

Pre-Tribulation Rapture?

Alfio La Spina March 2017

I know that many of you have likely been taught that those that believe in Jesus will be taken away before the Great Tribulation. Some say that the tribulation is the wrath of God. That is false, the tribulation is a last call for people to repent seek God and keep His commandments. This is what the two witnesses will be preaching among other things of correction.

The wrath of God comes after the tribulation on those that have refused to repent of their wicked ways.

Since all the signs that Jesus spoke of concerning the Great Tribulation are here and it could begin very soon. Please refer to this sermon concerning the signs.

<https://vwkog.org/Documents/CryingWolf.pdf>

I thought I should point out what the scriptures have to say about this. The majority of what is taught in the churches is completely false. The scriptures warn us of that.

Jude 1:4 (NIV)

4 For certain individuals whose condemnation was written about long ago have secretly slipped in among you. They are ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into a license for immorality and deny Jesus Christ our only Sovereign and Lord.

2 Timothy 3:8-9 (NIV) 8

Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so also these teachers oppose the truth. They are men of depraved minds, who, as far as the faith is concerned, are rejected. 9 But they will not get very far because, as in the case of those men, their folly will be clear to everyone.

There is no evidence that believers will be taken away before the Great Tribulation. These verses below are used by some people to support the rapture fable. However nowhere does it indicate when they are taken.

Matthew 24:31 (ESV) 31 And he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

Matthew 24:40-41 (ESV) 40 Then two men will be in the field; one will be taken and one left. 41 Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one left.

On the contrary these verses below clearly indicate that believers (first fruits) are still here until the very end. We see that because the dead are raised (first resurrection} before the living go meet Jesus in the air and are changed into spirit beings.

1 Thessalonians 4:15-18 (ESV) 15 For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. 16 For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore encourage one another with these words.

There is protection for a few that are obedient and strictly follow the scriptures and have checked the scriptures to see if what they are taught from the pulpit is the truth and not fables which so many teach to be truth.

To the Church in Philadelphia

Revelation 3:7-10 (ESV) 7 “And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: “The words of the holy one, the true one, who has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, who shuts and no one opens. 8 “I know your works. Behold, I have set before you an open door, which no one is able to shut. I know that you have but little power, and yet you have kept my word

and have not denied my name. 9 Behold, I will make those of the synagogue of Satan who say that they are Jews and are not, but lie—behold, I will make them come and bow down before your feet, and they will learn that I have loved you. 10 Because you have kept my word about patient endurance, I will keep you from the hour of trial that is coming on the whole world, to try those who dwell on the earth.

Revelation 12:14 (ESV) 14 But the woman was given the two wings of the great eagle so that she might fly from the serpent into the wilderness, to the place where she is to be nourished for a time, and times, and half a time.

Many churches teach that the Great Tribulation is 7 years in the verses below we see it is not.

The church is protected for 3.5 years. So, the tribulation is not seven years because the Philadelphia church is promised protection from the hour of temptation (proving). So, if it was seven years they would be protected for the whole time.

Revelation 11:2-3 (ESV) 2 but do not measure the court outside the temple; leave that out, for it is given over to the nations, and they will trample the holy city for forty-two months. 3 And I will grant authority to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for 1,260 days, clothed in sackcloth.”

There are a many false teachers out there teaching destructive heresies. That is why it is imperative that brethren check the scriptures to see if what is being taught is true.

Don't be one of them that is looking for the easy path. The easy way is wide with many distractions to lead people astray which ends in destruction.

2 Timothy 2:15 (NIV) 15 Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.

2 Timothy 4:3-4 (NIV) 3 For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. 4 They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths.

Brethren there are many false teachers because they have an audience that likes to hear those things.

Many COGs teach that people that have died without repenting will be resurrected and given an opportunity in the one-thousand-year reign. Scripture does not support that. Below are verses that speak of the resurrection of life or judgement. There is no mention of a second chance. They are either resurrected to life or to judgement.

John 5:28-29 (ESV) 28 Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice 29 and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment.

The second chance doctrine has come out of thin air by those false teachers. Brethren have you ever proved this doctrine or have you just accepted it because it sounds good.