



[Printer-friendly version](#) (Microsoft Word format)

RAPTURE

Index

1. [Tribulation Theories](#)
2. [Pre-tribulation Theory](#)
3. [Mid-tribulation Theory](#)
4. [Post-tribulation Theory](#)
5. [Conclusion](#)
6. [Further evidence to substantiate the Post-tribulation theory](#)

TRIBULATION THEORIES
 Scriptures used by some to prove their position

We plan to discuss all three theories and discuss scriptures that are given by some to suggest that their theory is correct. The bible is the sole authority and unless you can produce a scripture that says it, you should let it alone.

What is the Rapture?

It is referring to the gathering of the saints at the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ to receive his own. The word Rapture does not appear in the bible, but most Christians agree it will occur.

What is the the tribulation period and great tribulation period? What is the difference?

The tribulation period is the seven years before Armageddon.

The great tribulation (the abomination of desolation, Dan 9:27) is the latter portion of the seven years, when it will be as it never was since there was a nation. (Dan 12:1).

When will the Rapture occur?

There are three major theories: Pre-tribulation theory (rapture takes place before the great tribulation period), Mid-tribulation theory (gathering of the saints in the midst or middle of the great tribulation period), and Post-tribulation theory (gathering of the saints at the close of the great tribulation period). Pay close attention to any scripture that says when.

Why the controversy?

A controversy exists over which of these theories is the reality. Why is there so much controversy about it when we can simply look into the scripture and see for ourselves?

PRE-TRIBULATION THEORY

My research indicates the Pre-Tribulation 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.

1. 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. To me it clearly shows at the last trump. If it is not the seventh trumpet it must be after the seventh trumpet. To me this scripture shows clearly we cannot be gathered before the tribulation period begins, before the sounding of any trumpets.

2. 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.

This tells what will happen and not when. All three theories believe it will happen. I see no indications here proving the Lord will come prior to the great tribulation period. Once again the trump of God is mentioned with the last trumpet mentioned in 1 Cor. 15:52.

“...hour...”

3. 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.

The word “hour” appears ten times in Revelation and the other nine apparently do not carry the period of seven years, as many pre-tribulationists use it here. In the book of Daniel, he refers to seventy weeks, and the tribulation period is referred to as the seventieth week. This week is considered to be seven years (one day is equal to one year) by those who believe any of the three theories. However, many pre-tribulationists feel the hour of temptation is the tribulation period and this hour does not equal seven years. In this verse, why should we treat the word differently from the other nine? Hour does not fit as referring to a week or seven days.

“...wrath...”

4. 1 Th 5:9 For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,

It appears God's wrath is defined as the tribulation period. (Israel was in Egypt in the time of the plagues and not even their cattle were harmed showing the mighty power of God. God's wrath is discussed at length in “[Behold He Comes II](#)” on this web-site and I refer you there for greater details.

“four and twenty elders...”

5. 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.

It seems that many believe that there will be twelve elders from Israel and twelve from the church age already there when John arrives in heaven in the revelation. I can find no scriptures to indicate who the elders are. Even if they were raptured up, as many believe, and had just entered heaven, it is difficult to explain how they were already given the reward of great glory and honor to be sitting before the throne as John enters heaven. It just does not fit.

“...blessed hope...”

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

They seem to feel that it would not be a blessed hope if we had to go into the great tribulation period. My blessed hope is the coming of the Lord and not when he takes me up.

“...that where I am, there ye may be also...”

7. John 14:2 In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

John 14:3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

Some apparently believe this proves

Christ will return prior to the tribulation period. I have not quite figured out how. It tell what will happen and not when.

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

Some believe that John entering heaven is a picture of the church going into heaven during the Rapture.

I have yet to find any scripture which substantiates the Pre-tribulation theory in and of itself, and does not require human assumption. If you know of any please forward them by email.

MID-TRIBULATION THEORY

Abomination Of Desolation

1. 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, at the beginning of the abomination of desolation. Mid-tribulationists feel the saints will not go under the control of the beast.

I fail to find where the scriptures say it.

2. 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 can start. Again, they feel the saints will not go under the control of the beast thus will not enter the abomination of desolation.

3. 1 Th 5:9 For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,

The wrath period is defined by them as the period of abomination of desolation. Check the Greek word out in Mat 3:7 and in the above verse to see if wrath is not the same word as used when he was warning the Pharisees and the Sadducees to flee from the wrath to come. This certainly was not referring to the tribulation period. I refer you to "[Behold He Comes II](#)"

located on this web-site, for further details on God's wrath.

4. 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;

The multitude is stated to come out of great tribulation. This scripture comes in the seventh chapter well before the beast takes control of the nations and the abomination of desolation starts. This thinking really does not fit.

5. 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. They apparently feel the saints will be taken out before the abomination of desolation, before the beast takes control.

6. 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, during the

abomination of desolation , hence the days are shortened.

POST-TRIBULATION THEORY

1. 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

In 2 Th. 2:1-4 the gathering together unto him cannot 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 unlikely the Jews would make a covenant with him if he had revealed himself in the beginning. 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. 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.

OPINION

In 1 Cor 15:52 It says at the last trump the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

“Trump” in 1 Cor 15:52 and the four instances of “trumpet” used in Revelation are translated from the same word: the Greek “salpigx”. 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

3. 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

In Rev 1:18 it clarifies who “...one like unto the Son of man...” in Rev 1:13 is referring to. Daniel 7:13 clarifies in its following verse, Daniel 7:14, 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.

4. 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 fourteenth chapter of Revelation the harvest of the earth is mentioned in verses 14-16. This is the only time in the book of Revelation where the word harvest is mentioned. The harvest suggests the good is gathered. Afterwards immediately follows "...gather the clusters of the vine of the earth..." (Rev 14:18). By all indications I see this would be Armageddon. Note that "...blood came out of the winepress, even unto the horse bridles, by the space of a thousand and six hundred furlongs." (Rev 14:20) Both are listed, one following the other.

When: harvest followed by Armageddon.

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

It appears the same day that Lot went out of Sodom all the wicked were destroyed. I see no question that Lot's wife was in sight of the destruction when it happened.

When: Just before the destruction of the wicked.

6. 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.

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.

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

Clouds: In Revelation 1:7 it indicates that he cometh with clouds. The word "cloud" appears six times in Revelation and "clouds" one 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 other time that cloud was used in Revelation was in Revelation 14:14 -16, when the word is used four 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 in Mark 13:26.

When: Rev. 14:14-15 takes place at the harvest and the next scriptures (Rev. 14:17-20) are Armageddon.

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.

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 1 Cor 15:52 and see if they are not the same.

When: The seventh trumpet is the last one mentioned.

8. John 6:39 And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day.

John 6:40 And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.

John 6:44 No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.

John 6:54 Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day.

When: "...at the last day..."

CONCLUSION

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 quick fix so eagerly desired by so many. I have yet to see anyone produce one scripture that even suggests we will not enter the great tribulation period.

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, the Lord will find us a ready servant either way. If, however, we feel there is 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, and 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.

The accepted way seems to be the pre-tribulation theory, therefore most seem to feel it is not necessary to show scriptures to prove it. Those differing must not only be able to prove their own position but disprove what has not yet been proven.

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 who were beheaded for the witness of Christ were openly rewarded for their faithful witness.

Even if we go into the tribulation period, the Lord will be with us. If we are persecuted and we stand firm, we will be rewarded without measure. Most of all, we will be found a worthy servant at His coming.

FURTHER EVIDENCE

SUBSTANTIATING THE POST-TRIBULATION THEORY

For those who wish to read further evidence of the post-tribulation theory, please continue reading.

A. OVERCOMETH
"...overcometh..."
Rev 2:7, 11, 17, 26, 3:5, 12, 21, and 21:7

OPINION
In each of the first seven verses ,

the seven churches of Asia mentioned in Revelation are told to "overcometh." In Rev 21:7 it states that "He that overcometh shall inherit all things...".

B. ENDURE TO THE END
Mat 24:13, Mark 10:22, Mark 13:13

OPINION

It appears that these are self-explanatory:

Matt 24:13 But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.

C. SAINTS

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

OPINION

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

“...firstfruits...”

D. 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 seventh chapter of Revelation after at least one-fourth of the earth is dead, well into the tribulation period.

The 144,000 follow the Lamb "...withersoever he goeth..." (Rev 14:4). We are told in John 14:3 and implied in II Thes 4:17 that where 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 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 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 three times that the Lord's coming will be after the start of the abomination of desolation: once in II Thes 2:1-4, once in Mark 13 and once in Mat 24

OPINION

It appears the Coming of the Lord will be after the Tribulation of the abomination of desolation.

F. Persecution and affliction
In Mat. 24:8, 9, 10, 11, 12, Mark
13:9, and Luke 21:12

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

G. WHAT TWO QUESTIONS WERE ASKED 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 to these two questions was, "So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors." (Mat 24:33)

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".

When and what were asked by some of the disciples in Mark 13:4

In Luke 17:20, the question of when was only asked of the Pharisees. In Luke 21:7 when and what were asked.

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 by 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, eighteen times referring to
the disciples who were there and had
asked the two questions.*

When: After we see all these things
mentioned in reference to Mat 24:33
above.

We refer you to "[Behold He Comes I](#)"
and "[Behold He Comes II](#)" on this web-
site for a more detailed look at the
coming of the Lord. Most of the above
came from "[Behold He Comes II](#)" to
focus on the gathering of the saints,
called the Rapture by most, for those
interested.