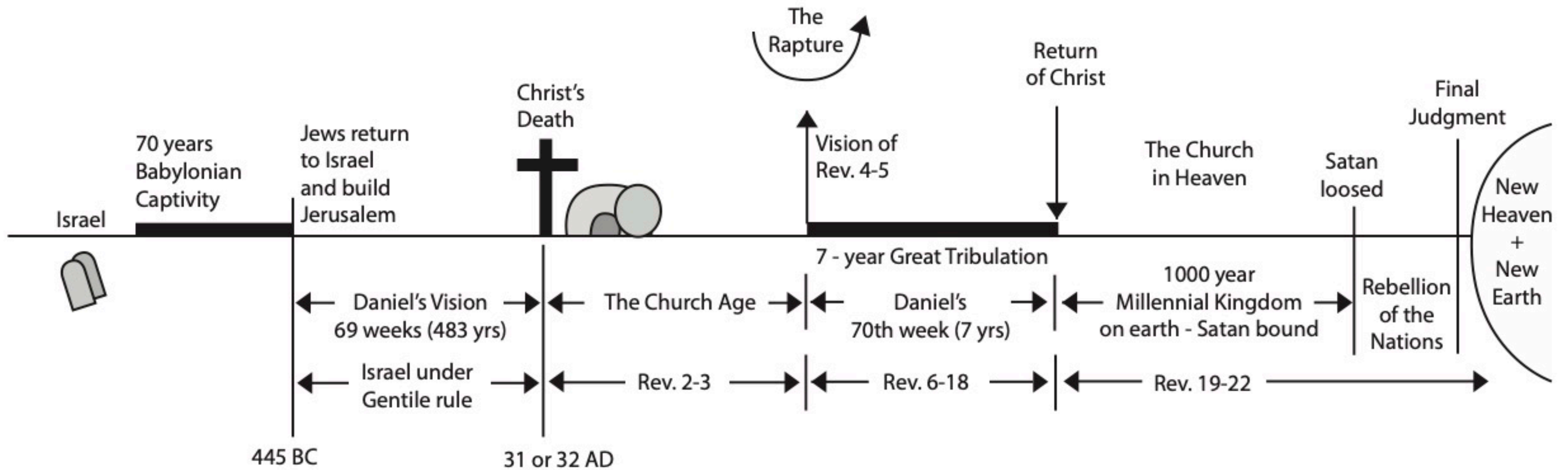


# PROPHECY TIMELINE

by Leonard Vandenberg





## ***Premillennialism*** (“Pre-mill”)

Is that view, which holds that Jesus will return to the earth to establish a literal kingdom, over which He will rule supreme for a period of a literal 1000 years. The “pre” designates the belief that Jesus will return *before* the 1000-year kingdom begins.

***Amillennialism*** (“A-mill”) is that view which holds that Jesus is presently ruling in Heaven where proponents claim He is seated on the throne of David. According to the amillennial view, Jesus will at no time rule on the earth. The 1000 years recorded by John in Revelation 20 is suggested to be symbolic of Jesus’ present heavenly reign, that extends from the Resurrection of Christ into the Eternal Age. Thus the term amillennial (without a millennium, or no millennium) holds that the 1000 years is understood to be symbolic of a long period of time rather than a literal duration of a 1000 years.

***Postmillennialism*** (“Post-mil”) is that view, which holds that Jesus is presently ruling in the Church (especially in the hearts of believers), who, empowered by the Holy Spirit, will Christianize the world and usher in a golden age of peace, prosperity, and health. The 1000 years of Revelation 20 is understood symbolically to represent this utopian age, which will last a long period of time, after which, Jesus will return to initiate the Eternal Age. “Post” then means that Jesus will return *after* the golden age is established by the Church.

***Preterism*** is that view which holds that the Biblical prophecies concerning the “end times” have already been fulfilled—in the past (Latin *praeter*). It teaches that all the end-time prophecies of the New Testament were fulfilled in AD 70 when the Romans attacked and destroyed Jerusalem. It considers that Jesus’ return to earth was a “spiritual” return, not a physical one. Partial preterists do believe in the return of Christ to earth and a future resurrection and judgment, but they do not teach a millennial kingdom or that Israel as a nation has a place in God’s future plan.

## Hippolytus (170-236)

Wrote about the 70 weeks of Daniel 9 and said the first 69 were followed by Christ's first coming and the 70th will begin after a time gap just before Christ's second coming.

Among those who believe the Premillennial View of prophecy there are differing views about the timing of the Rapture of the Church:

**-Pretribulational** Rapture (The Church will be raptured before the Great Tribulation, so that it will not experience God's coming judgments on the world).

**-Posttribulational** Rapture (The Church will go through the Tribulation and will be delivered by Christ shortly before, or simultaneously at, His return to earth).

**-Midtribulational** Rapture (The Church will be raptured at some point during the Tribulation. This is a minority view).

An early form of pre-tribulationism has been detected in the following historical documents:

- \* Apocalypse of Elijah (3rd century)
- \* Apocalypse of Ephraem of Nisibis (306-373)(4th-8th century)
- \* History of Brother Dolcino (14th century).



“All the saints and elect of God are gathered together  
before the Tribulation, which is to come,  
and are taken to the Lord, in order that they  
may not see at any time the confusion  
which overwhelms the world because of our sins.”

*Ephraem of Nisibis (306-373)  
or someone associated with him.*

“Peradventure it may come in my days, old as I am,  
or in my children’s days ... the saints “shall be  
taken up to meet Christ in the air,” and so shall  
come down with Him again. “He will put down  
Satan, that old serpent, under our feet.”

*-Hugh Latimer, c. 1485-1555*



"I am a  
long-trib  
panmillennialist."





## Arguments in support of Premillennialism & the Pretribulational Rapture View:

- \*This view is the outcome of a historical-literal interpretation of Scripture.
- \*This view is in keeping with the promises to Israel in the Old Testament.
- \*The 70 weeks of Daniel 9 are pivotal to a proper understanding of prophecy.
- \* This view corresponds with the imminency of Christ's return taught in the NT.
- \* The Church is not mentioned as being on earth in Revelation 6-18.
- \* The NT teaches us to long for the Lord's Coming, not dread God's coming judgment.

# The Differences Between the Rapture & the Return of Christ

RAPTURE
Christ will come in the air for His people (1 Thess. 4:16-17).
The Rapture is for believers only (1 Cor. 15:51).
The Rapture is imminent; it can happen any moment (Titus 2:13; Phil. 3:20).
The Rapture is a revealed mystery in the New Testament (1 Cor. 15:51).
The Church is waiting for the Rapture to be carried into heaven (John 14:1-3).
Christ will come as the Morning Star before the Day breaks (Rev. 22:16).

RETURN OF CHRIST
He will come with His people to the earth (Zech. 14:1-5; 1 Thess. 3:13).
His Return on the clouds of heaven affects the whole earth (Zech. 14:4).
His Return is preceded by signs (2 Thess. 2:2-8; Matt. 24:29-31).
The Return is much prophesied about in the Old Testament.
The expectation of the remnant of Israel is to be carried into the Kingdom of God.
Christ will come as the Sun of righteousness and appear to all men (Mal. 4:2)