

# PRE-TRIBULATION RAPTURE—BIBLICAL PROOFS

## INTRO

I believe that a pre-tribulation rapture is the most accurate and doctrinally based interpretation of the study of future things (eschatology) pertaining to the Church. This interpretation is that the rapture of the Church will occur before the tribulation and wrath period (Daniel's 70<sup>th</sup> week) begins.

### I. Pre-Tribulation View Major Proofs.

- A. Pre-tribulation acronym.
1. **P:** Place of the Church.
  2. **R:** Removal of the restrainer.
  3. **E:** Exemption from divine wrath.
  4. **T:** Twenty-four elders already in Heaven.
  5. **R:** Rapture of the Church vs. (differences) Return of Christ.
  6. **I:** Imminence.
  7. **B:** Blessed hope.
- B. Explained.
1. P: None of the key New Testament passages that deal with the Tribulation (Revelation 6-18) mention the presence of the Church.
  2. R: Something or someone is holding back the full evil that is to come when the antichrist is revealed the restrainer is removed 2 Thessalonians 2:6, 7.
  3. E: The Bible promises God's people are exempt from wrath Nahum 1:2; Romans 5:9; 1 Thessalonians 1:10; 5:9.
  4. T: The 24 elders representative of the Church are described as redeemed from the earth and having crowns are in Heaven before the Tribulation begins in Revelation 6 with the opening of the first seal.
  5. R: There are two comings revealed in scripture (Rapture and Return) each with different characteristics.
  6. I: The Rapture is presented as an imminent event, could occur at any moment, and Believers are to be looking for it all the time. Only the pre-trib position allows for an imminent, any moment, without sign coming of Jesus.
  7. B: The Rapture is intended to be a comfort and blessing to the Lord's people. It is our blessed hope Titus 2:13.
- C. At Rapture 1 Thessalonians 4;  
1 Corinthians 15; 2 Thessalonians 2:1-3
1. Jesus comes "for us."
  2. Appears in sky, church rises to meet in the clouds/destination Heaven.
  3. Only Believers see Him, hears the voice and trumpet.
  4. Physical changes—mortal bodies changed; dead bodies resurrected.
  5. Happens after beginning of sorrows, but before Tribulation and revealing of antichrist.
  6. Believers taken; unbelievers left.
  7. Happens in a moment, twinkling of an eye.
  8. Saves us from wrath.
- At Return Zechariah 14;  
2 Thessalonians 2:4-8; Revelation 19
1. Jesus comes "with us."
  2. Jesus physically touches earth; Church with Him; destination—earth.
  3. Every eye shall see Him.
  4. Moon, sun, stars darken; lightening; antichrist destroyed; earthquake; Mt. Olive splits.
  5. Happens after the Tribulation and antichrist revealed.
  6. Unbelievers taken; believers left.
  7. Happens slowly; war; specific places; Edom; Bozrah; Megiddo; Jerusalem.
  8. Returns on a white horse and

- |     |  |     |  |
|-----|--|-----|--|
| 9.  | Purpose/remove Church; restainer; reveal antichrist. | 9.  | executes wrath.<br>Purpose: destroy antichrist, bind satan; put him in bottomless pit. |
| 10. | A message of comfort and hope.                       | 10. | A message of judgment.   |
| 11. | Rapture to Judgment Seat of Christ.                  | 11. | Resurrection to Great White Throne Judgment.   |
| 12. | Imminent/no signs.                                   | 12. | Identifiable signs.  |

## II. Other Biblical Proofs of a Pre-Tribulation Rapture.

- A. It is a part of the “mystery” kept secret and not revealed in the Old Testament and Gospels.
  1. 1 Corinthians 15:51-58; Colossians 1:25-27.
  2. This is a part of the dispensation of the grace of God.
  3. The Church begins and ends with a grace event (Pentecost/Rapture).
  4. The Old Testament and Gospels refer mainly to the Second Coming not the Rapture.
- B. It is a way God has used before to remove bodies from earth.
  1. Genesis 5:21-28 Enoch.
  2. 2 Kings 2:11 Elijah.
  3. Acts 1:9-11 Jesus.
- C. Daniels 70<sup>th</sup> week, which is the Tribulation is for Israel only.
  1. Daniel 9:24-27.
  2. The prophecy and vision was for thy people (Jews) and thy holy city (Jerusalem).
- D. The other Rapture (Mid/Post) views allow no time for the Judgment Seat of Christ, Marriage of the Lamb, and Marriage Supper.
  1. The marriage and supper take place before the return Revelation 19: 6-9; 11-16.
  2. Where is the Judgment Seat of Christ at the Second Coming?
- E. The trump of God 1 Thessalonians 4:16 and the last trump 1 Corinthians 15:52 differ from the seven angelic trumpets in Revelation 6-9.
  1. The last trump and trump of God are associated with the Church.
  2. The seven angelic trumpets are associated with Tribulation period events. The series of events triggered by the angelic trumpets differ from the events triggered by the last trump and trump of God.
- F. There is no mention of a resurrection at the Second Coming.
  1. At the Rapture there is a transformation and a resurrection 1 Thessalonians 4:14-17.
  2. No mention of either of these is seen at the Second Coming Zachariah 14; 2 Thessalonians 2:4-8; Revelation 19.
- G. Populating the earth during the Millennium becomes a problem.
  1. The mid-trib and post-trib theories have difficulty explaining who will populate the earth during the millennium.
  2. If the Rapture occurs at the Second Coming when the wicked are removed and cast into hell who will be left to populate the earth in Millennium.
  3. Only people in their natural bodies will be able to have children because in the resurrection—we neither marry nor are given in marriage Matthew 22:38.
  4. With a pre-trib rapture, the people saved after the rapture who are alive at the second coming will populate the earth during the Millennium which starts with Believers only.
- H. The Rapture is on an unknown day whereas the Second Coming or Return is a known day.
  1. Revelation 12:6 says the Jews will have to wait 1,260 days for the Lord to return. The 1,260 days begin when the antichrist stands in the temple and declares himself God Daniel 9:27 (mid-trib); Matthew 24:15-21; 2 Thessalonians 2:4. He has authority for 42 months which is 1,260 days Revelation 13:4.
  2. The Rapture has no known day or hour.

### III. The Jewish Cycle of Harvest and the Way They Harvest Fits All Three Raptures.

	<u>What is harvested:</u>	<u>Method:</u>
A. Pre-trib Rapture	- First fruits/barley (white/soft)	Winnowed
B. Mid-trib	- Wheat (hard coating that must be crushed)	Threshing floor with a threshing roller called a tribula
C. End of Trib	- Fruit (crushed)	Winepress/crushing