

**LEFT BEHIND?**  
**REV. 4:1 / 6-13-18 / WED**

**I. WHAT ARE THE DIFFERENT MILLENNIAL VIEWS?**

- A. Our BF&M does not address the millennium but writes a simply statement under the heading “**Last Things**” (Article 10).
- B. The term “millennium” means “1,000” and is derived from the Latin Vulgate translation of the Bible where the word appears six times in Rev. 20:2-7.
- C. There are four main views concerning the millennium.
  - 1. Amillennialism.
    - a. The millennium symbolizes the entire church age between the first and second coming of Christ.
    - b. Revelation is primarily symbolic literature describing the struggle between good and evil.
    - c. There is no rapture to avoid some Great Tribulation.
    - d. This is a popular view in many of our Baptist Colleges and Seminaries.
  - 2. Historic Premillennialism.
    - a. There is no sharp distinction between Israel and the Church because the Church has become the “new Israel”—Gal. 6:16.
    - b. There is no rapture prior to the Great Tribulation because the Church will go through it.
    - c. When Christ returns the Church will meet him in the air and immediately return with him to establish his millennial reign—1 Thess.4:16-17.
  - 3. Dispensational Premillennialism.
    - a. There is a sharp distinction between Israel and the Church. All of God’s promises to Israel will be fulfilled during the millennial reign.
    - b. The church will be raptured before the Great Tribulation—1 Thess.4:16-17.
      - i. During the rapture Christ comes “for” his saints, both living and dead.
      - ii. During the Second Coming Christ comes “with” his saints to establish his millennial reign.

4. Postmillennialism.
  - a. The millennium is the time between Jesus' first and second coming.
  - b. The Great Commission will be successful in winning the world to Christ.
  - c. Christ will return after the triumph of the Gospel.
  - d. This was a popular concept during the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century until two world wars demonstrated that the world isn't getting better and better.

## II. WHAT ARE THE DIFFERENT VIEWS CONCERNING THE RAPTURE?

### A. Arguments against the rapture.

1. The term "**rapture**" does not appear in the bible.
2. The idea of the rapture is a recent addition to Christianity. Plymouth Brethren pastor John Darby is credited with popularizing it in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

### B. Arguments for the rapture.

1. The term "**rapture**" comes from the Latin Vulgate Translation of the Bible verse First Thessalonians 4:17 where the term "**caught up**" is translated as "**rapturo**"—1 Thess. 4:17.
2. The rapture is "**foreshadowed**" in Scripture.
  - a. Enoch was "caught up"—Gen. 5:21-24 and Heb. 11:5.
  - b. Elijah was "caught up"—2 Kings 2:11.
  - c. John--Rev. 4:1
3. Scriptures supporting the concept of the rapture—I Thess. 4:17, 1:10, 5:9 and Rev. 3:10.
4. Another passage in support of the rapture is 2 Thess. 2:7-8. This is believed to be a prophecy that the Holy Spirit will be removed at the rapture in order to give full world control to the Anti-Christ.
5. Another proof is that the word "**church**" is mentioned 19 times in Revelation 1-3, but not again until Revelation 19.

C. When will the rapture take place?

1. Premillennialists say at the Second Coming of Christ after the Great Tribulation.
2. Amillennialists say there is no rapture because there is no Great Tribulation to avoid.
3. Dispensationalists say just before the Great Tribulation.
4. Mid-Tribulationists say in the middle of the seven year Great Tribulation---Daniel 9:27; 7:25; 12:11 and Rev. 11:2.