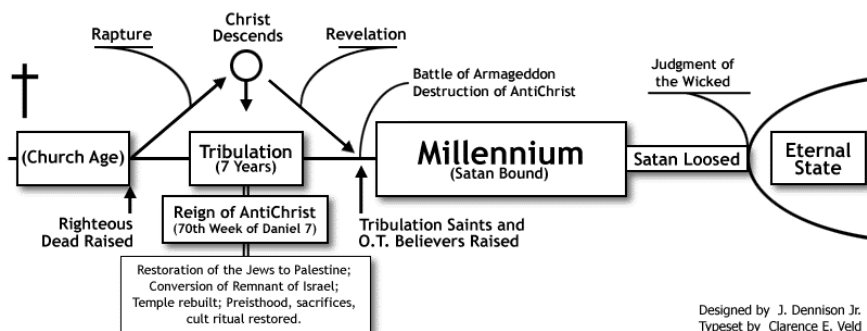


Certainties of the Second Coming

There are many uncertainties concerning the last days, and also some certainties. There are some things you can bank on, because they are plain in God's Word. Today we'll look at some of them.

20th Century evangelicals generally believed and were taught this chart:



We can be certain that...

The Lord will come and take His children away.

The Latin word used for this event is “rapture”.

*“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. 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.”*

- 1 Thessalonians 4:16,17

“Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed— ⁵² in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. ⁵³ For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality.”

- 1 Corinthians 15:51-53

There are three Greek words that tell of Jesus' coming:

1. παρουσία (Parousia) – 24 times in the New Testament. “coming”

2. φανερω (Phanerow) – brightness, splendour.

“Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.”

- 1 John 3:2

3. αποκαλυψις (Apocalupsis) – “disclosure” “revealing” unveiling of Jesus

“Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed.”

- 1 Corinthians 1:7

There will be unprecedented tribulation and distress.

“For then there will be great distress, unequaled from the beginning of the world until now—and never to be equaled again.”

- Matthew 24:21

“A third of mankind was killed by the three plagues of fire, smoke and sulfur that came out of their mouths.”

- Revelation 9:58

A Man who is “Anti-Christ” will rule the world for a while

*“I say this because many deceivers, who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh, have gone out into the world. Any such person is the deceiver and the **antichrist**.”*

- 2 John 7

*“Concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered to Him, we ask you, brothers and sisters, ² not to become easily unsettled or alarmed by the teaching allegedly from us—whether by a prophecy or by word of mouth or by letter—asserting that the day of the Lord has already come. ³ Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the **man of lawlessness** is revealed, the man doomed to destruction. ⁴ He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God. ⁸ And then **the lawless one** will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will overthrow with the breath of His mouth and destroy by the splendor of His coming.”*

- 2 Thessalonians 2:2-4,8

The Antichrist will have control in three areas:

1. Political control. (Revelation 13:7)

“It was given power to wage war against God's holy people and to conquer them. And it was given authority over every tribe, people, language and nation.”

- Revelation 13:7

2. Economic control. (Revelation 13:16,17)

“It also forced all people, great and small, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hands or on their foreheads, ¹⁷ so that they could not buy or sell unless they had the mark, which is the name of the beast or the number of its name.”

- Revelation 13:16,17

3. Religious control. (Revelation 13:15)

“The second beast was given power to give breath to the image of the first beast, so that the image could speak and cause all who refused to worship the image to be killed.”

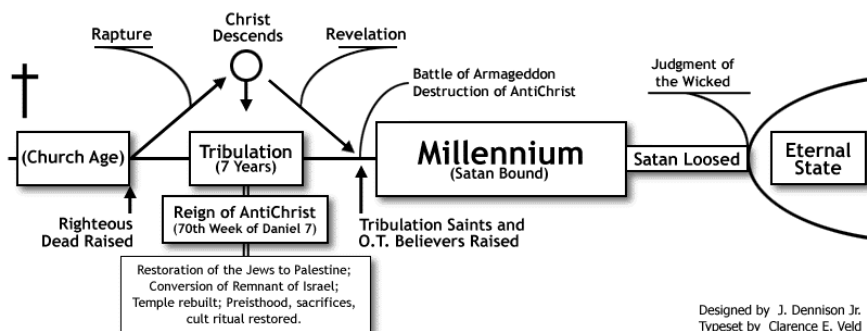
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