

THE RAPTURE or….

the Time When All Who Believe In Jesus Christ Will Join Him In The Air… I Thessalonians 4:13-18

A Mystery as to when… has to do with the Believers who will be "alive" when Messiah Yeshua/Jesus comes for them. *It will take but a moment, the blink of an eye, at the final shofar. For the shofar will sound, and the dead will be raised to live forever, and we too will be changed.* I Corinthians 15:57

This "moment" in Greek means indivisible, so fast we cannot comprehend with time. At the "last trumpet/ shofar" is like when the Lord in the desert had the last shofar blasts mean Israel was to move out of camp NOW and come to and with Him. At that moment we will be "changed", not in complete appearance but in essence, given a glorious new imperishable body, one eternal like our Lord and Savior Jesus! Philippians 3:20 *Let me say this, brothers: flesh and blood cannot share in the Kingdom of God, nor can something that decays share in what does not decay.* I Corinthians 15:50

This translation… snatching away/taking out of this world of all true Believers, the imminent real hope "the blessed hope" for Christians has no preconditions to be met prior to its happening! Titus 2:11-15 It will happen when the Lord has determined, taking Believers *to a place prepared* by Yeshua in His Father's house. Yochanan/John 14:1-3 A family reunion with those who previously died in the lord (their bodies fallen asleep in Jesus) and gone before other Believers into His presence! II Corinthians 5:1-10 Philippians 1:20-23 I Thessalonians 4:13-18

<u>This is not to be confused with the Second Coming of the Lord at the end of the Tribulation nor will it occur any time during the Tribulation</u>. The Rapture does not occur at these times as the Bible shows a different purpose for Israel and the Church (Jews and Gentles). His main program today is for the Church age to evangelize the world Acts 1:6-7 Matthew 28:19-20. The Tribulation 7 year period is primarily the evangelization period for the Jewish nation (Revelation 7:1-4; 11:3-13) to resume their Old Testament task of being the light bearer unto the world (Isaiah 49:6 Genesis 12:3), taking to the world Gods' eternal love and salvation by trust in Him and His Messiah; a matter they largely failed in. There will be many people saved during the Tribulation Period who will be taken by Messiah flowing His Second Coming to reign with Him in God's 1000 year Kingdom on the earth. Then comes an Eternal Shabbat with Him, with a new created Heaven and earth. Revelation 20:4-10 Daniel 7:13-27; 21

Also, the Second Coming is visible to the whole earth (Revelation 1:7) but the Rapture is only that in which the Christians are participants. The whole world with be mystified and found not knowing it is happening, but that it just did. There ***<u>is</u>*** a global war at the Second coming, not necessarily at the time of the "secret" Rapture and there is to be a separation of Believers and unbelievers (Matthew 25). At the time of the Rapture "all" the living Believers will be "taken up" to join Him in the clouds. So if Believers are not present how can they be separated on earth? To say they are Ruptured "just" before the Second Coming ignores the prophecies of the Rapture being an unknown timed event that no one sees, and one that cannot include Jews who cry out for the Lord Jesus to return then getting saved upon His Second Coming . Psalm 118:25-26 Zachariah 12:10 Matthew 23:39 Revelation 1:7

The prophets told that God will set up a Kingdom on earth (Zechariah 8:20-23;14:16-21 Isaiah 2:3;66:23 Micah 4:1-3 Daniel 7:13,14) and that the Messiah will rule such containing both mortal and immortal people; those found on the earth at the time of the Second Coming (Tribulation Believers plus possibly some Gentiles.) They will be those populating the Millennial Kingdom; of whom some children become Believers and some choose to follow Satan. We clearly see this at the time of the unbinding of Satan at the end of the 1000 years. Revelation 20:7-9

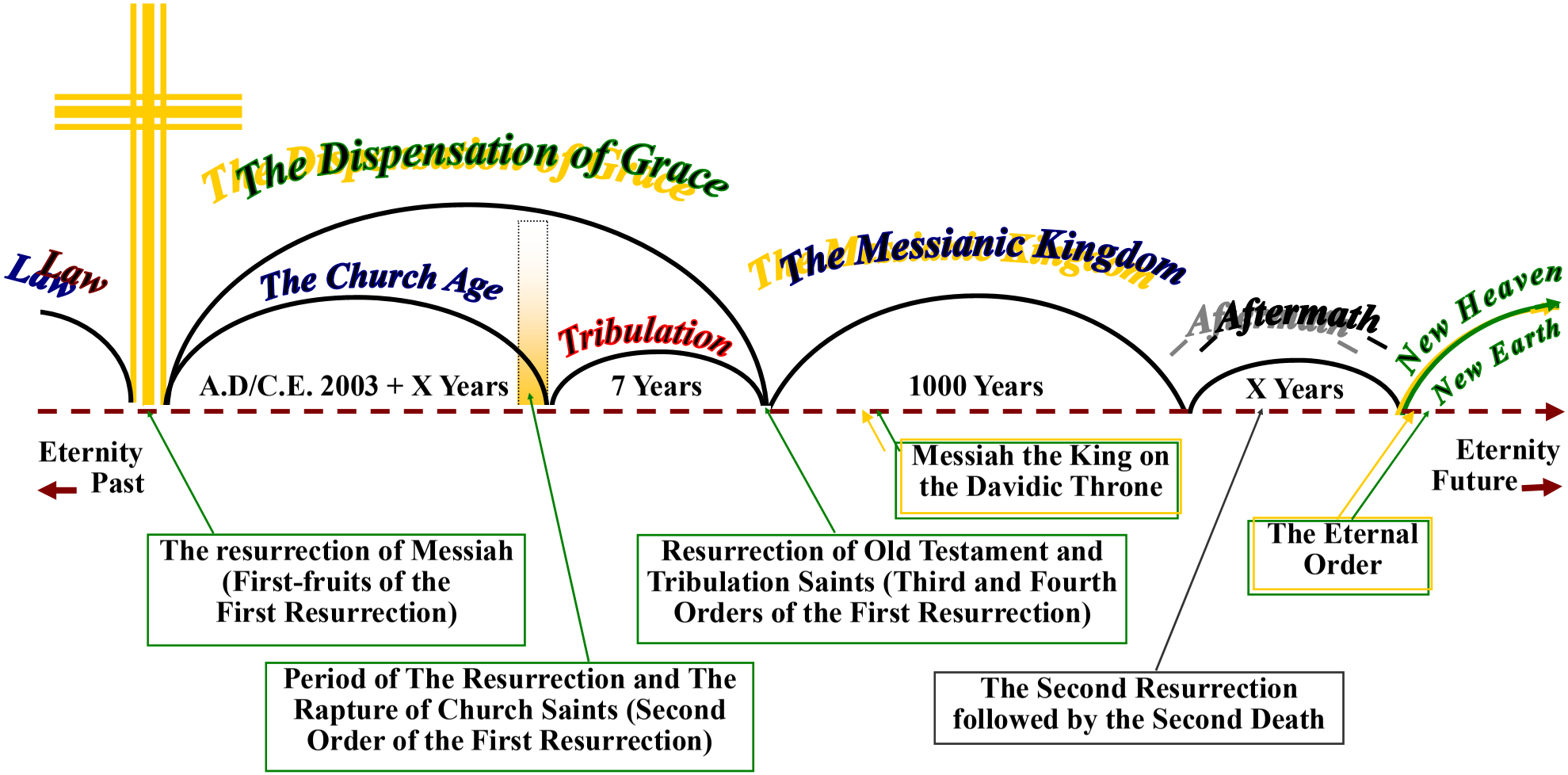
Lastly, in Revelation 6-9 is found most information regarding the Tribulation with the Church (Body of Messiah) mentioned 30 times but only within the first 5 chapters. Why, because it is gone and in Heaven with the Lord.

There is nothing Biblically to be be fulfilled prior to Jesus coming in the sky to take us up to be with Him! Believers should live with great joy and anticipation of His "at anytime" return to take us, His bride, the Church. We should not be caught by surprise… *But you, brothers, are not in the dark, so that the Day should take you by surprise like a thief; for you are all people who belong to the light, who belong to the day. We don't belong to the night or to darkness…*[those not knowing Jesus as Lord and Savior] I Thessalonians 5:4-5. Let us who know His Salvation proclaim the Good News until we are with Him, in His strength, openly and unashamed as God's eternal children. Romans 1:16-17 **Only God know when the Rapture will happen. Today?**

If you do not know Him please earnestly pray and review www.menorah.org/savior.html

References: The Complete Jewish Bible The Late Great Planet Earth, especially chap. 11 The Ultimate Trip by Hal Lindsey Chart on back.

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Chart adapted from
Footsteps of the Messiah,
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