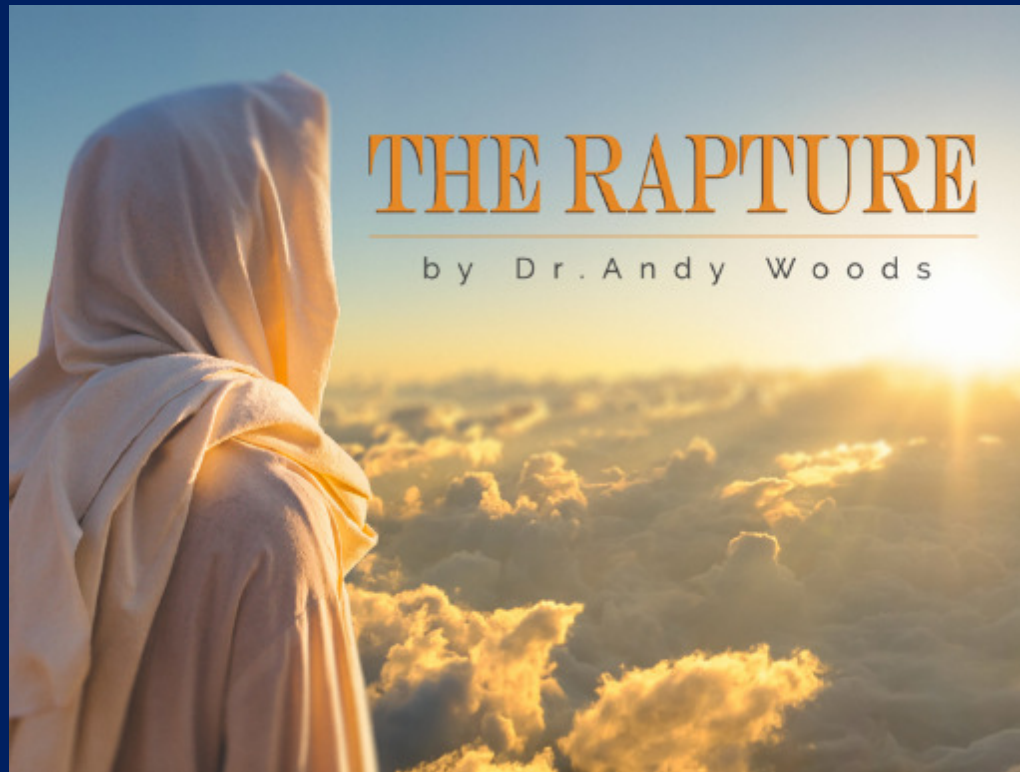


THE RAPTURE

What and When? – Part 15



Andrew Marshall Woods, Th.M., J.D., Ph.D.
Sr. Pastor, Sugar Land Bible Church

What is the Rapture?



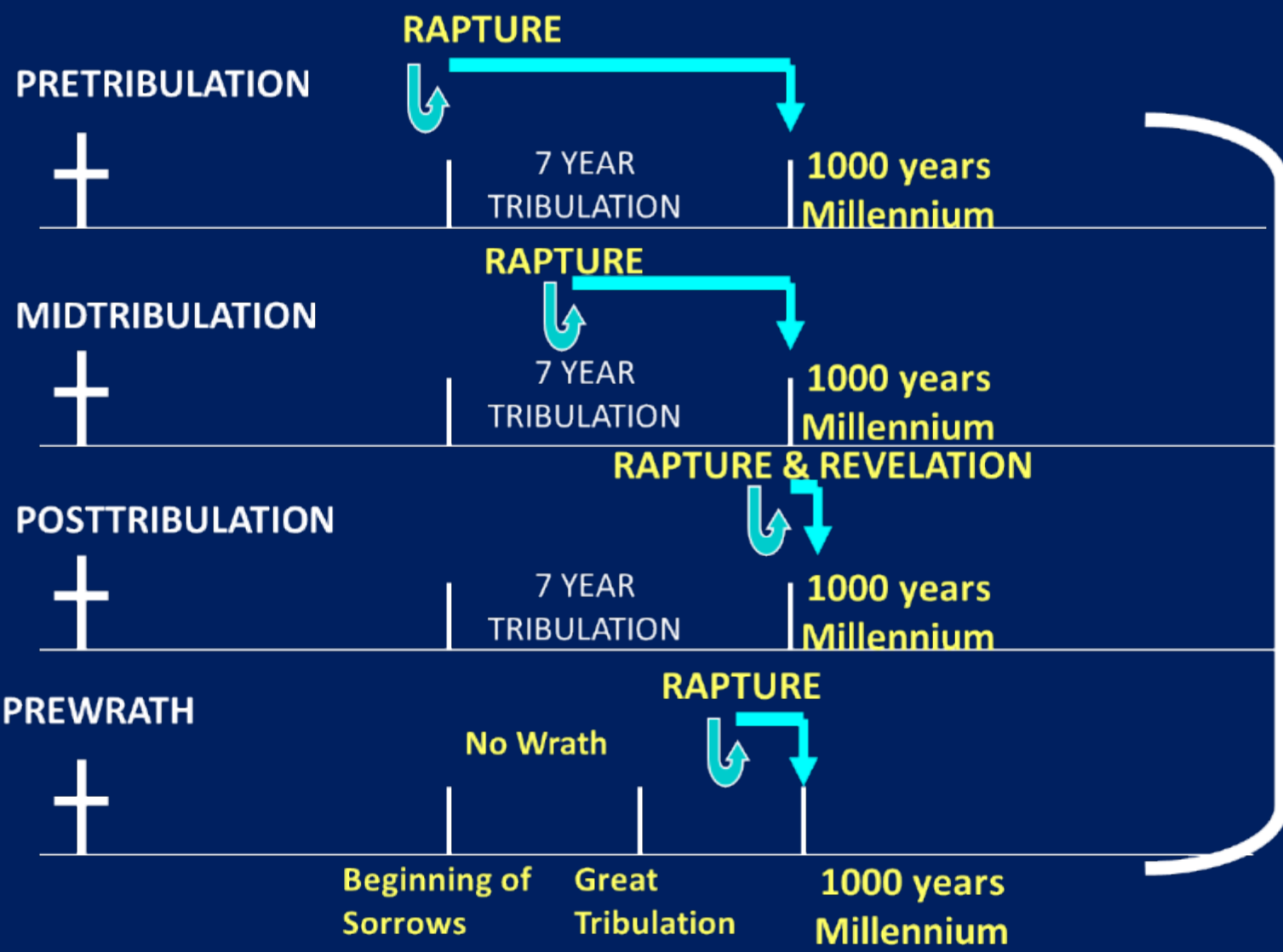
1. An important doctrine
2. Distinct from the Second Advent
3. Catching away of all living believers (1 Thess 4:17)
4. Reunion (1 Thess 4:14-16)
5. Resurrection (1 Cor 15:50-54)
6. Exemption from death (1 Cor 15:51, 54-56)
7. Instantaneous (1 Cor 15:52)
8. Mystery (1 Cor 15:51)
9. Imminent (1 Cor 15:51; 1 Thess 4:15)
10. Traditional doctrine now being recovered

When Will the Rapture Take Place Relative to the Tribulation Period?

- Pre-tribulation rapture theory
- Mid-tribulation rapture theory
- Post-tribulation rapture theory
- Pre-wrath rapture theory
- Partial rapture theory



RAPTURE VIEW COMPARISON



3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50

When is the Rapture?

7 Arguments Favoring the Pre-Tribulation View

1. Tribulation's purpose concerns Israel (Jer 30:7; Dan 9:24)
2. No biblical reference to the church on earth during the Tribulation period (Rev 4-22)
3. Church is promised an exemption from divine wrath (1 Thess 1:10; 5:9; Rom 5:9; Rev 3:10; 6:17)
4. Rapture is imminent (1 Cor 15:51; 1 Thess 4:15)
5. Rapture is a comfort (1 Thess 4:18)
6. Antichrist cannot come to power until the restrainer is removed (2 Thess 2:6-7)
7. Symbolic parallels (2 Peter 2:5-9)

Strengthening the Pre-Tribulation Case

1. John 14:1-4
2. Revelation 3:10
3. First Thessalonians 4–5
4. Second Thessalonians 2:3a
5. Matthew 24–25



Strengthening the Pre-Tribulation Case

1. John 14:1-4
2. Revelation 3:10
3. First Thessalonians 4–5
4. Second Thessalonians 2:3a
5. Matthew 24–25



Strengthening the Pre-Tribulation Case

1. John 14:1-4
2. **Revelation 3:10**
3. First Thessalonians 4–5
4. Second Thessalonians 2:3a
5. Matthew 24–25



Revelation 3:10

Because you have kept the word of My perseverance, I also will keep you from the hour of testing, that *hour* which is about to come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.



Does Revelation 3:10 Teach the Pre-Tribulation Rapture?

1. Are there easier ways to convey “protection through”?
2. Will God protect believers during the Tribulation?
3. What is the meaning of “keep you from”?
4. What is the meaning of “the hour”?
5. What is the meaning of the “whole world”?
6. What is the meaning of “testing/to test”?



Does Revelation 3:10 Teach the Pre-Tribulation Rapture?

7. Who are the “earth-dwellers”?
8. What is the meaning of “about to come”?
9. How will Christ keep His promise?
10. Is this promise for Philadelphia only?
11. How does the Pre-Trib. View of Rev. 3:10 harmonize with the rest of the Book of Revelation?



Does Revelation 3:10 Teach the Pre-Tribulation Rapture?

1. Are there easier ways to convey “protection through”?
2. Will God protect believers during the Tribulation?
3. What is the meaning of “keep you from”?
4. What is the meaning of “the hour”?
5. What is the meaning of the “whole world”?
6. What is the meaning of “testing/to test”?



Revelation 3:10

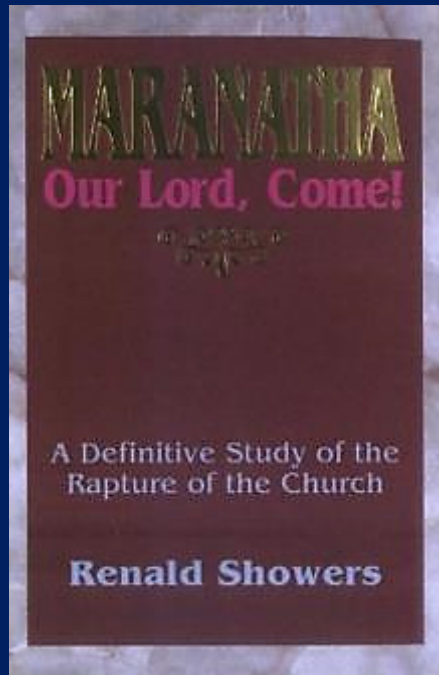
Because you have kept the word of My perseverance, I also will keep you from [ek] the hour of testing, that *hour* which is about to come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.





Renald Showers

Renald Showers, *Maranatha Our Lord, Come!* (Bellmawr, NJ: Friends of Israel, 1995), 212.



“The idea of the saints being shielded from the testing while living within and through this time period also would have been expressed more clearly through the use of another preposition, either *en* (meaning ‘in’) or *dia* (meaning ‘through’) [thus, ‘I will keep you *in* or *through* the time period of testing’] rather than *ek*.”

Does Revelation 3:10 Teach the Pre-Tribulation Rapture?

1. Are there easier ways to convey “protection through”?
2. Will God protect believers during the Tribulation?
3. What is the meaning of “keep you from”?
4. What is the meaning of “the hour”?
5. What is the meaning of the “whole world”?
6. What is the meaning of “testing/to test”?

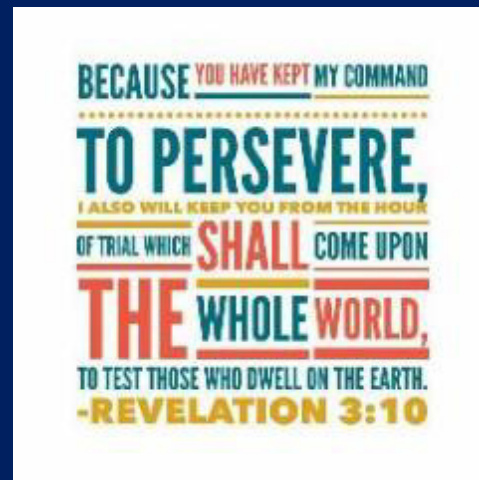




2. Protection Through the Tribulation?

(Revelation 3:10)

- 1) Like the protection in Goshen (Exod. 8:22, 24; 9:4, 6; 11:4-7; Rev. 9:4; 16:2)
- 2) Effective ? Rev. 6:9-11; 7:13-14; 13:10, 15:20:4
- 3) Comfort? John 14:1; 1 Thess. 4:18; Titus 2:13



Does Revelation 3:10 Teach the Pre-Tribulation Rapture?

1. Are there easier ways to convey “protection through”?
2. Will God protect believers during the Tribulation?
3. What is the meaning of “keep you from”?
4. What is the meaning of “the hour”?
5. What is the meaning of the “whole world”?
6. What is the meaning of “testing/to test”?



Revelation 3:10

Because you have kept the word of My perseverance, I also will keep you from [ek] the hour of testing, that *hour* which is about to come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.





Charles Ryrie

Charles C. Ryrie, *What You Should Know About the Rapture*,
Current Christian Issues (Chicago: Moody, 1981), 114-15.

“Posttribulationists say that ‘from’ (*ek*) refers to protection of the church within the Tribulation. Pretribulationists understand it to mean preservation by being absent from the time of tribulation. One is internal protection (while living through the Tribulation); the other is external protection (being in heaven during that time). Which meaning does ‘from’ (*ek*) support? The answer is either, if the preposition is considered alone. But for the record, let it be said that *ek* does denote a position outside something without implying a prior position inside and then emergence from within. The pretribulationist understanding of *ek* is supported by a number of verses that have nothing to do with the rapture and therefore do not beg the question.”

Matthew 7:5

“You hypocrite, first take the log out of [ek] your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of [ek] your brother’s eye.”



Revelation 3:10

‘Because you have kept the word of My perseverance, I also will keep [tēreō] you from [ek] the hour of testing, that *hour* which is about to come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.



Acts 15:29

“that you abstain from things sacrificed to idols and from blood and from things strangled and from fornication; if you keep [diatēreō] yourselves free from [ek] such things, you will do well. Farewell.”



John 12:27

“Now My soul has become troubled; and what shall I say, ‘Father, save [sōzō] Me from [ek] this hour’? But for this purpose I came to this hour.”



Colossians 1:13

“For He rescued [rhyomai] us from [ek] the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son.”



1 John 5:18

“We know that no one who is born of God sins; but He who was born of God keeps him, and the evil one does not touch him.”



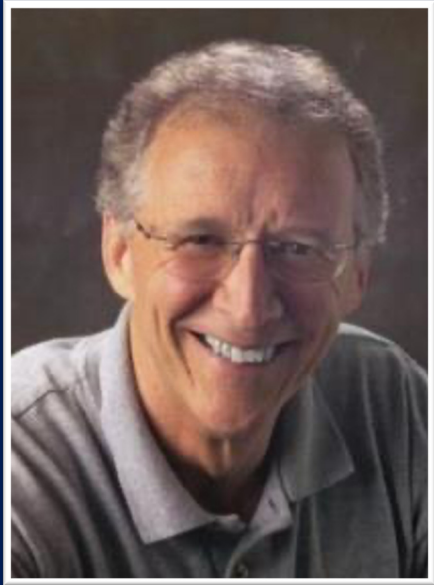
John 17:15

“I do not ask You to take them out of the world, but to keep [tēreō] them from [ek] the evil one.”



John Piper

Lauren Leigh Noske, "Nine Reasons Why John Piper Disagrees with Nicolas' Cage's 'Left Behind' Movie's View of Rapture," The Gospel Herald, August 6, 2014; www.gospelherald.com. See also John Piper, "Definition and Observations Concerning the Second Coming of Christ," Desiring God Ministry, August 30, 1987; www.desiringgod.org.



“John Piper believes that the main Scripture which some believe supports the pre-tribulational rapture viewpoint (Revelation 3:10) does not necessarily mean that believers will be taken away from the earth, however; rather, it could mean that God will keep or protect His people from evil during the tribulation (see also John 17:15).”

John 17:15

“I do not ask You to take them out of the world,
but to keep [tēreō] them from [ek] the evil one.”



Colossians 1:13

“For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son.”



1 John 5:18

“We know that no one who is born of God sins; but He who was born of God keeps him, and the evil one does not touch him.”



Does Revelation 3:10 Teach the Pre-Tribulation Rapture?

1. Are there easier ways to convey “protection through”?
2. Will God protect believers during the Tribulation?
3. What is the meaning of “keep you from”?
4. What is the meaning of “the hour”?
5. What is the meaning of the “whole world”?
6. What is the meaning of “testing/to test”?



Revelation 3:10

‘Because you have kept the word of My perseverance, I also will keep you from the hour [*hōra*] of testing, that *hour* which is about to come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.



John 12:27

“Now My soul has become troubled; and what shall I say, ‘Father, save Me from this hour [hōra]’? But for this purpose I came to this hour [hōra]’.”

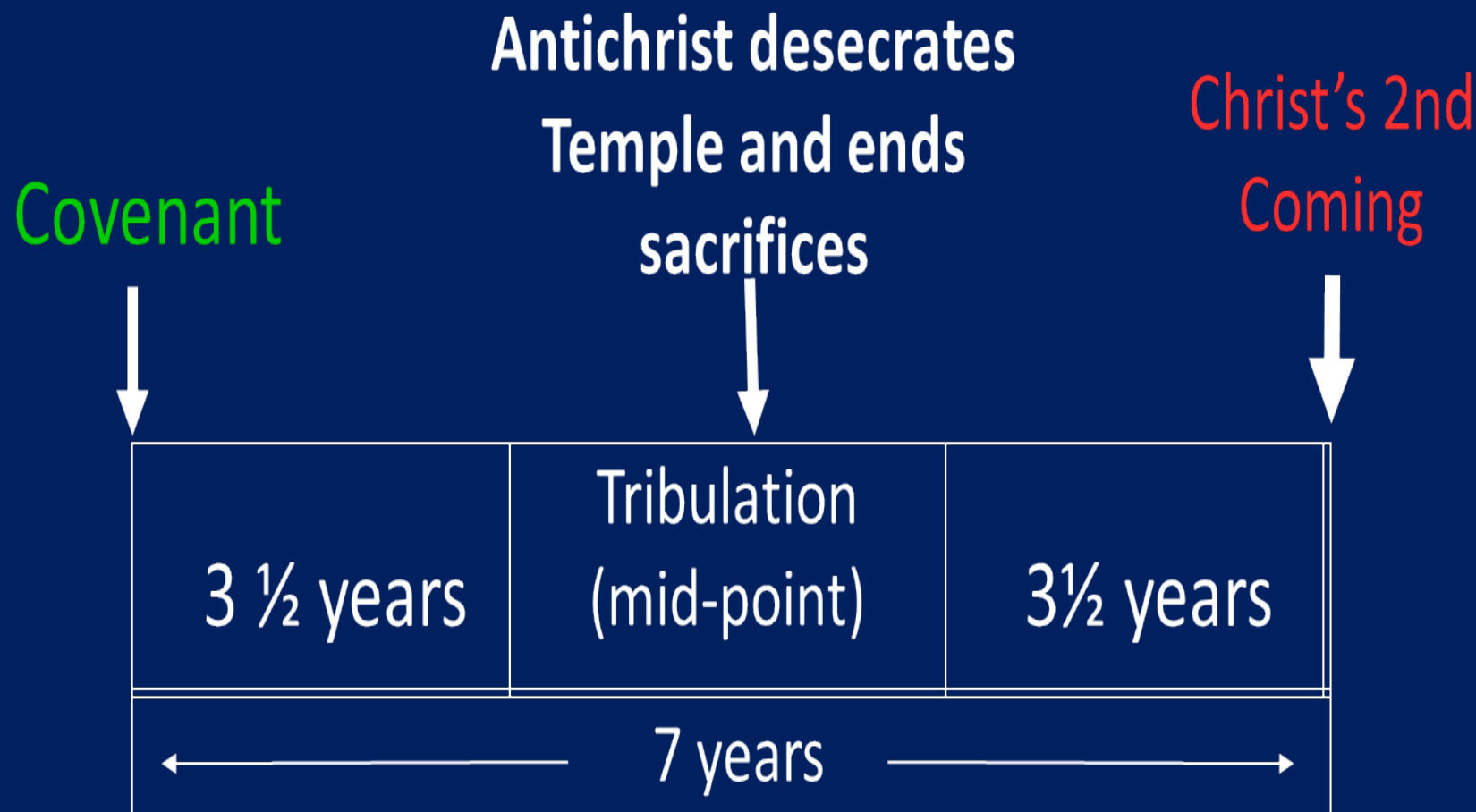


Revelation 3:10

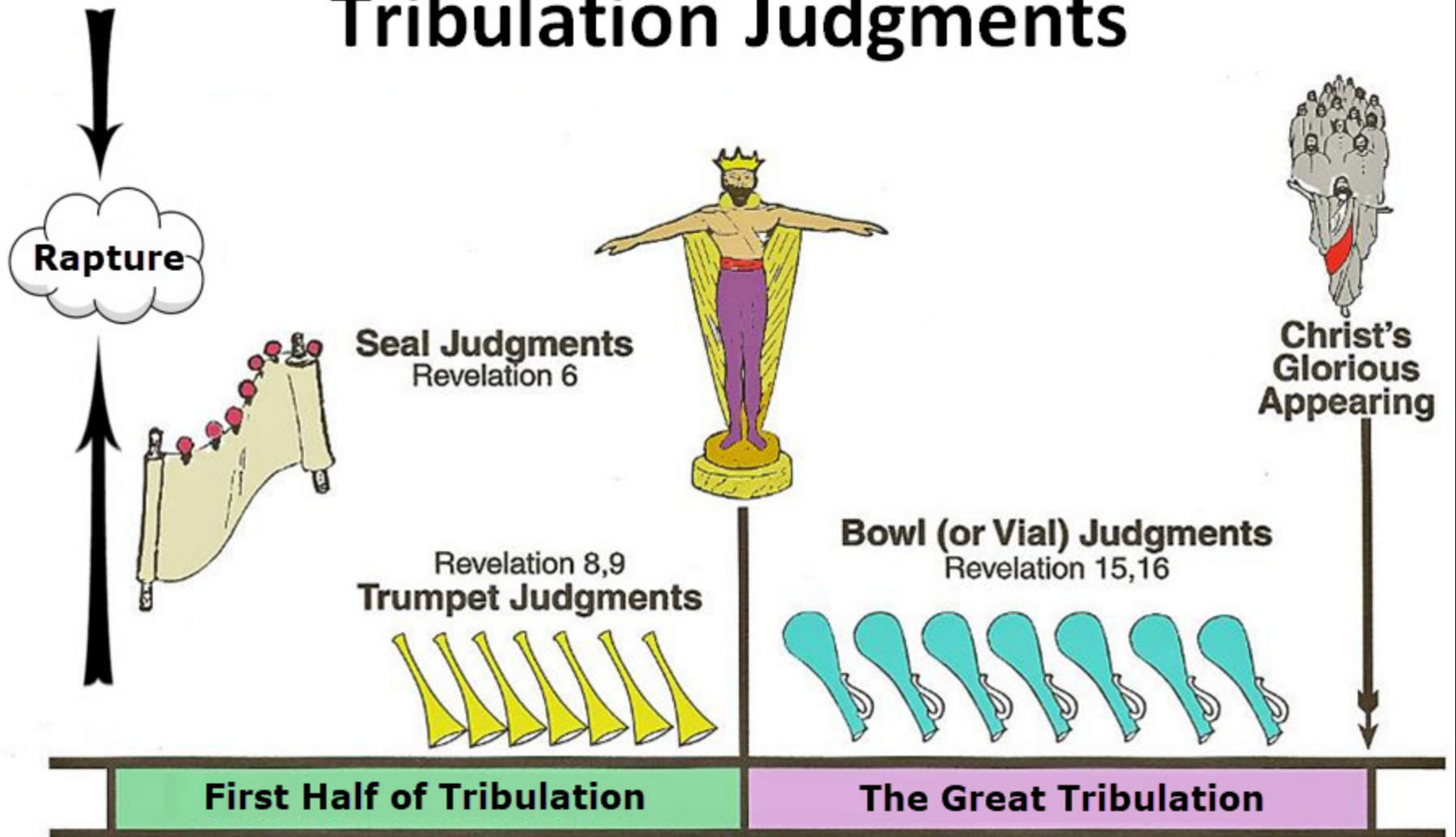
‘Because you have kept the word of My perseverance, I also will keep you from the hour [*hōra*] of testing, that *hour* which is about to come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.



DAN 9:27 OVERVIEW OF TRIBULATION PERIOD



Tribulation Judgments





Charles Ryrie

Charles C. Ryrie, *What You Should Know About the Rapture*,
Current Christian Issues (Chicago: Moody, 1981), 116-17.

“However, the promise of Revelation 3:10 not only guarantees being kept from the trials of the Tribulation period but being kept from the time period of the Tribulation. The promise is not, I will keep you from the trials. It is I will keep you from the hour of the trials...But how clear and plain is the promise. ‘I...will keep you from the hour of testing.’ Not just from any persecution, but from the coming time that will affect the whole earth. (The only way to escape worldwide trouble is not to be on the earth.) And not just from the events, but from the time. And the only way to escape the time when the events take place is not to be in a place where time ticks on. The only place that meets those qualifications is heaven.”

Jeremiah 30:7 (LXX)

“Alas! for that day is great, There is none like it;
And it is the time of Jacob’s distress (Gen. 32:8;
35:10), But he will be saved [sōzō] from [apo] it.”



Zechariah 13:8-9

⁸“It will come about in all the land,” Declares the LORD,
“That two parts in it will be cut off and perish; But the third will be left in it.”⁹“And I will bring the third part through the fire, Refine them as silver is refined, And test them as gold is tested. They will call on My name, And I will answer them; I will say, ‘They are My people,’ And they will say, ‘The LORD is my God.’ ”



Does Revelation 3:10 Teach the Pre-Tribulation Rapture?

1. Are there easier ways to convey “protection through”?
2. Will God protect believers during the Tribulation?
3. What is the meaning of “keep you from”?
4. What is the meaning of “the hour”?
5. What is the meaning of the “whole world”?
6. What is the meaning of “testing/to test”?



Revelation 3:10

‘Because you have kept the word of My perseverance, I also will keep you from the hour of testing, that *hour* which is about to come upon the whole [holos] world [oikouménē], to test those who dwell on the earth.



5. The Whole World?

(Revelation 3:10)

- 1) Oikouménē – known world? (Luke 2:1; Acts 11:28)
- 2) Oikouménē – entire world (Luke 4:5; Acts 17:31; Rev. 12:9)
- 3) Context favors the global definition
 - a. Adjective “whole” (*holos*)
 - b. Rev. 6–18

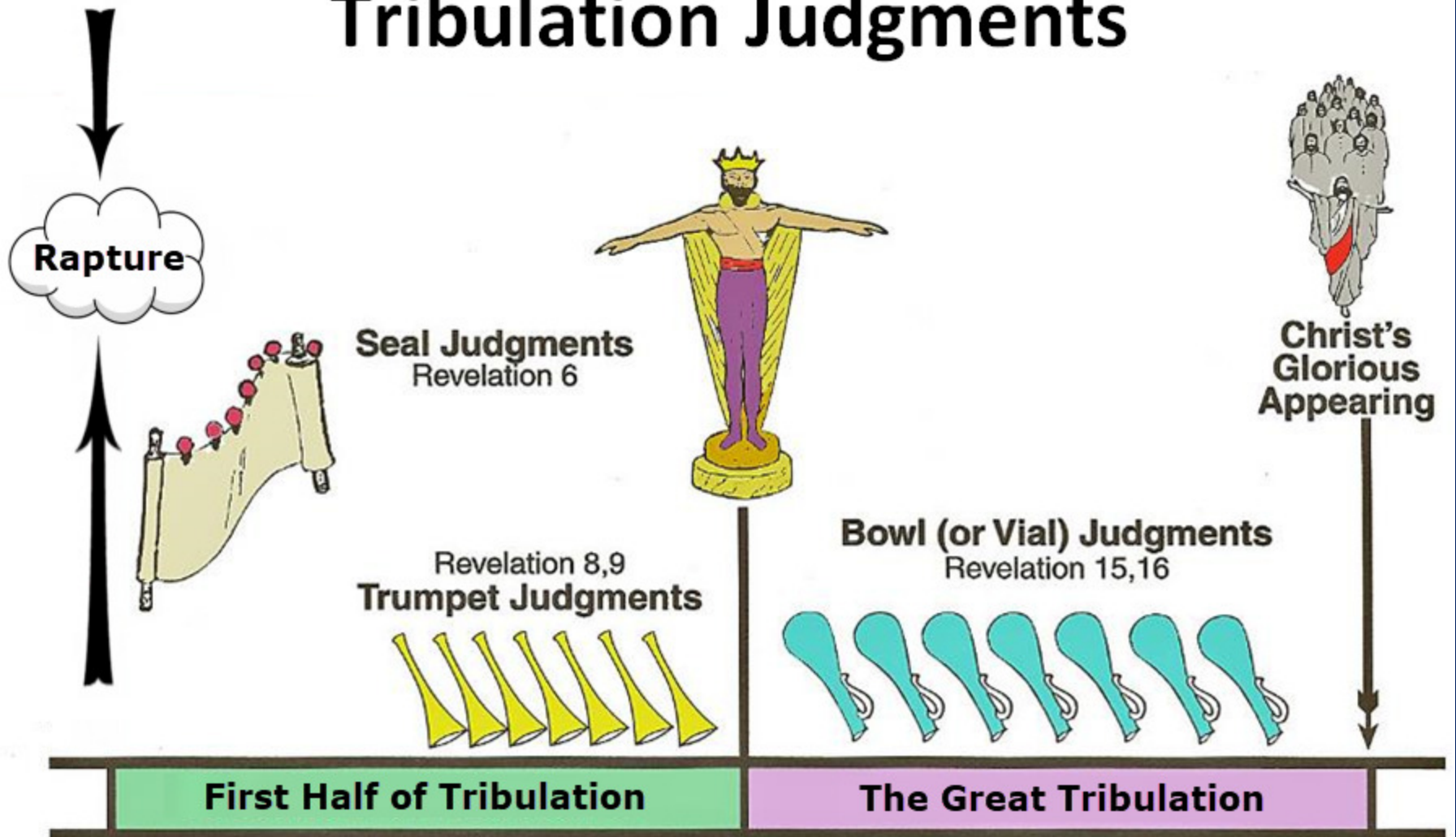
BECAUSE YOU HAVE KEPT MY COMMAND
TO PERSEVERE,
I ALSO WILL KEEP YOU FROM THE HOUR
OF TRIAL WHICH SHALL COME UPON
THE WHOLE WORLD,
TO TEST THOSE WHO DWELL ON THE EARTH.
-REVELATION 3:10

Revelation 3:10

‘Because you have kept the word of My perseverance, I also will keep you from the hour of testing, that *hour* which is about to come upon the whole [holos] world [oikouménē], to test those who dwell on the earth.



Tribulation Judgments



Does Revelation 3:10 Teach the Pre-Tribulation Rapture?

1. Are there easier ways to convey “protection through”?
2. Will God protect believers during the Tribulation?
3. What is the meaning of “keep you from”?
4. What is the meaning of “the hour”?
5. What is the meaning of the “whole world”?
6. What is the meaning of “testing/to test”?



Revelation 3:10

‘Because you have kept the word of My perseverance, I also will keep you from the hour of testing [peirasmós], that *hour* which is about to come upon the whole world, to test [peirázō] those who dwell on the earth.



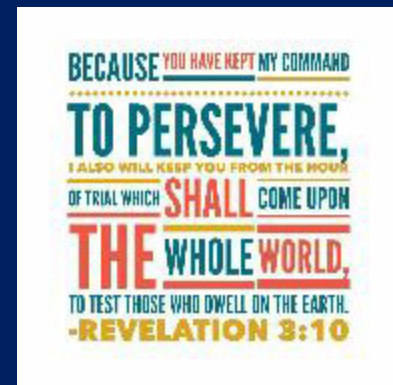
6. Test

(Revelation 3:10)

1) Peirasmós / peirázō

- a. To demonstrate the quality of something rather than to purify its contents
- b. A Test for the purpose of exposing someone's true character typically with the negative intent to demonstrate a failure

2) Examples (Jas. 1:13-14; Rev. 2:2)



Revelation 2:2

‘I know your deeds and your toil and perseverance, and that you cannot tolerate evil men, and you put to the test [*peirázō*] those who call themselves apostles, and they are not, and you found them *to be false*;



James 1:13-14

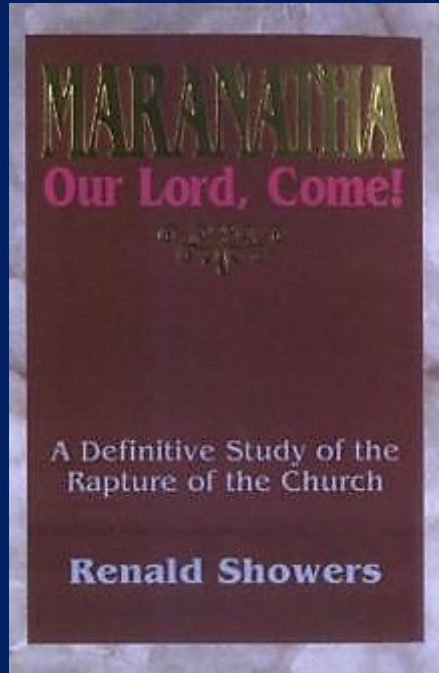
“¹³ Let no one say when he is tempted [peirázō], ‘I am being tempted [peirázō] by God’; for God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt [peirázō] anyone. ¹⁴ But each one is tempted [peirázō] when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust.”





Renald Showers

Renald Showers, *Maranatha Our Lord, Come!*
(Bellmawr, NJ: Friends of Israel, 1995), 215.



“Christ was declaring that the purpose of the future period of testing will be for God to test 'them that dwell on the earth' to demonstrate or expose the kind of people they are.”

Does Revelation 3:10 Teach the Pre-Tribulation Rapture?

7. Who are the “earth-dwellers”?
8. What is the meaning of “about to come”?
9. How will Christ keep His promise?
10. Is this promise for Philadelphia only?
11. How does the Pre-Trib. View of Rev. 3:10 harmonize with the rest of the Book of Revelation?



Revelation 3:10

‘Because you have kept the word of My perseverance, I also will keep you from the hour of testing, that *hour* which is about to come upon the whole world, to test **those who dwell on the earth** [*katoikeō epi gē*]



Revelation 13:8

“All who dwell on the earth [*katoikeō epi gē*] will worship him, everyone whose name has not been written from the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who has been slain.”



Revelation 17:8

“⁸ The beast that you saw was, and is not, and is about to come up out of the abyss and go to destruction. And those who dwell on the earth [*katoikeō epi gē*], whose name has not been written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, will wonder when they see the beast, that he was and is not and will come..”



Thomas Ice

Thomas Ice, "Kept From the Hour," online: www.pre-trib.org, accessed 4 September 2014, 2.



“This phrase ‘earth dwellers’ is used eleven times in nine verses in Revelation (3:10; 6:10; 8:13; 11:10 2xs; 13:8, 12, 14 2xs; 14:6; 17:8). As you examine each individual use, except 3:10, you will see that all refer to a special class of stubborn sinners who are set in their rebellion against the God of heaven. You will also find that the phrase is *only* used to refer to those during the tribulation period. Therefore, since the future hour spoken of in 3:10 is set in contrast with the present set of believers in the church age, and the future ‘earth dwellers’ will be active during the time period in which believers are said to be kept from, it is clear that John speaks of the time or hour of the tribulation. This is why 3:10 is a clear promise that Christ will keep believers from the time of the seven year tribulation.”

Pretribulationism IS NOT Escapism

- Trials (John 16:33)
- Man's wrath (2 Tim. 3:12)
- Satan's wrath (Eph. 6:11-12)
- World's wrath (John 15:18-19)

Revelation 3:10

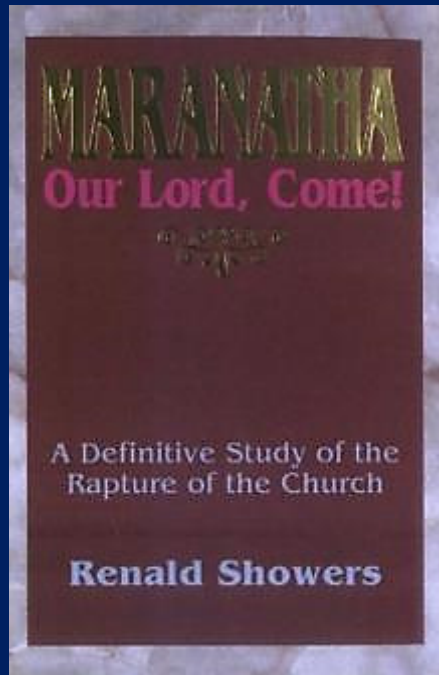
'Because you have kept the word of My perseverance, I also will keep you from the hour of testing, that *hour* which is about to come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.





Renald Showers

Renald Showers, *Maranatha Our Lord, Come!*
(Bellmawr, NJ: Friends of Israel, 1995), 212.



“Christ based His promise on the fact that the church saints had already passed their test. In light of that, it appears that because they had already passed their test, Christ promised that He would not put them into the period that...will have the purpose of testing a very different group of people.”

Does Revelation 3:10 Teach the Pre-Tribulation Rapture?

7. Who are the “earth-dwellers”?
8. What is the meaning of “about to come”?
9. How will Christ keep His promise?
10. Is this promise for Philadelphia only?
11. How does the Pre-Trib. View of Rev. 3:10 harmonize with the rest of the Book of Revelation?



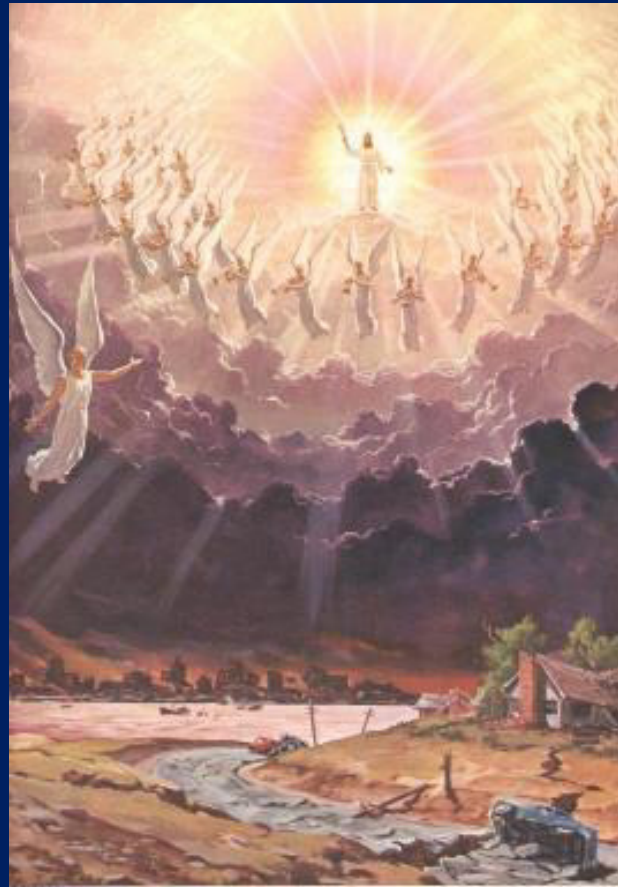
Revelation 3:10

‘Because you have kept the word of My perseverance, I also will keep you from the hour of testing, that *hour* which is **about to come [mellō]** upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.



Imminency

Méllō: “and one who will share in the glory to be *mellō* revealed” (1 Pet 5:1)



Does Revelation 3:10 Teach the Pre-Tribulation Rapture?

7. Who are the “earth-dwellers”?
8. What is the meaning of “about to come”?
9. How will Christ keep His promise?
10. Is this promise for Philadelphia only?
11. How does the Pre-Trib. View of Rev. 3:10 harmonize with the rest of the Book of Revelation?



Revelation 3:11

“I am coming quickly; hold fast what you have, so that no one will take your crown.”



Revelation 3:11

“I am coming quickly; hold fast what you have, so that no one will take your crown.”



Revelation 3:11

“I am coming quickly; hold fast what you have, so that no one will take your crown.”



1 Corinthians 4:5

“ Therefore do not go on passing judgment before the time, *but wait* until the Lord comes who will both bring to light the things hidden in the darkness and disclose the motives of *men's* hearts; and then each man's praise will come to him from God.”



2 Timothy 4:8

“In the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing.”



Does Revelation 3:10 Teach the Pre-Tribulation Rapture?

7. Who are the “earth-dwellers”?
8. What is the meaning of “about to come”?
9. How will Christ keep His promise?
- 10. Is this promise for Philadelphia only?**
11. How does the Pre-Trib. View of Rev. 3:10 harmonize with the rest of the Book of Revelation?



Revelation 3:7

“And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: He who is holy, who is true, who has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, and who shuts and no one opens, says this:”



The 7 Churches in Revelation

Rev. 1:11



Promised Exemption from Divine Wrath

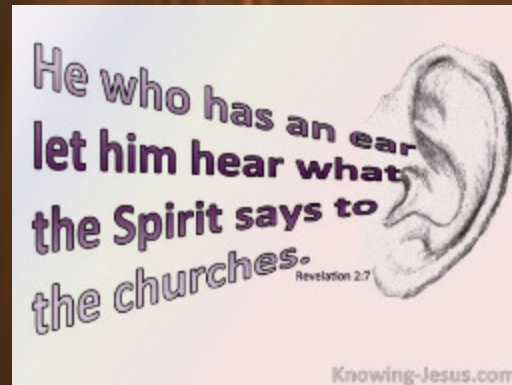
- The promise (1 Thess. 1:10; 5:9; Rom 5:9; 8:1; Rev 3:10)
- Tribulation = divine wrath (Rev 6:16-17; 11:18; 15:1, 7; 16:19)



Revelation 3:13

EXHORTATION TO LISTEN

“He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”



Revelation 3:11-12

“¹¹ I am coming quickly; hold fast what you have, so that no one will take your crown. ¹² He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he will not go out from it anymore; and I will write on him the name of My God, and the name of the city of My God, the new Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God, and My new name.”



Does Revelation 3:10 Teach the Pre-Tribulation Rapture?

7. Who are the “earth-dwellers”?
8. What is the meaning of “about to come”?
9. How will Christ keep His promise?
10. Is this promise for Philadelphia only?
- 11. How does the Pre-Trib. View of Rev. 3:10 harmonize with the rest of the Book of Revelation?**



Revelation 1:19

“Therefore write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after these things [meta tauta].”



Revelation 1:19

- Seen (Chapter 1)
- Are (Chapters 2–3)
- After these things (Chapters 4–22)



Revelation 1:19

- Seen (Chapter 1)
- Are (Chapters 2–3)
- After these things (Chapters 4–22)



The Missing Church

- Rev 4-19
- Rev 13:9
- Revelation's Jewish nature



God's Work Through Israel

- Revelation 7 – 144,000 Jews
- Revelation 11 – Two Jewish witnesses
- Revelation 12 – Israel flees



CAST OF 3 CHARACTERS

Revelation 12:1-5

1. SON = Messiah (v.5)
2. DRAGON = Satan (v. 3)
3. WOMAN = Israel (v.1)



Genesis 37:9


Now he had still another dream, and related it to his brothers, and said, "Lo, I have had still another dream; and behold, the sun and the moon and eleven stars were bowing down to me.



Genesis 37:10

He related it to his father and to his brothers; and his father rebuked him and said to him, “What is this dream that you have had? Shall I and your mother and your brothers actually come to bow ourselves down before you to the ground?”





Sun = Jacob

Moon = Leah

11 Stars = Joseph's brothers

12th Star = Joseph

12 Stars = Israel's twelve tribes

Conclusion

Does Revelation 3:10 Teach the Pre-Tribulation Rapture?



1. Are there easier ways to convey “protection through”? **YES**
2. Will God protect believers during the Tribulation? **NO**
3. What is the meaning of “keep you from”? **Kept out of the Time Period Completely**
4. What is the meaning of “the hour”? **The Time of the Tribulation Period**
5. What is the meaning of the “whole world”? **The Entire Earth**
6. What is the meaning of “testing/to test”? **To Expose Someone’s True Character**



Does Revelation 3:10 Teach the Pre-Tribulation Rapture?

7. Who are the “earth-dwellers”? **Tribulation Unbelievers**
8. What is the meaning of “about to come”? **Imminency**
9. How will Christ keep His promise? **His Coming in the Rapture**
10. Is this promise for Philadelphia only? **NO**
11. Does the Pre-Trib. View of Rev. 3:10 harmonize with the rest of the Book of Revelation? **YES**