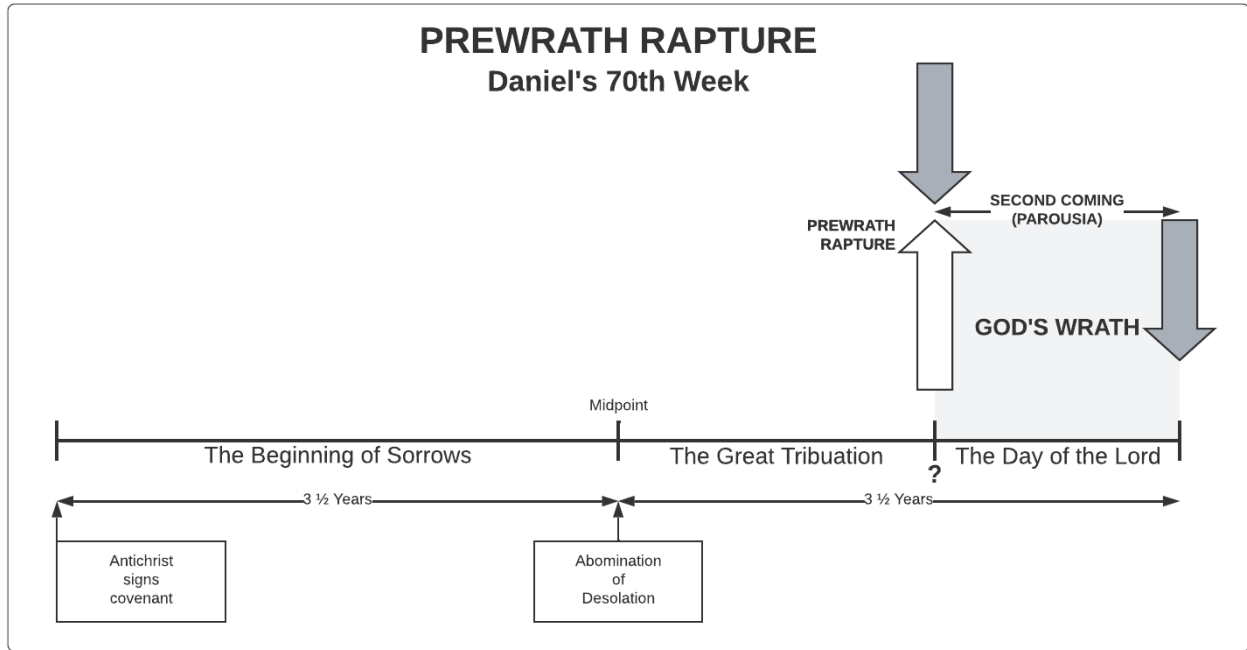


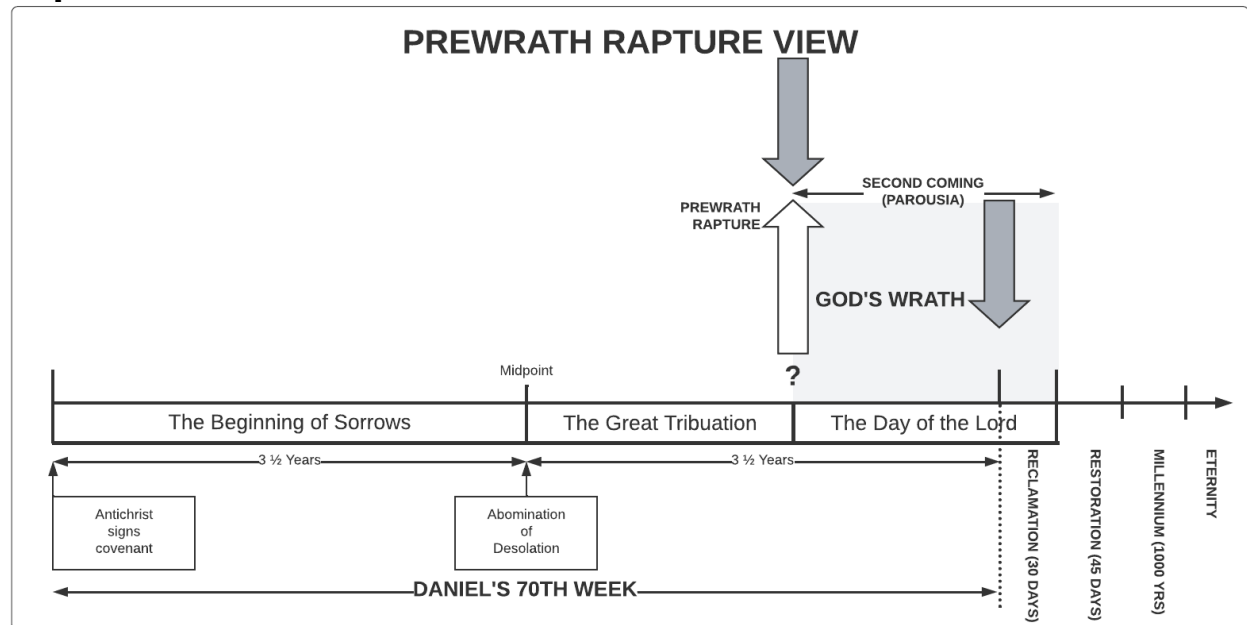
SESSION 2 - PREWRATH RAPTURE VIEW

Why PreWrath

Overview



Expanded



No one knows the day or the hour

Matthew 24:36 But as for that day and hour no one knows it—not even the angels in heaven—except the Father alone.

Matthew 24:42 Therefore stay alert because you do not know on what day your Lord will come.

1 Thess 5:2 or you know quite well that the day of the Lord will come in the same way as a thief in the night.

2 Peter 3:10 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief; when it comes, the heavens will disappear with a horrific noise, and the celestial bodies will melt away in a blaze, and the earth and every deed done on it will be laid bare.

Revelation 16:15 (Look ! I will come like a thief! Blessed is the one who stays alert and does not lose his clothes so that he will not have to walk around naked and his shameful condition be seen.)

But we're not to be surprised

Matthew 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. 33 So also you, when you see all these things, know that he is near, right at the door.

1 Thess 5:4-5 But you, brothers and sisters, are not in the darkness for the day to overtake you like a thief would. 5 For you all are sons of the light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of the darkness.

We are delivered from wrath

1 Thess. 1:10 and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, **Jesus our deliverer from the coming wrath.**

1 Thess. 5:9 For God **did not destine us for wrath** but for gaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.

But not from tribulation

2 Timothy 3:12 Now in fact all who want to live godly lives in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.

John 16:33 I have told you these things so that in me you may have peace. **In the world you have trouble and suffering, but take courage**—I have conquered the world.”

Acts 14:22 They **strengthened** the souls of the disciples and encouraged them to continue in the faith, saying, **“We must enter the kingdom of God through many persecutions.”**

Romans 5:3-5 Not only this, but we also **rejoice in sufferings**, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance, character, and character, hope. 5 And hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

Revelation 2:10 **Do not be afraid of the things you are about to suffer.** The devil is about to have some of you thrown into prison so you may be tested, and you will experience suffering for ten days. Remain faithful even to the point of death, and I will give you the crown that is life itself.

James 1:2-4 My brothers and sisters, **consider it nothing but joy when you fall into all sorts of trials**, 3 because you know that the testing of your faith produces endurance. 4 And let endurance have its perfect effect, so that you will be perfect and complete, not deficient in anything.

Unless those days be shortened

Referring to the Great Tribulation and not Daniel’s 70th week:

Matthew 24:22 And if those days had not been cut short, no one would be saved. But for the sake of the elect **those days will be cut short.**

First 5 seals aren’t God’s wrath

They are never stated as such.

The 5th seal is the persecution by the Antichrist against the church, which is obviously not God's wrath.

The sign of God's wrath is at 6th seal

First mention of wrath in Revelation:

Rev 6:16-17 They said to the mountains and to the rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of the one who is seated on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb, 17 **because the great day of their wrath has come**, and who is able to withstand it?"

The Olivet Discourse and 7 seals parallel

REVELATION 6-7	PARALLELS	MATTHEW 24	LUKE 21
First Seal 6:1-2	Antichrist / False Christs	4-5	8
Second Seal 6:3-4	Wars	6-7	9-10
Third Seal 6:5-6	Famine	7	11
Fourth Seal 6:7-8	Death / Pestilence	7	11
Fifth Seal 6:9-11	Great Tribulation	9, 21-22	12-17
Sixth Seal 6:12-17	Celestial Disturbances	29	25-26
Interlude 7:7-19	Raptured Saints	30-31, 36-42	27-28
Seventh Seal (Trumpets, Bowls)	Days of the Lord's Wrath	14, 30	33

- The first four seals *prove* the guilty for God's wrath
- The fifth seal *promises* God's wrath
- The sixth seal *portends* God's wrath
- Two groups are *protected* from God's wrath
- The seventh seal *pronounces* God's wrath¹

Saints in heaven – same scene, new group

The rapture occurs between the Revelation 4-5 scene and the Revelation 7 scene.

Revelation 7:13-4 Then one of the elders asked me, “These dressed in long white robes—who are they and where have they come from?” 14 So I said to him, “My lord, you know the answer.” Then he said to me, “These are the ones who have come out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb!

Revelation 4-5	Revelation 7
Throne	Throne
God	God
24 Elders	Elders
Four living creatures	Four living creatures
Angels (10,000 * 10,000)	Angels
	Uncountable enormous crowd From every nation, tribe, people, and language

All celestial signs passages line up

Many passages in Scripture about the celestial signs line up perfectly, include with the 6th seal. See exercise for more.

Exercise

- Read the following five passages and complete the exercise
- Isaiah 13:6-10
- Joel 2:30-31 (also quoted in Acts 2:20)
- Joel 3:14-15
- Luke 21:25-28 (also in Matt 24:29-31, Mark 13:24-27)
- Rev 6:12-17

- Describe the celestial signs as seen from these passages

What feelings would you expect non-believers to have when seeing this occur? Hint: See Luke and Revelation passages.

What feeling would you expect believers to have? Hint: See Luke passage.

What are the signs a sign of? Hint: Luke and Revelation give 2 results.

Begin Same Day: Rapture, 2nd Coming, and Day of the Lord

We are to look forward to each of the following:

- **R** The Rapture
- **SC** Second Coming
- **DOTL** Day of the Lord

Often any two are grouped together. Additionally, we're told to wait for Jesus' coming (parousia).

R + DOTL: 1 Cor 1:7-8 so that you do not lack any spiritual gift as you **wait for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ**. 8 He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you will be blameless on the **day of our Lord Jesus Christ**.

R + DOTL: 1 Thess 5:2 For you know quite well that the **day of the Lord** will come in the same way as a **thief in the night**.

R + DOTL: 2 Thess 1:7a-8 ..when the **Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven** with his mighty angels. 8 **With flaming fire he will mete out punishment** on those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.

R + SC: 2 Thess 2:1 Now regarding the **arrival (parousia) of our Lord Jesus Christ** and our being **gathered to be with him**,

R + SC: 1 Thes 4:15,17 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. ...Then we who are alive, who are left, will be suddenly **caught up together** with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will always be with the Lord.

SC + DOTL 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!

Present till SC: 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.

Present till SC: James 5:7 So **be patient**, brothers and sisters, **until the Lord's return (parousia)**.

What about imminence?

Definition

"It is used to note the New Testament teaching that Christ could return and rapture His church at any moment, without prior signs or warning."²

IN 1973 ROBERT GUNDRY, a posttribulationist, wrote that "by common consent imminence means that so far as we know no predicted event will necessarily precede the coming of Christ." John A. Sproule, a pretribulationist, countered in 1974 that "imminence" is better defined as the belief that "Christ can return for His Church at any moment and that no predicted event will intervene before that return."
Both definitions are acceptable.³

Best Pretribulation Verses:

WHY CHRIST CAN RETURN AT ANY MOMENT²

Look at these verses stating that Christ could return at any moment, without

warning. In their specific contexts, they instruct believers to wait and look for the Lord's coming at any moment. Thus, these passages teach the doctrine of imminence.

- **1 Corinthians 1:7**—"awaiting eagerly the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ,"
- **1 Corinthians 16:22**—"Maranatha." "Mar" ("Lord"), "ana" ("our"), and "tha" ("come"), meaning "our Lord, come." The Arabic greeting implies an eager expectation.
- **Philippians 3:20**—"For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ;"
- **Philippians 4:5**—"The Lord is near."
- **1 Thessalonians 1:10**—"to wait for His Son from heaven,"
- **1 Thessalonians 5:6**—"so then let us not sleep as others do, but let us be alert and sober."
- **1 Timothy 6:14**—"that you keep the commandment without stain or reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ,"
- **Titus 2:13**—"looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus;"
- **Hebrews 9:28**—"so Christ . . . shall appear a second time for salvation without reference to sin, to those who eagerly await Him."
- **James 5:7-9**—"Be patient, therefore, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. . . . for the coming of the Lord is at hand. . . . behold, the Judge is standing right at the door."
- **1 Peter 1:13**—"fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ."
- **Jude 21**—"waiting anxiously for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to eternal life."
- **Revelation 3:11; 22:7, 12, 20**—"I am coming quickly!" This means that Christ could come at any moment, quickly without warning
- **Revelation 22:17, 20**—"And the Spirit and the bride say, 'Come.' And let the one who hears say, 'Come.'" "He who testifies to these things says, 'Yes, I am coming quickly.' Amen. Come, Lord Jesus."

Prewrath Perspective

- We can eagerly look forward to something while acknowledging proceeding events. Consider an anticipated vacation that requires booking a flight, waiting for the first day of vacation, driving to the airport, boarding a flight—all before reaching the exciting destination.

- The logic should follow to where we're also instructed to look forward to Jesus' 2nd coming, which the Pretrib view considers at the end of Daniel's 70th week. Pretrib Second Coming passages:
 - o James 5:7 So be patient, brothers and sisters, until the Lord's return.
 - o 1 Thess 3:13 So that your hearts are strengthened in holiness to be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.
- None of the prior mentioned imminence passages say that no events must occur first (check them out to confirm!)

Peter couldn't have believed in imminence for himself

John 21:18-19 I tell you the solemn truth, when you were young, you tied your clothes around you and went wherever you wanted, but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and others will tie you up and bring you where you do not want to go." (Now Jesus said this to indicate clearly by what kind of death Peter was going to glorify God.) After he said this, Jesus told Peter, "Follow me."

Peter later referred to this prophecy and that he knew that he would die before the rapture.

2 Peter 1:14-15 Since I know that my tabernacle will soon be removed because our Lord Jesus Christ revealed this to me. Indeed, I will also make every effort that, after my departure, you have a testimony of these things.

Paul couldn't have believed in imminence for himself

Paul was given specific prophecies that needed to be fulfilled in his life before the rapture. (Acts 22:21; 23:11; 27:24)

Other apostles would have been waiting on the destruction of the temple to happen

-Jerusalem was to be destroyed before the second advent of Christ to the earth (Luke 21:20-24, cf. Daniel 9:26)

Modern day signs clearly stated as before DOTL or Rapture

- Great Tribulation (Matt 24:29-31)
- Abomination of Desolation (Matt 24:15)
- Antichrist revealed (2 Thess 2:3)
- The Apostasy (2 Thess 2:3)
- Celestial signs (Joel 2:31)
- Elijah (Malachi 4:5-6)

How should we respond?

As believers, we should look for Jesus' return, very possibly in our lifetime. We don't know the day or hour, but we know the times and seasons, and the season is close. We're instructed to go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature, making disciples of all nations.

We also have practical opportunities to prepare to the events of the end times and be strategic for the times ahead. Jesus says "See, I have told you beforehand".

Be watchful for the Lord's return. Maranatha.

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1. Alan Kurschner The Basics of the Prewrath Rapture Study Guide
 2. Thomas Ice
https://digitalcommons.liberty.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1056&context=pretrib_arch
 3. Wayne Brindle <https://core.ac.uk/download/pdf/58821853.pdf>