

### **ARTICLE 13**

**We believe in the premillennial second coming of Jesus. First, to resurrect the righteous dead and to catch away the living saints to Him in the air. Second, to reign on the earth a thousand years.**

### **ARTICLE 14**

**We believe in the bodily resurrection; eternal life for the righteous, and eternal punishment for the wicked.**

## **1. Christ's Rapture of the Church**

### **a. Jesus Christ's arrival will be a spectacular demonstration of His power and presence.**

Scripture references:

Christ's coming in the clouds—Matthew 24:27-30, Mark 13:26; Revelation 1:7

Christ's coming with power and glory—Luke 21:27

Christ's coming according to God's timing—Mark 13; Matthew 24; Luke 21; 2 Timothy 3:2-5; Philippians 3:17-21; 1 Thessalonians 1:9-10; Hebrews 9:28; 1 Peter 1:7

**(1) Christ will come on the clouds.**

**(2) Christ will come "with power and glory."**

**(3) The date of Christ's return will be in keeping with God's perfect timing.**

- Jesus said that no human knows the day nor the hour when He will return.**

The date and time of Christ's return—

Signs of Christ's return—

- Christ's return will precede His thousand-year reign with His people on the earth.**

Two phases in Christ's return:

1<sup>ST</sup> – The Rapture—

2<sup>ND</sup> – The Revelation—

**b. Jesus Christ will gather God's people during the Rapture.**

Scripture references:

Resurrection of the dead in Christ—1 Thessalonians 4:16-17; Philippians 1:21-23; 2 Corinthians 5:1-8

The Rapture—1 Thessalonians 4:15-17 ; John 14:2

The rapid gathering of God's people—1 Corinthians 15:52

**(1) The resurrection of “the dead in Christ” will be the first act of the Rapture.**

**(2) All believers (those just brought back to life and the righteous living) will be taken up into heaven.**

## **2. The Great Tribulation**

**a. The purpose of the Great Tribulation will be to test unbelievers.**

Scripture references: Revelation 3:10; chapters 6-19

**b. A number of Bible scholars believe the Tribulation will last seven years and will occur between the Rapture and the thousand-year reign of Christ on earth.**

Scripture references: Daniel 9:24-27; see Matthew 21:1-11; John 12:12-19; see also Matthew 27:33-56; Mark 15:22-41; Luke 23:33-49

Daniel's Vision:

1 week = 7 years

70 weeks of years = 490 years

70<sup>th</sup> Week (Last 7 years)

- c. During the Tribulation, an evil person opposed to Christ will appear and will claim to be a great spiritual leader.**

Scripture references: 2 Thessalonians 2:3-10; 1 John 4:2-3

- (1) This man of sin will be a completely evil person, also identified as the “son of perdition,” “the lawless one,” and “the Antichrist.”**

- (2) Through his lies, the Antichrist will lead many in the wrong direction.**

### **3. The Battle of Armageddon**

- a. All the armies of the world will war against Jesus Christ in the Battle of Armageddon.**

Scripture references: Revelation 16:14-16; 19:11-21

- b. Immediately after the Battle of Armageddon, will come the doom of both the world ruler (the “beast”) and the “false prophet.”**

Scripture references: Revelation 19:20; 20:2-3

### **4. Millennial Reign of Christ**

- a. During the thousand-year reign, Christ will rule from Jerusalem.**

Scripture references: Jeremiah 3:17; Zechariah 14:9; Revelation 20:4

- b. During the thousand-year reign, ideal conditions will exist on the earth.**

Scripture references: Isaiah 2:2-4; 30:23-26; 35:3-6; 65:20, 21-23; Ezekiel 47:12; Micah 4:4; Zechariah 9:10; 14:16-21

## **5. Release of Satan and His Ultimate Defeat**

- a. At the close of the thousand-year reign of Christ, Satan will be released from prison and will lead a rebellion against Christ, the Lord and King.**

Scripture references: Ezekiel chapters 38-39; Revelation 2:27; 12:5; 19:15; 20:7-8

- b. Jesus Christ and His army of angels and followers will defeat Satan.**

Scripture references: Revelation 20:10

- c. The close of the Millennium will be a graphic reminder of the wickedness of the human heart.**

Scripture references: Revelation 20:7-8

## **6. The Great White Throne Judgment**

- a. The Final Judgment of all unbelievers will occur after the Millennium, following the resurrection of unbelievers.**

Scripture references:

Final Judgment following Millennium—2 Peter 2:9; 1 John 4:17; Romans 2:16; see also 1 Corinthians 4:5; 2 Timothy 4:1; Acts 17:31; 2 Thessalonians 1:9; Revelation 20:10-15; 21:8

Persons who will be punished—Matthew 25:31-46; Romans 2:6-10

- (1) The unbelieving individuals who will be judged at this time are those who will have refused Jesus Christ and failed to ask for forgiveness for their sins.**

- (2) Those persons who receive eternal punishment will be excluded from the presence of God and fellowship with Him.**

- b. During the Final Judgment, followers of Christ will enter into a life a joy with God forever.**

Scripture references: John 9:39; Romans 8:1; 14:10, 12; 1 Corinthians 3:12-17; 2 Corinthians 5:10

- (1) Followers of Christ, as well as unbelievers, will be included in the Final Judgment.**

- (2) In the Final Judgment those who believe in Christ will not experience condemnation.**

Believers acquitted—

Destruction of inferior building blocks—

## **7. Our Hope Today**

- a. We have reason to expect that the day is fast approaching when Christ will return and take His faithful people from the earth to His Father's house in heaven.**

Scripture references: John 14:1-3; 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18; Matthew 24; Mark 13; Luke 21

- b. The truth of Christ's Second Coming gives believers great comfort as well as a great encouragement and incentive for Christian service and Christ-like living.**

Scripture references: Revelation 7:14-17; 14:13; 22:20; 1 Corinthians 15:24-26; Luke 9:30

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## **Discussion**

### **Christ's Rapture of the Church**

- 1) Who knows when Christ will return?

- 2) Discuss the first stage of the coming of Christ. What actions will occur?

### **The Great Tribulation**

- 3) What will be the purpose of the Great Tribulation?
- 4) In the order of events, when will this occur?

### **The Battle of Armageddon**

- 5) During the Battle of Armageddon, who will war against Christ?
- 6) What will happen immediately after the Battle?

### **Millennial Reign of Christ**

- 7) What is this Millennial Reign? Who will reign? Where will their kingdom be located?
- 8) Describe the conditions on the earth during the Millennium.

### **Release of Satan & His Ultimate Defeat**

- 9) What event will be proof of the justice of God in the world?

### **The Great White Throne Judgment**

- 10) Why is sin such a problem for God? (see Leviticus 19:2; 1 John 3:4; Isaiah 1:2; 63:10; Romans 3:23)
- 11) What will happen to persons who receive eternal punishment?

### **Our Hope Today**

- 12) What hope has the study given you?

## Prayer

Jesus Christ, Our Savior, we praise You for the assurance that one day when You return, You will bring the old era of sin and death to an end. We wait expectantly for that day. We pray that when You return You will find us devoted to Your work and to holy living.

Holy Spirit, prepare us for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Help us to set our priorities on spiritual things and to remain watchful for His glorious appearing.

Heavenly Father, may our carefully made plans and long-range projects be interrupted by the trumpet of God's heralding Your Son's Second Advent.

We look forward to the day when our Lord Jesus Christ will appear and we will be like Him and will see Him as He really is.

Amen.

## Resources for Additional Study

Arrington, French L. *Christian Doctrine: A Pentecostal Perspective*, Vol. 3. Cleveland, Tenn.: Pathway, 1992; pp. 219-254.

Bradley, James R. *The Great Tribulation*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1980.

Carpenter, Joel A., A. J. Gordon and W. E. Blackstone. *The Premillennial Second Coming: Two Early Champions*. New York: Garland Pub., 1988.

Gaffin, Richard B. *The Centrality of the Resurrection: A Study in Paul's Soteriology*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1978.

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Harrison, William K. *Hope Triumphant: Studies on the Rapture of the Church*. Chicago: Moody Press, 1966.

Morris, Leon. *The Biblical Doctrine of Judgement*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1960.

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