The End

THE RAPTURE

7 "To the angel of the church in Philadelphia" write: These are the words of him who is holy and true, who holds the key of David. What he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open. 8 I know your deeds. See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut.

I know that you have little strength, yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name. 9 I will make those who are of the synagogue of Satan, who claim to be Jews though they are not, but are liars—I will make them come and fall down at your feet and acknowledge that I have loved you.

¹⁰ Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come on the whole world to test the inhabitants of the earth. 11 I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take your crown. 12 The one who is victorious I will make a pillar in the temple of my God.

Never again will they leave it. I will write on them the name of my God and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which is coming down out of heaven from my God; and I will also write on them my new name. 13 Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

A) STOP MAKING PREDICTIONS

³⁶ "But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷ As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸ For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark;

Matthew 24:36-42

³⁹ and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. 40 Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left. 41 Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left.

Matthew 24:36-42

42 "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come.

Matthew 24:36-42

B) EMBRACE THE MYSTERY

²⁹ The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may follow all the words of this law.

Deuteronomy 29:29

"The rapture, the blessed hope of the church, is the imminent coming of the Lord in the air to receive to Himself His own, both the living who shall be transformed, and the dead in Christ who shall be resurrected. This event takes place before the wrath of God is poured out during the tribulation. Believers then will appear before the judgment seat of Christ to be judged according to faithfulness in Christian service.

- The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada - Statement of Fundamental & Essential Truths Section 5.8.2 (2014)

The word "dispensation" refers to the different ways God has engaged and will engage with his people. We are currently living in a time of grace (the sixth age) and await the time of the kingdom (the seventh and final age).

The word "pre-millennial" is one of three end-times views (post-millennial and amillennial). It is the belief in a rapture from the earth to heaven before the tribulation and millennial (thousand-year) reign of Christ

1) THE RAPTURED WILL SKIP THE TRIBULATION

(Revelation 3:10-11)

¹⁰ Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come on the whole world to test the inhabitants of the earth. 11 I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take your crown.

19 "Write, therefore, what you have seen, what is now and what will take place later."

Revelation 1:19

¹⁰ Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come on the whole world to test the inhabitants of the earth.

"See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut."

(Revelation 3:8)

9"I am the gate [or door]; whoever enters through me will be saved."

(John 10:9)

⁶ Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

(John 14:6)

¹ After this I looked, and there before me was a door standing open in heaven. And the voice I had first heard speaking to me like a trumpet said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this.

Revelation 4:1

16 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

2) THE RAPTURED WILL SIT IN THE THRONE ROOM

(Revelation 4:2-7)

² At once I was in the Spirit, and there before me was a throne in heaven with someone sitting on it. ³ And the one who sat there had the appearance of jasper and ruby. A rainbow that shone like an emerald encircled the throne. 4 Surrounding the throne were twenty-four other thrones, and seated on them were twenty-four elders.

Revelation 4:2-7

They were dressed in white and had crowns of gold on their heads. 5 From the throne came flashes of lightning, rumblings and peals of thunder. In front of the throne, seven lamps were blazing. These are the seven spirits of God. ⁶ Also in front of the throne there was what looked like a sea of glass, clear as crystal.

Revelation 4:2-7

In the center, around the throne, were four living creatures, and they were covered with eyes, in front and in back. ⁷ The first living creature was like a lion, the second was like an ox, the third had a face like a man, the fourth was like a flying eagle.

Revelation 4:2-7

A) JESUS ONLY ROBES THE REDEMED IN WHITE

⁴ Yet you have a few people in Sardis who have not soiled their clothes. They will walk with me, dressed in white, for they are worthy. ⁵ The one who is victorious will, like them, be dressed in white.

B) JESUS ONLY REWARDSTHE REDEEMED WITH CROWNS

10 Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to test you, and you will suffer persecution for ten days. Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you life as your victor's crown.

Revelation 2:10

Five Crowns in the Bible

The Imperishable Crown (1 Corinthians 9:24:25)

The Crown of Rejoicing (1 Thessalonians 2:19)

The Crown of Righteousness (2 Timothy 4:8)

The Crown of Glory (1 Peter 5:2-4)

The Crown of Life (James 1:12)

²⁸ Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man sits on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

Matthew 19:28-29

²⁹ And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or fields for my sake will receive a hundred times as much and will inherit eternal life.

Matthew 19:28-29

The elders in Revelation symbolize the believing raptured church

"What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived"— the things God has prepared for those who love him—10 these are the things God has revealed to us by his Spirit.

1 Corinthians 2:9-10

3) THE RAPTURED WILL SING THE TRUTH

(Revelation 4:10-11)

¹⁰ The twenty-four elders fall down before him who sits on the throne and worship him who lives for ever and ever. They lay their crowns before the throne and say: 11 "You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honour and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being."

Revelation 4:10-11

Heaven is a place where there are no worship wars. When we put aside our preferences we allow our times of worship to serve as heaven's rehearsal.

"What is the chief end of man [or woman]? Man's [or Woman's] chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy him forever."

- The Westminster Shorter Catechism (1646-1647) -

For from him and through him and for him are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen."

Romans 11:36

8 And when he had taken [the scroll], the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp and they were holding golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of God's people. 9 And they sang a new song, saying:

Revelation 5:8-10

"You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased for God persons from every tribe and language and people and nation. 10 You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth."

Revelation 5:8-10

Christ's blood has purchased a multi-ethnic multitude for Himself

What is in question is not the certainty of the rapture, but rather the readiness of the Christian

⁹ The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

2 Peter 3:9

The End