

Living In Light of Eternity

“When Will the Believing Be Leaving?”

(The Rapture) – Part 2

Seven Reasons for the Pre-Trib Rapture

1. P _____ of the church in Revelation.

If the church was to experience any or all of the Tribulation one would expect Revelation 4-18 – the most detailed description of the Tribulation – to include an account of the church’s role during this time.

The Greek word for church is *ekklesia* and occurs 19 times in Revelation 1-3, but beginning in Revelation 4 the word *ekklesia* disappears. There is deafening silence for the next 15 chapters, all of which are about the seven year Tribulation on earth.

2. R _____ versus return.

<u>The Rapture</u>	<u>The Return (Second Coming)</u>
<u>Christ comes in the air (1 Thess. 4:16-17)</u>	<u>Christ comes to the earth (Zechariah 14:4)</u>
<u>Christ comes for His saints (1 Thess. 4:16-17)</u>	<u>Christ comes with His saints (1 Thessalonians 3:13; Jude 1:14)</u>
<u>Christ gathers His own (1 Thess. 4:16-17)</u>	<u>Angels gather the elect (Matthew 24:31)</u>
<u>Christ comes to reward (1 Thess. 4:17)</u>	<u>Christ comes to judge (Matthew 25:31-46)</u>
<u>There are no signs. It is imminent.</u>	<u>There are many signs (Matthew 24:4-29)</u>
<u>It is a time of blessing and comfort (1 Thess. 4:17-18)</u>	<u>It is a time of destruction and judgment (2 Thessalonians 2:8-12)</u>
<u>Involves only believers (John 14:1-3; 1 Cor. 15:51-55; 1 Thess. 4:13-18)</u>	<u>Involves Israel and the Gentile nations (Matthew 24:1 – 25:46)</u>
<u>Will occur in a moment and only His own will see Him (1 Cor. 15:51-52)</u>	<u>Will be visible to all living on the earth (Matthew 24:27; Revelation 1:7)</u>

3. E _____ from divine wrath.

The Bible promises that church-age believers will be exempt from the coming wrath of God during the Tribulation (1 Thessalonians 1:9-10; 5:9; Revelation 3:10).

4. T _____ gap between the Rapture and the Second Coming.

a. The Judgment Seat of Christ (Romans 14:10; 1 Corinthians 3:9-15; 4:1-5; 9:24-27; 2 Corinthians 5:10)

b. The Preparation of Christ's Bride (Revelation 19:7-18)

c. Life in the Millennial Kingdom. (Isaiah 65:20-25; Revelation 20:1-6)

d. The Sheep and Goats Judgment. (Matthew 25:31-46)

5. R _____ of the restrainer. (2 Thessalonians 2:1-8)

6. I _____. (1 Corinthians 1:7; Philippians 3:20; 1 Thessalonians 1:10; Titus 2:13; Hebrews 9:28; Jude 1:21; Revelation 3:11)

7. B _____ hope. (John 14:1-3; Titus 2:13; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18)

The Meaning of the Rapture for Everyday Life

1. The Rapture has a _____ influence on seeking hearts.

2. The Rapture has a _____ influence on soul-winning hearts.

3. The Rapture has a _____ influence on sinning hearts.

4. The Rapture has a _____ influence on stirring hearts.

5. The Rapture has a _____ influence on sorrowing hearts.

6. The Rapture has a _____ influence on serving hearts.

A Chronology of the End Times

I. EVENTS IN HEAVEN

- A. The Rapture of the Church** (1 Corinthians 15:51-58; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Revelation 3:10)
- B. The Judgment Seat of Christ** (Romans 14:10; 1 Corinthians 3:9-15; 4:1-5; 9:24-27; 2 Cor. 5:10)
- C. The Marriage of the Lamb** (2 Corinthians 11:2; Revelation 19:6-8)
- D. The Singing of Two Special Songs** (Revelation 4-5)
- E. The Lamb Receiving the Seven-Sealed Scroll** (Revelation 5)

II. EVENTS ON EARTH

A. The Seven-Year Tribulation

1. The Beginning of the Tribulation
 - a. The seven-year Tribulation begins when the Antichrist signs a covenant with Israel, bringing peace to Israel and Jerusalem (Daniel 9:27; Ezekiel 38:8, 11).
 - b. The Jewish Temple in Jerusalem is rebuilt (Daniel 9:27; Rev. 11:1).
 - c. The reunited Roman Empire emerges in a ten-nation confederation - the "group of ten" (Daniel 2:40-44; 7:7; Revelation 17:12).
2. First Half (3 ½ Years) of the Tribulation
 - a. The seven seal judgments are opened (Revelation 6; 8:1)
 - b. The 144,000 Jewish believers begin their great evangelistic ministry (Revelation 7).
 - c. Gog and its allies invade Israel while Israel is at peace under the covenant with the Antichrist. The Gog coalition is supernaturally decimated by God (Daniel 11:40-45; Ezekiel 38-39). This will probably occur somewhere near the end of the first 3 ½ year period. The destruction of these forces will shift the balance of power, enabling the Antichrist to begin his rise to world ascendancy.
3. The Midpoint of the Tribulation
 - a. The Antichrist breaks his covenant with Israel and invades the land (Dan. 9:27; 11:40-41).
 - b. The Antichrist begins to consolidate his empire by plundering Egypt, Sudan, and Libya, whose armies have just been destroyed by God in Israel (Daniel 11:42-43; Ezekiel 38-39)
 - c. While in North Africa, the Antichrist hears disturbing news of insurrection in Israel and immediately returns there to destroy and annihilate many (Daniel 11:44).
 - d. The antichrist sets up the abomination of desolation in the rebuilt Temple in Jerusalem (Daniel 9:27; 11:45a; Matt. 24:15; 2 Thess. 2:4; Rev. 13:5, 15-18).
 - e. Sometime during these events, the Antichrist is violently killed, possibly as a result of war or assassination (Daniel 11:45; Revelation 13:3, 12, 14; 17:18)
 - f. Satan is cast down from heaven and begins to make war with the woman, Israel (Revelation 12:7-13). The chief means he uses to persecute Israel are the two beasts in Revelation 13.
 - g. The faithful Jewish remnant flee, possibly to Petra in modern Jordan, where God protects them for the remainder of the Tribulation (Matt. 24:16-20; Rev. 12:15-17).
 - h. The Antichrist is miraculously raised from the dead to the amazement of the entire world (Revelation 13:3).

i. After rising from the dead, the Antichrist gains political control over the ten kings of the reunited Roman Empire. Three of these kings will be killed by the Antichrist and the other seven will submit to him (Daniel 7:24; Revelation 17:12-13).

j. The two witnesses begin their 3 ½ year ministry (Revelation 11:2-3).

k. The Antichrist and the ten kings destroy the religious system of Babylon and set up their religious, economic capital in the city (Revelation 17:16-17).

4. Second Half (3 ½ Years) of the Tribulation

a. The Antichrist blasphemes God, and the false prophet performs great signs and wonders and promotes false worship of the Antichrist (Rev. 13:5, 11-15).

b. The mark of the Beast (666) is introduced and enforced by the false prophet (Revelation 13:16-18).

c. Totally energized by Satan, the Antichrist dominates the world politically, religiously, and economically (Revelation 13:4-5, 15-18).

d. The trumpet judgments are unleashed throughout the final half of the Tribulation (Revelation 8-9).

e. Knowing he only has a short time left, Satan intensifies his merciless persecution of the Jewish people and Gentile believers on earth (Dan. 7:25; Rev. 12:12; 13:15; 20:4).

5. The End of the Tribulation

a. The bowl judgments are poured out in rapid succession (Revelation 16).

b. The campaign of Armageddon begins (Revelation 16:16).

c. Commercial Babylon is destroyed (Revelation 18).

d. The two witnesses are killed by the Antichrist and are resurrected by God 3 ½ days later (Revelation 11:7-12).

e. Christ returns to the Mount of Olives and slays the armies gathered against Him throughout the land, from Megiddo to Petra (Rev. 19:11-16; Isaiah 34:1-6; 63:1-5).

f. The birds gather to feed on the carnage (Revelation 19:17-18).

B. After the Tribulation

1. Interval of Seventy-Five Days (Daniel 12:12)

a. The Antichrist and the false prophet are cast into the lake of fire (Revelation 19:20-21)

b. The abomination of desolation is removed from the Temple (Daniel 12:11).

c. Israel is regathered (Matthew 24:31).

d. Jews who survive the Tribulation are judged (Ezekiel 20:30-39; Matthew 25:1-30).

e. Gentiles who survive the Tribulation are judged (Matthew 25:31-46).

f. Satan is bound in the abyss (Revelation 20:1-3).

g. Old Testament and Tribulation saints are resurrected and rewarded (Daniel 12:1-3; Isaiah 26:19; Revelation 20:4).

h. The millennial Temple is constructed (Ezekiel 40-48).

2. One-Thousand Year Reign of Christ on Earth (Revelation 20:4-6)

3. Satan's Final Revolt and Defeat (Revelation 20:7-10)

4. The Great White Throne Judgment of the Lost (Revelation 20:11-15)

5. The Destruction of the Present Heavens and Earth (Matthew 24:35; 2 Peter 3:3-12; Revelation 21:1)

6. The Creation of the New Heavens and New Earth (Isaiah 65:17; 66:12; 2 Peter 3:13; Revelation 21:1)

7. Eternity (Revelation 21:9 – 22:5)