

# ESCHATOLOGY

GOD'S FINAL CHAPTER

Week 3 – Difficulties with the Pre/Mid Rapture Position

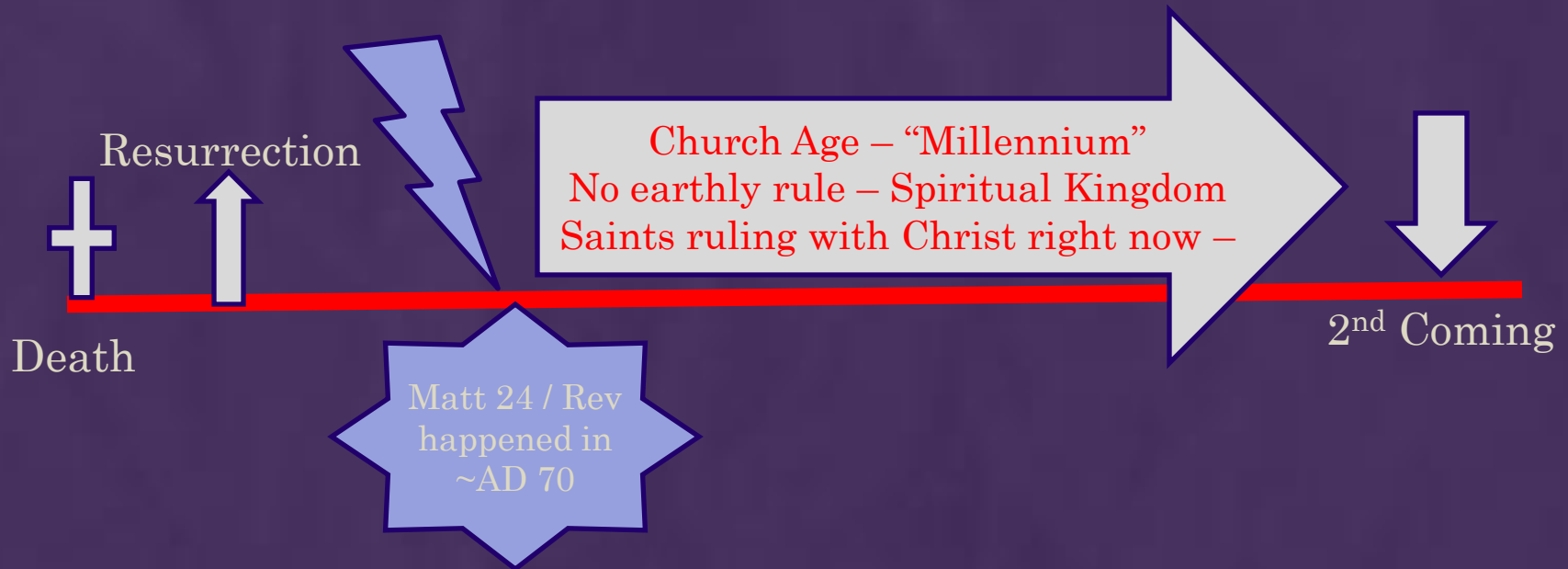
# POST – MIL

Christ returns after the world becomes Christian



# A – MIL (PRETERIST)

Matt 24 / Rev already happened –  
Christ returns after a metaphorical millennium



# PRE – MIL

Literal 1000 years - Christ rules on earth w/ Saints



**3 Rapture Positions -**

**Pre / Mid / Post (& Pre-Wrath)**



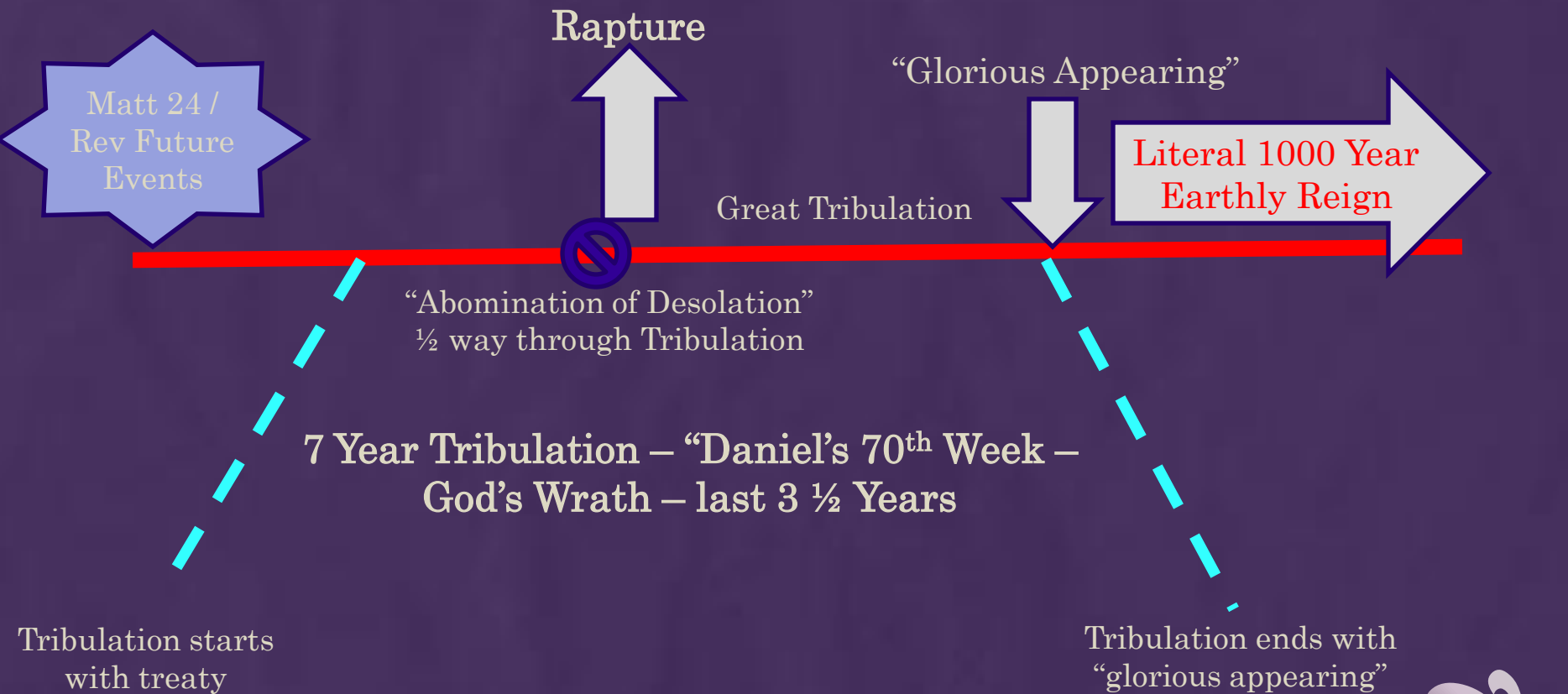
# PRE – TRIB

Rapture and 2<sup>nd</sup> coming are separated by 7 years –  
Christians do NOT go through tribulation



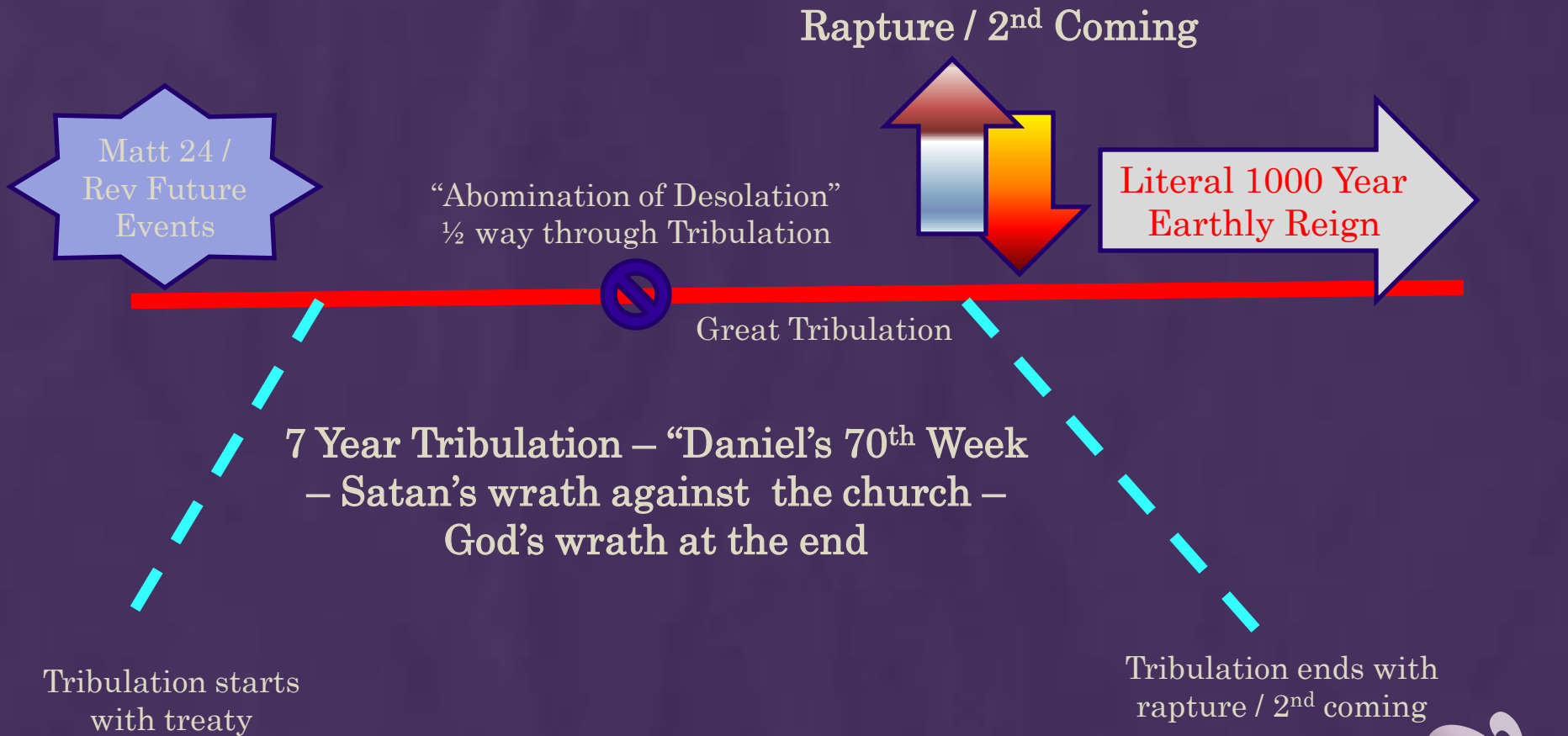
# MID-TRIB

Rapture and 2<sup>nd</sup> coming are separated by 3.5 years -  
Rapture occurs right after “abomination of desolation”



# POST – TRIB (& “PRE-WRATH”)

Rapture and 2<sup>nd</sup> coming are same event and same time –  
Christians go through Tribulation



# ADDITIONAL THOUGHTS ON THE RAPTURE – KEY CONCEPTS

## 1. Matt 24 (Primary NT Reference outside of Revelation)

- ☞ Jesus defines the birth pangs then describes the tribulation (v.9)
- ☞ Christ describes persecution of church then great tribulation
- ☞ Great signs – Joel 2.28-32, Acts 2.14, Rev 6.12-17 followed by His return
- ☞ Coming seen by all – pre tribers call this the “glorious appearing”
- ☞ Use of the term “elect” vs. 22, 24, 31 - << *eklektos* >> obtaining salvation through Christ - chosen by God - in NT only refers to NT church
- ☞ V. 30-31 – Rapture (gathering) same thing / time as 2<sup>nd</sup> coming and associated with the trumpet (DOTL – Judgment )



# ADDITIONAL THOUGHTS ON THE RAPTURE – KEY CONCEPTS

## 2. 2 Thes 2.1-12

- ☞ V.1 Paul associates coming of Christ (2<sup>nd</sup> Coming) with being gathered to Him (Notice the sequence)
- ☞ V. 2 DOTL associated with previous – i.e. coming and gathering
- ☞ V.3 DOTL will not occur until the man of lawlessness is revealed
- ☞ V. 6 “what is holding him back” pre/mid “what” is the Holy Spirit (connected to the church) –



# ADDITIONAL THOUGHTS ON THE RAPTURE – KEY CONCEPTS

## 3. Other Key Verses

- ☞ Matt 13.37-43 – Parable of the weeds – 2<sup>nd</sup> coming – Parousia leads to judgment
- ☞ I Cor 1.7-8 – Paul clearly writing to the church -tells us that Jesus will keep us strong to the end
- ☞ I Cor 15.50-54 – Rapture is clearly associated with the last trumpet –
- ☞ I Thes 4.13-18 – Rapture tied to return and final trumpet
- ☞ Titus 2.13 – Blessed Hope – only if Christians are in tribulation



# ADDITIONAL THOUGHTS ON THE RAPTURE – KEY CONCEPTS

## 4. Doctrinal Issues w/ pre/mid-trib

- ❧ “Doctrine of imminence” – Does not exist
- ❧ Separation of two events – bible never separates rapture and return of Christ
- ❧ Must have allegorical rapture
- ❧ Forces NT passages to refer to “Nation of Israel” instead of church
- ❧ Forces doctrine of dispensationalism which is not biblical



# ADDITIONAL THOUGHTS ON THE RAPTURE – KEY CONCEPTS

## 5. Parousia

- ☞ Parousia – arrival or visit of the king or emperor
- ☞ Parousia used 17 times in NT referring to 2<sup>nd</sup> coming – Matt 24.3, 27, 37, 39, I Cor 15.23, I Thes 2.19, 3.13, 4.15, 5.23, 2 Thes 2.1,8, James 5.7,8, 2 Pet 1.16, 3.4,12, I John 2.28 - 1 Thes 3.13, 2 Thes 2.8, 2 Pet 1.16 refer to coming of Christ at battle of Armageddon
- ☞ Paul teaches that the Parousia / coming ends the reign of the man of lawlessness therefore Christ's coming must be post-trib
- ☞ Parousia indisputably post trib in Matt 24.3, 27, 37, 39, 2 Thes 2.8
- ☞ Parousia explicitly stated to be the object of believers expectation in I Thes 2.19, 3.13, James 5.7-8, I John 2.28



# ADDITIONAL THOUGHTS ON THE RAPTURE – KEY CONCEPTS

## 6. Tribulation is Satan's Wrath – NOT GOD's

☞ Rev 12.11-17 – tribulation is wrath of Satan

☞ Is 2.12-22 – God alone is magnified when His wrath begins

☞ Rev 6.12-17 – God's wrath on earth begins with the trumpet judgments

☞ Great Multitude in Rev 7.9-17

☞ Wrath of God brings Antichrist's wrath to end



# ADDITIONAL THOUGHTS ON THE RAPTURE – KEY CONCEPTS

## 7. Day of the Lord – THE DAY

- ☞ DOTL always associated with Christ's Return - No NT references to DOTL include reference to tribulation
- ☞ 2 Thes 2 – DOTL cannot come until certain events appear, e.g. man of lawlessness revealed, abomination of desolation, etc.
- ☞ Mal 4.5, Joel 2.30-31 – cosmic portents place tribulation events before the DOTL
- ☞ I Thes 4.13-18, deliverance or rapture coincides with the inception of coming of the DOTL



# Eschatologists Anonymous

Hi  
Roger

Hi  
Roger

Hi  
Roger

Hi  
Roger



"Hi. My name is Roger, and I'm a recovering dispensational mid-trib pre-millennialist."