

Follow Up from Matthew Chapter 24 Bible Study

End Times Question Response

Eschatology

- Eschatology is a part of theology concerned with the final events of history, or the ultimate destiny of humanity.
 - We are concerned with Christian Eschatology

Keep the Main Thing the Main Thing

- When studying Revelation and eschatology it is all too easy to lose sight of the call of Christ in Revelation, which is to live victoriously as overcomers of sin, the world, and the devil and to remain faithful to him at all costs because he will make all things right in the end. **Whatever view one thinks best reflects the teaching of Scripture, it must always be kept in mind that Scripture always presents the doctrine of last things as a motivation for faithful living.** In the end, perhaps John Frame draws our attention to the most important eschatological point: “So far as I can see, every Bible passage about the return of Christ is written for a practical purpose –not to help us develop a theory of history, but to motivate our obedience.”

End times → What we will cover

1. Fundamental Truths
2. References
3. The Big Picture
4. Definitions
 1. Rapture
 2. Rapture timing theories
5. The Premillennial view what most Christians and Pastor Coffie believe

References

Statements of faith from the sources

- <https://www.compellingtruth.org/faith.html>
 - <https://www.gotquestions.org/faith.html>
- <https://alwaysbeready.com/what-we-believe/>



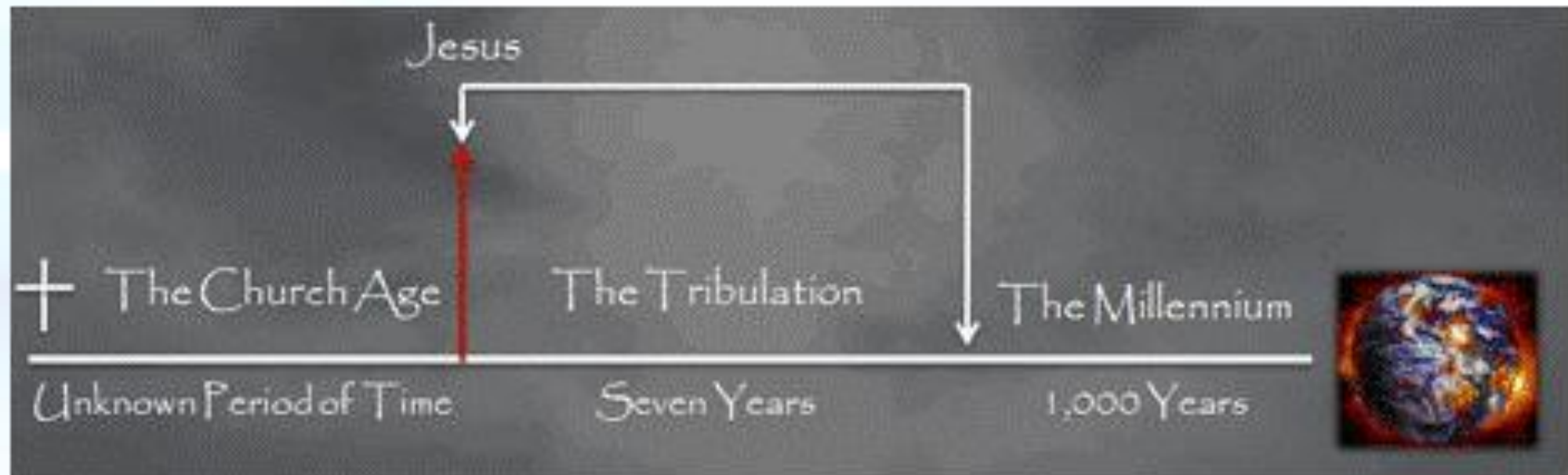
Fundamental Truths

- A. Jesus will return – we do not know when
- B. Regardless of any of our ages, we are only here in this life for a short period of time
 - A. Tomorrow is not promised to any of us
- C. We should be ready for his return
 - A. Having a personal relationship with him
 - B. Being obedient to his word (serving him)

- **James 4:14**
(KJV) Whereas ye know not what *shall be* on the morrow. For what *is your life?* It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.

The Big Picture – Be ready for his return

- We are in the church age (from the day of Pentecost to the Rapture)
- The Rapture (Jesus' return for his church) can occur at any moment



Definitions – The Rapture

- **1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 (KJV)** But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive *and* remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. **For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.** Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

Definitions – The Rapture

- Paul teaches that Christ will come at some future point in time for those who belong to Him. Those who are the "dead in Christ" will experience their resurrection first and be gifted with glorified bodies when He comes. Those believers in Christ who are alive at that time will then be instantly transformed from their earthly state to their eternal state and will not experience death. Instead, they will be caught up to be with all those who have previously gone on to be with the Lord and be transferred to heaven. Paul speaks about this generation of believers who will not taste death when he says, "Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed" ([1Co 15:51](#))

Definitions – The Tribulation Period

- There is no debate among Bible scholars as to whether there will be a rapture, but much discussion has occurred over when the rapture will occur. There have been five main theories put forward as to the timing of the rapture and they all surround what is known in prophetic biblical teaching as the "tribulation" period, which is mentioned by Christ in Matthew 24 and described in great detail in Revelation 4—19. The five hypotheses are:
 1. **Post-tribulation** – believers are raptured at the end of the tribulation period, when Christ returns in judgment

Definitions – The Tribulation Period continued

2. **Pre-wrath** – believers are caught up somewhere between the sixth and seventh seals described in Revelation.
3. **Mid-tribulation** – living believers are taken in the middle of the tribulation period.
4. **Partial rapture** – only faithful believers are taken to be with Christ at the beginning of the tribulation, with unfaithful Christians being left to endure it.
5. **Pre-tribulation** – believers are caught up to be with Christ before the tribulation begins.

Definitions – The Tribulation Period continued

- The **pre-tribulation view** states that, at present, all believers are living in the Church age, which has no specified time period given to it in Scripture. At some point in the future, Christ will return for His Bride, the Church, and evacuate believers from earth before the start of a seven-year period in which God will pour out His wrath on an unbelieving world. The tribulation will climax with the bodily return of Christ, after which He will establish a perfect reign that lasts 1,000 years. Once that reign has concluded and one final rebellion crushed, God creates a new heaven and earth, and the eternal state begins.



NEBUCHADNEZZAR'S DREAM OF COMING KINGDOMS THAT WOULD PRECEDE THE ESTABLISHING OF GOD'S KINGDOM ON EARTH
God gave the interpretation of Nebuchadnezzar's dream to Daniel in Daniel chapter 2. The interpretation includes the prophecy that God would set up an everlasting kingdom during the time of the ten kings of the revived Roman Empire (see 4b below). Daniel said, "And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever." (Daniel 2:44) This will happen when Jesus returns to earth immediately after the Tribulation.

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1. **BABYLONIAN EMPIRE/ GOLD**
Daniel 2:37-38, 7:4
 2. **MEDO-PERSIA EMPIRE/ SILVER**
Daniel 2:32, 7:5, 8:20
 3. **GRECIAN EMPIRE/ BRONZE**
Daniel 2:39, 7:6, 8:21
 - 4a. **ROMAN EMPIRE/ IRON**
Daniel 2:40, 7:19, 23
 - 4b. **REVIVED ROMAN EMPIRE/ IRON +CLAY**
Daniel 2:41-43, 7:7, 7:20-25
A future weaker version of iron kingdom made up of ten kings, out of which the Antichrist will arise.
 5. **GOD'S KINGDOM**
Daniel 2:44
God's kingdom is now in existence in heaven (Acts 28:31; Rom. 14:17; 1 Cor. 4:20; Col. 1:13) but will be present on the earth during the Millennium following the return of Christ to earth.

1. Babylonian 605B.C.-539B.C.	2. Medo-Persia 539B.C.-331B.C.	3. Grecian 321B.C.-150B.C.	4a. Roman 150B.C.-5th Cent.
1. GOLD	2. SILVER	3. BRONZE	4a. IRON

*Timeline not to scale.

A BIBLICAL TIMELINE OF END TIME EVENTS

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Knowing that Christ could come at any time, the Bible instructs believers to be 1. Evangelizing the world (Colossians 4:3-5, Mark 16:15) 2. Patient and Steadfast (James 5:8) 3. Kind (James 5:9) 4. Prayerful (1 Peter 4:7) 5. Faithful in assembling together and encouraging one another (Hebrews 10:24-25) 6. Conducting themselves in holiness and godliness (2 Peter 3:11, 14 and 1 John 3:2-3) 7. Joyfully confident (Titus 2:11-13)

