

25 Bible Reasons For A Pre-Tribulation Rapture

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1. The "Look For" Commands

For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself. (Philippians 3:20-21, KJV).

We are not to "look for" or "wait for" the Antichrist, the mark of the beast, nuclear devastation, plagues, but for Christ's appearing. Surely if we are to go through any part of the tribulation, Christ would have warned us and told us to look for it first. Instead, "And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh." (Luke 21:28, KJV).

See also Titus 2:13 and 1 Thess 1:10 and 1 Pe 3:12,13

2. The "MISSED APPOINTMENT" with "the wrath to come."

1 Thess 5:3,4 and 5:9,10 clearly say, that as believers, we will not be overtaken by destruction and that we do not have an appointment with wrath, but instead to obtain resurrection. 1 Thess 1:10 instructs us to "wait for his Son from heaven...which delivered (Past tense, "already set us free") from the wrath to come. The word "wrath" is in the book of Revelation 14 times. The great tribulation is a dispensation of wrath on those who have rejected Christ. All of God's wrath was poured on Jesus while on the cross. There is no more wrath left for me because I have obeyed the gospel to repent and believe the good news.

3. Bridegrooms don't beat up their Brides before the marriage ceremony. Eph 5:29

4. Praying people are counted worthy to escape .. and to stand before the Son of Man instead.

"Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man. (Luke 21:36, KJV).

5. The proper translation of greek word "apostasia" in contextual fitting with "taken out of the way" and "that which withholdeth" in 2 Thess 2:1-17.

Root word "aphistemi" translated 15 times in NT as "Depart" and only 3 times "Fall away."

6. The "YE-US" and "THEY-THEM" Factor.

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

"Ye" and "Us" (believers) - "no need," "know perfectly," "not in darkness," "children of light," "sober," "faith, hope," "salvation" (resurrection in context), "wake or sleep," "live together with him," "comfort, edify," "no wrath."

"They" and "Them" (the unbelievers) - "day of the Lord comes as a thief in the night," "sudden destruction," "travail," "no escape," "in the night," "drunken," "wrath."

7. The Salted Meat Principle. Jesus calls the church the "Salt of the Earth." As long as the salt is here on planet earth, the meat cannot rot. Take away the salt and it'll rot quick.

8. The Chronological Order of 1 Thess 4:13 through 5:11.

9. The Chronological consistency of 2 Thess Chapter 2 with 1 Thess Chapters 4:13 thru 5:11.

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10. The Angelic Preaching Principle:

If angels have to preach during the great tribulation period, then it is obvious that the church who is commissioned to preach during this present dispensation must be already gone by the time this scripture is mentioned. (Re 14:6 And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people)

11. The Tribulation Compensation of 2 Thess 1:4-12

(2Th 1:6 Seeing [it is] a righteous thing with God to recompense tribulation to them that trouble you.) According to these verses it is enough tribulation for the saints to have lived and suffered in an ungodly world and be persecuted by the ungodly. Thus it is a righteous deed and befitting that God should repay the ungodly with great tribulation as well as the final vengeance of everlasting punishment.

12. The promised "plain revelation" of the Pauline epistles versus the partial revelation of the gospels and Old Testament.

(Joh 16:25 These things have I spoken unto you in parables: but the time cometh, when I shall no more speak unto you in parables, but I shall shew you plainly of the Father.) Almost all scholars who propose theories of mid tribulation or post tribulation raptures (or even worse, no rapture at all) rest almost entirely on Bible verses out of a few difficult chapters in the gospels and the Old Testament. But Jesus taught that until His resurrection, plain teaching would not happen. Paul also said concerning his end-time teaching (received through direct revelation of Jesus Christ), "Behold, I shew you a mystery...". Even Peter confirmed Paul's authority on these matters (2 Peter 3:15-18). All doctrine must be a balance between the three sections of the Bible (the Epistles which are since Christ's resurrection, the Gospels, and the Old Testament).

13. The prophecy of the judgement of the ungodly in 2 Peter 3:1-14.

Verse 7 says, "But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men." Thus the great tribulation is not a judgement of the GODLY, but of the UNGODLY. Then verse 11 says, "[Seeing] then [that] all these things shall be dissolved, what manner [of persons] ought ye to be in [all] holy conversation and godliness." What use would it be to live holy and godly lives unless doing so meant escaping the events which will overtake the ungodly?

14. The two TYPES & SHADOWS of the rapture (Noah and Lot) given by 2 Peter 2:5-9 immediately preceding the great tribulation discussed in the next chapter, 2 Peter 3.

Before God judged and destroyed the world by a flood, He rescued righteous Noah. Before God judged and destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah by fire and brimstone, He rescued righteous Lot. It follows....Before God judges and destroys the world during the tribulation, He will rescue the righteous church.

15. The Chronological Order of the Book Of Revelation.

See Hilton Sutton's book on Revelation and the charts in his annexes.

16. The "Come Up Hither" command before the church elders are seen around the throne in Revelation chapter 4.

Revelation chapters 1-3 are a microcosm of the church age. In these first three chapters Jesus talks to His church. Then in Revelation 4:1 there is a trumpet just like explained in 1 Co 15:51-54 that calls the church to "come up hither". As soon as John appears in heaven, he sees not only the throne and cherubim as did the OT prophets, but he also sees the four and twenty (24) elders which seems to indicate that the church is already in heaven before the tribulation events of Revelation 6 even begin.

17. The Double-Event Verses.

Many scriptures reveal two separate events that we mistakenly combine into one event. Christ's coming begins with Him coming "for us" (the rapture) and is culminated, of course, with Him coming "with us" (the second advent).

2 Ti 4:1- Christ shall judge the believer "at his appearing." Christ shall judge the UNbeliever "at his kingdom."

1 Th 5:15 and 6:2- The "coming of the Lord" (rapture) in verses 15-18. The "day of the Lord" (His second advent) in verses 1-3 after the great tribulation.

2 Th 2:1- The "coming of the Lord Jesus Christ" (coming with us after the tribulation). "Our gathering together unto him" (rapture) when He comes for us to meet us in the air.

18. Matthew 6:31-34 (take no thought for tomorrow what ye shall eat) versus selling "tribulation food" and "tribulation bomb-shelters" on TV.

19. The Chronological Order of the whole chapter of 1 Co 15.

No mention of the Antichrist or the great tribulation between Christ dying on the cross until believers are resurrected.

Verse 23-24: 1) Christ resurrected, then 2) believers resurrected, 3) "then cometh the end."

Christ died (vs 3)

Christ was buried (vs 4)

Christ rose again (vs 4)

Christ was seen (vs 5-8)

Christ is preached (vs 11-49)

Christ resurrects believers (vs 50-58)

No mention of the Antichrist or the great tribulation is made between Christ dying and believers being resurrected.

20. The "Blessed Hope" versus "The Cursed Dread"

Hope is a joyful looking forward, an eager anticipation, an excitement about one's future. If the church has to go through the tribulation, then the future return of Jesus couldn't possibly be something we anticipate, but only one day closer to the dreadful Antichrist's rule. "Prepare to tribulate" would be the order of each day.

21. The Futility Of Purifying The Church By Means Of The Great Tribulation

Ephesians 5:23-27 and 4:8-16 do not reveal the Antichrist to be the purifier of the church.

22. The Absence of the word "church" or "churches" after Revelation chapter 5, where wrath and judgement begin all the way to the end of the book.

(There is a single reference in the final chapter, but it is a closing remark that God has written these things so that the church may understand them, not an event happening to the church: Re 22:16 I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, [and] the bright and morning star.) Why is there no mention? The church must be "out of the picture" once the tribulation period starts; in other words - "Gone!"

23. The last trumpet theory of mid and post tribbers is full of holes. Scriptures To Study carefully:

Mt 24:31 And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other. (This chapter is talking about the abomination of desolation [desecration of the Jerusalem temple by the Antichrist], the great tribulation, Christ's return, and Armageddon (Rev 16). Remember, the Bible teaches that the angels and saints riding on white horses will return out of heaven with Him. Here He is gathering the saints from the "winds" and from "heaven", not from the earth; so this is not the rapture; this is His return WITH us, not FOR us. So these are not the angelic trumpets of Rev 8:2 and 8:6. And Matthew 24 verses 39-41 are talking about being taken away or swept away in the destruction as the people of Noah's time; NOT the rapture.)

TRUMPET OF GRACE: 1Co 15:52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. 1Th 4:16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first. Re 1:10 I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet Re 4:1 After this I looked, and, behold, a door [was] opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard [was] as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter.

TRUMPETS OF JUDGEMENT: Re 8:2 And I saw the seven angels which stood before God; and to them were given seven trumpets. Re 8:6 And the seven angels which had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound. Re 8:13 And I beheld, and heard an angel flying through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, Woe, woe, woe, to the inhabitants of the earth by reason of the other voices of the trumpet of the three angels, which are yet to sound! Re 9:14 Saying to the sixth angel which had the trumpet, Loose the four angels which are bound in the great river Euphrates.

The trumpets in Revelation are clearly trumpets of judgment, not trumpets which mark an event of grace and victory. Perhaps the last trumpet spoken of in 1 Co 15 and 1 Th 4 is referring to the last trumpet of the church age or it may be referring to the Jewish calendar and the feast of trumpets. But it just doesn't fit with the events forecasted in Revelation.

24. The historical and present day precedents of the majority of great Christian leader's eschatology.

Most of those who propagate a mid or post-trib rapture eschatology are "end-time specialists" according to their own advertisements and biographies. The New Testament, however, speaks of no such specialty or gift. I for one am suspicious about ministers who spend more time studying end time events than supernaturally meeting the needs of people. I believe an over-emphasis and preoccupation with dissecting unfulfilled events and complicated scriptures, and an obsession on "numeratology" can lead to error.

25. The "Comfort One Another" Factor of 1Th 4:18

Wherefore comfort one another with these words." and 1Th 5:11 "Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do." immediately after talking about the rapture and end time events. (It wouldn't be too comforting to know you're goin' through the tribulation.)