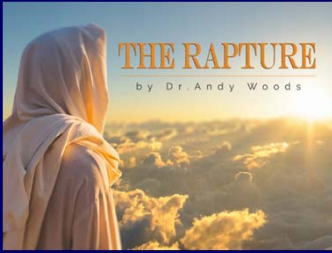



THE RAPTURE
What and When? – Part 5




Dr. Andy Woods
Senior Pastor – Sugar Land Bible Church
President – Chafer Theological Seminary



1

What is the Rapture?




1. An important doctrine
2. Distinct from the Second Advent
3. Catching away of all living believers (1 Thess 4:17)
4. Reunion (1 Thess 4:14-16)
5. Resurrection (1 Cor 15:50-54)
6. Exemption from death (1 Cor 15:51, 54-56)
7. Instantaneous (1 Cor 15:52)
8. Mystery (1 Cor 15:51)
9. Imminent (1 Cor 15:51; 1 Thess 4:15)
10. Traditional doctrine now being recovered

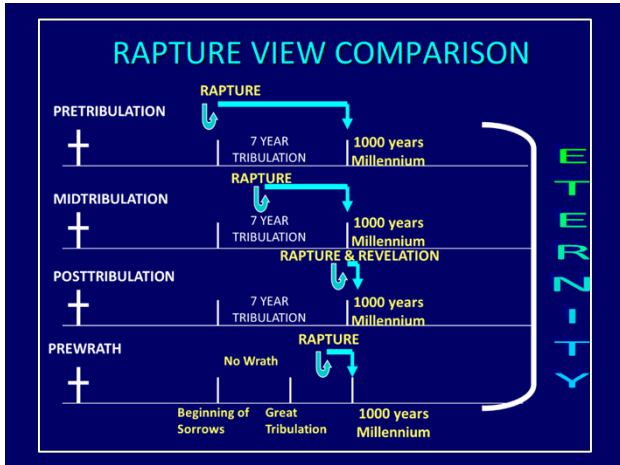
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When Will the Rapture Take Place Relative to the Tribulation Period?

- Pre-tribulation rapture theory
- Mid-tribulation rapture theory
- Post-tribulation rapture theory
- Pre-wrath rapture theory
- Partial rapture theory



3



4

When is the Rapture?
7 Arguments Favoring the Pre-Tribulation View

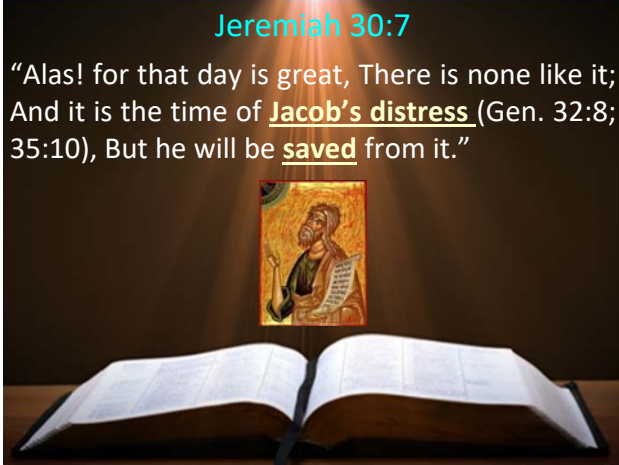
1. Tribulation's purpose concerns Israel (Jer 30:7; Dan 9:24)
2. No biblical reference to the church on earth during the Tribulation period (Rev 4-22)
3. Church is promised an exemption from divine wrath (1 Thess 1:10; 5:9; Rom 5:9; Rev 3:10; 6:17)
4. Rapture is imminent (1 Cor 15:51; 1 Thess 4:15)
5. Rapture is a comfort (1 Thess 4:18)
6. Antichrist cannot come to power until the restrainer is removed (2 Thess 2:6-7)
7. Symbolic parallels (2 Peter 2:5-9)

5

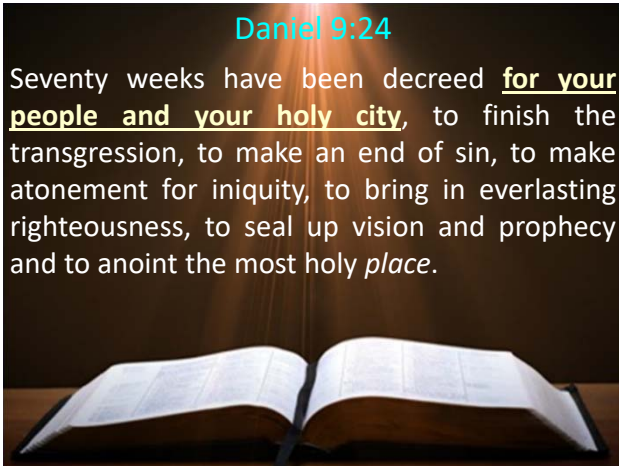
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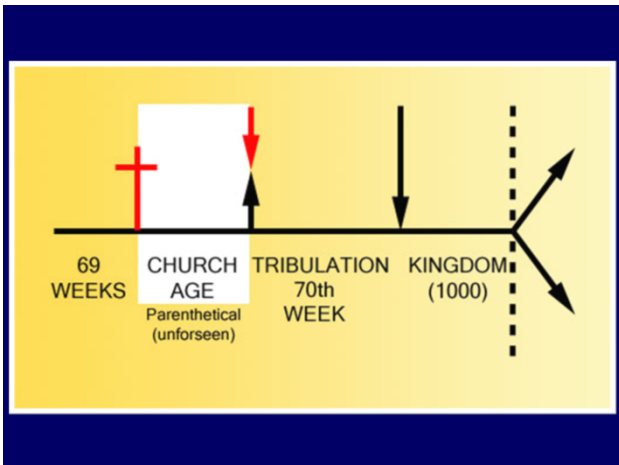
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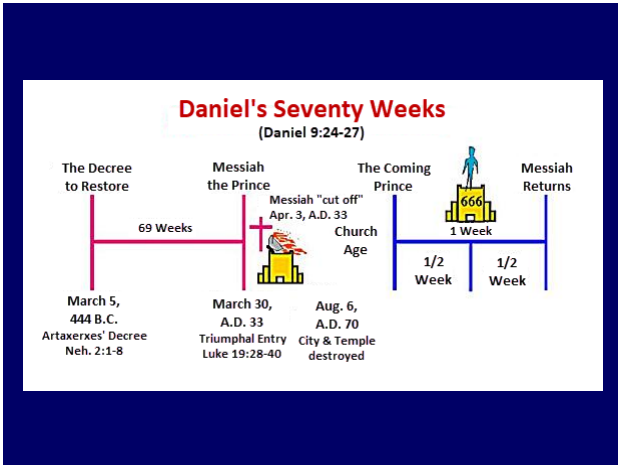
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8



9



10

GAP BETWEEN 483rd AND 484th YEAR

A. Prophecy runs successively for 483 years

B. Gap between 483rd and 484th year

69 weeks
483 years

(GAP)

70th week
7 years

11

The Tribulation's Concerns Israel

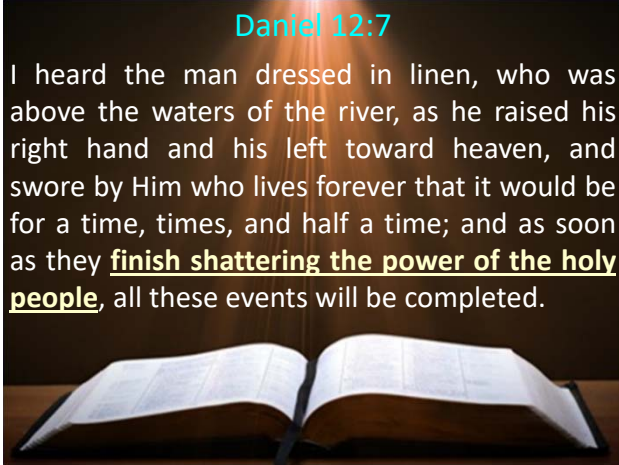


- Jer 30:7; Dan 9:24
- God uses Israel and the church on a mutually exclusive basis

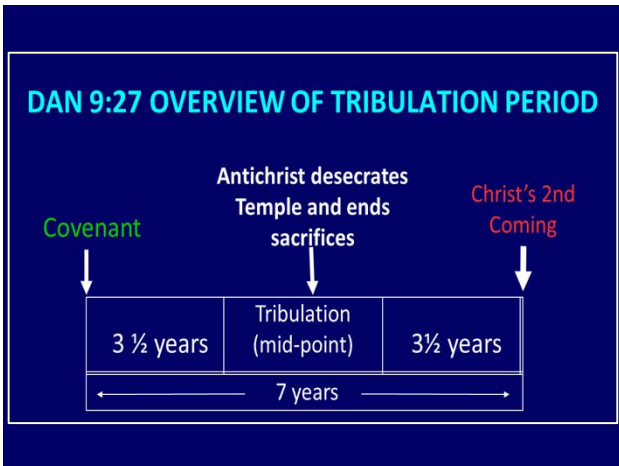
12

Daniel 12:7

I heard the man dressed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, as he raised his right hand and his left toward heaven, and swore by Him who lives forever that it would be for a time, times, and half a time; and as soon as they **finish shattering the power of the holy people**, all these events will be completed.



13



14

When is the Rapture?

7 Arguments Favoring the Pre-Tribulation View

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15

Revelation 1:19

“Therefore write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after these things [*meta tauta*].”



16

Revelation 1:19


- Seen (1)
- Are (2–3)
- After these things (4–22)



17

Revelation 1:19

- Seen (1)
- Are (2–3)
- After these things (4–22)



18



19

Revelation 1:19

- Seen (1)
- Are (2-3)
- After these things (4-22)

20



21

Revelation 1:19

- Seen (1)
- Are (2–3)
- After these things (4–22)



22

Revelation 1:19


“Therefore write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after these things [meta tauta].”



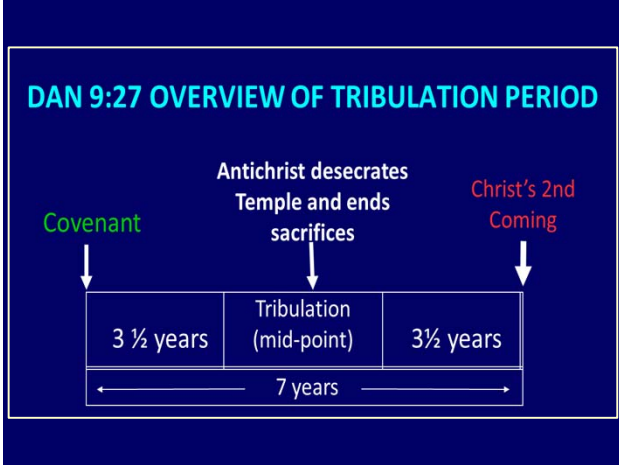
23

Revelation 4:1

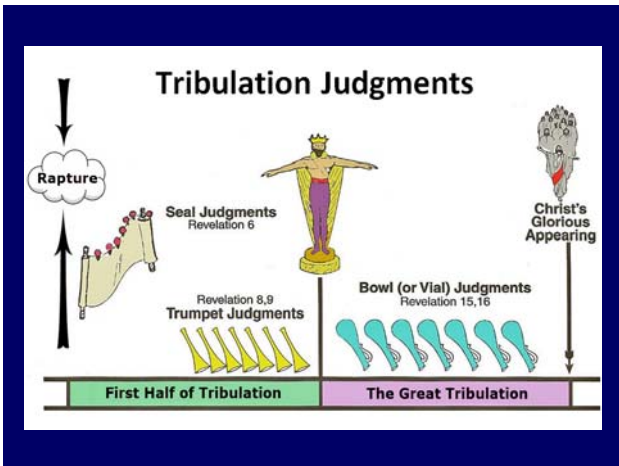
“After these things [meta tauta] I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven, and the first voice which I had heard, like the sound of a trumpet speaking with me, said, ‘Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after these things [meta tauta].’”



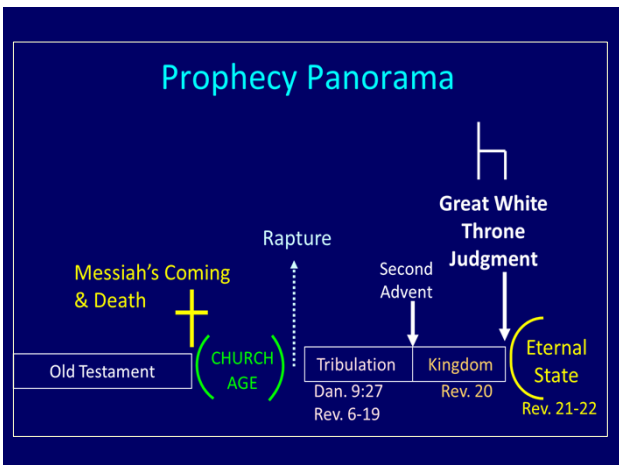
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25



26



27



“After These Things”

(Rev. 4–22)

- A. Before the Tribulation (4–5)
- B. During the Tribulation (6–19)
- C. After the Tribulation (20–22)
 - 1. Kingdom (20:1-10)
 - 2. Great White Throne Judgment (20:11-15)
 - 3. Destruction of the Earth (21:1)
 - 4. New Heaven and New Earth (21–22)

28

The Missing Church

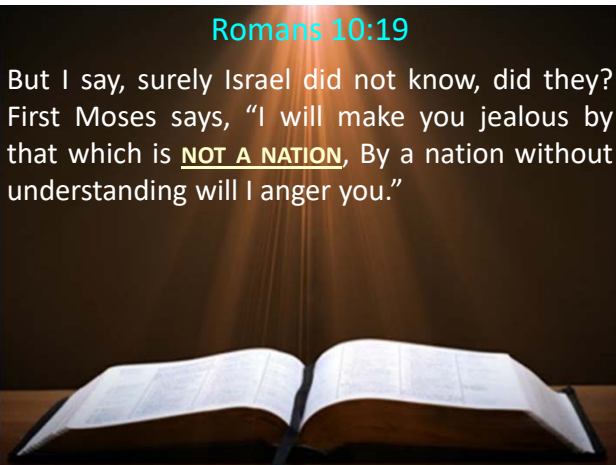
- Rev 4-19
- Rev 13:9
- Revelation’s Jewish nature



29

Romans 10:19


But I say, surely Israel did not know, did they? First Moses says, “I will make you jealous by that which is **NOT A NATION**, By a nation without understanding will I anger you.”



30

Galatians 3:28


There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.



31

Ephesians 2:14

For He Himself is our peace, who made both groups into one and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall.



32

God's Work Through Israel

- Revelation 7-144,000 Jews
- Revelation 11-Two Jewish witnesses
- Revelation 12-Israel flees



33

Revelation 1:20

“As for the mystery of the seven stars which you saw in My right hand, and the seven golden lampstands: the seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.”



34

Revelation 4:5

“Out from the throne come flashes of lightning and sounds and peals of thunder. And there were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God.”



35

Revelation 4:4

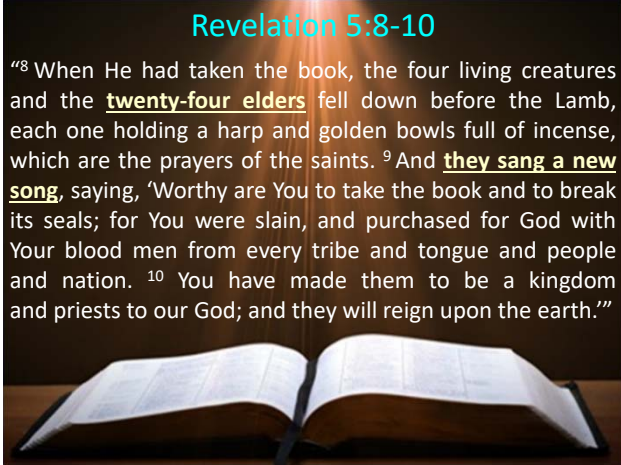
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36

Revelation 5:8-10

⁸When He had taken the book, the four living creatures and the **twenty-four elders** fell down before the Lamb, each one holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. ⁹And **they sang a new song**, saying, 'Worthy are You to take the book and to break its seals; for You were slain, and purchased for God with Your blood men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation. ¹⁰You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign upon the earth.'"



37

Twenty-Four Elders
(Rev. 4:4; 5:8-10)

NOT

1. Israel
2. Redeemed of all ages
3. Angels



38

Twenty-Four Elders
(Rev. 4:4; 5:8-10)

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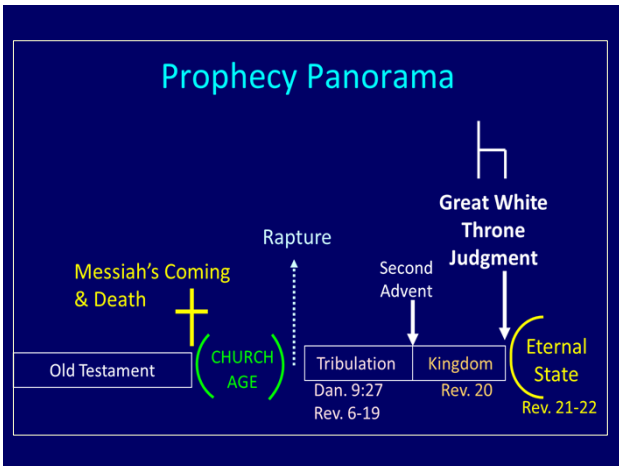
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39



40



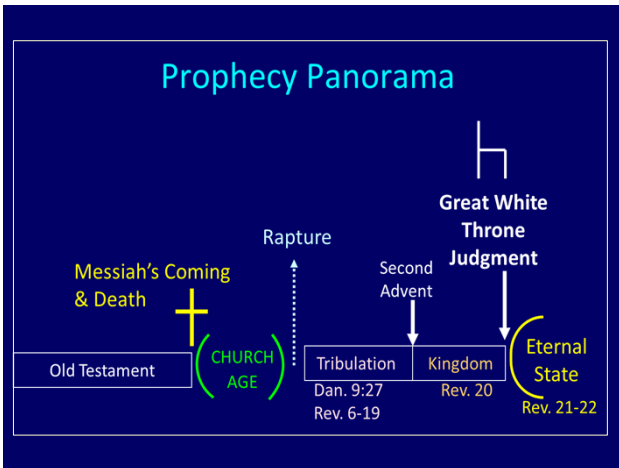
41



42



43



44



45

Revelation 4:4

“Around the throne were twenty-four thrones; and upon the thrones I saw twenty-four elders sitting, clothed in white garments, and golden crowns on their heads.”



46

Revelation 5:11

“Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne and the living creatures and the elders; and the number of them was myriads of myriads, and thousands of thousands.”



47

Revelation 7:11

“And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures; and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God.”



48



49

DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVEN CHURCHES
Revelation 2–3

CHURCH	SCRIPTURE	DESCRIPTION
Ephesus	2:1-7	Loveless
Smyrna	2:8-11	Persecuted
Pergamum	2:12-17	Compromised
Thyatira	2:18-29	Corrupt
Sardis	3:1-6	Dead
Philadelphia	3:7-13	Missionary
Laodicea	3:14-22	Man-centered

50

Twenty-Four Elders
(Rev. 4:4; 5:8-10)

CHURCH

1. Crowned (Rev. 2:10; 3:11)
2. Resurrected (Rev. 4:4)
3. Clothed in White (Rev. 3:5)
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7. Elders (Rev. 1 Tim. 3:1-7)
8. Kingdom of Priests (Rev. 1:6)
9. Twenty-four (Rev. 1:6)

51

Twenty-Four Elders
(Rev. 4:4; 5:8-10)

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52

Revelation 4:4

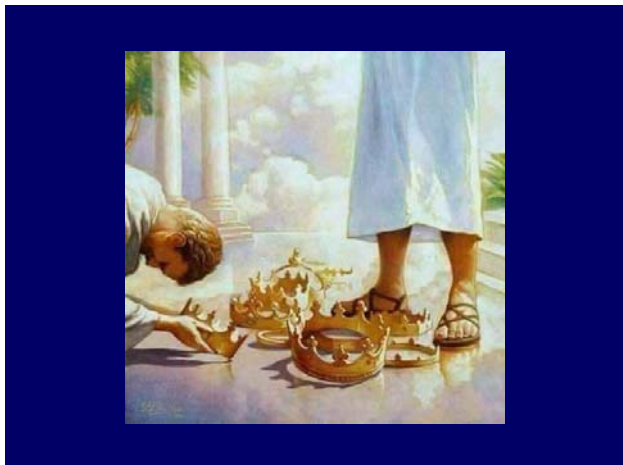
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53

Scripture's Five Crowns (Rev 4:10; 3:11; 2 John 8)		
SCRIPTURE	CROWN	PURPOSE
1 Cor. 9:24-27	Incorruptible	Gaining mastery over the flesh
1 Thess. 2:19-20	Rejoicing	Soul winning
Jas. 1:12; Rev. 2:10	Life	Enduring trials
1 Pet. 5:2-4	Glory	Shepherding God's people
2 Tim. 4:8	Righteousness	Longing for His appearing

54



55

Twenty-Four Elders
(Rev. 4:4; 5:8-10)

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56

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57

Twenty-Four Elders
(Rev. 4:4; 5:8-10)

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58

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59

Twenty-Four Elders
(Rev. 4:4; 5:8-10)

CHURCH

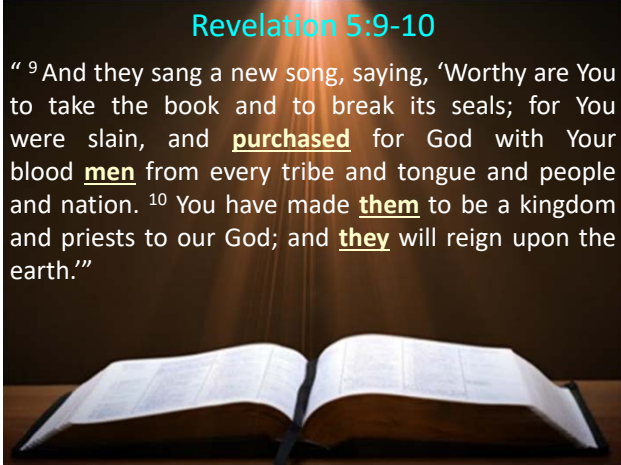
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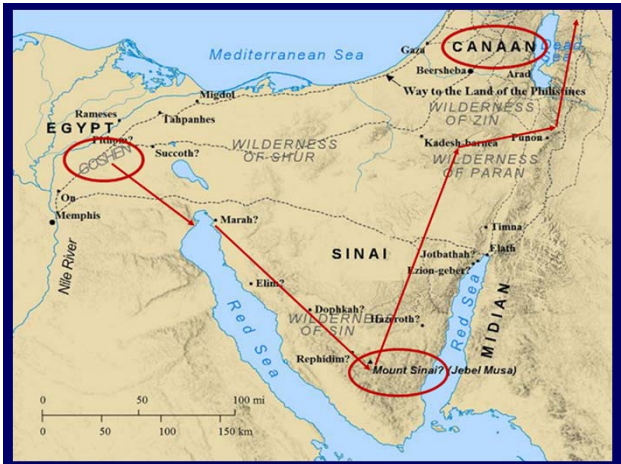
60

Revelation 5:9-10

“⁹ And they sang a new song, saying, ‘Worthy are You to take the book and to break its seals; for You were slain, and **purchased** for God with Your blood **men** from every tribe and tongue and people and nation. ¹⁰ You have made **them** to be a kingdom and priests to our God; and **they** will reign upon the earth.’”



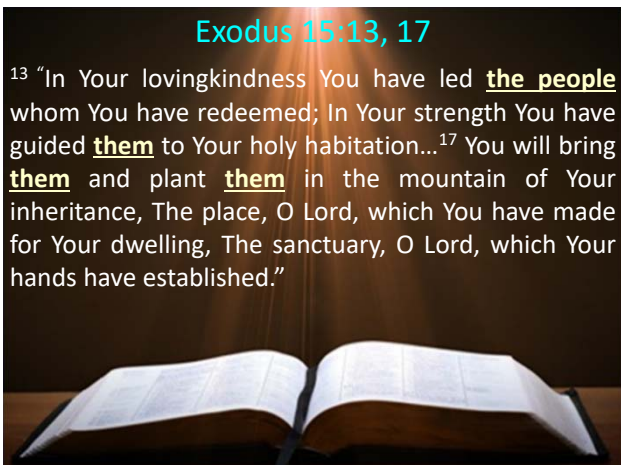
61



62

Exodus 15:13, 17

¹³ “In Your lovingkindness You have led **the people** whom You have redeemed; In Your strength You have guided **them** to Your holy habitation...¹⁷ You will bring **them** and plant **them** in the mountain of Your inheritance, The place, O Lord, which You have made for Your dwelling, The sanctuary, O Lord, which Your hands have established.”



63



64

Manuscript Evidence for Ancient Writings				
Author	Written	Earliest Fragment/copy	Time Span in Years	Number of Manuscripts
Caesar	100 to 44 B.C.	A.D. 900	1,000	10
Plato	427 to 347 B.C.	A.D. 900	1,200	7
Thucydides	460 to 400 B.C.	A.D. 900	1,300	8
Tacitus	A.D. 100	A.D. 1100	1,000	20
Suetonius	A.D. 75 to 160	A.D. 950	800	8
Homer (Iliad)	900 B.C.	400 B.C.	500	643
New Testament	A.D. 40 to 100	A.D. 125	25 to 50	24,000

Information in this chart can be found in various sources. This chart was adapted from: *Christian Apologetics*, by Norman Geisler, 1976, p. 307; and *Evidence That Demands a Verdict*, by Josh McDowell, 1979, pp. 42, 43.

65

Author	Date Written	Earliest MSS	Time Span	No. MSS
Caesar	100-44 bc	AD 900	1,000 yrs	10
Plato	427-347 bc	900 AD	1,200 yrs	7
Thucydides	460-400 bc	AD 900	1,300 yrs	8
Tacitus	AD 100	AD 1100	1,000 yrs	20
Suetonius	AD 75-160	AD 950	800 yrs	8
Homer (<i>Iliad</i>)	900 bc	400 bc	500 yrs	643
<i>New Testament</i>	AD 40-100	AD 125	25-50 yrs	>24,000!

<http://creationrevolution.com/2012/05/should-we-trust-the-bible/>

66



J.A. Seiss

Seiss, J. A. (1901). *The Apocalypse: A Series of Special Lectures on the Revelation of Jesus Christ with Revised Text* (Eighth Edition, Vol. 1). New York: Charles C. Cook.

“Ὡὄρασααα ἡμᾶαα. Some critics and expositors have rejected this ἡμᾶαα (us), for the reason that it is omitted in the Codex Alexandrinus, and in the Ethiopic version; though the latter is not much more than a loose paraphrase. The Codex Sinaiticus, however, which was discovered in 1860, and which is of equal antiquity and authority with the Codex Alexandrinus, contains it. The Codex Basilianus, in the Vatican, contains it. The Latin, Coptic or Memphitic, and Arminian, which are of great value, contain it.”

67



J.A. Seiss

Seiss, J. A. (1901). *The Apocalypse: A Series of Special Lectures on the Revelation of Jesus Christ with Revised Text* (Eighth Edition, Vol. 1). New York: Charles C. Cook.

“And so do all other MSS. and versions. And to discredit it, simply and only because it does not appear in that one single Codex of Alexandria, is most unreasonable and unjust to the weight of authority for its retention. Dr. Tregelles, on full examination, was firmly convinced of its right to a place in the text, before the Codex Sinaiticus appeared; and the presence of this ἡμᾶαα in that MS., ought to settle the question of its genuineness forever. The evidences from the context, also argue powerfully for a construction which necessarily embraces it, whether expressed or not. We regard it as indubitably genuine.”

68


David Hocking

David Hocking, *The Book of Revelation: Understanding the Future* (Tustin, CA: Hope For Today Publications, 2014), 271.



“The Greek manuscripts (that we have today) of the passage in Revelation 5:9 are 24 in number, and 23 of them read “US” – only Codex Alexandrinus differs in this regard.”

69



David Hocking
David Hocking, *The Book of Revelation: Understanding the Future*
(Tustin, CA: Hope For Today Publications, 2014), 271.

“You maybe asking – ‘what difference does it make, and why go to all the trouble that is listed above?’ The answer is quite important: The King James reading of the text clearly teaches that church-age believers (represented by the 24 elders in heaven) are singing a song about their own redemption, and since the 24 elders are in heaven all during the tribulation – the correct view of Bible prophecy as to the rapture of the church-age believers (Jew and Gentile) is that they are removed BEFORE the tribulation begins! Our response is simple – PRAISE THE LORD!”

70

Twenty-Four Elders
(Rev. 4:4; 5:8-10)

CHURCH

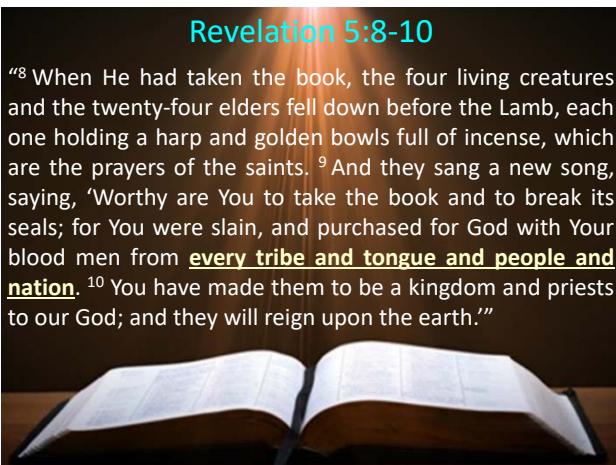
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8. Kingdom of Priests (Rev. 1:6)
9. Twenty-four (Rev. 1:6)



71

Revelation 5:8-10

“⁸ When He had taken the book, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each one holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. ⁹ And they sang a new song, saying, ‘Worthy are You to take the book and to break its seals; for You were slain, and purchased for God with Your blood men from **every tribe and tongue and people and nation**. ¹⁰ You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign upon the earth.’”




72

Twenty-Four Elders
(Rev. 4:4; 5:8-10)

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73

Revelation 4:4

“Around the throne were twenty-four thrones; and **upon the thrones** I saw twenty-four elders sitting, clothed in white garments, and golden crowns on their heads.”



74

Rev 3:21

Promise to the Overcomers

“He who overcomes, I will grant to him to sit down with **Me on My throne**, as I also overcame and sat down with **My Father on His throne.**”




75

Twenty-Four Elders
(Rev. 4:4; 5:8-10)

CHURCH

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76

Revelation 4:4

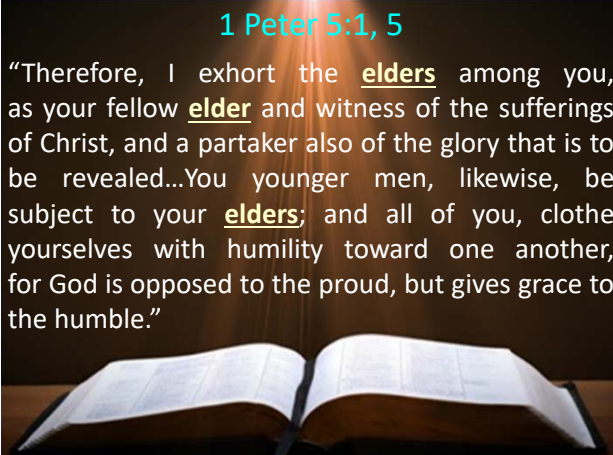
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77

1 Peter 5:1, 5

“Therefore, I exhort the **elders** among you, as your fellow **elder** and witness of the sufferings of Christ, and a partaker also of the glory that is to be revealed...You younger men, likewise, be subject to your **elders**; and all of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble.”




78

Twenty-Four Elders
(Rev. 4:4; 5:8-10)

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9. Twenty-four (Rev. 1:6)



79

Revelation 5:10

“You have made them to be a **kingdom and priests** to our God; and **they will reign [basileuō]** upon **the earth [qē]**.”



80

Revelation 1:6

“and He has made us to be a **kingdom, priests** to His God and Father—to Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.”



81

Twenty-Four Elders
(Rev. 4:4; 5:8-10)

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82

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“Around the throne were twenty-four thrones; and upon the thrones I saw **twenty-four elders** sitting, clothed in white garments, and golden crowns on their heads.”



83

Revelation 1:6

“and He has made us to be a **kingdom, priests** to His God and Father—to Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.”



84

Twenty-Four Elders (Church) (Rev. 4:4; 5:8-10)	
DESCRIPTION	SCRIPTURE
1. Crowned	(2:10)
2. Resurrected	(4:4)
3. Clothed in White	(3:5)
4. Redeemed	(5:8-10)
5. Global	(5:9; Matt. 28:19)
6. Enthroned	(3:21)
7. Elders	(1 Tim. 3:1-7; 1 Pet. 5:1, 5)
8. Kingdom of Priests	(Rev. 1:6)
9. Twenty-four	(Rev. 1:6)

85

Psalm 50:5 (NKJV)
“Gather My saints together to Me,
Those who have made a covenant with Me by
sacrifice.”

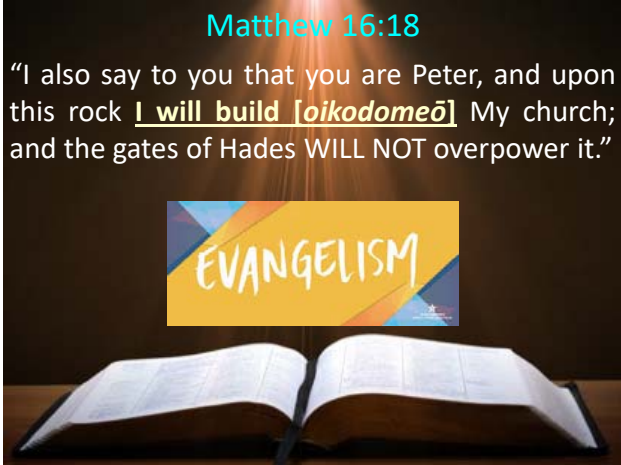


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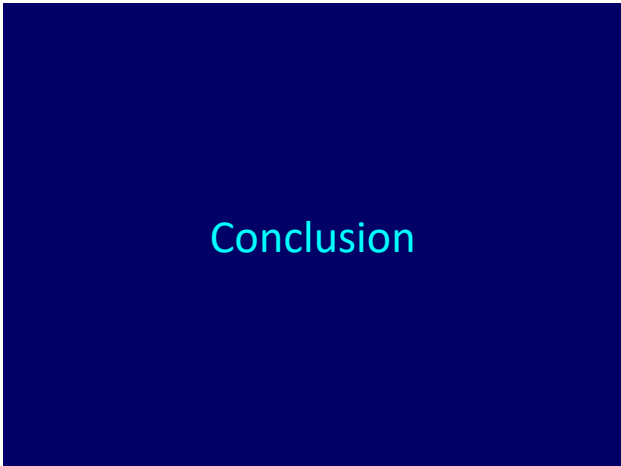
Psalm 149:1 (NKJV)
“Praise the Lord! Sing to the Lord a new song,
And His praise in the assembly of saints.”



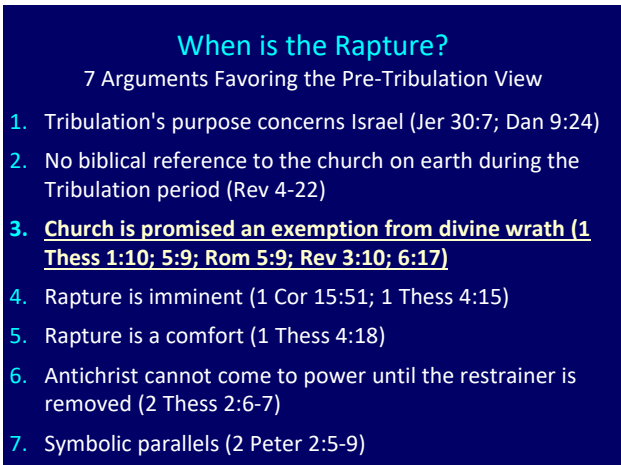
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88



89



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