

The Pre-Tribulation Rapture Myth

This study will look at what the Word of God says about the rapture (catching up of the saints), as too many people speculate about the meaning of verses, while the Bible is very straight-forward about the sequence of events.

In Matthew 24:29-31, Jesus tells us that He will gather His elect AFTER the tribulation of those days.

“Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken: And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. 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 doesn't indicate a 'secret rapture', rather everyone on Earth will see Jesus coming and they will mourn.

Then just 9 verses later in Matthew 24:40-42, Jesus tells us to be watchful and ready for His return.

“Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.”

These words occur right after Jesus just told us in verses 29-31 that the elect would be gathered after the tribulation.

In Matthew 28:18-20, Jesus said He would be with us unto the end of the world, not just until a pre-trib rapture.

“And Jesus came and spoke unto them, saying, all power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.”

In John 6:40, 44 and 54, Jesus repeatedly tells us that He will raise up the dead at the last day.

“And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day.”

“No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day.”

“Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day.”

1 Thessalonians 5:2 says that Jesus will come as a thief in the night to those who are in spiritual darkness.

“For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.”

Then verses 4-6 say *“But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober.”* If we are abiding in Christ's light, then we won't be caught by surprise.

1 Corinthians 15:51-52 says that the dead shall rise at the last trumpet, meaning the 7th trumpet in Revelation 11:15.

“Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, 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”

Revelation 11:15, *“And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign forever and ever.”*

1 Thessalonians 4:15-17 tells us the rapture won't be secret and that we'll be 'caught up' after the dead rise first.

*“For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent(proceed) them which are asleep. 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: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.**” This is the same 'not so secret' event as Matthew 24:29-31, where the dead rise first, then the alive saints.*

In John 16:33, Jesus told us we would have tribulation, *“These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.”*

Paul tells us in I Thessalonians 5:9, to be sober in waiting for the return of the Lord, but we will not face His wrath.
“But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for a helmet, the hope of salvation. For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ.”

So the Bible is telling us that people in the end of time will go through tribulation and will face the beast system. At the end, the dead will rise and then the living elect will be caught up in the air to meet Jesus. Then His wrath will be poured out on the Earth to judge those who have rejected Him.

Followers of Jesus have faced tribulation for the last 2,000 years, as it is part of our purification and testing.
Jesus’ disciples were persecuted and killed. Stephen the Apostle was stoned. Paul was beaten, stoned and persecuted. Millions of Christians have died at the hands of the Jews, the Romans and the Roman Catholic Church. Today, many Christians in other countries are being persecuted and killed for their faith.

Why would God treat us any differently? Do we think that we are better than those who died for their faith?
Jesus told us in Revelation 3:14-16 that we are the Church of Laodicea, and He said that we *are wretched, miserable, poor, blind and naked*. And because we are ‘lukewarm’, He will spit us out of His mouth, unless we repent of our ways.

Antichrist is not just one man in the end, but a system that has been working since the time of Jesus.
Satan’s deception has caused Christians to look only to an end-time antichrist, instead of looking to all the institutions that have been antichrist for thousands of years, and are working against Christians, such as Babylonian Judaism and the Jesuits who control the Roman Catholic Church.

Do you understand how effective Satan’s pre-tribulation rapture myth has been?
It has caused us to not prepare for hardship, as the financial system collapses.
You need to be prepared, so that during times of tribulation, you can protect yourself and your family. If you don’t, then every day will be spent trying to survive, instead of being spent helping those around you. When the world is suffering in the last days, people will be more desperate than ever for the Good News of Jesus.

It has caused us to not prepare to defend our families.
People who don’t prepare will be desperate, and they will take drastic, potentially violent action to get food and water. You need to be able to protect your family against those who would take it from you.

It has caused us to not be prepared spiritually and unable to discern the truth about Satan’s end time plans.
You need to be alert, so that you’re not deceived by false prophets who tell you that the rapture has happened, or that the Messiah has come.

Matthew 24:23-24 says that false Christs will arise and show great signs and wonders, to deceive the very elect
“Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not. For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.”

Satan will make the world desperate for a savior who can provide for them and give them peace.
With the pending financial collapse; worldwide shortages of food and water; increases in wars and violence; and then the appearance of a false messiah... the world will be ripe to accept the mark of the beast.

Revelation 12:12,17 says *“woe to the ones dwelling on the Earth, because the devil came down to you having great anger, knowing that he has a little time!”*, *“he is enraged and will make war with those having the testimony of Christ.”*

So you need be prepared to give an answer for your faith, so you don’t submit to the beast system and deny Jesus, and lose your salvation.

To read a Bible study about the ‘Little Horn of Daniel’ and the ‘Beast of Revelation’, visit www.Ez.com/danielrevbeast