

Rapture or Tribulation ?

被提或災難？

1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18



帖前四章 十三至十八節

MGC 7/26/2020 馬利蘭福音教會

The Second Coming of Christ 基督第二次降臨



馬太福音廿四章 Matthew 24 MGC 5/10/2020

Israel, God's Alarm Clock for Christ's Return

以色列, 主再來的鬧鐘

Matthew 24: 32-33; 15-16



馬太 24 章

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MGC 6/28/2020 馬利蘭福音教會

End Time Messages 末世信息

從末世預言看現今時代

11/14-16
2008 GCAC

李玉惠傳道
Grace Lee



End Time messages are rarely preached but are most needed today as the Jesus' 2nd coming gets closer & more signs of His return unfold

It is an interesting but **hard** subject – many seminary graduates have not taken a course in prophecy

But the H.S. helps us to understand. He is the author & interpreter of Bible

Controversial – different views in theology. (前千、後千、無千派)
But careful & diligent study of the Bible & with help from the H.S. & distinguished Bible scholars, we can sort things out.

Viewed as **negative message** -- this is a gross misunderstanding

The return of Christ is not our nightmare but called our "**Blessed Hope**
有福的盼望" and His 2nd coming is to deliver us from the wrath of God

The Blessed Hope 有福的盼望

For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope--the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ。 Titus 提多書 2: 11-13

因為神救眾人的恩典、已經顯明出來、教訓我們除去不敬虔的心、和世俗的情慾、在今世自守、公義、敬虔度日。等候所盼望的福、並等候至大的神、和我們救主耶穌基督的榮耀顯現。

This hope is not wishful thinking, but assured. This “hope will not disappoint us. (Rom 羅 5:5) because it is promised by our Lord Jesus (John 14:3); by the angels (Acts 1:11) & by the apostles in their epistles which are inspired by God.

Our hope is blessed – joyful beyond expectation and measures

- 1) Those “asleep” in Christ will be resurrected & join us.
- 2) Our humble & perishable body will become non-perishable. It will be “glorified” and become like Christ.
- 3) Death will be “swallowed up” & we will be delivered from the presence of sin
- 4) We will meet face to face with our Lord Jesus who loves us.
- 5) We will in the Lamb’s wedding feast (羔羊的婚宴).....

Promise of Blessings in the Book of Revelation 啟示錄中得福的應許

Blessed is the one who reads the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near. Revelation 1: 13

念這書上豫言的、和那這聽見又遵守其中所記載的、都是有福的。因為日期近了。

啟示錄 1:3

What is the Rapture ? 什麼是被提 ?

The rapture is described primarily in **1 Thessalonians 4:13–18** and **1 Corinthians 15:50–54**. 教會被提的描述主要記載在帖撒羅尼迦前書4:13–18 及哥林多前書 15:50–54.

4:13 論到睡了的人、我們不願意弟兄們不知道、恐怕你們憂傷、像那些沒有指望的人一樣。

4:14 我們若信耶穌死而復活了、那已經在耶穌裡睡了的人、神也必將他與耶穌一同帶來。🔊

4:15 我們現在照主的話告訴你們一件事。我們這活著還存留到主降臨的人、斷不能在那已經睡了的人之先。

4:16 因為主必親自從天降臨、有呼叫的聲音、和天使長的聲音、又有 神的號吹響。那在基督裡死了的人必先復活。

4:17 以後我們這活著還存留的人、必和他們一同被提到雲裡、在空中與主相遇。這樣、我們就要和主永遠同在。

4:18 所以你們當用這些話彼此勸慰。

What is the Rapture ? 什麼是被提 ?

The rapture is described primarily in **1 Thessalonians 4:13–18** and **1 Corinthians 15:50–54**. 教會被提的描述主要記載在帖撒羅尼迦前書4:13–18 及哥林多前書 15:50–54.

4:13 Brothers, we do not want you to be ignorant about those who fall asleep, or to grieve like the rest of men, who have no hope.

4:14 We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him.

4:15 According to the Lord's own word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left till the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep.

4:16 For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.

4:17 After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.

4:18 Therefore encourage each other with these words.

What is the Rapture ? 什麼是被提 ?

Rapture – come from a Latin word meaning “snatch away 搶走”

The word “rapture” is not found in the Bible, but the concept is clearly taught.

The rapture of the church is the event in which God “snatches away” all believers who belongs to Him from the earth in order to make way for His righteous judgment to be poured out on the earth during the tribulation period.

Mat. 24:40-41 implicitly describe the rapture: “Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left. Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left. (*)

那時、兩個人在田裡、取去一個、撇下一個。兩個女人推磨。取去一個、撇下一個。(太 24:40-41)

() editors of the New English Translation Bible (NET) favor an opinion that in Matthew 24:40-41 those who are taken away are saved and those who are left behind are judged.*

What is the Rapture ? 什麼是被提 ?

The rapture is to be distinguished from the second coming.
They are two different events at different times

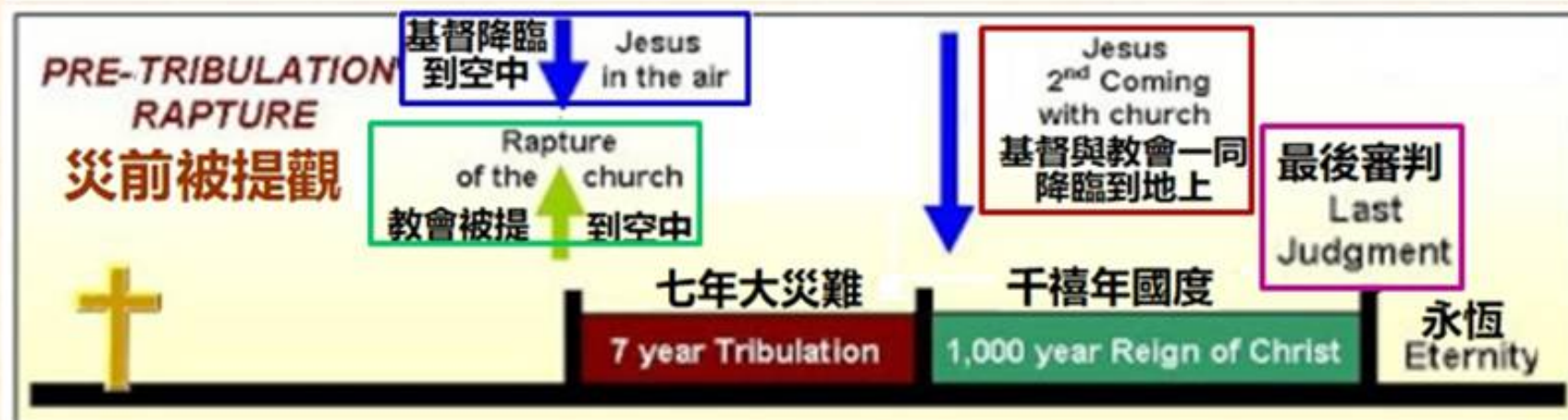
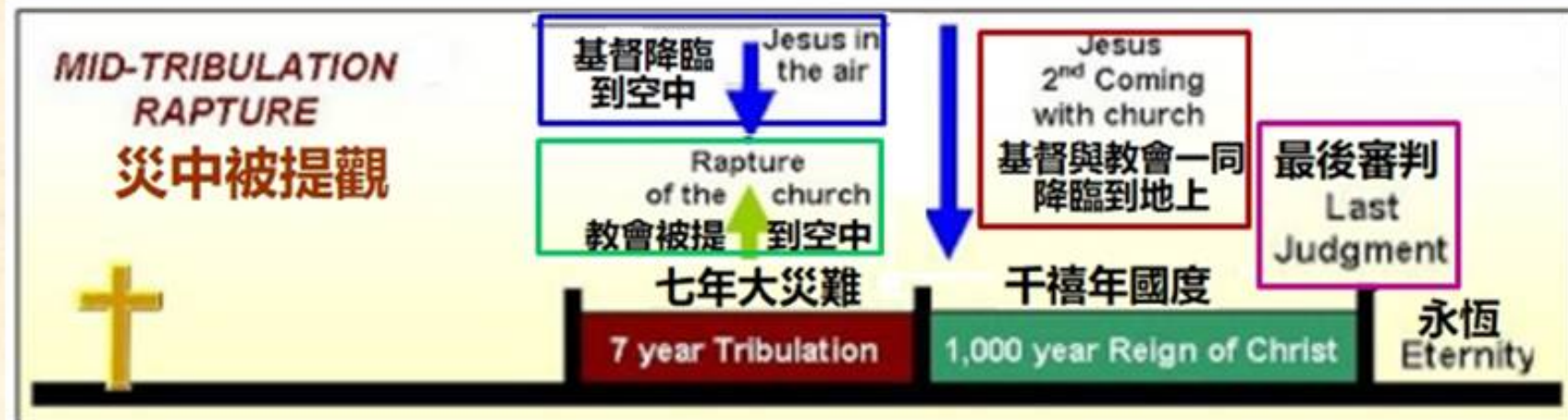
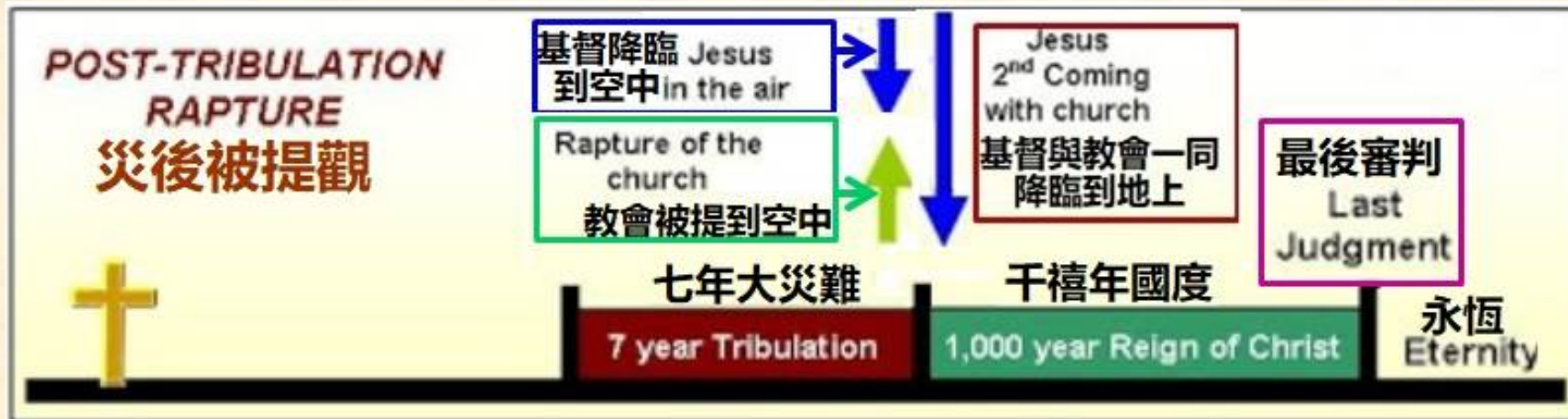
At the rapture, the Lord comes “in the clouds” to meet us
“in the air”

“For the Lord Himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air.” (1 Thes 帖前4:16–17).

因為主必親自從天降臨、有呼叫的聲音、和天使長的聲音、又有神的號吹響。那在基督裡死了的人必先復活。以後我們這活著還存留的人、必和他們一同被提到雲裡、在空中與主相遇

At the second coming, the Lord descends with us from the air all the way to the earth to stand on the Mount of Olives, followed by a defeat of God’s enemies.

Three Rapture Views 三種被提觀



John Darby
1800-1882

The Implications of Rapture Views 不同被提觀的含義

	Post-trib. or Mid-trib. Rapture 災後或災中被提	Pre-trib. Rapture 災前被提
The next event 下一件事	Tribulation 末世大災難	Rapture 被提
Who to meet 要見誰	Anti-Christ 敵基督	Christ 基督
What to do 要做什麼	Prepare to flee 準備逃難	Watch & pray 警醒禱告

Rationale for the Church's Pre-tribulation Rapture

教會災前被提的理據

- 1** End time tribulations are not for the church
末世災難不是給教會的
- 2** God always delivers the righteous from His wrath & judgment
神從來都拯救義人脫離祂的忿怒和審判
- 3** Jesus gave us “escape instruction” from the tribulations
主耶穌給我們“逃脫災難”的指導
- 4** No mention of the church during the tribulations in the Book of Revelation
在啟示錄的災難中 沒有提及教會
- 5** End time tribulations are for Israel's judgment, repentance & salvation
末世災難是為猶太人的審判、悔改和得救
- 6** The church age will end before tribulations begin
教會時期會在末日災難前結束
- 7** Nobody Knows the Day & Hour of Christ's Return.
沒有人知道主回來的日子和時辰

1

End time tribulations are not for the church

末世災難不是給教會的

The church is not appointed for end time tribulation

“Let us put on the hope of salvation as a helmet and let us wait for His Son from heaven, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come. For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.” (1 Thes 5:8,1:10; 5:9)

我們當把得救的盼望當作頭盔戴上。等候祂兒子從天降臨、就是那位救我們脫離將來忿怒的耶穌。因為神不是豫定我們受刑、乃是豫定我們藉著我們主耶穌基督得救。(帖前5:8,1:10; 5:9)

Since we have now been justified by His blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through Him!. (Rom 5:9)

所以，我們現在既然因祂的血稱義，就更該藉著祂免受神的忿怒。(羅 5:9)

[Christ] will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting eagerly for Him. (Hebrews 9:28)

[基督] 第二次顯現、與罪無關、乃是為拯救他們 (來 9:28)

1

End time tribulations are not for the church 末世災難不是給教會的

A promise to the church in Philadelphia :

“Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come upon the whole world to test those who live on the earth” (Rev .啟3:10)

“你既遵守我忍耐的道、我必在普天下人受試煉的時候、保守你免去你的試煉”(啟 3:10)

2 God always delivers the righteous from His wrath & judgment 神向來拯救義人脫離祂的忿怒和審判

God consistently protects the righteous and delivers them when He poured His wrath and judgment on the wicked and ungodly

[God] did not spare the ancient world when He brought the flood on its ungodly people, but **protected** Noah, a preacher of **righteousness**, and seven others (2 Peter 2:5)

神也沒有寬容上古的世代、曾叫洪水臨到那不敬虔的世代、卻**保護**了**傳義道的挪亞**一家八口。(彼後 2:5)

if He condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah by burning them to ashes, and made them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly, and **if He rescued Lot, a righteous man, then the Lord knows how to rescue godly men from trials** and to hold the unrighteous for the day of judgment while continuing their punishment. (2 Peter 2:6-9)

[神]又判定所多瑪、蛾摩拉、將二城傾覆、焚燒成灰、作為後世不敬虔人的鑑戒。只**搭救了**那常為惡人淫行憂傷的**義人羅得**。主知道**搭救敬虔的人脫離試探**、把不義的人留在刑罰之下、等候審判的日子。(彼後 2:6-9)

3 Jesus gave us “escape instruction” from tribulations 主耶穌給我們“逃脫災難”的指導

Luke 路加福音 21:36

34 "Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with dissipation, drunkenness (**self-indulgence**) and the anxieties of life, and that day will close on you unexpectedly like a trap. **35** For it will come upon all those who live on the face of the whole earth.

34 你們要謹慎、恐怕因貪食醉酒並今生的思慮、累住你們的心、那日子就如同網羅忽然臨到你們。 **35** 因為那日子要這樣臨到全地上一切居住的人。

36 Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to **escape all these things** that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man." (NKJV)

36 你們要時刻警醒，常常祈求，好讓你們能逃避這一切要發生的事，可以站在人子面前。”（新譯本）

4 No mention of the church during the tribulations in the Book of Revelation 在啟示錄的災難中 沒有提及教會

The Church was mentioned 18 times in chapter 1-3 & 1 time in 22:16

Please note: events in Revelation are chronological

Time Chapter Events

Past
過去

1

What Apostle John saw around 95 A.D. in the **Island of Patmos (拔摩海島)**

Present
現在

2 - 3

The 7 churches on earth in the church age
教會時期地上七教會

4 - 5

Worship around the throne in Heaven (church?)
天上圍繞寶座的敬拜 (教會?)

6 - 18

Tribulations on earth (7 seals, trumpets & bowls)
地上大災難 (七印、七號、七碗)

Future
將來

19

Lamb's wedding feast in heaven & Jesus returns to earth
天上羔羊的婚宴, 主耶穌再回到地上

20

Jesus rules in millennium on earth **基督地上作王千年**

21 - 22

New heaven & earth & eternity **新天、新地、永恆**

4 No mention of the church during the tribulations in the Book of Revelation 在啓示錄的災難中 沒有提及教會

There is a **scene change from earth in Rev. 3 to heaven in Rev. 4**

There is worship around the throne in Heaven in Rev. 4-5

Who are those in worship around the throne? 24 elders

And they sang a new song: "You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and **with your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation**" - who else can they be except the church representatives

When and how did the church go from the earth in Rev. 3 to heaven in Rev. 4 ?

- **Undoubtedly the church has been raptured.**

Rev. 4:1 "After this I looked, and there before me was a door standing **open in heaven**. And the **voice** I had first heard speaking to me like **a trumpet** said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this." - doesn't that sound like a rapture?

啓 4:1 "此後、我觀看、見天上有門開了、我初次聽見好像吹號的聲音、對我說、你上到這裡來、我要將以後必成的事指示你。"

5 End time tribulations are for Israel's judgment, repentance & salvation 末世災難是為猶太人的審判、悔改和得救

“then let **those** who are in **Judea** flee to the mountains.. Pray that your flight will not take place in winter or **on the Sabbath**. For then there will be great distress.. If those days had not been cut short, no one would survive, but for the sake of **the elect** those days will be shortened. (Mat. 24:16,20-22) 那時、**在猶太的**、應當逃到山上。你們應當祈求、叫你們逃走的時候、不遇見冬天、或是**安息日**。因為那時、必有大災難。若不減少那日子、凡有血氣的、總沒有一個得救的。只是為**選民**、那日子必減少了(太24:16,20-22)

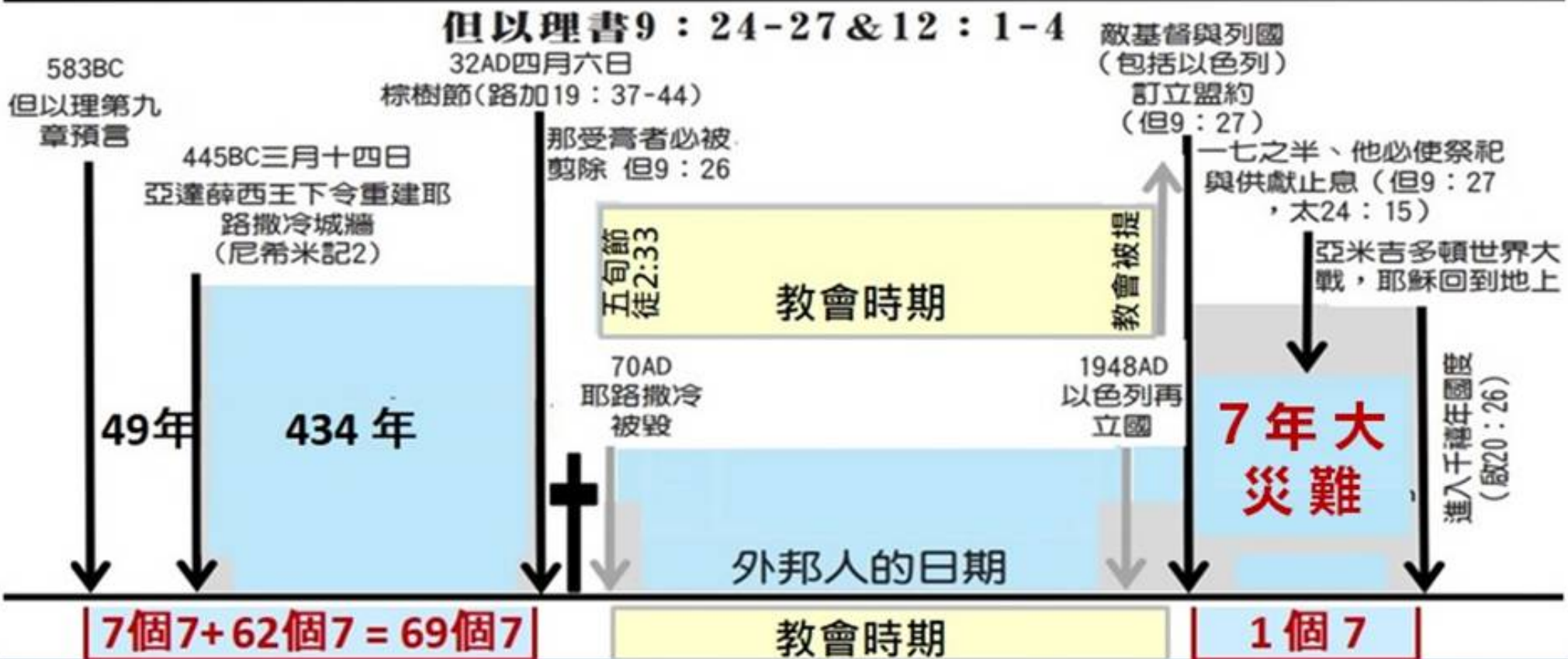
“But from there **you will seek the LORD** your God, and you will find him, if you search after him with all your heart and with all your soul. **When you are in tribulation**, and all these things come upon you in the **latter days**, you will return to the **LORD** your God and obey his voice,(Deut. 4:29-30) 但你們在那裡必尋求**耶和華**你的神。你盡心盡性尋求他的時候、就必尋見。日後你遭遇一切患難的時候、你必歸回**耶和華**你神、聽從他的話(申命記24:16,20-22)

5 End time tribulations are for Israel's judgment, repentance & salvation 末世災難是為猶太人的審判、悔改和得救

“How awful that day will be! None will be like it. It will be a time of trouble for Jacob, but he will be saved out of it” (Jer. 30:7)

“哀哉、那日為大、無日可比、這是雅各遭難的時候、但他必被救出來。” (耶利米書30:7)

但以理書的七十個七--神的時間表



6

The church age will end before tribulations begin
教會時期會在末日災難前結束

God has different programs for the nation of Israel & the church

Program for Israel – the 70 weeks (490 years) of Daniel’s prophecy

49 years for rebuilding Jerusalem – 7 weeks start from 445BC

434 years for the “anointed” Messiah to come – 62 weeks

the “anointed” cut off (Jesus crucified) @end of 62nd week

----- Program for Israel suspended after Messiah cut off -----

----- Church program for gentiles starts -----

H.S. descends & baptized believers into one body of Christ

Gospel preached to all nations

Christ returns to the air, believers raptured to meet Christ in

the air. H.S. departs the world with believers (2 Thes 2:4-8)

-----Church program on earth for gentiles ends -----

----- Program for Israel (Daniel’s 70 weeks) resumes -----

7 years of tribulation (1 week, Daniel’s 70th week)

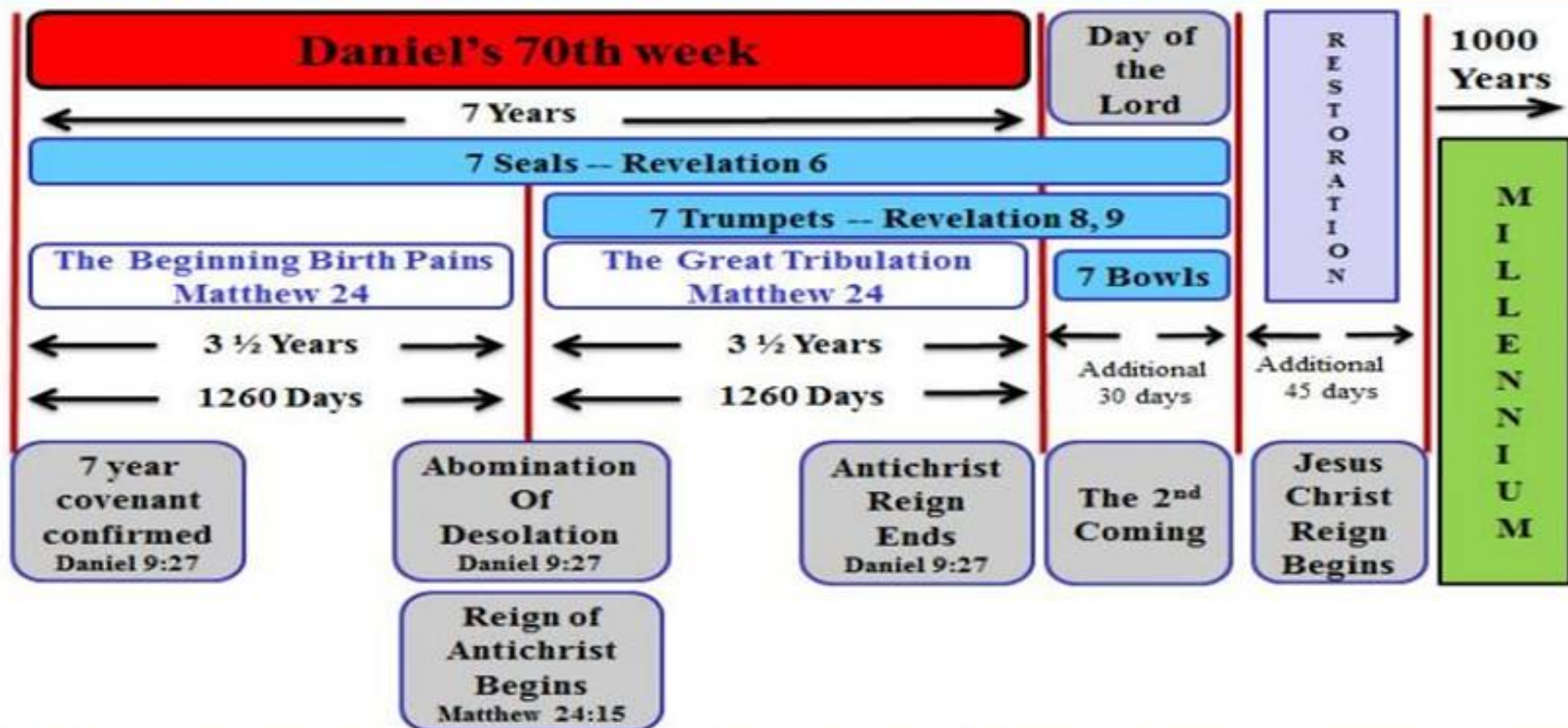
Israel repents & restored (Rom 11: 25-27). Messiah returns to earth

1000 years kingdom of heaven established on earth, Jesus rules

7 Nobody Knows the Day & Hour of Christ's Return. 沒有人知道主回來的日子和時辰

Jesus said no one knows about that day or hour of His return.

IF the church enters the tribulation period, one can figure out Jesus' return date based on Daniel's prophecy and witness events unfold according to the sequence in the Book of Revelation



Christ's return is imminent in the sense He can come any time to **meet us in the air** because there is no event that must happen beforehand on the prophetic calendar

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Will the Church Go Through the Tribulation
by John MacArthur www.gty.org

Pastor John MacArthur 麥克阿瑟牧師 is senior pastor of Grace Community Church in Sun Valley, California and president of Master's College and Seminary.

He has been acknowledged as one of the most influential preachers of his time. He emphasizes on rightly dividing the Word of truth (按著正意講解真理的道) and verse by verse exegesis (逐節釋經).

MacArthur received many awards for the books he wrote, including his Bible commentary which has been translated into Chinese and other languages



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John F. Walvoord



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The Rapture Question

by John Walvoord <https://walvoord.com/>

Dr. John F. Walvoord: long-time president of Dallas Theological Seminary, was one of the most prominent evangelical scholars of his generation.

He is known worldwide and is considered the world's foremost interpreter of biblical prophecy.

In 1990 President G.H. Bush requested copies of John's book **Armageddon, Oil and Terror** for his White House staff to read.

Academic Books

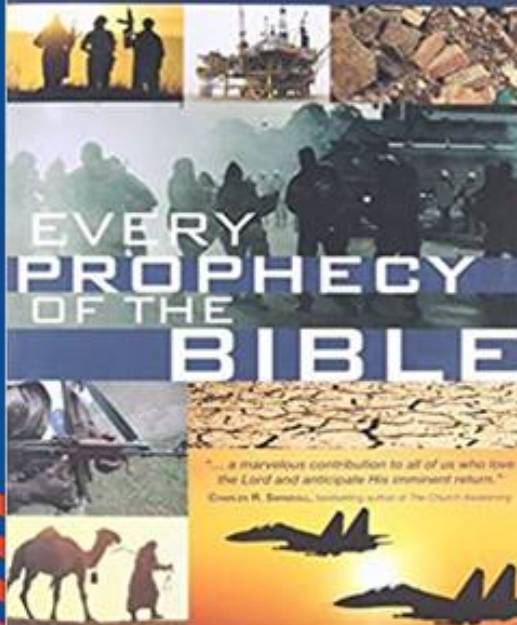
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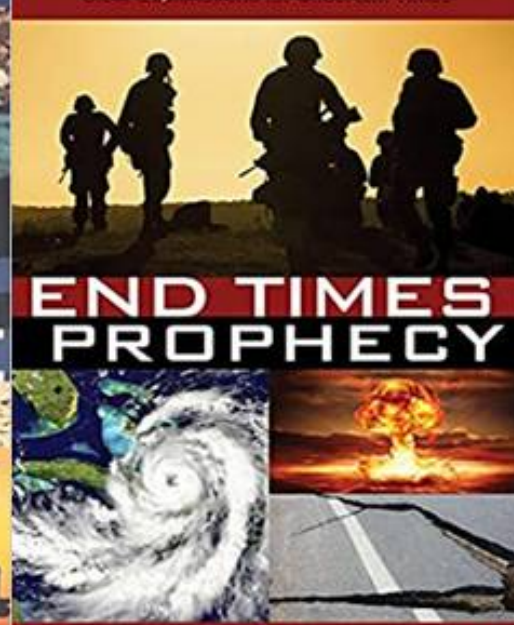
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The
REDEEMER'S
RETURN

The Redeemer's Return
by Arthur W. Pink (平克)

<https://gracegems.org/Pink/Books.htm>

Arthur W. Pink, a man too little known among Christians today, was one of the leading Bible scholars of the twentieth century. He was recognized as a man called & born to write.

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A BIOGRAPHY



RICHARD P. BELCHER

Among his readers were great preachers like Martyn Lloyd Jones (鍾馬田牧師) who highly recommended young ministers to read Pink's books.

His writing sparked a revival of expository preaching (釋經講道) and focused readers' hearts on biblical living

Ending Words 結語

It is certainly very comforting to know that the church would not need to go through the end time big tribulations.

But if this confidence lead anyone to slacken and become unmindful of the Lord's return, he should think again.

How should we prepare for the Lord's return? Who will be raptured and who will be left behind?

Let us explore the answers to these questions in the future.

Response song - Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending
回應詩歌 - 救主降臨



Rapture or Tribulation ?

被提或災難？

1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18



帖前四章十三至十八節

MGC 7/26/2020 馬利蘭福音教會