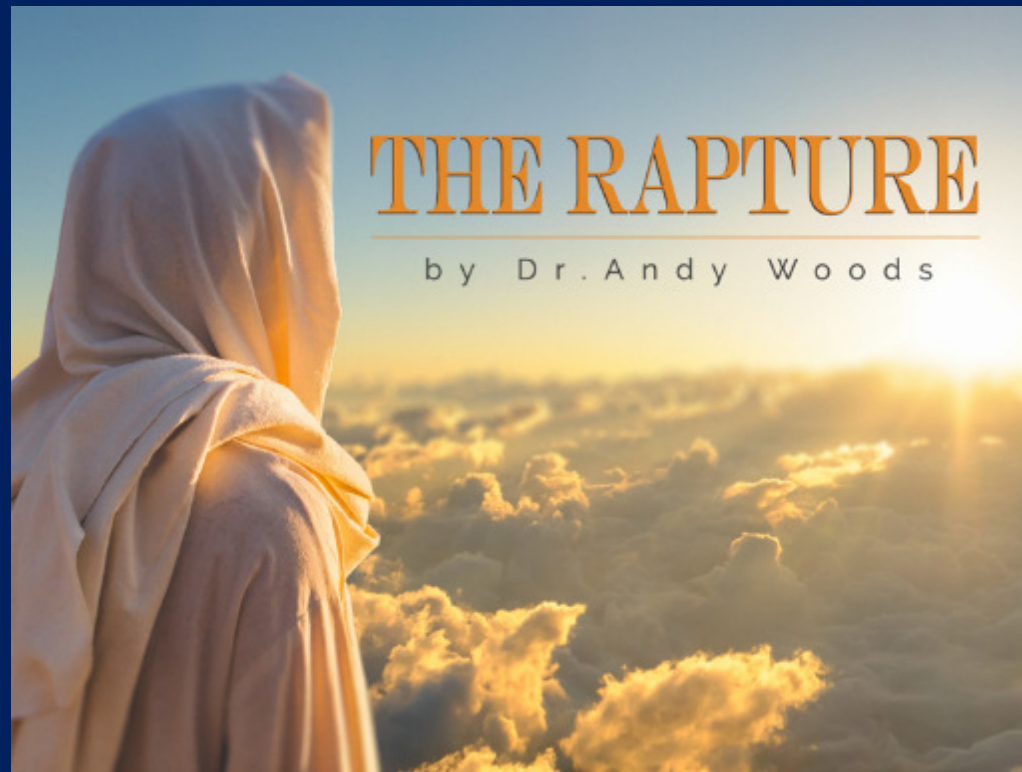


THE RAPTURE

What and When? – Part 16



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What is the Rapture?



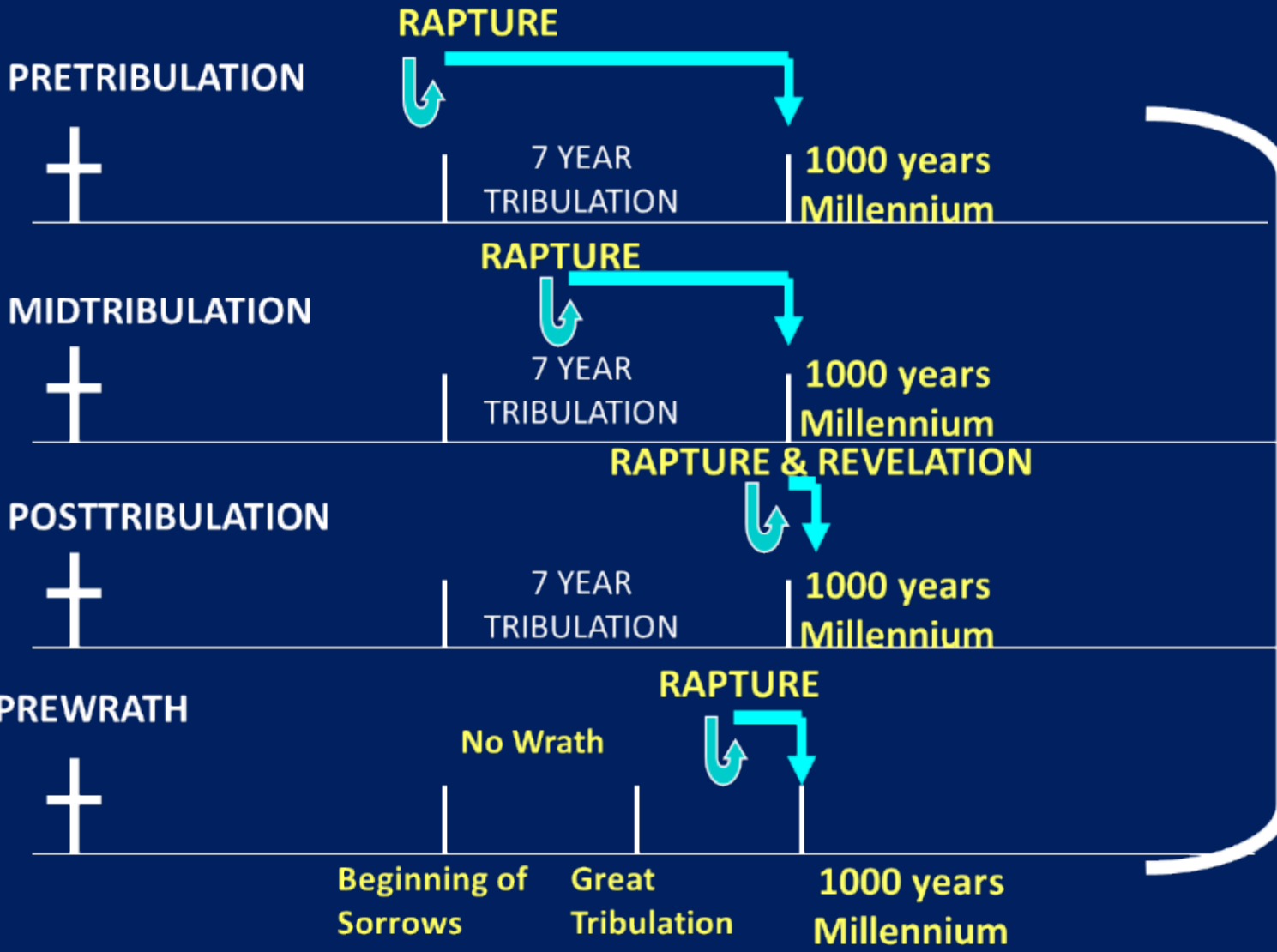
1. An important doctrine
2. Distinct from the Second Advent
3. Catching away of all living believers (1 Thess 4:17)
4. Reunion (1 Thess 4:14-16)
5. Resurrection (1 Cor 15:50-54)
6. Exemption from death (1 Cor 15:51, 54-56)
7. Instantaneous (1 Cor 15:52)
8. Mystery (1 Cor 15:51)
9. Imminent (1 Cor 15:51;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



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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

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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?



1. Are there easier ways to convey “*protection through*”? **YES**
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7. Who are the “earth-dwellers”?
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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.”

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.



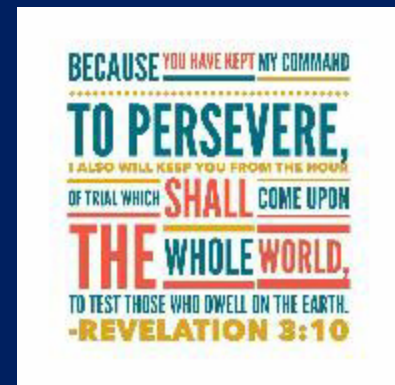
6. Test

(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.”



Revelation 9:20-21

²⁰ “The rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, **did not repent** of the works of their hands, so as not to worship demons, and the idols of gold and of silver and of brass and of stone and of wood, which can neither see nor hear nor walk; ²¹ and they **did not repent** of their murders nor of their sorceries nor of their immorality nor of their thefts.”



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

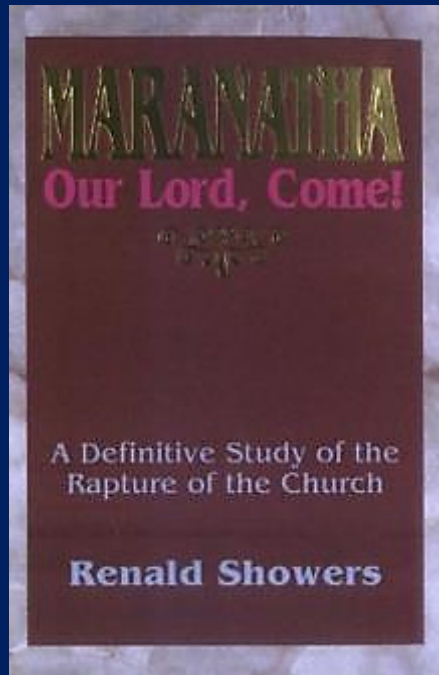
'Because you have kept the word of My perseverance, I also will keep you from the hour of testing, that *hour* which is about to come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.





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?

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8. What is the meaning of “*about to come*”?
9. How will Christ keep His promise?
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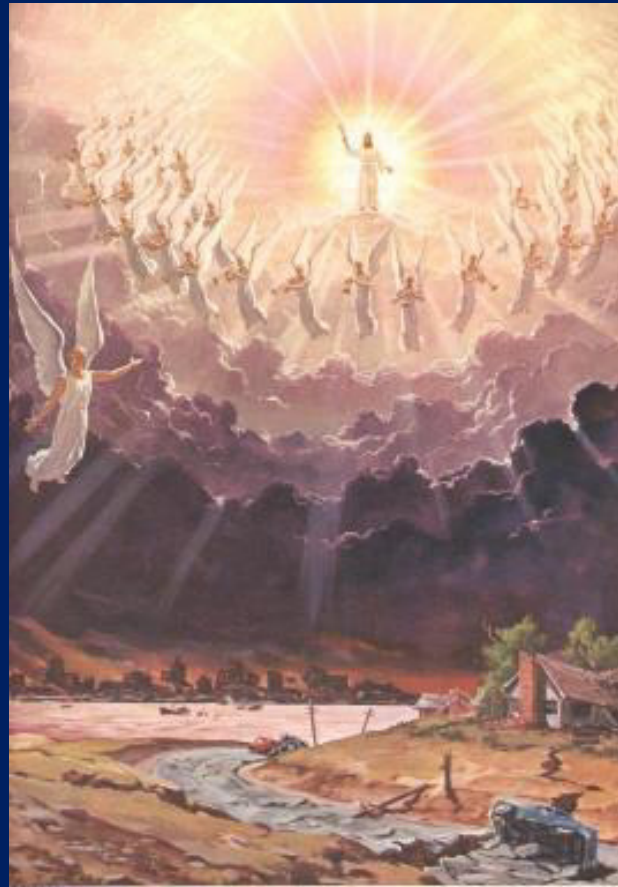
Revelation 3:10

‘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)



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Revelation 3:11

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



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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**.”



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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

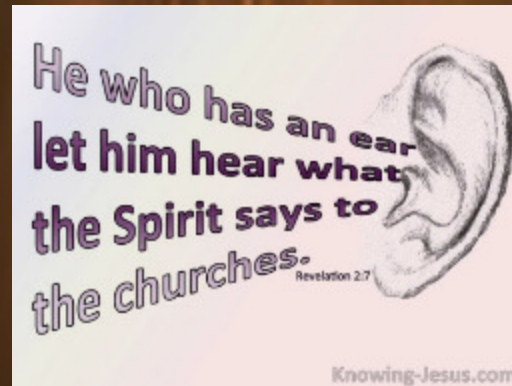
- The promise (1 Thess. 1:10; 5:9; Rom 5:9; 8:1; Rev 3:10)
- Tribulation = divine wrath (Rev 6:16-17; 11:18; 15:1, 7; 16:19)



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.”



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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



Romans 10:19

But I say, surely Israel did not know, did they?
First Moses says, “I will make you jealous by
that which is NOT A NATION, By a nation without
understanding will I anger you.”



Galatians 3:28

There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.



Ephesians 2:14

For He Himself is our peace, who made both groups into one and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall.



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

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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

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