

i John Series

Lesson #046

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Dean Bible Ministries

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“Of a truth, soon and suddenly shall His will be accomplished, as the Scripture also bears witness, saying, ‘Speedily will He come, and will not tarry;’ and, ‘The Lord shall suddenly come to His temple, even the Holy One, for whom ye look.’ ”

~1 Clement

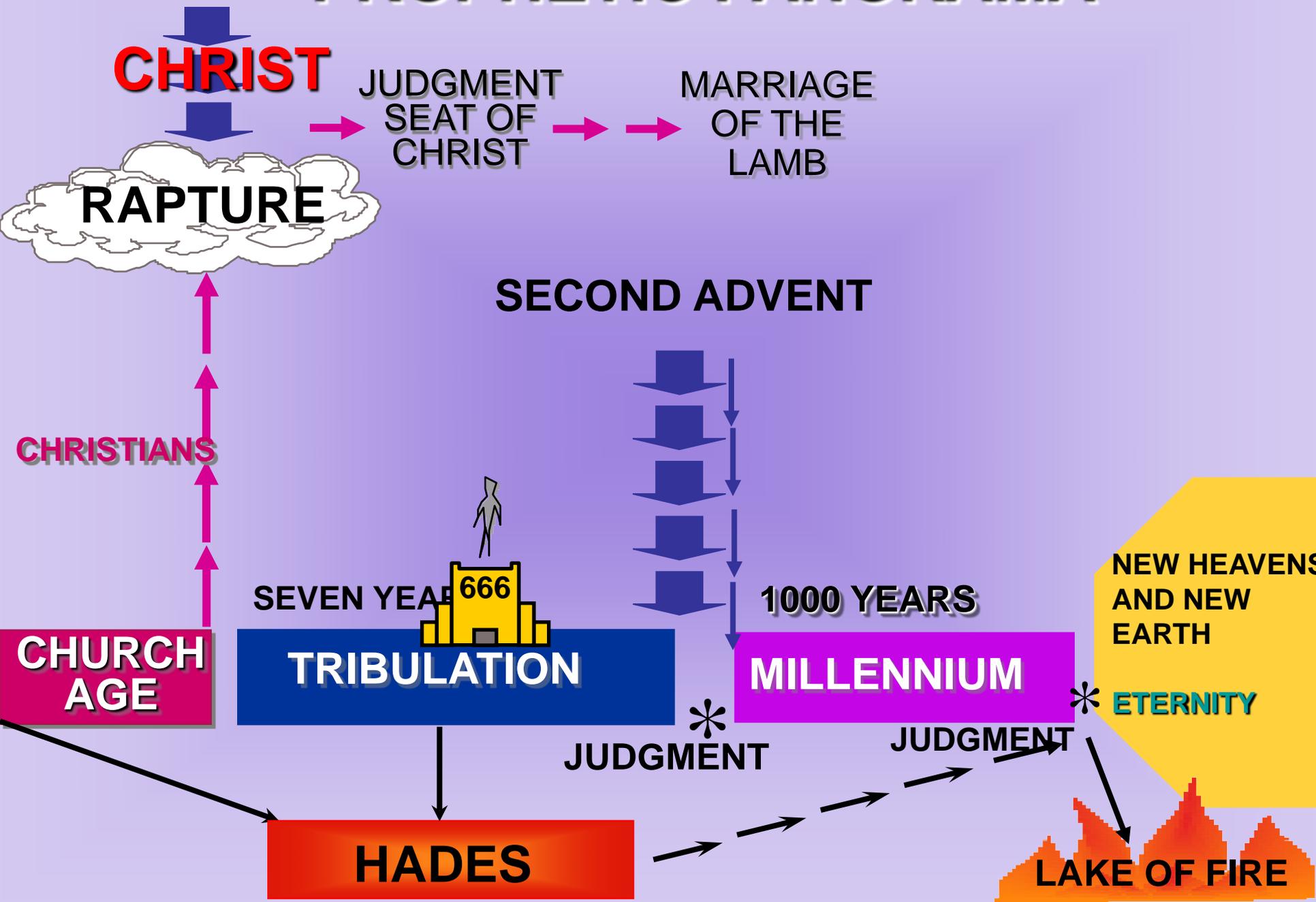
“The last times are come upon us. Let us therefore be of a reverent spirit, and fear the long-suffering of God, that it tend not to our condemnation. For let us either stand in awe of the wrath to come, or show regard for the grace which is at present displayed—one of two things.”

~Ignatius, *Ephesians*

“And therefore, when in the end the Church shall be suddenly caught up from this, it is said, ‘There shall be tribulation such as has not been since the beginning, neither shall be’.”

~Irenaeus, *Against Heresies*

PROPHETIC PANORAMA



1. Definition

Imminency: the “at any moment” return of Jesus Christ.

OED: “hanging overhead, constantly ready to befall or overtake one; close at hand in its incidence.”

It is certain it will occur, it is uncertain when it will occur, it is not contingent on any other events, and no prophesied event intervenes between the believer and the Rapture.

2. The doctrine of imminency is important to understanding the Pre-Tribulation return of Jesus Christ at the Rapture.

The resurrection of all dead Church Age believers and the removal of all living believers from the earth at the end of the Church Age immediately before the Tribulation begins.

The Rapture is . . .

The resurrection of all dead Church Age believers and the removal of all living believers from the earth at the end of the Church Age immediately before the Tribulation begins.

3. Charts on Pre-, Mid-, and Post-Tribulation views.

RAPTURE VIEWS

Pre-Trib Rapture



All Believers



CHURCH AGE

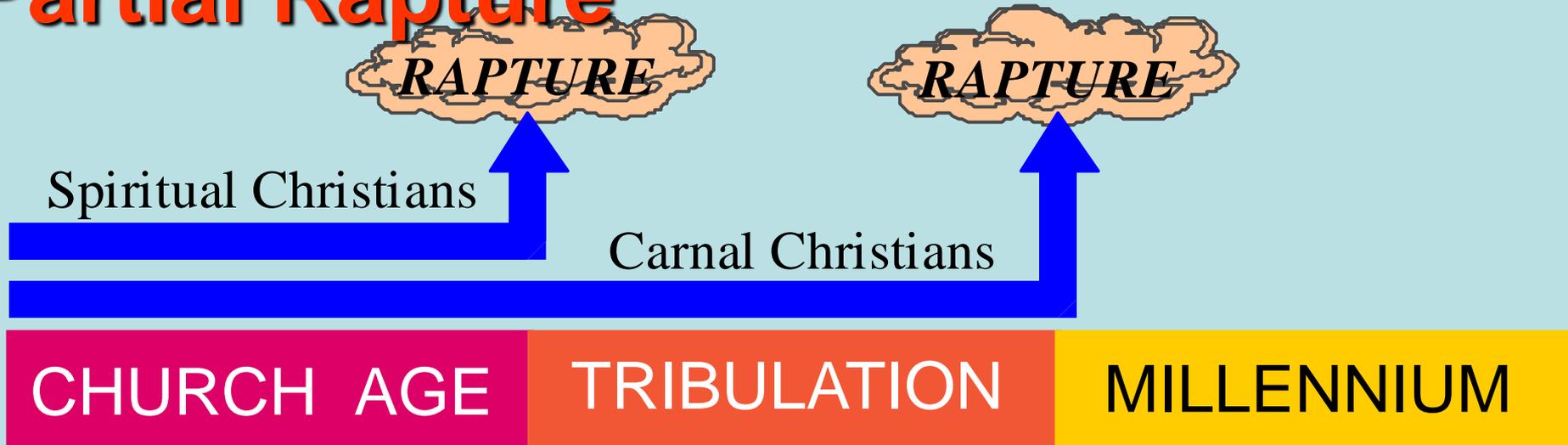
TRIBULATION

MILLENNIUM

The Rapture will occur before the Tribulation and will include all believers.

RAPTURE VIEWS

Partial Rapture



At the Rapture only those faithful, totally dedicated Christians will be caught up, leaving carnal Christians behind to be chastened by the Tribulation.

RAPTURE VIEWS

Mid-Trib Rapture



All Believers



CHURCH AGE

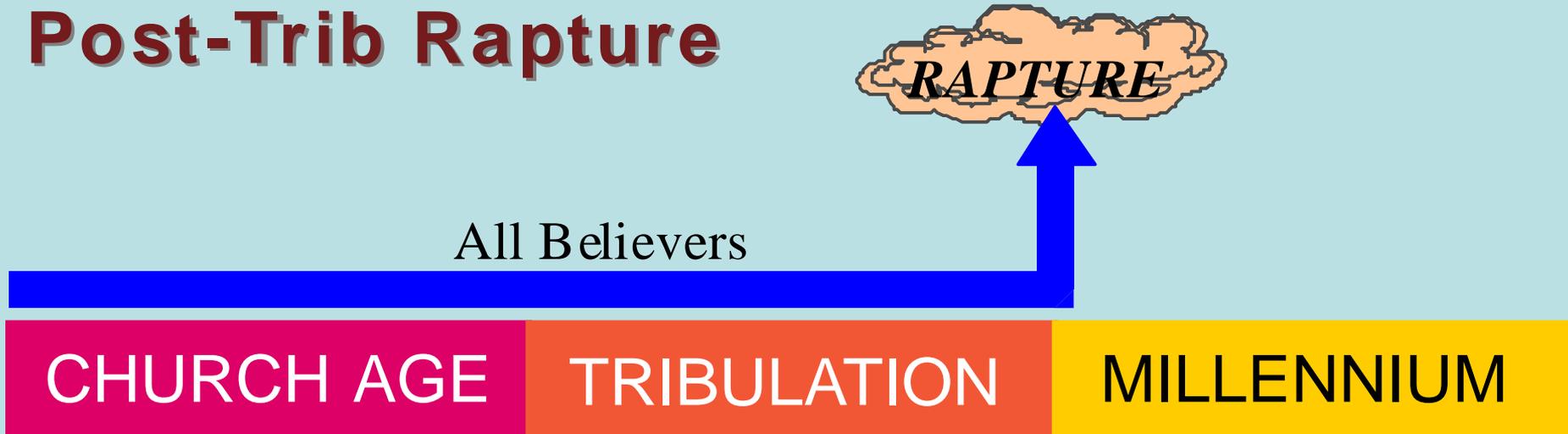
TRIBULATION

MILLENNIUM

The Rapture occurs in the middle of the Tribulation, thus believers endure the first half.

RAPTURE VIEWS

Post-Trib Rapture



The Rapture occurs at the end of the Tribulation, forcing all believers to endure the entire seven years.

RAPTURE VIEWS

Pre-Trib Rapture



All Believers



CHURCH AGE

TRIBULATION

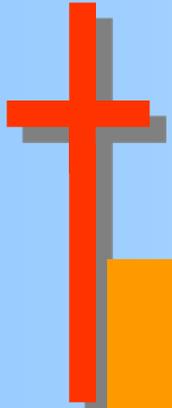
MILLENNIUM

The Rapture will occur before the Tribulation and will include all believers.

4. The Purpose of the doctrine of imminency is to keep each believer in a constant state of expectancy, looking, waiting, watching, hoping for the return of Christ that we might be ready, prepared, that we might not be ashamed at His coming (1 John 2:28).



**SECOND
COMING OF
CHRIST**



**CHURCH
AGE**

RAPTURE

**7-YEAR
TRIBULATION
(ISRAEL)**

**1,000-YEAR
KINGDOM
(MILLENNIUM)**

5. Believers are to look for the blessed hope.

**a. We are to LOOK for the Savior.
Heb. 9:28; Titus 2:13**

**b. We are to WATCH for the Savior,
1 Thess. 5:6; Luke 12:37**

**c. We are to WAIT for the Savior.
1 Cor. 1:7; 1 Thess. 1:10**

6. No prophecy between the baptism of the Spirit and the Rapture means that the Rapture is imminent. It could occur at any time; no one knows the day or the hour.

7. The resurrection of the Church, like our dying, is completely out of our control. Just as we have no control over the time and manner of our death, so we have no control over the time and manner of the Rapture.

8. The resurrection of the Church is totally beyond our control because resurrection is the Lord's victory.

1 Cor. 15:57, “Thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

9. While the Rapture is imminent, the Second Advent is not. Before the Second Advent occurs, there are many prophecies which must occur, e.g., the Rapture, the Tribulation, the Judgment Seat of Christ, Rev. 6–19.

10. The Rapture could have occurred at the time of James or Paul, because no prophecy had to be fulfilled before the resurrection occurs.

11. Distortion of the imminency of the Rapture results in instability and foolish explanation or speculation about the time of the Rapture; hence, James gives us an admonition in James 5:7–8.

12. Key passages.

2 Pet. 3:3, “Know this first of all, that in the last days mockers will come with their mocking, following after their own lusts,”

2 Pet. 3:4, “and saying, ‘Where is the promise of His coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all continues just as it was from the beginning of creation.’ ”

2 Pet. 3:5, “For when they maintain this, it escapes their notice that by the word of God the heavens existed long ago and the earth was formed out of water and by water,

2 Pet. 3:6, “through which the world at that time was destroyed, being flooded with water.”

2 Pet. 3:7, “But the present heavens and earth by His word are being reserved for fire, kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men.

2 Pet. 3:8, “But do not let this one fact escape your notice, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.”

John 14:1, “Let not your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me.

John 14:2, “In My Father’s house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you.

John 14:3, “And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.”

Acts 1:11, “and they also said, ‘Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in just the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven.’ ”

Rev. 22:12, “Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to render to every man according to what he has done.”

James 5:7, “Be patient, therefore, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. Behold, the farmer waits for the precious produce of the soil, being patient about it, until it gets the early and late rains.”

**James 5:8, “You too be patient;
strengthen your hearts, for the
coming of the Lord is at hand.”**

**James 5:9, “Do not complain,
brethren, against one another, that
you yourselves may not be judged;
behold, the Judge is standing right
at the door.”**

1 Thess. 1:10, “and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, that is Jesus, who delivers us from the wrath to come.”

1 Cor. 1:7, “so that you are not lacking in any gift, awaiting eagerly the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ,”

Philippians 3:20, “For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ;”

Philippians 3:21, “who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself.”

1 Thess. 4:15, “For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, and remain until the coming of the Lord, shall not precede those who have fallen asleep.”

Titus 2:13, “looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus;”

**1 Cor. 16:22, “If anyone does not
love the Lord, let him be accursed.
Maranatha.”**

Rom. 13:11, “And this do, knowing the time, that it is already the hour for you to awaken from sleep; for now salvation is nearer to us than when we believed.”

Rom. 13:12, “The night is almost gone, and the day is at hand. Let us therefore lay aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light.”

Rom. 13:13, “Let us behave properly as in the day, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual promiscuity and sensuality, not in strife and jealousy.”

**Rom. 13:14, “But put on the Lord
Jesus Christ, and make no provision
for the flesh in regard to its lusts.”**

1 Cor. 15:51, “Behold, I tell you a mystery; we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,”

1 Cor. 15:52, “in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed.”

**1 Cor. 15:53, “For this perishable
must put on the imperishable, and
this mortal must put on immortality.”**

Phil. 4:5, “Let your forbearing spirit be known to all men. The Lord is near.”

1 John 2:28, “And now, little children, abide in Him, so that when He appears, we may have confidence and not shrink away from Him in shame at His coming.”

1 John 2:29, “If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone also who practices righteousness is born of Him.”

1 John 3:1, “See how great a love the Father has bestowed upon us, that we should be called children of God; and such we are. For this reason the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.”

1 John 3:2, “Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we shall be. We know that, when He appears, we shall be like Him, because we shall see Him just as He is.”

1 John 3:3, “And everyone who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.”

**I am waiting for the dawning,
Of the bright and blessed day:**

**When the darksome night of sorrow,
Shall have vanished far away:**

**When forever with the Savior,
Far beyond this vale of tears,**

**I shall swell the song of worship,
Through the everlasting years.**

**I am looking at the brightness,
See, it shineth from afar,**

**Of the clear and joyous beaming,
Of the Bright and Morning Star,**

**Through the dark greay mist of
morning,
Do I see its glorious light;**

**Then away with every shadow,
Of this sad and weary night.**

**I am waiting for the coming,
Of the Lord who died for me;**

**Oh! His words have thrilled my
spirit:**

“I will come again for thee.”

**I can almost hear his footfall,
On the threshold of the door,**

**And my heart, my heart is longing,
To be His for evermore!**