

Teachers During The Tribulation

Bible Studies, Volume 10

Leslie Rendell

Published by Leslie Rendell, 2023.

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Book Cover by Leslie Rendell

first edition 2023

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The Banquet Table

The Banquet Table

The purpose of this book is to answer the question posed by the title of the book “Who will be the teachers during the tribulation if all God’s elect have been raptured before the tribulation starts”?

According to the theory of the pre-tribulation rapture. Just before the tribulation starts, which could easily be this year in 2023, all true Christians will be 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. We know from the “Book of Revelation” the absolute horrors that await the world. But let us read the following scriptures just to recap.

Rev 12:17 Then the dragon was enraged at the woman and went off to wage war against the rest of her offspring—those who keep God’s commands and hold fast their testimony about Jesus.

Rev 17:6 I saw that the woman was drunk with the blood of God’s holy people, the blood of those who bore testimony to Jesus. When I saw her, I was greatly astonished.

Rev 12:11 They triumphed over him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from 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 the Jews, keep the testimony of Jesus and are triumphant by His blood.

Now let us ask the question. “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 our families?

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, and all the time trying to be joyful at the banquet table.

OK, some may say those who have not repented as yet deserve what they get. But do not forget this will include our families. 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, 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 of the truth 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 you not want to turn to Jesus at the head of the table and ask Him to help our loved ones who are still on the earth? Will we not plead with Him to send true prophets, true priests and honest teachers, who know the truth, to educate our families on all matters pertaining to God?

Remember, if all true Christians have been raptured to Heaven and are seated at the banquet table, that only leaves false prophets, priests, and 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 His chosen as Priest, only to rapture them away from the world when they are needed here the most? What a wicked waste of their talents if they are taken away to a place where they simply cannot help anyone with the knowledge and training they have received from God.

Remember the prayer of Jesus when He prayed to His Father as recorded for us in John 17:14-20.

Job 17:14 I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world.

Job 17:15 My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one.

Job 17:16 They are not of the world, even as I am not of it.

Job 17:17 Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.

Job 17:18 As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world.

Job 17:19 For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified.

Job 17:20 "My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message."

Let us examine this section of Scripture.

Verse 14. The world hates true Christians. This will become more clear as time passes. I am sure we can all see this persecution rapidly growing in many parts of the world. And it will soon be very clear here in Australia, as more and more people turn away from God and seek His children to ridicule and persecute.

Remember the one guarantee true Christians have, and that is, they **will be persecuted**. Not maybe, but a guarantee from Jesus Himself.

They, those Jesus has sanctified, are not of the world. They may be in the world, but their 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 18 is very clear, Jesus sends us out into the world to preach the gospel, He does not take us away from the world, but our into the world.

Verse 16 repeats they are not of the world even as Jesus is not of the world. They must always remember this and keep their minds and eyes on where their true home is. In the Kingdom of God.

Verse 17 - They are sanctified by the truth God has given us from His words. Truth they have been given as a part of their training to be priests of God. Knowledge, understanding and wisdom 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 they called to be priests if they will not do the jobs they are being trained to do? I know this is referring to the Apostles of the time, but does not Jesus also send us today out into the world to preach the gospel? I believe this passage refers to all Christians, from the time of Jesus until He returns. It is their job to preach the word wherever they can.

Verse 19 - They are truly sanctified. And what does that mean? Set apart to a sacred purpose or to religious use: consecrated. 2: set free from sin : purified.: to impart or impute sacredness.

This is something I have not yet fully grasped. This actually is referring to me!!!!!!

Verse 20 - Christ's prayer is **not for them alone**, not only for the Apostles and those faithful to Jesus at that time. 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.

Jesus wants us today, before the tribulation starts, 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?

The Blind Leading The Blind

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 led 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 also told them this parable: "Can the blind lead the blind? Will they not 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 as they learn from liars and not true teachers.

In 2Pe 2:1-14 we get a rather clear picture of what will happen if we let it. Our loved ones, family, friends, neighbors, 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, looking for people to lead away from the truth and from God.

False Prophets and Teachers

2Pe 2:1 But there were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the sovereign Lord who bought them—bringing swift destruction on themselves.

2Pe 2:2 Many will follow their depraved conduct and will bring the way of truth into disrepute.

2Pe 2:3 In their greed these teachers will exploit you with fabricated stories. Their condemnation has long been hanging over them, and their destruction has not been sleeping.

2Pe 2:4 For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but sent them to hell, putting them in chains of darkness to be held for judgment;

2Pe 2:5 if he did not spare the ancient world when he brought the flood on its ungodly people, but protected Noah, a preacher of righteousness, and seven others;

2Pe 2:6 if he condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah by burning them to ashes, and made them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly;

2Pe 2:7 and if he rescued Lot, a righteous man, who was distressed by the depraved conduct of the lawless

2Pe 2:8 (for that righteous man, living among them day after day, was tormented in his righteous soul by the lawless deeds he saw and heard) —

2Pe 2:9 if this is so, then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials and to hold the unrighteous for punishment on the day of judgment.

2Pe 2:10 This is especially true of those who follow the corrupt desire of the flesh and despise authority. Bold and arrogant, they are not afraid to heap abuse on celestial beings;

2Pe 2:11 yet even angels, although they are stronger and more powerful, do not heap abuse on such beings when bringing judgment on them from the Lord.

2Pe 2:12 But these people blaspheme in matters they do not understand. They are like unreasoning animals, creatures of instinct, born only to be caught and destroyed, and like animals they too will perish.

2Pe 2:13 They will be paid back with harm for the harm they have done. Their idea of pleasure is to carouse in broad daylight. They are blots and blemishes, reveling in their pleasures while they feast with you.

2Pe 2:14 With eyes full of adultery, they never stop sinning; they seduce the unstable; they are experts in greed—an accursed brood!

2Pe 2:15 They have left the straight way and wandered off to follow the way of Balaam son of Bezer, who loved the wages of wickedness.

2Pe 2:16 But he was rebuked for his wrongdoing by a donkey—an animal without speech—who spoke with a human voice and restrained the prophet's madness.

2Pe 2:17 These people are springs without water and mists driven by a storm. Blackest darkness is reserved for them.

2Pe 2:18 For they mouth empty, boastful words and, by appealing to the lustful desires of the flesh, they entice people who are just escaping from those who live in error.

2Pe 2:19 They promise them freedom, while they themselves are slaves of depravity—for "people are slaves to whatever has mastered them."

2Pe 2:20 If they have escaped the corruption of the world by knowing our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and are again entangled in it and are overcome, they are worse off at the end than they were at the beginning.

2Pe 2:21 It would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than to have known it and then to turn their backs on the sacred command that was passed on to them.

2Pe 2:22 Of them the proverbs are true: "A dog returns to its vomit," and, "A sow that is washed returns to her wallowing in the mud."

These are the false prophets and false teachers left here on the earth as the only spiritual leaders to influence the understanding of our families. These false priests and 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 this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe,

people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands.

Rev 7:10 And they cried out in a loud voice: "Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb."

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

Rev 7:12 saying: "Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom and thanks and honor and power and strength be to our God for ever and ever. Amen!"

Rev 7:13 Then one of the elders asked me, "These in white robes—who are they, and where did they come from?"

Rev 7:14 I answered, "Sir, you know." And he said, "These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb."

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. And as verse fourteen states, they have come out of the great tribulation. How did they do this? They listened to the words of true prophets, true priests and true teachers,

Therefore, there will need for true prophets, true priests and true teachers on the earth who will led 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.

During the tribulation, How can anyone learn the truth if the only people left on the earth to listen to are, false teachers and liars? We can see from Romans 10:12-15, the world will desperately need teachers of the truth.

Rom 10:12 For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him,

Rom 10:13 for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

Rom 10:14 How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?

Rom 10:15 And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"

The message contained here is clear. Jews, Gentiles, those who do not believe and those who have never heard the word of God will need someone who knows the truth to teach the ways of God and guide them to God's Kingdom.

How can they preach unless they are sent? Jesus sent His disciples out into the world to preach the Kingdom of God. And that is exactly what He expects from us today. As His followers, disciples and Priests it is our job to do this and there can be no disputing that fact. During the tribulation there will be a great harvesting of souls for Jesus, and that is where His disciples will be needed the most. Not at a banquet table in Heaven

How can anyone preach unless they are sent? 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?"

Best People For The Job

Going back to the banquet table, we look down at the table we see a number of Messianic Jews. The best people in the world to bring the good news of Jesus to the Jews. After all, they speak their language, know their customs and even looks like a Jews. (probably because they are Jews) Of all the people in the world, I would say that they are better placed than most to help their fellow Jews come to know that Jesus Christ, Yeshua, is their Messiah they have waited for. Waited for a couple of thousand years.

It truly amazes me they get so excited about being raptured and leaving their fellow Jews to whatever fate may await them. Why are they not preparing themselves 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 Afghans, 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 each one of these 144,000. And this is when people will need almost one-on-one counselling if they are to come to know Jesus. Each congrega-

tion, 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 would be from all religions, nationalities and atheists from around the world. And going on today's worldly views, they will mostly be anti-Semitic.

Notice these 144,000 are from the twelve tribes of Israel. It is my belief they will have the task 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. Those from the tribe of Benjamin teaching others from the tribe of Benjamin, 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 the 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 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.

When Jesus was here on the earth, the Jews of that day were fearful of being kicked out of the Synagogue if they spoke out against the leaders of the Syna-

gogue. I can imagine it will be similar in these latter days. Even though some Jews are even now turning to Jesus, there will be many clinging to the old ways.

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 them, He has a ready-made priesthood to give comfort and guidance and to teach the way to God's Kingdom. Do not forget, they are regarded as priests now. It is, therefore, in my mind, their job to act like priests.

Why has God been teaching them and making them Priests, just to remove them from the earth when they 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 neighbourhood, your street, 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 to 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 Rev 1:4-6.

Greeting to the Seven Churches

*Rev 1:4 John, To the seven churches in the province of Asia:
Grace and peace to you from him who is, and who was, and
who is to come, and from the seven spirits before his throne,*

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

Rev 1:6 and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father—to him be glory and power for ever 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.

Jesus Sends Out the Twelve Apostles

Luk 9:1 When Jesus had called the Twelve together, he gave them power and authority to drive out all demons and to cure diseases,

Luk 9:2 and he sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God 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.

Other Ministers

Other Ministers

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 and surely shocked 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 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 led them into all truth.

Imminent Rapture

This chapter is taken from my book “What Is The Rapture”.

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, and I mean major** 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.

Conclusion

The theory of a pre-tribulation rapture is false and misleading. I hope the evidence I have presented here in this book is sufficient to convince you of this.

I hope you have gained something from this short book. The rapture is very complicated, and there are many differing versions on the subject. For a much more in-depth study on this subject, please read my book "What Is The Rapture". This book goes into great detail and with many scriptures to prove the truth about this complex prophecy.

May God bless us all richly.

About The Author

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 give his own informed decision. But still the most important reference is always the bible. There is no other authority for 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.

Although he has had no 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 grandchildren 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)

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