

## 1 and 2 Thessalonians

- Paul's first two epistles were to the ekklesia in Thessalonica, where he had spent three weeks.
- They are the most important eschatological epistles of the New Testament:
  - Paul introduces the concepts of the Rapture...
  - ... and the Day of the Lord (Second Coming).
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Thessalonians is a response to a apparent forgery attributed to Paul that circulated soon after Paul left.
- Also after Paul left, Roman persecutions had begun, concurrent with introduction of Emperor worship.

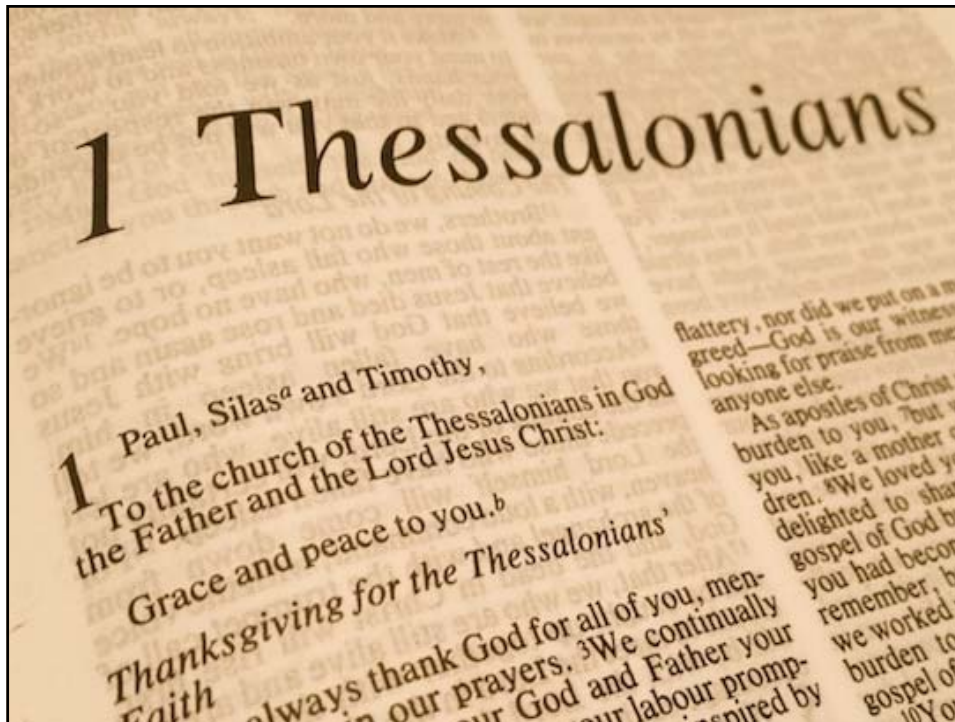
## eschatology

**noun.** [ess-cat-[tol]-a-jee].

1. The branch of theology that is concerned with the end of the world or of humankind.
2. The study of last things.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 3:16-17

- <sup>16</sup> All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,
- <sup>17</sup> that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.



KEY THEME

The coming of  
Christ for the  
church

1 Thessalonians

KEY VERSE

For God did not appoint us  
to wrath, but to obtain  
salvation through our Lord  
Jesus Christ, <sup>10</sup> who died  
for us, that whether we  
wake or sleep, we should  
live together with Him.

1 Thessalonians 5:9–10

## Outline of 1 Thessalonians

### PAUL REMEMBERS (Chapters 1-3)

- How the church was born (Chapter 1)
- How the church was nurtured (Ch. 2)
- How the church was established (Ch. 3)

### PAUL EXHORTS (Chapter 4-5)

- The church should walk in holiness (Ch. 4:1–8)
- In harmony (Ch. 4:9–10)
- In honesty (Ch. 4:11–12)
- In hope (Ch. 4:13–5:11)
- In helpfulness (Ch. 5:12–28)

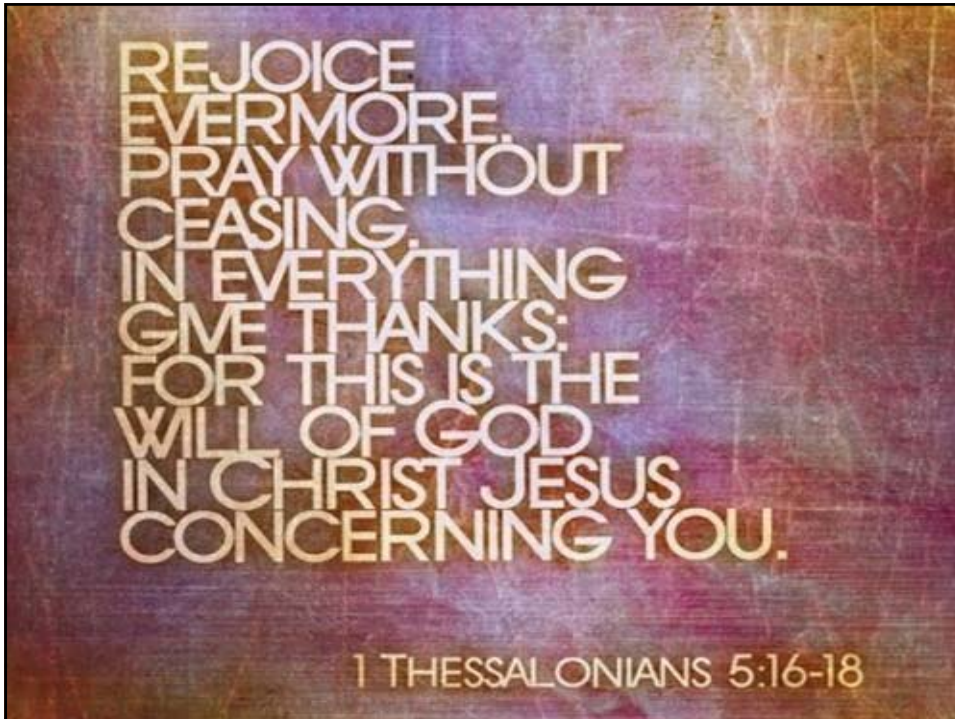
### 1 Thessalonians 4:15-16

<sup>15</sup>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 will by no means precede those who are asleep.

<sup>16</sup>For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will 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.

1 Thessalonians 4:17



## Signs in Matthew 24

In Matthew 24, Jesus gave four signs to look for before his Second Coming:

Disasters in the world: wars, famines, earthquakes, false Christs.

1

Danger in the Middle East: sacrilegious dictator (Antichrist), unequalled (but limited) success, false Christs, and false prophets.

3

Developments in the Church: universal persecution, falling numbers, false prophets, completed mission.

2

Darkness in the sky: moon and stars gone, sky-wide lightning, the coming of the true Christ and Christians gathered 'from the four winds'.

4



KEY THEME

# The church and the Day of the Lord

2 Thessalonians

## Synonyms for Day of the Lord

Day of Trouble	Day of Destruction
Day of Vengeance	Day of Battle and War
Day of Wrath	Day of thy power
Day of Their Calamity	Day of Grief and Desperate Sorrow
Day of Christ	Day of the Lord's Sacrifice
Day of the Lord's Anger	Day of Trouble and Distress
His Day	Day of Trumpet and Alarm
Day of Darkness	Day of Wasteness and Desolation
Day of Clouds and Thick Darkness	Day of His Coming
In the Wrath of the Lord of Hosts	Day of Our Lord Jesus Christ
Day of His Fierce Anger	Wrath of the Lamb
Day of Distress	Great Day of His Wrath
Day of Indignation	



## KEY VERSE

<sup>1</sup>Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and *by* our gathering together unto him, <sup>2</sup>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 is at hand.

2 Thessalonians 2:1–2

## Outline of 2 Thessalonians

### ENCOURAGEMENT IN SUFFERING (Chapter 1)

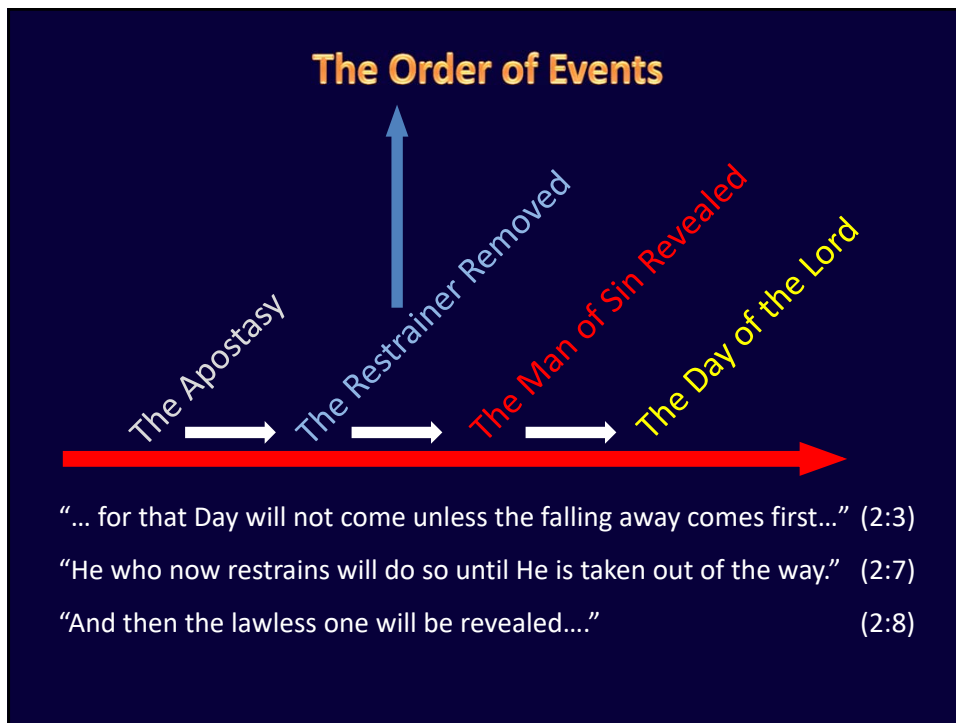
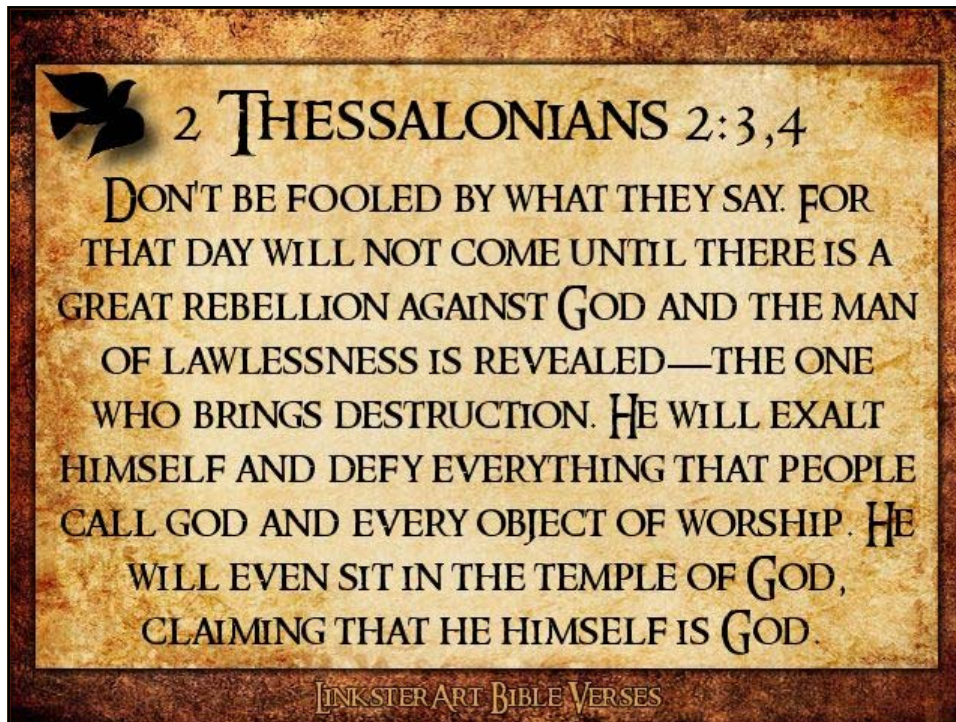
- Encouragement in praise—1:1–4
- Encouragement in promise—1:5–10
- Encouragement in prayer—1:11–12

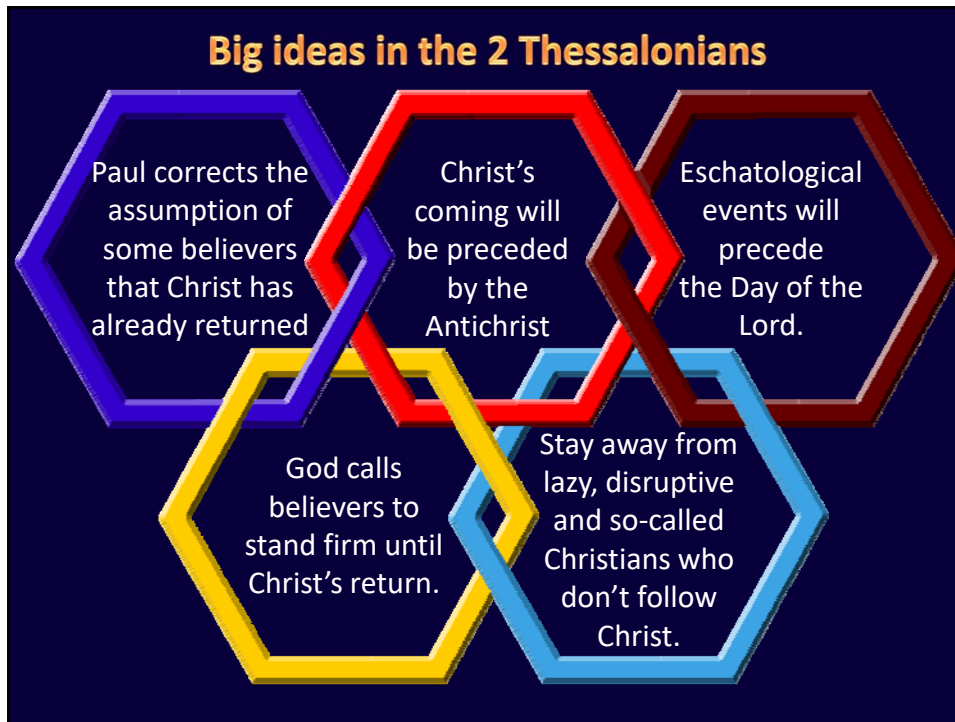
### ENLIGHTENMENT IN TEACHING (Chapter 2)

- How the man of sin appears—2:1–7
- How the Son of God appears—2:8–12
- How the child of God should live—2:13–17

### ENABLEMENT IN LIVING (Chapter 3)

- Obey the Word—3:1–6
- Follow our example—3:7–9
- Discipline the unruly—3:10–15
- Closing benediction—3:16–18





### Eschatology Issues

The Rapture	The Second Coming
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Translation of believers</li> <li>• Translated saints go to heaven</li> <li>• Earth not judged</li> <li>• Imminent, any moment, signless</li> <li>• Not in the Old Testament</li> <li>• Believers Only</li> <li>• Before the Day of Wrath</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No translation involved</li> <li>• Translated saints return to earth</li> <li>• Earth judged</li> <li>• Follows definite predicted signs</li> <li>• Predicted in the Old Testament</li> <li>• Affects all men on the earth</li> <li>• Concludes the Day of Wrath</li> </ul>

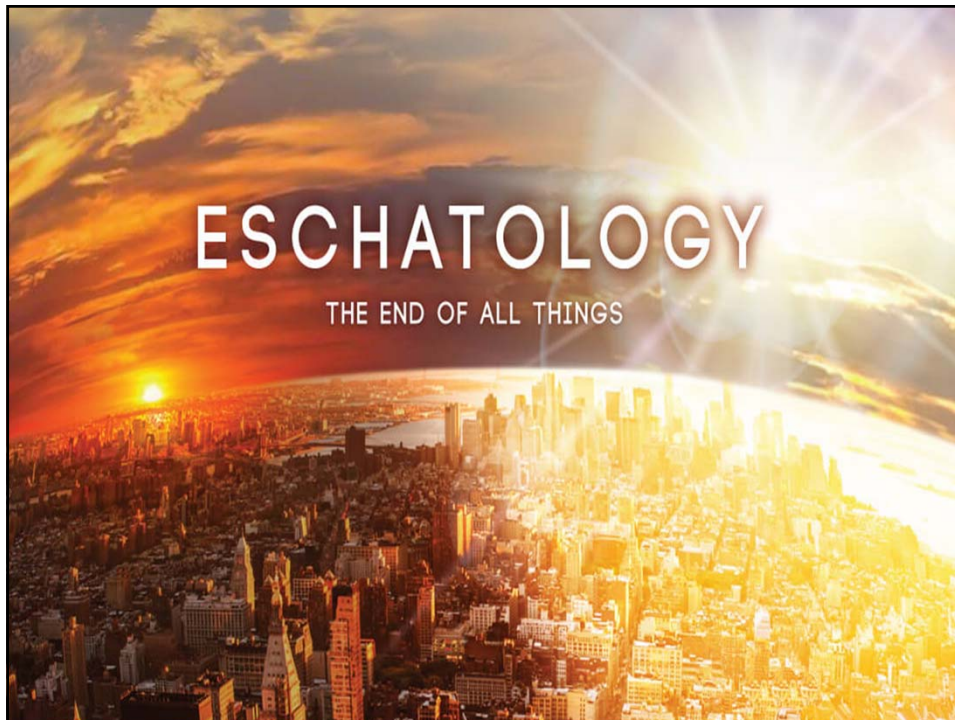
## Contrast of 1 and 2 Thessalonians

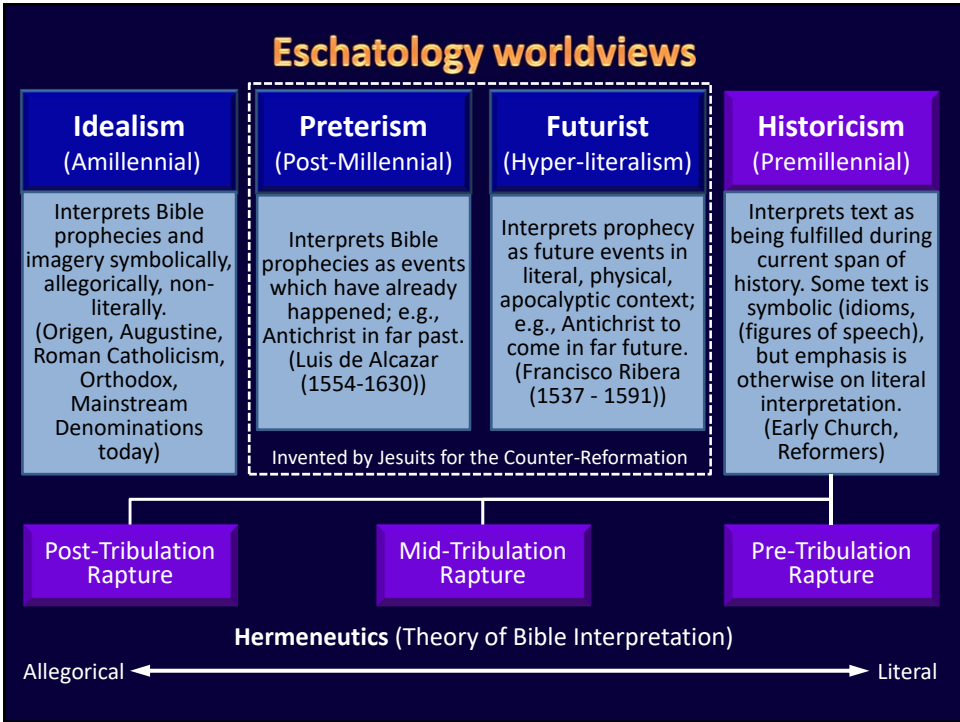
### 1 Thessalonians

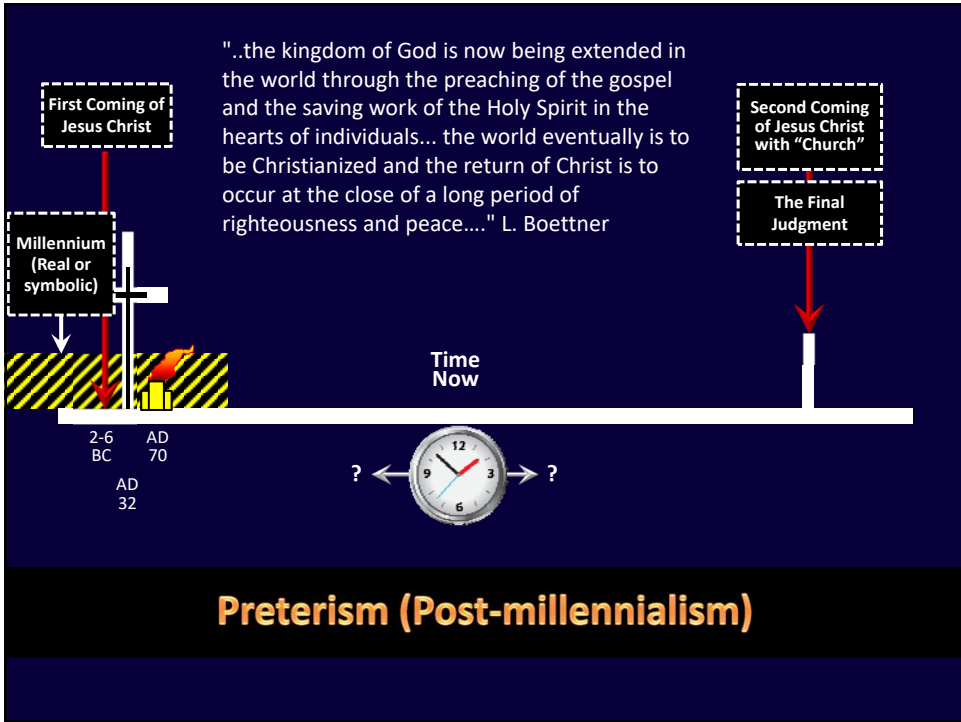
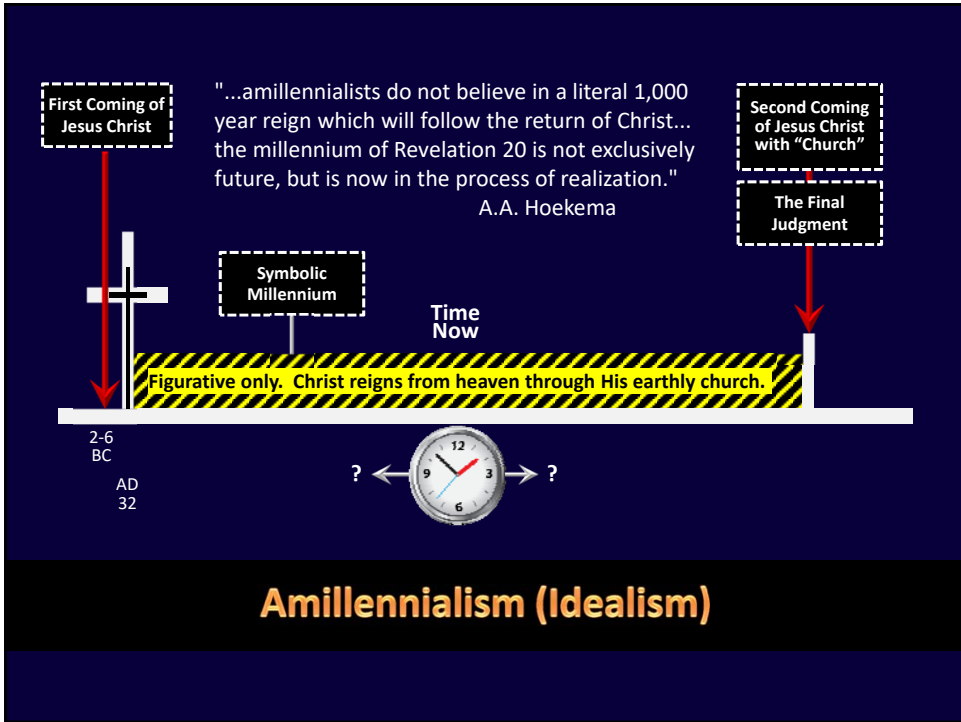
- Christ comes in the air for His church (4:13–18)
- A sudden secret rapture that can occur at any time
- Can occur today
- The day of Christ  
(KJV: Phil 1:10, 2:16; 2 Th 2:2)

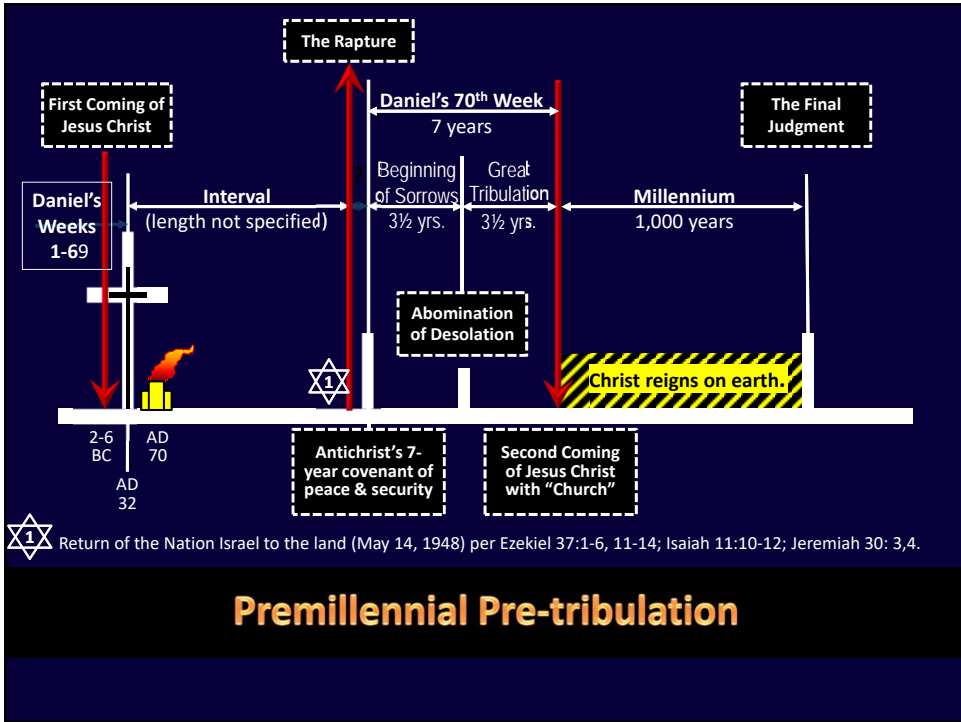
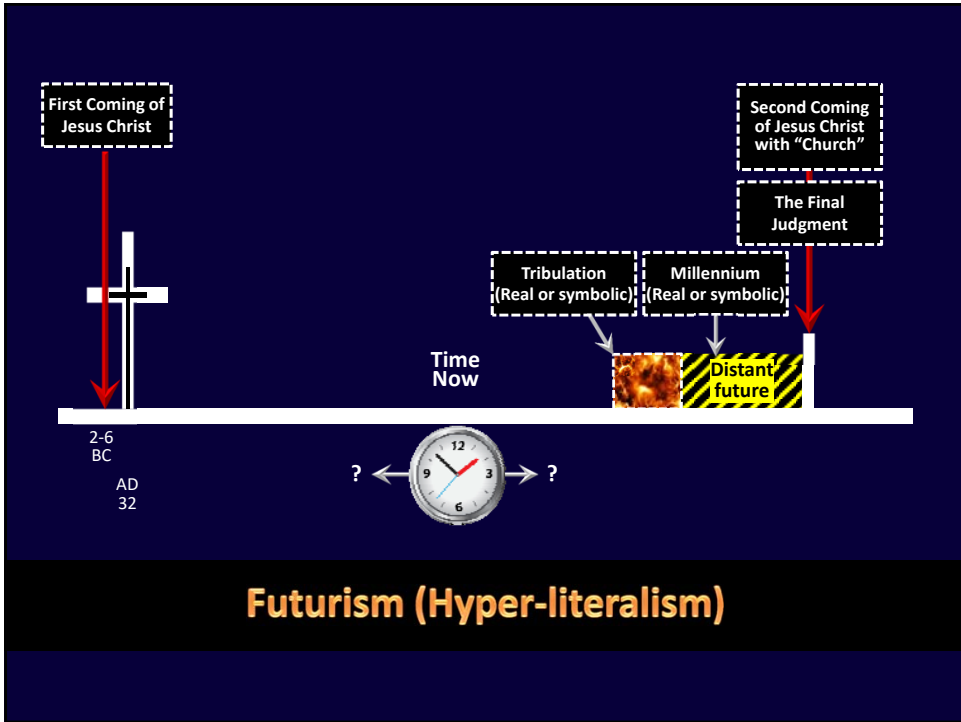
### 2 Thessalonians

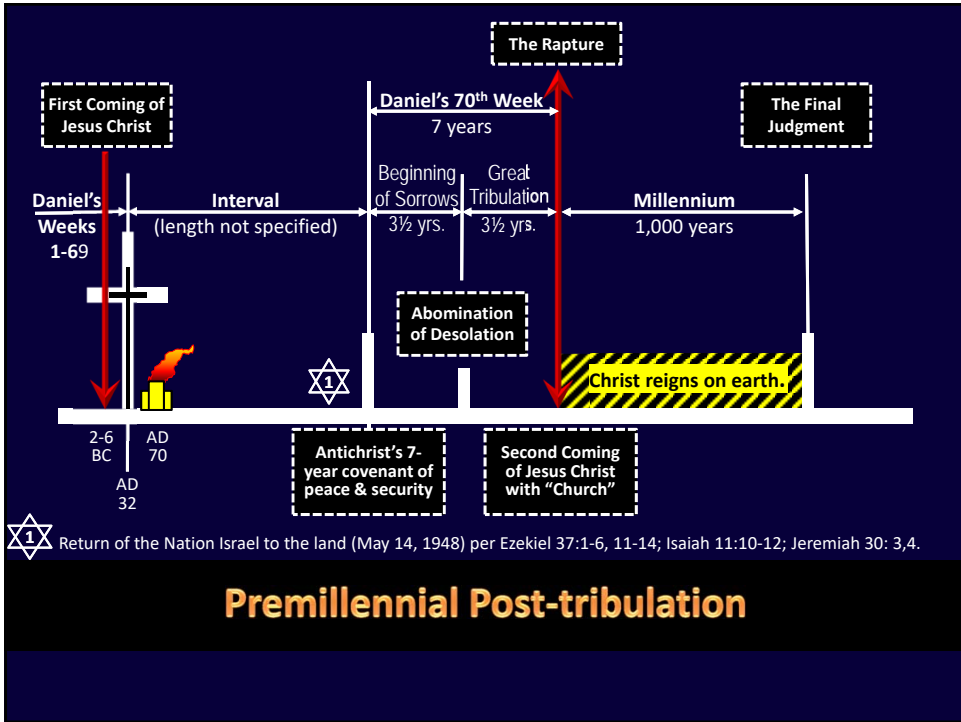
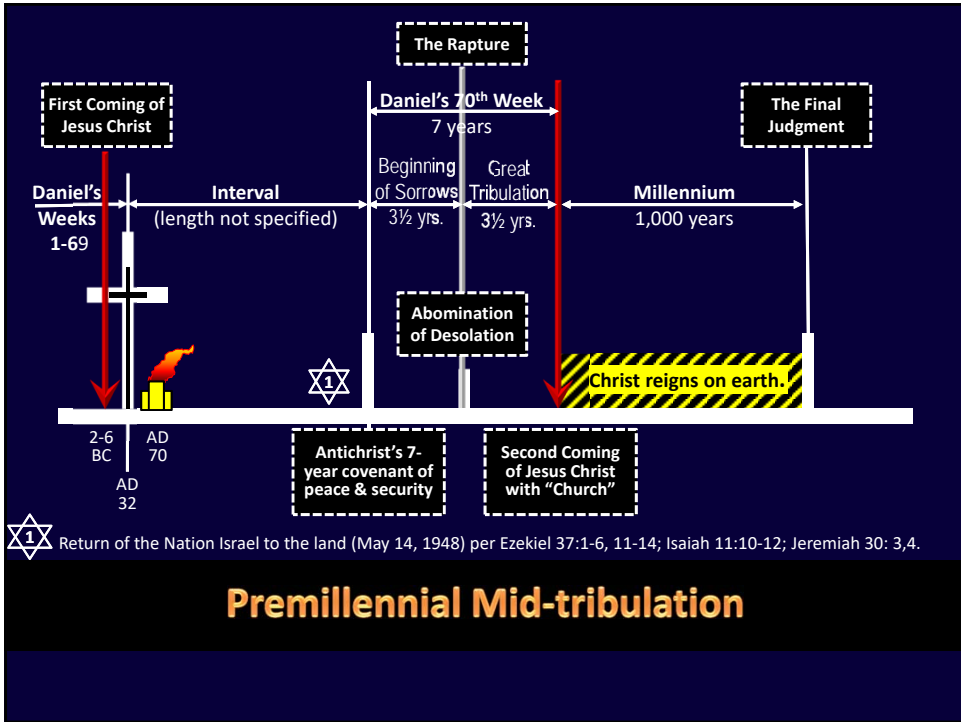
- Christ comes to the earth with His church (1:10)
- A crisis that is part of a predicted program
- Can occur only after certain events happen
- The day of the LORD  
(23 exact matches, numerous others)













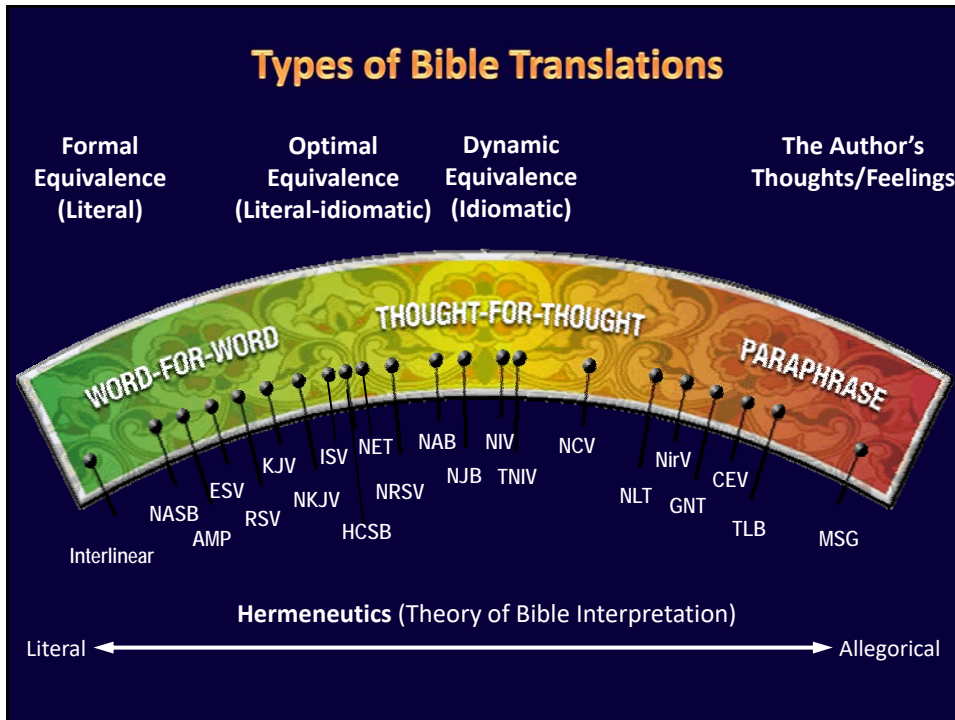
All four eschatological positions agree that:

1. Jesus Christ was crucified per Scriptures, buried, and rose again the 3<sup>rd</sup> day per the Scriptures (see 1 Corinthians 15:3-4),
2. The Bible is the word of God, fully inspired and authoritative (see 2 Timothy 3:16), and
3. There was a first advent and there will be a personal, visible, glorious, and objective second advent.

### Some major differences

	Amillennial	Postmillennial	Futurist	Premillennial
Hermeneutics of the book of Revelation	Progressive parallelism in Revelation (earth's history repeated 7 times). Context determines whether literal or figurative.	Interpret in terms of meaning to 1st century church-reassures Christ will prevail over Roman persecutors. Liberal hermeneutic.	Revelation 4-22 and parts of Daniel are future events in a literal, physical, global, apocalyptic context.	Read Revelation as written, literally where possible. Context determines whether literal or figurative.
The Millennium	Figurative (symbolic) only. Has to do with the "church age" between Christ's First and Second coming, in which Christ rules from heaven. We are in its last days.	Tribulation over. We are in a figurative "golden age" on earth where nations gradually adopt Christendom until the earth is filled with the glory of the Lord.	Whether literal or figurative, the tribulation will happen in the future under a future Jewish supernatural figure (not the pope).	A literal 1,000 year reign of Christ on earth as spoken of throughout the Bible, after the Tribulation (yet to occur) and before the End of All Things.
Israel and the "Church"	Old Testament Israel is the nation. New Testament Israel is the "Church"; Israel no longer has any spiritual significance.		Futurists exclude Jews from the New Covenant and remove salvation through faith from Jews. .	Israel and "Church" are separate entities with separate destinies in God's plan. Israel remains God's chosen.
Satan	Satan was bound at the Cross and is no longer able to deceive the nations.		.	Satan is real and rampant in the world.

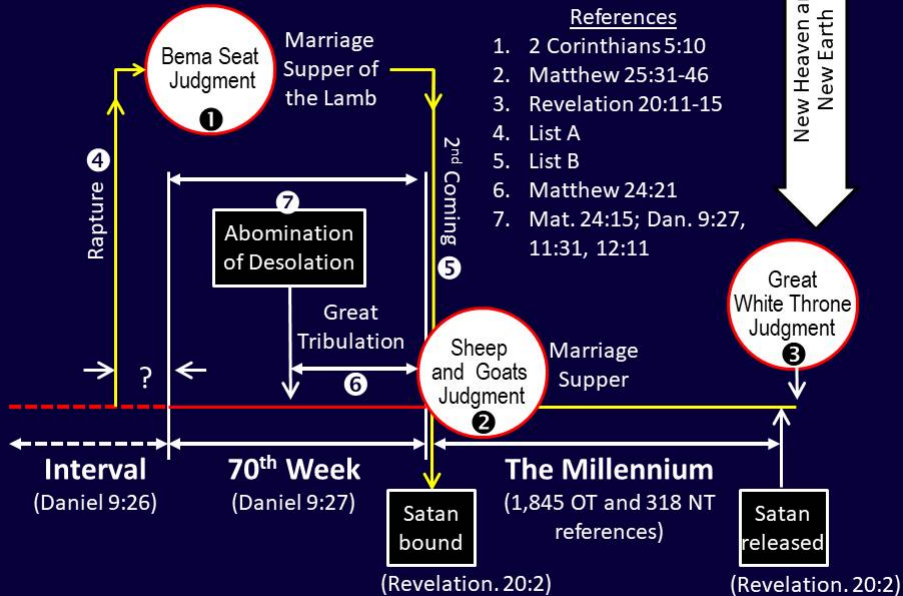
	Amillennial	Postmillennial	Futurist	Premillennial
The Kingdom	Spiritual. Came with Jesus' ministry on earth.	Spiritual. Came with Jesus' ministry on earth.	Spiritual. Came with Jesus' ministry on earth.	Literal. Two kingdoms: kingdom of God eternal; kingdom of Heaven is Christ's reign on earth.
Rapture	No. A crazy idea.	No.	Generally, yes.	Of course. Read your Bible.
First Coming	Real and physical.	Real and physical.	Real and physical.	Real and physical.
Second Coming	Once to judge the earth and establish new heavens and new earth	Once to judge the earth and establish new heavens and new earth	Once to judge the earth and establish new heavens and new earth	Twice: comes in clouds to rapture saints and 7+ years later to reign.
Judgments	One judgment (White Throne) at the end.	One judgment (White Throne) at the end.	One judgment (White Throne) at the end.	1. Raptured believers. 2. Sheep and Goat at start of Millennium. 3. White Throne at end of Millennium
History	Origen, later Augustine and embraced by Roman Catholic (Western) church by 400 AD. Mainstream Protestant churches.	Tychonius (AD35) early proponent; revived by Jesuit Luis de Alcazar (1554-1630) to counter Reformation premillennialism. Replacement theology.	Jesuit Luis de Alcazar (1554-1630) developed to counter Reformation premillennialism. Refined by Jesuit Cardinal Roberto Bellarmino (1542-1621).	1. Earliest believers 1 <sup>st</sup> -4 <sup>th</sup> Centuries). 2. Isolated/persecuted remnants. 3. Reformers (including Reform, Anabaptist, Baptist, etc.



## Bible Translations Referenced

<b>AMP</b>	Amplified Bible	<b>MSG</b>	The Message	<b>NJB</b>	New Jerusalem Bible
<b>CEV</b>	Contemporary English Version	<b>NAB</b>	New American Bible	<b>NKJV</b>	New King James Version
<b>ESV</b>	English Standard Version	<b>NASB</b>	New American Standard Bible	<b>NLT</b>	New Living Translation
<b>GNT</b>	Good News Translation; Good News Bible	<b>NCV</b>	New Century Version	<b>NRSV</b>	New Revised Standard Version
<b>HCSB</b>	Holman Christian Standard Bible	<b>NET</b>	New English translation	<b>RSV</b>	Revised Standard Version
<b>ISV</b>	International Standard Version	<b>NirV</b>	New International Reader's Version	<b>TLB</b>	The Living Bible
<b>KJV</b>	King James Version	<b>NIV</b>	New International Version	<b>TNIV</b>	Today's New International Version

## Three Judgments



List A - Rapture	List B - Second Coming
John 14:1-3	Daniel 2:44-45
Romans 8:19	Daniel 7:9-14
1 Corinthians 1:7-8	Daniel 12:1-3
1 Corinthians 15:1-53	Zechariah 14:1-15
1 Corinthians 16:22	Matthew 13:41
Philippians 3:20-21	Matthew 24:15-31
Colossians 3:4	Matthew 26:64
1 Thessalonians 1:10	Mark 13:14-27
1 Thessalonians 2:19	Mark 14:62
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18	Luke 21:25-28
1 Thessalonians 5:9	Acts 1:9-11
1 Thessalonians 5:23	Acts 3:19-21
2 Thessalonians 2:1-3	1 Thessalonians 3:13
1 Timothy 6:14	2 Thessalonians 1:6-10
2 Timothy 4:1	2 Thessalonians 2:8
Titus 2:13	2 Peter 3:1-14
Hebrews 9:28	Jude 14-15
James 5:7-9	Revelation 1:7
1 Peter 1:7, 13	Revelation 19:11-20:6
1 John 2:28-3:2	Revelation 22:7, 12, 20
Jude 21	
Revelation 2:25	
Revelation 3:10	

### Irenaeus (130-202 AD), Church Father

But when this Antichrist shall have devastated all things in this world, he will reign for three years and six months, and sit in the temple at Jerusalem; and then the Lord will come from heaven in the clouds, in the glory of the Father, sending this man and those who follow him into the lake of fire; but bringing in for the righteous the times of the kingdom, that is, the rest, the hallowed seventh day; and restoring to Abraham the promised inheritance, in which kingdom the Lord declared, that many coming from the east and from the west should sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. (Matthew 8:11)

*Irenaeus, Against Heresies, V.30.4*