

## *My Notes On The Pre-Tribulation Rapture*

The term "Rapture" comes from the Latin verb *raptare*, and the Greek word *harpazo*, both meaning "to be caught up". For those who claim that the idea of the Rapture began with Margaret McDonald in the 1800's, the Old Testament verses below discuss the Rapture of true believers, when the Church was still a "mystery"! Both Jesus and His Apostles, and the Church taught the pre-tribulation rapture.

Your dead will live; their corpses will rise. You who lie in the dust, awake and shout for joy, for your dew is as the dew of the dawn, and the earth will give birth to the departed spirits. Come, my people, enter into your rooms and close your doors behind you; hide for a little while until indignation runs its course. For behold, the Lord is about to come out from His place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity; and the earth will reveal her bloodshed and will no longer cover her slain. Isaiah 26:19-21

The righteous man perishes, and no man takes it to heart; and devout men are taken away, while no one understands for the righteous man is taken away from evil, he enters into peace; they rest in their beds, each one who walked in his upright way. Isaiah 57:1-2

Seek the Lord, all you humble of the earth who have carried out His ordinances; seek righteousness, seek humility. Perhaps you will be hidden in the day of the Lord's anger. Zephaniah 2:3

"Be on guard, so that your hearts will not be weighted down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of life, and that day will not come on you suddenly like a trap; for it will come upon all those who dwell on the face of all the earth. "But keep on the alert at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are about to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man." Lk. 21:34-36

"Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also. John 14:1-3

\*Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him. Romans 5:9

Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality. But when this perishable will have put on the imperishable, and this mortal will have put on immortality, then will come about the saying that is written, "Death is swallowed up in victory. "O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?" The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law; but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Corinthians 15:51-57

...and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, that is Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath to come. 1 Thessalonians 1:10

But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, so that you will not grieve as do the rest who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus. For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and

with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words. 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

For God has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep, we will live together with Him. Therefore encourage one another and build up one another, just as you also are doing. 1 Thessalonians 5:9-11

Now we request you, brethren, with regard to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, that you not be quickly shaken from your composure or be disturbed either by a spirit or a message or a letter as if from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come. Let no one in any way deceive you, for it will not come unless the apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God. Do you not remember that while I was still with you, I was telling you these things? And you know what restrains him now, so that in his time he will be revealed. For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only he who now restrains will do so until he is taken out of the way. Then that lawless one will be revealed whom the Lord will slay with the breath of His mouth and bring to an end by the appearance of His coming; 2 Thessalonians 2:1-8

Because you have kept the word of My perseverance, I also will keep you from the hour of testing, that hour which is about to come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth. Revelation 3:10

The Lord will meet the saints in the air for the first phase (the pre-tribulation rapture) of the second coming, and at the end of the tribulation His feet will split Mt of Olives as He defeats the anti-christ system (Zech. 14:4). There will be no rapture at that time because Jesus remains on the earth in preparation for the Millennial Reign. However, there is a resurrection at that time, when Jesus hails His angels to gather all the elect who died for Him during the Tribulation period.

Pre-Trib Rapture suggests a "known time" and an "unknown time", in that we are told we cannot know the day and the hour of Christ's Second Coming. However, the Bible gives us clear indications that there are two separate phases of His "Second Coming", due to the fact that His "physical" Second Coming will occur exactly so many days, so many months, so many years, after a certain event(s), as shown in the Scriptures below.

**1,260 days:**

"And I will grant authority to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for twelve hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth." Revelation 11:3

Then the woman fled into the wilderness where she had a place prepared by God, so that there she would be nourished for one thousand two hundred and sixty days. Revelation 12:6

**1,290 days:**

"From the time that the regular sacrifice is abolished and the abomination of desolation is set up, there will be 1,290 days. Daniel 12:11

**42 months:**

"Leave out the court which is outside the temple and do not measure it, for it has been given to the nations; and they will tread under foot the holy city for forty-two months. Revelation 11:2

There was given to him a mouth speaking arrogant words and blasphemies, and authority to act for forty-two months was given to him. Revelation 13:5

**3.5 years (time, times, half a time / in the midst of the week):**

But the two wings of the great eagle were given to the woman, so that she could fly into the wilderness to her place, where she was nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the presence of the serpent. Revelation 12:14

He will speak out against the Most High and wear down the saints of the Highest One, and he will intend to make alterations in times and in law; and they will be given into his hand for a time, times, and half a time. Daniel 7:25

And he will make a firm covenant with the many for one week, but in the middle of the week he will put a stop to sacrifice and grain offering; and on the wing of abominations will come one who makes desolate, even until a complete destruction, one that is decreed, is poured out on the one who makes desolate. Daniel 9:27

\*". . .*saved from the wrath. . .*" – This very controversial statement is cause for untold deception within the Church of Jesus. We must remember that Jesus taught that "because men hated Him, they will also hate those who follow after Him. We must, as Christians, always be willing to give our lives for the cause of Christ. But, on the other hand, the tribulation years is a time on the earth that no man has ever seen before and will never see again – once the 7 years close.

It should be a crime for God's people to even consider weighing out the terrors that will enter into this time of Tribulation!

**God's Grace for His own:**

God told Israel, "I change not." and, "Jesus the same yesterday, today and forever."(Mal. 3:6; Heb. 13:8)

Because God never changes, we know we can know His characteristics. Therefore, we understand that, though He judges and punishes us for unforgiven sin, our God has never thrown in the knife and destroyed His own people who chose to live for Him all their days. Here's two examples we can adhere to:

God spared Noah and family from the devastating flood because they loved Him (Gen. 7:1)

God spared His people while judging the Pharaoh's nation, Egypt. (Exodus 12)

Can you think of more?

What's God Thinking? Why on earth is He doing this "tribulation" thing.

*First*, it's designed to strongly encourage the Nation of Israel to come to Himself, and to enforce the plan of the ages for these people. Daniel saw the Seventy Weeks of seven years (490 years) in a vision God gave to him. In condensing the vision, sixty-nine of the seventy were dedicated to Israel, was completed with the first coming of Jesus, leaving one week of seven years.

Then, the final seven weeks of years was to be manifest at a later time in history, leaving out the entire Church Age. Even the Old Testament Prophets could not see the Church age. They never prophesied a thing from the resurrection of Jesus through the Church Age – only the miracles, and spiritual gifts. Abraham saw the New Jerusalem, a city with foundations, whose builder and maker was God., but he did not see the Church. David saw his eternity with the Lord, but couldn't see the Church either! (Psa. 23:6; Heb.11:10)

The first sixty-nine weeks of years (490) years was fully dedicated to God's judgments and ministries to the Israelites. The final one week (7 years) would be delayed till the end of the Church age (times of the Gentiles). At that time, God will continue to deal specifically with the salvation of His own people, and to separate all those who will never, under any circumstance, make a decision for Christ from those who will. He will separate the reprobate from those who choose to reject the mark of the beast in order that they might win the crown of a martyr for Jesus Christ.

*Second*, since there are millions alive today who are headed for the Tribulation period simply because they continue to "put salvation off"; a number impossible for man to count, will come to Christ during the Tribulation period, having—during the Church Age—failed to see the truth in Who Christ Jesus is.

**NOTE:** That's the exact reason those choosing Christ during the Tribulation, are not a part of the Bride of Christ! The Bride of Christ was chosen by The Father. We (church) therefore chose to serve Him for the remainder of our lives. Though we are weak, and fail often, if we will humble ourselves and pray and seek His face, we will remain (as individuals) His precious bride!

*Third*, Jesus desires that all men come to Him, and He understands it will take extreme actions to bring as many to Him that would ever have a heart after Him. There are a total of 21 judgments. During and between each of these judgments, God gives mankind time to choose Him by choosing to die for Him. That's choosing Life – and worthy of reward!

- A. His angels fly through the skies preaching the gospel over the earth – for all to come.
- B. The Two witnesses who are to minister the gospel of Christ around the world 3½ years.
- C. The 144,000 witnesses preach the gospel around the world.
- D. Those who come to Jesus during the Great Tribulation Period will testify (Revelation 12:11,12<sup>1</sup>).

What about the Marriage Supper of the Lamb? When? Where?

See my article/s on *Church Alive* and *Tom's Page Index*; [www.christsbondservants.org](http://www.christsbondservants.org)

Does the book of Revelation reveal to us the answers?

Jesus gave to John the Revelation of this age and the future. He promised a special blessing to all who reads and hears the words of this Prophecy. Jesus told John to write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this. That means...

- A. "...the things which you have seen..." – Jesus meant everything up to this point, to include the entire Church Age and her supernatural ministries.
- B. "...the things which are..." – (Revelation 1)

Jesus wanted John to write everything about the vision taking place at the time he received the Revelation of Jesus Christ, even though this vision, to John, was the distant future.

- C. "...the things which will take place after this." (Revelation 2, 3)

Still in the vision, John saw the grievous messages to the seven churches of Asia. These churches are those of both specific ages, and each one also may have characteristics of each age since her birth on the day of Pentecost. But what, exactly do we see here.

I believe Jesus is in the same "state" He was that day of the festival when He cried out, "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, [thou] that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how

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<sup>1</sup> Revelation 12:12—Note this. The raptured church is rejoicing in heaven; but "woe to the inhabitants of the earth".

often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under [her] wings, and ye would not! Matthew 23:37

I can, in my spirit, our Lord's broken hearted plea for Jerusalem to come to Himself! Imagine, if you will, Jesus standing on a large stone with tears in His eyes and a wailing cry for His Church – the one that has today turned her back on Him and gone their own way...

"O America, America, [thou] that killest the children, and hate them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under [her] wings, and ye would not! Matthew 23:37

Every single part of the body of Christ – even those who have turned from Him and gone their own way – remains right now in the Church Age, the day of grace. Therefore, it's still not too late. He's crying out to every entity that has ever claimed His name – to return to Him in godly repentance, before its too late!

That's right! The very next event in the Book of Revelation is Christ Jesus crying out to the Church Age! He's crying out to the nations right now. Though it was prophetic 2,000 years ago – Jesus is weeping because of His Church – this hour.

When Jesus told John to write these things down which will take place after this, the revelation continued into Revelation, chapter four, where the Church Age ends and the Church is called into the Kingdom of the Lord in Heaven. At this time, we will see that the repentant Church has been raptured.

Does the Book of Revelation Teach a Pre-Tribulation rapture?

*"...before me was a door standing open in heaven." Revelation 3:7-12*

Also, Revelation 4:1,2. And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth; I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name.

**NOTE** [see Isaiah 22:22] – The burden against the valley of vision. The story of Shebna's downfall and Eliakim's advancement as prince of the House of David; that Eliakim should be put into Shebna's place of lord - chamberlain of the household, lord - treasurer, and prime-minister of state. The prophet must tell Shebna this, v. 21. "He shall have thy robe, the badge of honour, and thy girdle, the badge of power; for he shall have thy government." Of Shebna, God said, "I will clothe him; and then it follows, I will strengthen him."

Eliakim's advancement is further described by the laying of the key of the house of David upon his shoulders, v. 22. Probably he carried a golden key upon his shoulder as a badge of his office, or had one embroidered upon his cloak or robe, to which this alludes. Being over the house, and having the key delivered to him, as the seals are to the lord-keeper, he shall open and none shall shut, shut and none shall open.

He had access to the house of the precious things, the silver, and the gold, and the spices; and to the house of the armor and the treasures (ch.34: 2), and disposed of the stores there as he thought fit for the public service. He put whom he pleased into the inferior offices and turned out whom he pleased.

Our Lord Jesus describes his own power as Mediator by an allusion to this (Rev. iii. 7), that he has the key of David, wherewith he opens and no man shuts, he shuts and no man opens. His power in the kingdom of heaven, and in the ordering of all the affairs of that kingdom, is absolute, irresistible, and uncontrollable. 2. That he should be fixed and confirmed in that office. He shall have it for life, and

during pleasure (v. 23): I will fasten him as a nail in a sure place, not to be removed or cut down. (End note)

The Key of David...Is this the same Key Jesus mentioned in Revelation 1:18? I believe it is. You Answer.

Now, follow closely and you'll see the fulfillment of Isaiah 22: [To the Church in Philadelphia] "To the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: These are the words of him who is holy and true, who holds the key of David. What he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open." Revelation 3:6-8

Because the Church at Philadelphia was precious in Christ's eyes, He was inviting this Church to enter into the Kingdom of the Lord, immediately prior to the Tribulation Period.

Then, in Revelation 4, The vision continues when John stated "After these things.." (Remember that in Revelation 1, Jesus ordered John to write the things which you have seen, the things which are, and the things which will take place after this."

**NOTE:** Jesus was relaying to John that "after these things.." would denote a great change in events coming in the future. Eliakim became a prince forevermore, with all the glories of righteousness pinned on him. He was to remain in the House of David – with the supernatural Key of David! This is typical of living in the Kingdom of the Lord!

**Then....**

Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee. Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.

Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown (given in Heaven after the rapture).

Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name.

Sounds suspiciously like the Key of David in the Book of Isaiah, hum.

And look! It is also repeated here in Chapter four. We have enough Biblical information so that we no longer must guess and inquire as to what is intended here. The door opened in Heaven is exactly what you are thinking at this time. Its time for the blast of the shofar (trumpet) when the Father will nudge His Son and say, "It's time. Bring into My Kingdom all those who have sought after me, and who continued in Me as overcomers. Now, angel, blow that trumpet!"

How do we describe those who were raptured at the end of the Church age? – Revelation 4:1-4

After this I looked, and, behold, a door [was] opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard [was] as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter.

“And immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and [one] sat on the throne. And he that sat was to look upon like a jasper and a sardine stone: and [there was] a rainbow round about the throne, in sight like unto an emerald. And round about the throne [were] four and twenty seats: and upon the seats I saw four and twenty elders sitting, clothed in white raiment; and they had on their heads crowns of gold.” (Rev 4:1-4)

So, how are the raptured saints described in Revelation?

Twelve elders are the saints who have been raptured from the Old Testament tribes, and will be guests at the Marriage supper in Heaven during the Tribulation; and the other 12 elders make up the supernaturally raptured Church of Jesus Christ.

Twenty-four elders all clothed in white raiment around the throne of Jesus. "and they had on their heads crown of gold"

"Could these be angels?" "No."

"Could they be the beasts worshiping and crying out, Holy, Holy, Holy?" "No."

"Who could they be, then?" "Maybe they are the Old Testament saints?"

"No, once more. No."

"Well, I know they're not the Old Testament saints, because they, like the Tribulation saints, are not part of the bride of Christ, though they will be invited as guests."

"I know! They must be the Pre-Tribulation saints. They are mentioned in heaven a number of times by the book of Revelation."

"Yes. That's who they are!"

**NOTE:** These saints have been clothed with pure white, blood-washed clothes, and they have their crowns of gold. Remember, Jesus told the church at Philadelphia to be careful that they don't lose their crowns.

Where else are these 24 elders found in the book of Revelation?

They are always found around the throne of Jesus, taking their honeymoon. They are awaiting till all the martyred Tribulation saints arrive. At that time, the Marriage Supper of the Lamb will be held, with the OT saints and the Tribulation saints being guests. Afterward, the saints (millions – more than man can number) will mount white horses And take a ride with their Master Who will have that sword in His teeth, and a new name that no one knows – but Himself.

Revelation 4:4 – Have just received their robes and crowns

Revelation 4:10 – Worship Him who lives forever; cast their crowns before Throne, worshiping.

Revelation 5:8 – Before throne, w/harps, golden bowls holding prayers of saints, singing new song.

Revelation 5:14 – They fell down with the creatures worshiping the Lord Jesus Christ.

Revelation 7:11 – They fell on their faces worshiping the Lord, saying, amen, blessing and glory.."

Revelation 14:3 – Sang a new song before the throne. Only the 144,000 could learn this song.

Revelation 19:4 – Fell down before the throne and worshiped, saying, "Amen, alleluia!"

Need more? There is more, much more. Go to "Tom's Page". Page down till you get to the Rapture series, entitled, *The Rapture As Taught In The Revelation*. Also go to Ezekiel 9: 1-7—*The Man With The Inkhorn*.

Blessings from Tom and Linda Stephens...

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