

What is the Rapture?

When will it Occur?

Pre-Tribulation?

Mid-Tribulation?

Post-Tribulation?

FIRST EDITION

Allow the Bible to reveal this mystery
to you so you will be prepared for
when it actually happens

Leslie Rendell

What Is The Rapture

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Introduction

This book will endeavour to guide the readers into a better understanding of what the rapture is, who will be raptured, and when this event is prophesied to happen. For me personally, I dislike the term “rapture”. Apart from the fact this word is never used throughout the entire Bible, it just seems so impersonal and cold. I much prefer to use the term the Bible uses for this event. “Being gathered to Jesus”. This portrays for me a loving embrace from our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

But for this book, I will reluctantly use the word “rapture”, because that is what most people who want information on this topic will search for.

There are three dominant schools of thought on this matter that would be very confusing for anyone who is studying this topic. Therefore, I believe it is very important for me to start with a brief description of just what the rapture is before going any further in this book.

The rapture is when all of God’s elect will be gathered to Jesus (raptured) at the end of this present age. They will be the Saints who have been loyal to Jesus. Some will have laid

down their lives rather than conform to the ways of this world and its many false religions. Their names will be in what is called “The Lamb’s book of life”. I will discuss this all important book later in this book. But for now, it is suffice to say those who are raptured are God’s elect, and they will come from every nation, people and language on earth.

To get a proper understanding about the rapture will require you to spend some time in researching this topic in your own Bible. It would be very wrong to believe anyone on any Bible subject without searching the scriptures to see if what you are being told is the truth or not. We must always be like the Bereans Luke described in Acts 17:10-11.

Act 17:10 The brothers immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Beroea. When they arrived, they went into the Jewish synagogue.

Act 17:11 Now these were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so.

If you do not study the Bible yourself but just believe what you are told, there is a genuine possibility you will not come to know the truth. It is imperative you study the word of God. It is also imperative you spend time in prayer to God seeking His understanding. Since He is the author of this amazing book, who better to go to for the correct knowledge on this subject?

The Bible that I have used for references in this book is the “World English Bible” (WEB). If you have a different version of the bible that is perfectly OK. The wording may be different, but I am sure you will find the meaning of the verses to be the same.

My prayer now is that you will gain some understanding from reading this book and that it will inspire you to continue to seek God. Keep in mind the scripture from 2 Timothy 3:16.

2Ti 3:16 Every Scripture is God-breathed and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for instruction in righteousness.

All scripture means both the old *and* the new testaments. Remember that the only scriptures that were available to Jesus and His disciples were those contained in the old testament. It was the Apostles who wrote the books of the new testament that we have today. Therefore, do not neglect the “Old Testament” in the Bible, as it is vital in understanding many parts of the “New Testament”. The entire bible is the inspired word of God.

In this book, I have attempted to cover all aspects of this topic. In doing so, I have entered certain chapters that you may feel are totally irrelevant to the rapture. These chapters all add something to the overall picture, and while they may seem like they are out of place. They all add more information, and when added together, they help in understanding this very complex topic.

While you may be tempted to rush to near the end of the book and the chapter titled “When Is The Rapture” for a quick answer. I would suggest you read the book in chapter order to gain the best understanding possible. You will no doubt find the answer in this book, long before you actually get to that chapter, but that is where I go into more detail in explaining when this event will occur.

My Personal Thoughts

Before I started looking into God's word for any answers, and with no real research, I just thought, "what seems to be correct by what I know of God". With no real research, I just thought "what seems to be right". So, taking what I now know and understand about God, I tried to reason which "Rapture Theory" is most likely to be correct.

In many parts of the bible. As well as in recorded history, we have seen thousands, and probably millions, of Christians persecuted and put to death for their belief and trust in Jesus Christ.

Right from the time of the very first Pentecost, the establishment of the church, we have seen shocking acts of violence against God's elect. And God has taken no one away from these times of persecution.

The Apostles were all (except for John) murdered for their beliefs and for preaching the gospel. We have heard about Christians being fed to the lions. Many being burnt at the stake and many other means of eliminating Christians have been employed throughout the last two thousand years. Today, when you look at places like China, Afghanistan and many other nations, you can see where Christians are still

being murdered just because they are Christians.

Millions of Christians have been murdered and so far, not one has been taken away by God to a place of safety, or even raptured away from the dangers. These millions of faithful Christians stayed where they were and suffered for His name.

Therefore, if we want the truth on this matter, we have to ask ourselves some tough questions and then come to the right conclusion.

Question 1 “Why should we expect to be raptured away before persecutions start, when so many other faithful Christians were not, but suffered some horrific deaths?”

Consider this. What is worse? Taken captive by people who hate Christians and being murdered by them prior to the tribulation starting. Or being captured by people who hate Christians and being murdered by them during the tribulation? There is no difference. In both cases, Christians are persecuted and put to death. Jesus has warned us this will happen, and I have covered this more in the chapter “All Kinds Of Trials”.

Question 2 “Why are we any better than those brave people who trusted God even unto their death, that we should expect to be taken out of harm’s way?”

How many Christians had been murdered since that first Pentecost? The number must be in the millions by now. therefore, why is it that Christians should suddenly expect to be removed from the earth during the tribulation? What is the difference between pre-tribulation saints and saints who will live during the tribulation? Are the pre-tribulation saints more worthy of God’s protection? Ask yourself the question. Who is worthy of anything from God? The answer to that question is no-one is worthy of anything from God. The chapter “God

Never Changes” will cover this topic in more detail.

Question 3 “Why would God change the way He deals with the world, and with His elect? Just because the tribulation period will be much worse than other times of persecution?”

God is the same yesterday, today, and forever. He will not change His MO (method of operation) just to please a few Christians who are too afraid to trust Him during the tribulation. We have a promise from God He will protect Christians from His wrath. If we have such a promise from God, then you can rely on Him keeping that promise. Therefore, it is vital to know when God’s wrath will be poured out on the world. Please read carefully the chapter titled “Saved From God’s Wrath” when you come to it.

Question 4 “If we are raptured away before the tribulation starts. Along with all the other Christians in the world, then who is going to teach our families, friends and loved ones? Who are mostly non believers, about the conditions of the world, and why it is in such a mess? And just what they need to do if they are going to be saved?”

For me, this is one of the greatest questions you will need to answer. We know from Revelation 7:9-14 that a great multitude will turn to Jesus during the tribulation, so how did they learn the truth about Jesus if all Christians have been raptured to heaven? When you come to the chapter titled “The Best People For The Job”, you will find another reason Christians will not experience a rapture before the tribulation starts.

Question 5 “Do we want to be raptured away and leave our families to the Devil?”

This question will test you. What does Rev 21:8 say about

the cowardly? Those who are afraid to attest to Jesus as their Lord and God. Those who want to run away from trouble and hide when their families will desperately need their knowledge and understanding of God and His plan of salvation for His elect. Notice the very first sin listed there is for the cowardly, and what does their future look like? It is to be thrown into the lake of fire that is the second death. This thought is expounded upon in the chapter titled “Is Fear A Sin?”

The answer to that last question for me is double-barrelled. Of course I want to escape the tribulation. I have studied the last book in the Bible. The book of Revelation and have understood the many catastrophes that are going to come on the Earth. Yes, I would love to avoid all this suffering if possible. Then I think no, I need to be here for those I love who will live through the tribulation. I would appear like a coward if I just “packed my bags” so to speak and abandoned them when they will need me the most.

I know that the seven years of the tribulation are going to be horrific and terrifying to live through, so yes, I want out. Again, what about those that I love who are about to suffer through the times of the tribulation?

How many of you reading this book would run away from your loved one’s homes if it were on fire? Maybe leave them struggling in a raging river and not try to save them? Or fighting a spiritual battle against an unseen enemy they cannot comprehend? Could you run away for your own protection? Could you ever “leave and forsake” those you love? Are you not prepared to “lay down your life” to help your family?

We should be prepared to do what Jesus Christ did for us. We should be prepared to never abandon or leave them, and especially when they will need us the most during the

tribulation.

To be looking forward to “a pre-tribulation rapture”, and leaving our unbelieving family, friends and neighbours behind, when they will need our help the most. We are saying we are happy to leave them to their own devices. Let their houses burn down without lifting a finger to help them. Allow them to drown in that raging river and just wave them goodbye as they are sucked into the raging torrent. To let them fight against the powers of darkness and evil without a care in the world, because you have been taken away to where you are safe. Is this truly what you want, and if it is, then shame upon you!!!.

The very thought of a pre-tribulation rapture should appal us and leave us feeling like we are about to throw our loved ones under a bus. What does Heb 13:5-6 say about the attitude of Jesus towards us?

Heb 13:5 Be free from the love of money, content with such things as you have, for he has said, “I will in no way leave you, neither will I in any way forsake you.”

Heb 13:6 So that with good courage we say, “The Lord is my helper. I will not fear. What can man do to me?”

We can see from these scriptures that Jesus will never leave us and will never forsake us, no matter what. Today, we see those who believe in a pre-tribulation rapture longing for a time when they are taken away from their families. When they will be happy to forsake them. When they are looking forward to a time when they will leave them to fight against the powers of darkness without their help. Not prepared to give their lives for their families, as Jesus did for them on the cross. Is that what God wants from His people?

Just from my personal thoughts and reasoning, I have concluded that a pre-tribulation rapture, or a mid-tribulation rapture theory are contrary to the way God has always dealt with His elect. These theories cannot answer the questions I asked earlier. And as I go deeper into this topic, I will show why I cannot believe in them.

Now I will go to “His Words”, the Holy Bible. To see if I can prove to anyone reading this book what I have now come to believe concerning the Rapture. That the post-tribulation rapture is the only solution that makes any sense and that does not run contrary to what God has shown Himself to be.

Many people when they study the bible do so with a bias towards what they already believe. It is very difficult to study and not lean towards what you previously understood to be the truth on a matter, even if it is not correct. Some people are more interested in proving themselves to be right, rather than listening to the “Word Of God” and accepting what is right. To prove yourself right, rather than learn the truth, is a total waste of your time, because you will never see past what you already think is right. You will never find the truth.

It is extremely difficult to “unlearn” something and replace it with another understanding. To acknowledge that you are wrong is never easy. But if you are to understand the Bible correctly, then you must be prepared to accept what is written in this amazing book.

You will also need to accept the fact that your close friends and family may not understand what you are doing and may turn away from you. This is when you will need to trust God, and go with what He has revealed to you from His word, the Bible.

What Is The Tribulation?

Christians who have studied prophecy from the Bible know what the tribulation is, but there are also many who have never studied this topic. This Chapter is for those who are not familiar with the tribulation and what it means. There is a lot of confusion and many novel ideas about the tribulation. When it will happen, who will be affected, how long it will last? I will give a quick overview of my thoughts on this complex matter.

We know that the tribulation is going to last for seven years and occur just prior to the return of Jesus Christ to this world. This seven years is the last week of the Prophet Daniel's prophecy found in Chapter nine in the book of Daniel. Many see it as a time of God's wrath on the earth. But is that correct? By the end of this message, I hope to convince you that the "Tribulation" and "God's Wrath" are two totally different things that occur at different times.

For these seven years of what the Bible terms the tribulation, Satan is still "the prince of this world", he can still influence people and he is still leading people astray, away from God. Satan is still trying to destroy anything that looks in the least bit like God, His church or anyone who wants to

follow Jesus. He will continue doing this until Jesus returns and takes possession of the earth as His kingdom. Only then will Satan's influence over the entire world be stopped.

During the tribulation, there will be a "one world church", a "one world government", and a "one world currency". Today, in October 2022, these things are taking shape. I believe that in a few very short years, these three things will rapidly take control of the world. These will all be the makings of Satan. The persecution of the Christians during this time is also at the hand of Satan. There is the mark of the beast on the right hand or on the forehead that will be enforced on all people. Those who refuse this Mark of the Beast will be prevented from buying or selling anything. That includes food and all the necessities for life. Without this mark, it will be very difficult to survive. This is satanic. Every bad thing that will happen during the tribulation is of Satan, not of God.

People who believe in the pre-tribulation and mid-tribulation raptures see the Second Coming of Christ as a secret event. Only those who He has come to "rapture away" from the earth will know that He has come. Everyone else will just be wondering where the millions of people have just vanish to. This includes husbands, wives, children, brothers, sisters, aunties and uncles of those who are left behind. Then, when Jesus comes back at the end of the tribulation period, it will be His third return. This is difficult to accept because, as far as I know, Jesus will only come back one more time. Nowhere in all scripture is Jesus Christ prophesied to come two more times and certainly never "in secret".

Christians who believe in a post tribulation rapture only expect Jesus to return one more time, and that will be after the full seven years of the tribulation have been completed. This is the position I now accept.

Those who believe in the pre-tribulation rapture talk about people mysteriously disappearing in the twinkling of an eye while at work, driving cars, etc. People just going about their daily lives, then suddenly they are gone. Truck drivers, train drivers, pilots, doctors half way through an open heart surgery. I think you can imagine many more of these sorts of scenarios.

Not being able to say goodbye to their loved ones, just gone in a fraction of a second. According to this idea, these people will disappear from the earth before the tribulation starts. That means that later today (October 2022) they may all mysteriously disappear, and with no warning, and they will be happy to leave their loved ones to whatever fate awaits them. This theory is refuted in the chapter “Imminence of the Rapture theory”.

Let us take just one scenario and see how it may play out. A good Christian father is taking his family, who do not believe the same way he does, on a car journey along a narrow and twisting, dangerous mountain road. Suddenly, he is raptured. What will now become of the family he loves as they are now in a car with no driver? I doubt either the father or God would want a situation like this. Or what about a massive truck on an extremely busy highway and the driver is suddenly raptured? No time to stop, just let the truck go. I hope you get the picture. What about pilots with hundreds of passengers? What will be their fate if the pilot is raptured?

I realize that if the reader of this book is a believer in the pre-tribulation or mid-tribulation raptures, then you will not like what I have said so far. All I ask is for a fair hearing. Please read with an open mind to the end of the book and then judge what I have written. Remember Proverbs 25:2.

Pro 25:2 It is the glory of God to conceal a thing,

but the glory of kings is to search out a matter.

Consider yourself as a King, and search out the matter for yourself and from your own Bible. Your future with Jesus in His kingdom is far too important to just let others tell you what you should or should not believe. Secure your own future by studying His word and seeking the truth from the only place you will find it. In the word of God, in the Bible.

What Is The Rapture?

The rapture is a very complicated subject with many theories about when it will take place. Many of the preachers you see on “YouTube” preach about the pre-tribulation rapture. They get very excited about being raptured and can sound very convincing, and you can see why people believe them. Unfortunately, most of the congregation will just listen and take in what they are told. They are happy to just accept what someone else has told them.

The vast majority of these people will never look into their own Bibles to see if what they are told is true. It is just too hard and time-consuming to do that much study, so it is easier to believe a pastor who should know the answers. What ever you do, do not hand over your future with Jesus because it is too hard to look into God’s holy scriptures for the truth.

What if these preachers are wrong, and those who believe them are following a lie? Unfortunately, I believe many people who listen to these preachers are there to hear what they want to hear, or as the word of God says in 2 Timothy 4:3.

2Ti 4:3 For the time will come when they will not listen to the sound doctrine, but, having itching

ears, will heap up for themselves teachers after their own lusts;

How many people will just want to hear what their itching ears want to hear? Why bother with going to the actual word of God for the truth, when they can just listen to these **“learned men”** and blindly believe what they are told?

I believe that this is one of the biggest problem facing Christians today. A blind belief in what a man is telling them, and not being like the Bereans and searching the scriptures daily, to see if what they are being told is the truth or not. Do these people ever get their bibles down and study them? There is faith in God, and there is blind faith in anything that sounds good.

One important point that we must understand is that this theory of a pre-tribulation rapture only started in about 1830. Before this time, none of the preachers or church leaders taught this idea, so it is only a relatively new idea that is now widespread among Christians. And I believe it is widespread because these Christians are looking for the easy way out. They hope for an escape from the time of tribulation that is surely going to come upon the world.

There is no evidence of the pre-tribulation rapture theory being preached seriously before about 1830. This theory grew out of the translations of the Bible that John Nelson Darby analysed in 1833, and the comments in this version of the bible are where the pre-tribulation rapture ideas started, and this belief is the most widely held view today.

If I am right, and the pre-tribulation rapture is a false teaching. What is going to happen to the millions of Christians who are looking forward to this pre-tribulation rapture? How is their faith in God going to take a massive

blow as they suddenly find themselves in the tribulation and God has not taken them out of the world? These people will mostly lose patience and faith in God. During the tribulation, there will be a massive increase in wickedness, and as these Christians see no protection for themselves, they will turn away from God. The love of most will grow cold because they will feel let down and deserted by God.

I believe that the scripture we find in Mat 24:10-13 refers to these people.

Mat 24:10 Then many will stumble, and will deliver up one another, and will hate one another.

Mat 24:11 Many false prophets will arise, and will lead many astray.

Mat 24:12 Because iniquity will be multiplied, the love of many will grow cold.

Mat 24:13 But he who endures to the end, the same will be saved.

Leading up to verse eight, we see predictions from Jesus about wars etc. that are coming. Then in verses 10-13 notice what is predicted to happen. **Many will turn away** from their faith and their churches. The false prophets will deceive many. **The love of many will grow cold.** This is a powerful part of scripture, and I believe it is a warning that we must study the scriptures on this subject and get it right. In Mat 24:12 we read it is the love of **many** that will grow cold.

If we know the truth about this matter. Then we are more likely to be prepared spiritually for what is coming. When disasters strike, we will not be shocked. We understand that God's plan does not include His elect from being "raptured". But it will be our opportunity to help our loved ones through the time of tribulation. We can be one of those who stands

firm to the end, as we read in verse 13.

Those who stand firm until the end will be the elect who know that they will experience the full time of the tribulation. They will have prepared themselves mentally and spiritually for what is coming upon them. When wars increase and all other evils rapidly increase, they will not be surprised. Those who are not mentally and spiritually prepared will soon desert God and their faith.

We see more evidence of people falling away from the truth when troubles strike in 2 Thessalonians 2:1-8. This is one section of scripture that the pre-tribulationists use to “prove” their theory. Yet, if you understand it correctly, you will see it does the exact opposite. You do not have to be a Bible scholar to see the mistake they make. Just read it carefully and believe what you read.

In the following verses, we see a warning from Jesus to not be deceived about His coming. And another warning that many will fall away from the truth and from God. Read these verses slowly and carefully and you will see why the pre-tribulation rapture theory is completely false.

2Th 2:1 Now, brothers, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and our gathering together to him, we ask you

2Th 2:2 not to be quickly shaken in your mind, and not be troubled, either by spirit, or by word, or by letter as if from us, saying that the day of Christ has already come.

2Th 2:3 Let no one deceive you in any way. For it will not be, unless the rebellion comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of destruction,

2Th 2:4 he who opposes and exalts himself against

all that is called God or that is worshipped; so that he sits as God in the temple of God, setting himself up as God.

2Th 2:5 Don't you remember that, when I was still with you, I told you these things?

2Th 2:6 Now you know what is restraining him, to the end that he may be revealed in his own season.

2Th 2:7 For the mystery of lawlessness already works. Only there is one who restrains now, until he is taken out of the way.

2Th 2:8 Then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will kill with the breath of his mouth, and destroy by the manifestation of his coming;

Verse one clearly tells us the following verses relate to the timing of the rapture, or as I wrote earlier in this book, our being gathered to Jesus, or as we see in this verse, our “gathering together to Him”. Surely, our “gathering together to Him” can only mean the time of our rapture. What else could it possibly mean? Now read on and see what happens before we are “gathered together to Him”. Verse three plainly tells us two things must happen first. 1. The rebellion comes first, or the great falling away. This is followed by the man of sin being revealed when he sets himself up in God’s temple and claims himself to be God.

These two things MUST occur first before we are gathered to Jesus. If you understand the prophecy from Daniel, you know the man of sin does not take over the temple of the Jews until halfway through the tribulation, or in the middle of the week, as is clear from Daniel 9:27.

Dan 9:27 He will make a firm covenant with many for one week. In the middle of the week he will

cause the sacrifice and the offering to cease. On the wing of abominations will come one who makes desolate; and even to the full end, and that determined, wrath will be poured out on the desolate.

Another vitally important thing that we need to consider here is this. Before we can be raptured and be with our Lord Jesus Christ, the **dead must be resurrected first**. The rapture cannot happen until the dead are resurrected to life. This is clear from the following scriptures.

1Th 4:16 For the Lord Himself shall descend from Heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ shall rise first.

1Co 15:52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we will be changed.

Now let us go back to 2Th 2:1 and see that it sets the scene for the rest of this passage of scripture. Many people reading this section of scripture do not consider what Paul has said in verses one and two. So what is so important about the first two verses? These words inform us that the return of Jesus and of our being gathered to Him (the rapture) **will not occur** until the events described in verses four through to verse eight have taken place. And the **dead must be resurrected** before we can be gathered to Him as we have just read. Equally important is verse three. We are told to **not be deceived** by anyone about what is happening. That day will not happen until the man of lawlessness is revealed and has set himself up in God's temple and is proclaiming himself to be God.

One thing that all people who study the Bible will agree on is the fact that one day in the book of Daniel means one year. So when he says **He will make a firm covenant with many for one week**, so these seven days are equal to seven years, one year for each day of the week. So in Dan 9:27, *In the middle of the week*, is halfway through the week, halfway through the seven years.

According to verses 1-3 in 2 Thessalonians 2, the rapture will not occur until the man of lawlessness has set himself up in the temple as God. Halfway through the seven years of the tribulation. (in the middle of the week). Therefore, the theory of the pre-tribulation rapture does not stand up. The gathering to Jesus will not occur until these two events have happened. First the rebellion, or the falling away. Then the man of lawlessness (man of sin) is revealed, as we saw in 2Th 2:3.

2Th 2:3 Let no one deceive you in any way. For it will not be, unless the rebellion comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of destruction,

In Paul's second letter to the Thessalonians, chapter 1 and verses 5-7 read what he says about Christ's return.

2Th 1:5 This is an obvious sign of the righteous judgment of God, to the end that you may be counted worthy of God's Kingdom, for which you also suffer.

2Th 1:6 Since it is a righteous thing with God to repay affliction to those who afflict you,

2Th 1:7 and to give relief to you who are afflicted with us, when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels in flaming fire,

2Th 1:5 is just one of many scriptures that tells us we will suffer for the name of Jesus Christ. To deny this is to deny

the word of God. I go into much more detail in the chapter “All Kinds Of trials” about the fact we will experience many different troubles in this world. Jesus also warned us to expect troubles in Joh 16:33.

Joh 16:33 I have told you these things, that in me you may have peace. In the world you have trouble; but cheer up! I have overcome the world.

What did we read in 2Th 1:7? We will get relief from our troubles, and when does this happen? ***This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels.*** Does this sound like He is going to come in secret to rapture His people? Can we see a blazing fire? Think of the wildfires in America and in Australia. Can you hide these events? Also, Jesus will be accompanied by His powerful angels.

Jesus will return in blazing fire with His angels and Mat 24:27 also reveals His return will be like lightning coming from the east. Something else it is impossible to hide.

Mat 24:27 For as the lightning flashes from the east, and is seen even to the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.

Christ’s return is also recorded in Rev 1:7 and Mat 16:27.

Rev 1:7 Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, including those who pierced him. All the tribes of the earth will mourn over him. Even so, Amen.

Mat 16:27 For the Son of Man will come in the glory of his Father with his angels, and then he will render to everyone according to his deeds.

Therefore, Christ's return will certainly not be in secret, it will be seen by all people. Notice that this is when Jesus will reward everyone for what they have done. Everyone will include the living and the dead, the dead will be raised to life and then the living are changed in the twinkling of an eye from mortal to immortal. And what does Jesus say in Rev 22:12 about what He is going to bring with Him when He returns?

Rev 22:12 "Behold, I come quickly. My reward is with me, to repay to each man according to his work."

When do the righteous get their rewards? When Jesus returns. And what is the reward? Surely, this is the dead being raised to eternal life and those still alive at His return being raptured to be with Him as well. It is the gift of eternal life with a resurrected body. What other reward is there?

One last thing to consider. But crucial to understand if you really want the truth about the timing of the rapture is found in Rev 20:1-5.

Rev 20:1 I saw an angel coming down out of heaven, having the key of the abyss and a great chain in his hand.

Rev 20:2 He seized the dragon, the old serpent, which is the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole inhabited earth, and bound him for a thousand years,

Rev 20:3 and cast him into the abyss, and shut it, and sealed it over him, that he should deceive the nations no more, until the thousand years were finished. After this, he must be freed for a short time.

Rev 20:4 I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and

judgment was given to them. I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for the testimony of Jesus, and for the word of God, and such as didn't worship the beast nor his image, and didn't receive the mark on their forehead and on their hand. They lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.

Rev 20:5 The rest of the dead didn't live until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.

Starting in verse 1, we see Satan is bound with the great chain and cast into the abyss, where he is to stay for one thousand years. Then, from verse four, we see those who have been beheaded **during the tribulation** because they refused the mark of the beast and refused to worship him or his image. This is obviously at the end of the tribulation. None of these events could occur before the end of tribulation, and certainly not before the tribulation even starts.

Now read the last five words of verse five for the conclusive proof. **This is the first resurrection.** And since the dead are resurrected before the living are changed in the twinkling of an eye, our being gathered to Jesus, or raptured, can only occur after this first resurrection and not before. **After the seven years of the tribulation.**

Imminence Of The Rapture Theory

Those who believe in the pre-tribulation rapture say it is imminent. It can happen any-time with no precursor to warn us it is about to happen. There will be no prophetic events that will happen prior to this event. People going about their everyday lives will vanish from the earth and be raptured to Heaven. No warning, no sign of any kind. Just here one second, and gone the next.

As the pre-tribulation rapture idea goes, there can be no pre-cursors to the event. Otherwise we would know when it is near. What does the Bible say on this matter? Well, there are five events prophesied to happen **BEFORE** the rapture occurs. And one of them is repeated several times in various books of the Bible to emphasize the importance of this sign that the rapture is close. But before I get to that sign, let us read these two passages in Mal 4:5 and 2Th 2:3.

Mal 4:5 Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and terrible day of Yahweh comes.

2Th 2:3 Let no one deceive you in any way. For it will not be, unless the rebellion comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of destruction,

First, we see Elijah must come (Mal 4:5) Then, in 2Th 2:3, what will not be? It can only be the day God's elect are gathered to Jesus, as explained for us in the first verse of 2Th 2. This is when God's elect are gathered to Jesus. This is when the rapture occurs. And you will notice the falling away and the man of lawlessness are revealed **BEFORE** the rapture, as we can see in 2Th 2:3-4.

*2Th 2:3 Let no one deceive you in any way. For it will not be, unless the rebellion comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of destruction,
2Th 2:4 he who opposes and exalts himself against all that is called God or that is worshiped; so that he sits as God in the temple of God, setting himself up as God.*

Anyone who is half serious about understanding the timing of the rapture will know exactly when the man of lawlessness is revealed. And that is halfway through the seven years of Daniel's prophecy in Dan 9:27. This seven-year period is called by some the "tribulation". But the "great tribulation" does not start until the middle of these seven years when the man of lawlessness sets himself up as God in the temple.

Dan 9:27 He will make a firm covenant with many for one week. In the middle of the week he will cause the sacrifice and the offering to cease. On the wing of abominations will come one who makes desolate; and even to the full end, and that determined, wrath will be poured out on the desolate.

When this abomination that causes desolation happens, it will be the start of "the great tribulation" period. This passage of scripture (if you are prepared to believe God's words rather than man's words) should convince you the imminence of a pre-tribulation rapture is impossible. But let us now

examine another sign that **MUST ALSO** occur before the rapture.

This sign is repeated many times to emphasize its importance. It is the cosmic disturbances that always precede the “Day of the Lord”. These troubles in the universe will be witnessed by every person on the earth. It will be impossible for anyone not to see it. This sign is recorded in the following verses.

Joe 2:31 The sun will be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and terrible day of Yahweh comes.

Act 2:20 The sun will be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and glorious day of the Lord comes.

Mar 13:24 But in those days, after that oppression, the sun will be darkened, the moon will not give its light,

Luk 21:25 There will be signs in the sun, moon, and stars; and on the earth anxiety of nations, in perplexity for the roaring of the sea and the waves;

Act 2:20 The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon into blood before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord.

Rev 6:12 I saw when he opened the sixth seal, and there was a great earthquake. The sun became black as sackcloth made of hair, and the whole moon became as blood.

Isa 13:9 Behold, the day of Yahweh comes, cruel,

*with wrath and fierce anger; to make the land a desolation, and to destroy its sinners out of it.
Isa 13:10 For the stars of the sky and its constellations will not give their light. The sun will be darkened in its going out, and the moon will not cause its light to shine.*

Joe 2:10 The earth quakes before them. The heavens tremble. The sun and the moon are darkened, and the stars withdraw their shining.

Joe 2:11 Yahweh thunders his voice before his army; for his forces are very great; for he is strong who obeys his command; for the day of Yahweh is great and very awesome, and who can endure it?

Now it is time for you to ask yourself. “Am I going to believe the very word of God? Or am I going to believe the theories made up by man?” In these verses above, I think we have enough evidence that there will be **major, major** and not minor, cosmic disturbances before the day of the Lord. Another sure sign the rapture simply cannot be imminent, or with no prior prophetic events occurring. But if this proof is not enough, then please understand the following passage of scripture from the book of Matthew. From Mat 24:27-31.

Mat 24:27 For as the lightning flashes from the east, and is seen even to the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.

Mat 24:28 For wherever the carcass is, that is where the vultures gather together.

Mat 24:29 But immediately after the oppression of those days, the sun will be darkened, the moon will not give its light, the stars will fall from the sky, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken;

Mat 24:30 and then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky. Then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky with power and great glory.

Mat 24:31 He will send out his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together his chosen ones from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other.

Verse 29 starts with, “Immediately after the distress of those days”. What days is this referring to? Surely, this can only be the days of the great tribulation. Now notice this is followed by the sun and the moon not giving their light. After the entire world has been plunged into darkness, this is when the Son of Man will appear. One very important thing to keep in mind is that He will come **on the clouds of Heaven**. Does this sound familiar? It should, Remember 1Th 4:16-17.

1Th 4:16 For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with God’s trumpet. The dead in Christ will rise first,

1Th 4:17 then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air. So we will be with the Lord forever.

Do you see the similarity between Mat 24:30 and 1Th 4:17? In both instances, Jesus is coming on the “clouds of Heaven”, and according to verse 17, this is when He gathers his elect from the entire earth. And if this is not the timing of the rapture, **then what is?** Again, please notice what has to happen before God’s elect are caught up with them in the clouds. The sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give

its light; the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken. As recorded in verse 29.

These events **MUST HAPPEN** before the rapture. Therefore, the rapture simply cannot be imminent. There are too many pre-cursor prophecies that God has told us will occur. This demolishes the false theory of an imminent pre-tribulation rapture.

Think about this. If the sun is darkened, and the moon does not give any light, then the universe will be in utter darkness. This reminds me of an old saying “black as the insides of a cow”. Try to imagine how dark this world will be if there is no light from the sky. Absolutely no light at all. The book of Amos makes it very clear there will be no light at all from the sky. Read Amos 5:20.

*Amo 5:20 Won't the day of Yahweh be darkness,
and not light? Even very dark, and no brightness
in it?*

On this day, if you were to hold your hand in front of your face, you cannot see it. Complete darkness will envelop the whole earth.

Now something remarkable is about to happen. From this completely darkened universe, Jesus Christ is going to return with great power and glory. Therefore, every eye will see Him. He will come out of this pitch-darkness and His radiance will illuminate the universe. Therefore, every eye will see Him. Have you ever walked into a black room and turned on a bright light? You cannot miss it, can you? So it will be when our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ comes in His Father's glory with His millions of angel.

As God has led me to show you, there are many pre-cursors to the rapture, therefore the thought that it is

imminent, meaning it can happen without a warning, is completely false. God will give us the following warning signs that the rapture is near.

1. He will send the prophet Elijah. (Mal 4:5)
2. The rebellion occurs, and the man of lawlessness is revealed. (2Th 2:3)
3. The man of lawlessness sets himself up in God's temple. (2Th 2:4)
4. The sun will be turned into darkness. (Act 2:20)
5. The moon will not give its light. (Mar 13:24)

These cosmic disturbances will cause the universe to be pitch-dark, without a ray of brightness. (Amo 5:20). If you have followed along with Mat 24: 29-31, you can plainly see the sequence of events leading up to our being caught up together with them in the clouds when we are raptured.

As the pre-tribulation rapture idea goes, there can be no pre-cursors to the event. Otherwise we would know when it is near. Yet here, God has shown us five things that **must happen first**. Therefore, the idea of imminence is not possible, and also the theory of a pre-tribulation rapture is well and truly proven to be unbiblical. These are the signs that we will clearly see before the rapture happens.

The Book Of Matthew

One misconception that needs to be cleared up is the idea that the book of Matthew has nothing to do with the church, but is only directed towards the Jews. This false idea is to reinforce the theory of a pre-tribulation rapture. If this book is ignored, then some of the evidence that goes against the pre-tribulation rapture theory does not need to be addressed. This is a simple way to overcome this problem.

So how do we show the church being referenced in the book of Matthew? There are several ways to do this.

First, if you search the ***synoptic Gospels***. Matthew, Mark and Luke for the word Church. It is only found in the book of Matthew in the following verses.

Mat 16:18 (NIV) And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.

Mat 18:17 (NIV) If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church; and if they refuse to listen even to the church, treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector.

The church is obviously mentioned in these verses, so how can anyone claim the church is not mentioned from verse four till verse nineteen? Also, the next verse Mat 18:20 tells us where two or three are gathered together in my name, the name of Jesus Christ, He will be there with them. This also can only mean the church.

Mat 18:20 For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there I am in the middle of them.

Second, the great commission for the church is given to the disciples as we see in mat 28:16-20.

Mat 28:16 But the eleven disciples went into Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had sent them.

Mat 28:17 When they saw him, they bowed down to him, but some doubted.

Mat 28:18 Jesus came to them and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth.

Mat 28:19 Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

Mat 28:20 teaching them to observe all things that I commanded you. Behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. Amen.

This great commission was given to the Church. It gave the Church permission to make disciples of all nations and to baptise them. Something the Jews would never do. There are parts of this book pre-tribulationists simply cannot explain away, and still believe in the pre-tribulation rapture. Hence their need to just ignore the book altogether. The big problem

for them is in chapter 24 of Matthew.

So let us look at chapter 24, commonly referred to as the “Olivet Discourse”. Here Jesus is talking to His disciples, and after they called Jesus’ attention to the magnificent temple, Jesus promptly tells them in verses one and two the temple will be utterly destroyed.

Mat 24:1 Jesus left the temple and was walking away when his disciples came up to him to call his attention to its buildings.

Mat 24:2 "Do you see all these things?" he asked. "Truly I tell you, not one stone here will be left on another; every one will be thrown down."

This is obviously not what the disciples want to hear, so they ask Jesus when these things are going to happen, and what will be the sign of the end of the age. Jesus then sets out to explain to them what lies ahead for the church in both the short term, and then what will happen towards the end of the age. In verses four through to verse 28, Jesus lists events that must happen before the end of the age.

Verses four through to eight, Jesus tells His disciples there will be false teachers, there will be wars and rumours of wars. Nation will rise against nation, Kingdom against kingdom. Famines and earthquakes will occur in various places. This sounds bad but verse 6 tells us the end is not yet, and verse eight then explains that these events are only “birth pains”. They are only the start of troubles the entire world will experience.

Mat 24:4 Jesus answered them, “Be careful that no one leads you astray.”

Mat 24:5 For many will come in my name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and will lead many astray.

Mat 24:6 You will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you aren't troubled, for all this must happen, but the end is not yet.

Mat 24:7 For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; and there will be famines, plagues, and earthquakes in various places.

Mat 24:8 But all these things are the beginning of birth pains.

These signs are becoming more apparent almost every day. Today we are experiencing the COVID-19 pandemic, the war in the Ukraine that will cause many people to be without food. Natural disasters are occurring and now we have the threat of another pandemic in Monkey Pox. I believe the "birth pains" are starting and will increase in frequency and severity as we approach the end of days.

These signs are followed by verse nine, which is another sign this book of Matthew also refers to the Church.

Mat 24:9 Then they will deliver you up to oppression, and will kill you. You will be hated by all of the nations for my name's sake.

Why are these people handed over, persecuted, and killed? The answer is in the last three words of this verse. "BECAUSE OF ME". They are murdered because of Jesus Christ and their loyalty to Him. This is obviously not the Jews, because they do not believe Jesus is their Messiah. This points to the Church, to Christians being murdered.

The next sign Jesus gives us is the falling away, or apostasy, of the Church, as we see in verse ten.

Mat 24:10 Then many will stumble, and will

deliver up one another, and will hate one another.

This great apostasy has not happened yet, but it is close. You can clearly see the hatred for Christians growing rapidly throughout the world, and many people are walking away from their faith.

Now let us drop to verse fifteen to find the “abomination that causes desolation”. We understand from the book of Daniel this is referring to the man of lawlessness setting himself up as God in the temple. And this does not occur until the half-way mark of the seven years of the tribulation, and will be the beginning of the time referred to as the “Great tribulation”.

Mat 24:15 When, therefore, you see the abomination of desolation, which was spoken of through Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand),

This is when things get terrible for any Jews or Christians who are still living on the earth. The great persecution by Satan starts three and a half years from the start of tribulation. This last three and a half years is commonly referred to as “the great tribulation”.

Mat 24:21 for then there will be great oppression, such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, nor ever will be.

Following these days of unequalled distress during the “Great tribulation”, cosmic disturbances will be the next sign as Jesus warns about in verses twenty-nine to verse thirty-one.

Mat 24:29 But immediately after the oppression of those days, the sun will be darkened, the moon will

not give its light, the stars will fall from the sky, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken; Mat 24:30 and then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky. Then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky with power and great glory.

Mat 24:31 He will send out his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together his chosen ones from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other.

Please notice, it is “immediately after the oppression of those days”. The days described in verse three through to twenty-eight. The time of the tribulation. All these events must happen, then the cosmic disturbances occur. The sun is darkened, and the moon does not give any light. Verse thirty starts with the word “THEN”. So what follows will happen immediately after the sun and moon go dark. Jesus Christ returns in great power and glory and sends His angels out to gather His elect from one end of the earth to the other. **THIS IS WHEN THE RAPTURE OCCURS.**

Hopefully, you can see from chapter twenty-four of the book of Matthew why those who believe in a pre-tribulation rapture want to ignore this book. There are many signs and events that lead up to the rapture of the church. Therefore, this absolutely disproves the idea of “IMMINENCE”, the idea the church can be raptured, with no pre-cursor, no warnings, God’s elect just disappearing from the earth, here one second and gone the next. The book of Matthew totally refutes the idea of imminence. The facts listed in Matthew prove this theory to be false and very misleading. Designed by Satan to draw God’s people away from the truth.

The church is mentioned many times through the book of Matthew.

God Never Changes

There is another vital piece of information we need to understand as another proof against the teaching of a pre-tribulation rapture. And that piece of information is something that is very well known to Christians. This is not some new teaching or something just revealed for the first time. No, this we all know and understand. It is the unchanging nature of God.

What can we learn about the character of God not changing? We know He is always the same. He never changes the way He acts. The purpose of His nature is unchanging. His plans will never change. He will never change His mind. We can see these characteristics about our God in the following passages of scripture.

Heb 13:8 Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

Mal 3:6 “For I, Yahweh, don’t change; therefore you, sons of Jacob, are not consumed.”

Heb 6:17 In this way God, being determined to show more abundantly to the heirs of the promise the immutability of his counsel, interposed with an

oath;

Psa 33:11 The counsel of Yahweh stands fast forever, the thoughts of his heart to all generations.

Num 23:19 God is not a man, that he should lie, nor a son of man, that he should repent. Has he said, and will he not do it? Or has he spoken, and will he not make it good?

1Sa 15:29 Also the Strength of Israel will not lie nor repent; for he is not a man, that he should repent.”

Psa 55:19 God, who is enthroned forever, will hear, and answer them. Selah. They never change, who don't fear God.

Jas 1:17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom can be no variation, nor turning shadow.

It is essential for us that God does not change. If He did, then we could never be sure what is right and what is wrong. If God wants us to obey Him, then we must have stable laws and ways of living that are not subject to changes whenever God sees fit to change. When He is apt to change, we can never keep His laws.

God is perfect the way He is. If He was to change, then it must be for the better or the worse. If it is for the better, then He is not perfect now. But if it is for the worse, then He is no longer perfect, but inferior to what He was.

It is simply impossible for God to be different to the way He is now, has always been and always will be.

Read James 1:17 again.

Jas 1:17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom can be no variation, nor turning shadow.

God shows no partiality or favouritism.

Deu 10:17 For Yahweh your God, he is God of gods, and Lord of lords, the great God, the mighty, and the awesome, who doesn't respect persons, nor takes reward.

Act 10:34 Peter opened his mouth and said, "Truly I perceive that God doesn't show favouritism;"

Lev 19:15 "You shall do no injustice in judgment. You shall not be partial to the poor, nor show favouritism to the great; but you shall judge your neighbor in righteousness.

Rom 2:11 For there is no partiality with God.

Gal 2:6 But from those who were reputed to be important (whatever they were, it makes no difference to me; God doesn't show partiality to man)—they, I say, who were respected imparted nothing to me.

Eph 6:9 You masters, do the same things to them, and give up threatening, knowing that he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and there is no partiality with him.

Col 3:25 But he who does wrong will receive again for the wrong that he has done, and there is no partiality.

1Ti 5:21 I command you in the sight of God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, and the chosen angels, that you observe these things without prejudice, doing nothing by partiality.

Jas 2:1 My brothers, don't hold the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ of glory with partiality.

Rom 3:22 even the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ to all and on all those who believe. For there is no distinction,

God will not change the way He deals with His children. The way He has treated His children since the time of Jesus Christ is the same way He will treat all of His children in the future. He will show no favouritism or partiality to anyone.

If we are expecting God to deliver us from the time of the tribulation, we are expecting favouritism from God over the Saints who have already been martyred for Jesus. Read Jas 2:9 below.

Jas 2:9 But if you show partiality, you commit sin, being convicted by the law as transgressors.

People who expect God to rapture them before the tribulation are also expecting God to violate His own righteous ways of dealing with His children. They are expecting God to change how He interacts with them, and to show them partiality or favouritism.

Ever since the time of Jesus and the start of His church, there have been thousands, and probably millions, of Christians martyred for the sake of the name of Jesus Christ, their Lord and their God.

Our loving Heavenly Father has allowed this to happen to the children He loves for the past two thousand years.

Why?

Let us look at Jas 1:12 for the answer to this vital question.

Jas 1:12 Blessed is a person who endures temptation, for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life, which the Lord promised to those who love him.

Having stood the test. What test? Is it not the test of being persecuted, and maybe even being put to death, while always being faithful to our trust and belief in Jesus? If we have been raptured before the tribulation even starts, then we are missing out on these trials.

Read Mat 24:9 and the comments that follow to see what Christians of today must expect.

Mat 24:9 Then they will deliver you up to oppression, and will kill you. You will be hated by all of the nations for my name's sake.

Who is Matthew referring to in Mat 24:9? Is it not his fellow Christians? And is he not warning them to expect to be persecuted and put to death? And as Christians, should we not be expecting the same thing today? In fact, are we not seeing the start of these troubles for Christians around the world today?

Why are we so different from those early Christians who suffered and died for Christ? Should we now expect God to show us favouritism and spare us from these troubles? Why do we expect God to change the way he deals with His Children now, just because there is about to be a massive persecution against His beloved children?

Would not God be doing what He commands us **not to do**

by showing us favouritism? How can we possibly say we are more important, more special, more worthy of being spared persecution and death than those who have been martyred since the time of the foundation of Christ's church?

Read also the words of our Lord in Rev 2:10 for further proof about what we must expect as followers of "The Way".

Rev 2:10 Don't be afraid of the things which you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested; and you will have oppression for ten days. Be faithful to death, and I will give you the crown of life.

Who is Jesus referring to in Rev 2:10? Surely it is all Christians from the time of His first appearing until His second coming at the very end of this age. Surely the comments made about Mat 24:9 also apply here to what our Lord and our God are saying to us. Again I ask you to read James 2:9 and the comments following if you still believe God will spare us from the time of tribulation coming upon the entire world.

Jas 2:9 But if you show partiality, you commit sin, being convicted by the law as transgressors.

If we are expecting God to show us favouritism, by rapturing us before the tribulation starts, then surely we are expecting God to sin!!!! As we see in Heb 6:18, God cannot lie, so if He tells us that showing favouritism is a sin, and then He shows favouritism, then He must be sinning. NOT POSSIBLE.

Heb 6:18 that by two immutable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we may have a strong encouragement, who have fled for refuge to take

hold of the hope set before us.

Even though we must expect to suffer persecution and maybe even death, we may also be encouraged, because we will be treated the same way God's prophets of old were treated.

Mat 5:12 Rejoice, and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven. For that is how they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

If we are aware of God's MO (method of operation), then we can be physically, mentally and spiritually prepared for what is surely coming soon. If we are to pass the test, then we must understand what the future holds for us. And this certainly does not include a pre-tribulation rapture.

Do not be surprised when you find yourself in the time of tribulation, all seven years of it. Remember 1Pe 4:12,

1Pe 4:12 Beloved, don't be astonished at the fiery trial which has come upon you, to test you, as though a strange thing happened to you.

When we are being tested in the tribulation, we must not think we are being treated badly by God, because we are being treated exactly the same way all Christians who have been martyred since Christ first set up His Church have always been treated. We will not receive favouritism or partiality from God.

DO NOT EXPECT FAVOURITISM FROM GOD.

HE TELLS US VERY CLEARLY IT IS A SIN TO SHOW FAVOURITISM.

GOD WILL NOT DO WHAT HE COMMANDS US NOT TO DO.

The Bride Of Christ

In the book of Revelation, the Church is referred to as “The Bride”. Notice in Rev 19:7 The Bride has made herself ready for the wedding and in verse eight she is dressed in fine linen, bright and clean. This fine linen stands for the righteous acts of God’s holy people. Please note when this marriage will happen. It is only after Jesus has returned and is in full control of the earth. After the seven last plagues have been poured out in chapter eighteen.

Rev 19:7 Let’s rejoice and be exceedingly glad, and let’s give the glory to him. For the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his wife has made herself ready.”

Rev 19:8 It was given to her that she would array herself in bright, pure, fine linen: for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.

The “Bride of Christ” will be composed of those who have suffered for their faith in God and were not drawn away from “The Word Of God”. They will be the ones who are going to be persecuted during the tribulation, as well as those who have “died in Christ”. It will include people like those referred to

in the following scriptures.

Mat 24:9 Then they will deliver you up to oppression, and will kill you. You will be hated by all of the nations for my name's sake.

Joh 16:2 They will put you out of the synagogues. Yes, the time comes that whoever kills you will think that he offers service to God.

Rev 2:10 Don't be afraid of the things which you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested; and you will have oppression for ten days. Be faithful to death, and I will give you the crown of life.

Rev 12:11 They overcame him because of the Lamb's blood, and because of the word of their testimony. They didn't love their life, even to death.

These are the people who will be at the wedding feast clothed in white linen. There is a question I came across on the web that goes like this. "Is the Bridegroom going to beat up His Bride for seven years before He comes for her"? This statement implies if Jesus does not rapture His Church before the tribulation starts, then He causes the troubles that will come on all of God's Children during the seven years of hell on Earth.

It is very important to understand just who will beat up Christ's Bride during the tribulation. It should be very obvious, but if some people want to blame Jesus, then we had better clear up that misguided thinking.

Who is responsible for the murders of the millions of martyrs? Is it not Satan who has caused these atrocities? Is it not Satan who will continue to do this until Jesus returns?

Yes, it is Satan, and certainly not the Bridegroom, or Jesus, who has always been trying to destroy God's people, or to beat up the Bride. It would be wrong to blame Jesus for something Satan has always been doing, is still doing today, and will continue to do during the tribulation. Right until Jesus returns and has Satan bound and thrown into the pit for a thousand years.

The bride of Christ will be composed of those who have overcome Satan by the blood of Jesus. Those who are victorious, as we see in Rev 3:12.

Rev 3:12 He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of my God, and he will go out from there no more. 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 own new name.

Who is it that will receive these incredible blessings? The one who is victorious! And who was victorious? Surely this is all those from the first Pentecost, until today, who have believed in God and followed His way of holy living. This will include the Saints from the first Pentecost until Christ returns at the very end of the tribulation. Therefore, this will include those who overcome Satan by the blood of Christ during the tribulation. Therefore, they must be numbered among the victorious.

God will not divide up His children into different categories. This is explained in more detail in the Chapter "There is Only One Church".

There are several misconceptions about who the "Bride of Christ" is and her future with Jesus. About the timing of the wedding and who will be at the wedding feast? These

misconceptions are brought about by the false teaching of the pre-tribulation rapture.

There are many people who preach this subject and their followers number in the tens of thousands and probably the millions.

The bride of Christ comprises all Christians from the very first day of Pentecost until the rapture of the Church at the very end of the tribulation.

If the wedding feast occurs during the tribulation, then God Himself has divided His Church into two separate and distinct categories and will deal with them in two unique ways. My personal comment here is “how incredibly unfair of God to do that”. Surely anyone who believes in Jesus as their messiah has a right to be at the wedding feast, regardless of when they first believed.

The idea behind this comes from the false premise of a pre-tribulation rapture. The church is raptured and taken to Heaven and the wedding takes place in Heaven during the tribulation period. If this is correct, then those who are not raptured before the tribulation starts will miss out on the wedding, even though they are true believers and members of the ONE BODY.

This false teaching is exposed when you realise that the church is “one body”, not two or more bodies, and is definitely not a divided body. This is described in more detail in the next chapter. “There Is Only One Church”.

There Is Only One Church

Proponents of the pre-tribulation rapture theory have the idea of at least two raptures. One pre-tribulation and another at the end of the tribulation for Christians who have been converted during the tribulation. One actually said there were different categories of Christians. Again, depending on when you are raptured. But does God have a united, or a divided Church? Look at the following scriptures and see that there is only one ***undivided*** Church. No matter who says the opposite, they are wrong.

Rom 12:5 so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.

1Co 10:17 Because there is one loaf of bread, we, who are many, are one body; for we all partake of the one loaf of bread.

1Co 12:12 For as the body is one, and has many members, and all the members of the body, being many, are one body; so also is Christ.

1Co 12:13 For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether bond or free; and were all given to drink into one

Spirit.

1Co 12:20 But now they are many members, but one body.

Eph 2:16 and might reconcile them both in one body to God through the cross, having killed the hostility thereby.

Eph 3:6 that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, and fellow members of the body, and fellow partakers of his promise in Christ Jesus through the Good News,

Eph 4:4 There is one body, and one Spirit, even as you also were called in one hope of your calling;

Eph 4:25 Therefore putting away falsehood, speak truth each one with his neighbor. For we are members of one another.

Col 3:15 And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful.

There is only one body (or Church) and therefore there will only be one wedding feast. The Christians who turn to Jesus during the tribulation will be a part of the “Bride of Christ” and will be at the wedding feast. How can it be anything else?

Nowhere in the Bible will you find a scripture that supports a divided Church. Or a Church with different categories. There is no reference to pre tribulation Saints and tribulation Saints belonging to different categories anywhere in the Bible. Only of one body of believers. One bride. One set of saints.

Mar 3:25 If a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand.

Would this also apply to God's house, His Church, His body, His temple? The Bible is absolutely brilliant at explaining itself. The idea of a divided church is totally refuted by the parable of the owner of the vineyard hiring men to work in his field.

Labourers in the Vineyard.

Mat 20:1 "For the Kingdom of Heaven is like a man who was the master of a household, who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard.

Mat 20:2 When he had agreed with the labourers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard.

Mat 20:3 He went out about the third hour, and saw others standing idle in the marketplace.

Mat 20:4 He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and whatever is right I will give you.' So they went their way.

Mat 20:5 Again he went out about the sixth and the ninth hour, and did likewise.

Mat 20:6 About the eleventh hour he went out, and found others standing idle. He said to them, 'Why do you stand here all day idle?'

Mat 20:7 "They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' "He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and you will receive whatever is right.'

Mat 20:8 When evening had come, the lord of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the labourers

and pay them their wages, beginning from the last to the first.'

Mat 20:9 "When those who were hired at about the eleventh hour came, they each received a denarius.

Mat 20:10 When the first came, they supposed that they would receive more; and they likewise each received a denarius.

Mat 20:11 When they received it, they murmured against the master of the household,

Mat 20:12 saying, 'These last have spent one hour, and you have made them equal to us, who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat!'

Mat 20:13 "But he answered one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Didn't you agree with me for a denarius?

Mat 20:14 Take that which is yours, and go your way. It is my desire to give to this last just as much as to you.

Mat 20:15 Isn't it lawful for me to do what I want to with what I own? Or is your eye evil, because I am good?'

Mat 20:16 So the last will be first, and the first last. For many are called, but few are chosen."

Do you see what Jesus is saying here? He will pay all workers the same wage regardless of what time they worked in the field. The same must apply to those who turn to Jesus and accept Him as their Messiah. It does not matter if they believe before or during the tribulation. Surely, those who turn to God during the tribulation will be true Christians. Will love the Lord their God as much as those who were Christians prior to the tribulation. If this is so, then how can God leave

them out of the wedding supper? Dividing His Church.

In this modern day, it is easy for someone who lives in a free country to turn to Jesus. There are very few threats to our lives. But consider those who turn to Jesus during the tribulation. They will do this while being severely persecuted by Satan. Many will be murdered for their faith in Jesus. Becoming a Christian during this time will require much faith and courage, more than we need today in 2022. Will God refuse these Saints entry into the wedding hall?

Understanding who is part of the “Bride of Christ” puts a completely different time on when the wedding feast will happen. It must be at the very end of the time of tribulation when those who repent and turn to God during the tribulation are all accounted for.

God does not show favouritism.

In the Chapter “God Never Changes” we saw God does not keep changing His nature to suit the circumstances. No, He is always the same from creation to the return of Jesus. You also learned that He will show no favouritism to anyone. So why would He split His Church and deal with them in unique ways?

The Israelites.

When do the Israelites turn to accept Jesus? Is it not during the tribulation? If this is the case, then they are also excluded from the wedding feast according to the false theory of a pre-tribulation rapture. Israelites who accept Jesus today as their Messiah are a tiny minority of Israelites. It is only during the tribulation that the vast majority of Israelites will realise that Jesus is the Messiah they were waiting for from two thousand years ago.

Some who believe in the pre-tribulation rapture believe

the wedding feast will happen immediately after the rapture. Others believe it will not occur until after the tribulation.

The theory of a pre-tribulation rapture concludes the rapture of the Church and the marriage of the Lamb to His Church will not happen at the second coming of Christ. These events must happen before Christ's second coming. This means the rapture of the church and the marriage of the Lamb are separate events from Christ's second coming. Again, if this theory is correct, anyone who accepts Jesus Christ as their Lord of Lords and King of Kings during the tribulation, and this will include most of the Jews, will not be raptured or attend the wedding feast. Unless, of course, there are two rapture events and two wedding feasts! And you never find that anywhere in the Bible. If God's church is undivided, as was proved earlier, then there can only be one rapture and wedding feast, and if all of God's elect are going to take part in both events, then it can only happen at the end of the tribulation.

The way I see this is quite simple. Either God is fair, consistent, and just. Or He is inconsistent, unfair and shows favouritism, as must be the case if there is a pre-tribulation rapture.

Please read the Chapter "The Best People For The Job" to see how the Israelites and other nationalities come to know Jesus as their Messiah.

Priests During The Tribulation

According to the theory of the pre-tribulation rapture. Just before the tribulation starts, which could easily be this year, 2022, all true Christians will have been raptured to Heaven and will be invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb.

While this supper is going on, the people left on the earth will suffer terribly at the hand of Satan, who will be enraged and seeking Christians to destroy. If you have studied the “Book of Revelation”, then you will know the absolute horrors that await the world. But let us read the following scriptures just to recap.

Rev 12:17 The dragon grew angry with the woman, and went away to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep God’s commandments and hold Jesus’ testimony.

Rev 17:6 I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus. When I saw her, I wondered with great amazement.

Rev 12:11 They overcame him because of the Lamb’s blood, and because of the word of their

testimony. They didn't love their life, even to death.

Just another thought. Do these passages of scripture refer to Christians or Jews? Who holds fast to the testimony of Jesus? Who triumphs over Satan by the blood of the Lamb? Some will claim that the church is not mentioned from Revelation four until revelation nineteen. From my point of view, these passages dispute that claim. Christians, and not Jews, keep the testimony of Jesus and are triumphant by His blood.

Back to the banquet. Will those who have been raptured and are seated at the banquet table be able to see what is going on below on the earth? Even if they cannot physically see what is happening, they will surely know. We know the fate of the world during the tribulation and even if we cannot see, we still know what our loved ones, family, friends, neighbours, acquaintances, those who do not know us, and even those who hate us, will go through.

Can you imagine yourself at that table? Enjoying the food and the company of Christians and especially the company of Jesus? Can you imagine yourselves doing this and all the while knowing what is going on down here on the earth? Would we be full of joy at the banquet table while all this suffering is happening to your family?

I don't know about you, or maybe I do, but I certainly would not feel too good about what is happening to our families. I would be constantly thinking about their fate at the hands of Satan. Something surely any Christian would do if they care at all about those left here on the earth.

OK, some may say those who have not repented as yet deserve what they get. But do not forget this will include any members of your family who did not repent and turn to Jesus

early enough to be a part of this pre-tribulation rapture. Do they deserve the pain and suffering that Satan will dish out to them?

As we are seated at this banquet table, will we not look to Jesus and ask? “Where is my family going to get the help they need?” If all true Christians are now in Heaven, and are at this banquet table, this leaves only false prophets, false priests, false teachers and liars to lead the world in matters pertaining to God. Not a wonderful outcome for anyone who might seek the truth, if only liars and those with distorted knowledge about the truth of God are to be their teachers.

Therefore, we have to ask the question. “Who is going to save them from the false teachers and false prophets”? Will we not want to plead their cases for them and seek Christ’s help? Would you be able to just put the fate of your family out of your mind and just concentrate on the good food and fellowship at this banquet table? I sincerely hope no Christian could do this.

Remember, if all Christians have been raptured to Heaven, that only leaves false prophets, false priests, and false teachers here on Earth as priests and spiritual leaders. These will be the ones to guide our families in matters of God. Is this what we want?

Why would Jesus invest so much time in preparing us as Priest, only to rapture us away from the world when we are needed here the most? We are not Priests in training. We are already Priests. What a wicked waste of our talents if we are taken away to a place where we simply cannot help anyone with the knowledge and training we have received from God.

Do you remember the old add from a few years ago that goes something like this? “Please do not take your kidneys to

Heaven. God knows we need them here on earth.” The same goes for Christians. “Please don’t take Christians to Heaven. They are desperately needed here on the earth.”

Read and understand what Jesus prayed for, as recorded in John 17:14-20.

Joh 17:14 I have given them your word. The world hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.

Joh 17:15 I pray not that you would take them from the world, but that you would keep them from the evil one.

Joh 17:16 They are not of the world even as I am not of the world.

Joh 17:17 Sanctify them in your truth. Your word is truth.

Joh 17:18 As you sent me into the world, even so I have sent them into the world.

Joh 17:19 For their sakes I sanctify myself, that they themselves also may be sanctified in truth.

Joh 17:20 Not for these only do I pray, but for those also who will believe in me through their word,

Emphasis mine.

Let us examine this section of Scripture.

Verse 14. The world hates true Christians. This will become more clear as time passes. We are not of the world, we may be in the world, but our true home is in the Kingdom of God.

Verse 15 says it all: **do not take them out of the world**

but protect them. How clear can this be? Leave them in the world to do the job they have been trained for, but protect them from Satan.

Verse 16 repeats we are not of the world even as Jesus is not of the world.

Verse 17 - We are sanctified by the truth God has given us from His words. Truth we have been given as a part of our training to be priests of God. Knowledge, understanding, and wisdom are not available to everyone.

Verse 18 - As you have sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. Not raptured them to Heaven where all of their training to be Priests will be totally wasted. Why are we called to be priests if we will not do the jobs we are being trained to do? I know this is referring to the Apostles of the time, but does not Jesus send us also out into the world to preach the gospel? I believe this passage refers to all Christians to preach the word wherever they can.

Verse 19 - We are truly sanctified.

Verse 20 - Christ's prayer is not for them alone, not only for the Apostles and the faithful followers of Jesus. No, it is for all those who will believe the message. The message given to Christ's Apostles, and then recorded for us in the scriptures to pass onto everyone who will listen to us in these last days, and especially during the tribulation.

During the tribulation, how can anyone learn the truth if the only people left on the earth to listen to are false prophets, false priests, liars and false teachers? We can see from Romans 10:14-15 They will need teachers sent by Jesus to open their minds to the truth and not someone with a false understanding of the truth.

Rom 10:14 How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in him whom they have not heard? How will they hear without a preacher?

Rom 10:15 And how will they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the Good News of peace, who bring glad tidings of good things!"

How can they preach unless they are sent? Jesus sent His disciples out into the world to preach the Kingdom of God. Is that not exactly what He expects of us today? As His followers, disciples and priests, it is our job today to do this, and it will be for the entire time of the tribulation.

Jesus wants us today, before the tribulation starts, and definitely during the tribulation to spread the gospel to all the world. Surely this is the job we are right now in training to do, spreading the gospel. Teaching those who are prepared to listen to the gospel. When the tribulation begins, who are the teachers going to be if we, Priests of the "Most High", are all at the banquet table with Jesus?

In the chapter titled "The Best People For the Job", I will cover this topic in more detail.

The Blind Guides

Once again, if all true Christians have been raptured and there are no longer any true Christians left on the earth. Then there is no one here to teach and lead our loved ones. Remember, according to the pre-tribulation rapture theory, all true Christians will be in Heaven, probably at the wedding feast with Jesus. The only people left will be those who have a distorted view of God's words. Consider Luk 6:39.

Luk 6:39 He spoke a parable to them. "Can the blind guide the blind? Won't they both fall into a pit?"

If all true Christians have deserted the earth, then the only Priests and teachers left to educate our loved ones will be these blind guides. And if this is all the non-raptured people can look forward to, then there is not much hope for them.

In 2Pe 2:1-14 we get a rather clear picture of what will happen if we leave it up to the blind to lead the blind. Our loved ones, family, friends, neighbours, acquaintances, those who do not know us and even those who hate us. Will be left to the mercy of false prophets and false teachers who will be in the world during the tribulation, and will be, like Satan, be looking for people to be led away from the truth and from

God.

False Prophets and Teachers

2Pe 2:1 But false prophets also arose among the people, as false teachers will also be among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, denying even the Master who bought them, bringing on themselves swift destruction.

2Pe 2:2 Many will follow their immoral ways, and as a result, the way of the truth will be maligned.

2Pe 2:3 In covetousness they will exploit you with deceptive words: whose sentence now from of old doesn't linger, and their destruction will not slumber.

2Pe 2:4 For if God didn't spare angels when they sinned, but cast them down to Tartarus, and committed them to pits of darkness to be reserved for judgment;

2Pe 2:5 and didn't spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah with seven others, a preacher of righteousness, when he brought a flood on the world of the ungodly;

2Pe 2:6 and turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes, condemned them to destruction, having made them an example to those who would live in an ungodly way;

2Pe 2:7 and delivered righteous Lot, who was very distressed by the lustful life of the wicked

2Pe 2:8 (for that righteous man dwelling among them was tormented in his righteous soul from day to day with seeing and hearing lawless deeds):

2Pe 2:9 the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptation and to keep the unrighteous under punishment for the day of judgment;

2Pe 2:10 but chiefly those who walk after the flesh in the lust of defilement, and despise authority.

Daring, self-willed, they are not afraid to speak evil of dignitaries;

2Pe 2:11 whereas angels, though greater in might and power, don't bring a railing judgment against them before the Lord.

2Pe 2:12 But these, as unreasoning creatures, born natural animals to be taken and destroyed, speaking evil in matters about which they are ignorant, will in their destroying surely be destroyed,

2Pe 2:13 receiving the wages of unrighteousness; people who count it pleasure to revel in the daytime, spots and defects, reveling in their deceit while they feast with you;

2Pe 2:14 having eyes full of adultery, and who can't cease from sin; enticing unsettled souls; having a heart trained in greed; children of cursing;

2Pe 2:15 forsaking the right way, they went astray, having followed the way of Balaam the son of Beor, who loved the wages of wrongdoing;

2Pe 2:16 but he was rebuked for his own disobedience. A mute donkey spoke with a man's voice and stopped the madness of the prophet.

2Pe 2:17 These are wells without water, clouds driven by a storm; for whom the blackness of

darkness has been reserved forever.

2Pe 2:18 For, uttering great swelling words of emptiness, they entice in the lusts of the flesh, by licentiousness, those who are indeed escaping from those who live in error;

2Pe 2:19 promising them liberty, while they themselves are bondservants of corruption; for a man is brought into bondage by whoever overcomes him.

2Pe 2:20 For if, after they have escaped the defilement of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in it and overcome, the last state has become worse for them than the first.

2Pe 2:21 For it would be better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after knowing it, to turn back from the holy commandment delivered to them.

2Pe 2:22 But it has happened to them according to the true proverb, "The dog turns to his own vomit again," and "the sow that has washed to wallowing in the mire."

These false prophets and false teachers will be under the influence of Satan. They will be "hell bend", pardon the pun, on destroying those left in the world who might yet be saved and led to Jesus. And we know from Rev 7: 9-14 many thousands, and probably millions, will come to know Jesus during the tribulation.

A Great Multitude from Every Nation.

Rev 7:9 After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude, which no man could count, out of

every nation and of all tribes, peoples, and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, dressed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands.

Rev 7:10 They cried with a loud voice, saying, "Salvation be to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"

Rev 7:11 All the angels were standing around the throne, the elders, and the four living creatures; and they fell on their faces before his throne, and worshiped God,

Rev 7:12 saying, "Amen! Blessing, glory, wisdom, thanksgiving, honour, power, and might, be to our God forever and ever! Amen."

Rev 7:13 One of the elders answered, saying to me, "These who are arrayed in the white robes, who are they, and from where did they come?"

Rev 7:14 I told him, "My lord, you know." He said to me, "These are those who came out of the great tribulation. They washed their robes, and made them white in the Lamb's blood."

What does "they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb" mean? It means they have repented and accept Jesus Christ as their King of kings and Lord of lords. How did they do this? They listened to true prophets, true priests and true teachers.

Therefore, there will be a very great need for true prophets, true priests and true teachers on the earth who will lead and guide this vast multitude, and that will include our loved ones, family, friends, neighbours, acquaintances, those who do not know us, and even those who hate us.

How can anyone learn the truth if the people they are listening to are liars and false teachers? We saw earlier in Romans 10:14-15 that we need true teachers willing to tell us the truth. And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? Do we see the meaning behind this? True teachers must be sent by Christ to teach the truth. And this brings us to ask the question. “Who are the best people for this job”?

The Best People For The Job

Going back to the banquet table in Heaven, we look down the table and we see a Messianic Jew. Someone who has been preaching the theory of the pre-tribulation rapture for years. He is probably the best person in the world to bring the good news of Jesus to the Jews. After all, he speaks their language, knows their customs and even looks like a Jew. (probably because he is a Jew) Of all the people in the world, I would say that he is better placed than most to help his fellow Jews come to know that Jesus Christ, Yeshua, is their Messiah they have waited for all these years.

It truly amazes me he gets so excited about being raptured and leaving his fellow Jews to whatever fate may await them. Why is he not preparing himself for the massive task of bringing Jews to Jesus during the tribulation?

Who would be the best people to preach the gospel to the Russians? Russian Christians. Because they understand Russian customs, traditions and they speak the language. The chances of a Russian listening to me would be very remote. Apart from the problem, I do not speak their language. This same principle applies to every other nationality in the world and especially for the Jews.

What about Iranian Christians leading Iranians, Afghani Christians leading Afghanis, Greek, Chinese and every other nationality leading the Greek, the Chinese and every other nationality? And do not forget the Muslims of the world. Who better to lead them than another Muslim who knows that Jesus is the Messiah?

If The Lord wants us to be doing this job of spreading the gospel here and now, then how much more will we be needed here during the tribulation? Some will say that is the job of the 144,000 in Revelation. But think how thinly they will be spread over the world. There are approximately 414,000 Catholic priests in the world, and Catholics are about 12 percent of the world's population. Therefore, to have the same coverage, the world will need over 4 million priests.

The world's population is almost eight billion. That would mean a congregation of about 55,000 for every one of these 144,000. And this is when people will need almost one-on-one counselling if they are to know Jesus. Each congregation, for the want of a better word, would three quarters fill the Optus Stadium here in Perth. Add to this the fact that the 144,000 will be hated by most of the people they are trying to convince in the matters of Jesus, just for being Jewish.

Also, remembering these 55,000 in each of the "congregations" would be from all religions, nationalities, languages and would include many atheists from around the world. Non-Jews who are mostly anti-Semitic.

Notice these 144,000 are from the twelve tribes of Israel. It is my belief they will have the job of convincing their fellow Jews that Jesus is their Messiah. With about 15,000,000 Jews in the world, this will leave a ratio of approximately 104 Jews to every member of the 144,000. A much more manageable number. A Benjaminite teaching other

Benjaminites, etc.

As we know, Jesus could easily manage any number, but He has always worked with nature and how we live in this world. Surely He would continue to do this during the tribulation and keep numbers more realistic for His servants to manage.

Please also consider the fact that the Jews of this world are the most hated race of people, probably ever. So who is going to listen to the 144,000 Jews apart from their fellow Jews?

Are Iranians, Turks and the people who hate the Jews the most going to listen to one word they may say to them? I think not. These people will only listen to their own kind.

And since the Jews are such a hard-headed people, as even God has admitted too, they will have their work cut out. Of all the people in the world, it will be the Jews who will need the most educating and will be the most difficult to convince that Jesus is their Messiah. They have been worshipping God in their synagogues for thousands of years and have a very set ritual. They will need a lot a convincing that Jesus is who He has always claimed to be. Their Messiah.

If Jesus will need somewhere near four million priests, why would He take all Christians out of the world? His priests, those He has called and trained for this purpose. With us, He has a ready-made priesthood to give comfort and guidance and to teach the way to God's Kingdom. Do not forget, we are regarded as priests now. It is therefore, in my mind, our job to act like priests.

Why has God been teaching us and making us Priests, just to remove us from the earth when we are needed here the most?

Who do you think your families will listen to the best? Aussies or Arabs. A total stranger, or their own family members. What about your street, your neighbourhood and your very own home? Who better for this job than you and me?

No doubt those who know us have heard some of our crazy ideas and maybe they remember enough to know where to go for guidance. Maybe even those who have hated us in the past will realize these people with their strange beliefs were right all along. I believe we are in the best position to bring our families to Jesus. After all, we are priests as we see from Revelation chapter one and verses four through six.

Rev 1:4 John, to the seven assemblies that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace, from God, who is and who was and who is to come; and from the seven Spirits who are before his throne;

Rev 1:5 and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us, and washed us from our sins by his blood;

Rev 1:6 and he made us to be a Kingdom, priests to his God and Father; to him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Yes, we are priests, and our job is to serve God. What did Jesus expect from His disciples? The answer is in Luk 9:1-2.

Luk 9:1 He called the twelve together, and gave them power and authority over all demons, and to cure diseases.

Luk 9:2 He sent them out to preach God's Kingdom and to heal the sick.

They were to proclaim the gospel of the Kingdom of God. Surely, this is what we have been trained to do. As priests, our job is to proclaim the gospel, and this is our job now, and will be our job during the tribulation. Again, who better to do this?

Notice that when Jesus sent out His disciples, He gave them power to heal the sick. If He gives us this same power during the tribulation, this will convince many we speak the truth in Christ's name. If you doubt this, then please read the following scripture.

Joh_14:12 Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.

The future for God's elect is exciting as well as dangerous. But consider that last verse and see that Jesus has promised us we will do even greater things than He did. Amazing, and as I wrote a little earlier, this will convince many we come in the name of Jesus Christ.

*Those Who Do Not Believe in The Pre Tribulation
Rapture*

What about other Ministers who are true Christians but do not believe in the pre-tribulation rapture? Will they be included in the rapture? Will they be torn away from their families and their congregations without a warning, or is this reserved only for true Christians who actually believe in the pre-tribulation rapture? If they are true Christians, then surely, if there is to be a pre-tribulation rapture, they will be included and will be at the wedding feast banquet. No doubt surprised to be there, but if they are true Christians, then they will be there.

These true Christian Ministers will have been preparing to go through the entire tribulation, and possibly even been looking forward to the challenge of carrying out their commission as priests. No doubt they will be disappointed to not get this chance.

If there was to be a pre-tribulation rapture, then there will be a real mixture of feelings at this banquet table. Those who expect to be raptured, and are happy to leave their families behind to the mercy of Satan (who will certainly not show any mercy) and those who do not expect to be raptured, and are

sad to leave their families and friends and not get the chance to lead them into all truth.

Since God is just, fair and does not show favouritism, every true Christian must be treated exactly the same. They will all be raptured before the tribulation starts, regardless of the fact that they may not believe it is going to happen to them. That is of course, if there will be a pre-tribulation rapture which I am now fully convinced will never happen.

Who Is Holy?

The first and most obvious answer is God is holy. This is recorded in Isa 6:3, and the angels repeat it three times to emphasize the complete and absolute holiness of God.

Isa 6:3 One called to another, and said, "Holy, holy, holy, is Yahweh of Armies! The whole earth is full of his glory!"

And we see in Lev 11:44, God wants His people to be holy as well when He declares we should be holy.

Lev 11:44 For I am Yahweh your God. Sanctify yourselves therefore, and be holy; for I am holy. You shall not defile yourselves with any kind of creeping thing that moves on the earth.

Jesus is Holy.

We understand from scripture Jesus is God. He is referred to as "The Word of God" in the book of John chapter one and verse one.

Joh 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Jesus is again called Holy when a man with an unclean spirit confronts Jesus in the Synagogue.

Mar 1:21 They went into Capernaum, and immediately on the Sabbath day he entered into the synagogue and taught.

Mar 1:22 They were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as having authority, and not as the scribes.

Mar 1:23 Immediately there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, and he cried out,

Mar 1:24 saying, "Ha! What do we have to do with you, Jesus, you Nazarene? Have you come to destroy us? I know you who you are: the Holy One of God!"

Therefore, God the Father and Jesus Christ are both God and both holy. This is made clear in Rev 4:8. When the angels declare the Lord God Almighty is "holy, holy, holy." Then they say "who was, and is, and is to come". This refers to Jesus.

The prophets of the old testament are called holy as we see in Act 3:21, again affirming "God's Holy People" are throughout the entire Bible and not only found in the new testament.

Act 3:21 whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things, which God spoke long ago by the mouth of his holy prophets.

It is interesting to see the angels are also referred to as holy by Jesus Himself in Mar 8:38.

Mar 8:38 For whoever will be ashamed of me and

of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man also will be ashamed of him, when he comes in his Father's glory, with the holy angels.

The following scriptures taken from both the old and the new testaments prove "God's Holy People" are from all times, and definitely not from the new testament only.

Psa 34:9(NIV) Fear the LORD, you his holy people, for those who fear him lack nothing.

Psa 89:5 The heavens will praise your wonders, Yahweh; your faithfulness also in the assembly of the holy ones.

Rom 1:7 (NIV) To all in Rome who are loved by God and called to be his holy people: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

Eph 1:1 (NIV) Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, To God's holy people in Ephesus, the faithful in Christ Jesus:

Eph 3:5 which in other generations was not made known to the children of men, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets in the Spirit;

Eph 3:6 that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, and fellow members of the body, and fellow partakers of his promise in Christ Jesus through the Good News,

We can conclude from this that all those who believe in God and His son Jesus Christ. Who has been called out of this world and has been cleansed from sin? They have been

adopted as the “Sons of God” and are set apart from the rest of the world. These are “God’s Holy People”.

The term “holy people” is used throughout the entire Bible. This is not a term for the new testament only. We see the first example in the old testament starting in Exo 22:31 When God calls His chosen people holy.

Exo 22:31 You shall be holy men to me, therefore you shall not eat any meat that is torn by animals in the field. You shall cast it to the dogs.

There are twelve passages in the old testament that refer to “God’s holy people”. (NIV Bible) I will list just three more here.

Deu 28:9 Yahweh will establish you for a holy people to himself, as he has sworn to you, if you shall keep the commandments of Yahweh your God, and walk in his ways.

Isa 62:12 They will call them The holy people, Yahweh’s redeemed. You will be called Sought out, A city not forsaken.

Dan 7:18 (NIV) But the holy people of the Most High will receive the kingdom and will possess it forever—yes, for ever and ever.'

This last one is the famous prophecy from Daniel that looks forward in time to a time yet to come on the earth.

Following the old testament, we see again this term used in the new testament twenty times (NIV Bible). The first time is interesting. Here the term “holy people” is used on the day of Christ’s crucifixion, before Christ’s resurrection, Pentecost and the forming of His Church. This is proof, apart from the verses we have seen in the old testament, that the

term “God’s Holy People” does not refer only to new testament saints after the forming of the church on that very first Pentecost.

Mat 27:52 (NIV) and the tombs broke open. The bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life.

The term is often used to describe those who are faithful to Jesus Christ as we see in Eph 1:1.

Eph 1:1 (NIV) Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, To God's holy people in Ephesus, the faithful in Christ Jesus:

When we read in God's word, the Bible, that something is holy, what this means is that this something has been set apart for special use by the Lord. This can include many things and it may not necessarily be talking about people. There are many impersonal things that are described as holy to the Lord. For example, the seventh day Sabbath, tithes and incense. He regards these as holy because they are used in worshipping Him. They have been separated from what is ordinary and are being used for a dedicated purpose.

Moral purity is almost always associated with holiness. We do not purify ourselves morally and then become holy. We are actually set apart as holy in an unholy world by our faith in Jesus Christ. It is His faith that makes us holy. The holy spirit then helps us to become holier as we continue to learn and study and have faith in Jesus Christ as our Lord and saviour. Because of our actions, we become holy, or set apart unto God.

The Armour Of God

When we are in a fight for survival, we all need armour to keep us safe in the battle. We cannot expect to win any war without support, protection or allies. It makes no difference if the battle is fought on this earth, or if it is a spiritual battle.

We are constantly fighting against powers we cannot see and cannot possibly comprehend. It is obvious who we are struggling with. It is Satan and his Cohorts. We cannot see Him, and in most cases, we are not aware of his tactics to derail us from our pursuit of Jesus Christ. We know who our true enemy is. So how can we possibly defeat Satan in this spiritual war?

This is a battle only God can win for us. So how do we get His protection from these evil forces surrounding us? And especially during the tribulation, when Satan will be very active and seeking to destroy any Christian who is not fully prepared for the battle ahead. The answer lies in Ephesians chapter 6:10-17.

Eph 6:10 Finally, be strong in the Lord, and in the strength of his might.

Eph 6:11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you

may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

Eph 6:12 For our wrestling is not against flesh and blood, but against the principalities, against the powers, against the world's rulers of the darkness of this age, and against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.

Eph 6:13 Therefore put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and, having done all, to stand.

Eph 6:14 Stand therefore, having the utility belt of truth buckled around your waist, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness,

Eph 6:15 and having fitted your feet with the preparation of the Good News of peace;

Eph 6:16 above all, taking up the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the evil one.

Eph 6:17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

Putting on the full armour of God simply means learning from His word, the Holy Bible. Then applying what we learn from this incredible book to the way we live. Each part of this armour has a part to play in our struggle. This armour comprises truth, righteousness, the good news, or the gospel, faith and it is all obtained from the word of God. Do not become disheartened if you feel you are not good enough for God. Remember, we are ALL still sinners. No one is perfect, except for God, so do not beat yourself up because you feel inadequate. Just continue to seek God's truth sincerely, as we are admonished to do in 1 Corinthians chapter 16 and verse 13.

1Co 16:13 Watch! Stand firm in the faith! Be courageous! Be strong!

The world as we know it today is changing rapidly and almost all the changes are for the worse. God will not sit by and watch His creation become more corrupted every day. No, He will one day say “enough is enough”. I believe that time is very close to hand.

Therefore, now is the time to put on the full armour of God and prepare for the times of trouble that are just ahead of us. Prepare yourself for the time of the tribulation described in the Bible. Do not believe the lie about a pre-tribulation rapture that will never happen. Instead, look into God’s word daily and seek His Kingdom with your whole heart. This is the only way to defeat Satan.

We have seen the armour of God described in a manner the early Christians would understand. The armour of the soldiers of that day. With God’s armour, there is no protection for the back. Why is there no armour to protect our backs? Because we are not meant to run from the battle and, therefore, expose our backs to the enemy. We are told to resist the devil.

Jan 4:7 Be subject therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

Do not look for an easy way out, such as the pre-tribulation rapture. You resist the devil by studying the word of God and then applying what you know to your lifestyle. You must also expect to go through some troublesome times. To be persecuted and maybe even put to death. But the result will be a place in God’s Kingdom forever. A reward that will be worth any suffering.

Is Being Cowardly A Sin

I believe it is very clear to all people that we are living in a very dangerous and changing world. A world where fear is ever increasing. Fear of losing our jobs, our families, our homes and even our lives. We are going through a pandemic with the COVID-19 virus. Our communities and families are being divided and we do not know where these changes will lead.

Governments are imposing restrictions on everyone and causing more concern as they attempt to control the populations. They mandate and bully workers into having the so called “Covid Vaccine”, and without this “Covid vaccine” people are losing their jobs, homes, families and most times their friends. Everyone feels fear for their families’ futures. To worry about your future, and the future of your family, is totally understandable. We should be concerned and trying to help them achieve the best outcome for them in all areas of their lives.

But if a Christian cannot stand up for his religious convictions, this is definitely a sin against God. It is, in fact, a great sin against God, as I will now explain to you. Read Rev 21:7-8 and notice being fearful is listed with other, and what

we may regard as greater sins.

Rev 21:7 He who overcomes, I will give him these things. I will be his God, and he will be my son.

Rev 21:8 But for the cowardly, unbelieving, sinners, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their part is in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death.

In verse 7, we see the reward of those who have overcome. They are the sons and daughters of God. But those who are cowardly, those who did not overcome their fears, are listed first, even before murderers. They reject God and will conform to the ways of the world to save themselves embarrassment, or being rejected by their friends, families and the general community. They resist the goodness of God rather than rejecting fear and bad influences, no matter where they come from.

The sins following that of being cowardly may seem to us to be greater sins. Sins such as murder, lies and whoremongering. These are in our eyes greater sins than being cowardly. So why does God list being cowardly first in this list, and make it punishable by the second death? Anything deserving the second death has to be a very serious sin against God.

These cowardly people do not show loyalty to their sovereign God. They will put their own desires and welfare before the will of God. They violate the very first of the commandments by not putting God first. Therefore, it is not surprising the first sin listed here violates the first and greatest commandment as told to us in Mat 22:36-37.

Mat 22:36 “Teacher, which is the greatest

commandment in the law?”

Mat 22:37 Jesus said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.”

If we have this type of love for our God, a true and strong love, it will make us fearless and give us the strength we need to resist Satan. This is shown to us in.

1Jn 4:18 There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear; because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.

This type of fear is not the same as the natural fear I mentioned earlier, like losing your job. This fear will put one's own interests well before those of God, as a person puts self and their own safety before Jesus. What did Jesus warn His disciples that we must do if we want to be worthy? The answer is in Mat 10:37-39.

Mat 10:37 He who loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and he who loves son or daughter more than me isn't worthy of me.

Mat 10:38 He who doesn't take his cross and follow after me, isn't worthy of me.

Mat 10:39 He who seeks his life will lose it; and he who loses his life for my sake will find it.

Is there any penalty for being cowardly and embarrassed about your beliefs and trust in Jesus Christ? The answer to this question should make you consider carefully before you reject Jesus. Rather than Jesus praising you for your good works and for living a good life, and being an example to everyone who knows you. He will be ashamed of you, and that would be a terrible penalty to pay just because you were too

afraid or cowardly to stand up for Jesus. Read Mar 8:38 below and see what Jesus has to say about this matter of being cowardly and ashamed.

Mar_8:38 If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his Father's glory with the holy angels.

I hope you can see just how damaging it is to reject Jesus because you fear for your own welfare. Many people throughout the ages have suffered great pain and death because of their faith and trust in God. Satan is always in the shadows, trying to steal our faith and have us conform to the ways of this world. But our faith must drive out all fear as we earnestly cling to Jesus.

We see here that fear will cause us to reject God in favour of caring for ourselves. If we are to love God with our whole heart, soul and mind, we will fear no-one, or anything that may cause us to doubt the goodness of God. This fearfulness comes about from a lack of faith. Genuine faith will never be fearful of the future with God. Study Mat chapter 10:26-28 to see who you must fear the most.

Mat 10:26 Therefore don't be afraid of them, for there is nothing covered that will not be revealed; and hidden that will not be known.

Mat 10:27 What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in the ear, proclaim on the housetops.

Mat 10:28 Don't be afraid of those who kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul. Rather, fear him who is able to destroy both soul and body in Gehenna.

Therefore, do not be fearful for matters of your faith. And do not shrink away from God. We must trust our Almighty Creator and reject any thoughts of fear of being intimidated or bullied because we put Him first in our lives. One very important thing I need to point out is the meaning behind verse 28. Read carefully the last part of this verse and notice God can destroy both the body and the soul in the fires of hell. This disproves the commonly held idea by many churches that we have an immortal soul that lives forever. If God can destroy it, then it is not immortal.

God expects His children to live by faith. We cannot see our futures, so we must believe in God and accept all that He has recorded in His Bible by faith. Faith in God is vital if we are going to please Him as we see in.

Heb 10:38 But the righteous will live by faith. If he shrinks back, my soul has no pleasure in him.

Heb 10:39 But we are not of those who shrink back to destruction, but of those who have faith to the saving of the soul.

We are not of those who shrink back, those who are fearful or cowardly, or those who are fearful because of the word of God. Verse 38 explains Jesus will take no pleasure in those who shrink back, those who are cowardly because of His calling. We must learn to rely on God for everything, as we see in Pro 3:3-6.

Pro 3:3 Don't let kindness and truth forsake you. Bind them around your neck. Write them on the tablet of your heart.

Pro 3:4 So you will find favor, and good understanding in the sight of God and man.

Pro 3:5 Trust in Yahweh with all your heart, and

don't lean on your own understanding.

Pro 3:6 In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.

This is the best advice I can give to anyone who is seeking God. Seek Him with your whole heart and do not be fearful about what any man can do to you. Do not be afraid to speak the truth whenever the occasion arises. Lean not on your own understanding. This means to rely completely upon God. Consider the following verse from the book of Mark.

Mar 13:11 When they lead you away and deliver you up, don't be anxious beforehand, or premeditate what you will say, but say whatever will be given you in that hour. For it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit.

Trusting God, having faith in Him to help you when you need help is vital, because without faith, it is impossible to please God.

When are you being cowardly because of your faith? When you are too afraid to speak the truth in love whenever you have the opportunity. Or when you refuse to answer a question honestly in case you offend. This is when you are being cowardly or fearful. Whenever you fail to keep God's laws due to what other people may think of you, and this includes family and friends, you are committing a sin against God. It is better to offend those who disagree with you than to offend God.

This world is rapidly approaching a time of trouble that has never been witnessed before. Seven years known as the tribulation. A time when Christians will need to rely upon God for everything. When they can expect to be persecuted, and some will even experience death at the hands of those who

hate Christians.

As I do not believe in a pre-tribulation rapture, I can foresee this time of trouble as being a dangerous time for Christians and Jews alike. A time when we are going to need God, and His indwelling Holy Spirit, for the ability to withstand the forces of evil that will be directed against us. Remember the following scriptures to help strengthen you during this time. Starting in.

2Ti 1:7 For God didn't give us a spirit of fear, but of power, love, and self-control.

Also

Deu 31:6 Be strong and courageous. Don't be afraid or scared of them; for Yahweh your God himself is who goes with you. He will not fail you nor forsake you.

And

1Jn 4:18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear has punishment. He who fears is not made perfect in love.

God's spirit will give us power, love, and self-discipline. He will never leave nor forsake us, and His love will overcome our fear if we remain in Him. Beautiful promises we can depend upon, even when our situation may seem hopeless. To enter God's Kingdom is worth far more than what other people may think of you now. Keep your eyes on this remarkable future and never be cowardly or fearful in matters of God.

All Kinds Of Trials

We have a guarantee that in this world **we will have troubles**. Nowhere in the Bible are we told our lives will be free from pain and suffering if we put our trust in Jesus. It is the exact opposite. Read Joh 16:33 below to see this promise of trouble in this world.

Joh 16:33 “I have told you these things, that in me you may have peace. In the world you have trouble; but cheer up! I have overcome the world.”

In the following passage from the book of 1 Peter, we see trials are also a part of being a Christian. Look closely at verse 7 and you will see why we must suffer from these troubles. It is to prove that our faith is genuine and that it is not a shallow and weak faith that will fold at the first sign of trouble.

1Pe 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to his great mercy caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

1Pe 1:4 to an incorruptible and undefiled

*inheritance that doesn't fade away, reserved in Heaven for you,
1Pe 1:5 who by the power of God are guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.
1Pe 1:6 Wherein you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been put to grief in various trials,
1Pe 1:7 that the proof of your faith, which is more precious than gold that perishes even though it is tested by fire, may be found to result in praise, glory, and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.*

It is wrong to assume that life is going to be easy for Christians. There are many false preachers who will teach a gospel of “health and wealth”. Promising you will be healthy and rich if you just believe in their lies. As long as you contribute to their finances. Please shun and run from preachers who make these false claims. Their only interest is in your money. Check out their life styles and ask yourself if that is what God wants. You will also see other people leaving these so-called churches as they realise these promises are false, when they see the only ones getting rich are these preachers and their families.

Please read through the following passages of scripture and then understand that pain and suffering are not only certain for a Christian, but also that they are of a significant benefit for a Christian to live through. Pain and suffering are not pleasant, but they will build you into the person God wants you to be. I apologise for the many passages of scripture I have recorded here, but it is vital you understand what is in store for loyal followers of Jesus Christ.

Trials are guaranteed.

Luk 22:28 But you are those who have continued with me in my trials.

1Pe 1:6 Wherein you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been put to grief in various trials,

Afflictions will come.

1Th 3:3 that no one be moved by these afflictions. For you know that we are appointed to this task.

2Th 1:4 so that we ourselves boast about you in the assemblies of God for your perseverance and faith in all your persecutions and in the afflictions which you endure.

2Co 4:17 For our light affliction, which is for the moment, works for us more and more exceedingly an eternal weight of glory;

Act 14:22 strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that through many afflictions we must enter into God's Kingdom.

2Co 1:4 who comforts us in all our affliction, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, through the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.

Suffering for Jesus has it's own rewards.

2Co 1:6 But if we are afflicted, it is for your comfort and salvation. If we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which produces in you the patient enduring of the same sufferings which we also

suffer.

Php 1:29 Because it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ, not only to believe in him, but also to suffer on his behalf,

Act 5:41 They therefore departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for Jesus' name.

1Pe 2:20 For what glory is it if, when you sin, you patiently endure beating? But if, when you do well, you patiently endure suffering, this is commendable with God.

1Pe 3:14 But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you are blessed. "Don't fear what they fear, neither be troubled."

1Pe 3:17 For it is better, if it is God's will, that you suffer for doing well than for doing evil.

1Pe 4:16 But if one of you suffers for being a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God in this matter.

1Pe 4:19 Therefore let them also who suffer according to the will of God in doing good entrust their souls to him, as to a faithful Creator.

Rev 2:10 Don't be afraid of the things which you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested; and you will have oppression for ten days. Be faithful to death, and I will give you the crown of life.

2Th 1:5 This is an obvious sign of the righteous

judgment of God, to the end that you may be counted worthy of God's Kingdom, for which you also suffer.

Act 5:41 They therefore departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for Jesus' name.

Rom 5:3 Not only this, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces perseverance;

Pain is commendable when it is for Jesus Christ.

1Pe 2:19 For it is commendable if someone endures pain, suffering unjustly, because of conscience toward God.

Rev 21:4 "He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; neither will there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain, any more. The first things have passed away."

Persecutions of God's people will happen.

Mat 5:11 "Blessed are you when people reproach you, persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely, for my sake."

Joh 15:20 Remember the word that I said to you: 'A servant is not greater than his lord.' If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they kept my word, they will also keep yours.

Mat 13:21 yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while. When oppression or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles.

Mat 5:10 Blessed are those who have been persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.

Mat 5:12 Rejoice, and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven. For that is how they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Mat 10:23 But when they persecute you in this city, flee into the next, for most certainly I tell you, you will not have gone through the cities of Israel, until the Son of Man has come.

Troubles in this world are certain to occur.

Joh 16:33 "I have told you these things, that in me you may have peace. In the world you have trouble; but cheer up! I have overcome the world."

Tribulations and great tribulations will come

Rev 7:14 I told him, "My lord, you know." He said to me, "These are those who came out of the great tribulation. They washed their robes, and made them white in the Lamb's blood."

Oppressions, as we see, are starting even now.

Mat 24:29 But immediately after the oppression of those days, the sun will be darkened, the moon will not give its light, the stars will fall from the sky, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken;

Mar 13:24 But in those days, after that oppression, the sun will be darkened, the moon will not give its light,

Rom 8:35 Who shall separate us from the love of

Christ? Could oppression, or anguish, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

Rev 1:9 I John, your brother and partner with you in the oppression, Kingdom, and perseverance in Christ Jesus, was on the isle that is called Patmos because of God's Word and the testimony of Jesus Christ.

Rev 2:9 "I know your works, oppression, and your poverty (but you are rich), and the blasphemy of those who say they are Jews, and they are not, but are a synagogue of Satan."

Death is a possibility

Mat_24:9 Then they will deliver you up to oppression, and will kill you. You will be hated by all of the nations for my name's sake.

Rev 2:10 Don't be afraid of the things which you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested; and you will have oppression for ten days. Be faithful to death, and I will give you the crown of life.

Rev_12:11 They overcame him because of the Lamb's blood, and because of the word of their testimony. They didn't love their life, even to death.

How can we possibly say that we are not to suffer through the tribulation when we have so many passages from the Bible that tell us to expect troubles, trials, pain and suffering? Mat 24:9 even tells us we will be persecuted and put to death. So how can we claim to be free from these "troubles"? Please

read John 17:14-15 below. Jesus, in a prayer to His Father, is asking for our protection from Satan and not for our being “snatched away” or “raptured” from the world when troubles come.

Joh 17:14 I have given them your word. The world hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.

Joh 17:15 I pray not that you would take them from the world, but that you would keep them from the evil one.

Do you see in this prayer of Jesus to His Father He is not asking for us to be raptured away from the world? No, He is asking for our protection in the world. Therefore, if you are having troubles, you must accept them as a part of your Christian life. We are never promised a “health and wealth” gospel. We are promised troubles that will **test and hopefully strengthen our faith**. So do not give up on God if you experience troubles. **Expect them!** Let us keep in mind the prayer that Jesus offered to His Father in John 17:14-15.

Consider also Psalm 23, the most well known and loved of all the psalms. Read and understand verse 4. Here David is saying when, not if, he walks through the valley of the shadow of death; he knows God will be with him. I think the phrase “valley of the shadow of death” will be an appropriate description of the soon coming time of great tribulation.

Psa 23:4 Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me. Your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

In the 2 verses below, we are told to encourage one another. If we have been raptured and are in Heaven before the time of tribulation starts, then why do we need to be

encouraged?? No, it is during these times of trouble that we will need to cling together and encourage each other. So we may stand firm in our faith and trust in Jesus. Even if that leads to our death! Read the last part of Rev 2:10 again. Be faithful to death, and I will give you the crown of life.

Who needs the encouragement? Those in Heaven or those going through the tribulation?

2th 4:18 Therefore encourage one another with these words.

And again in 1 Th 5:11

1th 5:11 Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

As much as we all hate to be persecuted and even put to death. Please read the scriptures above and see just what the benefits are of facing troubles, oppression, trials and all forms of persecution for the sake of the gospel. They will make you fit for the Kingdom of God.

There will be many times when you want to complain that life is not fair, that evil seems to be rewarded while the good is persecuted. Psalm 73 is a very good Psalm to read whenever you feel that the world is unfair to you, and when the criminals of the world are the ones who prosper and enjoy their lives, while the Christian struggles through life. Please spend a few minutes to read this excellent Psalm to gain some insight into what the rewards are for both the good and the evil.

How Many Times Will Jesus Return?

How many times is Jesus Christ going to return to the earth? The second coming of our Lord is something I have always believed in. I have seen no sound doctrine about His secret second coming where Jesus will come secretly before the tribulation and “snatch away” or “rapture” all who are His. I can find no evidence of this secret coming of our Lord. When the bible tells us of His coming, it is with shouts, trumpet calls and a lot of noise. He is accompanied by thousands of His angels and comes in “His Father’s Glory”, not exactly a secret coming.

Some believe that this secret second coming is when Jesus comes “FOR” His church, and then when He comes again at the end of the tribulation period (the third time) it is “WITH” His church. Again, there is no evidence of this in the Bible!

Hebrews 9:28 is clear that Jesus comes only two times. The first time was at His birth. The second time will be to bring salvation to His elect. This will be when the resurrection of the dead will happen and when Jesus “gathers His elect” from the four winds, as described in Mat 24:31.

Mat 24:31 And he will send his angels with a loud

trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other.

If we are all raptured before the tribulation, and Jesus returns “with His Church,” then what about those who turn to Jesus during the tribulation? Will God see them as “less righteous” than those who were “more righteous” and were a part of the pre-tribulation rapture? How does God view righteousness?

Ecc 7:20 Indeed, there is no one on earth who is righteous, no one who does what is right and never sins.

Rom 3:10 As it is written: “There is no one righteous, not even one;”

Notice that Christ will bring salvation to those who are waiting for Him. Waiting for the second coming, not a secret rapture.

Heb 9:28 so Christ also, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, without sin, to those who are eagerly waiting for him for salvation.

Christ’s second coming is to those who eagerly await Him, as we see in Heb 9:28. So who are those who eagerly await Him? It is the millions of Christians who have accepted Jesus Christ as their Lord of Lords and King of Kings. All of them from all times until He actually returns.

Those who believe in the pre-tribulation rapture understand 1 Th 4:16-17 as the secret rapture of Christ to collect His church. Please read it carefully and see if this sounds like a “secret” coming of our Lord.

*1Th 4:16 For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with God's trumpet. The dead in Christ will rise first,
1Th 4:17 then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air. So we will be with the Lord forever.*

It truly amazes me that this passage of scripture is used in describing Jesus secretly coming to the earth to rapture His elect. Why would He come with a shout, with the voice of an archangel and with God's trumpet if He was coming in secret? What is the reason for all the noise and commotion? Why attract attention to His presence if it is supposed to be in secret? This makes little sense.

Now notice what is to happen first. The dead in Christ will rise. Surely, this means they are resurrected from the dead. Therefore, this has to be the first resurrection. But when is the first resurrection going to happen? Look at Rev 20:5 for the truthful answer to this all important question. The verses preceding verse five all occur after the tribulation has ended, and when the Saints of Jesus who were murdered because of their loyalty to Jesus reign with Him. Now either God has made a mistake here, or what is recorded here is the truth. You decide!!

Rev 20:5 (The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended.) This is the first resurrection.

This is when Christ's saints will be resurrected, followed by those who are still alive being changed in the twinkling of an eye from mortal to immortal. In 1 Th 4:16, we know the dead will rise first. Then in 1 Th 4:17, the living will also rise.

Now let us look at the first letter to the Corinthians and chapter 15 that tells us about the resurrections and the order in which they will occur.

1Co 15:22 For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.

1Co 15:23 But each in turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him.

The order of the resurrections is made very clear here. Christ first, then when He comes, those who belong to Him will be resurrected.

Then when He comes to judge the world and to receive His elect to Himself. This proves that the dead will not be raised until Christ returns. He shall come for that very purpose. He will assemble all his people to himself.

One reason for thinking these verses point to a secret coming is because they meet Jesus “in the air”. Jesus does not actually touch the earth. Therefore, the thought is He just collects His faithful followers and returns with them to heaven. Other prophecies point out that Jesus will return to the Mount of Olives. Because of this, they have interpreted that when the elect meets Jesus “in the air”, this is the secret second coming, or “the rapture”. When He returns to the Mount of Olives, this then must be His third return.

Now we must decide how Jesus returns. Will He come down directly from Heaven to the Mount Of Olives? or will He travel around the world collecting His Saints as He goes.? If all eyes will see Him, then He must circle the earth. How else will all eyes see Him? If He descends from Heaven straight down to the Mount of Olives, then those of us in Australia, on the other side of the world, cannot see Him descend.

Mat 24:29 But immediately after the oppression of those days, the sun will be darkened, the moon will not give its light, the stars will fall from the sky, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken;

Mat 24:30 and then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky. Then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky with power and great glory.

Mat 24:31 He will send out his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together his chosen ones from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other.

In verse thirty, we see Jesus is “**Coming on the clouds of the sky**”. Does this sound familiar? It should. In 2Th 4:17, the living are caught up together with them in the clouds, in the air. In both Rom 24:30 and 2Th 4:17, God’s elect meet Jesus in the air. Why does 2Th 4:17 mean the secret rapture, and the other means something else? Especially when in Mat 24:31 we see Jesus send out His angels to gather His elect from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other.

When Jesus comes in the clouds, He is not stationary but moving or coming. Also note that it is now that Jesus will send out His angels to collect His chosen ones from the four winds. From one end of the sky to the other. As Jesus circles the earth, every eye will see Him. Every eye will see Jesus gather His elect as He is coming on the clouds of the sky.

Notice in 1Th 4:17 Christ’s elect are “caught up together with them in the clouds”. Together with whom? This can only be with those have just been resurrected from the dead, as we see in 2Th 4:16. The elect are not coming down from Heaven with Jesus. They are being collected by His army of angels as

He travels around the world (Mat 24:30-31)

Rev 19:14 The armies which are in heaven followed him on white horses, clothed in white, pure, fine linen.

The armies of Heaven are with Jesus. But when they come, the angels are collecting His chosen ones from the four winds. Therefore, Jesus is not returning with “His Church”. He is returning with the angels of Heaven, His army. Then this army of angels is gathering “His Church”. The angels cannot gather the elect from the four winds if the elect has already been with Jesus since before the tribulation started.

So, Jesus and His armies are travelling around the world collecting the elect on the way. Then Jesus will return to the Mount of olives with His angels and with His elect. He will descend onto the Mount as the other prophecies predicted.

Therefore, Christ will come back only one more time at the end of the tribulation. He will be accompanied by His angels and a great deal of fanfare and noise. Every eye on earth will see Him. The angels will collect His elect from the four winds. They will all travel to the Mount Of Olives and descend.

Since there is nowhere in the Bible that speaks of a secret, or a third coming of our Lord, we are well advised to understand the above scriptures and accept that when Jesus returns to this earth, it will not be a quiet or secret affair. It will be with much noise and no-one on the entire earth will miss this event. Read Rev 1:7 and see that “every eye will see Him”. In the chapter “Imminence of the Rapture Theory,” I explained why every eye will see Him when He returns. Please read that chapter again if you missed the meaning of

the Prophet Amos Chapter 5:20.

*Amo 5:20 Won't the day of Yahweh be darkness,
and not light? Even very dark, and no brightness
in it?*

I don't think I need to spend any more time on this topic. There is no proof of a secret second coming, only of His noisy, obvious return in His Father's glory and with thousands of angels with Him. When the first resurrection occurs and those still alive are gathered to Jesus in the clouds.

Satan Hurlled Down

To get a better understanding of the events leading up to the end times and how they will play an important part in our futures, we need to understand a little about our enemy, Satan.

Satan is currently roaming the earth, looking for people to lead away from God. He can still go between Heaven and the earth, the same as we have seen in the book of Job. Satan is known as "The Accuser of God's People".

But the time is coming when he will be banished permanently from heaven and he will be cast down onto the earth. We can see this recorded in Rev 12:7-17.

Rev 12:7 There was war in the sky. Michael and his angels made war on the dragon. The dragon and his angels made war.

Rev 12:8 They didn't prevail, neither was a place found for them any more in heaven.

Rev 12:9 The great dragon was thrown down, the old serpent, he who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world. He was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.

Rev 12:10 I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, "Now the salvation, the power, and the Kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ has come; for the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them before our God day and night."

Rev 12:11 They overcame him because of the Lamb's blood, and because of the word of their testimony. They didn't love their life, even to death.

Rev 12:12 Therefore rejoice, heavens, and you who dwell in them. Woe to the earth and to the sea, because the devil has gone down to you, having great wrath, knowing that he has but a short time."

Rev 12:13 When the dragon saw that he was thrown down to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male child.

Rev 12:14 Two wings of the great eagle were given to the woman, that she might fly into the wilderness to her place, so that she might be nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent.

Rev 12:15 The serpent spewed water out of his mouth after the woman like a river, that he might cause her to be carried away by the stream.

Rev 12:16 The earth helped the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed up the river which the dragon spewed out of his mouth.

Rev 12:17 The dragon grew angry with the woman, and went away to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep God's commandments and hold Jesus' testimony.

In verse 14, we see that the woman was taken care of for a time, times and half a time. We understand this to be three and a half years. So this is the start of the last half of tribulation (the great tribulation) when Satan is thrown down and when he seeks the offspring of the woman to declare war on them. And just who are these offspring of the woman that Satan is going to make war against? The answer is in the last part of verse 17. Those who hold Jesus' testimony.

This can be no other than Christ's church. Who else keeps Jesus' testimony? Certainly not the Jews, Muslims or any other religion. It can only be the church. This is more proof against the false belief the church is not mentioned between chapters four and nineteen in the book of Revelation.

The offspring of the woman are the Christians who have survived the first three and a half years of the tribulation and who are still on earth. They will be the target of Satan's wrath for the next three and a half years. When you read what is predicted to happen during the last half of the tribulation, you can see that it will be a time of unparalleled cruelty, destruction, fear and terror. This will be Satan's last fling to destroy anything that looks the least bit holy.

Notice that in Rev 12:11, the faithful did not shrink back from death. They preferred to die rather than cower down to Satan and his demonic friends. And this is at the halfway mark of the tribulation.

Rev 13:5 A mouth speaking great things and blasphemy was given to him. Authority to make war for forty-two months was given to him.

Rev 13:6 He opened his mouth for blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his dwelling, those who dwell in heaven.

Rev 13:7 It was given to him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them. Authority over every tribe, people, language, and nation was given to him.

We can see from this passage that God's holy people will still be on earth during the last half of tribulation, known as the great tribulation. They will be attacked by Satan and he will conquer them. The last forty-two months, or three and a half years, will certainly be a terrible time on earth and especially for any of God's holy people, because they will be the primary target of Satan.

But how can he wage war on God's holy people if they were raptured three and a half years earlier, before the tribulation starts? Also, who will teach those who want to turn to God during the tribulation if God's elect were all "raptured" prior to the tribulation?

Read the following to understand that we all need a teacher to guide us into all truth. Verses fourteen and fifteen especially tell us we need a teacher.

Rom 10:11 For the Scripture says, "Whoever believes in him will not be disappointed."

Rom 10:12 For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, and is rich to all who call on him.

Rom 10:13 For, "Whoever will call on the name of the Lord will be saved."

Rom 10:14 How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in him whom they have not heard? How will they hear without a preacher?

Rom 10:15 And how will they preach unless they

are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the Good News of peace, who bring glad tidings of good things!"

Who are going to be the best teachers for our families, friends, acquaintances and even for those who hate us? It will be those that these people already know. It will be the true Christians who are going through the same time of tribulation as those who need to know the truth. What better teachers for those turning to God than Christians going through exactly the same persecutions as they are? And remaining faithful to their God as a perfect example of living a life of faith? Read the Chapter titled "The Best People For The Job" to better understand who will teach the truth during the tribulation.

If all Christians had been "raptured" before the trouble even started, then who is left to teach? Total strangers who do not know God. (remember the true Christians are gone according to the pre-tribulation rapture theory) This will be a case of "the blind leading the blind".

Those who turn to Jesus during the tribulation will be true Christians and a part of the body of Christ, part of the Church, part of God's temple and members of "the Bride of Christ". How could they possibly be exempt? Unless the body, the church, the temple and the Bride of Christ are all divided? The Chapter "There Is only One Church" covered this topic already. Remember, we have seen that God never changes. That He shows no favouritism. Therefore, there is no division in His Kingdom.

When Satan is hurled down out of Heaven, this will be the start of the last half of the tribulation, otherwise known as the great tribulation.

2Thessalonians Chapter Two

Those who believe in the pre-tribulation rapture use the following verse to mean the church is raptured, taken out of the way, and taken to Heaven.

2Th 2:7 For the mystery of lawlessness already works. Only there is one who restrains now, until he is taken out of the way.

Two enormous problems soon become apparent with this interpretation of 2Th 2:7.

First **“the one” is singular**. Those who are supposed to be raptured are not one, because there are many people in the church who are expecting to be raptured. I know that the answer from those who believe in the pre-tribulation rapture will be. “Yes, but it is only one church that will be raptured, therefore the singular here is the correct word”. OK, I will allow that, although I do not agree.

Also, since the Holy Spirit is not a part of the Church, then a plural word such as “they” should have been used here. This would be necessary to show the Church and the Holy Spirit both being taken out of the way.

2Th 2:7 For the mystery of lawlessness already

works. Only there is one who restrains now, until he is taken out of the way.

But the second problem with the thought that this refers to the Church is this. In the Bible, from Genesis to Revelation, the church is always referred to as a woman. Nowhere does it **EVER** speak of the church in the masculine gender. **NEVER**. The church is called the “Bride of Christ”, not the “Groom of Christ”. Again, this is referring to the church as female or woman. Even the false church is referred to as a woman.

Notice that **HE** will continue to hold these events back until **HE (Masculine)** is taken away. Again, this cannot possibly refer to the church, otherwise it would refer to the church as “**SHE**”. So He (whoever that is) is taken away, but she (the church) is not. Nowhere are we told “**SHE**” (the church) is taken away!

It is a very popular belief that 2Th 2:7 is referring to the Holy Spirit being taken out of the way so the man of lawlessness can be revealed. The Holy Spirit is leaving the earth with God’s elect and taking them to Heaven, where He will stay until the end of tribulation. I personally cannot accept this thought, as it contradicts other parts of the Bible, such as.

Mar 13:11 When they lead you away and deliver you up, don't be anxious beforehand, or premeditate what you will say, but say whatever will be given you in that hour. For it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit.

Luk 12:11 When they bring you before the synagogues, the rulers, and the authorities, don't be anxious how or what you will answer, or what you will say;

Luk 12:12 for the Holy Spirit will teach you in that same hour what you must say.”

How can the Holy Spirit do this if He has been taken away and removed to Heaven?

Act 2:38 Peter said to them, “Repent, and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Those who turn to Jesus during the tribulation and are baptised will receive the Holy Spirit. How is this possible if He has deserted the earth and ascended to Heaven?

1Co 12:3 Therefore I make known to you that no man speaking by God’s Spirit says, “Jesus is accursed.” No one can say, “Jesus is Lord,” but by the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit is essential for all aspects of believing in Jesus Christ. Without Him we cannot say “Jesus is Lord”. In Psa 139:7-10 we can see the Holy Spirit is everywhere at all times. He is needed here on the earth, especially during the tribulation.

Psa 139:7 Where could I go from your Spirit? Or where could I flee from your presence?

Psa 139:8 If I ascend up into heaven, you are there. If I make my bed in Sheol, behold, you are there!

Psa 139:9 If I take the wings of the dawn, and settle in the uttermost parts of the sea;

Psa 139:10 Even there your hand will lead me, and your right hand will hold me.

These verses tell us that The Spirit of God is omnipresent?? He is always everywhere. There is no place in all of creation that the Holy Spirit is not present. It is the Holy Spirit that plays a major part in convicting sinners they need their Saviour Jesus Christ. If the Holy Spirit is taken out of the world, then who is going to convince those who are going to repent during the last half of the tribulation? Preachers can explain things, but it is the work of the Holy Spirit to do the convincing. The Holy Spirit cannot be taken away from the world!! Consider the following scriptures that confirm the idea of the Holy Spirit being the one who convinces us of the truth of God.

2Th 2:13 But we ought always to thank God for you, brothers and sisters loved by the Lord, because God chose you as firstfruits to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth.

Eph 1:13 In him you also, having heard the word of the truth, the Good News of your salvation—in whom, having also believed, you were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit,

1Th 1:5 and that our Good News came to you not in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Spirit, and with much assurance. You know what kind of men we showed ourselves to be among you for your sake.

1Th 1:6 You became imitators of us, and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Spirit,

Tit 3:5 not by works of righteousness which we did ourselves, but according to his mercy, he saved us

*through the washing of regeneration and renewing
by the Holy Spirit,*

The above verses tell us it is the work of the Holy Spirit to convict us of the truth of Jesus, and our need for Him if we are to attain eternal life in God's kingdom. Apart from the fact that the Holy Spirit is omnipresent, He is essential in the process of non believers coming to know God. Therefore, he must still be on the earth at all times.

The man of lawlessness will be present just before the tribulation period starts, because it will be he who sets up the deal with the Jewish nation and allows the temple sacrifices to start again. But he will not be truly revealed until the three and a half year mark into the tribulation when Satan empowers him, as we see in 2Th 2:9-10.

*2Th 2:9 even he whose coming is according to the
working of Satan with all power and signs and
lying wonders,*

*2Th 2:10 and with all deception of wickedness for
those who are being lost, because they didn't
receive the love of the truth, that they might be
saved.*

Once Satan has empowered the man of lawlessness with his powers, the man of lawlessness will proclaim himself to be God. This is at the halfway mark of tribulation.

Once Satan has been cast down to the earth, He will then give the "man of sin" the power that he needs to wage war on God's elect. This is when he will be fully revealed at the proper time. The "man of sin" will be truly under the control of Satan, and this is when he will show his true colours, by attacking the church with all the power that he has, power given to him by Satan when he is cast out of heaven and down

to the earth.

Satan's power will allow him to perform many apparent miracles that will deceive many people into believing he is actually God. The deception will be so powerful that we are warned that if it were possible, even the elect would be deceived.

When Satan comes to make war against God's elect. God and the Lord Jesus will be the enemies of the "man of sin", but only when he is fully revealed half way through the tribulation and Satan has given him his powers.

What we can see from 2Th 2:1-7 is:-

Verse 1. This is referring to the time when the elect of Jesus will be gathered to Him. This is when the rapture occurs. Keep that thought in mind as we go through the other verses.

Verse 2 warns us not to be shaken about the "**Day of The Lord**" by what other people may say about it, claiming it is from the Apostles or from a letter from the Apostles, or from any other means that the "Day of The Lord is at hand". Any letter or words that imply that the day of the Lord has already come is not from the Apostles, it is false teachings.

Verse 3:- Do not be deceived, for that day shall not come. What day?? It can only be the day when Jesus returns and the elect are gathered together with Him, because that is what this section of scripture is referring to. Verse one makes this very clear. Notice that there is a falling away and the man of sin is to be revealed BEFORE the rapture.

Verse 4:- The man of sin declares himself to be God and sets himself up in the temple. As I wrote earlier, this is after the first three and a half years of the time of tribulation have

passed. This will then be the start of the great tribulation.

To use this scripture as evidence of a rapture is grasping at straws. It is vital to take into consideration the first three verses of this chapter. They clearly explain the “gathering together to Him” cannot happen until at least this time. That time is halfway through the tribulation, therefore destroying the theory of a pre-tribulation rapture.

Saved From God's Wrath

Remember, in the chapter “What is the Tribulation” I said that the tribulation and God’s wrath were two different things that happen at two different times. This chapter will explain what I mean.

Many of those who believe in the pre-tribulation rapture quote the following scriptures that “prove” that they will be raptured before the tribulation starts. The promise from God that we will be saved from the “wrath of God” as we see in the following scriptures.

Rom 5:9 Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we will be saved from God's wrath through him.

1Th 1:10 and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who delivers us from the wrath to come.

1Th 5:9 For God didn't appoint us to wrath, but to the obtaining of salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,

If you are a Christian, then you know God does not lie, that His words can be trusted, so if He promises to protect us

from **His wrath**, as these passages of scripture clearly show, **then we will be protected from His wrath**. We can depend on God keeping His promises.

But God has never promised that he will protect us from all trials. But as we saw in the chapter “All Kinds Of Trials” we must accept the fact that we will all have to suffer some sort of trouble. See the passages below where we are told to expect grief of all kinds, and this grief is to prove our faith is genuine.

1Pe 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to his great mercy caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

1Pe 1:4 to an incorruptible and undefiled inheritance that doesn't fade away, reserved in Heaven for you,

1Pe 1:5 who by the power of God are guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

1Pe 1:6 Wherein you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been put to grief in various trials,

1Pe 1:7 that the proof of your faith, which is more precious than gold that perishes even though it is tested by fire, may be found to result in praise, glory, and honour at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

Do you see verses 6 and 7 and just what they are referring to? You will receive trials and troubles that will prove the worth of your faith. And if you have been faithful, then it will cause praise, glory, and honour at the Revelation of Jesus

Christ. You may not want these trials and tribulations, but look at what they will produce in you!

And now read John 16:33.

Joh 16:33 “I have told you these things, that in me you may have peace. In the world you have trouble; but cheer up! I have overcome the world.”

In Joh 16:33 we see we will have troubles in this life, but in Rom 8:35 below we also see that no matter what the troubles may be, they can never separate us from the love of Christ. Read 1Pet 1:7 again to see why we must suffer from trials. It is to prove our faith is genuine. It would be very easy to follow Jesus if we were always protected from all trials, If God’s gospel was a “health and wealth” gospel, but God needs to know that no matter how difficult things may become for us, even to the point of death, we will not stray from His path.

Rom 8:35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Could oppression, or anguish, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

Going back to God protecting us from His wrath. To understand how we are protected from His wrath, we must search the scriptures to see just when God is going to pour out His wrath.

I believe that the timing of God pouring out His wrath on the world is not properly understood. Those who believe that God pours out His wrath on the world during the tribulation assume that this will mean they are raptured before the tribulation starts, and I guess they would be correct. Therefore, it is essential to understand this event. God’s wrath is described as the seven bowl judgements. Look at the following verse.

Rev 15:7 One of the four living creatures gave to the seven angels seven golden bowls full of the wrath of God, who lives forever and ever.

Next, we see that these bowl judgements are not poured out on the earth until after the seventh trumpet has sounded. The seventh trumpet sounded in Rev 11:15. But the bowls of God's wrath are not poured out until Rev 16:1.

Rev 16:1 I heard a loud voice out of the temple, saying to the seven angels, "Go and pour out the seven bowls of the wrath of God on the earth!"

It is important to see what happens after the seventh trumpet has sounded and **BEFORE** the bowl judgements are poured out.

*After The Seventh Trumpet,
Rev 11:15 The seventh angel sounded, and great voices in heaven followed, saying, "The kingdom of the world has become the Kingdom of our Lord, and of his Christ. He will reign forever and ever!"*

Here we see when the kingdoms of the world had become the kingdom of our Lord. This happened with the sounding of the seventh trumpet. From here on, the world will no longer be under Satan's influence, and Jesus will have established Himself as the rightful ruler. This is further emphasized in the next 2 verses.

*Rev 11:16 The twenty-four elders, who sit on their thrones before God's throne, fell on their faces and worshiped God,
Rev 11:17 saying: "We give you thanks, Lord God, the Almighty, the one who is and who was; because you have taken your great power, and reigned."*

From verses 15-17 we see for the first time when Jesus is about to take full control of the earth. From this time onwards, Satan cannot influence the world anymore. Jesus will reign. Until this time, the entire world has been led astray by Satan.

Rev 11:18 “The nations were angry, and your wrath came, as did the time for the dead to be judged, and to give your bondservants the prophets, their reward, as well as to the saints, and those who fear your name, to the small and the great; and to destroy those who destroy the earth.”

Then just look at the amazing amount of information that you see in verses 17-18. So much information in this brief passage of scripture.

Verse 17: The kingdom now belongs to Jesus. Satan can no longer deceive the entire world.

Verse 17: The Lord God Almighty has reigned.

Verse 18: The time of judging the dead has come. The resurrection of the dead.

Verse 18: The time for rewarding His saints, prophets, and all who revere His name. The rapture of those who are still alive on earth.

Verse 18: A time for destroying God’s enemies who refuse to repent and turn to Him for forgiveness.

Verse 18: God will destroy those who destroy the earth. God’s wrath (the 7 bowl judgements) is about to be poured out on the earth.

God’s elect are protected from God’s wrath because the seven bowls of His wrath are not yet poured out. But Jesus is

now in complete control of the earth. The kingdoms of this world are now the Kingdoms of our Lord. Therefore, God's elect will be spared the wrath that is still to come. This is a vital part of scripture to understand. The timing of the 7 bowl judgements and understanding just what they represent. So let us see what these 7 bowl judgements are, and then we will see when they are poured out on the earth.

Rev 15:7 One of the four living creatures gave to the seven angels seven golden bowls full of the wrath of God, who lives forever and ever.

From this verse, we can determine that these bowl judgements are the “**Wrath of God**”. I will come back to these 7 bowl judgements later, but first I want to see when the elect are “harvested from the earth” (or raptured). The timing of this event will determine if God's elect will suffer God's wrath or will they be protected from the wrath? We read in Rev 14:14-19 that the earth is harvested by the angels.

The Harvest of the Earth.

Rev 14:14 I looked, and behold, a white cloud; and on the cloud one sitting like a son of man, having on his head a golden crown, and in his hand a sharp sickle.

Rev 14:15 Another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to him who sat on the cloud, “Send your sickle, and reap; for the hour to reap has come; for the harvest of the earth is ripe!”

Rev 14:16 He who sat on the cloud thrust his sickle on the earth, and the earth was reaped.

Rev 14:17 Another angel came out of the temple which is in heaven. He also had a sharp sickle.

Rev 14:18 Another angel came out from the altar, he who has power over fire, and he called with a great voice to him who had the sharp sickle, saying, "Send your sharp sickle, and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth, for the earth's grapes are fully ripe!"

Rev 14:19 The angel thrust his sickle into the earth, and gathered the vintage of the earth, and threw it into the great wine press of the wrath of God.

This passage has caused concern for many. Some claim this harvest is for those who belong to the evil one, that these are the weeds. While others claim it is the harvest for the good seeds. But let us now look at a scripture that talks about the harvest in Mat 13:24-30.

Mat 13:24 He set another parable before them, saying, "The Kingdom of Heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field,"

Mat 13:25 but while people slept, his enemy came and sowed darnel weeds also among the wheat, and went away.

Mat 13:26 But when the blade sprang up and produced fruit, then the darnel weeds appeared also.

Mat 13:27 The servants of the householder came and said to him, 'Sir, didn't you sow good seed in your field? Where did these darnel weeds come from?'

Mat 13:28 He said to them, "An enemy has done this." The servants asked him, "Do you want us to go and gather them up?"

Mat 13:29 “But he said, ‘No, lest perhaps while you gather up the darnel weeds, you root up the wheat with them.

Mat 13:30 Let both grow together until the harvest, and in the harvest time I will tell the reapers, “First, gather up the darnel weeds, and bind them in bundles to burn them; but gather the wheat into my barn.”

This passage explains that the enemy planted the weeds in the field after the good seeds were sown. When the Master’s servants came and told the Master about the weeds, they wanted to pull the weeds up. (verse 28) But notice what the Master said in verse 30. **Let them both grow together until the harvest.** So both the weeds and the good grain were to be harvested at the same time. The weeds were to be burnt and the good grain bought into the barn of the Master.

This is when the Angels harvest the earth of both the good and the evil. This is the same time that Mark was prophesying about in:-

Mar 13:26 Then they will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory.

Mar 13:27 Then he will send out his angels, and will gather together his chosen ones from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of the sky.

Look carefully at Rev 14:14-19 shown above. This passage of scripture talks about two different angels swinging their sickles and harvesting the earth. The first Angel in verses 14-16 is harvesting the good grain, while the second angel is obviously harvesting the grapes that are ripe for picking, and they are to be thrown into the “Great Wine-press of God’s

Wrath”.

There is a great deal of information from Rev 11:18 through to Rev 15:1 that does not pertain to the rapture. They give you a massive amount of information about other events and are necessary to understand the plan of God. But I will not discuss them here as they have nothing to do with this message about the rapture. Those events include:-

1. The woman giving birth.
2. Satan pursuing the woman.
3. Satan is thrown out of Heaven to the earth.
4. The beasts make their appearance.
5. Jesus Christ has returned and has taken control of the earth.
6. Satan has been overpowered.
7. The earth is harvested by the angels.

This harvesting of the earth happens now because the full number of Gentiles has come in as we read in.

Rom 11:25 For I don't desire you to be ignorant, brothers, of this mystery, so that you won't be wise in your own conceits, that a partial hardening has happened to Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in,

The full number of Gentiles has come in, so it is time for the angels to reap the world. Reaping the world for both the good grain and for the weeds. These things have all happened immediately before the “Seventh Trumpet” has sounded in Rev 11:15. This will be discussed in the Chapter “When is the Rapture”.

The events between Rev 11:15 when the seventh trumpet sounded, and the end of Rev 14 lead us up to Rev 15:1 and the seven last plagues on the earth and when God's wrath is completed.

The events that follow Rev 15:1 all happen after Jesus has returned. After the resurrection of the dead. After those who are still alive have been taken up into the clouds to be with Jesus. From this point on, Satan has been overpowered and Jesus reigns in all power and glory.

Rev 15:1 I saw another great and marvelous sign in the sky: seven angels having the seven last plagues, for in them God's wrath is finished.

Rev 15:2 I saw something like a sea of glass mixed with fire, and those who overcame the beast, his image, and the number of his name, standing on the sea of glass, having harps of God.

Rev 15:3 They sang the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, "Great and marvelous are your works, Lord God, the Almighty! Righteous and true are your ways, you King of the nations.

Rev 15:4 "Who wouldn't fear you, Lord, and glorify your name? For you only are holy. For all the nations will come and worship before you. For your righteous acts have been revealed."

Rev 15:5 After these things I looked, and the temple of the tabernacle of the testimony in heaven was opened.

Rev 15:6 The seven angels who had the seven plagues came out, clothed with pure, bright linen, and wearing golden sashes around their breasts.

Rev 15:7 One of the four living creatures gave to the seven angels seven golden bowls full of the wrath of God, who lives forever and ever.

Here we see in verse seven that the seven bowls containing God's wrath are about to be poured out on the earth. Therefore, God's wrath has not been poured out before this time.

Not while Satan is still deceiving the entire world.

Not before the seventh trumpet.

Not before the earth is harvested.

Not before the dead in Christ have been resurrected from the dead.

Not before the living have risen to be with Jesus in the clouds.

Not before Jesus is fully in control of His Kingdom.

It is only after these things have been accomplished that the seven bowls of God's wrath are poured out. Notice this is after the dead are raised and the living have been changed and have also risen to meet Jesus in the clouds. Therefore, they have all been protected from God's wrath. He has kept His promise.

The tribulation time is over. It is now the time for the pouring out of God's wrath. As I stated earlier in this book, they are two entirely different things that happen at two different times. Continue reading from Rev 15:8.

Rev 15:8 The temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God, and from his power. No one was able to enter into the temple, until the seven plagues of

the seven angels would be finished.

Now we come to chapter 16 of the book of Revelation. This is when we see the results of the 7 bowl judgements on the earth. By this time, God is fully in control and his elect has been gathered to Jesus, or raptured, so as promised, the loyal followers of Jesus will **not suffer these plagues. The wrath of God.** God has kept His word, as He always does. Continuing in Rev 16:1, we see the results of the seven bowls of God's wrath.

Notice especially verse two to see exactly who these seven last plagues are going to be poured out upon. It will be upon those who accepted the mark of the beast and worshipped his image rather than worshipping the only true God.

Revelation 16:1-17.

Rev 16:1 I heard a loud voice out of the temple, saying to the seven angels, "Go and pour out the seven bowls of the wrath of God on the earth!"

Rev 16:2 The first went, and poured out his bowl into the earth, and it became a harmful and evil sore on the people who had the mark of the beast, and who worshiped his image.

Rev 16:3 The second angel poured out his bowl into the sea, and it became blood as of a dead man. Every living thing in the sea died.

Rev 16:4 The third poured out his bowl into the rivers and springs of water, and they became blood.

Rev 16:5 I heard the angel of the waters saying, "You are righteous, who are and who were, O Holy

One, because you have judged these things.”

Rev 16:6 “For they poured out the blood of saints and prophets, and you have given them blood to drink. They deserve this.”

Rev 16:7 I heard the altar saying, “Yes, Lord God, the Almighty, true and righteous are your judgments.”

Rev 16:8 The fourth poured out his bowl on the sun, and it was given to him to scorch men with fire.

Rev 16:9 People were scorched with great heat, and people blasphemed the name of God who has the power over these plagues. They didn't repent and give him glory.

Rev 16:10 The fifth poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast, and his kingdom was darkened.

They gnawed their tongues because of the pain, Rev 16:11 and they blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores. They didn't repent of their works.

Rev 16:12 The sixth poured out his bowl on the great river, the Euphrates. Its water was dried up, that the way might be prepared for the kings that come from the sunrise.

Rev 16:13 I saw coming out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet, three unclean spirits, something like frogs;

Rev 16:14 for they are spirits of demons, performing signs; which go out to the kings of the whole inhabited earth, to gather them together for

*the war of that great day of God, the Almighty.
Rev 16:15 "Behold, I come like a thief. Blessed is he who watches, and keeps his clothes, so that he doesn't walk naked, and they see his shame."
Rev 16:16 He gathered them together into the place which is called in Hebrew, Megiddo.
Rev 16:17 The seventh poured out his bowl into the air. A loud voice came out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, "It is done!"*

What a terrible time this will be for those who are still on the earth. They will be the unrepentant ones who belong to Satan. These seven bowl judgements have been reserved for those who received the mark of the beast and worshipped his image, as is clearly portrayed in verse two. Those who are the "children of Satan".

The angel who poured out the last of the seven bowls declares, "It is done". This sounds very much like when Jesus was about to die on the cross. Then He said, "It is finished". Now a loud voice from the throne in Heaven declares, "It is done".

*Rev 16:18 There were lightnings, sounds, and thunders; and there was a great earthquake, such as was not since there were men on the earth, so great an earthquake, so mighty.
Rev 16:19 The great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell. Babylon the great was remembered in the sight of God, to give to her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath.*

This is when "Babylon the Great" receives her judgement. These 7 bowl judgements, I would imagine, will occur quickly

one after the other. God will not delay any longer than necessary. He will want to see His justice carried out quickly. He will not enjoy what is happening, but these plagues are His righteous judgements on the evil of this world.

Following these seven bowl judgements, we come to the time that all Christians are looking forward to. Jesus is in full control of His Kingdom. Babylon the Great has been judged and punished. Satan was bound and thrown into the abyss. Therefore, now is the time for rejoicing in Heaven.

Rev 19:1 After these things I heard something like a loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying, "Hallelujah! Salvation, power, and glory belong to our God:"

Rev 19:2 "for true and righteous are his judgments. For he has judged the great prostitute, who corrupted the earth with her sexual immorality, and he has avenged the blood of his servants at her hand."

Rev 19:3 A second said, "Hallelujah! Her smoke goes up forever and ever."

Rev 19:4 The twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God who sits on the throne, saying, "Amen! Hallelujah!"

Rev 19:5 A voice came from the throne, saying, "Give praise to our God, all you his servants, you who fear him, the small and the great!"

Rev 19:6 I heard something like the voice of a great multitude, and like the voice of many waters, and like the voice of mighty thunders, saying, "Hallelujah! For the Lord our God, the Almighty, reigns!"

Now we come to a very important event. The marriage of the Lamb to His Church. This is when the marriage occurs, not before or during the time of the tribulation, as those who believe in the pre-tribulation rapture would have you believe. No, this marriage will only happen after the tribulation, and after the seven bowls of God's wrath have been poured out. Not before.

Rev 19:7 Let's rejoice and be exceedingly glad, and let's give the glory to him. For the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his wife has made herself ready."

Rev 19:8 It was given to her that she would array herself in bright, pure, fine linen: for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.

Rev 19:9 He said to me, "Write, 'Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.'" He said to me, "These are true words of God."

So as a summary of chapters sixteen through to chapter nineteen of the book of Revelation, we see the following.

Revelation chapter 16 is when God's wrath is poured out on the earth.

Rev 16:1 I heard a loud voice out of the temple, saying to the seven angels, "Go and pour out the seven bowls of the wrath of God on the earth!"

Then in Chapter 17. We see the punishment of Babylon the Great.

Rev 17:1 One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and spoke with me, saying, "Come here. I will show you the judgment of the

great prostitute who sits on many waters,”

Then in Chapter 18, which starts with “After this”, after the punishment has been delivered to Babylon.

Rev 18:1 After these things, I saw another angel coming down out of the sky, having great authority. The earth was illuminated with his glory.

Rev 18:2 He cried with a mighty voice, saying, “Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great, and she has become a habitation of demons, a prison of every unclean spirit, and a prison of every unclean and hateful bird!”

Notice that chapter 19 and verse six is when the marriage supper of the Lamb occurs. It will happen after all the other events have been completed.

Rev 19:6 I heard something like the voice of a great multitude, and like the voice of many waters, and like the voice of mighty thunders, saying, “Hallelujah! For the Lord our God, the Almighty, reigns!”

Rev 19:7 Let’s rejoice and be exceedingly glad, and let’s give the glory to him. For the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his wife has made herself ready.

So the rejoicing in Heaven and the Marriage supper of the Lamb will occur after chapter 18. And certainly not before the tribulation starts, or even during the tribulation.

We see from this chapter that God’s elect are protected from His wrath, but we are not guaranteed we will be protected from Satan’s wrath. Those who have the mark of the Beast and who worshipped his image are punished. Then

finally there is the marriage supper of the Lamb.

The Mystery Of God

There are many scriptures in the Bible that describe for us what the term “The Mystery of God” means. When we read all the following scriptures, we get to see parts of the mystery and then, when we combine them all, we will get a full picture of the true meaning of this mystery. The first part of this mystery is to understand that it has been hidden for many ages and generations, but has now been revealed to the Lord’s people.

*Col 1:25 of which I was made a servant, according to the stewardship of God which was given me toward you, to fulfill the word of God,
Col 1:26 the mystery which has been hidden for ages and generations. But now it has been revealed to his saints,*

The mystery “is Christ” as we are told in Col 2:2. And we are encouraged to understand this and to know the treasures of wisdom and knowledge that are all hidden in Him. So when we are reading the Bible, both the old and the new testaments, we are learning about the mystery of God. Notice in Rev 10:7 it finishes with, “as he declared to his servants, the prophets.” So this mystery is every word of the Bible.

Rev 10:7 but in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he is about to sound, then the mystery of God is finished, as he declared to his servants, the prophets.

The secret of the Kingdom of Heaven has been given to the disciples, therefore, what we learn from them is a part of the mystery.

Mar 4:10 When he was alone, those who were around him with the twelve asked him about the parables.

Mar 4:11 He said to them, "To you is given the mystery of God's Kingdom, but to those who are outside, all things are done in parables."

The new testament tells us in Mark 4:11 that the secret (mystery) of God has been given to His disciples and the amazing thing to remember here is that the Gentiles are included in this mystery, it is not just for the Jews, but is for all people.

Eph 3:5 which in other generations was not made known to the children of men, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets in the Spirit;

Eph 3:6 that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, and fellow members of the body, and fellow partakers of his promise in Christ Jesus through the Good News,

The mystery of God has been hidden from previous generations. It has become manifest only since the birth, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus Christ. The mystery was made know to the Apostles, and they have passed that onto us.

1Co 2:6 We speak wisdom, however, among those who are full grown; yet a wisdom not of this world, nor of the rulers of this world, who are coming to nothing.

1Co 2:7 But we speak God's wisdom in a mystery, the wisdom that has been hidden, which God foreordained before the worlds for our glory,

Col 2:2 that their hearts may be comforted, they being knit together in love, and gaining all riches of the full assurance of understanding, that they may know the mystery of God, both of the Father and of Christ,

Col 1:27 to whom God was pleased to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory;

This mystery has been concealed. It was once hidden, but now it is revealed to God's elect. It was undiscoverable by anyone until God made it available. Since the "Mystery" is partly Christ in you, the mystery could not be made known until Jesus' first appearing. It was hidden until this time.

1Co 2:7 But we speak God's wisdom in a mystery, the wisdom that has been hidden, which God foreordained before the worlds for our glory,

1Co 2:8 which none of the rulers of this world has known. For had they known it, they wouldn't have crucified the Lord of glory.

1Co 2:9 But as it is written, "Things which an eye didn't see, and an ear didn't hear, which didn't enter into the heart of man, these God has prepared for those who love him."

1Co 2:10 But to us, God revealed them through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God.

1Co 2:11 For who among men knows the things of a man, except the spirit of the man, which is in him? Even so, no one knows the things of God, except God's Spirit.

1Co 2:12 But we received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit which is from God, that we might know the things that were freely given to us by God.

1Co 2:13 Which things also we speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches, but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual things.

1Co 2:14 Now the natural man doesn't receive the things of God's Spirit, for they are foolishness to him, and he can't know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

In 1Ti 3:16 tells us that everything about Jesus is a part of God's mystery.

1Ti 3:16 Without controversy, the mystery of godliness is great: God was revealed in the flesh, justified in the spirit, seen by angels, preached among the nations, believed on in the world, and received up in glory.

The mystery of God is "Christ" and "**Christ in you**" in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. It was hidden but is now revealed. It will be accomplished, just as he announced to his servants the prophets. The disciples of Jesus were given the knowledge and have passed

it onto us through the holy Scriptures in the new testament. It is the word of God in its fullness. It is revealed in God's Holy scriptures.

Understanding 1 Thessalonians
4:13-18 Understanding

Jesus will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Him. When Jesus returns, the dead will be with Him. They were resurrected just before the seventh trumpet sounded. This will be made clear in the next chapter, “When is the Rapture”. In this chapter, the explanation of when the dead are raised and the living are changed in the twinkling of an eye will be revealed.

1Th 4:13 But we don't want you to be ignorant, brothers, concerning those who have fallen asleep, so that you don't grieve like the rest, who have no hope.

1Th 4:14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus.

1Th 4:15 For this we tell you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will in no way precede those who have fallen asleep.

1Th 4:16 For the Lord himself will descend from

heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with God's trumpet. The dead in Christ will rise first, 1Th 4:17 then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air. So we will be with the Lord forever. 1Th 4:18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.

This is all according to the Lord's word. According to the Holy Scriptures.

Again, those in Heaven do not need to be comforted. It is only those who are still alive on the earth and living through the tribulation that will need to be encouraged.

In verse 13, the author tells us we are about to be informed about those who have died so we will not grieve as other people do. Following this, we see that those who have died in Christ (believing and trusting in Him) will be with Jesus when He returns the second time. We believe Jesus died and was resurrected, and we can be confident that we will also be resurrected.

According to the Lord's word, or according to scripture. What can be more reassuring than to know that this is according to the Lord's word? The dead will rise first, then the living will also rise to be with Jesus. Then Jesus will descend and his elect will be with Him.

Then, in the following verses, we see how Jesus returns, and that all peoples of the world who have survived this long will see His return, and there will be a loud trumpet call when His elect are gathered (harvested) from the world. This is certainly not a secret rapture prior to the tribulation.

Mat 24:30 and then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky. Then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky with power and great glory.

Mat 24:31 He will send out his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together his chosen ones from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other.

What we can gather from 1 Th 4:15-17 is that we will see our loved ones again as they are resurrected and rise to be with Jesus. Then those who are alive will also ascend. There is no mention that the living will escape persecution, suffering, tribulation, or affliction.

Verse 18, we are told to encourage one another with these words. Those who believe in the pre-tribulation rapture ask how we might encourage one another if we are in the tribulation. Well, this is when we will need to be encouraged and the way we can, it is to remind each other that we are ensured a future with Jesus. Our lives are bound to Jesus and no-one can separate us from His love, not even death. This is the type of encouragement we will need.

Rev 13:10 If anyone is to go into captivity, he will go into captivity. If anyone is to be killed with the sword, he must be killed. Here is the endurance and the faith of the saints.

Notice the last part of this verse where it calls for the patient endurance and faithfulness of God's people. God has not promised us a peaceful life on this earth. We must remain true to Him even if we face death in the tribulation. Millions of Christians have already suffered this fate over thousands of

years. During the tribulation, there will be many more to be martyred for Jesus. So we need to be prepared to suffer for Him. There will be no simple way into the Kingdom of God.

Why do we need to be patient and faithful if we were raptured before the time of tribulation started?? No, we need to be patient and faithful during the times of the tribulation.

Finally. The following verses are here to encourage us to believe what has been revealed to us from “The Word of God”. Telling us what is going to happen, and that we must remember this when the times of trouble come upon us. We have been forewarned, so let us cling to the words and promises of our Lord and trust Him with our futures and with our lives.

Joh 16:1 I have said these things to you so that you wouldn't be caused to stumble.

Joh 16:2 They will put you out of the synagogues. Yes, the time comes that whoever kills you will think that he offers service to God.

Joh 16:3 They will do these things because they have not known the Father, nor me.

Joh 16:4 But I have told you these things, so that when the time comes, you may remember that I told you about them. I didn't tell you these things from the beginning, because I was with you.

Verse 4 tells us that these times of trouble are coming. Not that they might, but that they will come, as we see also in JOHN 16:33.

Joh 16:33 “I have told you these things, that in me you may have peace. In the world you have trouble; but cheer up! I have overcome the world.”

We have been forewarned of these terrible times to come, and that we must expect to go through them if we are still alive at the time of the tribulation. If we are aware of what is coming, then we should not “fall away” but we should “take heart” as in John 16:33.

If we accept that the resurrection occurs just before the last trumpet sounds, as clearly we are told, then we are forewarned and forearmed. We should be mentally prepared for the horrific times that are coming upon all the earth.

But those who were expecting to be raptured before the tribulation starts, how could they possibly stay faithful to God, when they feel He has let them down by allowing them to suffer throughout these terrible times, when their faith will be tested to the full. They would be a part of that number whose “love will grow cold”. They could lose their reward and their place in God’s Kingdom. And this is because they were not prepared for what was coming. Their chances of being saved from “God’s Wrath” are very slim in deed unless they repent during the time of tribulation. Again, how will they learn the truth if all Christians have been raptured away before the tribulation starts?

OK, now it is time to explain when this amazing event, the rapture, will happen.

When Is The Rapture?

So-far I have covered many aspects of the return of Jesus, the resurrection of the dead and the rapture. Now it is time for me to reveal to you what I believe is the timing for God's elect to be gathered to Jesus. By this time, you should have already found the answer to when God will gather His elect to Jesus. But in this chapter, I will go into much more detail.

To understand exactly when this event will happen, it is vitally important to know when the dead in Christ are raised from the dead? And why this concerns the timing of the rapture? We see the answer in 1 Th 4:15.

1Th 4:15 For this we tell you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will in no way precede those who have fallen asleep.

Therefore, the rapture of the living cannot occur until God has raised the dead, only after that can the rapture happen.

There are three events that must be understood if we are to come to the right conclusion about the timing of the dead being resurrected. Those three events are all about the dead being raised and the living being changed in the twinkling of

an eye. These three events are;

EVENT 1. THE LAST DAY.

EVENT 2. THE LAST TRUMPET.

EVENT 3. THE SEVENTH TRUMPET.

The first event I will look at is "**THE LAST DAY**".

What exactly is the last day in the Bible and when does it occur? Well, we know that on this day, the dead in Christ will be raised. We see this in quite a few scriptures, but especially in John 11:21-24.

Joh 11:21 Therefore Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you would have been here, my brother wouldn't have died."

Joh 11:22 "Even now I know that, whatever you ask of God, God will give you."

Joh 11:23 Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again."

Joh 11:24 Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day."

Martha had been with Jesus for several years, and she would have heard Him speaking about the kingdom many times. She knew that the dead in Christ would be raised on the last day. Jesus did not tell her she was wrong, but told her in the next verse.

Joh 11:25 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will still live, even if he dies."

Here, Jesus is reassuring Martha that the dead will be resurrected and has not told her she is wrong. Therefore, this

is the day when the dead are raised to life, when they will meet Jesus in the air, and also the day that those who are still alive will also rise to be with Jesus. We see this again in Joh 6:44, only this time it is Jesus Himself speaking of the resurrection “at the last day”.

Joh 6:44 No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him, and I will raise him up in the last day.

This “last day” is not just any old day, but it will be one of the greatest days in history for those who believe in, and trust in, Jesus Christ as their “Lord of lords and King of kings”. There is no other day that a Christian would look forward to as much as to this day. This is when all the Saints from all human history are rewarded, when the faithful followers of Jesus who have been martyred will be resurrected. The same day when the living will be “changed in the twinkling of an eye”. When God’s elect are “gathered to Jesus”, or if you prefer the term, “are raptured”.

There are only 6 references in the Bible (New World Bible) to the term “the last day”. Five are telling us that this is the day of the resurrection of the dead, but there is no sign from these passages where they fit into God’s timetable.

Joh 6:39 This is the will of my Father who sent me, that of all he has given to me I should lose nothing, but should raise him up at the last day.

Joh 6:40 This is the will of the one who sent me, that everyone who sees the Son, and believes in him, should have eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day.”

Joh 6:44 No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him, and I will raise him up in

the last day.

Joh 6:54 He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day.

Joh 11:24 Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day."

Therefore, the resurrection of the dead will happen at what the Bible has termed "the last day". All that we can get from these verses is that the dead are definitely raised on "the last day", but when is that going to take place? The last day of what? This will be answered later in this chapter.

Next, let us look at what happens at "**THE LAST TRUMPET**".

1Co 15:51 Behold, I tell you a mystery. We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed,

1Co 15:52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we will be changed.

1Co 15:53 For this perishable body must become imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality.

1Co 15:54 But when this perishable body will have become imperishable, and this mortal will have put on immortality, then what is written will happen: "Death is swallowed up in victory."

God will resurrect the dead in Christ at "**THE LAST TRUMPET**". So this is also when the living will be changed and receive their immortal bodies. So this "last trumpet" along with the "last day" is when the dead will be raised and

when those who are still alive will rise to meet Jesus in the clouds. This is the timing for the rapture.

So, we see that the resurrection is **definitely** on the “**LAST DAY**”. It is also **definitely** at the “**LAST TRUMPET**”. And as there will only be the one resurrection for those who have died in Christ, these two events must occur at the same time. The “**LAST TRUMPET**” that is sounded at the resurrection of the dead must be sounded on the “**LAST DAY**”.

Now, according to the pre-tribulation rapture theory, the dead must be raised pre-tribulation since the living will not precede the dead. We have now already established that the dead are raised at the “last trumpet” which is sounded on the “last day”. If the rapture occurs pre-tribulation, then these events must also happen pre-tribulation.

But surely there will be a need for a resurrection of the dead at the end of the tribulation, otherwise what about the millions who repent during the tribulation and accept Jesus as their Lord and Saviour? When will they be resurrected? According to the Pre-tribulation rapture theory, the “last day” and the “last trumpet” would have already occurred, as this is when the dead are resurrected.

If this is the case, then there must be a second “last day” and a second “last trumpet”. People will turn to God all throughout the tribulation and right until the very last day. Those killed during this time must be resurrected at the very end of the tribulation. At the very last minute, when the “last trumpet” is ready to be sounded on the “last day”. This must also be when those saints still alive at the end of the tribulation are changed in the twinkling of an eye.

But if the pre-tribulation rapture theory is correct, and if

there is only one ‘last day’ and ‘last trumpet’ then these poor unfortunate souls who accept Jesus during the tribulation will be too late, as these two events presumably happened about seven years earlier.

How can we be certain of the timing of the first resurrection? For the simple answer, please read Rev 20:3-5.

Rev 20:4 I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was given to them. I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for the testimony of Jesus, and for the word of God, and such as didn't worship the beast nor his image, and didn't receive the mark on their forehead and on their hand. They lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.

Rev 20:5 The rest of the dead didn't live until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.

Rev 20:6 Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over these, the second death has no power; but they will be priests of God and of Christ, and will reign with him one thousand years.

The first resurrection occurs at the very end of the tribulation, when those who were murdered because they refused to worship the false idol of the Beast are resurrected as Rev 20:5 explains.

Now there are two facts we have covered so far that are absolutely indisputable. Facts clearly spelled out in scripture several times. Those facts are:

Fact 1: The living will not precede the dead.

1Th 4:15 According to the Lord's word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep.

Fact 2: The dead are resurrected on the last day.

Joh 11:24 Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day."

This last day obviously cannot occur before the tribulation, as there are at least seven years to go before Jesus returns. So when is this last day? It will be the last day of the church age and the day before Jesus returns.

When Jesus returns, this will be the start of the 1000 years of His rule. Therefore, the last day cannot extend into this time. The only plausible explanation is the last day of the church age, the day before Jesus returns. Read Rev 20:3-5 again and you will see when the resurrected will reign with Jesus. It is after the first resurrection.

At the "last trumpet," when the dead are raised, it will not be a quiet affair, but it will be accompanied by much noise and the blast of trumpets. Not done in secret, but loudly proclaimed for the entire world to see and hear. When is the last trumpet sounded in the entire Bible? In Rev 11:15.

As we have already established, the last trumpet is sounded on the last day. And this must be on the very last day of the tribulation. Otherwise, those who repent, and those killed during the tribulation, will not rise in the first resurrection to be with Christ. Since there will only be two resurrections of the dead, and the second will be at the end of the one thousand years of Christ's rule, this would be the only other chance for them to be resurrected. They would miss out on ruling with Jesus and also miss out on the marriage supper

of the Lamb. This means a divided church, and we covered that topic in the chapter “There Is only One Church”.

Another thought about this “last trumpet” call. For this to be the “last trumpet”, there must be other trumpet calls before this one, so this trumpet call has to be in a series of trumpet calls, otherwise how can it be “the last”. There is only one series of trumpet calls recorded in the book of Revelation, and that series of trumpet calls starts in Rev 8:6.

Rev 8:6 The seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound.

And the “last trumpet call” in this series of trumpet calls as described in Rev 11:15.

Rev 11:15 The seventh angel sounded, and great voices in heaven followed, saying, “The kingdom of the world has become the Kingdom of our Lord, and of his Christ. He will reign forever and ever!”

Not only is this the last trumpet call in the series, but it is also the very last trumpet call recorded in the Bible, therefore it must be the trumpet call described in Rev 11:15 above. Not only that, but if you search for the word “trumpet” in the Bible, guess which trumpet call is the very last recorded one. Yes, it is recorded in Rev 11:15.

As we see in Rev 11:2, the Gentiles are to trample on the city for 42 months from the middle of the tribulation time. These 42 months will take us up to the end of the tribulation.

Rev 11:2 Leave out the court which is outside of the temple, and don't measure it, for it has been given to the nations. They will tread the holy city under foot for forty-two months.

And since the “last trumpet” is sounded on the “last day”,

then this must occur at the end of tribulation. Actually, on the very last day of this time of the gentiles as I will prove a little later. We know that the tribulation is to last for seven years, and at the end of this time Jesus will return to claim the kingdoms of this world as His own as we saw earlier in Rev 11:15.

It is interesting here to note that the past tense (has become) is used in verse 15. The significance of this will become more obvious a little later. Therefore, following the “seventh trumpet”, Christ will begin reigning on the earth.

But what happens on the very last day of the tribulation, the day before Jesus returns and rules the earth with His Saints? You may think this day is not mentioned in the Bible, but a careful reading through Rev 10 will reveal this day to you if you are prepared to accept what the word of God is saying. We have all read over scriptures before and not really understood them, then suddenly one day, “the penny drops”, and you think, “why have I not seen this before?” This happened to me with several scriptures as I was researching for this book.

To understand these verses, I will need to dissect them into three parts, understand each separate part, and then stitch them back together and see the full and true meaning of these verses. I believe it is vital to do this that you will believe what these verses say in parts and then again when they are brought together again.

Rev 10:7 Is Essential to understand.

Before we look at what happens when the seventh trumpet has been sounded, it is important to see what happens just before the angel blows this trumpet. I will now explain what the first one third of this verse means to reveal this vital piece

of information.

Rev 10:7 but in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he is about to sound.

Please notice that the angel is getting ready to blow the trumpet, but he has not done so yet. We are still on the very last day of the tribulation because Jesus has not as yet begun to reign. Now let us look at other bible versions to see how they have interpreted this verse.

(ISV) When the time approaches for the seventh angel to blow his trumpet,

(KJV) But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound,

(NIRV) But in the days when the seventh angel is ready to blow his trumpet,

(NIV) But in the days when the seventh angel is about to sound his trumpet.

These versions of the Bible all say the same thing. What follows is done **BEFORE** the seventh trumpet sounds. This is very important to understand before we go any further, so please see exactly what this verse is telling you. What follows in this verse will happen **before** the seventh trumpet is sounded!! If you are to see the full and true meaning of this verse, you must keep this thought in your mind. What follows happens **before** the seventh trumpet is blown.

Let us now stitch the first 2 thirds of this verse together.

Rev 10:7 but in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he is about to sound, then the mystery of God is finished.

In this part of the verse, you will see what is to happen before the trumpet is sounded. “The mystery of God is finished.” I will go into the meaning of this a little later in the book. But before we go on, let us look at the other versions again to see this part of the verse added to the first part.

ISV) When the time approaches for the seventh angel to blow his trumpet, God's secret plan will be fulfilled,

(KJV) But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God should be finished,

(NIrV) But in the days when the seventh angel is ready to blow his trumpet, the last part of God's plan will be carried out.

(NIV) But in the days when the seventh angel is about to sound his trumpet, the mystery of God will be accomplished.

The mystery of God is going to be accomplished. It is going to be completed. It is going to be fulfilled. I hope you can see the importance of correctly understanding this verse. Whatever this “mystery of God” may be, it will be completed **BEFORE** the seventh trumpet sounds. I particularly love how the “New International Readers Version (NIrV)” puts it.

(NIrV) But in the days when the seventh angel is ready to blow his trumpet, the last part of God's plan will be carried out.

And just what is this mystery that God is about to accomplish? Or the last part of God’s plan that He will carry out?

All throughout the Bible we have seen God make many

promises to the Jews and to Gentiles, through His Prophets, through the Apostles and also through the words and the works of Jesus Christ. The mystery that is accomplished is God honouring all of His promises to all people. God's work has accomplished all that He had set out to do, and to fulfil all of His promises. God is restoring all things.

What is this mystery of God? It is God finishing His plan of the ages. When He will sum up all things in Christ. When He is gathering all things in Heaven and on the earth into one in Jesus (Eph 1:10).

Eph 1:9 making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he purposed in him

Eph 1:10 to an administration of the fullness of the times, to sum up all things in Christ, the things in the heavens, and the things on the earth, in him;

Eph 1:11 in whom also we were assigned an inheritance, having been foreordained according to the purpose of him who does all things after the counsel of his will;

Eph 1:12 to the end that we should be to the praise of his glory, we who had before hoped in Christ.

Eph 1:13 In him you also, having heard the word of the truth, the Good News of your salvation—in whom, having also believed, you were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit,

Eph 1:14 who is a pledge of our inheritance, to the redemption of God's own possession, to the praise of his glory.

This mystery was not known or understood until Jesus came down from Heaven and revealed the mystery to His

apostles.

Col 1:26 the mystery which has been hidden for ages and generations. But now it has been revealed to his saints,

Col 1:27 to whom God was pleased to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory;

According to verse 10, this mystery will be put into effect when the “fullness of the times” is reached, or is this “when the mystery of God is accomplished”. as we saw earlier in Rev 10:7, this mystery is accomplished as the seventh trumpet is about to sound. And notice also when God does this He will “sum up all things in Christ, the things in the heavens, and the things on the earth, in him”. Please read the Chapter “The Mystery of God” for a better and fuller description.

Another Important Point.

Now we come to another very important piece of scripture that is rarely ever quoted when referring to the return of our Lord. Please read it carefully to understand fully what has been recorded for us here.

Act 3:18 But the things which God announced by the mouth of all his prophets, that Christ should suffer, he thus fulfilled.

Act 3:19 “Repent therefore, and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out, so that there may come times of refreshing from the presence of the Lord.”

Act 3:20 and that he may send Christ Jesus, who

*was ordained for you before,
Act 3:21 whom heaven must receive until the times
of restoration of all things, which God spoke long
ago by the mouth of his holy prophets.*

Verse 20 states that God will send the Messiah - even Jesus. Now this is after Jesus has been crucified and has been resurrected to life and then ascended into Heaven. So this does not refer to the first coming of Jesus, but to His second coming.

Verse 21 is not only very interesting, and rarely quoted, it is vital to understand if we are to know the true timing of not only the return of Jesus but also for the timing of both the dead being raised and the living being changed.

Please note that heaven will **receive Jesus until God has restored everything**. Do you see what this is saying? God the Father has to complete **“His”** work before Jesus will return. And the work that the Father must complete is accomplishing “the mystery of God”. That is to fulfil all the promises He has made to all people from all times.

OK, things are coming together here. From what we have so far, we see this. Acts 3:21 “until the time comes for God to restore everything”, Eph 1:10 “when the times reach their fulfillment” and Rev 10:7 “the mystery of God will be accomplished”, or as the NIV tells it, Rev 10:7 “the last part of God's plan will be carried out”. All done as the seventh angel is about to sound. **NOT AFTER THE TRUMPET HAS SOUNDED, BUT BEFORE.**

So the work that the Father is doing is to get ready to accomplish His Mystery (Rev 10:7) and to restore everything (Acts 3:21) Put the mystery into effect (Eph 1:10) And just when does He do these things? Just before the seventh

trumpet is sounded,

This is when the mystery of God will be accomplished, as we have seen in Rev 10:7. When this happens, the way is now clear for Jesus to return and claim His Kingdom, as we see in Acts 3:21, when the mystery is accomplished. Until this time, **Heaven must receive Him**. Jesus will rule from Heaven and only return to the earth when God the Father has restored all things, as we see in Acts 3:21.

Or when God the Father has accomplished His mystery. (Rev 10:7). Or as we may say “until God the Father has finished His work”.

We always think that Jesus is working, but we forget that God The Father is also working. He is not on holidays. Read.

Joh 5:17 But Jesus answered them, “My Father is still working, so I am working, too.”

Obviously, not everything has been restored at the start of the tribulation, nor half way through the tribulation. Surely, it can only be at the very end of the tribulation. In fact, on the very last day of tribulation. Just before the seventh trumpet calls. That is where the term “the last day” comes from.

Notice that the seventh trumpet is about to sound. It has not sounded yet but is getting ready to sound. So this mystery of God is revealed before the seventh trumpet sounds and what He has accomplished is the promises He has made throughout the entire Bible, including the raising of the dead and the living being changed to immortal.

Therefore, what we can learn from this is that Jesus returns, the dead are raised, and the rapture occurs on the last day, and that happens on the day immediately before the seventh trumpet is sounded. This last day is referring to the

very last day of tribulation. What other “last day” could it be? This is when God has accomplished all that He set out to do (Rev 10:7) and when He has restored everything (Acts 3:21) and when the way is open for Jesus to return.

Here the word day is used, but is it a day or a period of time?? I do not know!!

OK, we have dissected Rev 10:7 and Acts 3:21, but we must now look at these verses stitched back together again to see the last part of these verses.

Rev 10:7 but in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he is about to sound, then the mystery of God is finished, as he declared to his servants, the prophets.

(NIV) But in the days when the seventh angel is about to sound his trumpet, the mystery of God will be accomplished, just as he announced to his servants the prophets.

(ISV) When the time approaches for the seventh angel to blow his trumpet, God's secret plan will be fulfilled, as he had announced to his servants, the prophets.

(KJV) But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God should be finished, as he hath declared to his servants the prophets.

(KJVA) But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God should be finished, as he hath declared to his servants the prophets.

(MSG) that when the seventh Angel blew his

trumpet, which he was about to do, the Mystery of God, all the plans he had revealed to his servants, the prophets, would be completed.

(NirV) But in the days when the seventh angel is ready to blow his trumpet, the last part of God's plan will be carried out. God told all this to the prophets who served him long ago.

And in Acts 3:21, we see the same thought.

Act 3:21 whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things, which God spoke long ago by the mouth of his holy prophets.

This mystery has been told to the Prophets from long ago, from the old testament times. So the things they recorded in their prophecies are a part of this mystery of God!

Yes, all of His promises that He made through these prophets will be fulfilled just before the seventh trumpet sounds!!

Just think of what God has told us through His prophets, the Apostles, and through Jesus Christ Himself. Including the resurrection of the dead and the changing of the living from mortal to immortal. Add to these the other things He announced to His servants the prophets and they will be fulfilled as well just before the seventh trumpet sounds!!

The rapture is on the very last day of tribulation. Post tribulation means after the tribulation. Therefore, in my understanding, I am one day short of post-tribulation.

The Seventh Trumpet.

And now let us look at THE SEVENTH TRUMPET to see what happens when it is blown.

Rev 11:15 The seventh angel sounded, and great voices in heaven followed, saying, "The kingdom of the world has become the Kingdom of our Lord, and of his Christ. He will reign forever and ever!"

Rev 11:16 The twenty-four elders, who sit on their thrones before God's throne, fell on their faces and worshiped God,

Rev 11:17 saying: "We give you thanks, Lord God, the Almighty, the one who is and who was; because you have taken your great power, and reigned."

Rev 11:18 The nations were angry, and your wrath came, as did the time for the dead to be judged, and to give your bondservants the prophets, their reward, as well as to the saints, and those who fear your name, to the small and the great; and to destroy those who destroy the earth.

The kingdoms of the world are now the kingdom of our Lord. The mystery of God was accomplished as the seventh angel was about to blow his trumpet. Then when he blew the trumpet, the kingdom of the world became the kingdom of our Lord. The tribulation is now over, and God's wrath has come and is soon going to be poured out upon the earth.

It is important to remember that the wrath of God has not been poured out before this time. Also, keep in mind that this is when the dead are judged and when the saints are rewarded. This is when we can expect the rapture to take place.

In the seventeenth chapter of Revelation, God's wrath is poured out on those whose names are not in the Lamb's book of life.

OK, up to now I have used a few scriptures to convince you about the timing of the rapture. I could have just referred

to this next verse at the very start and left it at that. This is the one verse that tells us precisely when the rapture happens. This verse should be all the proof that anyone ever needs to know when the dead are raised and the living rise to meet Jesus in the clouds. I have left the best to last.

Matthew 16:27.

OK, time to take out the scalpel again and dissect Mat 16:27. Here is the first half.

Mat 16:27 For the Son of Man will come in the glory of his Father with his angels.

Jesus is coming in His Father's glory. This will not be in secret. This will be an amazing thing to see. Jesus and His army of millions of angels coming to the earth. And this will be when what was recorded in Mat 24:27 will happen.

Mat 24:27 For as the lightning flashes from the east, and is seen even to the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.

Not a secret coming, but one where every eye will see Him. Even those who pierced Him.

Rev 1:7 Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, including those who pierced him. All the tribes of the earth will mourn over him. Even so, Amen.

And what will happen when this most incredible event occurs? Let us put Mat 16:27 together again and read all of this verse for the answer.

Mat 16:27 For the Son of Man will come in the glory of his Father with his angels, and then he will render to everyone according to his deeds.

This verse should convince you that a pre-tribulation or mid-tribulation rapture is impossible. When Jesus comes in His Father's glory, with His millions of angels. Notice the words "and **then** he will render to everyone according to his deeds". **THIS** is when He will reward each person according to what they have done. And just what is that reward?

The answer is found in the well know and loved verses in 1Cor 15:50-55.

1Co 15:50 Now I say this, brothers, that flesh and blood can't inherit God's Kingdom; neither does the perishable inherit imperishable.

1Co 15:51 Behold, I tell you a mystery. We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed,

1Co 15:52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we will be changed.

1Co 15:53 For this perishable body must become imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality.

1Co 15:54 But when this perishable body will have become imperishable, and this mortal will have put on immortality, then what is written will happen: "Death is swallowed up in victory."

1Co 15:55 "Death, where is your sting? Hades, where is your victory?"

What other reward is there???

And this thought of receiving our rewards **ONLY** when Jesus' returns is reinforced for us in.

Rev 22:12 "Behold, I come quickly. My reward is

with me, to repay to each man according to his work.

When Jesus returns, He will bring His reward with Him, and what reward are you expecting and wanting? If you are alive, it must be to be changed in the twinkling of an eye from mortal to immortal. If you are dead, then it must be to be resurrected and also made immortal.

His reward is with Him and this is when His elect, the dead and the living, will receive their rewards. The dead are raised to eternal life, and the living to be changed in the twinkling of an eye. Verse 12 is just 8 verses from the very end of the Bible.

God's elect have been gathered to Jesus, raptured, just prior to the "SEVENTH TRUMPET" and are now taken away from the world to be kept safe from any more troubles and trials and are protected from "God's Wrath." But we still suffer many trials and tribulations up to this time. We are warned they are coming, so we **should expect them.**

Want to see something else amazing. Let us look at the following passage of scripture.

2Th 1:5 All this is evidence that God's judgment is right, and as a result you will be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are suffering.

2Th 1:6 God is just: He will pay back trouble to those who trouble you

2Th 1:7 and give relief to you who are troubled, and to us as well. This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels.

2Th 1:8 He will punish those who do not know God

*and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.
2Th 1:9 They will be punished with everlasting
destruction and shut out from the presence of the
Lord and from the glory of his might
2Th 1:10 on the day he comes to be glorified in his
holy people and to be marveled at among all those
who have believed. This includes you, because you
believed our testimony to you.*

OK, so what is so amazing about this section of scripture? In verse five, we are told that we are counted worthy of the Kingdom. Now that is amazing, but now look at verse seven. We get relief from trouble. We will only get relief from trouble when we are safe with Jesus when He returns in blazing fire with His powerful angels.

God's elect will be persecuted, hated and most times will be killed during the tribulation just the same as they have been from the time of Jesus. So when we get relief from troubles, it will be when we are safely united to Jesus, or raptured.

Now notice what Paul says next "**and to us as well**". Who is he referring to when he says "us"? It must be the Apostles and the early Christians? And When do we, along with the disciples get this relief from troubles? 2Th 1:7 gives us the answer. **This will happen when Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels.** And remember Mat 16:27 For the Son of Man is going to come in **His Father's glory** with his angels, try keeping that a secret coming of our Lord!

I hope we can see that He is revealed just before the seventh trumpet sounds or when the **mystery of God is accomplished (Rev 10:7)** This relief is being changed from mortal to immortal and when the dead are raised.

From verse 7, we are now protected from God's wrath.

Then verses 8 and 9 tell us that God will punish those with everlasting destruction who do not know God . **This happens after verse 7**, when the elect have relief and are with Jesus. This is when the seven bowls of God's wrath will be poured out on the world.

The resurrection of the dead and the living being changed in the twinkling of an eye will occur on the last day of the time of tribulation. According to Rev 10:7, the mystery of God will be accomplished, just as he announced to his servants the prophets.

Everlasting Peace

There will be great pain and suffering, death and destruction during the tribulation. This seven-year period of extreme troubles and persecutions will occur immediately before the return of Jesus Christ. But when He returns in all power and glory, He will bring an everlasting peace. Satan, our arch-enemy, will be defeated and locked away. His time of deceiving the entire world will come to a sudden stop. This blessed time has been recorded for us in the book of Revelation, chapter twenty and verses one through five.

Rev 20:1 I saw an angel coming down out of heaven, having the key of the abyss and a great chain in his hand.

Rev 20:2 He seized the dragon, the old serpent, which is the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole inhabited earth, and bound him for a thousand years,

Rev 20:3 and cast him into the abyss, and shut it, and sealed it over him, that he should deceive the nations no more, until the thousand years were finished. After this, he must be freed for a short time.

Rev 20:4 I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was given to them. I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for the testimony of Jesus, and for the word of God, and such as didn't worship the beast nor his image, and didn't receive the mark on their forehead and on their hand. They lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.

Rev 20:5 The rest of the dead didn't live until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.

The events described in the first four verses happen at the end of the tribulation. This is clear from verses one and two. Satan is bound with the great chain. This is at the end of the tribulation. Then verse 4 describes those who did not worship the beast or receive his mark. Those who did not worship the beast during his time of terror ending after the seven years of the tribulation. They did not receive the mark, and came to life and reigned with Jesus for one thousand years. Therefore, this passage of scripture can only refer to the end of tribulation. No other time fits.

This will be the end of all of our worries and the time of the resurrection of the dead. Also, the time when those alive at the end of the tribulation time will become immortal and be with Jesus forever. And then what is revealed to us in verse five? **This is the first resurrection.** And if this is the first resurrection, then the theories of a pre-tribulation, or a mid-tribulation rapture, are well and truly proven to be false.

Final Comments

The thought of having to live through the tribulation is a very scary, even a terrifying prospect. We know those days will see most of the world's population killed off because of famine, war, pestilence, natural disasters and diseases.

If all Christians are raptured away, what will happen to those who will depend upon them for spiritual guidance? Who will teach them the ways of God? I can get very personal here and ask, "who will be here to teach my wife, my daughter, grandchildren and great grandchildren if there are no Christians left on the earth. Are they going to be left at the mercy of Satan?"

We know from 1Co 7:14 that the children of a believer are regarded by God as being "holy".

1Co 7:14 For the unbelieving husband is sanctified in the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified in the husband. Otherwise, your children would be unclean, but now they are holy.

Now being holy is not being saved. Being holy is to be set aside for God. There are no free rides into the Kingdom, so they will need to repent and be baptized if they are going to

make it into the Kingdom. God must have a plan for them if He regards them as “Holy”. We are not told what this may be, but we can trust God to do what is best for them.

When these times happen, do I want to be whisked away in a flash and abandon my family and friends, or do I want to remain with them, as scary as that will be, and try to educate them about their God? Jesus gave His life for me. Maybe I should be prepared to do the same for my family.

All Christians have had someone to guide them into what they believe. This is true for you and me today. We have had our teachers and our ministers to guide us. You cannot just understand things of God unless you have been guided. This is made clear to us in Romans 10:13-15 when we are told how non believers come to know their Lord.

The World Will Need Preachers.

Rom 10:13 For, “Whoever will call on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

Rom 10:14 How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in him whom they have not heard? How will they hear without a preacher?

Rom 10:15 And how will they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the Good News of peace, who bring glad tidings of good things!”

I am sure that during the tribulation, anyone who is prepared to listen to “the Gospel” will think of it as glad tidings of good things. That is what we do for our families and loved ones, and even for those who we may not like if we are truly following the example and the teachings of our Lord. We are to bring hope to all people, those who see no hope in

their current circumstances.

Rev 7:13 One of the elders answered, saying to me, "These who are arrayed in the white robes, who are they, and from where did they come?"

Rev 7:14 I told him, "My lord, you know." He said to me, "These are those who came out of the great tribulation. They washed their robes, and made them white in the Lamb's blood."

If these people came out of the great tribulation, having washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb, then who has shown them the way? Who was their teacher? Are these my family, your family, our loved ones, and anyone else we come into contact with now or during the tribulation? People we have helped to repent during the time of tribulation? This in my mind is exactly why we will not see a pre-tribulation rapture, but must be prepared to go through the tribulation to the very end.

I believe that the most important thing to keep in mind is that whatever the correct answer is; we know Jesus will never leave nor forsake us. But I also believe that it is vital that we understand the signs of the times and that we prepare ourselves for what is coming. Prepare by knowing God's words, by studying them and by much prayer.

I think we must have the attitude of, "hope for the best, prepare for the worst". I am afraid that many who believe in a pre-tribulation or mid-tribulation rapture will fall away because of a lack of understanding. And understanding can only come from regular Bible study with a mind ready to accept what is revealed in the scriptures.

We know that whatever comes our way, Jesus can protect us no matter what the situation is that we find ourselves in.

Just as He does today.

Joh 16:13 However when he, the Spirit of truth, has come, he will guide you into all truth, for he will not speak from himself; but whatever he hears, he will speak. He will declare to you things that are coming.

So, let us continue to pray for one another, trust that our loving Father knows what is best for us and for our families, and if we are to go through the tribulation, then let us remember who is ultimately in control.

I sincerely hope you have gained some understanding of this very important and mostly misunderstood topic. This final scripture is here to encourage you, and to inform you how to live a holy life and to remain faithful to Jesus no matter what the cost may be.

Heb 10:23 let's hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering; for he who promised is faithful.

Heb 10:24 Let's consider how to provoke one another to love and good works,

Heb 10:25 not forsaking our own assembling together, as the custom of some is, but exhorting one another; and so much the more, as you see the Day approaching.

When we look at the world, I believe we can indeed see the day approaching.

Thanks for reading to the end and may our amazing God bless us all.

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Leslie Rendell has had no formal religious education. But he has been studying the bible for most of his life. When he is researching a topic, he looks at what other people have said in their books, or on the world wide web. He believes it is important to see opinions from every angle of a subject to be able to give his own informed decision. But still the most important reference is always the bible. There is no other authority when it comes to matters of what God expects from those He has created in His own image. If there is a conflict between the bible and man's thoughts, The bible will win every time.

All though he has not had any formal bible education, he believes the bible can be understood by the average bible reader. Otherwise how could they ever understand what God's will is for their lives?

Apart from bible studies, Leslie loves to spend time with his family watching his daughter grow into a wonderful woman and mother. His grand children starting on their life journeys, and now some great grand children to watch growing up. It is a special time in his life to see his family grow.

He is retired and now lives in the South West of Western Australia. Apart from his love of the Bible and his family, his other hobby is photography, where he loves to photograph God's creation.

If you have read one of Leslie's books, he would appreciate you leaving a comment on his website (www.leslierendell.com)