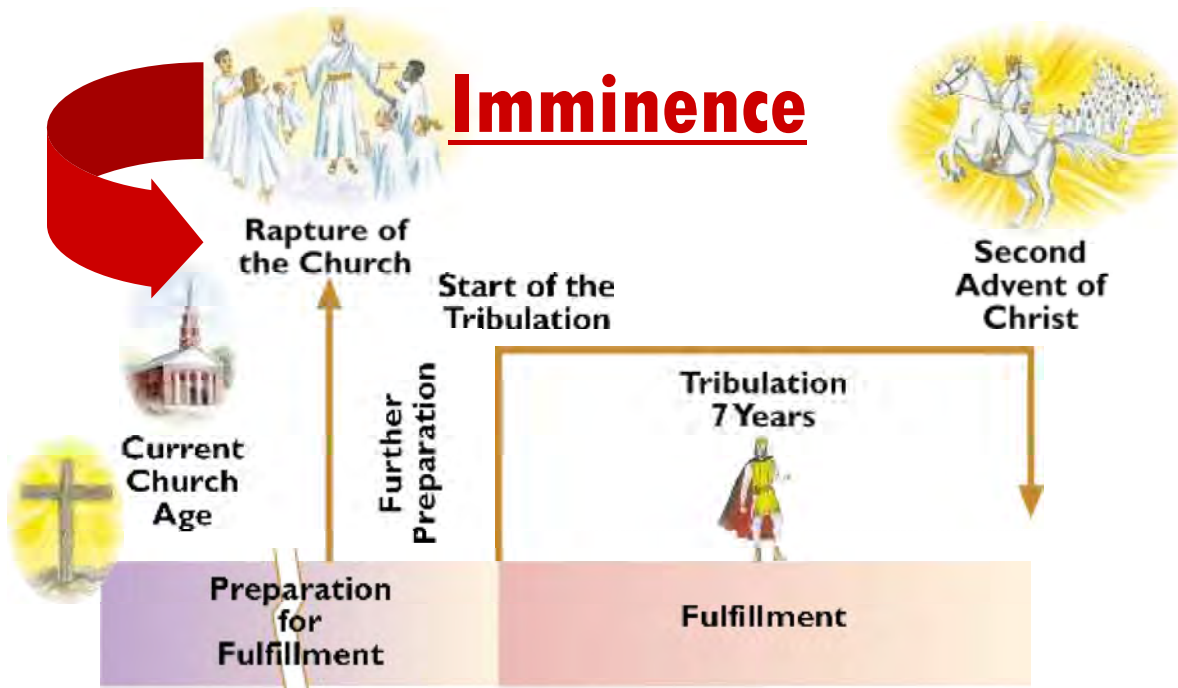
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“Waiting for our blessed hope,
the appearing of the glory
of our great God and Savior
Jesus Christ.”

Titus 2:13, ESV



17



18



19



20



Imminence

- **No signs will point us to the rapture**
- **No events must precede the rapture**

21



Imminence

- **No signs will point us to the rapture**
- **No events must precede the rapture**
- **No one will set the date of the rapture**

22



Imminence

- No signs will point us to the rapture
- No events must precede the rapture
- No one will set the date of the rapture
- No one will warn us before the rapture

23



Imminence

- No signs will point us to the rapture
- No events must precede the rapture
- No one will set the date of the rapture
- No one will warn us before the rapture

***In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye,
at the last trumpet.... (1 Cor. 15:52, NKJV)***

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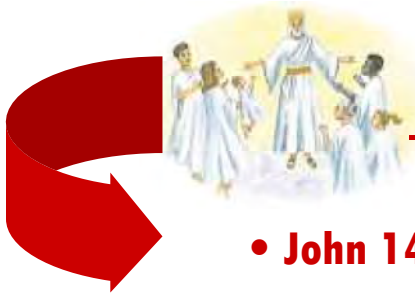


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Key Rapture Passages

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Key Rapture Passages

- John 14:1-7

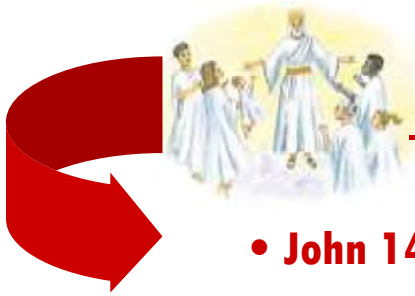
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“... the whole building,
being fitted together,
grows into a holy temple
in the Lord.”

Ephesians 2:21:,
NKJV



28



Key Rapture Passages

- **John 14:1-7**
- **1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

29

Thessalonica

30

Thessalonica



**Paul's 2nd missionary
journey—Acts 17:1-9**

31

Thessalonica



**Paul's 2nd missionary
journey—Acts 17:1-9**



**Paul's 2nd and 3rd
letters—51-52 AD**

32

Participating in the rapture
is a benefit of believing
the gospel.

33

“... such a one
was caught up
to the third heaven.”

2 Corinthians 12:2,
NKJV

34

“... he was caught up
into Paradise ...”

2 Corinthians 12:4,
NKV



35

Third Heaven

↳ Luke 16:22-26;
23:43

↳ John 3:13

↻ 2 Corinthians
5:8;
12:2-4

↻ 1 Thessalonians
4:16-17

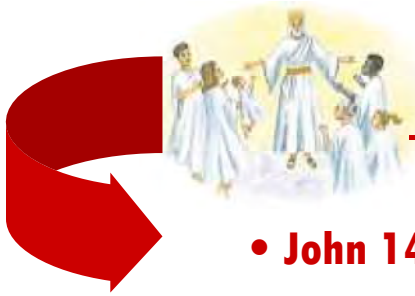
**OT
Saints**



↳ 1 Peter 3:19

↳ Ephesians 4:9

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Key Rapture Passages

- **John 14:1-7**
- **1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**
- **1 Corinthians 15:50-58**

37

Corinth

38

Corinth



**Paul's 2nd missionary
journey—Acts 18:1-17**

39

Corinth



**Paul's 2nd missionary
journey—Acts 18:1-17**



**Paul's 4th and 5th
letters—55-56 AD**

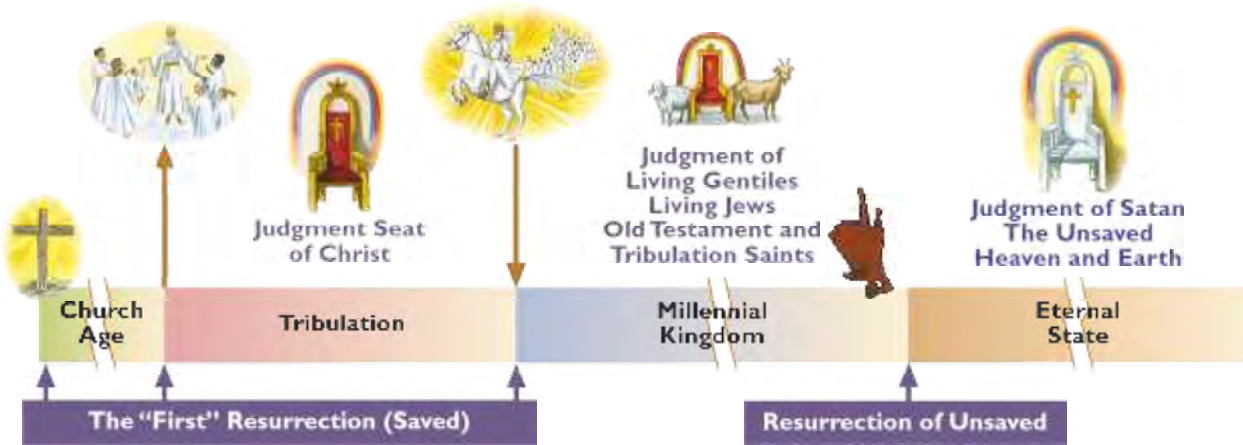
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“... each in his own order:
Christ the firstfruits,
then at his coming
those who belong to Christ.”

1 Corinthians 15:23,
ESV



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Dear Friends,

We are deeply grateful for the generous outpouring of response we received during the closing days of the year as we sought to reach full financial support. Of course, we're anxious to know the final statistics, and we'll share them as soon as we are able.

The New Year began with a glorious Sunday with our friends at Bad Axe Church in Viroqua, Wis.! We'll be with this historic congregation all month. I know that all the folks there would really appreciate your prayers as they sort through numerous decisions which must be made following the retirement of their longtime pastor.

And please pray for us as we enter our fifth year of ministry with The Friends of Israel—and let us know how we can pray for you, as well!

Every Blessing!



Paul J. Scharf, M.Div.
Church Ministries Representative

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