



# DOCTRINE

ROOTED IN TRUTH

---

# False Prophets

---

- Many false prophets will come; do not be deceived but endure to the end
- Matthew 24:1–31
- The disciples asked Jesus about the signs of the end of the age and when He would come in all His glory to restore the kingdom of God.
- They had already confessed that Jesus was “the Messiah, the Son of the living God” (16:16).
- They realized the Messiah had already come; Jesus was right there with them, walking and talking and living among them.

---

# False Prophets

---

- Jesus had already told them He would go to Jerusalem, die at the hands of religious leaders, and be raised again on the third day (Matthew 16:21). He had also told them He would go to His Father's house, prepare a place for them, and come back for them (John 14:1–3).
- In the immediate context of this passage, Jesus had just told them the temple would be destroyed, which is what sparked them to ask when this would happen and what the signs would be for His coming and the end of the age.
- The disciples connected the destruction of the temple to the end of the age, which the Old Testament called the Day of the Lord.

---

# False Prophets

---

- The Old Testament prophets spoke of “the Day of the Lord” as an end-times judgment of all nations, which would be a day of destruction, “a day of darkness and gloom” (Joel 2:2; cf. Amos 5:20) but also a day of great light (Isaiah 30:26).
- It is like a double-edged sword, a day of judgment and wrath for God’s enemies but a day of vindication and blessing for His people (Joel 2:30–32; 3:18–21; Micah 4:6–8; Zephaniah 2:7; et.al.).
- This is not just one 24-hour day but the whole three-and-a-half-year period of the judgment of the nations.

---

# False Prophets

---

- The disciples were envisioning a final battle in Jerusalem in which the temple would be destroyed by Rome, but the Messiah would ultimately take over the throne and reign forever.
- They were still envisioning a physical kingdom of God in Israel, even after His death and resurrection (Acts 1:6).
- But Jesus described a much greater heavenly event; the whole sky would go dark, and He would appear in the sky, coming on the clouds of heaven, just as Daniel had seen in his vision of the Son of Man (Daniel 7:13–14).

---

# False Prophets

---

- Jesus described the signs of the coming of the end—wars, famines, and earthquakes; persecution of followers of Christ, with many turning away; deception of many by false prophets, but the gospel being preached to all nations.
- Then the “abomination that makes desolate” would stand in the Holy Place, a prophecy Jesus was quoting from Daniel (see Daniel 9:27; 11:31; 12:11).
- Like many Old Testament prophecies, this had both a near-future fulfillment in the ancient world and a far-future fulfillment when Christ returns.

---

# False Prophets

---

- The ancient fulfillment can be found in the actions by Antiochus IV “Epiphanes” (a title he gave himself that means “god manifest”). This is who Jesus actually is: He is God incarnate, the Word made flesh.
- Antiochus persecuted God’s people and intentionally desecrated the temple by setting up an altar to Zeus (who he believed he was) in the temple and sacrificing a pig to himself on the altar.
- This was the near-future fulfillment of the abomination that caused desolation, but the far-future fulfillment will be the final Antichrist in the end times.

---

# False Prophets

---

- Though Scripture teaches there will be one final Antichrist in the last days, there are also many antichrists throughout the church age (1 John 2:18; Revelation 22:7).
- Antiochus was an “antichrist” of his generation, calling himself god incarnate yet being the opposite of Christ.
- While Antiochus desecrated the temple by offering an unclean sacrifice to himself on the altar, Jesus offered Himself as the perfect sacrifice; His body was the temple that was destroyed but raised up in three days (John 2:19).



---

# False Prophets

---

- Jesus was saying that in the end times, there will be another Antichrist like Antiochus, but the distress the final Antichrist will cause will be worse than anything that has ever come before it (Matthew 24:21).
- Jesus warned His disciples that during the Tribulation there would be many false prophets, many false messiahs, and many antichrists who would try to get those who come to faith after the Rapture to follow them.
- He warned those future believers not to be deceived; those who “stand firm to the end” will be saved (verse 13).

---

# False Prophets

---

- We know that someone cannot lose their salvation (Ephesians 1:13-14).
- When someone doesn't endure to the end, it can look like they have fallen away from the faith, but it just shows us they were never really saved.
- The consistent message of Scripture is that there is a spiritual battle raging between the kingdom of light and the kingdom of darkness, with false prophets and antichrists of the "powers and principalities" of this world
- Paul told us to put on the full armor of God and stand firm; He will fight for us (Exodus 14:14; Ephesians 6:10–18).

---

# False Prophets

---

- Revelation shows us that when Christ does return in the clouds, there really won't be much of a battle.
- Christ will immediately capture the beast and the false prophet and throw them into the lake of fire (Revelation 19:19–20).
- After the millennium, Satan will gather the nations for battle (Gog and Magog) and they will surround the camp of God's people.
- Immediately, fire will come down from heaven and devour them.

---

# False Prophets

---

- Satan, the beast, and the false prophet will all be thrown into the lake of fire (Revelation 20:7–10).
- This shows us that the enemy is no match for Christ, which is why, when we remain near to Him, we do not need to fear the spiritual warfare of this life.
- We will overcome because He who is in us is greater than he who is in the world (1 John 4:4).
- We can stand firm and endure to the end because it is the Lord who fights our battles (Exodus 14:14).

---

# The Rapture

---

- The timing of the rapture will be a surprise; we should be ready
- 1 Thessalonians 5:1–11
- In Thessalonians, Paul reiterated that it would come like a thief in the night and catch them by surprise.
- Paul used a phrase from the prophet Jeremiah to describe why they would be caught off guard; while they were saying “peace and safety,” destruction would come upon them suddenly.

---

# The Rapture

---

- This was what Jeremiah had warned the people of Israel about in the days leading up to the exile.
- The false prophets were preaching peace and safety to the people while the true prophets were warning them that God was about to send them into exile if they didn't repent and turn back to Him.
- The false prophets taught the temple was like a magic charm that made them invincible to destruction. God said because they had turned His house into a den of robbers, He would allow it to be destroyed (Jeremiah 6:14; 7:1–11).

---

# The Rapture

---

- When the temple was destroyed, the people were shocked because they had listened to the false prophets who told them what they wanted to hear instead of the true prophets who spoke the hard truths of God's Word.
- Paul warned Timothy that the same thing would happen in the church, so he charged Timothy to preach the word faithfully and not be afraid to rebuke and correct the people like the prophets did.
- Paul specifically said this was important in light of Christ's appearing, because He is coming to judge the living and the dead (2 Timothy 4:1–5).

---

# The Rapture

---

- Paul told Christians that the rapture wouldn't be like a thief for them because they are children of the light and if the lights are on, we can't be surprised by a thief. We will be surprised by the timing of it, like everyone, but it won't be a bad surprise "like a thief." It will be a good surprise for us.
- He says we already are ready because we are children of the light.
- This is about our identity, not our works. We will be ready no matter when Christ comes for the rapture because we have been justified by Christ's work on the cross.



---

# The Rapture

---

- We should be like Jeremiah and plead with others to listen to the hard truth of God's Word and repent.
- Like Paul and Timothy, we preach the sound doctrine of the Word, rebuking and correcting when needed. Like all the prophets and apostles, we need to warn unbelievers of the judgment that is to come if they don't repent.
- Christ is coming back to save His people from the wrath of the tribulation, and it could happen at any moment. We know we will be ready, but we want to help others be ready too. There is no time to wait; He is coming soon.

---

# Saving Relationship

---

- The righteous are those who have a saving relationship with Jesus
- Matthew 7:13–24 and 1 John 2:1–6
- In the Sermon on the Mount, when Jesus warned the people about false prophets, He told them they would recognize them by their fruit because a good tree bears good fruit.
- Jesus used the imagery of the judgment day to show them the difference between those who are true followers of Jesus and those who are just giving Him lip service.

---

# Saving Relationship

---

- Jesus said not everyone who calls Him “Lord” will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only those who do the will of His Father.
- This makes perfect sense.
- God doesn’t want people who just give Him lip service; He wants real followers (Matthew 15:8).
- Real followers don’t just talk the talk, they walk the walk (James 2:26; 1 John 2:3–6).

---

# Saving Relationship

---

- But the examples Jesus gave for what He meant by doing the will of the Father may surprise us. Or more accurately, what Jesus said was not doing the will of the Father.
- The people Jesus said He would send away had prophesied, cast out demons, and performed miracles in His name.
- Jesus was telling us that these supernatural gifts are not the fruit He was talking about.
- People can do all those miraculous things and still not really know Jesus.

---

# Saving Relationship

---

- The key to salvation is knowing Jesus, having an authentic saving relationship with Jesus.
- This is why Paul said everything else in the world is garbage compared to knowing Him (Philippians 3:7–10).
- This is why Jesus described His people as sheep who know His voice (John 10).
- It is why He told us to remain in Him like a branch remains in a vine (John 15:1–7).

---

# Saving Relationship

---

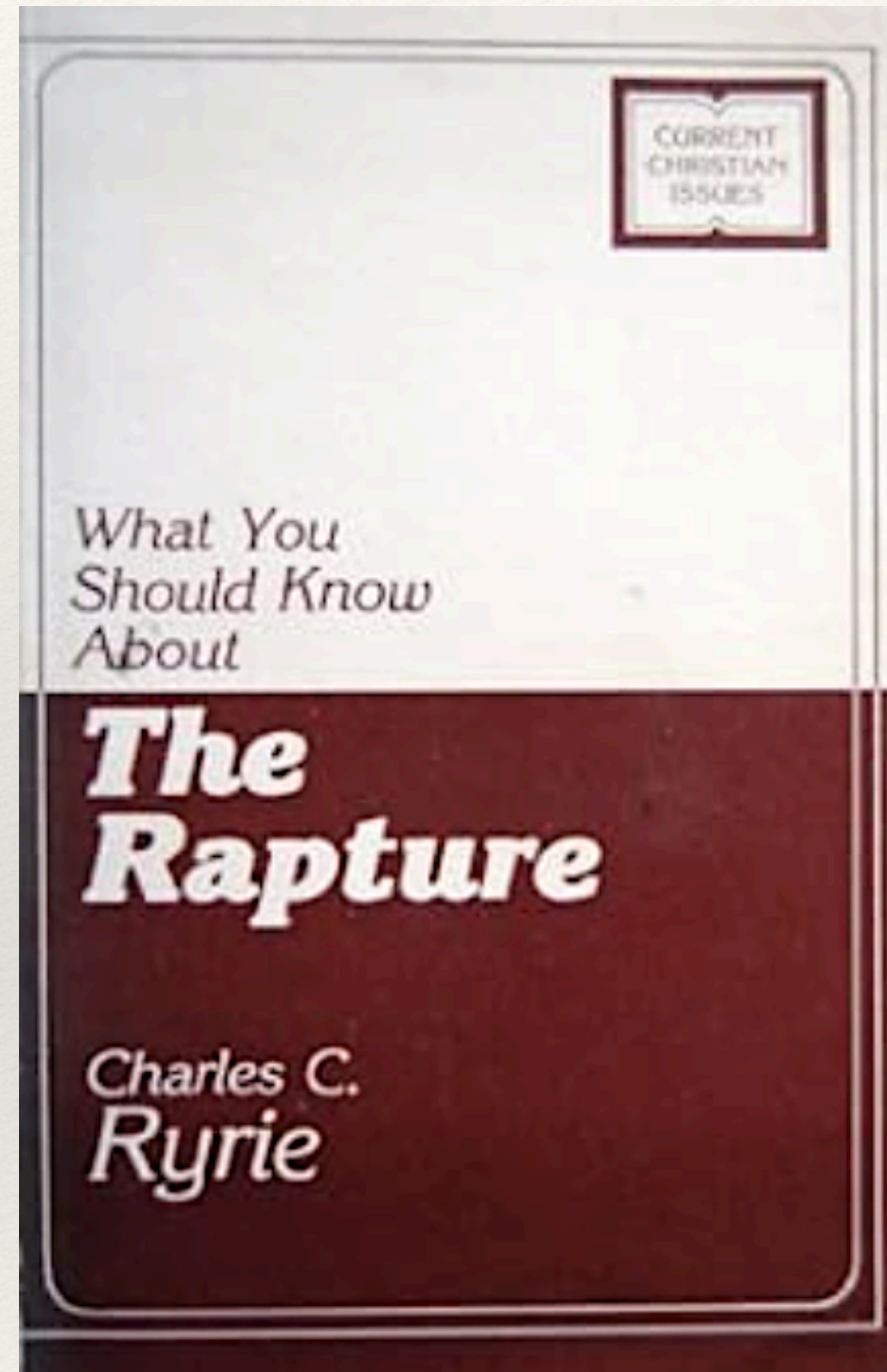
- Authentic fellowship with Jesus doesn't mean just calling Him our Lord, it also means living like He is our Lord.
- As Jesus said, doing "the will of the Father." Because as John said, anyone who says they know Jesus but does not keep His commands is a liar (1 John 2:1–6).
- This isn't works-based righteousness. It's not about deeds; it's about identity.
- It's not that following His commands saves us, it's that those who really know Jesus will live like Jesus.

---

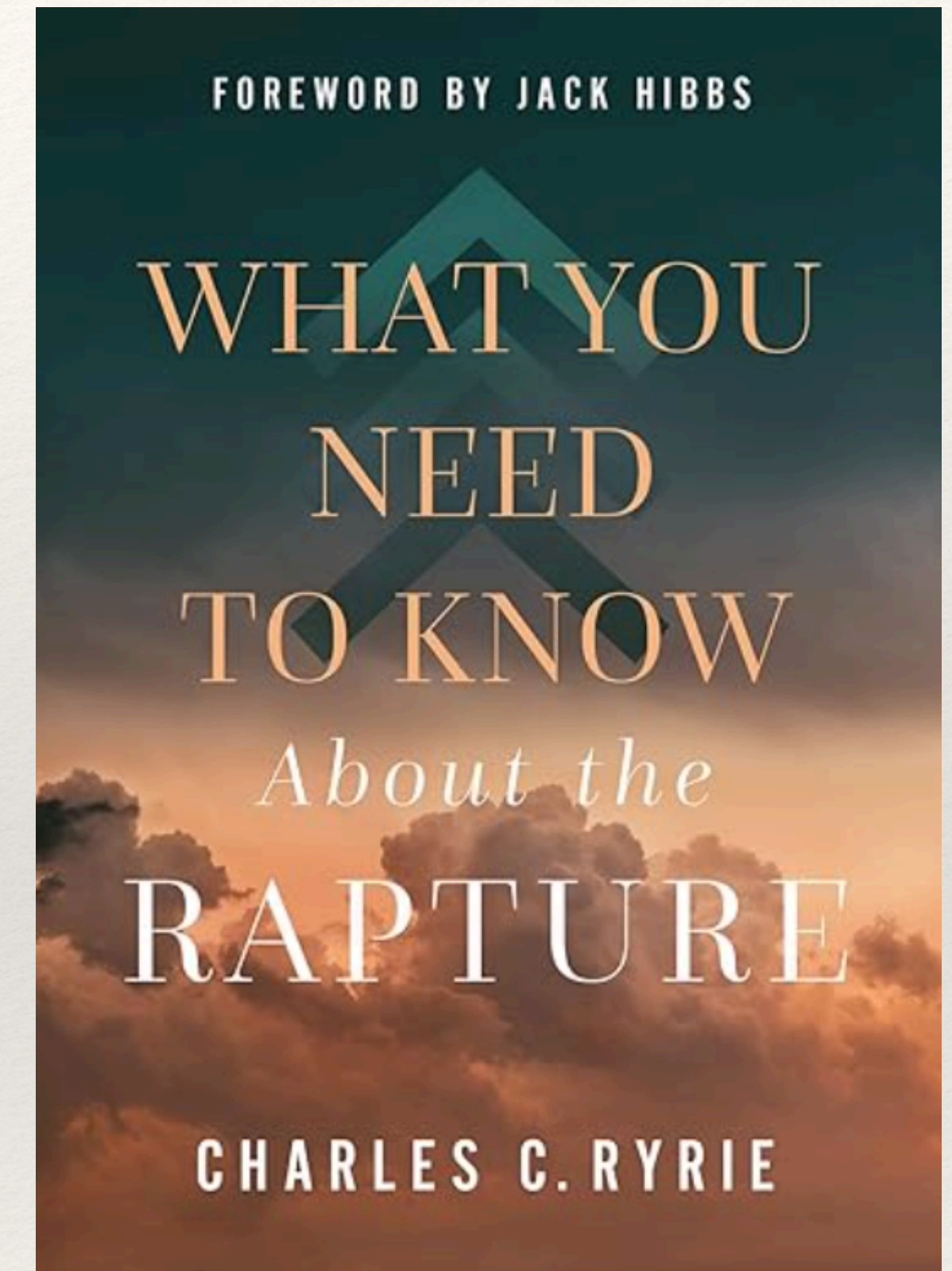
# Saving Relationship

---

- They will live how Jesus lived because they are His people, growing in His image (2 Corinthians 3:18).
- Jesus made it clear that by doing the “will of His Father,” He didn’t mean prophecy and miracles.
- He meant all the things He had been teaching in the Sermon on the Mount, “these words of mine” (Matthew 7:24).
- We will know the true followers of Jesus by their fruit, by the fruit of the Spirit growing in their lives (Galatians 5:22–25).



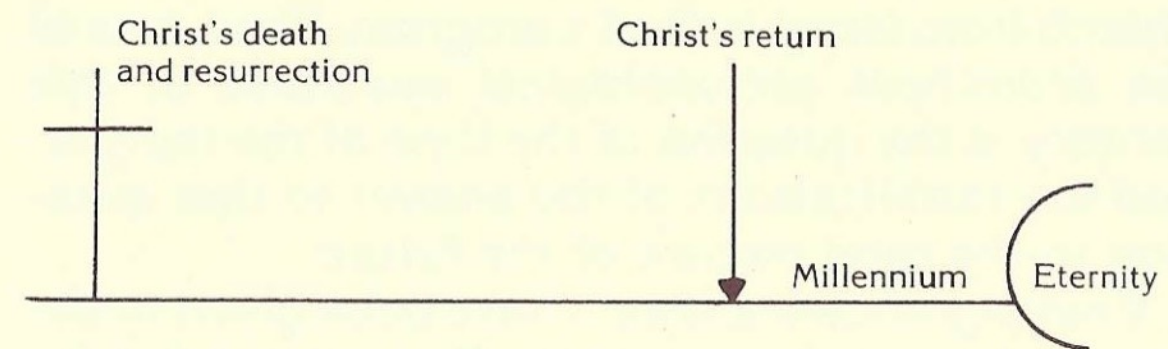
# Why We Believe in the Rapture



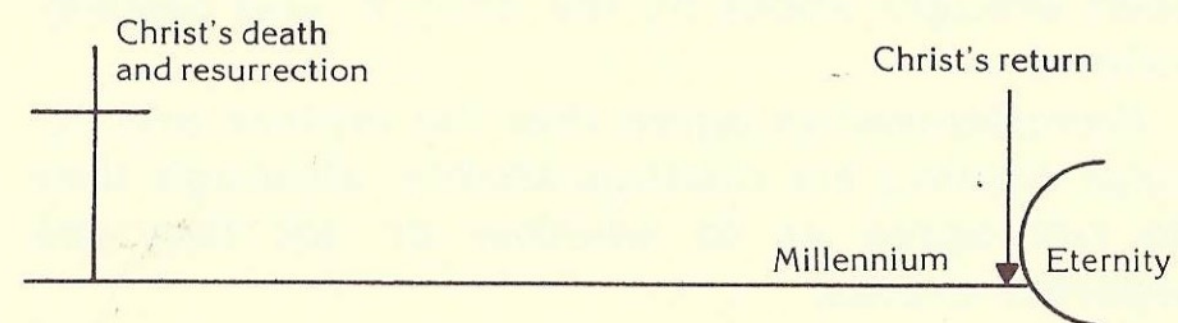


# Premillennialism

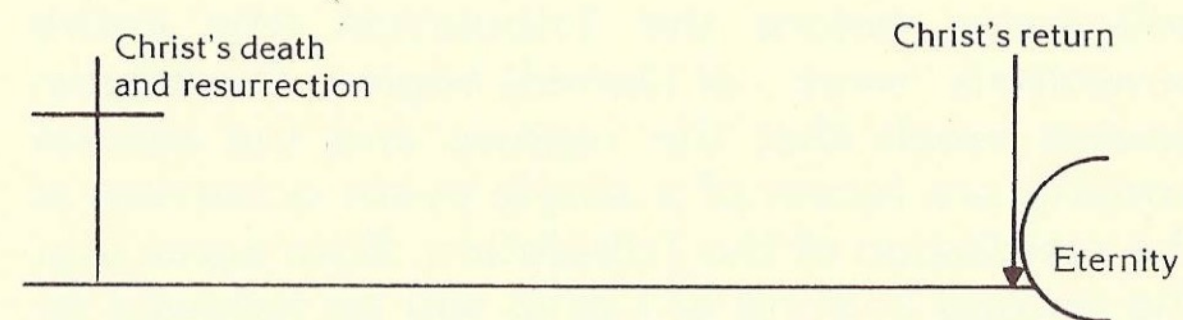
## Premillennialism



## Postmillennialism

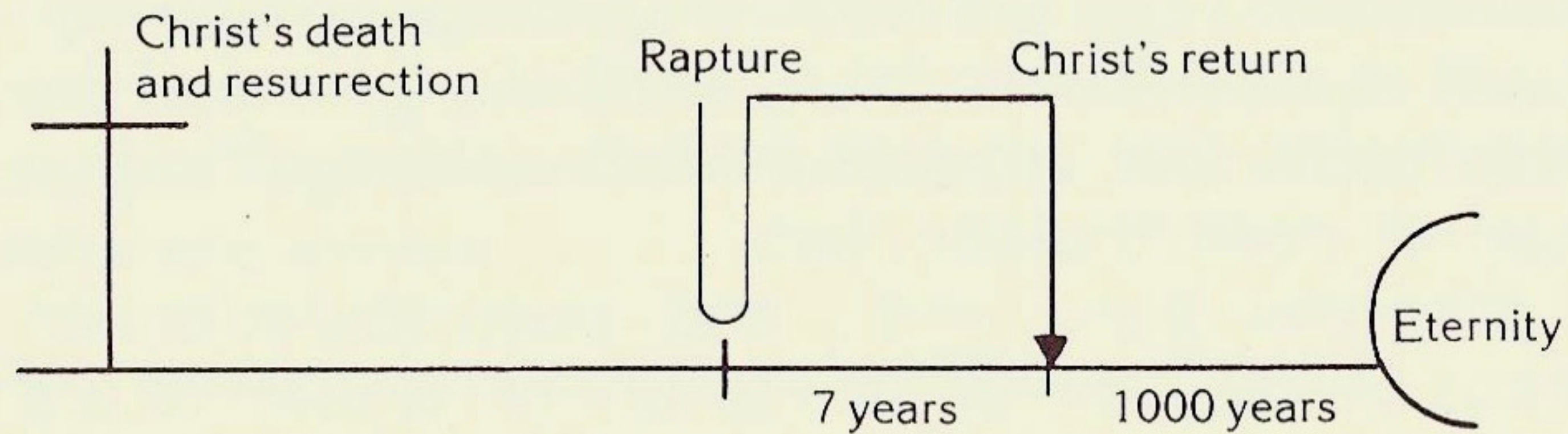


## Amillennialism



# Pretribulationism Rapture

## Pretribulationism



---

# Rapture

---

- Is the question that important?
  - Importance of eschatology
  - Imminency
- What is the rapture?
  - Rapture is the Latin word (*rapturo*), translated “caught up” (*harpazo*)
  - Appears in Acts 8:39 (Phillip) and 2 Corinthians 12:2-4 (Paul)

---

# Five Aspects of the Rapture

---

- Return of Christ (1 Thessalonians 4:16)
- Resurrection (1 Thessalonians 4:16)
- Rapture (1 Thessalonians 4:17)
- Reunion (1 Thessalonians 4:17)
- Reassurance (1 Thessalonians 4:18)

---

# Rapture

---

- Pretribulationism sees the rapture as the next event on God's program.
- It will occur before the Tribulation begins, the actual beginning being signaled by the signing of the pact between Israel and the leader of the revived Roman Empire, the man of sin.
- This event actually begins the seventieth week of Daniel (9:25-27), the seven year Tribulation period, during which the church will be absent from the earth in fulfillment of Revelation 3:10.

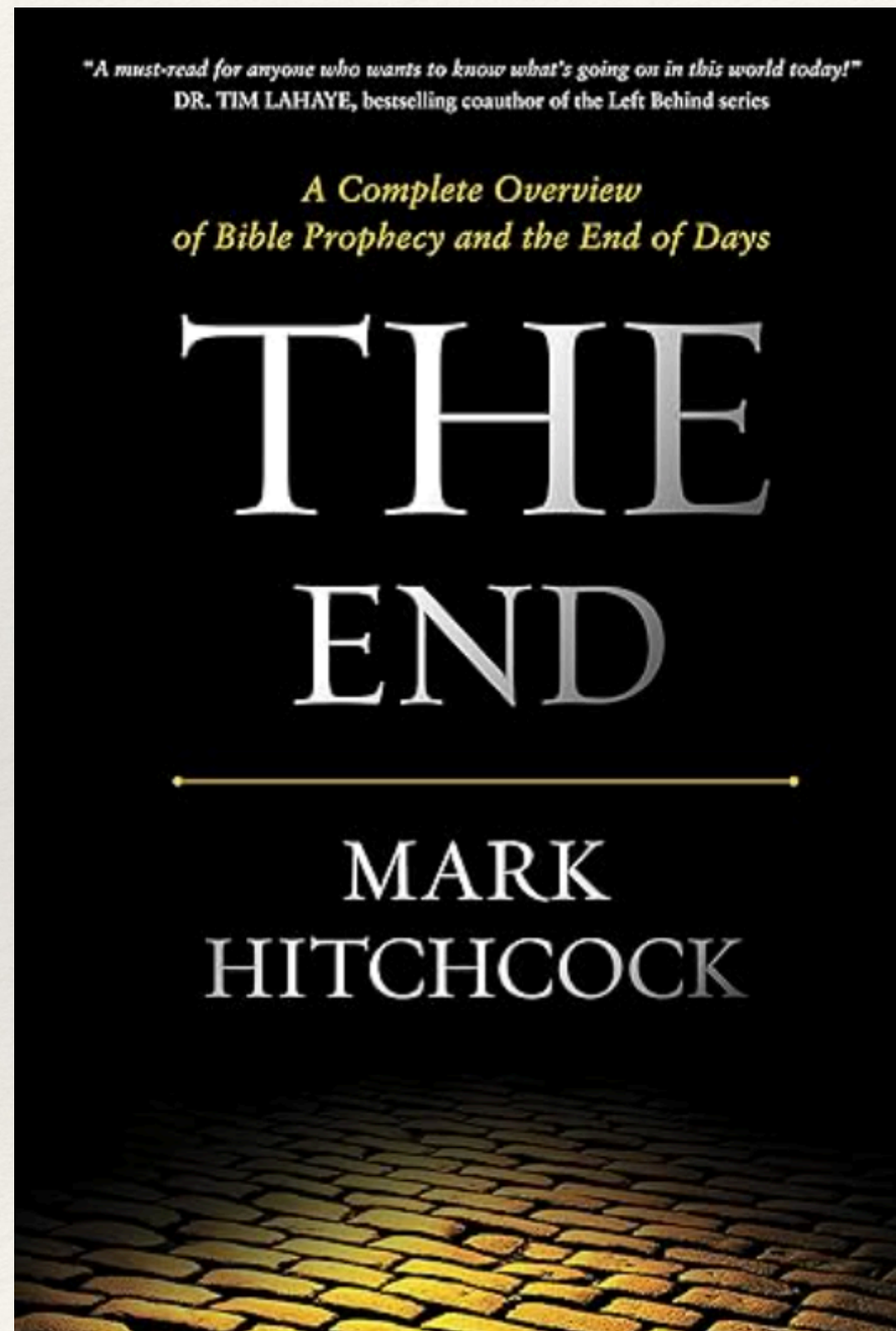
---

# Rapture

---

- Pretribulationists consider it a significant support to their view that the church is not mentioned once by that designation in Revelation 4-18, chapter that describe the Tribulation on earth.
- By contrast, the word *church* occurs 19 times in chapters 1, 2, and 3, once in chapter 22, and the phrase “wife of the Lamb” once in chapter 21.
- Yet in chapters 4-18, there is silence that pretribulationists say indicates that the church will not be present on the earth during the Tribulation years.

# When Will the Believing Be Leaving?



- Mark Hitchcock teaches eschatology at Dallas Theological Seminary, and has often been a guest on Point of View.
- “Jesus introduced the doctrine of the Rapture in John 14:1-3. Paul explained it more fully in 1 Corinthians and 1 Thessalonians.”
- Let’s look at some of these striking parallels and linguistic similarities.

---

# Jesus and the Rapture

---

John 14:1-3	I Thessalonians 4:13-18
trouble (verse 1)	sorrow (verse 13)
believe (verse 1)	believe (verse 14)
God, me (verse 1)	Jesus, God (verse 14)
told you (verse 2)	say to you (verse 15)
come again (verse 3)	coming of the Lord (verse 15)
receive you (verse 3)	co meet the Lord (verse 17)
to myself (verse 3)	ever with the Lord (verse 17)



---

# What Is the Rapture?

---

- The Rapture of the church, which is the first phase of Christ's coming, is the intersection of two events: the resurrection of the dead, specifically only believers, and the transformation of living believers.
- They will all be immediately together in Jesus' glorious presence, and He will escort them to heaven to live with Him forever.
- Believers who are living will be "caught up" (1 Thessalonians 4:17) and transported to heaven, and the righteous (1 Thessalonians 4:16) will be resurrected at the same time.

---

# What Does the Rapture Mean?

---

- There is a gravestone in London for a man named Solomon Peas:

Here lives the body of Solomon Peas

Under the grass and under the trees

But Peas is not here only the pod

Peas shelled out and went to God

---

# Six Historical Raptures in the Bible

---

- Rapture of Enoch (Genesis 5:24; Hebrews 11:5)
- Rapture of Elijah (2 Kings 2:1, 11)
- Rapture of Isaiah (Isaiah 6:1-3)
- Rapture of Jesus (Revelation 12:5 - uses *harpazo* to describe ascension)
- Rapture of Philip (Acts 8:39-40)
- Raptures of Paul (2 Corinthians 12:2-4)

---

# Rapture and Second Coming

---

Rapture	Second Coming
Christ comes in the air	Christ comes to earth
Christ comes for the saints	Christ comes with His saints
Believers depart earth	Unbelievers are taken away
Christ gathers His own	Angels gather the elect
Christ comes to reward	Christ comes to judge
Time of blessing and comfort	Time of destruction and judgment
Involves only believers	Involves Israel and Gentiles

---

# Resources

---

