

The Rapture

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FOREWORD

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This is an open letter to all Christians concerning the Rapture.

The Church of Jesus Christ today must test every spirit and every word; each doctrine should be investigated. God, by His Spirit, which abides in us, will teach us and lead us into all truth (1 John 2:27). As we apply God's Word, the Bible, to any doctrine or spirit, we can test and see if it is of God (Hebrews 4:12, 1 John 4:1).

The Rapture has been getting much attention for generations, each generation preaching, "The Lord's return is near, even at the door." During WWII, many preached Hitler was the Antichrist, Mussolini the False Prophet, and that the end was near. Many books have been written teaching about the Rapture, and many more movies made, all teaching us that we are ready to be raptured before the Tribulation comes.

There are so many voices from different platforms, teaching Bible prophecy from TV ministries, books and pulpits around the world. It is critical for all believers to take the time and put in the effort to examine when the Rapture will happen.

In this letter, I am using and will quote from the R.S.V. Interlinear Greek, Nestle Greek Text, and the American Standard Bible, 1901 version.

CHAPTER ONE

The Word of God describes the Rapture event. “For the Lord Himself shall descend from Heaven, with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first; then we that are alive, that are left, shall together with them be caught up in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.” (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17) This is the “Rapture,” a joyous occasion and departure from this world. The question of importance is when?

Most Christians believe that books written by men have the same authority as the Word of God. Movies are believed to be Scripturally correct just because their pastor or leaders said it lined up with Bible prophecy. We all carefully read things in this life before we sign on the dotted line, yet we fail to prayerfully search the Scriptures to see if these teachings are of God.

Are we being set up to fail? If most Christians believed the Rapture was before the Tribulation and then it never happened, how many would become confused, lose faith and be as “unwise virgins” and be unprepared. As I write this letter, I am trying to warn anyone who will listen to prepare now while we have light, for the night is coming when no man can work. Persecution is coming; all believers will be tested; the warnings are clear. “Those that endure to the end, the same shall be saved.” The enemy has deceived the Church, and he has blessed us into a deep sleep, preparing us to a rude awakening. Let us settle it in our hearts: Are we willing to suffer for Jesus like the saints in Revelation. “And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb, and because of the word of their testimony; and they love not their life even unto death.” (Revelation 12:11)

This letter takes the position that “the Rapture takes place at the last trumpet, at the Return of Jesus to destroy the Antichrist and to set up His Kingdom.” The Church will go through the Tribulation. Now, let us look at some verses for this statement. (Please take the time and search the Scriptures as you follow along.)

2 Thessalonians was written by Paul to clarify what Paul taught in 1 Thessalonians. The Church at Thessalonica did not fully understand what Paul was teaching. They were, as Paul tells them, shaken in mind and troubled that the “Lord is just at hand.” They thought Jesus could come back at any moment. In 2 Thessalonians, Chapter 2, Paul tells them very clearly, “Let no man beguile you in any wise, for it will not be

except.” Then Paul gives the final steps and signs of the Rapture. We are being “beguiled” by men; we, like the Thessalonians, are shaken and troubled by every earthquake, plague, or war we hear about. When it passes, we wait for the next wave of earthly events to say yet again that the Lord’s return is near. Listen to Paul! Listen to God! “It will not be except.” Now, let us look at 2 Thessalonians, Chapter 2. It is a continuation of 1Thessalonians, Chapters 4 and 5.

The Apostle Paul gives signs concerning the Rapture.

2 Thessalonians 2:1 - “Now we beseech you, brethren, touching the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and our gathering together unto Him.”

This is definitely the Rapture, “our gathering together unto HIM;” Him being Jesus. Note also the “coming of our Lord” in 2 Thessalonians 2:2, “To the end that ye be not quickly shaken from your mind, nor yet be troubled, either by spirit, or by word, or by epistle as from us, as that the day of the Lord is just at hand.”

Verse 2 - Paul gives us a warning, “be not quickly shaken from your mind,” “by spirit” (even if it is prophesied by tongues and interpreted), “by word, or epistle as from us” (or any book or movie) “that the day of the Lord is just at hand.”

2 Thessalonians 2:3-4 - “Let no man beguile you in any wise: for it will not be, except the falling away come first, and the man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition, he that opposeth and exalteth himself against all that is called God or that is worshipped; so that he sitteth in the temple of God, setting himself forth as God.”

Verses 3 and 4 - Paul warns, “let no man beguile you.” (Remember, Satan beguiled Eve, the same word, beguiled, is used in Genesis 3:13, 1 Timothy 2:14.) Now the key is: “for it will not be, except the falling away come first, and the man of sin be revealed.” Also, note “he must sit in the temple of God setting himself forth as God.” Verse three states that the man of sin, the Antichrist has to be revealed and sit in the temple and proclaim himself to be God. That tells me the Rapture cannot be today or tomorrow because the temple of God is not even built yet. Some Christians, pastors also, go around and say maybe it is tonight, the Rapture could come any day now. We even have songs which say, “you’ve waited too long; the Son has come, and you’ve been left behind.” God is not out to trick us - maybe today, maybe tomorrow. He is very clear. There are definite signs that He gives us. (For we are not children of darkness but the children of light. 1 Thessalonians 5:4-8) Here are the first signs that the Rapture is imminent:

1. A falling away
2. Revelation of the Antichrist
3. Sitting in the temple
4. Proclaiming himself to be God

Let us continue with Chapter 2, verses 5, 6, 7. Verse 5, Paul has to remind them and even us that these are the signs of His coming. Verse 6, “And now ye know that which restraineth, (this is the Holy Spirit) to the end that he may be revealed in his season” (he, here is the Antichrist). Verse 7, “For the mystery of lawlessness doth already work: only there is one that restraineth now, until he be taken out of the way.” The Holy Spirit is preventing the Antichrist’s revelation so the “one who restrained now, until he be taken out of the way.” Many Christians feel that this verse is proof enough to explain the pre-Tribulation Rapture, but let us look at it again - especially in light of verses 1 to 5 of Chapter 2. First, the Holy Spirit is not going very far; HE is going to be taken out of the way to allow Satan to work, but not out of the world as some teach. If the Holy Spirit was taken out of the world, no longer could anyone be saved since Jesus said, “No man comes unto Me, unless the Father draws him.” The Spirit is the convicting force of sin, and He bears witness to Jesus. If He is not here, no one could be saved during the Tribulation. But in Revelation 7, there are 144,000 Jews who are saved and sealed (Revelation 7:4) after the sixth seal, which is near the return of the Lord. The word sealed is used in reference to the Holy Spirit (2 Corinthians 1:22, Ephesians 1:13 and 4:30). So, we see the Spirit is still active during the Tribulation. In Chapter 7 of Revelation, Verse 9, we read:

“After these things I saw, and behold, a great multitude, which no man could number, out of every nation and of all tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, arrayed in white robes, and palms in their hands.”

Verse 14 tells us who they are (read verses 9 through 14 of Chapter 7).

“...These are they that come out of the great tribulation, and they washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.”

This verse states they came out of the great tribulation, not before it, showing the Spirit is here during the Tribulation. If we Christians are going to be here to see the revelation of the Antichrist, and him sitting on the throne and proclaiming himself to be God, that

proves the Antichrist and the Holy Spirit who is in us will be on earth at the same time (2 Thessalonians 2:3-4). Yes, the Holy Spirit will be taken out of the way, but not out of the world.

CHAPTER TWO

The next set of verses is 1 Corinthians 15:50 through 58.

Verse 51: "Behold, I tell you a mystery: we all shall not sleep, but we shall all be changed." Verse 51 is clearly the Rapture. Paul is showing a mystery here. For Verse 52, we need a literal Greek. I used the RSV Interlinear Greek, Nestle Greek Text. If possible, get a Greek Bible and follow.

Verse 52: "In a moment, in a glance of an eye, at the last trumpet: for a trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed." The key here is the Rapture taking place at the last trumpet (not trump, as most Bibles have). Remember this key point - the last trumpet.

Verses 53 and 54 shed no light on when, but at the end of Verse 54, there is a statement, "Death is swallowed up in victory." This Scripture is found in the Book of Isaiah, Chapter 25, Verse 8. If we read Chapters 25 and 26 (note also Chapter 24), it is definitely an end-time prophecy. Note verse 7 of Chapter 25, "And He will destroy in this mountain the face of the covering that covereth all peoples, and the veil that is spread over all nations." Also, Verses 8 and 9 of Chapter 25 prove it is an end-time prophecy. But, let us look at the entire verse, which contains the statement, "Death is swallowed up in victory."

Verse 8 reads, "He hath swallowed up death forever; and the Lord Jehovah will wipe away tears from off all faces; and the reproach of His people will He take away from off all the earth; for Jehovah hath spoken it."

During the Tribulation, the Jewish nation is going to have a great reproach, especially from the Antichrist. How could this Scripture quoted in Isaiah be referring to before the Tribulation - it is only after the Tribulation that the reproach of Israel is removed. Yet, Paul in 1 Corinthians 15:54 quotes this verse in connection with the Rapture - "then shall come to pass the saying that is written, death is swallowed up in victory." So, we see these things again about the Rapture.

1. At the last trumpet
2. When there is no longer a reproach on Israel

Let us go on to the next set of verses.

1 Thessalonians 4:15, “For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we that are alive, that are left unto the coming of the Lord, shall in no wise precede them that are fallen asleep.” First, this is the word of the Lord. Paul received this revelation from Jesus. Note that it is only my opinion that the verse indicates persecution. “That we that are alive, that are left,” I have no proof; so, I will not use it in the final analysis.

1 Thessalonians 4:16 (from the Greek Bible) “The Lord Himself with a word of command, with a voice of an archangel and with a trumpet of God, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise again first.” Again, we see the trumpet, and now we see more light; an archangel in connection with the trumpet and a word of command.

1. Word of command
2. Voice of an archangel
3. The word trumpet (the Rapture is always mentioned in connection with a trumpet.)

Soon all these verses will tie in. The next set of verses is from the Gospel of Matthew, Chapter 24, verses 15 through 44. (PLEASE READ)

I believe Verse 15 starts the Tribulation because of Verse 21, which states, “for then shall be great tribulation, such as hath not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, nor ever shall be.” This then is the Great Tribulation started by the abomination desolation standing in the Holy Place. My opinion is this is the Antichrist in the temple proclaiming himself to be God. (2 Thessalonians 2: 3-4)

Matthew 24:29, “But immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken.”

Now, it is after the tribulation. This verse shows that the tribulation is over. It is very important to see this point. Then, Jesus gives certain signs.

Matthew 24:31,s “And he shall send forth his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.”

This verse shows so much. It proves the saints (elect - 1 Peter 2:9, 2 Timothy 2:10 - we are the elect). God’s children will be alive after the Tribulation on earth, which means the Holy Spirit will be here also. Again, we see the trumpet, and in connection with a gathering (1 Corinthians 15:52, 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17). We see more light on how we are to be gathered by angels - also note Revelation 8:6, which proves angels are given

trumpets to sound. Verses 30 through 44 of Matthew 24 are after the Tribulation. In verses 40 and 41 are the well-quoted Scriptures, "Then shall two men be in the field; one is taken, and one is left: two women shall be grinding at the mill; one is taken, and one is left." This entire chapter is in order, and these two verses, 40 and 41, are after the Tribulation, not before. To say that Verses 40 and 41 occur before Verse 29, which is the end of the Tribulation would not be sound thinking.

Also, in the Gospel of Mark, Chapter 13, Verses 24 through 27, "But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall be falling from heaven, and the powers that are in the heavens shall be shaken. And then shall they see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. And then shall He send forth the angels, and shall gather together His elect from the four winds, from the uttermost part of the earth to the uttermost part of heaven."

So, these three points can be made:

1. Christians (God's elect) will be here during and after the Tribulation.
2. Angels will gather them. Also, we see the trumpet as the signal for this gathering. (Matthew 24:31 and 2 Thessalonians 2:1)
3. Verses that teach us about the Rapture all occur after the Tribulation is over. (Matthew 24:29, Mark 13:24)

It is very clear to any unbiased reader, one who wants to be taught by God through His Word, that the Tribulation is over when Jesus returns to rapture His Church. Verses 40 and 41 of Matthew 24 are constantly used by preachers and teachers of God's Word to refer to the Rapture. I agree, but they are after the Tribulation is over, not before.

CHAPTER THREE

Let us look now at 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11. Here are verses taught by many that prove we are not going to be here during the Tribulation. They say, "For God appointed us not unto wrath, but unto the obtaining of salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ." (Verse 9) So they say, since the Tribulation is the wrath of God, we will not be here. It sounds good, and I would even like to believe it, but it holds no truth. First, every apostle was martyred but John, and Christians have been persecuted since Stephen was stoned; centuries of persecution - only in America can Christians boast of such easy living. That is why we miss so much from God. We have God and the pleasures of life also. God forbid we had to suffer like our Russian brothers and sisters, African missionaries, and many other Christians throughout the world. God's wrath is not on them. It is Satan's wrath and God's salvation. During the Tribulation, God's wrath will be on the kingdom of the Antichrist (Revelation 9:4, 16:2, and 16:10), not on us. As when God's wrath was upon the land of Pharaoh and the entire land was plagued so that every green thing and all cattle were destroyed. Yet in Goshen, where God's people were, there were no plagues. God's wrath was poured out on Egypt and all the land was smitten, but God's people who dwelt in the land were safe. (Exodus 8:22-23, "And I will set apart in that day the land of Goshen in which my people dwell, that no swarms of flies shall be there; to the end thou mayest know that I am Jehovah in the midst of the earth. And I will put a division between my people and thy people: by tomorrow shall this sign be.") His salvation is what we are destined for. Satan's wrath will be on us - that is why we are told so many times that those who endure to the end, the same shall be saved. Let us look in Revelation and see whose wrath is on whom (Revelation 13 - the Antichrist chapter, Satan incarnate). In Revelation 13:10, it says, "here is the patience and faith of the saints." Saints are Christians.

In Revelation 14:12-13, "Here is the patience of the saints, they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus. And I heard a voice from heaven saying, Write, Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from henceforth." Revelation 13:7, "And it was given unto him (the Antichrist) to make war with the saints, and to overcome them." It is Satan's war on God's people, his wrath (Satan's), our patience and faith. We have to see this. Yes, we are to obtain salvation, but suffer we all will. In Revelation 16:15, we read: "Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame."

Here we are in the battle of Har-Magedon, and we still see that Jesus is coming as a thief. Revelation 1 says, “every eye shall see Him.” That is not a thief, yet in Revelation 16, He is still coming as a thief in the night (1 Thessalonians 5:2). If Jesus raptured the Church before the Tribulation, how could He still come as a thief? Everyone on earth would know; yet here in Revelation 16, He is coming as a thief in the night. Remember, there are Christians here, and he is talking with Christians for he says, “Blessed is he that watcheth and keepeth his garments.” This warning is throughout the Bible (Matthew 24:42-44, Matthew 24:46, Matthew 25:13, Mark 13:35-37, Luke 21:34-36). Yet in Revelation 16, we are still told to watch and keep our garments. God’s wrath is poured out in the Tribulation on the kingdom of the Antichrist. God’s people will escape all these things. Many will die and escape (Revelation 14:13). Others will live through this period - through suffering yes, through persecution yes, but like Paul who was delivered from the hand of death, God will deliver us (2 Corinthians 1:10). All of our forefathers suffered; we are no different. Let us all say as in Revelation 12:11, “and they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb, and because of the word of their testimony: and they loved not their life, even unto death.”

Let us look at some other verses which will tie in all I have said, but first, we must see these points:

1. First, there will be a falling away (2 Thessalonians 2:3)
2. Revelation of the Antichrist (2 Thessalonians 2:3)
3. Antichrist sitting in the temple (2 Thessalonians 2:4)
4. Antichrist proclaiming himself to be God (2 Thessalonians 2:4)
5. Saints are here during and after the Tribulation. Also, the Holy Spirit is active during and after the Tribulation. (Revelation 13:10, Matthew 24:31, elect)
6. Rapture at the last trumpet (1 Corinthians 15:52 - Greek)
7. When there is no longer a reproach on Israel (Isaiah 25:8)
8. A word of command (1 Thessalonians 4:16)
9. Voice of an archangel (1 Thessalonians 4:16)
Gathered by angels (Matthew 24:31, Mark 13:27)
10. The Rapture is after the Tribulation (Matthew 24:29, Mark 13:24)
11. He is coming as a thief, and we are in Revelation 16, almost at the end of the Book of Revelation.

These are some of the key verses concerning the Rapture. Now, I hope to tie in the last trumpet of 1 Corinthians 15:52 (also, the trumpet in 1 Thessalonians 4:16, Matthew 24:31) to the seven trumpets in the book of Revelation. In Revelation 9:13, the sixth

angel sounds his trumpet, and it looks like the great Chinese army. Twice ten-thousand x ten-thousand (verse 16) and the gathering of the nations for the battle of Har-Magedon. The river Euphrates is mentioned, as in the sixth Bowl of Wrath (Revelation 16:12), which leads into the battle of Har-Magedon (Revelation 16:16). All these verses must be read in order to follow along. In Revelation 10, in between the sixth Trumpet and the seventh, we see something precious. In Revelation 10:7, we read, "but in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he is about to sound, then is finished the mystery of God, according to the good tidings which he declared to his servants the prophets." In 1 Corinthians 15:51, Paul tells the Corinthians, "Behold, I tell you a mystery." In Revelation 10:7, all mysteries of God are finished. If the Rapture was before the Tribulation, would there be any mysteries?

Also, in Revelation 10:6, the last few words read, "...That there should be time (delay) no longer." Did not Jesus say in the Gospel of John, Chapter 6, Verse 39, "And this is the will of Him that sent Me, that of all that which He hath given Me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up at the last day." Jesus says here He will raise up His children on the last day. If the Rapture was in the beginning of the Tribulation, He would not raise His children on the last day for time would still be. But here in Revelation 10:6, "Time is no more" as the seventh angel is about to sound, meaning this is the last day. Let us now see what happens when the seventh angel sounds. REMEMBER 1 Corinthians 15:52, "At the last Trumpet for the Trumpet shall sound." (Greek Bible) Revelation 11:15, "And the seventh angel sounded; and there followed great voices in heaven, and they said, The kingdom of the world is become the kingdom of our Lord, and of His Christ: and He shall reign forever and ever."

The kingdoms of this world become Christ's, and we are raptured to be glorified and then return with Him. Redeemed Christians come back with Jesus. In Revelation 19:7, the last part states, "... for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and His wife (the Church) hath made herself ready." If we were already in heaven, as some Rapture teachers insist, would he say in Revelation 19, "the marriage of the Lamb is come?" No, it would read had come or a past tense verb - but it is present tense, is come. Then the great wrath of the Lamb is poured out, not on us for we return with Him (read the entire chapter of Revelation 19), and then all nations are smitten. Some pre-Tribulation teachers say "unprepared" Christians will be here after the Rapture and during the Tribulation, and that is why there are so many references to saints throughout the Book of Revelation. Let me ask you a question. After Noah entered the ark, was anyone else given a second chance? Or, when Lot and his family left Sodom and Gomorrah, did anyone else in the city get a second chance? Or did his wife get another chance to repent after she looked back? Yet Jesus used these examples in connection with the

Rapture. Matthew 24:37-39, "And as were the days of Noah, so shall be the coming of the Son of Man." Matthew 24:40 is the Rapture. Luke 17:28-30, "Likewise even as it came to pass in the days of Lot; they ate, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; but in the day that Lot went out from Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all: after the same manner shall it be in the day that the Son of Man is revealed." (Please read verses 31-37. Verse 34 is the Rapture.)

In the parable of the ten virgins (Matthew 25:1-13) when the five unwise and "unprepared" sought to enter in with the bridegroom - what was His (Jesus's) answer? Verse 12 reads, "Verily, I say unto you, I know you not." You do not say to a son or daughter, "I know you not." This apple pie in the sky teaching that we will have a second chance if we do not make the Rapture during the Tribulation is not of God... Some even say only if we die and shed our own blood. Since when does God recognize anything else but the blood of the spotless Lamb? I do not care how many times you kill yourself; Jesus's blood takes away the sin of the world, not ours.

Now, let us look at Daniel 11:36-45 (please read). He is talking about the Antichrist. As we go into Daniel 12, everything is in order. The events from Chapter 11 to Chapter 12 are in order. In the second half of Daniel 12:1, we read, "... and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered." This is the Tribulation, a look at it from Israel instead of the world as in Revelation. But note Daniel 12:2, "And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt."

This is the Rapture. Only two times do the dead rise: once at the Rapture, the other at the Great White Throne Judgement, and there for non-believers only. But here in Daniel 12:2, we have "some to everlasting life." The only point here is Chapter 12 is after the Antichrist has destroyed the world (Daniel 11:36-45) and not before.

Many teach that Luke Chapter 21, verse 36 proves that we are not going to be here during the Tribulation. "But watch ye at every season, making supplication, that ye may prevail to escape all these things that shall come to pass and to stand before the Son of Man." Jeremiah experienced all the wrath of God upon Israel. He was trapped in Jerusalem as the judgements of God fell upon the city. Famine, pestilence, war, and death, yet Jeremiah escaped all these judgements to again stand before God and be a prophet for the people. Jeremiah was not taken out of the world, but God's grace brought him through, and God's grace will also bring us through the Tribulation. Many

quote this verse and say, 'see, we are going to escape all these things.' Again, the trick of the enemy is to leave out words in Scripture. It is like me quoting Romans 8:28, "All things work together for good." What? "To them that love God and are called according to His will;" that makes a world of a difference. Only to those that love God and are called according to His will, not everyone. So, here we see one important word, prevail - "that ye may prevail to escape all these things." The word prevail denotes a struggle, a fight to succeed; there is no struggle in a pre-Tribulation Rapture. This Scripture, to me at least, confirms that Jesus means to prepare yourself, to watch, and to pray - so you will succeed to stand before the Son. In Revelation 3:10, we read, "Because thou didst keep the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of trial (or temptation), that hour which is to come upon the whole world, to try (or tempt) them that dwell upon the earth."

Christians say, "SEE! Jesus will keep us from the hour of trial, so that means we are raptured before the Tribulation." Throughout the entire Bible, God's pattern has been to take His people through - through the fire, through the waters, through famine, through pestilence, and through whatever the world or Satan can throw at us. Again, nowhere in Scripture does keep from mean take away from, but let us look at the next two verses. In Verse 11 of Revelation 3, Jesus says, "I come quickly." HE has not come yet, but soon. "Hold fast that which thou hast, that no one take thy crown." Jesus here gives us a warning - "hold fast" - fight, so you do not lose your crown. In Verse 12, we read: "He that overcometh, I will make him a pillar in the temple of my God, ..."

Only the overcomers will be blessed. If we are raptured from the hour of trial, what do we have to overcome, or, how could we lose our crown? These warnings are to endure through something difficult, not to escape. One last point, many Christians say Jesus's coming is two-fold: as a thief for the Church, and a judge for the world, two comings, not one. One at the beginning of the Tribulation (The Rapture) for the Church, and one at the end of the Tribulation to judge the world. Remember, a thief for the Church and a judge for the world. "Every eye shall see him." This was dealt in this letter, but I will go over it again. In Matthew Chapter 24, verses 15 to 42, in verse 21, "the great tribulation" (please read), everything is in order. Jesus tells about false prophets (verse 24) coming as lightning from east to west, then in verse 29, it is after the Tribulation. The chapter continues in order, verse 31, "He shall send forth His angels with a great sound of a Trumpet and they shall gather..." (2 Thessalonians 2:1, "are gathering together unto Him"). Jesus goes on to give parables of this event, "The Fig Tree," "Like Noah" (verse 37) and in verses 40 to 42, He gives us the Rapture. Jesus says in verse 42, "Watch therefore for ye know not on what day your Lord cometh." Jesus is still coming here as a thief and this is after the Tribulation. Verse 29 ends the Tribulation, and everything

mentioned after it are signs of His coming and the Rapture. Sure, He is coming as a thief - who on earth except prepared Christians would be expecting Him. When He does come, it is too late for the world. They have accepted the Antichrist. They all flee from His presence and ask the rocks to hide them, for "every eye shall see Him, and they that pierced Him; and all the tribes of the earth shall mourn over Him." (Revelation 1:7). But in a twinkling of an eye, we are caught up. There is nowhere to be found in Scripture which could prove that verses 40 to 42 of Matthew 24 (referring to the Rapture) will occur before verse 29 (the end of the Tribulation). In Revelation 16, at the height of the battle of Har-Magedon, verse 14 the last seven words read, "the great day of God, the Almighty." Verse 15 reads, "BEHOLD, I COME AS A THIEF. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame." Here, we are in the battle of Har-Magedon, and Jesus is coming as a thief. Christians say He is coming for the Church as a thief. I agree, but we are at the end of the Tribulation in Revelation 16 and not at the beginning. Also, Jesus is talking to Christians, "Watch and keep your garments." Then the seventh angel poured out his bowl and said, "it is done." In verse 17, notice the seventh trumpet and the seventh bowl have a connection. At the seventh Trumpet, "time is no more." And all mysteries of God are finished (Revelations 10), when the seventh bowl is poured, "it is done" (completeness); both end all things. Also, in the 19th Chapter of Revelation, we have the marriage of the Lamb and His wife, Jesus and us (verse 7); then after the marriage (verses 11 to 21) the return of Jesus with us. Both of these events are in the same chapter, both are near one another. To say there is a seven-year lapse between verses 6 to 10 and 11 to 21 would be just plain guessing. There is a flow throughout this chapter, our wedding and His return are the same event, not two events seven years apart.

In 2 Peter 3:1-12, verse 10 reads, "But the day of the Lord will come as a thief; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall be dissolved with fervent heat, and the earth and the works that are therein shall be burned up. 11 Seeing that these things are thus all to be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy living and godliness, 12 looking for and earnestly desiring the coming of the day of God, by reason of which the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat." Here, Peter says the day of the Lord will come as a thief (remember, He is coming for the Church as a thief). Let us look at what Peter says when Jesus does come as a thief. Verse 10 of 2 Peter, Chapter 3, "the heavens shall pass away with a great noise."

(Matthew 24:35, Isaiah 34:4) Now, this is definitely at the end of the Tribulation. Verse 12 of 2 Peter, Chapter 3 tells us to look for and earnestly desire the coming of the day of

God, by reason of which “the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved.” Now, if we are raptured before the Tribulation, how could we earnestly desire this day? How could we look for this day unless we are on earth? If we were raptured, we would not have to look for or desire this day. We would already be enjoying it and have our desires. Peter says that on this day “heavens will dissolve.” This, my brothers, is after the Tribulation. There is no way that this coming could be before the Tribulation; yet, Peter talking to Christians wants them to look for this coming of God in this way. Brothers, there is only one coming but two-fold, a thief for the ready (prepared), a judge for the unprepared and the sinner. How can men of God preach so definitely - that it is a Pre-Tribulation Rapture. At least, there should be an air of uncertainty or a shade of doubt.

It is my prayer that you will let the Scriptures speak to your heart. The Church will go through the Tribulation, and the true saints who are lovers of Jesus will come out to be raptured and ever be with the Lord. To be troubled every time there are wars, famines, earthquakes, pestilences is not the will of God for our lives. To use worldly events to teach the coming of the Lord is wrong. The Bible, God’s Word, gives us great light that the child of God will be equipped to know the “signs of the times.” In the Gospel of John, verse 17 of Chapter 7 reads, “If any man willeth to do His will, he shall know of the teaching, whether it is of God, or whether I speak from Myself.” Jesus did not worry about making people see whether His teachings were of God or not. I cannot make anyone see the teaching about the Rapture. For eyes that see and ears that hear come from God.

I leave the whole matter between you and God.

Thank you!

Your Brother in Christ

