

## The Basis of Our Premillennial Faith

Introduction:

1. The church of Philadelphia described in Rev 3:7-10 represents the universal church at the time of Rapture.

Rev 3:7 And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth;

Rev 3:8 I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name.

Rev 3:9 Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee.

**Rev 3:10 Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.**

Rev 3:11 Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.

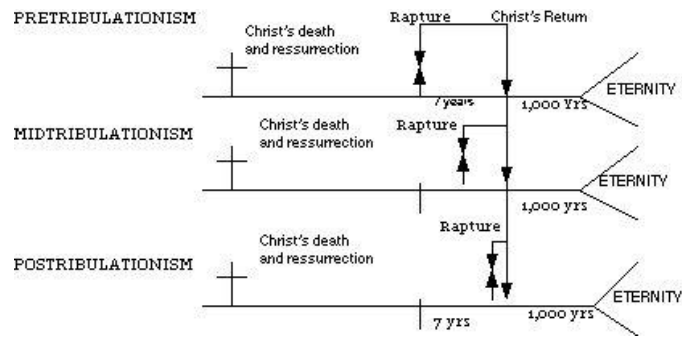
Rev 3:12 Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name.

Rev 3:13 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

2. Unlike the previous five churches studied, Philadelphia represents the church that exists "punctiliously" at the time of the Rapture.



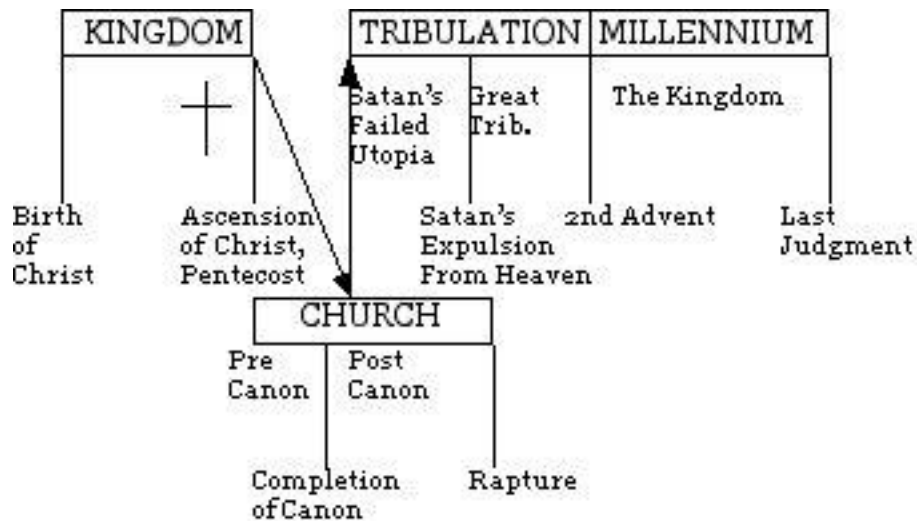
3. There are four major theories of the Rapture among Christians. Pre, Post, Mid and Partial. A chart will best explain the three theories.



3.1 There is also the "Amillennialist" who allegorizes eschatological Scripture.

### Reasons Why We Are Pre-Trib

1. Firstly, because of our belief that the Scripture is literal in meaning, without error and absolute.
2. We reject the false concept that the Church has replaced Israel.
3. We review Scripture from a dispensational perspective.



4. We recognize that in the Church Age God has no special ethnos ... rather God sees all believers as One in Christ. Gal 3:28 and Rom 10:12

Gal 3:28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.

Rom 10:12 For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him.

5. We also recognize God has not cast away His people Israel and in fact will reclaim a changed Israel after the Tribulation when He will establish perfect environment in the Millennium.

Rom 11:1 I say then, Hath God cast away his people? God forbid ...

Rom 11:2 God hath not cast away his people which he foreknew ...

Rom 11:26 And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob:

6. There are numerous literal promises to Israel which have not been fulfilled; particularly those related to the **Abrahamic, Palestinian, Davidic and New Covenants**.

7. The period following the Second Advent is a time of perfect environment as opposed to the Rapture where we find a time of tribulation following; this certainly indicates two events followed by different conditions.

8. The Second Advent is described as a different event than the Rapture.

8.1 At the Rapture we meet the Lord in the air. 1Th 4:16-17

1Th 4:16 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:

1Th 4:17 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.

8.2 At the Second Advent Jesus will return to earth at the very same place He left as opposed to meeting His saints in the air. Zec 14:3-7 compared with Acts 1:11.

Zec 14:3 Then shall the LORD go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle.

Zec 14:4 And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south.

Zec 14:5 And ye shall flee to the valley of the mountains; for the valley of the mountains shall reach unto Azal: yea, ye shall flee, like as ye fled from before the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah: and the LORD my God shall come, and all the saints with thee.

Zec 14:6 And it shall come to pass in that day, that the light shall not be clear, nor dark:

Zec 14:7 But it shall be one day which shall be known to the LORD, not day, nor night: but it shall come to pass, that at evening time it shall be light.

Acts 1:11 Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.

8.3 The Scripture makes clear that the First Advent, Rapture and Second Advent are different not only as to role and event, but also as to timing.

9. The book of the Revelation makes a significant distinction of these events as to timing.

10. Paul's letter to the church at Thessalonica concerning the timing of the events establishes the Pre-Trib view. 2Th 2:1-10

2Th 2:1 Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him,

2Th 2:2 That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the *day of the Lord* is at hand.

2Th 2:3 Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;

2Th 2:4 Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.

2Th 2:5 Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things?

2Th 2:6 And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time.

2Th 2:7 For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way.

2Th 2:8 And then shall that Wicked One be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:

2Th 2:9 Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,

2Th 2:10 And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

11. The fact that the rapture has always been imminent even at the time of Peter and Paul's writing, and the fact that the timing is known only to God is another reason for our being Pre-Trib. The eschatological timing was also not known even to the humanity of Jesus. Let's again review our documentation of the immanency of the Rapture.

1Th 4:16 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:

1Th 4:17 **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.

1Th 4:18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

1Pe 4:7 **But the end of all things is at hand:** be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer.

Jam 5:7 Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain.

Jam 5:8 Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: **for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh.**

1Jo 2:18 Dear children, this is the last hour; and as you have heard that the antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come. **This is how we know it is the last hour.**

1Jo 2:19 They went out from us, but they did not really belong to us. For if they had belonged to us, they would have remained with us; but their going showed that none of them belonged to us.

Heb 10:36 For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise.

Heb 10:37 **For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry.**

Joh 14:2 In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

Joh 14:3 And if **I go and prepare a place for you**, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; **that where I am, there ye may be also.**

The Day and Hour Unknown

Mat 24:36 But of that day and hour **knoweth no man, no**, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only.

12. An outline of the Book of Revelation compared with Rev 3:22 where the Church is seen for the last time on planet earth gives support to the Pre-Trib position.

Chapters 1-3 deal with the Church Age.

Chapter 4-5 deal with a scene in heaven.

Chapters 6-11 is a telling of events in the Tribulation and Millennium with emphasis on the events themselves.

Chapters 12-20 is a telling of the events of the Tribulation and the Millennium with emphasis on the characters involved in the story.

Chapters 21 and 22 deal mainly with the New Jerusalem, the topographical changes occurring during the Millennium, and the new heaven and the new earth which follow the destruction of our present heaven and earth.

12.1 It is important to note that the Church is never mentioned on earth after the last verse of chapter 3 which is verse 22.

13. Revelation 2:1-3:19 list seven churches, which existed at the time of the writing in Asia Minor and give us another reason for being Pre-Trib.

13.1 Of the seven churches Pentecost in his book *Things To Come* writes:

"A threefold purpose in the writing of the seven letters may be suggested. a. John is writing to seven local congregations in order to meet the needs of these individual assemblies ... b. These letters would reveal the various kinds of individuals and assemblies throughout the age ... c. There is a prophetic revelation as to the course of the age in the letters ... In the order in which they were given, they foreshadowed the successive predominant phases through which the nominal Church was to pass from the time when John saw the vision until the Lord came ... The seven churches, which were only seven of many which John could have chosen to address, seem to have been specifically chosen because of the significance of their names ... The names themselves suggest the succession of the development of the periods within the age."

13.2 Given our hindsight I think there can be little doubt they are symbolic of seven distinct time periods; four of which time periods have been observed historically, a fifth partially observed and two, designated by the Church at Philadelphia and Laodicea, are future.

13.3 The Tribulation in Scripture, is called the time of Jacob's trouble and the Philadelphia Church is "taken out" from this time when Israel is tried and proven, i.e., the Church is taken out from the time of Jacob's trouble.

Jer 30:7 Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob's trouble, but he shall be saved out of it.

Mal 4:5 Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD:

Mal 4:6 And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.

13.4 The time period for the universal church at the time of the Rapture is symbolized by the Church at Philadelphia.

Rev 3:10 Because you have kept the Word of My patience, I also will keep you out from the time of testing of planet earth, which time of testing is designed to prove them who dwell upon the earth."

14. The Tribulation was always said to be designed for Israel and never is it related Scripturally to the Church.

15. Jesus provides in Matthew chapter 24 further documentation of the Pre-Trib/Pre-Mill position.

### 1. Introduction--Mat 24:1-3

#### 1.1 Jesus predicts the destruction of the Temple.—Mat 24:1-2

Mat 24:1 Jesus left the temple and was walking away when his disciples came up to him to call his attention to its buildings.

Mat 24:2 "Do you see all these things?" he asked. "I tell you the truth, not one stone here will be left on another; everyone will be thrown down."

1.2 The disciples ask the Lord when will this happen and what will be the sign of Your return? The disciples assume His coming will end the world. They know nothing about eschatology.

Mat 24:3 As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately. "Tell us," they said, "when will this happen, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?"

### 2. Events Seen in Church Age—Mat 24:4-8

2.1 Jesus first explains there will be certain events taking place before the Rapture. These are things we see today: deception, wars, rumours of war, nation rising against nation, famines and earthquakes. The events described by our Lord as those taking place just before the Rapture are provided in Mat 24:4-8.

Mat 24:4 Jesus answered: "Watch out that no one deceives you.

Mat 24:5 For many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many.

Mat 24:6 You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come.

Mat 24:7 Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places.

Mat 24:8 All these are the beginning of birth pains.

### 3. Events Seen in the Tribulation—Mat 24:9-31

### 3.1 Persecution

Mat 24:9 "Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me.

### 3.2 Apostasy

Mat 24:10 At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other,

### 3.3 Deception abounds but there is hope for some.

Mat 24:11 and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people.

Mat 24:12 Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold,

Mat 24:13 but he who stands firm to the end will be saved.

### 3.4 Universal preaching of the gospel and then the end comes.

Mat 24:14 And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

3.5. Christ warns of the abomination that causes desolation. An event prophesied by Daniel. Daniel says this event will take place in the middle of the Tribulation and many are warned to flee south for protection.

Mat 24:15 "So when you see standing in the holy place 'the abomination that causes desolation,' spoken of through the prophet Daniel [Dan 9:27]--let the reader understand--

Mat 24:16 then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.

Mat 24:17 Let no one on the roof of his house go down to take anything out of the house.

Mat 24:18 Let no one in the field go back to get his cloak.

Mat 24:19 How dreadful it will be in those days for pregnant women and nursing mothers!

Mat 24:20 Pray that your flight will not take place in winter or on the Sabbath.

#### 3.5.1 Daniel predicted the events.

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Dan 9:27 *The Antichrist* will confirm a covenant ... for seven *years*. In the middle of the seven *years* he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on a wing of the temple he will set up an abomination that causes desolation, until the end that is decreed is poured out on him."



3.6 Christ describes further details concerning the events following the abomination of that which causes desolation. It is during the last three and one-half years of the Tribulation--commonly called The Great Tribulation when great distress pervades and the earth suffers.

Mat 24:21 For then there will be great distress, unequalled from the beginning of the world until now-- and never to be equaled again.

Mat 24:22 If those days had not been cut short, no one would survive, but for the sake of the elect those days will be shortened.

3.7 Even as the earth suffers in The Great Tribulation the Antichrist is able to convince people there is hope. Believers are accordingly warned to avoid Megiddo where the last battle of Armageddon will take place.

Mat 24:23 At that time if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ!' or, 'There he is!' do not believe it.

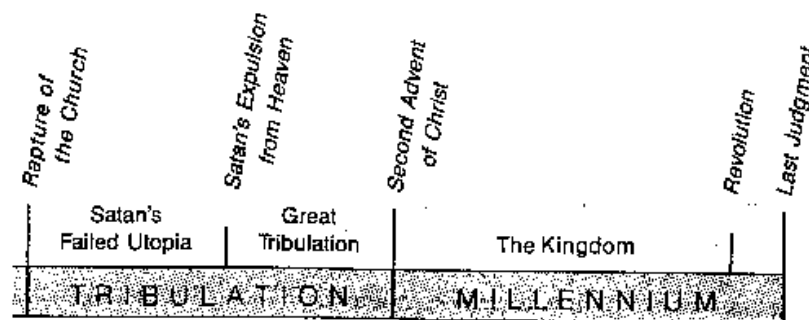
Mat 24:24 For false Christs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and miracles to deceive even the elect-- if that were possible.

Mat 24:25 See, I have told you ahead of time.

Mat 24:26 "So if anyone tells you, 'There he is, out in the desert,' do not go out; or, 'Here he is, in the inner rooms,' do not believe it.

Mat 24:27 For as lightning that comes from the east is visible even in the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.

Mat 24:28 Wherever there is a carcass, there the vultures will gather.



3.8 King Jesus will return to deliver Israel at the end of the Tribulation.

Mat 24:29 "Immediately after the distress of those days "the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.'

Mat 24:30 "At that time the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and all the nations of the earth will mourn. They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky, with power and great glory.

Mat 24:31 And he will send his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other.

### 3.9 Jesus teaches about timing—Mat 24:32-51

Mat 24:32 "Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near.

Mat 24:33 Even so, when you see all these things, you know that it is near, right at the door.

Mat 24:34 I tell you the truth, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened.

Mat 24:35 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

3.9.1 The day and hour of the Second Advent is unknown because the time of the Rapture is unknown. Once the Rapture occurs, the Second Advent can easily be predicted. The Second Advent will take place seven years after the Rapture.

Mat 24:36 "No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.

Mat 24:37 As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man.

Mat 24:38 For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark;

Mat 24:39 and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man.

3.9.2 Mat 24:40-44 have been erroneously taught as describing the Rapture. The man and woman taken refer to one being taken for judgment and the other left to rule with Him at His Second Advent during the Millennium. Ergo, the parable refers to the Second Advent and not the Rapture.

Mat 24:40 Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left.

Mat 24:41 Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left.

Mat 24:42 "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come.

Mat 24:43 But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into.

Mat 24:44 So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.

3.9.3 Mat 24:45-51 urges Israel to be ready when the Lord comes. For those who do not prepare, by faith alone in Christ alone, they will be assigned a place in hell.

Mat 24:45 "Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom the master has put in charge of the servants in his household to give them their food at the proper time?"

Mat 24:46 It will be good for that servant whose master finds him doing so when he returns.

Mat 24:47 I tell you the truth, he will put him in charge of all his possessions.

Mat 24:48 But suppose that servant is wicked and says to himself, 'My master is staying away a long time,'

Mat 24:49 and he then begins to beat his fellow servants and to eat and drink with drunkards.

Mat 24:50 The master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he is not aware of.

Mat 24:51 He will cut him to pieces and assign him a place with the hypocrites, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

4. Because the Rapture is imminent it will occur before the highly specific and traumatic events of the Tribulation thus the Church will not go through the Tribulation. Clearly, the imminent nature of the Rapture supports the Pre-Trib view. Paul looked for the Rapture during his generation.

1Th 4:16 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: 1Th 4:17 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.

1Th 4:18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

5. Paul warns the Thessalonians about the false teachers who have deluded them into thinking they were living in the Tribulation.

2Th 2:1 Now we beseech you, brethren, by the "**coming**" of our Lord Jesus Christ, and "by our gathering together unto him,"

2Th 2:2 That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that *the day of Christ (Kurios)* is at hand.

- Paul does not want them anxious about the "day of the Lord." The "day of the Lord" is the general term for the Tribulation, Millennium and the destruction of planet earth. The "day of Christ," is the Rapture of the Church. The day of Christ is therefore a bad translation. It is better "day of the Lord." The day of Christ is the Rapture and it is at hand. The Greek is "day of Lord—**Kurios**."

2Th 2:3 Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there *come a falling away* first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;

- The falling away first in verse three refers to either the apostasy of the Tribulation or the Rapture of the Church since the Greek word **Apostasia** can mean either. Since there is always apostasy in all ages, most grace expositors believe the falling away refers to the Rapture.

2Th 2:5 Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things?

2Th 2:6 And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time.

2Th 2:7 For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only HE who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way.

2Th 2:8 And then shall that Wicked One be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his "**coming**:"

2Th 2:9 Even him, whose "**coming**" is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,

- The One Who withholdeth is God the Holy Spirit. Clearly since He indwells all believers His removal at the Rapture will make possible the work of the Satan indwelt Anti-Christ. The Wicked One therefore, in 2Th 2:8, is the Anti-Christ and **Parousia** [translated coming] is used for the Second Advent when the Anti-Christ will be placed in the Lake of Fire.

6. The title for this categorical study is taken from a book written by Charles Ryre. My Thanks to Dr. Ryre for helping me understand eschatology.