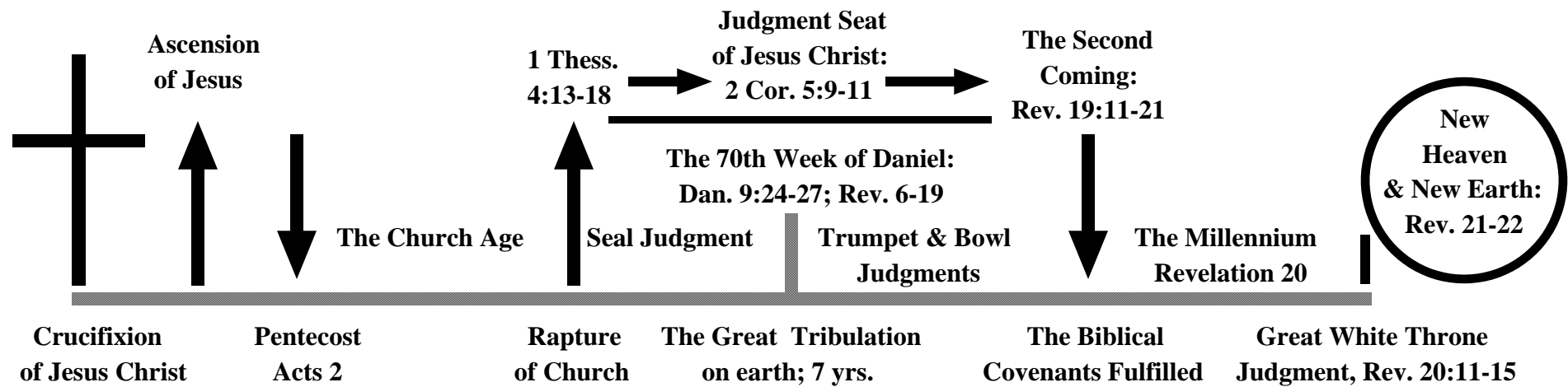


Case for the Pretribulational Rapture of the Church



Great Tribulation: Refers to the future seven-year period of unprecedented trouble, also called Daniel's Seventieth Week (Dan. 9:27; Rev. 6-19).

Great White Throne Judgment: The judgment at which all the unregenerate of all time will appear (Rev. 20:11-15).

Imminency: The belief that Jesus Christ could return at any moment:

Judgment Seat of Christ: The judgment of evaluation for rewards at which believers of this age will appear & be appropriately rewarded for their faithfulness to Him (2 Cor. 5:10-11; 1 Cor. 3:11-15; 2 John 8).

Pretribulational Rapture or Pretribulationism: Belief that Jesus Christ will return and rapture the entire church before any part of the Great Tribulation begins (John 14:1-3; 1 Cor. 15:51-57; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Titus 2:11-13; Rev. 3:10).

Premillennialism: Jesus Christ will return with His saints to establish the earthly kingdom promised to David. Also known as millennial, 1000 year kingdom (Revelation 20).

Second Coming: The Great Tribulation will be climaxed with the physical return of Jesus Christ who will establish his earthly kingdom on earth (Revelation 19:7-11).

 2 approaches for Pretribulationism are used in Systematic Theology: (1) Emphasis on imminency: Jesus Christ could call us home at any moment; no prophecy has to be fulfilled for the Rapture to take place; (2) Centers on God's wrath and whether the church is called to experience any or all of it during the Tribulation. The following is a cumulative case for the Pretribulational Rapture:

1st Approach argues from Imminency: From the pronouns "*we, you, and us*" in 1 Thess. 4:13, "*looking for*" in Titus 2:11-14, "*eagerly wait for*" in Philippians 3:20-21, "*be waiting steadfastly*" in James 5:7-9, we are able to establish the fact that Jesus Christ could return for His church at any moment.

2nd Approach argues from the absence of the Church from Great Tribulation: The purposes of the Great Tribulation: Changing Israel's unbelief to belief (Ezek. 36:24-27; Jer. 23:3-4); No discussion of the Church during the Great Tribulation (Rev. 6-18); No O.T. or N.T. passage on the Great Tribulation ever mentions the church; & the phrase in Rev. 3:10, "*keep you from*" (*tereso* [keep you] *ek*[from]) is a form of *tereo*, "*I keep, preserve*". Used with "*ek*" it means "*keep you from*" or "*out of*".