

Understanding Revelation and the Prewrath Rapture

SCOTT FORSYTH



Painting by Cynthia Westbrook

**STUDY GUIDE
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Dr. Kurschner is the founder of Eschatos Ministries, teaching Bible prophecy from a futurist, premillennial, prewrath perspective. He is the author of *Antichrist Before the Day of the Lord: What Every Christian Needs to Know about the Return of Christ* and the editor-in-chief of *Biblical Prophecy Magazine*. He is also the host of the popular podcast *The Biblical Prophecy Program*™. Eschatos Ministries can be found at AlanKurschner.com

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SESSION 1

THE SECOND COMING, RAPTURE, AND DANIEL'S 70TH WEEK

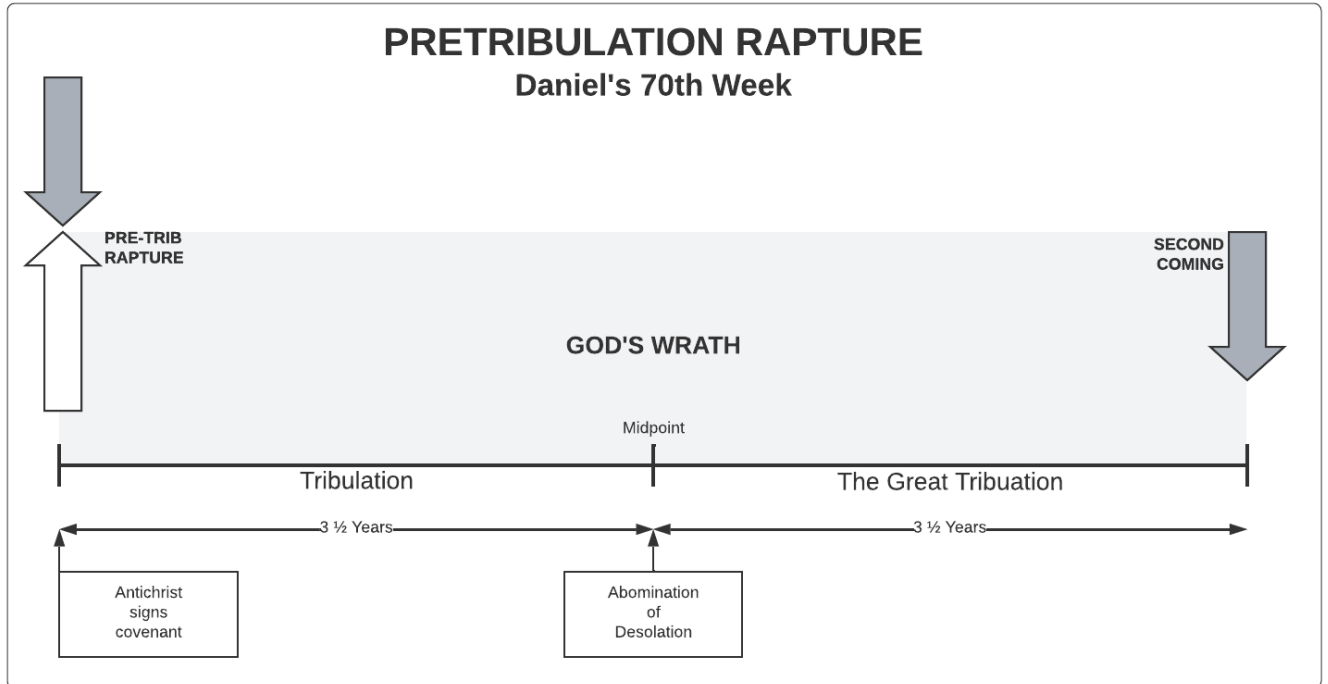
Why Study Eschatology

- Be aware of well-intended perspectives that deflate your desire to study the return of Christ
 - "No one can really know."
 - "It's not important and you don't need to know."
 - "What only matters is the fact that Jesus is returning."
 - "What only matters is that you are saved."
 - "It will all 'pan out' in the end."
 - "This doctrine divides the church."
 - "Who are you to think that you have the right answer?"
 - "There are so many views out there."
- Jesus himself warned us to be aware of what will happen before he returns, "See, I have told you beforehand" (Matt 24:25; cf. Luke 18:8).
- Matt 24:32–33 "Learn this parable from the fig tree: Whenever its branch becomes tender and puts out its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also you, when you see all these things, know that he is near, right at the door."
- 2 Thess 2:3 "Let no one deceive you in any way . . ."
- 2 Peter 1:19 "prophetic word made sure"

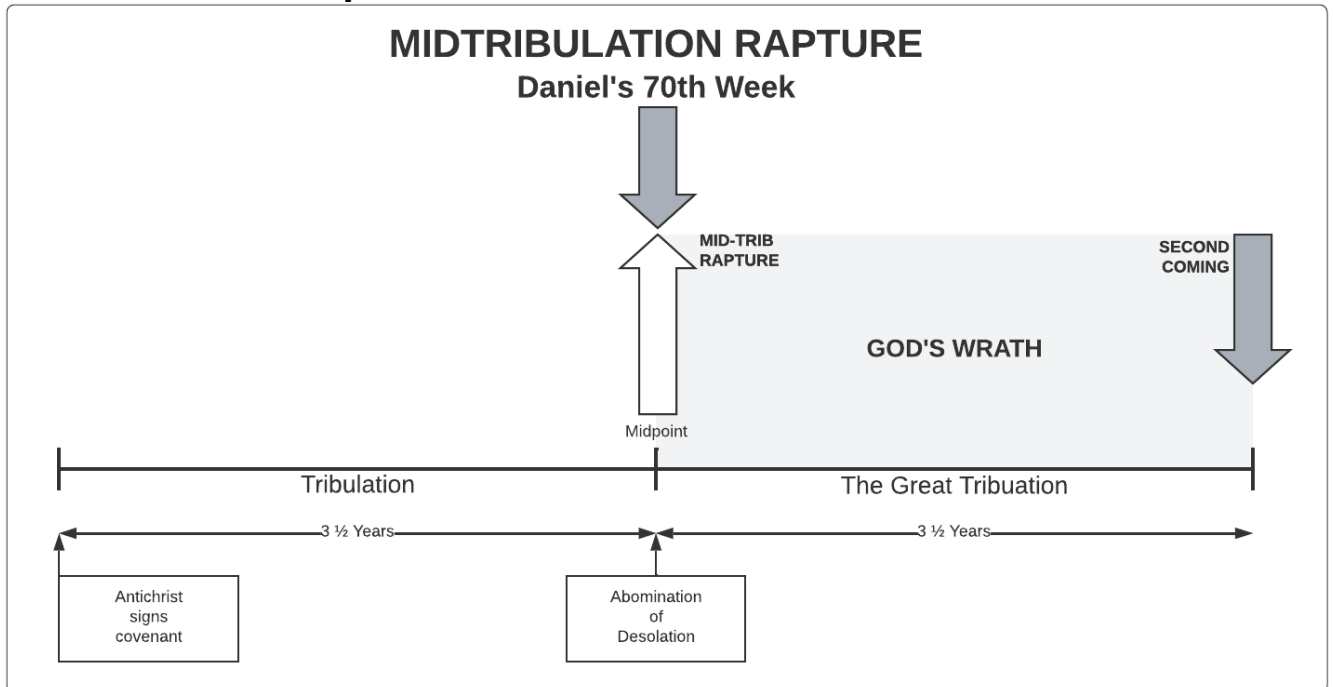
- Predictive material in OT: 28%. NT: 21%. >26% of scripture is predictive.
Per verse calculation:
 - Verses in Whole Bible 31,124
 - Verses of prophecy 8,352
 - Percent of Prophecy in Bible 26.8%
 - 1,239+578 prophecies (OT+NT)
 - The Encyclopedia of Biblical Prophecy” by J. Barton Payne
- Prophecy is a MAJOR part of scripture. It's not for no reason.
- 1 Thess 5:4 But you, brothers and sisters, are not in the darkness for the day to overtake you like a thief would.
- We can be sincere, sincerely wrong! (Prov 14:12; cf. Prov 16:25)
- Rev 1:1, 3 “The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants *what* must happen very soon. He **made it clear** by sending his angel to his servant John...Blessed is the one who reads the words of this prophecy aloud, and blessed are those who hear and obey the things written in it, because the time is near!”
- "Failure to learn does not mean failure to have an opinion. Some of the most dogmatic people are ignorant and have never studied the subject." Don Sparman
- The doctrine of the second coming of Christ should not divide us, but rather be an opportunity for us to dig into Scripture. We don't have to agree in all areas, but as we study in the spirit of unity, we can be edified as brothers and sisters in Christ.

Four pre-millennial views of the Rapture

Pre-tribulation Rapture



Mid-tribulation Rapture



Second Coming of Jesus Christ

- The Greek term behind the word “coming” is *parousia*, which means “an arrival and a continuing presence.”
- The Lord’s second coming, also known as the Parousia, will be a comprehensive-extended event. Compare to the “First Coming” of Jesus.
- Word Study: Used 24 Times in the New Testament

Coming of our Lord Jesus Christ (16 times)

- Matt 24:3 As he was sitting on the Mount of Olives, his disciples came to him privately and said, “Tell us, when will these things happen? And what will be the sign of your **coming** (parousia) and of the end of the age?”
- Matt 24:27 For just like the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so the **coming** (parousia) of the Son of Man will be.
- Matt 24:37 For just like the days of Noah were, so the **coming** (parousia) of the Son of Man will be.
- Matt 24:39 And they knew nothing until the flood came and took them all away. It will be the same at the **coming** (parousia) of the Son of Man.
- 1 Cor 15:23 But each in his own order: Christ, the firstfruits; then when Christ **comes** (parousia), those who belong to him.
- 1 Thess 2:19 For who is our hope or joy or crown to boast of before our Lord Jesus at his **coming** (parousia)? Is it not of course you?
- 1 Thess 3:13 so that your hearts are strengthened in holiness to be blameless before our God and Father at the **coming** (parousia) of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.
- 1 Thes 4:15 For we tell you this by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the **coming** (parousia) of the Lord, will surely not go ahead of those who have fallen asleep.

- 1 Thes 5:23 Now may the God of peace himself make you completely holy and may your spirit and soul and body be kept entirely blameless at the **coming** (parousia) of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- 2 Thes 2:1 Now regarding the **arrival** (parousia) of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered to be with him, we ask you, brothers and sisters
- 2 Thes 2:8 and then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will destroy by the breath of his mouth and wipe out by the manifestation of his **arrival** (parousia).
- James 5:7 So be patient, brothers and sisters, until the Lord's **return** (parousia). Think of how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the ground and is patient for it until it receives the early and late rains.
- James 5:8 You also be patient and strengthen your hearts, for the Lord's **return** (parousia) is near.
- 2 Peter 3:4 and saying, "Where is his promised **return** (parousia)? For ever since our ancestors died, all things have continued as they were from the beginning of creation."
- 2 Peter 3:12 while waiting for and hastening the **coming** (parousia) of the day of God? Because of this day, the heavens will be burned up and dissolve, and the celestial bodies will melt away in a blaze!
- 1 John 2:28 And now, little children, remain in him, so that when he appears we may have confidence and not shrink away from him in shame when he **comes back** (parousia).

First Coming of Jesus (1 time)

- 2 Peter 1:16 For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and **coming** (parousia) of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. (ESV)

Coming of various individuals (3 times)

- 1 Cor 16:17 I was glad about the **arrival** (parousia) of Stephanus, Fortunatus, and Achaicus because they have supplied the fellowship with you that I lacked.
- 2 Cor 7:6-7 (appears twice) But God, who encourages the downhearted, encouraged us by the arrival (parousia) of Titus. 7 We were encouraged not only by his **arrival** (parousia), but also by the encouragement you gave him, as he reported to us your longing, your mourning, your deep concern for me, so that I rejoiced more than ever.
- Phil 1:26 so that what you can be proud of may increase because of me in Christ Jesus, when I **come** (parousia) back to you.

Presence of Paul (2 times)

- 2 Cor 10:10 because some say, “His letters are weighty and forceful, but his physical **presence** (parousia) is weak and his speech is of no account.”
- Phil 2:12 So then, my dear friends, just as you have always obeyed, not only in my **presence** (parousia) but even more in my absence, continue working out your salvation with awe and reverence

Coming of Antichrist (1 time)

- 2 Th 2:9 The **arrival** (parousia) of the lawless one will be by Satan’s working with all kinds of miracles and signs and false wonders,

RAPTURE OF THE SAINTS

Rapture: “Caught up”.

- 14 times in New Testament. 1 time referring to the rapture
 - a. to seize, carry off by force
 - b. to seize on, claim for one's self eagerly
 - c. to snatch out or away

Will the rapture be seen by non-believers? (reference Biblical evidence)

Who will see Jesus' return? (hint: Matt 24:30)

Will it be a secret rapture?

DANIEL'S 70TH WEEK

- Nowhere in the Bible is the 7-year period called 'tribulation'
- The *Great Tribulation* is a specific time that begins at the midpoint
- We'll use the term *Daniel's 70th Week* to refer to the 7-year period

Read Daniel 9:24-27

- Daniel 9:27a (NET) He will confirm a covenant with many for one week. But in the middle of that week he will bring sacrifices and offerings to a halt.

- Daniel 9:27a (NIV) He will confirm a covenant with many for one 'seven'. In the middle of the 'seven' he will put an end to sacrifice and offering.

More specific time periods described:

- Daniel 7:25 He will speak words against the Most High. He will harass the holy ones of the Most High continually. His intention will be to change times established by law. The holy ones will be delivered into his hand for a time, times, and half a time.
- Daniel 12:7 Then I heard the man clothed in linen who was over the waters of the river as he raised both his right and left hands to the sky and made an oath by the one who lives forever: "It is for a time, times, and half a time. Then, when the power of the one who shatters the holy people has been exhausted, all these things will be finished.
- Matthew 24:15-16 "So when you see the abomination of desolation—spoken about by Daniel the prophet—standing in the holy place" (let the reader understand), "then those in Judea must flee to the mountains.
- Rev 11:2 But do not measure the outer courtyard of the temple; leave it out because it has been given to the Gentiles, and they will trample on the holy city for forty-two months.
- Rev 11:3 And I will grant my two witnesses authority to prophesy for 1,260 days, dressed in sackcloth."
- Rev 12:6 and she fled into the wilderness where a place had been prepared for her by God, so she could be taken care of for 1,260 days.
- Rev 12:14 But the woman was given the two wings of a giant eagle so that she could fly out into the wilderness, to the place God prepared for her, where she is taken care of—away from the presence of the serpent—for a time, times, and half a time.
- Rev 13:5 The beast was given a mouth speaking proud words and blasphemies, and he was permitted to exercise ruling authority for forty-two months.

What is the Day of the Lord

- Jesus and the prophets address this event, while the book of Joel, Obadiah, and 1 and 2 Thessalonians exclusively are devoted to the day of the Lord (eight out of 22 chapters in the book of Revelation cover this event).
- The day of the Lord will begin when Jesus appears in the clouds to bestow glorified bodies and deliver his people. That day will be a joyous manifestation for those who belong to God. “For God did not destine us for wrath but for gaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Thess 5:9).
- It will be followed by God’s judgment and vindication. It will be a series of horrific, heart-stopping judgments for the wicked on earth. *Judgment, Reckoning, Vengeance, Punishment, Justice; it is characterized by Fury, Burning Anger, Destruction, Panic, Subjugation, Confusion, Tumult, Doom, Battle, Awesome, Unique.*
- It is not a literal 24-hour day. The prophets used “day” to denote the epochal time of judgment. The day of the Lord should be understood as a comprehensive, extended event (e.g. the fifth trumpet will last five months).
- The prophet Zephaniah furnishes us with a compact and vivid declaration to the day of the Lord. Zephaniah, who prophesied to Judah in the seventh century BC, condemned salient sins such as pagan practices, idolatry, laziness, and pride.
- Zephaniah highlights the universality of God’s judgment: “I will destroy everything from the face of the earth,’ says the Lord” (1:2; cf. 3:8). Yahweh is not some mere tribal deity. He rules globally. Zephaniah characterizes this time

as fiery wrath, devastation, darkness, and bloodshed, for both beasts and humans.

- The day of the Lord then can be described as the “divine-human collision.” The Divine Warrior will intrude definitively into human history.

The same prophets who spoke of eschatological judgment upon the ungodly were the same ones who also prophesied “that day” would encompass future hope, redemption, and millennial blessings for the righteous (e.g. Isa 27, 40–66, Mic 4:6–8, Obad 15–17, Jer 30:8–9, Zeph 3:9–20, Zech 14).

The rapture will occur back-to-back with the day of the Lord

- A crucial biblical distinction: Antichrist’s great tribulation and the day of the Lord’s wrath. The expression “Tribulation period” is vague and misleading.
- Same Day Passages: 1 Cor. 1:8, Luke 21:25–28, Luke 17:22–37, 1 Thess 5:2–6, 2 Thess 1:5–10, 2 Thess 2:1–2; Rev 8:1.