Three Main Views as to the Timing of the Rapture

I Thessalonians 4:13-17 makes reference to a time when believers will be caught up (raptured) to meet the Lord in the air. There are several views as to when this will occur:

- **Post-tribulation View**
  This view states that the church will go through the tribulation period, and then be raptured at the time of Christ’s Second Coming. Support for this view would include:
  - Many passages discussing Christ’s return only emphasize one future appearance (Matt. 24:30-31; I John 3:2).
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- **Mid-tribulation View and Pre-wrath View**
  These views state that the church will go through part of the tribulation and then be raptured midway through:
  - Since believers are told we will experience tribulations on earth (II Thess. 1:5-10), but not God’s wrath, these views state that we will be on earth until it is believed (by these views) that God’s wrath begins.
  - Mid-trib views the rapture at Rev. 11:15-19 (7th trumpet); Pre-wrath places it at Rev. 6:17 (between 6th & 7th seal).
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Christian Doctrine
The End Times (Part 6)
The Question of the Rapture

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