

God's Plan for the Ages Series

Lesson #023

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Dean Bible Ministries

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GOD'S PLAN
FOR THE **AGES**
DISPENSATIONS

WHY I BELIEVE IN THE RAPTURE – PART 2

GENTILES

ISRAEL

Perfect Environment

Conscience

Human Government

Patriarchs

Mosaic Law

Messianic Age

Church Age

Tribulation

Creation Covenant

Gen. 1:28-30;
Hosea 6:7

Adamic Covenant

Gen. 3:14-19

Noahic Covenant

Gen. 9:1-17

Abrahamic Covenant

Gen. 12:1-3

Mosaic Covenant

Ex. 20-40

Logos

New Covenant Applied

Responsibility

Fulfill the Covenant:
Gen. 1:26-28;
2:16-17

Animal Sacrifice
Gen. 3:21

Fill the earth
Gen. 9:7

Stay distinct people
Gen. 7:14

Obey the Law
Ex. 19:3-8

Accept Messiah

**Faith alone
In Christ alone**

Failure

Ate fruit
Gen. 3:1-6

Evil and Wickedness
Gen. 6:5-6

Built Babel
Gen. 11:1-4

Assimilated
Gen. 34

Disobeyed
2 Chron. 36:14

Reject Messiah

Most reject Christ

Divine Judgment

Sp. Death
Gen. 3:7-19

Flood
Gen. 6—9

Confusion of Languages
Gen. 11:5-9

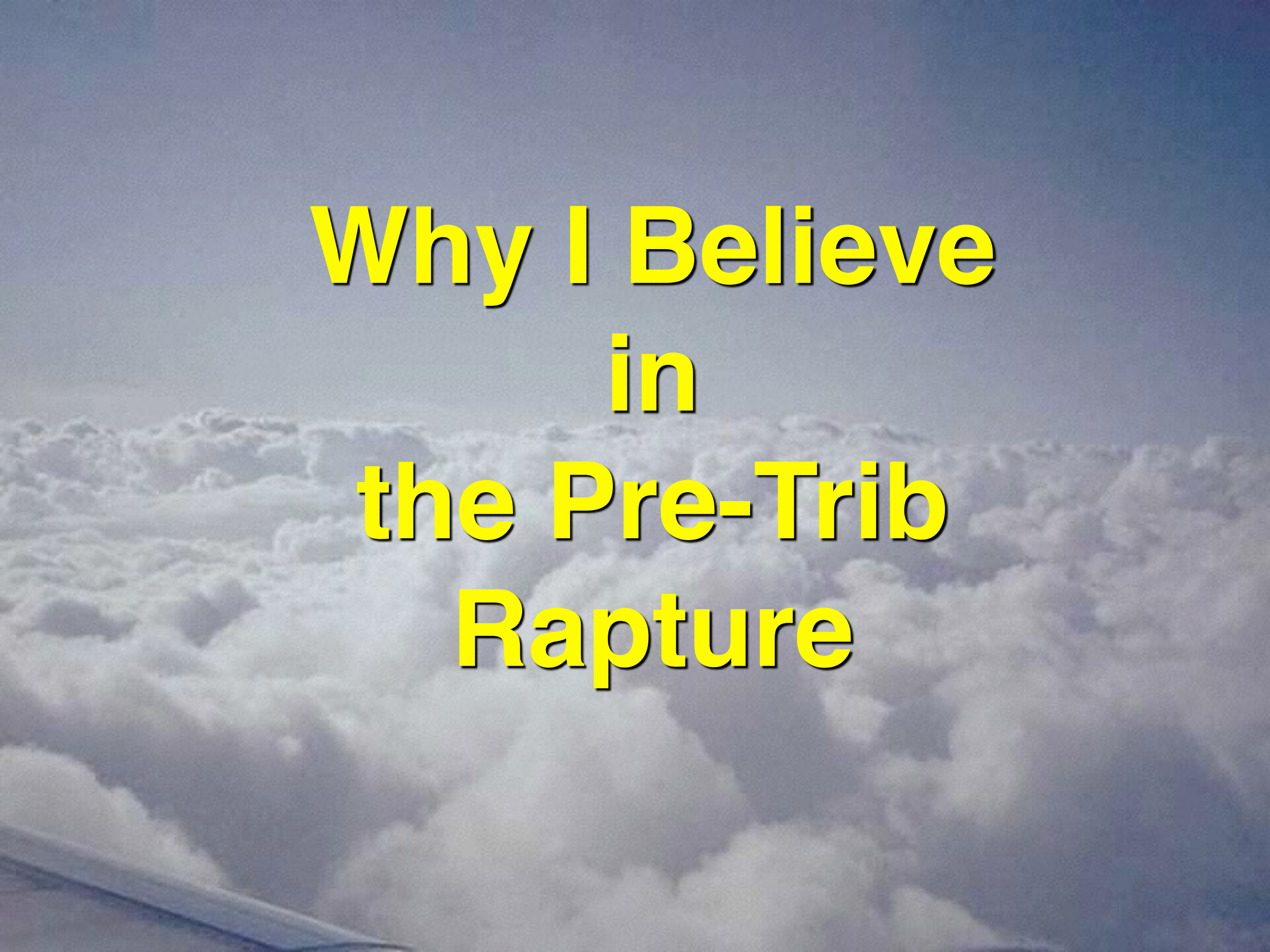
Egyptian Bondage
Ex. 1:8-14

Diaspora
Deut. 28:63-66

Cross 5th Cycle

Tribulation

BIBLICAL DISPENSATIONS



**Why I Believe
in
the Pre-Trib
Rapture**



WHAT is the Rapture?

WHEN is the Rapture?



**WHAT is
the Rapture?**

The Rapture is . . .

The translation of all living believers from the earth at the end of the Church Age immediately following the resurrection of all dead Church Age believers; the Rapture occurs before the Tribulation

RAPTURE VOCABULARY



harpazó—“caught up”

“to seize upon with force”

“to snatch up”

(1 Thessalonians 4:17)

1 Thess. 4:13, “But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve, as do the rest who have no hope.

1 Thess. 4:14, “For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus.

1 Thess. 4:15, “For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, and remain until the coming of the Lord, shall not precede those who have fallen asleep.”

1 Thess. 4:16, “For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet of God; and the dead in Christ shall rise first.

1 Thess. 4:17, “Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and thus we shall always be with the Lord.

1 Thess. 4:18, “Therefore comfort one another with these words.”

John 14:1, “Let not your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me.

John 14:2, “In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you.

John 14:3, “And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.”

Mennonite commentator on Revelation, J. B. Smith, noted eight striking parallels between John 14:1–3 and 1 Thess. 4:13–18.

He also compared John 14:1–3 with the Second Coming passage of Revelation 19:11–12 and found no significant similarities.

These eight similarities also occur in the same order in both John 14:1–3 and 1 Thess. 4:13–18.

- 1. Both passages focus on providing comfort.**
- 2. Both emphasize belief in Christ as the key issue.**
- 3. Both passages focus on God the Father and Jesus the Son of God (John 14:1; 1 Thess. 4:14).**
- 4. Both passages instruct their audience: “I told you” (John 14:2), “I say to you” (1 Thess. 4:15).**

- 5. The return of Jesus is mentioned next in both.**
- 6. In John, Jesus says He will receive them; Paul says believers will be caught up to Him.**
- 7. The destiny of believers is “to Myself” (John 14:3) and “to Him” (1 Thess. 4:17).**
- 8. In both passages, believers will continue to be with the Lord.**

Acts 1:11, “and they also said, ‘Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in just the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven.’ ”

John 14:1, “Let not your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me.

John 14:2, “In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you.

John 14:3, “And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.”

μονή (*monē*),

staying, tarrying, dwelling (-place), room, abode.

Phil. 3:11, “in order that I may attain to the resurrection [*exanastasis*] from the dead.”

Titus 2:13, “looking for the blessed hope and the appearing (*epiphaneia*), of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus;”

**Phil. 3:20, “For our citizenship is in heaven,
from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior,
the Lord Jesus Christ;”**

1 Cor. 15:23, “But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who are Christ’s at His coming.

1 Cor. 15:24, “Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power.

1 Cor. 15:25, “For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet.”

1 Cor. 15:51, “Behold, I tell you a mystery; we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,

1 Cor. 15:52, “in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed.

1 Cor. 15:53, “For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality.”



WHAT is the Rapture?

WHEN is the Rapture?

RAPTURE VIEWS

**Pre-Trib
Rapture**



CHURCH AGE

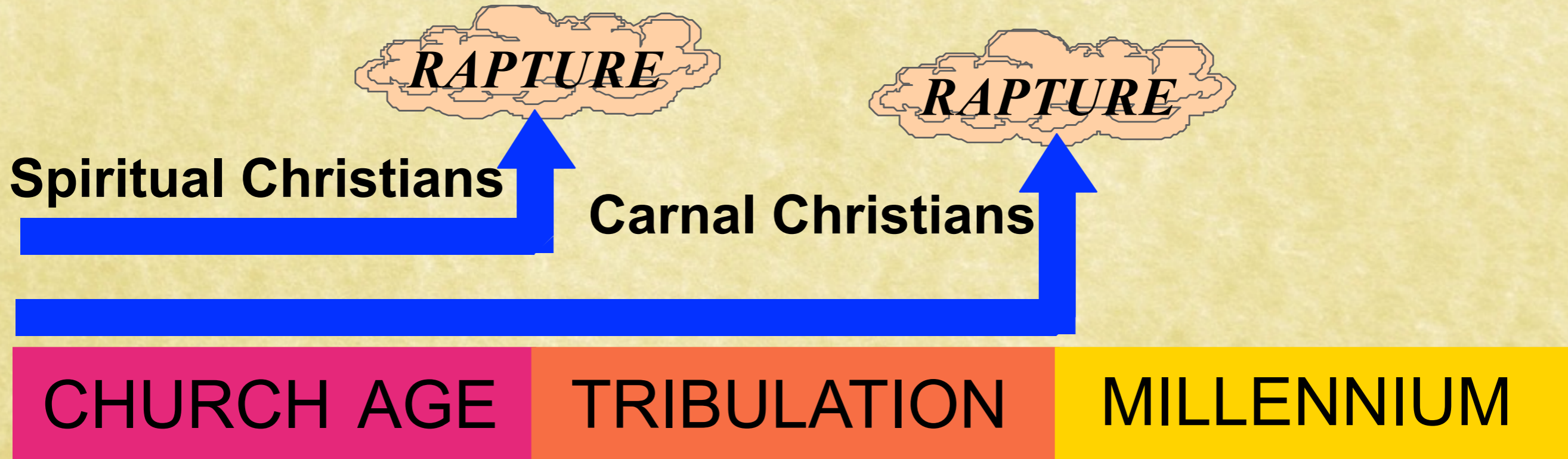
TRIBULATION

MILLENNIUM

The Rapture occurs before the Tribulation, ending the Church Age, so no Church Age believer goes through the Tribulation.

RAPTURE VIEWS

Partial Rapture



At the Rapture only those faithful, totally dedicated Christians will be caught up, leaving carnal Christians behind to be chastened by the Tribulation.

RAPTURE VIEWS

Mid-Trib Rapture

All Believers



CHURCH AGE

TRIBULATION

MILLENNIUM

The Rapture occurs in the middle of the Tribulation, thus believers endure the first half. The “pre-wrath” Rapture is a variant of this.

RAPTURE VIEWS

**Post-Trib
Rapture**



CHURCH AGE

TRIBULATION

MILLENNIUM

The Rapture occurs at the end of the Tribulation, forcing all believers to endure the entire seven years.