

GOD'S PLAN UNFOLDS

Part 11

*Disagreeing Well: Dialog That Develops
Christ-like Character*

**As God unfolds His kingdom plan, He
intends us to use it for our mutual
good**

**GOD'S PLAN UNFOLDS, PART 11 -
MESSAGE**

DISAGREEING WELL

I. Let's love and share the precious truths packed into the Rapture

- ▶ “Rapture” from the Latin translation of the Greek word for “caught up” (*harpazo*, 1 Thess 4:17)
- ▶ The Rapture is Jesus’ promise to raise His people from the dead, transform their bodies, and meet them in the air prior to His descent to earth (Second Coming)



Satan's Lies:

To distract us from

- ▶ Death brings grief without hope
- ▶ Deceased believers will be forgotten
- ▶ Deceased believers will miss out!
- ▶ Will Jesus keep His promise in Jn 14:3?
- ▶ Response: Uncertainty leads to despair!

Truths To Stand On:

- ▶ Truth ensures robust hope even in death (13)
- ▶ Deceased believers will return with Jesus! (14)
- ▶ Dead saints will be glorified first! (15-16)
- ▶ Living saints will be glorified—forever with Jesus (17)
- ▶ Response: Comfort each other with this truth (18)

1 THESSALONIANS 4:17

Why is the Rapture necessary?

- ▶ Jesus promised to return for His people (Jn 14:3)
- ▶ Jesus will give life to our mortal bodies (Rom 8:11)
- ▶ We need heavenly, immortal, incorruptible bodies (1 Cor 15:42-44, 49-58)
- ▶ The Rapture is the occasion for all of this!

THE RAPTURE – 1 THESS 4:17

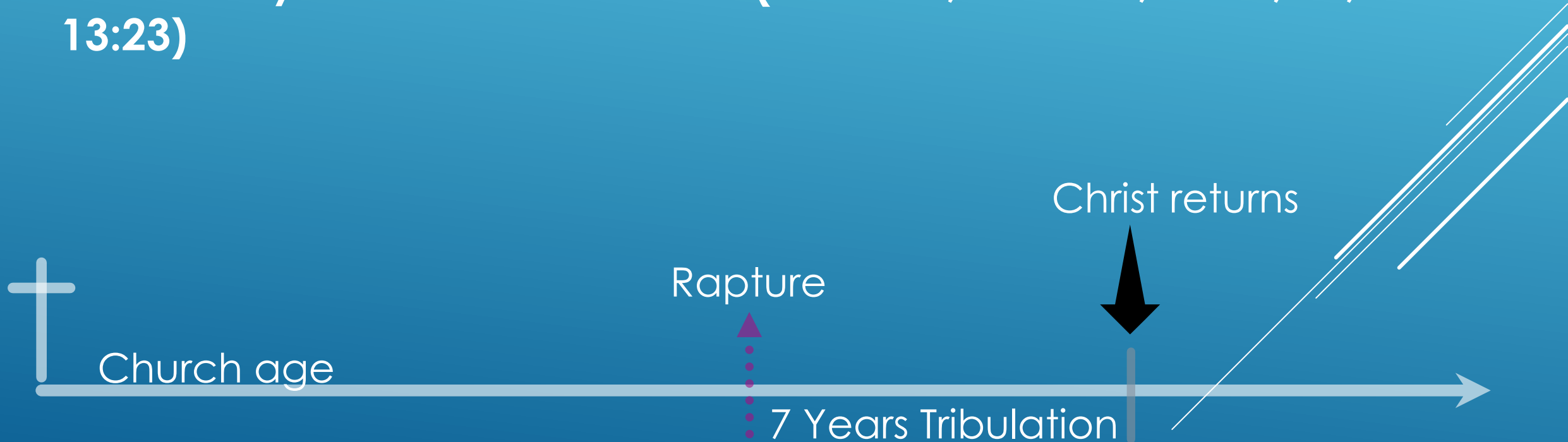
DISAGREEING WELL

II. Let's learn to appreciate our brother's view on the timing of the Rapture

- ▶ **Dispensational Premillennial:**
 - ▶ Rapture is before the great Tribulation (7 yrs before Second Coming), or,
 - ▶ Rapture is mid-way into Tribulation before God's wrath
- ▶ **Historic Premillennial, Amillennial and Postmillennial**
 - ▶ Rapture happens at Jesus' Second Coming

PRE-TRIBULATION RAPTURE

- Promise of keeping believers from the “hour of testing” (Rev 3:10)
- Promise of rescuing believers from God’s wrath (1 Thess 1:10 ; 5:9)
- Call to stay alert for Jesus’ return (Mt 24:42; Lk 12:40; 21:34, 36; Mk 13:23)



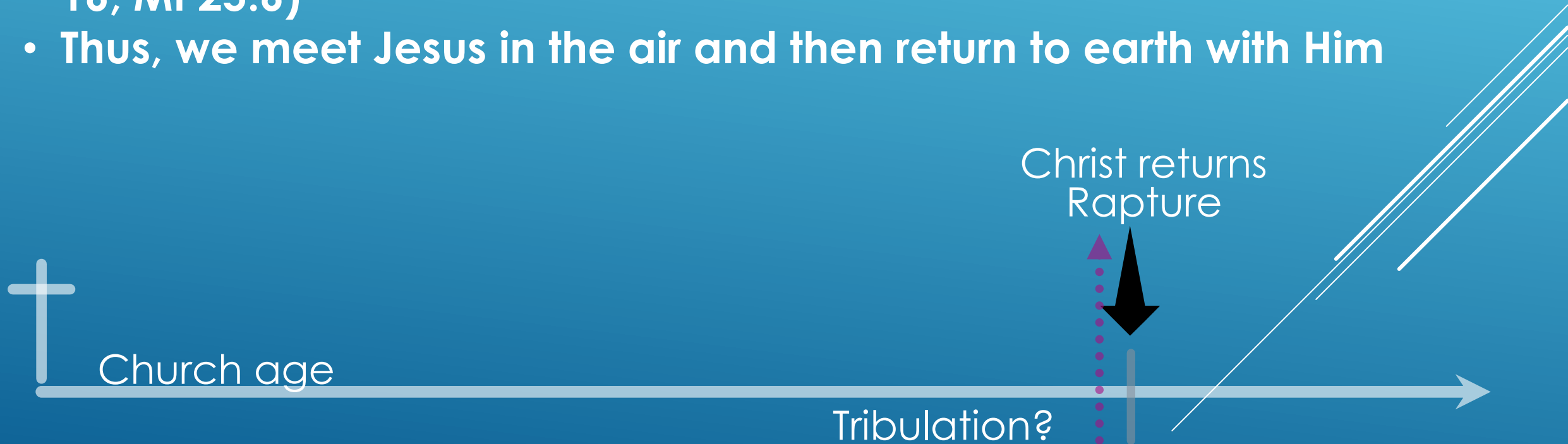
PRE-WRATH (MID-TRIBULATION) RAPTURE

- Promise of rescuing believers from God's wrath (1 Thess 1:10 ; 5:9)
- Call to stay alert for Jesus' return (Mt 24:42; Lk 12:40; 21:34, 36; Mk 13:23)



POST-TRIBULATION RAPTURE

- Rapture seems to be at the Second Coming (Rev 20:4)
- “Meet” (1 Thess 4:17) used for people coming out to meet a dignitary then accompanying him into the city/house (Acts 28:15-16; Mt 25:6)
- Thus, we meet Jesus in the air and then return to earth with Him



Resources on the 3 Rapture views

- ▶ ***Come, Lord Jesus***, John Piper (post-trib)
- ▶ ***Christ's Prophetic Plans***, John MacArthur & Richard Mayhue (pre-trib)
- ▶ ***The Rapture: Pretribulation, Prewrath, or Posttribulation***, ed. Stanley Gundry & Alan Hultberg (all 3 views represented and debated)

THE TIMING OF THE RAPTURE

DISAGREEING WELL

III. Let's use our differences to build up each other

- ▶ Learn to maintain the right mindset – Not “my tribe vs your tribe”, not my identity (1 Cor 1:10-17)
- ▶ Learn to manifest the right character (Rom 14:17; Gal 5:22-23; Jas 3:17)

DISAGREEING WELL

III. Let's use our differences to build up each other

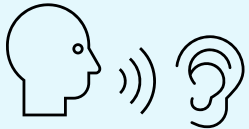
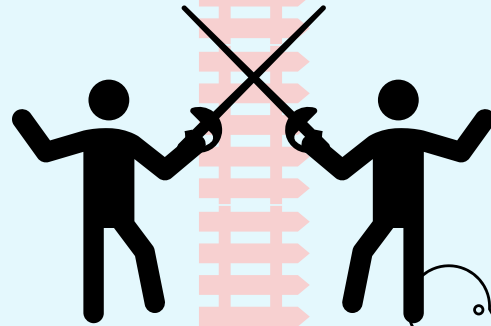
- ▶ Learn to practice the right methods/techniques
 1. Present brother's view in the best possible light (1 Cor 13:7)
 2. Work backward until you find common ground with your brother
 3. Learn to ask good questions
 4. Make your goal mutual edification instead of conquest (Eph 4:29)
 5. Remember reality

“RAPTURE” BATTLE

You are my enemy!!!

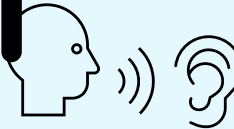
Post-trib Rapture

Pre-trib Rapture



Satan whispers in your ear...the pre-trib Christian:

- is your enemy!
- believes Christians are exempt from suffering
- is silly to think the Rapture is 7 years before Jesus' returns!



Satan whispers in your ear...the post-trib Christian:

- is your enemy!
- believes Christians won't be protected from God's wrath
- is silly to think we'll do a U-turn in the clouds!



Zoom out to...

THE REAL BATTLE

Kingdom of Darkness

Satan is your enemy! His strategies include:

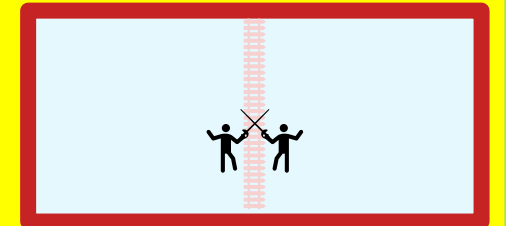
- Getting believers to fight about non-primary issues
- Sow division among the saints
- Foster “my tribe against your tribe”
- Keep their eyes off of the REAL battle



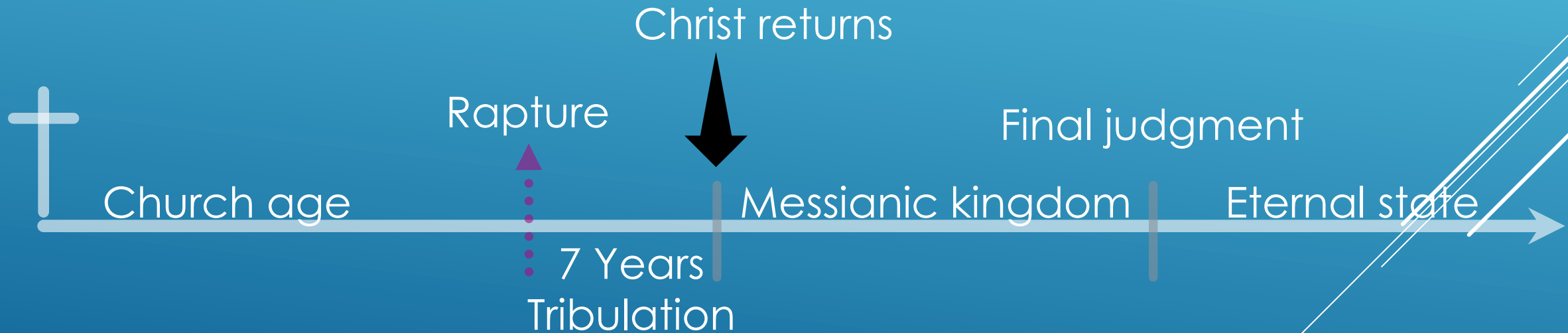
Kingdom of Light

You're fighting the **WRONG** enemy!!! Realize that:

- This issue is actually a tiny portion of the wonderful body of Christian doctrine
- You're actually on the **SAME SIDE!!!**
- You should work together to fight Satan's lies and schemes

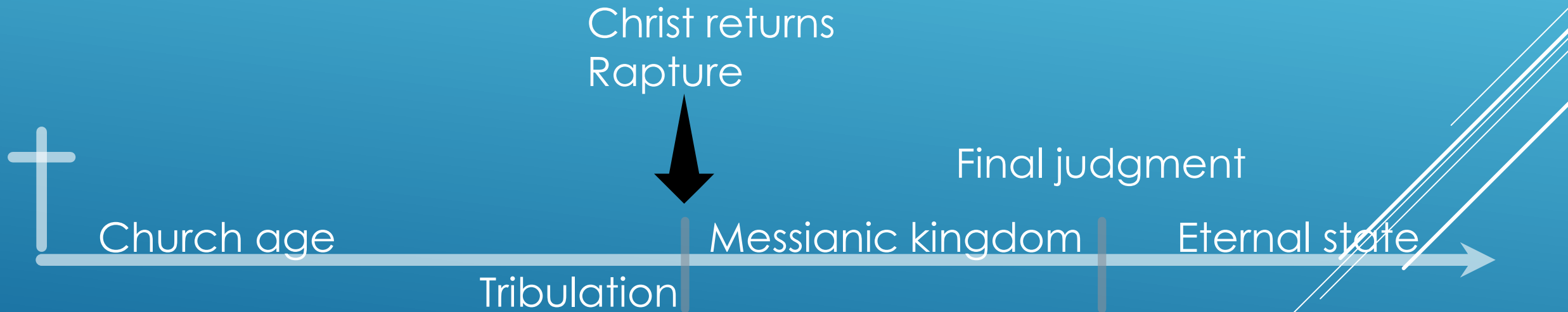


- ▶ **Messianic Kingdom: future, literal, King on earth**
- ▶ **Second Coming: Jesus returns before (Pre-mill) kingdom begins**
- ▶ **Tribulation: Great Tribulation 7 years before Jesus returns**
- ▶ **Rapture: Before Tribulation**
- ▶ **Israel: Mass conversion, nation is restored**



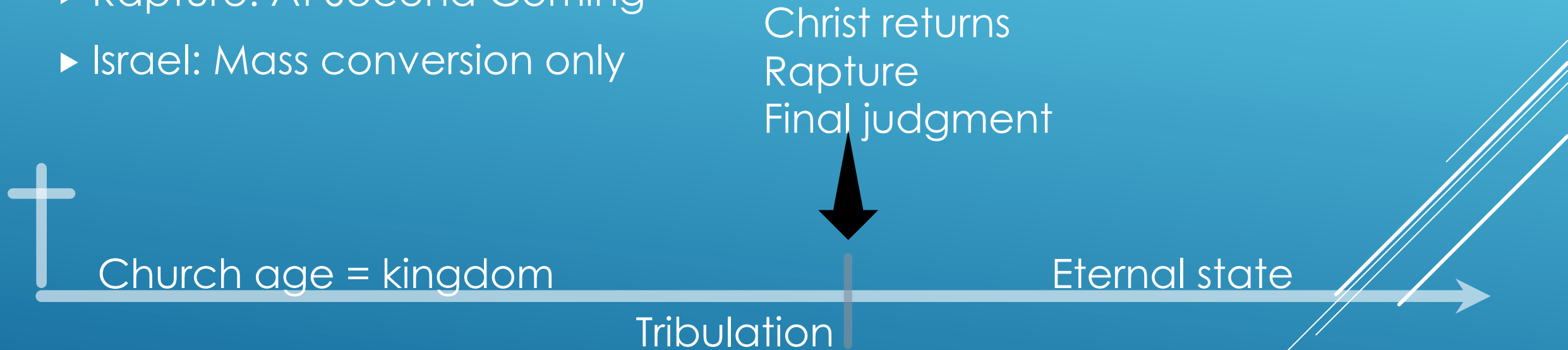
PREMILLENNIALISM - DISPENSATIONAL

- ▶ **Messianic Kingdom: future, literal, King on earth**
- ▶ **Second Coming: Jesus returns before (Pre-mill) kingdom begins**
- ▶ **Tribulation: Great Tribulation 7 years before Jesus returns**
- ▶ **Rapture: At Second Coming**
- ▶ **Israel: Mass conversion**



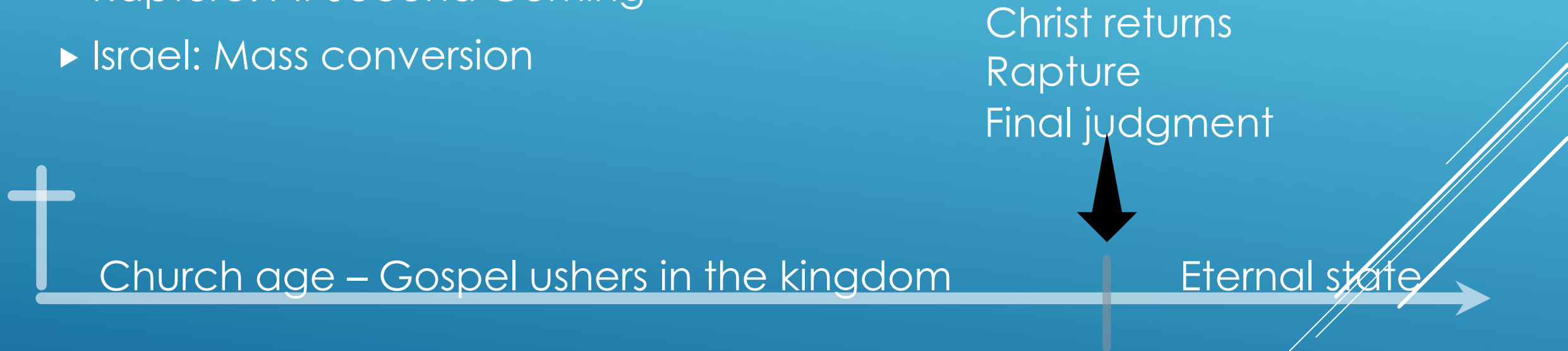
PREMILLENNIALISM - HISTORIC

- ▶ Messianic Kingdom: not literal and/or not 1,000 years (A-mill)
- ▶ Messianic Kingdom: now, spiritual reign, King in heaven
- ▶ Second Coming: Jesus returns after “kingdom” age is complete
- ▶ Tribulation: Great Tribulation or things get progressively worse
- ▶ Rapture: At Second Coming
- ▶ Israel: Mass conversion only



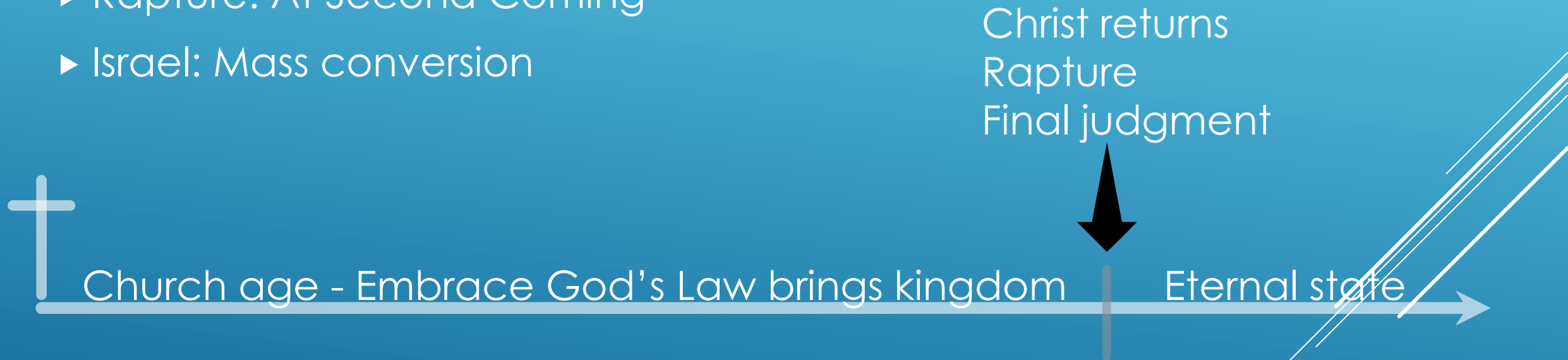
AMILLENNIALISM

- ▶ Messianic Kingdom: future, literal, King in heaven, saints rule on earth
- ▶ Second Coming: Jesus returns after (Post-mill) kingdom ends
- ▶ Tribulation: Times of tribulation during church age
- ▶ Gospel preached to all peoples of earth, then millennium begins
- ▶ Rapture: At Second Coming
- ▶ Israel: Mass conversion



POSTMILLENNIALISM - TRADITIONAL

- ▶ Messianic Kingdom: future, literal, King in heaven, saints rule on earth
- ▶ Second Coming: Jesus returns after (Post-mill) kingdom ends
- ▶ Tribulation: Times of tribulation during church age
- ▶ Peoples of earth embrace God's Law, then millennium begins
- ▶ Rapture: At Second Coming
- ▶ Israel: Mass conversion



POSTMILLENNIALISM - THEONOMIC