

4. The Posttribulational Pre-Wrath view

This view holds that the first half of Daniel's seventieth week will be "the beginning of sorrows", and that the second half will be comprised of two periods: the Great Tribulation, and the Day of the Lord. At the end of the Great Tribulation, God's wrath will be poured out during the Day of the Lord, in the form of the trumpet and bowl judgments. Following the Great Tribulation and prior to the outpouring of the wrath of God during the Day of the Lord, Christ will descend from heaven, the saints will be caught up to meet Him in the air, and He together with them will return to heaven for the duration of the outpouring of God's wrath. Then after the outpouring of God's wrath Christ will return to earth in power and glory with His glorified saints. The Rapture and the Return (or Revelation) will be two events or two phases of Christ's Second Advent. In this view there is a time interval between the first and second phases of the Second Coming.

5. The Partial-Rapturist view

This view holds that prior to the Tribulation Christ will descend from heaven, the saints who are ready and worthy will be caught up to meet Him in the air, and He together with these raptured saints will return to heaven for a period of time. The rest of the saints, who are carnal and therefore not ready or worthy, who have not been watching and waiting, and who have not kept their garments pure from the world, will be left on earth to endure the Tribulation period. Then after the Tribulation and prior to the Millennium Christ will return to earth in power and glory with the glorified saints from heaven, and will receive and transform the saints who have had to endure the Tribulation. The Rapture and the Return (or Revelation) will be two events or two phases of the Second Coming. In this view there is a time interval between the first and second phases of the Second Coming.

6. The Pretribulational view with distinct, identifiable signs

This view holds that prior to the Tribulation Christ will descend from heaven, the saints will be caught up to meet Him in the air, and He together with them will return to heaven for the duration of the Tribulation period. The uniqueness of this view lies in its emphasis on distinct, identifiable signs that must occur before the Rapture can occur. Some of these signs are: (1) the development of apostasy, a great falling away from the faith; (2) the decline of morality and a great increase of immorality; (3) the return of Israel to her own land; and (4) the proclamation of the gospel to the ends of the earth. Then after the Tribulation and prior to the Millennium Christ will return in power and glory with His glorified saints to the earth. The Rapture and the Return (or Revelation) will be two events or two phases of Christ's Second Coming. In this view there is a time interval between the first and second phases of the Second Coming.