

The Rapture and the Boy Who Cried Wolf – Part 1

Introduction

1. I believe that the evangelical community has cried wolf so many times in regards to the Rapture of the church that there has been a serious _____ of integrity.
2. Here is how it works – a world event occurs and the church cries wolf. They say things like, “The end is near.” “It’s *‘the signs of the times.’*” “The fig tree is budding.” “It can’t be long now.”
3. This makes for good drama and sensationalism. But, in the long run, it is destructive.
4. In this Bible Study, there are three biblical facts we will examine that would alleviate this foolishness and confusion if people would understand them.

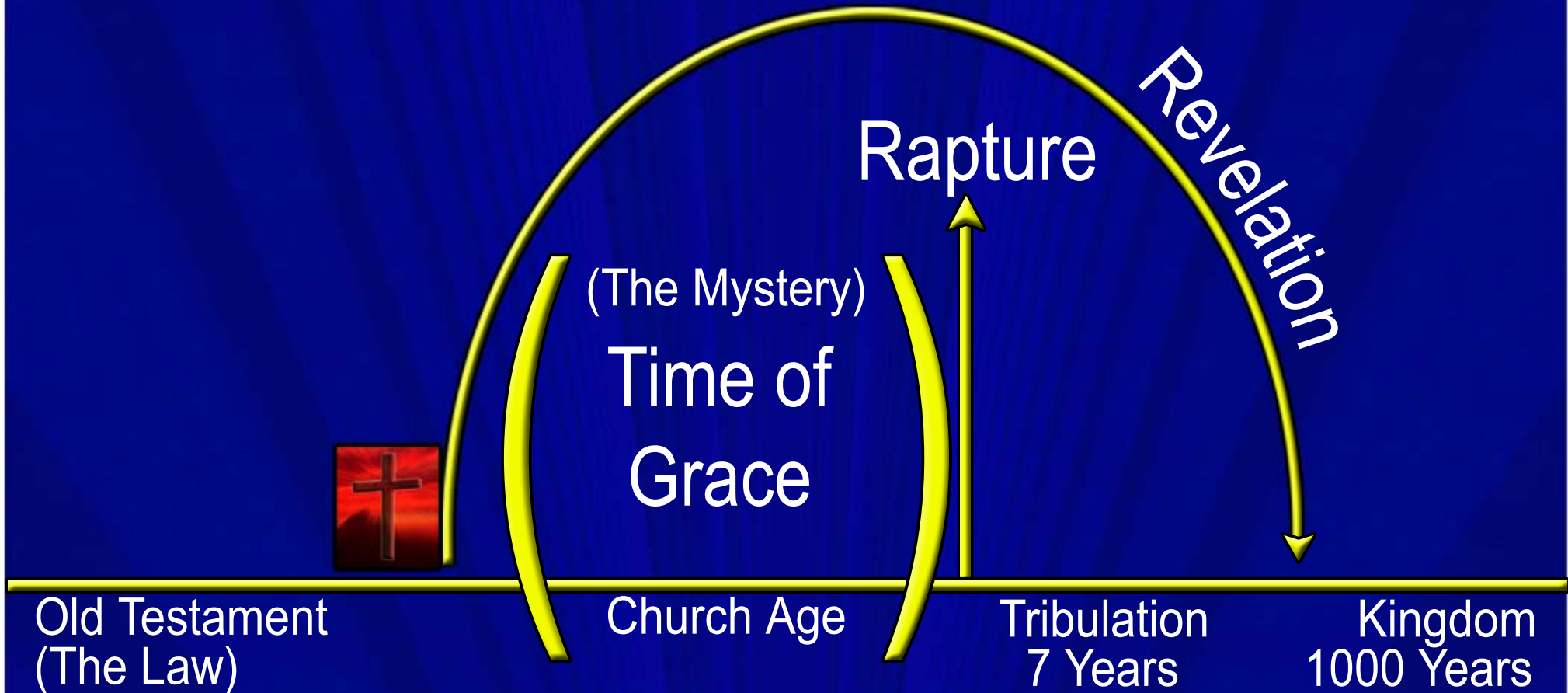
First fact: We are living in the time of the _____, not prophecy.

1. Your Bible can be broken into two major divisions – mystery and prophecy.
 - The subject of _____ has been revealed by God to his prophets **since the world began**. Luke 1:68; Acts 3:21, 24; 2 Peter 1:21
 - In contrast to this, the _____ of the body of Christ was kept _____ since the world began (Romans 16:25), and was **not made known** in other ages (Ephesians 3:9), was _____ from ages and from generations (Colossians 1:26) until revealed to and through the apostle Paul (Ephesians 3:3).
2. Who do these programs deal with?
 - Prophecy deals with Israel and their relationship to the Gentile _____.
 - This distinction is seen throughout the Bible. Example: Isaiah 2:1-5, 59:20-60:3
 - The mystery is all about a new living organism that God has created called the _____ of Christ (Ephesians 2:14-16). In the mystery program there is absolutely _____ distinction between Jew and Gentile (Galatians 3:28; Romans 10:12). In the mystery program, God is not dealing with _____, but individuals.

3. God has two distinct ultimate purposes for these two programs:
 - The _____ would involve the subject of prophecy, that is, Christ one day ruling and reigning over a visible _____ on the literal earth in Jerusalem.
 - The _____ would involve the subject of the mystery, that is, a people whose citizenship is in heaven (Philippians 3:20), raised with Christ and seated in the heavenlies (Ephesians 2:6).
4. When people fail to understand this great division of the Bible, they begin to set _____ for the end of the present-day **mystery** program, based on Scriptures and events in the **prophetic** program.
5. To tell the church that the Rapture could happen at any _____ is absolutely right and should be reiterated. But to convince people that it **has** to occur soon based on a world event is subjective and very speculative.
6. **There are no timetables** for when this mystery program called the dispensation of grace must _____. Only God knows how long He will continue to extend this time of grace.
7. On the other hand, there **are** timetables for the _____ program which we will discuss in the next point.

(Please scroll down to view timeline charts.)

BASIC TIMELINE



GOD'S PROPHETIC PROGRAM

