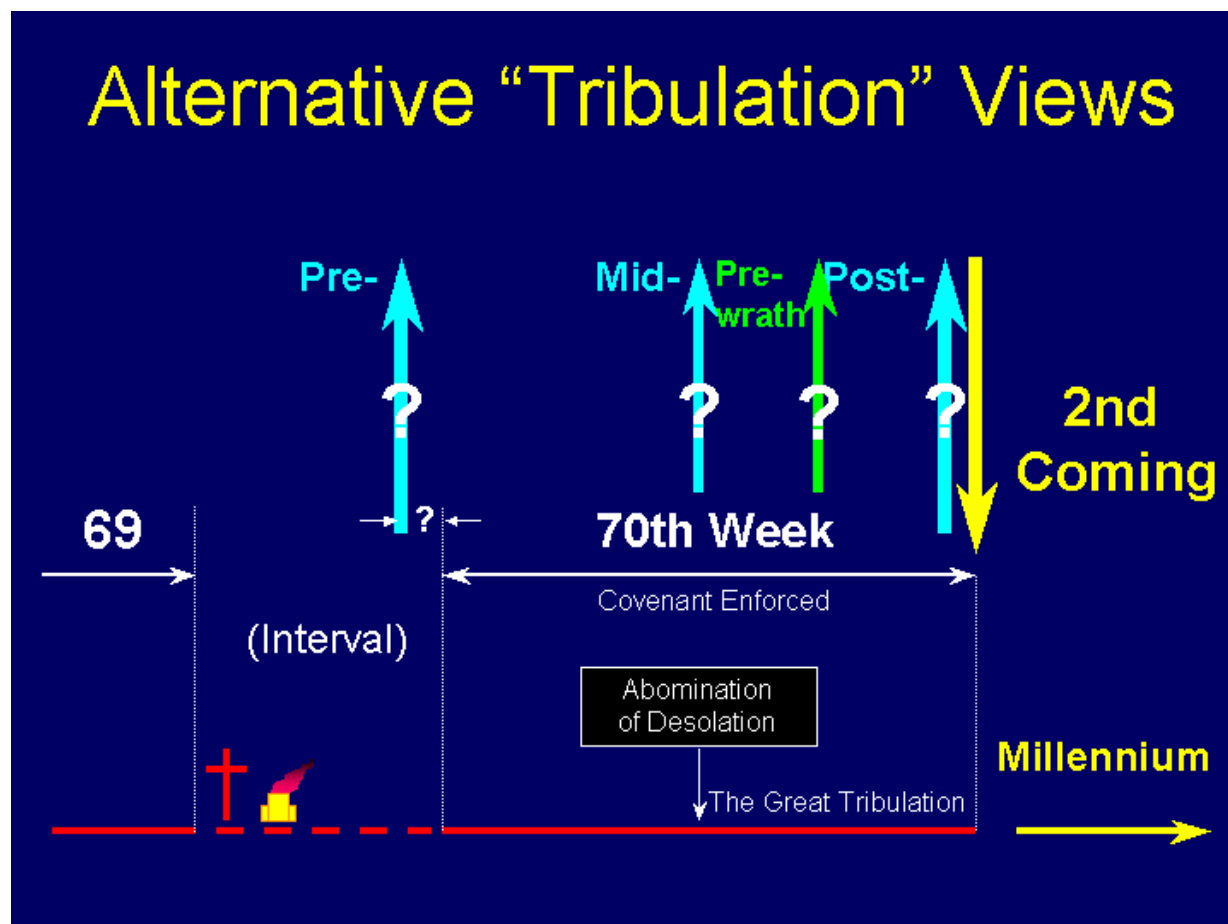


Rapture, Mid-Tribulation View



An Overview of the Mid-Tribulation View

- The first 3 1/2 years of Daniel's 70th Week see nothing more than general trials and troubles that the world always goes through.
- The Antichrist is revealed with the abomination of desolation half way through the 70th week.
- The two witnesses of Rev. 11 are killed half way through the 70th week.
- During the 3 1/2 days when the dead bodies of the two witnesses are left in the streets to be seen, Christians will experience tremendous and intense tribulation. This tribulation is not characterized as the wrath of God but as the wrath of man.
- At the end of the 3 1/2 days, the two witnesses are resurrected and raptured (Rev. 11:11-12) which is a picture of the rapture of the Church. This is associated with the 7th trumpet in Rev. 11:15 (which in turn is associated with the trumpet of I Cor. 15:52 -- "at the last trumpet").

- At this point, the Church is raptured and joins Christ in the air.
- Four things could be said about the remaining 3 1/2 years of Daniel's 70th week:
 - Christ remains in the air with his saints for the next 3 1/2 years watching the ensuing developments on earth.
 - The millennial reign of Christ begins and, thus, overlaps the judgments of the vials.
 - The wrath of God is poured out on the earth.
 - Antichrist generally prevails on earth.
- At the end of the 70th week of Daniel, Christ stops his watching and comes down to earth with His saints to destroy Antichrist and to continue his millennial reign on the earth.

The *Mid-Tribulation* rapture view asserts that the rapture will take place in the middle of the coming Tribulation period. Those adhering to the mid-tribulation rapture typically rely on at least one of the following *three* arguments to support their position.

1. Although the church is exempted from God's wrath, the church will be on the earth during the first half of the tribulation period because God's wrath will not actually begin until the second half of the tribulation period. While conceding that the church is exempted from God's wrath, the mid-Tribulation view assumes that God's wrath will not begin until the second half of the Tribulation period. This assumption exists on the grounds that the Antichrist will rule the world in peace and prosperity for the first half of the Tribulation period, and the rest of the apocalyptic judgments will not come upon the world until the second half of the Tribulation period.

However, God's wrath will take place during the first half as well as the second half of the Tribulation period. During the first half of the Tribulation period, the Antichrist will be unveiled. Consequently, his coming will be just as much a judgment upon the world as will be the remaining judgments, many of which will take place during the second half of the Tribulation period. The rest of the Seal judgments include severe judgments on the earth, correspond with the judgments in the first part of Matt 24, and are referred to as God's wrath by the kings of the earth (see notes on Rev 6:15-16).

2. In the Book of Revelation, the rapture is described in Rev 11:12 and will take place half-way through the tribulation period. Rev 11:12 says, "And they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, 'Come up here.' Then they went up into heaven in the cloud, and their enemies watched them." The mid-Tribulation view believes that this verse is describing the rapture of the church, and this event takes place toward the middle of the Tribulation.

However, Rev 11:12 is not a reference to the Rapture. In fact, this text has nothing to do with the removal of the church from the earth. When studied in context of Rev 11, it is speaking of the two Jewish witnesses being removed from the earth near the middle of the Tribulation period after the completion of their ministry.

3. According to 1 Cor 15:52, the rapture will take place at the sounding of the last trumpet which, according to Rev 11:15, will take place roughly half-way through the tribulation period. The mid-Tribulation view believes that this trumpet is described in Rev 11:15 and will be sounded halfway through the tribulation period.

However, the last trumpet mentioned in 1 Cor 15:52 is not the same trumpet mentioned in Rev 11:15. The major problem with this view is that the trumpet of 1 Cor 15:52 is described much differently from the trumpet of Rev 11:15. This leads to the obvious conclusion that 1 Cor 15:52 and Rev 11:15 speak of two different trumpets.

