

"LOOK FOR HIS COMING"

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VII. TRIBULATION THEORIES

- REVIEW: I PRECEPT – RULE-COMMANDMENT-ENJOINED-TOGETHER
HE IS COMING AGAIN
II WILLINGNESS TO LAY ONES LIFE DOWN
PICK UP THE CROSS
III PERSECUTION
IV PAST PERSECUTIONS
V ARE THESE PRECEPTS?
VI WRATH OF GOD

WE HAVE LOOKED AT SOME OF THE MAJOR PRECEPTS PUT FORTH IN THE BIBLE. LET US NOW LOOK AT WHAT FITS THE PRECEPTS. LET US LOOK AT THE PATTERN AND SEE WHAT FITS THE PATTERN. IF ONE BLOCK OF A QUILT IS OFF YOU CAN STAND OFF AND SEE IT DOES NOT FIT THE ENTIRE PATTERN.

Our scholars of today are split on three main theories on the coming of the Lord. I understand there are more than three but let us look at the major ones. The three theories are (1) Pre- Tribulation (2) Mid-Tribulation and (3) Post- Tribulation. Now let us think further in that the Mid-Tribulation and Post-Tribulation both indicate that the living Christians will go into the seven year Great Tribulation period. The pre-Tribulation says, we the born again Christians, will not enter the seven year period, not even one day. The Mid-tribulation and the Post tribulation Theories say we will enter the great tribulation period.

One of the greatest divisions in the theories is the definition of the word WRATH in regards to the end times. It seems the Pre-Tribulationist hold that the meaning of wrath is that God's children will not go under the wrath of God and define it as the seven years of tribulation. The Mid-Tribulationist seem to believe wrath of God means under the rule of the beast. The Post- Tribulationist appear to believe the wrath is the final abode or judgment of the wicked, however the wrath in the tribulation period is for the wicked and not the children of obedience. Persecution from Satan and his followers is not wrath of God.

MY RESEARCH OF THE THREE THEORIES, **PRE TRIBULATION**, **MID TRIBULATION**, AND **POST TRIBULATION** IS THAT THEY BELIEVE PART OR ALL OF THE IDEAS PROJECTED IN THEIR PARTICULAR SECTION BELOW.

(over)

PRE-TRIBULATION THEORY

1.

"...not appointed us to wrath..."

1 Th 5:9 For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,

They define the wrath as the tribulation period. Persecution is not the wrath of God. Please refer to Mat 3:7 and Luke 3:7 and check the word wrath in the Greek to see if it is not the same word used as wrath in 1Th 5:9.

2.

"...blessed hope..."

Titus 2:13 Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;

They seem to believe that blessed hope is deliverance before the tribulation and not going under the wrath of God. My blessed hope is in Jesus Christ and his return for us for eternal life regardless when he returns or what we have to undergo. Persecution is not the wrath of God.

3.

"...And immediately I was in the spirit..."

Rev 4:2 And immediately I was in the spirit; and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne.

Rev 4:3 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.

This is felt by many to be a picture of the Church entering heaven. I failed to find this mentioned in these verses.

4.

"...hour of temptation..."

Rev 3:10 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.

Many define hour of temptation as the great tribulation period. Most agree that one week in Daniel shows the seven years with each day representing a year. The word hour is used 10 times in Revelation. The Greek translation infers a short period of time. An example could be while the mark of the beast is being given. I am not saying but only suggesting a possibility. Once again the scripture does not say that hour is the great tribulation period.

5.

"...four and twenty elders..."

Rev 4:4 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.

Many feel that 12 elders will be from Israel and 12 from the Church. One main problem that I see here is that they seem to be in heaven when John sees them and have already been given their seats. Also, please consider that the fact that the 144,000 are not sealed until Rev. Chapter 7 and specifically identified as the firstfruits in Rev. Chapter 14. This would present a problem of identifying the 144,000 with Israel or the church if part of them has already been selected and their reward given before Rev. Chapter 7 or 14.

(next page)

6.

"...For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven..."

1 Th 4:16 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:

1 Th 4:17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

Many feel that this shows imminent return. It appears to show what is going to happen and gives no reference to when. This is the scripture given by most that hold to the Pre-Tribulation Rapture and sometimes the only one. All 3 theories agree that this is going to happen, but when is still unanswered.

7.

"In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye..."

1 Cor 15:52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

This is felt by many to show imminent return. Please note "...at the last trump:..." is clearly stated to be when. Enough said.

My research indicates the Rapture theory generally originated with John Nelson Darby around 1827 in Ireland and later spread through The Plymouth Brethren, Moody, Dallas Theological Seminary, later through Schofield and Tim La Haye.

MID-TRIBULATION THEORY

1.

"...sacrifice and the oblation to cease..."

Dan 9:27 And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.

The sacrifice ceases is when the beast reveals himself.

2.

"...gathering together unto him,..."

"...man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;..." (2Th 2:3)

2 Th 2:1 Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him,

2 Th 2:2 That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand.

2 Th 2:3 Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;

2 Th 2:4 Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.

The beast must reveal himself before the abomination of desolation.

3.

"...not appointed us to wrath..."

1 Th 5:9 For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,

Wrath period is defined by them as the period of abomination of desolation.

(over)

4.

"...a great multitude, which no man could number..."

Rev 7:9 After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands;

Multitude stated to come out of great tribulation.

5.

"...two olive trees, and the two candlesticks..."

Rev 11:4 These are the two olive trees, and the two candlesticks standing before the God of the earth.

Two witnesses come at the beginning of the abomination of desolation.

6. "...except those days should be shortened..."

Mat 24:21 For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.

Mat 24:22 And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.

They feel the saints will not go under the beast's control hence the days are shortened.

POST-TRIBULATION OR LATER PORTION THEORY

1.

"...our gathering together unto him,..."

"...that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;..."

2 Th 2:1 Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him,

2 Th 2:2 That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand.

2 Th 2:3 Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;

2 Th 2:4 Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.

OPINION

1. II Thes. 2:1-4 the gathering together unto him can not take place until two things take place (1) a falling away first (2) man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition. The first appears to have already happened. The second in verse 4 opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God. It is felt the Jews would have nothing to do with him if he had revealed himself. When the daily sacrifice is taken away and he reveals himself there can be no doubt. The gathering appears to take place after this point but not necessarily at this point.

When: *after the man of sin is revealed.*

2.

"...the last trump..."

1 Cor 15:52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

(next page)

OPINION

2. *In I Cor. 15:52 It says at the last trump the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.*

The Greek salpigx is translated trump and the 4 times trumpet are used in Revelation are translated from the same word. The 2 times trumpets are used they are translated from the same word. If the seventh trumpet is not the last trump it appears that it must of necessity be after the seventh trumpet.

When: *last trump*

“...harvest...”

3. Rev 14:15 And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to him that sat on the cloud, Thrust in thy sickle, and reap: for the time is come for thee to reap; for the harvest of the earth is ripe.

Rev 14:16 And he that sat on the cloud thrust in his sickle on the earth; and the earth was reaped.

OPINION

In the 14th chapter of Revelation the harvest of the earth is mentioned in verse 14-16. This is the only time in the book of Revelation that the word harvest is mentioned. The harvest suggest the good is gathered. Afterwards, immediately follows the vine of the earth. All indications that I see this would be Armageddon. Note that blood comes out of the winepress, even unto the horse bridles, by the space of a thousand and six hundred furlongs. Both are listed one following the other.

When: *harvest followed by Armageddon.*

4.

"...one sat like unto the Son of man,..."

Rev 14:14 And I looked, and behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud one sat like unto the Son of man, having on his head a golden crown, and in his hand a sharp sickle.

OPINION

4. *"...one like unto the Son of man..." is mentioned in Rev. 1:13, Rev. 14:14, and Daniel 7:13.*

In Rev. 1:18 it clarifies who verse 13 is referring to. Daniel 7:13 clarifies in verse 14 to whom it is being spoken of. In Mat.24:30 the Son of man is mentioned twice in the same verse telling of his coming. In Mark 13:26 Son of man once again is mentioned. Obviously in Rev. 14:14 this is the coming of the Lord. as well as in Mat. 24:30 and Mark 13:26.

When: *In Rev 14:14-15 the next event mentioned appears to be Armageddon*

"...the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all" (Luke 17:29)

5. Luke 17:28 Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded;

Luke 17:29 But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all.

Luke 17:30 Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed.

OPINION

5. *It appears the same day that Lot went out of Sodom all the wicked were destroyed.*

When: *Just before the destruction of the wicked.*

(over)

6.

CLOUDS OR CLOUDS

"...one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven..."

Dan 7:13 I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him.

"...he cometh with clouds..."

Rev 1:7 Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.

"...behold a white cloud..."

Rev 14:14 And I looked, and behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud one sat like unto the Son of man, having on his head a golden crown, and in his hand a sharp sickle.

When: This scripture takes place at the harvest and the next scriptures after is Armageddon.

OPINION

6. Clouds: In Revelation 1:7 it indicates that he cometh with clouds. The word cloud appears 6 times in Revelation and clouds 1 time. Clouds is as mentioned above. Twice cloud is mentioned not referring to the harvest or gathering of the saints. Revelation 10:1 refers to an angel clothed with a cloud. Revelation 11:12 refers to the two witnesses being taken up after they were killed. The only four times that cloud was used was in chapter Revelation 14:14 -16 and the word is used 4 times. In short, we are told in the first chapter he is coming in clouds and the only mention in Revelation of cloud, other than the two unrelated, are in three verses telling of his coming. In Mat. 24:30 clouds are mentioned with his coming as well as Mark 13:26.

7. Rev 11:15 And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.

7.

OPINION: We have seen where the coming of the Lord will be at the last trump. The seventh trumpet is the last of the seven trumpets. If the coming of the Lord is not at this time it appears it will be after the sounding of the seventh trumpet. For those that have reservations look up the Greek word for trumpet in the seven trumpets and the Greek word for trump in 1Corn. 15:52 and see if they are not the same.

When: *The seventh trumpet is the last one mentioned.*

FOR FURTHER STUDIES ON THE POST TRIBULATION SEE THE FOLLOWING:

A OVERCOMETH "...overcometh..."

Rev 2:7 Rev 2:11 Rev 2:17 Rev 2:26 Rev 3:5 Rev 3:12 Rev 3:21 Rev 21:7

OPINION

Overcometh- All seven churches and Rev chapter 21 we are told and remember this is one revelation.

B ENDURE TO THE END

Mark 13:13 Mark 10:22 Mat 24:13

OPINION

It appears that this is self explanatory.

(next page)

C SAINTS

Saints: Please note that the word Saints appears in the book of Revelation 13 times as follows: Rev. 5:8, Rev.8:3, Rev.8:4, Rev. 11:18, Rev. 13:7, Rev.13:10, Rev. 14:12, Rev. 15:3, Rev.16:6, Rev.17:6, Rev. 18:24, Rev. 19:8, and Rev.20:9.

I once asked an older preacher, who is now deceased, if he thought we would go into the tribulation. He immediately stated "yes". I ask him why he thought it. He simply stated saints are mentioned all the way through the book of Revelation. Look above and see for yourself.

D. "...firstfruits..."

Rev 14:4 These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were redeemed from among men, being the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb.

OPINION

In Revelation Chapter 14:4 the 144,000 are referred to as the "firstfruits" unto God and the Lamb. They were not sealed until the 7th chapter of Revelation after at least one-fourth of the earth is dead well into the tribulation period.

The 144,000 follow the Lamb "...whithersoever he goeth..." (Rev.14:4). We are told in John 14:3 and implied in II Thes. 4:17 that were he is we will be also. If the 144,000 are following the Lamb in Rev. 14:4 and are the "...firstfruits..." (Rev. 14:4) where are we if the gathering has already occurred?

*E Abomination of Desolation: In Mark 13:14 it speaks of the Abomination of Desolation which goes through verse 23 and in verse 24 of the same chapter. It states after **that** tribulation telling of the signs and then shall they see the Son of man coming in the clouds. It seems obvious that **that** tribulation is referring to the Abomination of Desolation. Mat. 24 does likewise in verse 15 it refers to the Abomination of Desolation. Then in verse 29 it speaks of immediately **after** the tribulation of those days. Once again it tells of the coming of the Son of man in verse 30. As I perceive it we are told at least 3 times that the Lords coming will be **after** the abomination of desolation. Once in II Thes. 2:1-4, Once in Mark 13 and once in Mat. 24. It appears the coming of the Lord will be after the abomination of desolation.*

F. Persecution and affliction

In Mat. 24:8,9,10,11, and 12

Mark 13:9

Luke 21:12

In the above verses we are told of the many afflictions that will befall us between the period of the beginning of the period of sorrow and the Abomination of Desolation.

G. WHAT TWO QUESTIONS WERE ASK IN MAT 24:3 AND TO WHOM WAS HIS RESPONSE?

When and **What**: In Mat. 24:3 the disciples asked Jesus two questions (1) **When** shall these things be? (2) **What** shall be the sign of thy coming, and the end of the world? Jesus response was to these two questions.

"Mat 24:33 So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors."

*This tells us **when**.*

"Mat 24:30 And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory."

Verse 30 tells us "what shall be the sign".

(over)

When and **what** are ask by some of the disciples in Mark 13:4

In Luke 17:20 The question of when only was ask of the Pharisees. In Luke 21:7 **when** and **what** were ask.

Look at each of these and see if the coming of the Lord is not after we see all the signs given.

In Mat. 24 Jesus was asked the disciples about his coming and the end of the world. Please note that in his answer pronouns are used , if my count is right, 18 times referring to the disciples who were there and had ask the two questions.

When: After we see all these things mentioned in reference to Mat24:33 above.

When the pre-tribulation theory is the only way taught the idea seems to be we do not have to worry because we will not be here. That is for someone else. It tickles the ears. Do not prepare for the worst and hope for the best. It goes along with the good life idea or a quick fix so eagerly desired by so many.

If our people think they just might go through part of the tribulation, just maybe, they might want to be closer to the Lord or prepare for his coming. If we prepare for the worst and it doesn't happen that way the Lord finds us a ready servant either way. If however we feel we have nothing to worry about we could be unprepared for what might come. Many people feel that 75% of the so called church members are not saved. If this is true then if we project the idea you don't have to worry, then where does this put them. We know full well they will go through the tribulation if they survive. Think about it.

Mat 16:18 And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

It sounds like even if the church had to go through hell Christ would be with us.

Rev 20:4 And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.

Those that were beheaded for the witness of Christ were openly rewarded for their faithfully witness.

PURPOSE OF THIS PUBLICATION: To make an awareness that we are living in the last days of the last days. The coming of Jesus Christ, the son of the living God is at the doors. This is a monthly publication distributed to a mailing list, churches, business, and handed out. A home computer is used to generate it. The main issues addressed are (1) End Times Scriptures and Prophecy (2) Condition of the times including our churches (3) Current and past fulfillment of Prophecy (4) Related current events. I am trying to be a good steward of the precious time we have left and do as I feel God is directing.

We welcome QUESTIONS. We may not have the answer or the bible may be silent on a particular subject. We are interested in questions that the bible has an answer.

Please let us know if you have a particular issue you wish addressed.

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