

## **Eschatology:**

### **Views on the nature, purpose, and timing of the Rapture, Millennium, and Second Coming of Christ.**

#### **Chronological Order:**

1. The Church Age from the Day of Pentecost to the Resurrection of the Church (Rapture).
2. The Tribulation or Daniel's 70<sup>th</sup> week lasting nearly seven years,
3. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Advent of Christ which will usher in His millennial reign.

#### **Rapture:**

“Rapture” is a technical theological word for the resurrection of the church age believers. The Promise of the Rapture is found in John 14:1-3. “If I go to prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself.” 1 Corinthians 6:14, “Now God has not only resurrected our Lord, but He will raise us up through His power.” 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17, “But we do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, about those who are asleep [dead] that you may not grieve, as to the rest of the world who have no hope. If we believe that Jesus died and rose again [and we do], even so God [omnipotence of God the Father] will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep. For this doctrine we communicate to you by the Word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord [Rapture] shall not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God; in fact, the dead in Christ shall rise first. Then, we who are living who remain on the earth shall be caught up together with them [dead believers] in the clouds to meet the Lord in

the air, and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Therefore, comfort each other with these doctrines.”

In John 11:25, Jesus said to Martha, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me shall live even if He dies." So, why are you weeping and wailing about the death of Lazarus!

Just as the death of the believer is the Lord's victory, so the resurrection of the believer is the Lord's victory. The resurrection of the believer is the wise and sovereign decision of God. This means that the believer's volition, cognition, and individual merit are not factors in the resurrection namely the Rapture of the Church. The resurrection is strictly the Lord's victory. For just as we have no control over the manner or time of our death, so we have no control over the manner or time of our resurrection. This is completely a matter of the wisdom and sovereignty of God.

Your resurrection does not depend in any way on your merit or life. Winners and losers alike receive a resurrection body equally. No distinction is made between winners and losers at the point of receiving resurrection bodies. The Rapture will never occur by the merit of any Christians. So, resurrection is far greater than we can imagine for in resurrection, God makes no distinction between those who completely fail to execute the Christian way of life and those who succeed in executing the Christian way of life. It has everything to do with who and what the Lord is!

The time, place, and manner of the resurrection of the Church is God's perfect decision based on the completion of the body of Christ, called the royal family of God. Just as the believer has no control over the time, manner, or place of his death, so he has no control over the time, manner, and place of the resurrection. Like the death of the believer, resurrection or the Rapture is the decision of the sovereignty of God. Therefore, it is His victory alone. It is strictly a matter of grace.

Matthew 24:36, “But concerning that day and hour [of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Advent] no

one knows, not even the [elect] angels of heaven nor the Son [speaking from his humanity], but the Father alone.”

No one knows when the Rapture and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Advent will take place. Obviously, if one knew when the 2<sup>nd</sup> Advent would occur, he could merely subtract the length of the Tribulation and know also the time of the Rapture. So, if one doesn't know the date of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Advent, he also doesn't know the date of the Rapture.

Since Jesus addresses God the Father as “Father,” he is speaking from his humanity. Obviously, both God the Son and the Holy Spirit know these dates since they are omniscient. The Father is in view here since he is the author of the plan.

Some pastors think that they are like God and think that they know the date of the Rapture. They think that they have information that not even the humanity of Christ possesses!

### **Second Advent:**

Zechariah 14:1-4, “Behold, a day is coming [2<sup>nd</sup> Advent] for the Lord when the spoil taken from you will be divided among you. For I will gather all the nations against Jerusalem to battle, and the city will be captured, the houses plundered, the women ravished and half of the city exiled, but the rest of the people will not be cut off from the city. Then the Lord will go forth and fight against those nations, as when He fights on a day of battle. In that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which is in front of Jerusalem on the east; and the Mount of Olives will be split in its middle from east to west by a very large valley, so that half of the mountain will move toward the north and the other half toward the south.” Revelation 19:11-15, “Then [the first day of the second Advent of Christ] I saw heaven opened; and behold, a white horse [represents victory], and He who is mounted upon it is called, 'Faithful and True;’ and with justice He will judge and He will make war [The Lord will make war against all the nations invading Israel. Between the Valley of Esdraelon and Edom

there are many armies and millions of soldiers.] (12) And his eyes (were) a flame of fire [ready to destroy the enemy] and on his head are many crowns. And he has a royal title which has been written which no one understood except himself. (13). Furthermore, he was wearing a military cloak which had been splattered with blood [after defeating the invading armies]. And his title has been called “The Logos of God”. (14) And the armies [Army of Elect Angels, Church Age believers, Old Testament Believers and Martyrs of the Tribulation] in heaven were following Him [the procession] on white horses, and they were clothed with fine linen, white and pure [eternal bodies with uniforms]. (15) And [at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Advent] a sharp broad sword comes out of His mouth, in order that with it [the sword] He should strike down [to kill with great violence from his integrity] the gentile nations [the enemy armies of many nations]. Then [after the slaughter of many armies] He will rule them with an iron scepter [crime will be punished by perfect jurisprudence]. And He treads the winepress of the wine of the wrath even the anger of God, the Omnipotent One.”

### **The Millennial Reign of Christ:**

I hold to the Pre-millennial view namely the orthodox view that the visible and personal return of Jesus Christ will precede His one-thousand-year reign which will occur after the Tribulation. So, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Advent will occur after the Tribulation to begin His Millennial reign.

### **Some Characteristics of the Millennium:**

1. The millennium starts out with Jewish and Gentile believers only, yet many of their children turn out to be unbelievers. Israel is regathered and restored as a client nation, Isaiah 10:20-21, “Now in that day [the 2<sup>nd</sup> Advent] the remnant of Israel, and those of the house of Jacob who have escaped, will never again rely on the one who struck them, but will truly rely on the Lord, the Holy One of Israel. (21) A remnant will return, the remnant of Jacob, to the mighty God.” Isaiah 11:11-12, “Then it will happen on that day [the 2<sup>nd</sup> Advent] that the Lord Will again recover the

second time with His hand The remnant of His people, who will remain, From Assyria, Egypt, Pathros, Cush, Elam, Shinar, Hamath, And from the islands of the sea. (12) And He will lift up a standard for the nations and assemble the banished ones of Israel, and will gather the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth.”

2. Jesus Christ will rule the World as the King over kings and the Lord over lords.

3. There is a great population explosion since the environment will be perfect and death will take a holiday so that by the end of the millennium millions of unbelievers will exist on the earth who will have rejected the gospel and who will have joined the Gog revolution of Satan against the rule of Jesus Christ even though there is perfect objectivity in the administration of justice.

4. Spirituality in the millennium will function under two powers namely metabolized doctrine and the Filling of the Spirit which will be characterized by ecstasy. Joel 2:28-29, " It will come about after this that I will pour out My Spirit on all mankind; And your sons and daughters will prophesy; your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. (29) Even on the male and female servants I will pour out My Spirit in those days.”

5. The ferocity of animals will be removed. Isaiah 65:25, "The wolf and the lamb will graze together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox; and dust will be the serpent's food. They will do no evil or harm in all My holy mountain," says the Lord.”

6. During the Millennium, Satan is bound and demons are removed. For that reason, there will be no religion in the Millennium. Revelation 20:1-3, “Then I saw [a vision] an angel descending from Heaven, having the key of the abyss [the fourth compartment of Hades] and a great chain [giant handcuffs] in his hand. (2) And he [the Officer of Arms] seized

[with violence] the dragon [initial a term for beauty, but was distorted to mean a large snake in Classical Greek], that ancient serpent [so named because he indwelt the serpent to tempt the woman] who is the Devil [slanderer, accuser, defense attorney] even Satan [the Hebrew for devil], and bound him [with the chain] for a thousand years. (3) And he cast him into the abyss and shut and sealed it over him so that he would not deceive the nations any more until the thousand years have been completed. After these things [the closing statement of Jesus Christ and other events of the Millennium], he must be released for a short time [for his closing statement].”

7. There is universal peace, Psalm 46:9, “He makes wars to cease to the end of the earth; He breaks the bow and cuts the spear in two; He burns the chariots with fire.” Isaiah 2:4, “And He will judge between the nations, and will render decisions for many peoples; And they will hammer their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not lift up sword against nation, and never again will they learn war [under His rulership].” Also, universal peace is confirmed in Hosea 2:18 and Micah 4:3.

8. There will be universal knowledge of God, Isaiah 11:9, “They will not hurt or destroy in all My holy mountain, For the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord As the waters cover the sea.”

9. There will be longevity in the human race, Isaiah 65:20, “Never again will there be in it an infant who lives but a few days, or an old man who does not live out his years; he who dies at a hundred will be thought a mere youth; he who fails to reach a hundred will be considered accursed.” There will be perfect health, so that people will have capacity for perfect environment (but this is not the same as capacity for life). The only reason people will die is capital punishment.

10. There will be a perfect world government under the leadership of Christ and the delegation of authority to invisible heroes of the Church Age to rule nations, Zechariah 14:9, “And the Lord will be king over all

the earth; in that day the Lord will be the only one, and His name the only one.” Revelation 2:26-27, “He who is victorious [in the spiritual life] and keeps My assignments until the end [of his life], To him I will give authority over the nations, [as a blessing in the Millennium]; (27) And he shall rule them with a rod of iron, as the vessels of the potter are broken to pieces [swift and just punishment of criminals], as I also have received authority from My Father;”

11. There will be perfect environment in nature. Creation is released from the bondage of man’s sinfulness, Romans 8:19-22, “For the confident expectation of creation [the material universe] waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God [the royal family and the Old Testament believers at the Second Advent]. (20) For the creation [nature] was subordinated [at the Fall] to futility [void of purpose] against its own will, but because of Him [God the Father] who has subordinated it in the time of hope [Jesus Christ at the 2nd Advent]. (21) Therefore, the material universe itself also shall be set free from the slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory [at 2nd Advent] with reference to the children of God. (22) For [explanatory] we know [perception of Bible doctrine in the past with the result that we know] that [delineates the content] the entire material universe groans [from great suffering] along with us [adult and mature believer in undeserved suffering] and suffers the pains of childbirth together with us until now.” Isaiah 35:1, 2, “The desert and the wilderness will be ecstatic [to dance around in a circle] in great happiness; and the desert will rejoice and blossom like a crocus. (2) It will blossom profusely, it will both rejoice with rejoicing and sing with happiness; the glory of Lebanon will be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon; they will see the glory of the Lord, the majestic royalty of our God.” Isaiah 11:6-8, “The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them. (7) The cow will feed with the bear, their young will lie down together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox. (8) The infant will play near the hole of the cobra, and the young child will put his hand into the viper’s nest.”

**What judgements will occur in the future? Who will be judged at each judgement, and for what will they be judged? For what will people be rewarded?**

Two judgments regarding the unbeliever and one evaluation regarding the believer will occur.

1. At the 2<sup>nd</sup> Advent, all unbelievers will be removed from the earth through the Baptism (identification) of Fire. Matthew 25:41-46, “Then He also shall say to those on the left hand, Depart from Me, you cursed, into everlasting fire [Baptism of Fire] prepared for the Devil and his angels. (42) For I was hungry, and you gave Me no food; I was thirsty, and you gave Me no drink; (43) I was a stranger and you did not take Me in; I was naked, and you did not clothe Me; I was sick, and in prison, and you did not visit me. (44) Then they will also answer Him, saying, Lord, when did we see You hungry, or thirsty, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister to You? (45) Then, He shall answer them, saying, Truly I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do it to one of the least of these [144,000 Jews] you did not do it to Me. (46) And these [the individual gentile unbelievers] shall go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous [believers with imputed righteousness] into everlasting life.”

2. After human history is brought to a close, all unbelievers including all true humans and the Nephilim will face the Great White Throne Judgment. Revelation 21:11-15, “Then, I saw [constative aorist: the eschatological vision of the last courtroom of human history] a great [the importance of the judge] white [the integrity of the judge] throne, and he [the Lord Jesus Christ] who was sitting on it [the judgment bench] from whose presence [face] planet earth and heaven [earth’s atmosphere and stellar space] fled [ingressive aorist: will attempt to escape figuratively from the justice of the Lord. Since the earth and heaven were the locations of many sins, pseudo good and evil, they must be destroyed.] Consequently, no place was found for them [culminative aorist: The earth and heaven (earth’s atmosphere and stellar space) will be destroyed. They



will be replaced by the New Heaven and the New Earth]. (12) Then, I saw the dead [all unbelievers of human history arraigned before the Supreme court in heaven], the great [famous and successful] and the insignificant [losers in history] standing [unbelievers in their resurrection bodies as a result of the 2nd Resurrection] before the throne [the Great White Throne]. Then, the books [which register the deeds of the unbelievers] were opened (to function as evidence that they are not righteous enough), and another book was opened which is the Book of Life [to verify that they do not possess eternal life]. Then, the dead [unbelievers] were judged from the things which had been written in the books according to their deeds [good deeds and accomplishments]. (13) Then, the sea [the sea prison of the Nephilim who have never been judged: half human-half angelic] gave up their dead which were in it, also Death [apparently those unbelievers, involved in the Gog-Magog revolution upon death (1st death) are changed from their mortal bodies directly into their eternal bodies (no need for them to be sent to Torments and given interim bodies, and then a short time later have their interim bodies changed into everlasting bodies) are arraigned before the Great White Throne Judgment ] and Hades [all unbelievers in Torments will be changed from their interim bodies to their everlasting bodies] gave up the dead which were in them [two locations: Death and Hades] and they were judged each one of them [individually] on the basis of their deeds [good deeds]. (14) Then Death [apparently those unbelievers, involved in the Gog-Magog revolution upon death (1st death) are changed from their mortal bodies directly into their eternal bodies (no need for them to be sent to Torments and given interim bodies) are arraigned before the Great White Throne Judgment] and Hades (the temporary location of the unbelievers now in their eternal bodies) were thrown into the Lake of Fire. This is the 2nd death, the Lake of Fire. (15) And, if anyone's name having been written in the Book of Life [at birth] was not found in the Book of Life [at the Great White Throne Judgment], he was thrown into the Lake of Fire.”

3. Evaluation of the Christian after the Resurrection of the Church: The Evaluation Platform of Christ after the Rapture, the only evaluation that counts:

Romans 14:10, “You there, why do you [the weak believer] judge your fellow believer? Or you also, why do you [the strong believer] regard your fellow believer with contempt? For we shall all stand before the Evaluation Platform of God [the Judgment Seat of the Lord Jesus Christ].”

### **For what will Christians be rewarded?**

1 Corinthians 4:5, “Therefore do not go on passing judgment before the time [the Rapture of the Church followed by the Evaluation Platform of Christ], but wait until the Lord comes [the Rapture of the Church] who will both bring to light the things hidden in the darkness [the tremendous repercussions of the teaching of the Word] and disclose the motives of men's hearts; and then each man's praise will come to him from God.”

### **A few points regarding our future Evaluation:**

1. Every believer is a royal priest and represents himself before God. After the Rapture of the Church, he will have to give an account to the Lord Jesus Christ.
2. Each one of us must stand before the Judgment Seat [Evaluation Platform] of Christ alone. Just as we have to learn how to live our own lives and how to die alone, so we will stand alone in resurrection body before the Lord Jesus Christ and give an account of ourselves to Him.
3. You are responsible for your own decisions. Ignorance is no excuse before the Judgment Seat of Christ. You must give an account for your own thoughts, motives, actions, and decisions. You cannot blame anyone else at the Judgment Seat of Christ for you yourself will be evaluated, judged by Jesus Christ whose evaluation of the believer will be perfect. So, why should any believer judge another when that judgment is imperfect.
4. Do not try to evaluate the work or life or function of another believer. This is the prerogative of Jesus Christ both now and after the Rapture.

5. Each believer must live his own life as to the Lord and avoid meddling in the affairs of another believer.

6. The life of every believer will be evaluated by the Lord Jesus Christ for the purpose of destroying human good and rewarding the advance to maturity and the passing of Evidence Testing.

7. The judgment seat of Christ never implies loss of salvation but only evaluation of your life after salvation.

Revelation 22:12, “Behold, I am coming soon, and My reward is with Me to decorate each winner according to his accomplishments.” This verse says that the winners will receive their escrow blessings for eternity at the Judgment Seat of Christ [the Evaluation Platform of Christ].

1. The main purpose of this evaluation is to decorate the mature believers “My reward is with Me”.
2. Sin is neither mentioned at the Great White Throne Judgment for unbelievers nor at the Evaluation Platform of Christ for believers. The issue at the Evaluation Platform of Christ will be whether you will receive your Escrow Blessings or not.
3. The issue at the Evaluation Platform of Christ will be the quality of your production. Will you have gold, silver and precious gems or will it be wood, hay and stubble!

## **Eternal punishment**

Satan and all fallen angels who have rejected God’s plan for their lives, and all human creatures of human history who have rejected the salvation message will spend all eternity in the Lake of Fire.

Revelation 20:10, “And the Devil [the enemy] who had deceived [durative

present] them, was thrown [culminative aorist] into the Lake of Fire and burning sulfur, where the beast [the dictator of the Revived Roman Empire] and the false prophet [the false dictator and messiah of Israel] were. And they [the three just mentioned] will be tormented day and night forever and ever.” Revelation 20:15, “And, if anyone’s name having been written in the Book of Life [at birth] was not found in the Book of Life [at the Great White Throne Judgment], he was thrown into the Lake of Fire [an eternal judgment].”

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Based on the scholarly work of R.B. Thieme Jr.

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