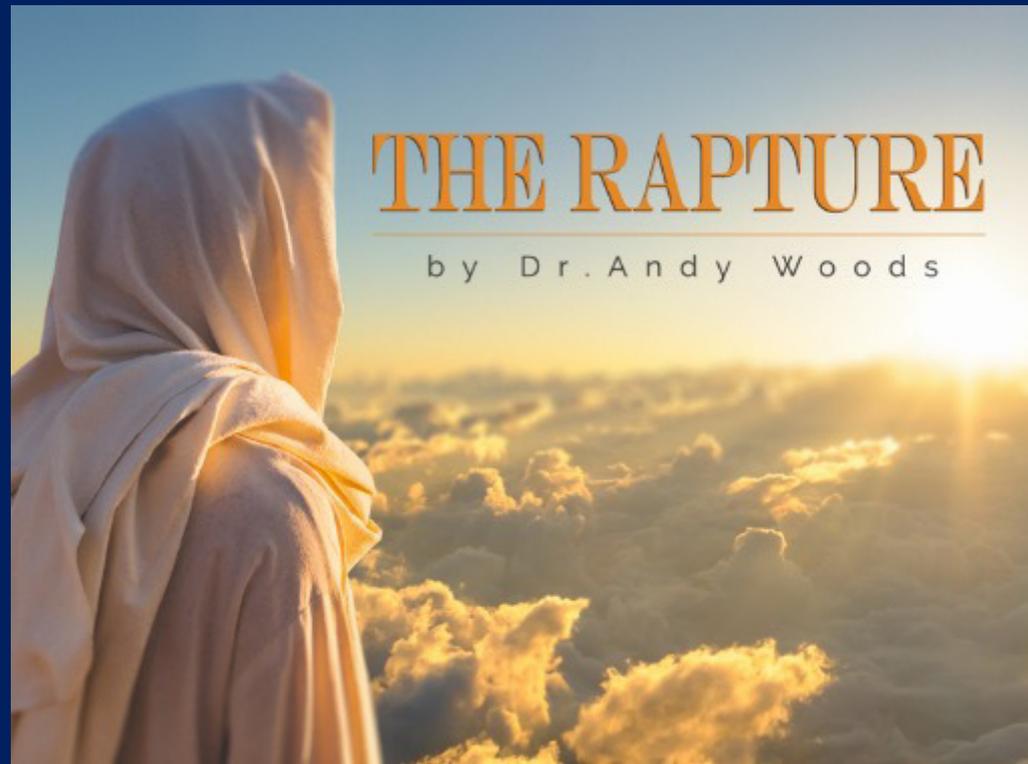


THE RAPTURE

What and When? – Part 49



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

The Rapture

Course Overview

- I. What is the Rapture?
- II. When is the Rapture?
- III. Strengthening the Pre-Tribulational case
- IV. The opposing views
- V. One second after the Rapture



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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

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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)

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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



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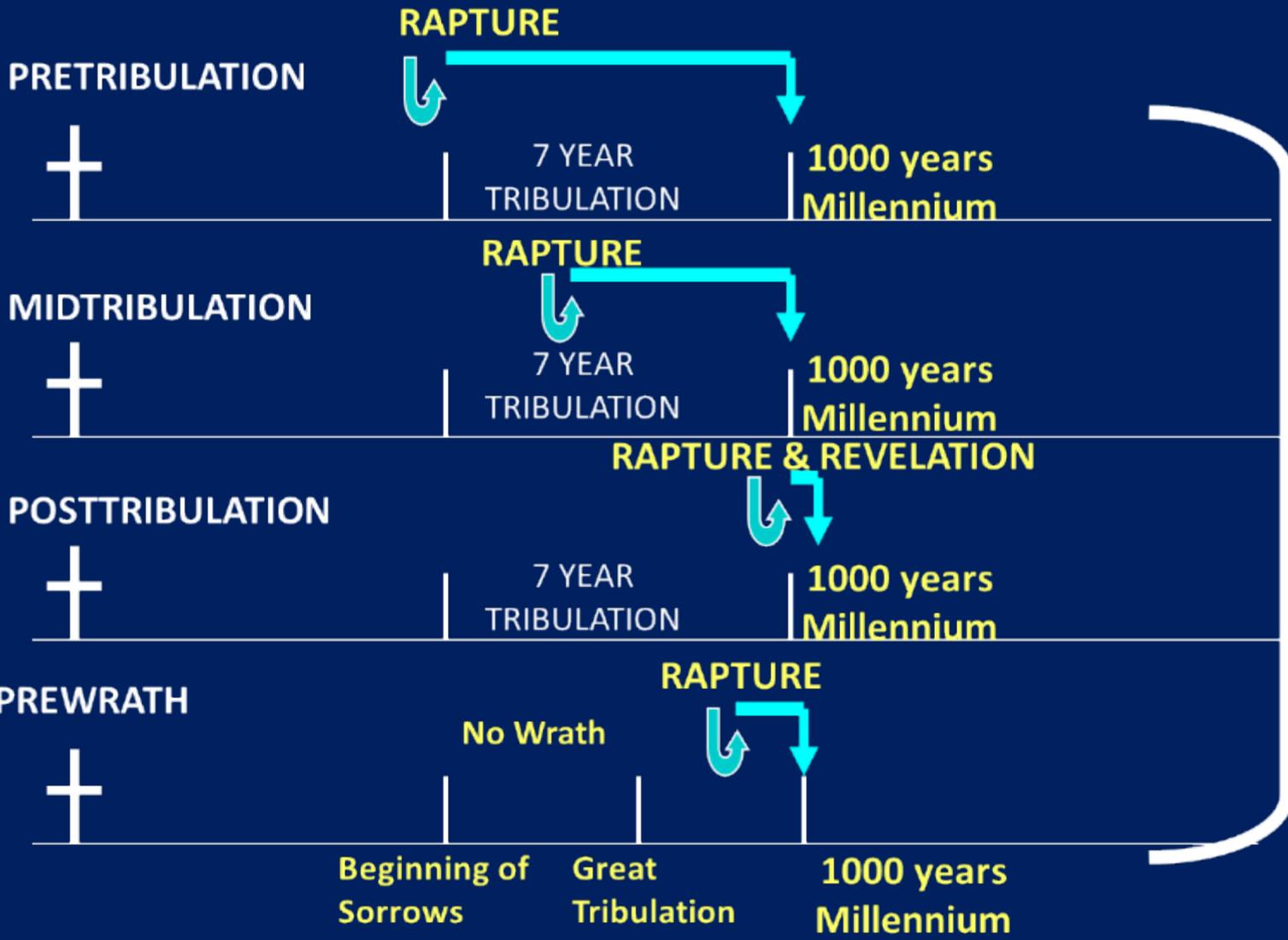


When Will the Rapture Take Place Relative to the Tribulation Period?

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



RAPTURE VIEW COMPARISON



YH-Z-TH

Ray Brubaker

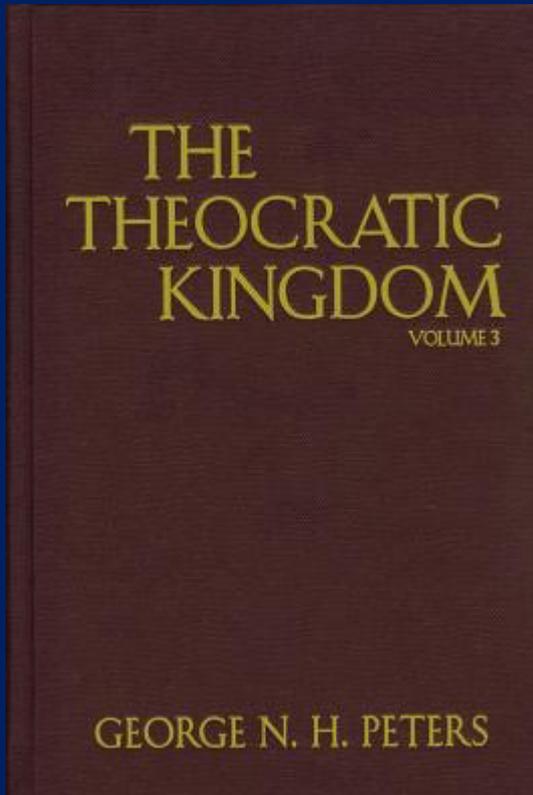
"The Purpose of the Tribulation," Radar News, (December 1968): 6.

“Finally, we should note that the purpose of the tribulation is also to be the testing of lukewarm shallow Laodicean Christians who will be left behind at the coming of Christ. No doubt multitudes who expect to be raptured will be disappointed because like the foolish virgins, they were not watchful. Tribulation is then for the purpose of trying the faith of those who profess to be Christians but who really never repented or are living in disobedience to the will of God.”



G.N.H. Peters

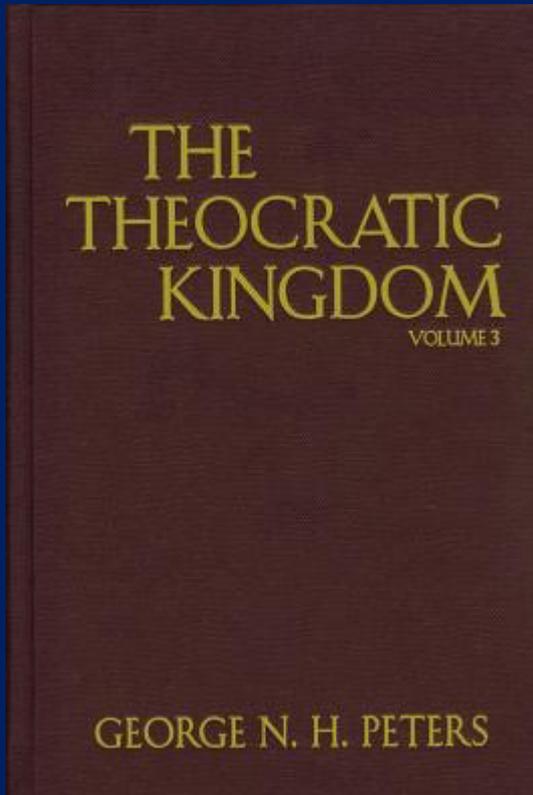
Theocratic Kingdom, 2:332



“It is not simply those who ‘watch’ that shall ‘escape,’ but those, Luke 21:36 who ‘watch and pray always,’ avoiding the corrupting influences around them. The number of translated ones may not be very large (for the number of translated ones given as...types in comparison with the number of those not translated, and with that of the...”

G.N.H. Peters

Theocratic Kingdom, 2:332



“... resurrected saints is small so that Dr. Seiss, with whom many concur, is undoubtedly correct in saying: ‘I have no idea that a very large portion of mankind, or even of the professing Church, will be thus taken. The first translation, if I may so speak, will embrace only the select few who watch and pray always,’ etc.”

If Jesus will not allow anyone who harmed and didn't help His bretheren (the Jews) throughout the tribulation, to enter into His Millennial Kingdom right after, why would He allow such to be raptured as His bride before the Tribulation?

11:18 AM · Aug 11, 2020 · [Twitter for iPhone](#)

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Christian Anti-Semitism

“First, their synagogues should be set on fire...Secondly, their homes should likewise be broken down and destroyed... Thirdly, they should be deprived of their prayer books and Talmuds...”



Christian Anti-Semitism

“...Fourthly, their rabbis must be forbidden under threat of death to teach any more... Fifthly, passport and traveling privileges should be absolutely forbidden to the Jews... Sixthly, they ought to be stopped from usury (charging interest on loans...”



Christian Anti-Semitism

“Seventhly, let the young and strong Jews and Jewesses be given the flail, the ax, the hoe, the spade, the distaff, and spindle, and let them earn their bread by the sweat of their noses...We ought to drive the rascally lazy bones out of our system...”



Christian Anti-Semitism

“...Therefore away with them... To sum up, dear princes and nobles who have Jews in your domains, if this advice of mine does not suit you, then find a better one so that you and we may all be free of this insufferable devilish burden—the Jews.”

Martin Luther, *Concerning the Jews and Their Lies*, cited in Michael Brown's *Our Hands Are Stained with Blood*, pp. 14-15.

Luke 21:28, 34-36

“²⁸ But when these things begin to take place, straighten up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near...³⁴ “But be on your guard, so that your hearts will not be weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of life, and that this day will not come on you suddenly, like a trap; ³⁵ for it will come upon all those who live on the face of all the earth. ³⁶ But stay alert at all times, praying that you will have strength to escape all these things that are going to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”



1 Thessalonians 5:6

“so then, let’s not sleep as others do, but let’s be alert and sober.”



1 Corinthians 3:15

“If any man’s work is burned up, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.”

Work That Burns Is Not Rewarded

“If his work is burned up, he will suffer the **loss**. However, he will be saved, though

it will be like going through a fire.”

1 Corinthians 3:15 GWT



www.PrayerThoughts.com



1 Corinthians 9:24-27

“²⁴ Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but *only* one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win. ²⁵ Everyone who competes in the games exercises self-control in all things. They then *do it* to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. ²⁶ Therefore I run in such a way, as not without aim; I box in such a way, as not beating the air; ²⁷ but I discipline my body and make it my slave, so that, after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified.”



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.**”



Hebrews 9:28

“so Christ also, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time for salvation without reference to sin, **to those who eagerly await Him.**”



1 John 2:28

“Now, little children, remain in Him, so that when He appears, we may have confidence and not draw back from Him in shame at His coming.”



Problems with Partial Rapturism?

1. Every divine blessing is given on the basis of His grace and not human effort (Eph. 2:8-9; Rom. 12:6)
2. Symbolic parallels mandate that carnal as well as sanctified Christians will be taken up in the rapture (Gen. 19:22)
3. The promise of the rapture is mentioned in Paul's letter to the carnal Corinthian church (1 Cor. 15:51)
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5. The partial rapture view subjects believers to God's wrath (Thess 1:10)

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Ephesians 2:8-9

“⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, *it is the gift of God*; ⁹ not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.”

GRACE



Romans 12:3-8

“³ For through the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of **faith**. ⁴ For just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function, ⁵ so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another...



Romans 12:3-8 (cont'd)

...“⁶ Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, each of us is to exercise them accordingly: if prophecy, according to the proportion of his faith; ⁷ if service, in his serving; or he who teaches, in his teaching; ⁸ or he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.”



Ephesians 1:3

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ.”





Ron Rhodes

The Big Book of Bible Answers: A Guide to Understanding the Most Challenging Questions (Eugene, OR: Harvest, 2013), 279.

“Some claim the partial rapture theory amounts to a Protestant version of purgatory, in which Christians get ‘purged’ into readiness to meet the Lord at the second coming. Such a view seems to imply that trusting in the atonement of Christ alone (2 Corinthians 5:21) is not sufficient to bring one to heaven (see also Romans 5:1; Colossians 2:13). Scripture reveals that if one is a believer, one is ‘saved’ (John 3:16–17; Acts 16:31). That alone qualifies one to participate in the rapture (First Corinthians 15:51–52).”

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6. Antichrist cannot come to power until the restrainer is removed (2 Thess 2:6-7)
7. **Symbolic parallels (2 Peter 2:5-9)**

2 Peter 2:7-9

“⁷ and if He rescued righteous Lot, oppressed by the sensual conduct of unprincipled men ⁸ (for by what he saw and heard that righteous man, while living among them, felt his righteous soul tormented day after day by their lawless deeds), ⁹ then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from temptation, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment for the day of judgment.”



Genesis 19:22

“Hurry, escape there, for I cannot do anything until you arrive there.” Therefore the name of the town was called Zoar.”

Work That Burns Is Not Rewarded

“If his work is burned up, he will suffer the **loss**.

However, he will be saved, though it will be like going through a fire.”

1 Corinthians 3:15 GWT



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1 Corinthians 3:1-3 (NKJV)

4 KINDS OF PEOPLE

¹ And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to **spiritual people** but as to **carnal**, as to **babes** in Christ.
² I fed you with milk and not with solid food; for until now you were not able *to receive it*, and even now you are still not able; ³ **for you are still carnal**. For where *there are* envy, strife, and divisions among you, **are you not carnal** and behaving like *mere men*?



4 Kinds of People from 1 Corinthians 3:1-3



1 Corinthians 3:15

“If any man’s work is burned up, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.”

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1 Corinthians 3:15 GWT



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1 Corinthians 15:50-51

“⁵⁰ Now I say this, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. ⁵¹ Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed.”





Ron Rhodes

The Big Book of Bible Answers: A Guide to Understanding the Most Challenging Questions (Eugene, OR: Harvest, 2013), 279.

“First Corinthians 15:51 settles the issue, for it specifically tells us that 'we shall all be changed.' 'We' here includes even the carnal believers in the Corinthian church, to whom Paul was writing. None are excluded, for 'all' will be changed.”

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1 Corinthians 12:12-13

“¹² For even as the body is one and yet has many members, and all the members of the body, though they are many, are one body, so also is Christ. ¹³ For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.”





Ron Rhodes

The Big Book of Bible Answers: A Guide to Understanding the Most Challenging Questions (Eugene, OR: Harvest, 2013), 279.

“If part of God's people were removed from the earth while the rest of God's people were left behind, as the partial rapture theory teaches, then Christ's body, the church, would be severed and mutilated. It is doubtful that Christ would allow this to happen to His own body. In fact, in 1 Corinthians 12:26, Paul explained, ‘And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it.’...Moreover, the Spirit's baptism places all believers in Christ body (1 Corinthians 12:13) and therefore all believers will be raptured (1 Thessalonians 4:16–17). The partial rapture theory denies the perfect unity in the body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:12–13).”

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When is the Rapture?

7 Arguments Favoring the Pre-Tribulation View

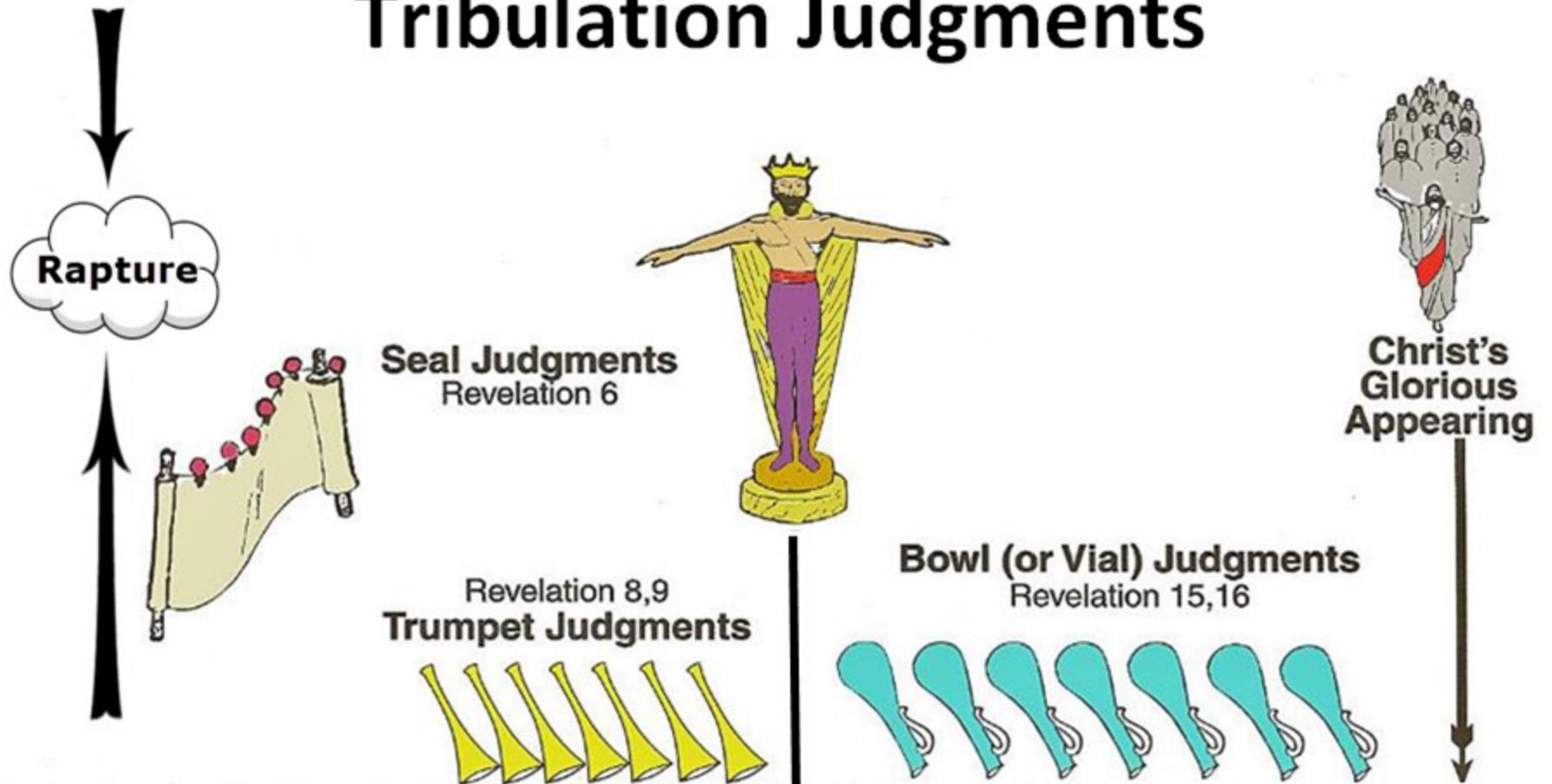
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Promised Exemption from Divine Wrath

- The promise (1 Thess 1:10; 5:9; Rom 5:9; 8:1; Rev 3:10)
- Tribulation = divine wrath/anger (Rev 6:16-17; 11:18; 14:10; 15:1, 7; 16:1, 19; 19:15)



Tribulation Judgments



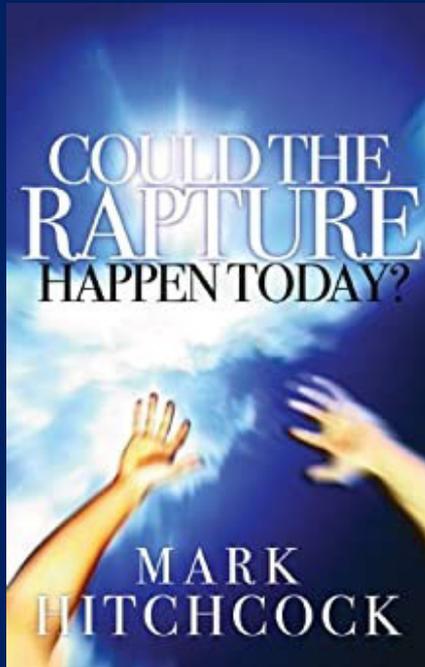
First Half of the Tribulation

Second Half of the Tribulation

THE GREAT TRIBULATION

Mark Hitchcock

Could the Rapture Happen Today? (Sisters, OR: Multnomah, 2005), 68.



“All believers are promised exemption from God's wrath. The partial rapture view creates a kind of a Protestant purgatory on earth during the Tribulation period. The only difference between this idea and the Catholic view of purgatory is that it would be on earth before death.”

Problems with Partial Rapturism?

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Why?

- Not to judge sin (John 19:30)
- Not to determine salvation (John 5:24)
- But rather to give or not give rewards



Scripture's Five Crowns

(Rev 4:10: 3:11; 2 John 8)

SCRIPTURE	CROWN	PURPOSE
1 Cor. 9:24-27	Incorruptible	Gaining mastery over the flesh
1 Thess. 2:19-20	Rejoicing	Soul winning
Jas. 1:12; Rev. 2:10	Life	Enduring trials
1 Pet. 5:2-4	Glory	Shepherding God's people
2 Tim. 4:8	Righteousness	Longing for His appearing

1 Corinthians 3:10-15

“¹⁰ According to the grace of God which was given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building on it. But each man must be careful how he builds on it. ¹¹ For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. ¹² Now if any man builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw. ¹⁴ If any man's work . . .



1 Corinthians 3:10-15

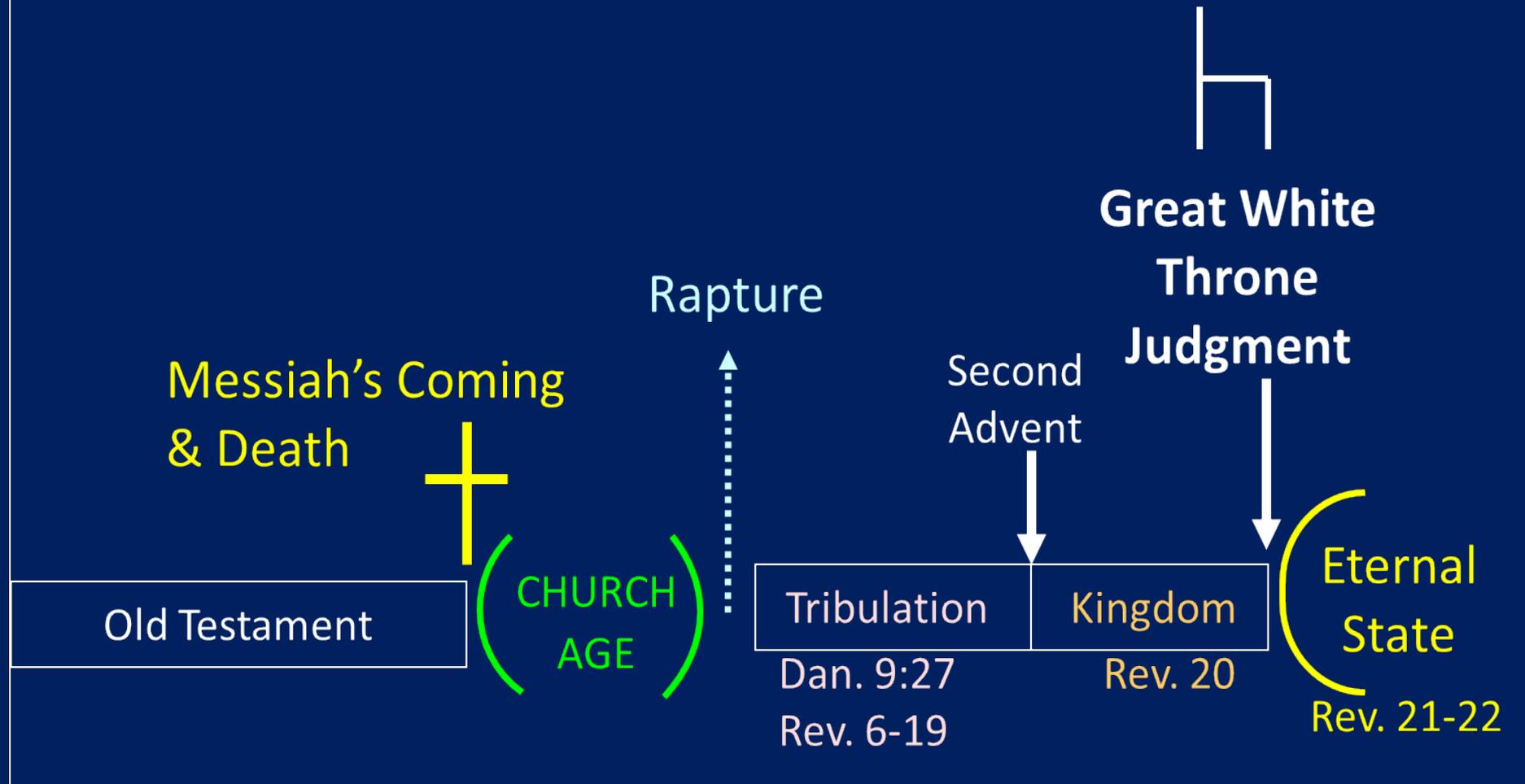
... which he has built on it remains, he will receive a reward. ¹⁵ If any man's work is burned up, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire."



Scripture's Four Judgments

Name	Sheep and Goat	Judgment of the Jews	<u>Bema Seat</u>	Great White Throne
Scripture	Matt 25:31-46	Ezek 20:33-44	<u>1 Cor 3:10-15</u>	Rev 20:11-15
Place	Earth, Jerusalem	Earth, wilderness	<u>Heaven</u>	Earth
Audience	Gentile Tribulation survivors	Jewish Tribulation survivors	<u>Church Age believers</u>	All unsaved
When	After Tribulation	After Tribulation	<u>After rapture</u>	After Millennium
Purpose	Saved Gentiles enter kingdom	Saved Jews enter kingdom	<u>Reward believers</u>	Degree of punishment in hell
Evaluation	Treatment of Christ's brethren	Passing under shepherd's rod	<u>Works taken through fire</u>	Not in the book; judged by books

Prophecy Panorama

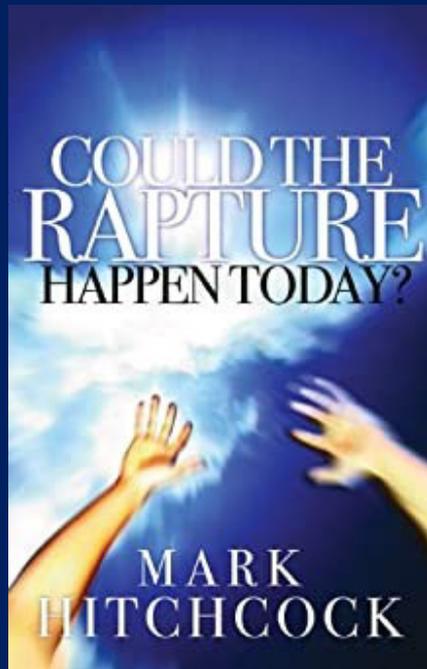


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Mark Hitchcock

Could the Rapture Happen Today? (Sisters, OR: Multnomah, 2005), 68.



“If the timing of our translation to heaven depends on our own spiritual maturity or readiness, how ready do we have to be? What degree of maturity or readiness is required to make it in the first group? The Bible never says.”

Lordship Salvation

7 Problems



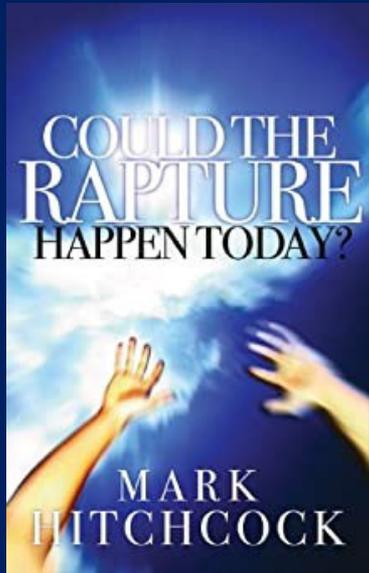
- ✓ Changes the gospel
- ✓ Places an impossible burden upon the unsaved
- ✓ Confuses justification with sanctification
- ✓ Confuses the result of with requirement for salvation
- ✓ Fails to make basic dispensational distinctions
- ✓ Ignores the reality of a carnal Christian
- ✓ Destroys the assurance of salvation

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“Every person I have ever met who believes in the partial Rapture view believes that he or she will be included in the first group that goes before the Tribulation. They always believe in the pre-Tribulationist view for themselves. It's those other unfortunate believers who will have to go through varying degrees of tribulation before they can be caught up to heaven. But why believe that you are worthy for this special reward while other believers are not? It is inconsistent.”

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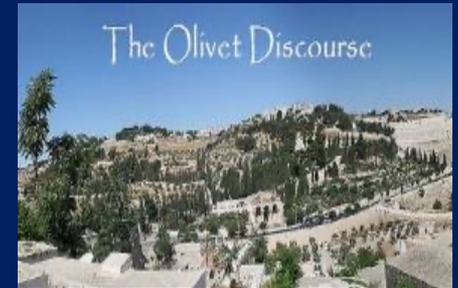
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Preview of Matthew 24–25

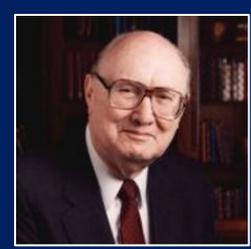
- I. The problem
- II. The larger context
- III. The immediate context (23:37-39)
- IV. The Disciples' questions (24:1-3)
- V. The Tribulation's first half (24:4-14)
- VI. The Tribulation's mid-point (24:15-20)
- VII. The Tribulation's second half (24:21-22)
- VIII. The Second Advent (24:23-31)
- IX. Eight parabolic exhortations (24:32–25:46)



Matthew 24:15-16, 20

“¹⁵ Therefore when you see the ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION which was spoken of through Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand) ¹⁶ then those who are in Judea must flee to the mountains...²⁰ But pray that your flight will not be in the winter, or on a Sabbath.”

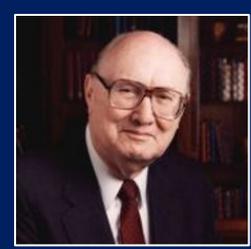




John F. Walvoord

"Christ's Olivet Discourse on the End of the Age Part V: The Parable of the Ten Virgins," Bibliotheca Sacra 129, no. 514 (April 1972): 101.

“Following the strict rules of exegesis, the context indicates that the subject is the second coming of Christ to the earth not the rapture of the church. Although many expositors have attempted to make this whole discourse apply to the church, or at least from Matthew 24:45 make an application of the general truth of Christ's coming to the rapture of the church, as seen in previous study the evidence is quite insufficient.”



John F. Walvoord

"Christ's Olivet Discourse on the End of the Age Part V: The Parable of the Ten Virgins," Bibliotheca Sacra 129, no. 514 (April 1972): 101.

“There is no clear distinction between the illustrations before Matthew 24:45 and those which follow. Neither the church nor the rapture are in view. Inasmuch as the rapture (John 14:1–3) had not yet been revealed, it is questionable whether Christ would have tried to teach His disciples using an illustration of a truth that was not even known to them at this time. Interpretation, therefore, must relate this passage to the context, namely, the doctrine of the second coming of Christ to establish His earthly kingdom.”

A Comparison of the Olivet and Upper Room Discourses

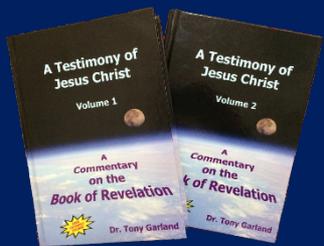
Discourse	Olivet	Upper Room
Scripture	Matt 24–25	John 13–17
Location	Mount of Olives	Upper Room
Passion week	Third day	Sixth day
General focus	Farewell: Israel	Hello: Church
Specific focus	Israel's future	Divine provisions
Prompting	Temple's destruction	Christ's imminent departure
Explanations	Written OT	Unwritten NT
Apostles	Israel (Matt. 19:28)	Church (Eph. 2:20)



Ron Rhodes

The Big Book of Bible Answers: A Guide to Understanding the Most Challenging Questions (Eugene, OR: Harvest, 2013), 278.

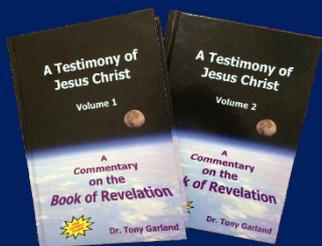
“This view is based on the parable of the 10 virgins—depicting five virgins being prepared and five unprepared (Matthew 25:1–13). This is interpreted to mean that only faithful, and watchful Christians will be raptured...Pre-tribulationists respond that Matthew 25:1–13 has nothing to do with the rapture. Those virgins who are ‘unprepared’ apparently represent people living during the tribulation period who are unprepared for Christ's second coming (seven years after the rapture).”



Tony Garland

Anthony Garland, "Q181 : George Peters and the Partial Rapture View," online: www.spiritandtruth.org, accessed 13 August 2015.

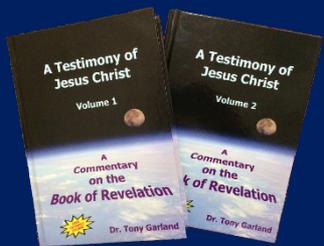
“I believe that Peters is mistaken in confounding various thief passages with the coming of the Lord for the church (e.g., Matt. 24:37-44, Luke 17:26-37). Where these passage speak of ‘one taken...another left,’ Peters falls into the common mistake of misinterpreting Second Coming judgment passages as Rapture passages...If we consider various passages where people fail to watch or perform, we find that some very serious consequences result: Left as dead for birds of prey (Mat. 24:28, 37-43; Luke 17:37). Being cut in two with the hypocrites, weeping and gnashing of teeth (Matt. 24:51). Being shut out from the wedding feast with the ...”



Tony Garland

Anthony Garland, "Q181 : George Peters and the Partial Rapture View," online: www.spiritandtruth.org, accessed 13 August 2015.

“...Master proclaiming, I do not know you (Matt. 25:12 cf. Matt. 7:23). Being cast into outer darkness, weeping and gnashing of teeth (Matt. 25:30). Although some teach that ‘outer darkness’ is a place where under-performing believers may suffer during the Millennial Kingdom, this seems most unlikely. Jesus clearly states that those Jews who did not believe in Him—the faithless ‘sons of the Kingdom’—were bound for outer darkness (Matt. 8:12)...While not focusing specifically on Rapture-related warning passages here, I hope you can see that the way in which a person interprets various readiness warning passages—whether they can have in . . .”



Tony Garland

Anthony Garland, "Q181 : George Peters and the Partial Rapture View," online: www.spiritandtruth.org, accessed 13 August 2015.

“...view believers who are securely saved—will have a lot to do with whether a teacher believes that the body of Christ will be sliced into two companies, either at the Rapture or at the entry to the Millennial Kingdom to follow. Peters, while having much to offer concerning the coming Kingdom and eschatology in general, appears to be comfortable with the idea that it is our performance rather than identity that determines our destiny in relation to the Rapture. I take the opposite view: that those who are in Christ are joined to Christ in a way which cannot (and will not) be broken.”

Matthew 24:36-41

³⁶ “But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone. ³⁷ For the coming of the Son of Man will be just like the days of Noah. ³⁸ For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, ³⁹ and they did not understand until the flood came and took (*airō*) them all away; so will the . . .



Matthew 24:36-41

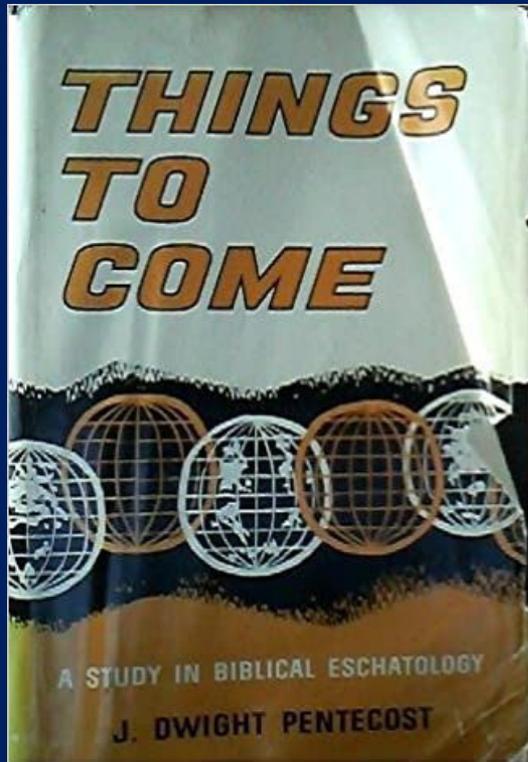
. . .coming of the Son of Man be. ⁴⁰ Then there will be two men in the field; one will be taken (*paralambanō*) and one will be left. ⁴¹ “Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken (*paralambanō*) and one will be left.”





J. Dwight Pentecost

Things to Come, Page 162



“Again, this passage is in that discourse in which the Lord outlined His program for Israel, who was already in the tribulation period. The one taken is taken to judgment and the one left is left for the millennial blessing. Such is not the prospect for the church.”

Luke 21:28, 34-36

“²⁸ But when these things begin to take place, straighten up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near...³⁴ “But be on your guard, so that your hearts will not be weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of life, and that this day will not come on you suddenly, like a trap; ³⁵ for it will come upon all those who live on the face of all the earth. ³⁶ But stay alert at all times, praying that you will have strength to escape all these things that are going to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”



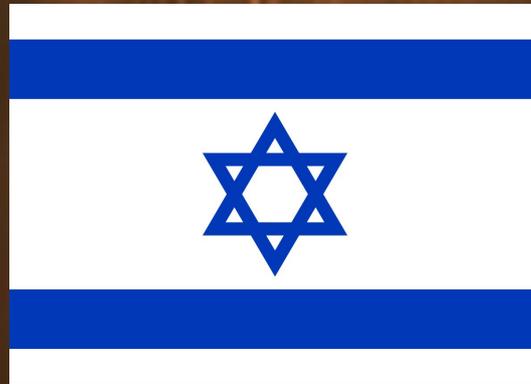
Luke 21:21, 28, 34-36

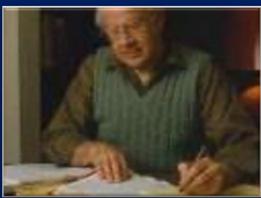
“²¹ Then those who are in Judea must flee to the mountains, and those who are in the midst of the city must leave, and those who are in the country must not enter the city...²⁸ But when these things begin to take place, straighten up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near...³⁴ “But be on your guard, so that your hearts will not be weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of life, and that this day will not come on you suddenly, like a trap; ...



Luke 21:21, 28, 34-36

. . .³⁵ for it will come upon all those who live on the face of all the earth. ³⁶ But stay alert at all times, praying that you will have strength to escape all these things that are going to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

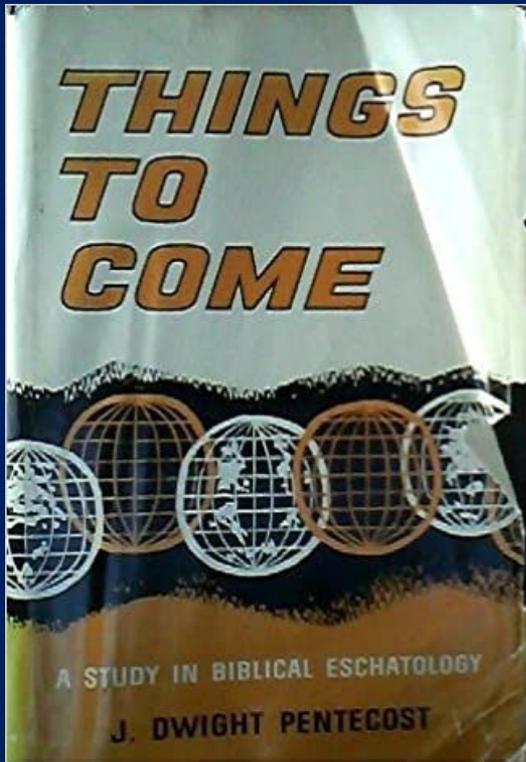




J. Dwight Pentecost

Things to Come, Page 161-62

“It will be observed that the primary reference in this chapter is to the nation of Israel, who was already in the tribulation period, and therefore this is not applicable to the church. The things to be escaped are judgments associated with "that day" (vs. 34), that is, the Day of the Lord. Watchfulness is enjoined upon the church (1 Thessalonians 5:6; Titus 2:13) apart from being found worthy to participate in the translation.”



Problems with Partial Rapturism?

6. Partial rapturism makes the Bema Seat Judgment unnecessary (1 Cor. 3:10-15)
7. Partial rapturists never objectively quantify the exact degree of faithfulness or spiritual maturity that is necessary to participate in the rapture
8. Partial rapturists appear individually biased
9. Partial rapturists dispensationally misapply Bible passages (Matt. 25:1-13)
- 10. Partial rapturists misapply passages promising a reward to faithful believers (Rev. 3:11)**

Scripture's Five Crowns

(Rev 4:10: 3:11; 2 John 8)

SCRIPTURE	CROWN	PURPOSE
1 Cor. 9:24-27	Incorruptible	Gaining mastery over the flesh
1 Thess. 2:19-20	Rejoicing	Soul winning
Jas. 1:12; Rev. 2:10	Life	Enduring trials
1 Pet. 5:2-4	Glory	Shepherding God's people
2 Tim. 4:8	Righteousness	Longing for His appearing

1 Corinthians 3:15

“If any man’s work is burned up, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.”

Work That Burns Is Not Rewarded

“If his work is burned up, he will suffer the **loss**. However, he will be saved, though

it will be like going through a fire.”

1 Corinthians 3:15 GWT



www.PrayerThoughts.com



1 Corinthians 9:24-27

“²⁴ Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but *only* one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win. ²⁵ Everyone who competes in the games exercises self-control in all things. They then *do it* to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. ²⁶ Therefore I run in such a way, as not without aim; I box in such a way, as not beating the air; ²⁷ but I discipline my body and make it my slave, so that, after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified.”



2 John 8

“Watch yourselves, that you do not lose what we have accomplished, but that you may receive a full reward.”

Work That Burns Is Not Rewarded

“If his work is burned up, he will suffer the loss.

However, he will be saved, though it will be like going through a fire.”
1 Corinthians 3:15 GWT



www.PrayerThoughts.com



Revelation 3:11

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



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.”

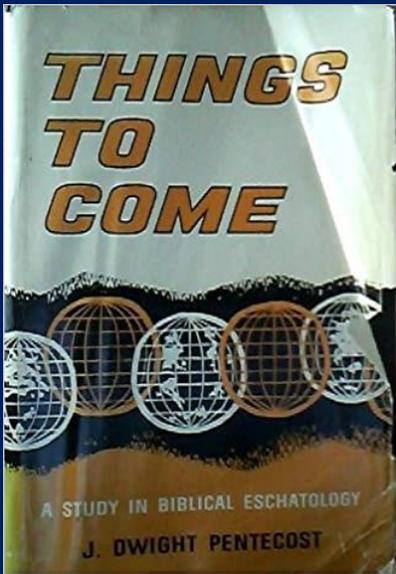




J. Dwight Pentecost

Things to Come, Page 163

“This [2 Tim. 4:8] is used by the adherents of this position to show that the rapture must be a partial one. However, it is to be noticed that the subject of the translation is not in view in this passage, but rather the question of reward. The Second Advent was intended by God to be a purifying hope (1 John 3:3). Because of such purifying a new life is produced because of the expectancy of the Lord's return. Therefore, those that truly ‘love his appearing’ will experience a new kind of life which will bring a reward.”



Problems with Partial Rapturism?

1. Every divine blessing is given on the basis of His grace and not human effort (Eph. 2:8-9; Rom. 12:6)
2. Symbolic parallels mandate that carnal as well as sanctified Christians will be taken up in the rapture (Gen. 19:22)
3. The promise of the rapture is mentioned in Paul's letter to the carnal Corinthian church (1 Cor. 15:51)
4. A partial rapture would sever Christ's body (1 Cor 12:12-14)
5. The partial rapture view subjects believers to God's wrath (Thess 1:10)

Problems with Partial Rapturism?

6. Partial rapturism makes the Bema Seat Judgment unnecessary (1 Cor. 3:10-15)
7. Partial rapturists never objectively quantify the exact degree of faithfulness or spiritual maturity that is necessary to participate in the rapture
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9. Partial rapturists dispensationally misapply Bible passages (Matt. 25:1-13)
10. Partial rapturists misapply passages promising a reward to faithful believers (Rev. 3:11)

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.



Revelation 3:9-10

⁹ ‘Behold, I will cause *those* of the synagogue of Satan, who say that they are Jews and are not, but lie—I will make them come and bow down at your feet, and *make them* know that I have loved you. 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.



Problems with Beginning the Sentence in Rev. 3:10 with “Because”

1. Not part of the original manuscripts: chapter & verse divisions & punctuation marks (periods, commas, or exclamation points).
2. These things were all added by later copyists.
3. Most English translations separate the two verses with a period.
4. Thus, it becomes cause for participating the Rapture and not a cause for their enemies to worship before their feet.
5. However, the period should be placed in the middle of verse 10.
6. Thus, it becomes not a cause for participating the Rapture and a cause for their enemies to worship before their feet.

Problems with Beginning the Sentence in Rev. 3:10 with “Because” (cont’d)

7. Rev. 3:10b becomes an additional unconditional promise of Rapture participation beyond the promises of Rev. 2:9b.
8. It is rare to begin a sentence with “because” (*hoti*) in a causative sense.
9. Instead, *hoti* (“because”), when casual in function, usually follows a statement or promise in providing a reason for what preceded it in the sentence.
10. Thus, Greek sentences rarely begin a sentence with the phrase “Because you have” when explaining the cause or reason for something, as Greek and English texts of Revelation 3:10 unfortunately do today. Instead, the “because” phraseology consistently follows later in the sentence.

Revelation 3:9-10

MacDonald's Idiomatic Translation (MIT)

“⁹ I would put at your disposal those from the synagogue of Satan who call themselves Jews but are not; they are lying. See: I will make them come and bow down before your feet, and they will know that I loved you ¹⁰ because you kept my enduring word. I also will keep you from the time of trial that is about to come...”



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.



CONCLUSION

The Rapture

Course Overview

- I. What is the Rapture?
- II. When is the Rapture?
- III. Strengthening the Pre-Tribulational case
- IV. The opposing views
- V. One second after the Rapture

