

**Week #1**

# **Old and New Testament Prophecies of the End Times**

A 6-week Bible study on what the Bible says (and doesn't say) about this important subject.

**Good Shepherd's Lutheran Church  
West Allis, Wisconsin  
September & October, 2017**





# Our goals in this course:

- Read and learn from key Bible sections each week
- Learn the basics of different End-Time views and review much of the terminology they use
- Discuss how and why different conclusions can be (and are) drawn from the Bible passages
- Highlight the value of the truth and the dangers of error on this subject of the End Times
- Equip ourselves to testify to the truth in love when confronted by end time error

# Why is knowing about the End Times important?

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## Why is knowing about the End Times important?



- **"I'm worried because I don't know when Jesus is returning to judge us."**
- **No one knows when Jesus is coming again. But we know things to expect between now and then. We're prepared.**
- **There's no need to "worry" about it. But there is great value in thinking about eternity – regularly, even daily.**

# Why is knowing about the End Times important?



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## Why is knowing about the End Times important?



- **"Today's world makes no sense. It's depressing."**
- **It makes perfect sense if one understands the doctrine of the last days.**
- **If we understand End Times, we know where history is going so we can stand firm with all the craziness of the world around us.**

# Why is knowing about the End Times important?

- **"This topic is too complicated and I can't understand it."**



## Why is knowing about the End Times important?



- **"This topic is too complicated and I can't understand it."**
- Blessed is the one who reads the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near. (Revelation 1:3)
- If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. (James 1:5)



# WELS Q&A Comments



- Read the comments that are printed on page 2 of our class notes.



- What does this tell us about the value of the study we are beginning?

# Personal questions:



1. Have you recently found yourself talking with someone (a neighbor, co-worker, fellow student, etc.) who began to talk about things like a future rapture, tribulation, or how important the nation of Israel is to the US?
2. How confident are you when talking about these things? Do you get the impression that other people know a lot more about these things than you do?
3. Is there a specific topic that most interests you in connection with the End Times? Is there a subject that scares you? Or one that give you special comfort?

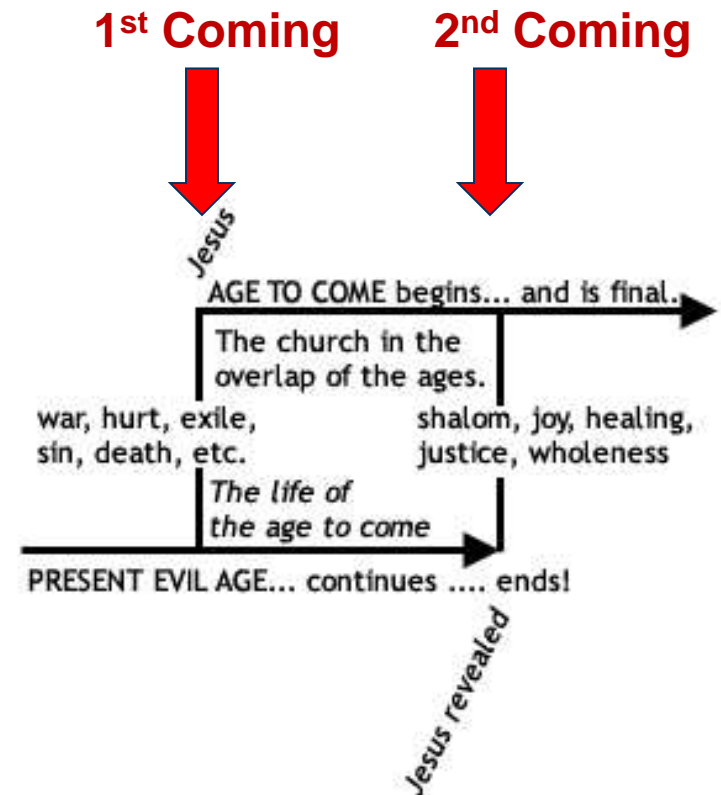
# When are the “End Times?”



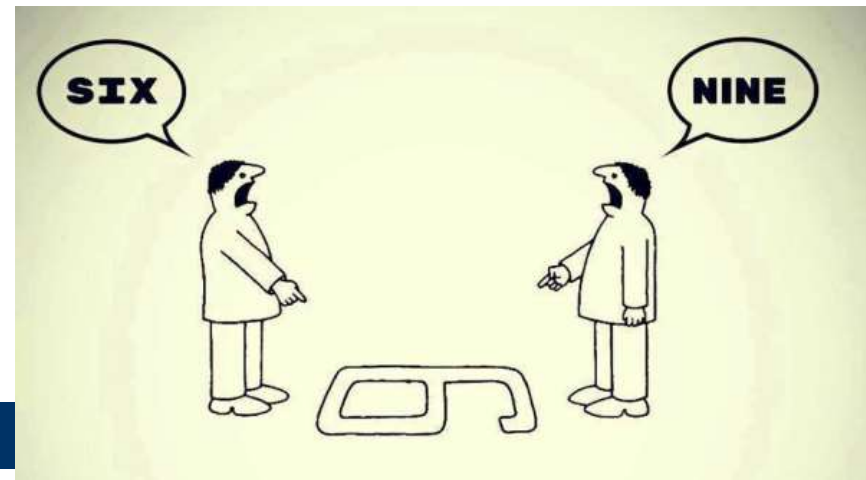
- When most people today start talking about the **End Times**, they are thinking of future events, from our own lifetime until the Last Day. To them, it's all in the future.

# When are the “End Times?”

- But when the Bible mentions the **End Times**, it is talking about *the whole period between the first and second coming of Christ*, that is, from 2,000 years ago until the Last Day. So to us, *it's in the past, the present, and in whatever future is left until the Last Day.*

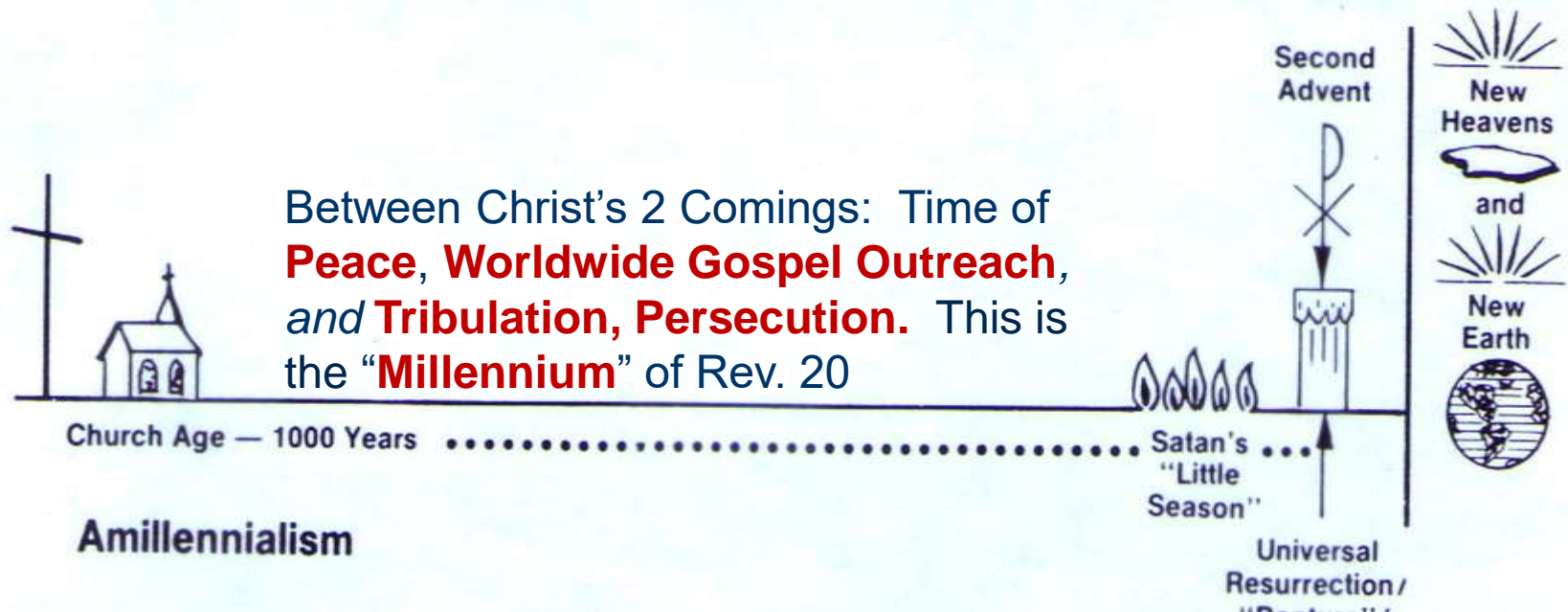


# Getting the “Big Picture”



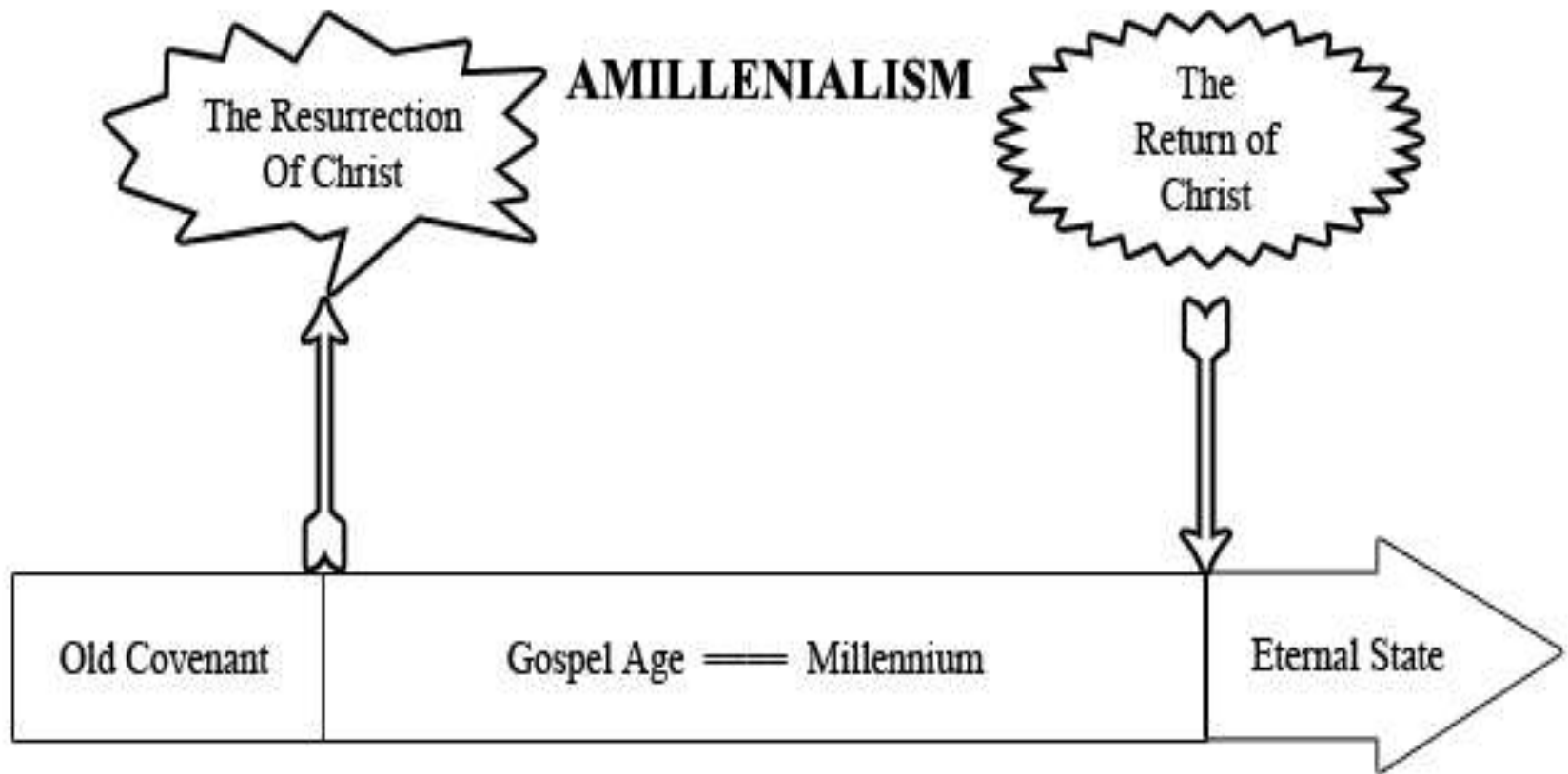
- On page 3 of the class notes are diagrams that give main aspects of “**millennial views.**”
- It is valuable to understand at least the **basic assumptions** that serve as the basis for each.
- It’s also valuable to learn **basic vocabulary** used in discussions about the End Times.

# What will happen between now and the End of the World?

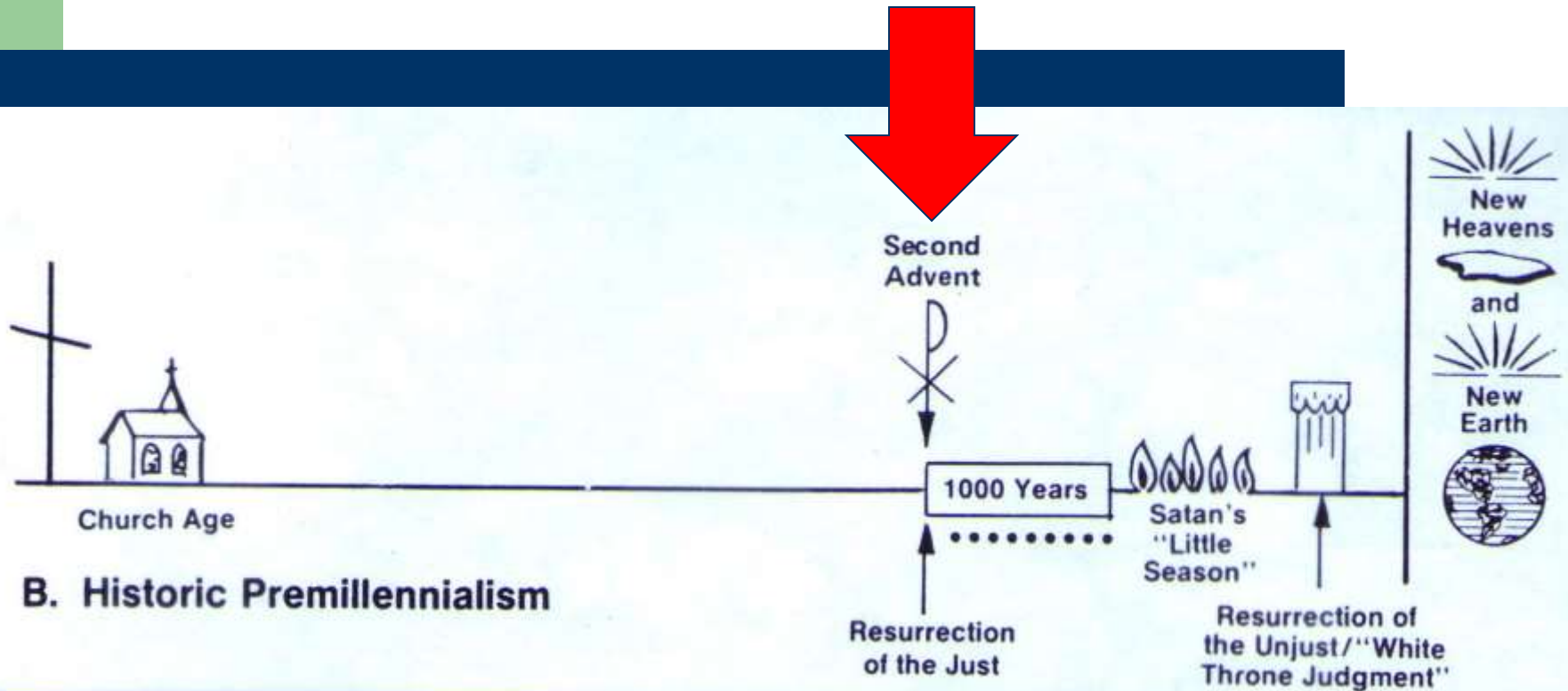


The “millennium” is seen as the “full, complete era or age as known and determined by God.”

# What is “Amillennialism?” (or “realized millennialism”?)



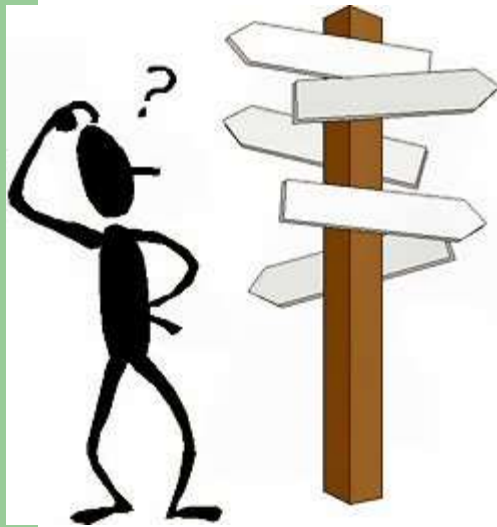
# Historic Premillennialism



- Christ comes before (pre-) the millennium (seen as 1,000 solar years)

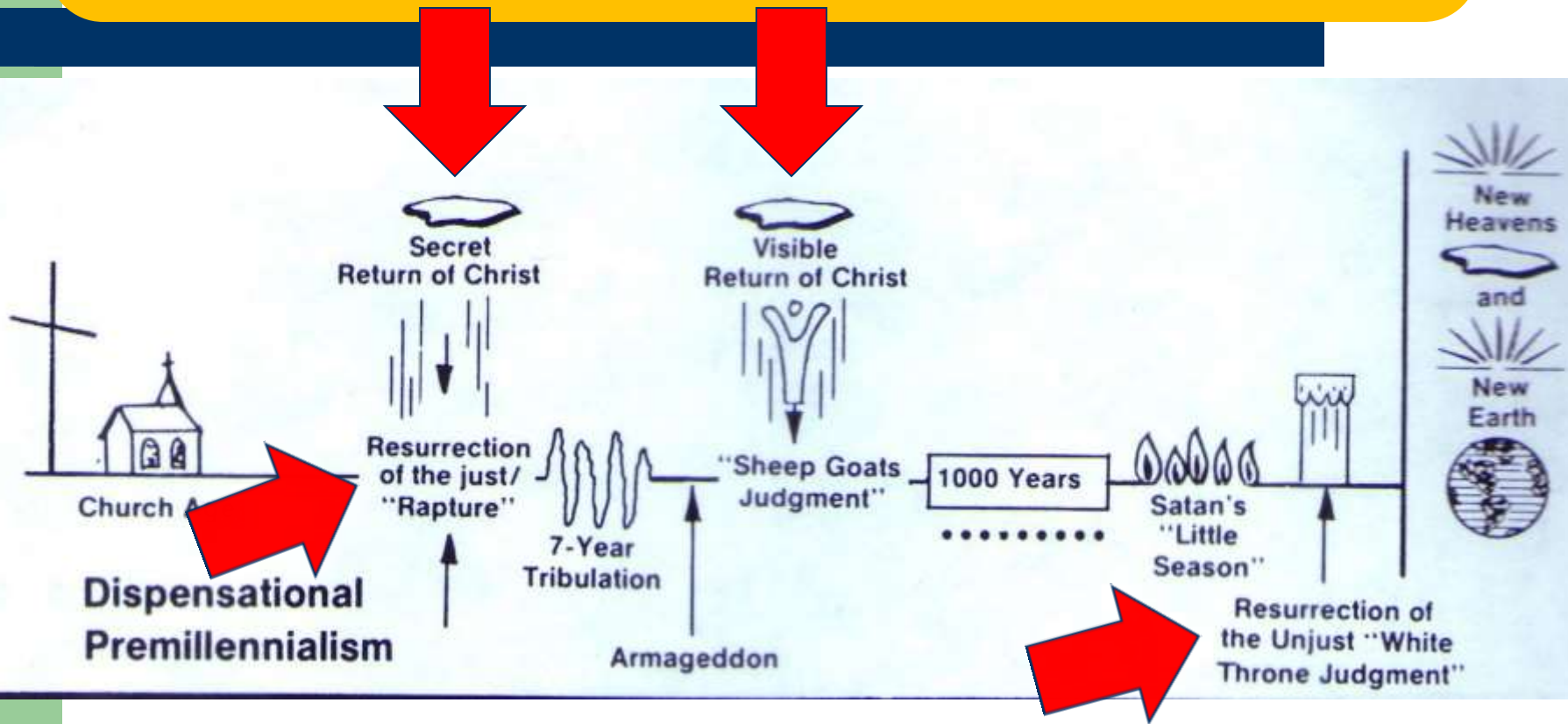


# Ready for “Complications”? Dispensationalism!



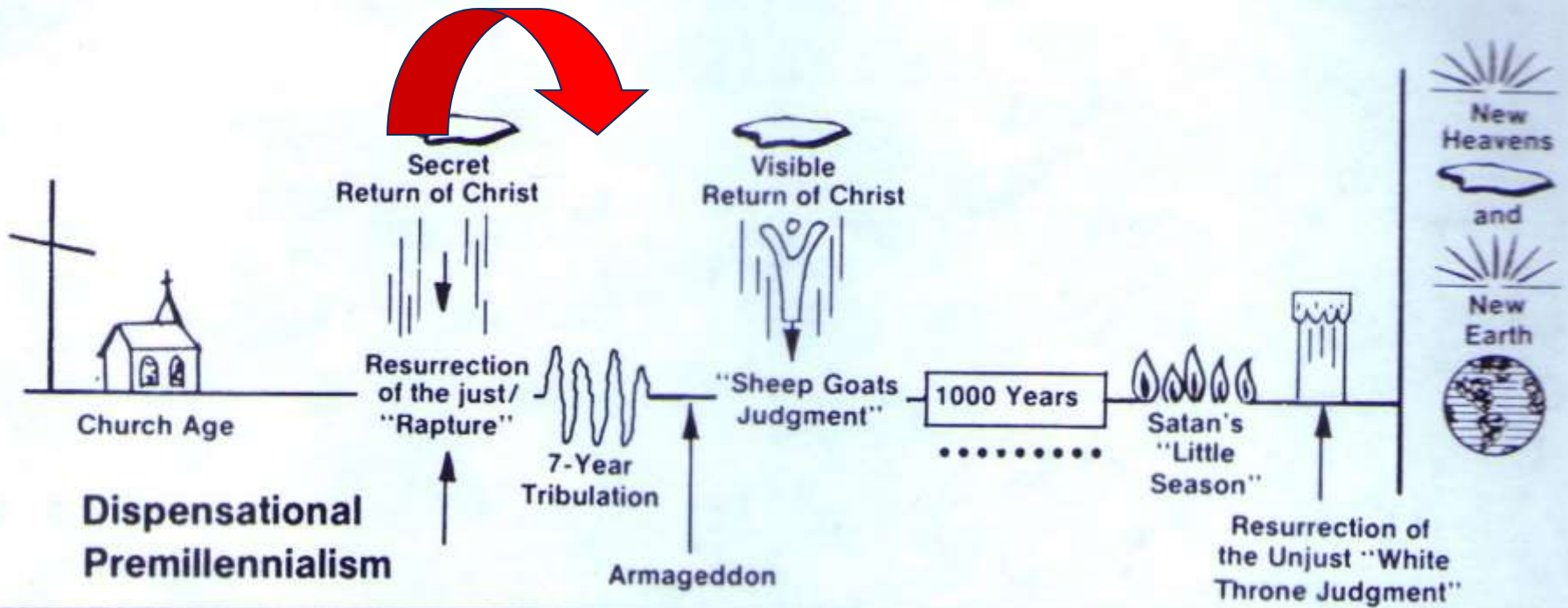
- “Dispensational premillennialism” (and its variations) is the “new kid on the block” in End Time thinking.
- **It multiples Christ’s future “comings” and future human “resurrections” – and has many variations.**
- **And it is pretty difficult to wrap your mind around if you are new to these ideas.**

# Dispensational Pre-tribulation Premillennialism



- The rapture and tribulation come first

# Dispensational Mid-tribulation Premillennialism



- (Yes, there are "post-tribs" too. (Sorry!))

# The End Times (Different Beliefs)

Pages 4 – 5 of the class notes summarize what we believe and teach.



Plan to read and study this in coming weeks.  
Ask for help if needed.

Pages 6 – 7 then summarize what Dispensationalism generally teaches.



Plan to grow more familiar with this in coming weeks too.

# Genesis 12:1-3, 17:7-8

As you read these passages, be asking . . .

- Is this really an “end time” prophecy?
- What are the words that especially need to be defined and understood?

# Genesis 12:1-3, 17:7-8

- **Helpful passages:** *Do these help our understanding of the passage?*
- **What dispensationalists say:** *Can you see how they end up with their beliefs?*
- **What amillennialists say:** *Can you see how we end up with our beliefs?*

# Homework for this week:

- **Review the material we went through today (p. 1–3, 8-9).**
- **Spend time looking at the diagrams (p. 3) and the belief statements of amillennialists and dispensationalists (p. 4-5, 6-7).**
- **Bring questions with you next week.**

