

The Great Wait: Delight and Discernment in the Second Coming

Predict the Future with Humility

1 Thessalonians 5:1–11

September 14, 2025

The Lord's Day Morning

1. Christians are united in agreement on essentials: The sequence of “The Day of the Lord:”

The Day of the Lord	
1.	The Return: Jesus will physically “descend from heaven” with the souls of “asleep” believers.
2.	The Resurrection: Souls of “asleep” believers (<i>church triumphant</i>) are united to immortal bodies.
3.	The Transformation: Bodies of “alive” believers (<i>church militant</i>) are transformed to immortal bodies.
4.	The Seizing (Rapture): All believers are “caught up together” to meet the Lord in the air.
5.	The Final Judgment: Jesus will judge his enemies and vindicate his people.

2. Christians are free to disagree on non-essentials: Where would Paul put John’s millennium? (Rev. 20:6).

AMILLENNIALISM	HISTORIC PREMILLENNIALISM	DISPENSATIONAL PREMILLENNIALISM	POSTMILLENNIALISM
Christ returns <i>after</i> the present symbolic 1000 years of reigning in heaven to reign forever on the earth. No future millennial kingdom.	Christ returns <i>before</i> the millennial kingdom on earth and fulfills all promises to national Israel for “1000” years.	Christ returns <i>before</i> the millennial kingdom on earth and fulfills all promises to national Israel for 1000 years.	Christ returns <i>after</i> a “millennium” of global peace and prosperity on the earth brought about the gospel’s advance.
Believers make the U-Turn and immediately accompany Christ to earth.	Believers make the U-Turn and immediately accompany Christ to earth.	Christ makes the U-Turn and leads his people to heaven to wait out the great tribulation on earth until the third coming.	Believers make the U-Turn and immediately accompany Christ to earth.
We are in the great tribulation until the return.	The great tribulation will happen before the rapture.	The great tribulation will happen after the rapture.	We are in the great tribulation now until the millennium.

3. Christians are commanded to love, encourage, and build up one another by maintaining _____, _____, and _____.