

What is the truth about the

Imminence
of the
Rapture

You may be surprised

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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 "See, I will send the prophet Elijah to you before that great and dreadful day of the LORD comes.

2Th 2:3 Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction.

First, we see Elijah must come (Mal 4:5) Then, in 2Th 2:3-4, 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 confirm a covenant with many for one 'seven.' In the middle of the 'seven' he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And at the temple he will set up an abomination that causes desolation, until the end that is decreed is poured out on him."

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 to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and dreadful day of

the LORD.

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

Mar 13:24 "But in those days, following that distress, "the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light;

Luk 21:25 "There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars. On the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea.

Rev 6:12 I watched as he opened the sixth seal. There was a great earthquake. The sun turned black like sackcloth made of goat hair, the whole moon turned blood red,

Isa 13:9 See, the day of the LORD is coming—a cruel day, with wrath and fierce anger—to make the land desolate and destroy the sinners within it.

Isa 13:10 The stars of heaven and their constellations will not show their light. The rising sun will be darkened and the moon will not give its light.

Joe 2:10 Before them the earth shakes, the heavens tremble, the sun and moon are darkened, and the stars no longer shine.

Joe 2:11 The LORD thunders at the head of his army; his forces are beyond number, and mighty is the army that obeys his command. The day of the LORD is great; it is dreadful. 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 lightning that comes from the east is visible even in the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.

Mat 24:28 Wherever there is a carcass, there the vultures will gather.

Mat 24:29 "Immediately after the distress of those days "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.'

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

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.

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 come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with

the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.

1Th 4:17 After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And 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 Will not the day of the LORD be darkness, not light—pitch-dark, without a ray of brightness?

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.