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Preface

Rev 4:1 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.

For some time, we of Davenport Baptist Church have been troubled by the promotion of many false teachings concerning our Lord's return. I believe the Lord burdened me to write about this subject. I intended to only write a simple tract but this endeavor has turned into a book. False teaching is always easy to promote but must take much effort to properly correct according to God's Word.

To simply state the message of this book; God's love is demonstrated in the Pre-Tribulation Rapture which is the completion of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

We believe some promote their false doctrines concerning the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ for various reasons; money through book sales and website donations, fame, personal bias, antagonism toward biblical truth, or perhaps simply ignorance.

We hold no animosity or ill-will toward others who hold a different position than we concerning the Pre-Tribulation Rapture.

Our passionate contention is against the false teachings, the heresy, that is so harmful to God's people and the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Gal 2:4-5 And that because of false brethren unawares brought in, who came in privily to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, that they might bring us into bondage: (5) To whom we gave place by subjection, no, not for an hour; that the truth of the gospel might continue with you.

As with all things in scripture, we can tell people but it is only the Holy Spirit that can "show" them. Only He opens the eyes and ears of

understanding concerning His Word.

We have heard it said that we should not be too contentious about what the Bible teaches if the subject is not a salvation issue.

But, what did the Lord say in His rebuke to Satan?

Mat 4:4 But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

Is it not the obligation of every true believer therefore to follow the Lord's instruction?

Joh 4:23-24 But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. (24) God *is* a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship *him* in spirit and in truth.

We endeavor in good conscience to "...earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints." Jud 1:3
If we are to worship God in spirit and in truth then we should do so by the light of His Word. We welcome anyone to show us our error through God's Word used in its proper context.

Psa 119:105 NUN. Thy word *is* a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

We hope this book will be an answer for those having questions about the Pre-Tribulation Rapture and an encouraging comfort to those who truly know the Lord Jesus Christ as their Savior!

We have written it in a style, not for the theologian but for the novice.

May you grow in the grace and knowledge of our coming Lord and Savior Christ Jesus.

Ken Robinson September 20, 2020 Below is a table showing the books of the Bible and the abbreviations used for scripture references in this writing.

Old Testament					
Genesis	Gen	2 Chronicles	2Ch	Daniel	Dan
Exodus	Exo	Ezra	Ezr	Hosea	Hos
Leviticus	Lev	Nehemiah	Neh	Joel	Joe
Numbers	Num	Esther	Est	Amos	Amo
Deuteronomy	Deu	Job	Job	Obadiah	Oba
Joshua	Jos	Psalms	Psa	Jonah	Jon
Judges	Jdg	Proverbs	Pro	Micah	Mic
Ruth	Rth	Ecclesiastes	Ecc	Nahum	Nah
1 Samuel	1Sa	Song of Songs	Son	Habakkuk	Hab
2 Samuel	2Sa	Isaiah	Isa	Zephaniah	Zep
1 Kings	1Ki	Jeremiah	Jer	Haggai	Hag
2 Kings	2Ki	Lamentations	Lam	Zechariah	Zec
1 Chronicles	1Ch	Ezekiel	Eze	Malachi Mal	
		New Testamen	t		
Matthew	Mat	Ephesians	Eph	Hebrews	Heb
Mark	Mar	Philippians	Php	James	Jas
Luke	Luk	Colossians	Col	1 Peter	1Pe
John	Joh	1 Thessalonians	1Th	2 Peter	2Pe
Acts	Act	2 Thessalonians	2Th	1 John	1Jn
Romans	Rom	1 Timothy	1Ti	2 John	2Jn
1 Corinthians	1Co	2 Timothy	2Ti	3 John	3Jn
2 Corinthians	2Co	Titus	Tit	Jude	Jud
Galatians	Gal	Philemon	Phm	Revelation	Rev

Introduction

Several topics will be addressed in this book, but the main purpose is two-fold;

- 1. To show what the bible says about the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ in the Rapture, which is the completion of the Gospel message.
- 2. To show the impossibility of God to allow true Christians to go through any part of the Great Tribulation. Thereby giving hope and encouragement to the saints of God.

In this Introduction we will touch on the following topics to lay the foundation for this book;

- The Various Teachings About The Rapture
- The Elect
- A Brief on the Lord Jesus Christ in eschatology
- What does it mean to be a Christian?
- The Word of Truth
- Prayerful Study and Guidance from the Holy Spirit

The Various Teachings About The Rapture

Among those who call themselves Christians, there are many doctrinal views concerning when the Lord Jesus Christ will come for all those who are truly His.

This event is usually referred to as the Rapture, an English word from the Latin translation of the Greek harpazō (caught up, meaning to seize), found in 1Thesselonians 4:17. This word appears eighteen times in the New Testament with each usage similar in meaning.

The Rapture is separate from the Glory Coming when the Lord Jesus will physically stand upon the earth again. These two events are separated in time by seven years.

There are doctrines of men that teach the rapture will occur;

- 1) In the middle of the Great Tribulation before the woes occur (Mid-Trib Rapture).
- 2) At an undetermined point during the latter part of the Great Tribulation (Pre-Wrath Rapture).
- 3) At any point before, during, or after the Great Tribulation depending on their genuine conversion to the faith (Partial Rapture).
- 4) At the end of the Great Tribulation (Post-Trib Rapture).
- 5) No Rapture (Amillennialism).

There are other variations, but these are the most common teachings. In light of biblical evidence, we reject all of these views.

The object of this work is to address the one teaching not mentioned in the list above; the Pre-Tribulation Rapture.

The Elect¹

People have always had a fascination with future biblical events. Oddly, even those who do not profess belief in God or the bible. However, our subject deals with God's relationship with those called His elect.

The Lord Jesus has many titles in scripture; God, Redeemer, Savior, Brother, and Bridegroom just to name a few. These titles, and others, indicate the relationship to those whom God loves.

Lect: Strong's Definition: G1588 eklektos, ek-lek-tos'. From G1586; select; by implication favorite: - chosen, elect. Total KJV occurrences: 23

Thayer;s Definition: 1) picked out, chosen 1a) chosen by God 1a1) to obtain salvation through Christ 1a1a) Christians are called "chosen or elect" of God 1a2) the Messiah in called "elect", as appointed by God to the most exalted office conceivable 1a3) choice, select, i.e. the best of its kind or class, excellence preeminent: applied to certain individual Christians Part of Speech: adjective

Does the bible teach, when in biblical prophetic events, our Lord Jesus will come for His elect?

We contend that it does!

When we say "the elect" concerning God's people (those for whom the Lord Jesus shed His precious blood) we refer only to those chosen and are known only of God, before the foundation of the world, out of all humanity who shall be saved, meaning going to heaven; past, present, and future.

1Pe 1:2 Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied.

Col 3:12 Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;

We believe, teach, and contend that the Lord Jesus will return at any moment in the clouds to gather His elect. This event will be before the start of the seven-year reign of the antichrist and the Great Tribulation. We hold this belief because it is what God's Word teaches and not because of a particular man, church, or organization.

In like manner, as you the reader consider the scriptural facts that will be presented, please do so with the honest desire to learn what God's Word teaches us. But...

The heart is deceitful above all *things*, and desperately wicked: who can know it? Jer 17:9

What you want to believe will determine how receptive you are to biblical truth.

Many Christians are being confused and hurt by false teaching, who are being robbed of their Blessed Hope. This is due in part to not understanding what happened in the Garden of Eden. Because of Adam's transgression, his sin-cursed spiritual death has passed upon all of his descendants.

There is confusion about what the church is that the Lord Jesus established

during His earthly ministry.

Also, confusion about God's purpose for His chosen nation Israel after the time of the gentiles is fulfilled.

All of this confusion hinders Christians from living in this present time with the biblical knowledge and understanding that their Lord is coming for them **at any moment.** Causing them to not have a "peace that passeth all understanding". (Php 4:7)

We Christians do not need to be watching for the anti-christ or fear future biblical events concerning the coming Great Tribulation.

A time in which the bible says is so horrific as to never had its equal in the past nor ever will again.

There have been many movies, books, articles, and tracts written about when the Lord Jesus Christ will return to the earth to gather those who truly believe in Him as their Savior. Perhaps the real questions on most people's minds are not when in bible prophecy the Lord will come.

But rather; How will it affect me?

What terrible times will I and my loved ones have to endure?

All good questions for those who seriously believe there is something after this earthly existence.

A Brief on the Lord Jesus Christ in eschatology

We believe that an honest study of scripture leads to two conclusions.

The first;

There are three times in scripture when the Lord Jesus Christ has direct dealings with the world of mankind.

(We are not including His pre-incarnate appearances or the creation of the cosmos)

The first occurrence has already happened when He was born of a virgin named Mary who was in the blood lineage of King David. He had the form of a man but did not have the inherited Adamic sin nature and therefore was without sin making Him the perfect sacrifice. We know His sacrifice was accepted because death had no hold on Him, He rose from the grave according to the scriptures. After He accomplished all the Heavenly Father sent Him to do, He returned to the Father and is now seated at His right hand in heaven.

The Lord Jesus' next coming will be in the clouds. To gather, Rapture (to seize), all those who truly believe in and upon Him both past (their mortal remains resurrected but their souls have been with the Lord) and those present both body and soul. This is when the Lord Jesus will redeem the purchased possession, purchased by the blood payment that He made in full on Calvary. (Eph 1:14)

This coming will be as a thief in the night, no one knowing the day or hour of His coming and thus it is imminent.

His final coming will be at the end of the seven-year Great Tribulation also called the time of Jacob's trouble. (Jer 30:7)

He will not come as a helpless baby in a manger or as a lowly servant who had nowhere to lay His head. Instead, He will come with great power and glory before whom the people on the earth will tremble with fear wishing for the mountains and rocks to fall on them to hide them from His face. (Rev 6:16)

He will come as King of Kings and Lord of Lords bringing all of the Raptured saints with Him!

Executing righteous judgment upon all those still upon the earth and will reign upon the earth with His saints for a thousand years.

The second conclusion;

The loving relationship God has for His elect is such that it is an **impossibility** to allow them to have any part in the last seven years before the Lord Jesus returns at the end of the Great Tribulation.

As already stated, there is much debate among Christians concerning when the Lord Jesus will return and questions about what is usually referred to as the End Times or the Great Tribulation. But we must first understand the term Christian as the Rapture pertains only to them.

What does it mean to be a Christian?

Some think that just being born in the United States automatically makes them a Christian because the country was founded as a Christian nation. Some also think they are a Christian because they have been baptized or attend a Christian church.

The bible makes it clear that a Christian is a follower of the Lord Jesus Christ, someone who has been changed by the power of God. (2Co 5:17) They are a new creature not desiring or continuing in the same Goddishonoring behavior as before. They have a conscience to sin. Someone who has been made spiritually alive and is indwelt by the Holy Spirit of God. (Eph 2:1, 1Co 15:22, Eph 1:13, Rom 8:16)

According to the bible, the disciples of Christ were called Christians first in Antioch (Act 11:26). They were called this by others because they followed the teachings of Jesus of Nazareth who is the Christ. They were both Jews and Gentiles. Today, there are many different beliefs and denominations among Christians. However, when the Lord Jesus established His church there were no other Christian churches, no other denominations, no other Christian teachings.

These Christians were taught by the Apostles² who were taught by the Lord Jesus Himself and continued steadfastly in the Apostle's doctrine and fellowship (Act 2:42). It is through these first Christians that God chose some to write the 27 books of the New Testament.

We must briefly mention the early churches, as it was to them that the New Testament was given and the teaching about the Pre-Tribulation Rapture. Also, it is through them and other Christians that God's Word has been preserved without error so that we have it today. This will also be expounded upon further in the next topic; The Word of Truth.

The word doctrine means instruction and fellowship means partnership. At that point in time, the only doctrine taught to Christians was directly from

that point in time, the only doctrine taught to Christians was directly from the Apostles. All of the Apostles taught the same thing in all of the churches of the Lord Jesus Christ. So, if divisions or untruths were being taught, they were corrected by those who were taught by the only begotten Son of God.

1Co 1:10 Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus

A man who occupied the office of Apostle; must have been baptized by John the Baptist, and companied with the Lord Jesus during His entire earthly ministry until His ascension (Act 1:21-22) Therefore, the office of Apostle can no longer exist.

The office of Apostle was established by the Lord Jesus in His church early in His earthly ministry, before Pentecost. (1Co 12:28, Luk 6:13) Those whom He called Apostles were of the twelve disciples that He chose thus the beginning of His church. (Mat 4:19, Mar 2:14, Luk 5:27, Joh 1:43)

Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and *that* there be no divisions among you; but *that* ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.

Concerning spiritual leaders of the bible, we see a pattern. In the Old Testament, Levitical Priests from the Jewish tribe of Levi ministered in the Jewish Temple. They ministered as directed by God, according to the Law of Moses. In the true churches of the Lord Jesus Christ, there are only two ordained offices: Elder and Deacon. Those ordained to minister in the Gospel and to properly teach its principles are Elders. Those ordained to minister to the physical needs of church members are Deacons. Elders, who are Pastors and Bishops (Bishops are Elders/Pastors who are administrators over other Elders/Pastors) are chosen and ordained to that office by the local church body. Though not commonly used among the Lord's churches of today, an example of the term Bishop would be the Pastor (under shepherd) of a church in which the church has sent out missionaries. These missionaries were ordained as Elders usually by the church sending them out. The Elder/Pastor of the church sending out the missionaries could scripturally be called a Bishop because he is the home church Pastor of the missionaries.

Tit 1:5 For this cause left I thee in Crete, that thou shouldest set in order the things that are wanting, and ordain elders in every city, as I had appointed thee:

³ To be clear concerning the ordained offices in the Lord's true churches; The Holy Spirit of God leads a man to enter into the Gospel ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ. Such a man then makes it known to the church of which he is a member. After prayer and seeking God's guidance, that church might agree that it is God's leading to ordain this man. An ordination meeting is held with the whole church in attendance and the man is examined by other Pastors, Elders and Deacons of like faith and practice. If the man is found to meet the scriptural qualifications, be sound in doctrine and the church agrees, he is ordained. This ordination happens only once for this man and is for life unless he disqualifies himself. This ordained Elder may then be called by the church to fill the office of Pastor for that church. If he goes to another church to become a member, (the scriptural pattern is by letter of recommendation from the first church) that church must select and place him in the office of Pastor as they are led by the Holy Spirit. We believe the selection and placement of a man into one of these two offices should be by unamous vote of the church membership.

Php 1:1 Paul and Timotheus, the servants of Jesus Christ, to all the saints in Christ Jesus which are at Philippi, with the bishops and deacons:

The qualifications of a Pastor and Deacon are found in 1Timothy chapter three and Titus chapter one.

The Lord gave the authority which He had received from His Heavenly Father to His church. This was necessary because up to that point only Israel had God's authority. Israel is God's chosen nation and only unto them was committed the oracles (an utterance, i.e.; God's word) of God. (Rom 3:2) He promised that His church, as He had established it with Himself as the head Shepard, would continue until the end of the age. (Mat 28:18-20, Joh 17:20) This is very important because of the special loving relationship the Lord Jesus has with His church and all other churches that would come from it. Regardless of your belief concerning what the Lord's church is, this relationship is central in our study especially when considering the role of the church during the end times.

This promise concerning the Lord's churches has been made evident in history by a lineage of faith written in blood. Since the time of our Lord, it has been estimated that over *fifty million members of the Lord's churches and other Christians have lost their lives. The lives of these saints of God were taken; not because of civil rebellion, but for earnestly contending for the faith once delivered unto the saints. Jude 1:3 The term saint is a biblical term having nothing to do with Roman Catholicism and means sacred.

It didn't take long before truth was attacked and perverted ideas of men were promoted which necessitated the Apostle Paul and others to write letters or epistles of instruction to the churches. These were all written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. No matter what the teachings of man are, God has given us His preserved, inerrant word of truth which we

⁴ *Please read "The Trail of Blood" by J.M. Carol. You can search for it online or at the below website. https://davenportbaptistchurch.webstarts.com/books.html

can study and as the Bereans see if these things are so. (Act 17:11)

2Ti 3:16-17 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: (17) That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.

2Pe 1:15-21 Moreover I will endeavor that ye may be able after my decease to have these things always in remembrance. (16) For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty. (17) For he received from God the Father honour and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. (18) And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with him in the holy mount. (19) We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star (the Lord Jesus Christ KR) arise in your hearts: (20) Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. (21) For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved (carried as a burden KR) by the Holy Ghost.

It needs to be mentioned here of the weighty responsibility Pastors and teachers have in the Lord's churches, to properly present the truth of God's Word. We must all give an account to God but **especially** Preachers if whether or not they have properly handled God's Word.

Rom 14:11-12 For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God. (12) So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.

2Co 4:2 But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully;

but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.

Heb 13:17 Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: **for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account,** that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that *is* unprofitable for you.

1Pe 5:2-4 **Feed the flock of God** which is among you, taking the oversight *thereof*, **not by constraint**, but willingly; **not for filthy lucre**, but of a ready mind; (3) **Neither as being lords over** *God's* **heritage, but being ensamples to the flock.** (4) And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.

The Word of Truth

Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away. Mat 24:35, Mar 13:31 and Luk 21:33 (Identical verses)

There are several English translations of the New Testament bible. Those from the Textus Receptus (Received Text) are Tyndale, Coverdale, Matthew's, The Great Bible, Geneva, Bishops', and King James. For the intent of this work we will be using only the King James Version (KJV) also called the Authorized Version of the 1611 English translation, 1769 edition.

Side note; The KJV English translation of the bible has been used for over four hundred years and has never been revised. It has had spelling and punctuation corrections which resulted in different editions, but the original 1611 English translation has never been altered. The diligent Bible student must be cautious in choosing which bible to use employing the admonition of 2Timothy 2:15;

"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

All bibles are not the same, some have entire passages missing. Compare verses of a KJV bible with other modern bibles claiming to be translated from the Textus Receptus.

Are there verses missing? Some English versions have 20,000-30,000 words missing from the Hebrew Old Testament and at least 9970 words missing from the Greek Textus Receptus.⁵

It is most critical to our study to concede that the KJV bible to be the only source for gaining the light of understanding; that it is the best English translation of God's Word. Otherwise, there will be confusion concerning our study.

<u>Another resource article:</u> https://files.secure.website/wscfus/10472275/26450225/another-king-james-bible-believer-printing-errors.pdf

Estimates from the article "The Four-Fold Superiority of The King James Version" written by Dr. D.A. Waite: https://av1611.com/kjbp/articles/waite-fourfold1.html

Also found at: https://files.secure.website/wscfus/10472275/26443217/the-four-fold-superiority-of-the-kjv-pt1-2.pdf

1Co 14:8 For if the trumpet give an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself to the battle?

1Co 14:33 For God is not *the author* of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.

1Co 14:26 How is it then, brethren? when ye come together, every one of you hath a psalm, hath a doctrine, hath a tongue, hath a revelation, hath an interpretation. Let all things be done unto edifying.

Starting on the next page is a table referencing only some of the examples to illustrate our point. Some people do not like the KJV because of the old English words used.

But just a few comments;

- 1. If you are not sure what the word means then simply look it up in Webster's 1828 English Dictionary (it's a free app you can download on your cell phone). Isn't understanding God's Word worth a little extra effort?
- 2. The KJV translators italicized words that they added to scriptures for clarity that are not directly translated from the original texts. This demonstrates the desire they had for honestly translating the Word of God. Also, the importance and seriousness they placed upon properly translating without changing the original meaning.
- 3. The old English words Thee, Thou, and Ye denote a difference in pronouns that modern English does not. For example; in John 3:7 the Lord Jesus told Nicodemus "Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.". "Thee" means you Nicodemus but "Ye" is plural meaning not only Nicodemus but also the Pharisees of whom he belonged. (Joh 3:1) Modern English would simply use the word "You" instead of "Thee" and "Ye" which would not give the complete meaning as the Holy Spirit intended.

	AV (King James)	New International	New American Standard	New World Translation
Mt 9:13	for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.	For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.	For I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners.	For I came to call, not righteous people, but sinners.
Mt 18:11	For the Son of man is come to save that which was lost.	OMITTED	footnote casts doubt	OMITTED
	AV (King James)	New International	New American Standard	New World Translation
Mt 19:17	Why callest thou me good?	"Why do you ask me about what is good?"	"Why are you asking me about what is good?"	"Wny do you ask me about what is good?"
Mt 25:13	Ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.	You do not know the day or the hour.	You do not know the day nor the hour.	You know neither the day nor the hour,
Mk 10:24	how hard it is for them that trust in riches to enter into the kingdom of God!	how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God!	how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God!	how difficult a thing it is to enter into the kingdom of God!
<u>Lk 2:33</u>	And Joseph and his mother,,,	The child's father and mother.	His father and mother.	its father and mother.

	AV (King James)	New International	New American Standard	New World Translation
<u>Lk 4:4</u>	Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.	Man does not live on bread alone.	Man shall not live on bread alone.	Man must not live by bread alone.
<u>Lk 4:8</u>	Get thee behind me, Satan.	OMITTED	OMITTED	OMITTED
<u>Jn 6:47</u>	He that believeth on me hath everlasting life.	He who believes has everlasting life.	He who believes has eternal life.	He that believes has everlasting life.
<u>Jn 8:9</u>	And when they heard it, being convicted by their own conscience, went out.	those who heard began to go away.	when they heard it, they began to go out one by one.	OMITTED
<u>Jn 9:4</u>	I must work the works of him that sent me.	We must do the work of him who sent me.	We must work the works of Him who sent Me.	We must work the works of him that sent me.
<u>Jn 10:30</u>	I and my Father are one	I and the Father are one.	I and the Father are one.	I and the Father are one.

	AV (King James)	New International	New American Standard	New World Translation
Ac 2:30	that of the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh, he would raise up Christ to sit on his throne;	he would place one of his descendants on his throne.	to seat one of his descendants upon his throne.	he would seat one from the fruitage of his loins upon his throne.
Ac 8:37	If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.	OMITTED	footnote casts doubt (some editions just omit it)	OMITTED
Ac 23:9	Let us not fight against God.	OMITTED	OMITTED	OMITTED
Rom 13:9	Thou shalt not bear false witness.	OMITTED	OMITTED	OMITTED

	AV (King James)	New International	New American Standard	New World Translation
<u>Co 1:14</u>	In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins.	In whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.	In whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.	By means of whom we have our release by ransom, the forgiveness of our sins.
1Ti 3:16	God was manifest in the flesh.	He appeared in a body.	He who was revealed in the flesh.	He was made manifest in the flesh.
1Ti 6:5	Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: fro m such withdraw thyself.	"from such withdraw thyself" is omitted	"from such withdraw thyself" is omitted	"from such withdraw thyself" is omitted
<u>1Pe 1:22</u>	Ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit.	you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth.	Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls.	Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth.

	AV (King James)	New International	New American Standard	New World Translation
1Jo 4:3	And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God.	But every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God.	And every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God.	But every inspired expression that does not confess Jesus does not originate with God.
Re 5:14	Four and twenty elders fell down and worshipped him that liveth for ever and ever.	the elders fell down and worshipped.	the elders fell down and worshipped	the elders fell down and worshipped.
Re 20:9	Fire came down from God out of heaven.	Fire came down from heaven.	Fire came down from heaven.	Fire came down out of heaven.
Re 21:24	And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it.	The nations will walk by its light.	And the nations shall walk by its light.	And the nations will walk by means of its light.
This chart courtesy of: https://av1611.com/kjbp/charts/various.html				

Prayerful Study and Guidance from the Holy Spirit

Pro 20:12 The hearing ear, and the seeing eye, the LORD hath made even both of them.

The light of understanding can only be obtained with prayerful study and guidance from the Holy Spirit of God.

Please consider the verses that follow. The verses we have selected throughout this book are the most pertinent to the point being addressed. However, we encourage the reader to read several verses of the scriptural references before and after the point under consideration to ensure a proper understanding of the context.

What we mean by context is to always consider; Who, What, When, Where, and Why.

Who is doing the talking and who are they talking to?

What are they talking about?

When (time, age, event, etc.) are they doing the talking?

Where are they when talking?

Why are they talking?

Isa 8:20 To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, *it is* because *there is* no light in them.

Jas 1:17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

The Pre-Tribulation Rapture: The Completion of The Gospel of The Lord Jesus Christ

We wish to approach this subject by showing, through scripture, God's love for those whom the Lord Jesus gave His life. That these vessels of mercy are precious to Him. We believe this is important due to the confusion about man's spiritual condition before and after the garden of Eden, and especially to gain an understanding of the love He has for His elect.

When the Lord Jesus comes for his elect before the Great Tribulation (Mat 24:21, capitalized for emphasis and clarity), this is referred to doctrinally as the Pre-Tribulation rapture. When we say the Great Tribulation, we are referring to the entire seven-year reign of the antichrist. We recognize that during the first three and one-half years people will say "peace and safety" and the last three and one-half years will be Great Tribulation when God's wrath is being poured out upon the wicked on the earth. During the reign of the antichrist, the Rapture has preceded it and the Holy Spirit has been removed. For convenience, we will include much scriptural text. This way the reader is able to read the scriptures instead of simply a reference.

There is much error that is taught concerning the relationship of man to God. Many of today's Christian bible teachers preach about the free moral agency of man; of his (or her) need to accept God's Free Gift by asking God's forgiveness through the Lord Jesus Christ.

What does the bible say about these things?

We must go back to what happened in the garden of Eden.

We must go back to the book of Genesis!

If you do not understand what happened in the beginning, then how can you have a true understanding of what is going to happen in the end? This has a direct bearing on our subject as it shows a pattern of God's unchanging dealings with those whom He loves.

There are some important points to consider to gain a biblical understanding of the Pre-Tribulation Rapture;

1. What is the biblical history of God's dealing with man before and after Adam's disobedience?

- a. Where did the first man come from?
- b. What was man's spiritual nature when created and what happened after he disobeyed God?
- c. The elect; the recipients of God's love.

2. Christian Persecution and the difference between God's wrath demonstrated in the past and the Great Tribulation.

- a. What is Christian persecution?
- b. What are some past examples of God's wrath and how are they different from the Great Tribulation?
- c. When will the Great Tribulation occur?

3. The Rapture: who will be taken and in what manner will it occur?

- a. The Rapture: A shadow of good things to come seen in the Old Testament
- b. The Rapture: By similitude in the Old Testament
- c. The Rapture: The completion of the Gospel Message
- d. The Rapture: In contrast to the Lord's Glory Coming

4. God's relationship with Israel: The Chastisement and Deliverance of Israel

Point 1a: Where did the first man come from?

In the interest of time and space, below are listed key scriptures. However, it is recommended to read all of Genesis chapters one through three.

- Gen 1:1 In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.
- Gen 1:27 So God created man in his *own* image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.
- Gen 2:7-9 And the LORD God formed man *of* the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul. (8) And the LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed. (9) And out of the ground made the LORD God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil.
- Gen 2:15-17 And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it. (16) And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: (17) But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.
- Gen 2:21-24 And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; (22) And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man. (23) And Adam said, This *is* now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman,

⁶ There has been only one beginning when God created all things.

There are some who believe in two creations, the first in Genesis chapter one and the second in chapter two. Genesis chapter one gives an overview of the six literal 24 hour days of creation and chapter two gives more detail about the creation. There is also the false teaching of Adam having a wife prior to Eve. Eve is the only wife God gave Adam and is called the mother of all living, meaning there are no other offspring of Adam except from Eve. (Gen 3:20)

because she was taken out of Man. (24) Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.

Genesis 1:1 is the first usage of the word God and in the Hebrew language means the plural God. All three persons of the Godhead were involved in creation. This is made apparent in Genesis 1:26;

And God said, Let **us** make man in **our** image, after **our** likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

The "us" refers to the triune Godhead; God the Heavenly Father (Jehovah), God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit (1Jn 5:7-8). "After our likeness..." refers to man being morally upright (in righteousness and holiness, Eph 4:24) and in the physical human form in which God the Son would come into the world (Heb 10:5).

God gave Adam a wife who was bone of his bone and flesh of his flesh.⁷

It is important to realize how special and significant the marriage relationship is in the sight of God. God's Word uses the example of marriage between a man and women to illustrate the relationship between Christ and His church which he established during His earthly ministry (Eph 5:25-32). God's word says "... and they two shall be one flesh." This is a mystery concerning the Lord and his church. Our Lord is joined together with his churches in a special way that is different from his relationship with individual believers, hence the mystery. Israel is the wife of Jehovah God (Jer 31:32), would He divorce His wife? Do you think that God the Son would violently treat His Bride contrary to the Holy Spirit inspired instruction in Ephesians 5:25?

Point 1b: What was man's spiritual nature when created and what happened after he disobeyed God?

God gave man dominion over all the earth, in what must have been the most beautiful garden of Eden, for a home to dress (to work or till) and to keep (to guard).⁸

Adam had only one commandment, do not eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil or he would die.

Adam named all the beasts of the field and fowl of the air, he had superior intelligence compared to fallen man of today (Gen 2:19). The most important consideration was his direct contact and relationship with his Creator. Adam was able to speak to God directly because he had no sin.

God told Adam that in the day he ate the fruit of the forbidden tree he would die.

Consider; death is an enemy that God did not create. (1Co 15:26, Isa 25:8, Hos 13:14, Heb 2:14-15) Death is the result of sin. (Jas 1:13-15)

However, Adam lived to be 930 years old (Gen 5:4).

We conclude from God's Word that the result of Adam's disobedience was two-fold; he eventually died physically but immediately died spiritually (Rom 5:12, 19, 6:23, Eze 18:4).

It is impossible for us to fully comprehend what happened on that day! Consider how the triune, Holy, Just, and Righteous God created all things, and lastly man. Man is the only creature of all creation that God "...breathed into

his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul". Man has such a special relationship with God that even the angels desire to understand it. (1Pe 1:12) Adam had no sin, he was immortal, in all of creation there was no death because there was no sin.

"..in all of creation there was no death because there was no sin."

Consider; what was he to guard it from?

⁸ Sin had not yet entered into the world.

The conclusion we come to is that he was to guard it against evil (fallen Lucifer) and perhaps his own disobedience to God. (Rom 5:19)

Genesis 3:6 tells us of Eve "...she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat."

There is no indication in these verses that Eve was alone with the Serpent. It would seem by the language that Adam was with Eve when she was being tempted by the Serpent. Adam was watching everything as it happened. When Adam sinned, everything changed. God in his holiness, cannot look

upon sin. (Hab 1:13, 2Co 5:21, Mat 27:46)

Adam experienced separation from God, spiritual death, physical death and death passed upon all of creation.

Adam is responsible for the death that passed upon all creation because he freely chose to disobey God and followed his wife Eve who was deceived by the Serpent (Lucifer/Satan). (Isa 14:12, Eze 28:13, Rev 20:2, 1Ti 2:14)

As the representative of all mankind (the headship as a father over his household), all mankind has inherited the spiritual and physical death that was the result of Adam's one act of disobedience (Rom

Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come." Vs. 14

"Wherefore, as by one man sin

entered into the world, and death

by sin; and so death passed upon

"Nevertheless death reigned from

all men, for that all have

sinned:" Rom 5:12

5:12, 14). In Adam, we all die. (1Co 15:22)

Our condemnation before God is not because of sins we have individually committed but because of Adam's sin which we have inherited.

We commit sins against God because we are born into this world as condemned sinners worthy of an eternity in hell. (Joh 3:18) In other words, we sin because we are sinners by nature.

"...we sin <u>because</u>
we are sinners by
nature."

Psa 51:5 Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me.

It is important to understand; it was not God's fault that Adam sinned. Adam did not have to disobey God's commandment. However, God still requires every one of Adam's descendants to be holy as He is holy. (Lev 20:7, 1Pe 1:15-16)

A requirement that we are completely incapable of except through the Lord Jesus Christ!

Those who don't know the Lord Jesus Christ as their Savior have no hope in the eternity that awaits them.

Adam chose (the only time in human history that man had the ability of free will concerning spiritual matters) to follow after the devil. Who the Lord Jesus said was a murderer from the beginning and the father of lies. The Lord told the Pharisees; "Those who don't know the Lord Jesus Christ as their Savior have no hope in the eternity that awaits them."

Joh 8:44 Ye are of *your* father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.

The devil became the spiritual father of Adam and all of his descendants after him. God's elect never ceased being so but became His lost sheep and subjects in the enemy's domain. Adam gave away to Satan the dominion over the earth that God had given him. Satan became the god of this world in as much as our Sovereign God will allow. Mankind was delivered into the power of darkness ruled by Satan. (Col 1:13)

Gen 1:28 (28) And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: **and have dominion** over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.

Eph 2:2 (2) Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to **the prince of the power of the air**, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:

Joh 12:31 (31) Now is the judgment of this world: now shall **the prince of this world** be cast out.

2Co 4:4 (4) In whom **the god of this world** hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

There might be some who do not like the thought that before God saves them they have the devil as their spiritual father. "...before God saves them they have the devil as their spiritual father."

God's elect are His sheep lost from the fold whom the Lord came to seek and to save. (Luk 19:10, Psa 100:3, Psa 119:176, Isa 53:6, Jer 23:1, Jer 50:6, Eze 34:11-12, Mat

9:36, Mat 10:6, Mat 15:24, Mat 18:12-13, Mat 25:32-33, Luk 15:4-6, Joh 10:11, 15, 27, Heb 13:20, 1Pet 2:25)

We can see this by the example of the Pharisees in John 8:44. They were no different than any others of Adam's sin-cursed descendants. We believe it possible that at least some of these heard the Apostle Peter's Holy Spirit empowered message recorded in Acts 2:14-41.

Verse 14 starts; "But Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice, and said unto them, Ye men of **Judaea**, and **all** *ye* **that dwell at Jerusalem**,...".

In verse 23 he says; "Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, **ye have taken**, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain:".

In verse 37 we are told; "Now when they heard *this*, **they were pricked in their heart**, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men *and* **brethren**, what shall we do?"

Then in verse 41; "Then **they that gladly received his word** were baptized: and the same day there were added *unto them* about three thousand souls."

Note: "...Ye men of Judaea...all ye that dwell at Jerusalem..." "...ye have taken..." "...pricked in their heart..." "...brethren...".

Peter is a Jew and speaking to the men of Judaea and all that dwell at Jerusalem. These same ones later call him and the other disciples brethren. We conclude these men are Jews. They were pricked in their heart; meaning quickened by the Holy Spirit. It was the Jews, specifically the Pharisees that incited the people to cry "crucify Him".

All of mankind was **sold** into the bondage of sin and death (Rom 5:12, 7:14). This is why the Lord is our "surety", our Bondsman;

Heb 7:22 By so much was Jesus made a **surety** of a better testament.

Point 1c: The elect; the recipients of God's love.

Many do not like the teaching of election. They say "that makes God unfair". "He elects some to salvation and others to hell".

This is one place so many are in error.

Go back to Genesis!

"...God according to His sovereign predeterminate council elected spiritually dead and undeserving some to salvation..."

All of mankind is already condemned (Joh 3:18). As soon as Adam sinned, God would have been righteous to allow all of Adam's sinned cursed race to spend eternity in hell and the lake of fire that was prepared for Satan and his angels (Mat 25:41).

However, God according to His sovereign predeterminate council elected spiritually dead and an undeserving some to salvation even **before** Adam sinned.

Once again, it was not God's fault that Adam sinned!

Besides, sin-cursed man does not desire the things of God. Therefore God is not withholding salvation from anyone because no one in their spiritually lost condition wants to be saved.

1Co 2:14 But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned.

Rom 7:14 For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin.

Rom 8:7 Because the carnal mind *is* enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.

So, why is it that some have a problem with God's sovereignty? Perhaps, in our lost condition, it is because of our spiritual father Satan. Lucifer, in the angelic realm, was second to God. But he became vain by reason of his beauty and pridefully declared that he would be as the most High God.

Is it any wonder that sin-cursed man demonstrates the same nature as their spiritual father? (Isa 14:12-14, Eze 28:11-19)

Rom 9:19-23 Thou wilt say then unto me, Why doth he yet find fault? For who hath resisted his will? (20) **Nay but, O man, who art thou that repliest against God?** Shall the thing formed say to him that formed *it,* Why hast thou made me thus? (21) Hath not the potter power over the clay, of the same lump to make one vessel unto honour, and another unto dishonour? (22) *What* if God, willing to shew *his* wrath, and to make his power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath fitted to destruction: (23) And that **he might make known the riches of his glory on the vessels of mercy,** which he had **afore prepared** unto glory,... See also Eph 2:7.

"...But, God
Himself came to be
a ransom for
many."

Because of Adam's disobedience and choice to follow after Lucifer (Satan), we are all sold under sin. But, God Himself came to be a ransom for many (God's elect). The word many does not mean everyone in the world as some preach.

Mat 20:28 Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.

Hos 13:14 I will ransom them from the power of the grave; I will redeem them from death: O death, I will be thy plagues; O grave, I will be thy destruction: repentance shall be hid from mine eyes.

1Co 15:55 O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?

God's elect (a number known only to God) were chosen before the foundation of the world unto salvation.

Eph 1:4 According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:

2Ti 1:9 Who hath saved us, and called *us* with an holy calling, **not** according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,

Tit 1:2 In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, **promised** before the world began;

Spiritual and physical life was taken, murder was committed. Death passed upon all of creation and every offspring of Adam inherited his sin-cursed depravity. We

"It is a biblical fact of nature that like begets like."

commit sins against God because we are born into this world sinners. It is a biblical fact of nature that like begets like. Therefore, sinful man cannot produce a sinless offspring. Man became completely incapable of reconciling with the Holy, Just, and Righteous God.

However, we also see God's Love, Grace, and Mercy for immediately after man's disobedience, we see the promise of a redeemer;

Gen 3:15 And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

"...but God would cause a new thing to happen..."

It is the man who has the seed, not the women, but God would cause a new thing to happen...a virgin would bring forth a child. (Isa 7:14, Jer 31:22, Mat 1:23, Luk 1:31-35, Gal 4:4) The woman, though a partaker of sin and the spiritual death, is not the one whom God holds responsible

for the transgression. Therefore, a virgin (literally a virgin and not just a young woman) could bring forth, by the Holy Spirit, the sinless Lord Jesus, God's Christ, who is God the Son!

God determined this before the world began. (2Tim 1:9, Tit 1:2, Rev 13:8, 17:8) This was according to His purpose to provide a way of redemption for His elect whom He created and loves. God's justice and righteousness could not be satisfied except that God Himself make the sacrifice to ransom back His elect. (Hos 13:14, Mat 20:28, Mar 10:45)

There is no one else sinless and pure enough to be acceptable to God.

Murder was committed, life was taken, which can only be repaid by the giving of a life. For without the shedding of blood, there is no remission.

Heb 9:22 And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.

Lev 17:11 For the life of the flesh *is* in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it *is* the blood *that* maketh an atonement for the soul.

God made the first sacrifice thereby teaching man by example the terrible price that must be paid to atone for his transgression.

Gen 3:21 Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them.

Let us now look at God's relationship to those whom He has chosen, the recipients of His mercy, his elect who have worshiped Him.

Remember man's fallen condition; his relationship with God severed, his spirit dead, and his body awaiting the grave.

In the garden of Eden Adam had no hope of reconciliation with God except for the promise of the woman's seed. From that moment all of fallen man, who are His elect, whom God had chosen before the foundation of the world, looked for the promise. The only One who could redeem them and restore their relationship with God.

Isa 25:9 And it shall be said in that day, Lo, this *is* our God; we have waited for him, and he will save us: this *is* the LORD; we have waited for him, we will be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

The following are but a few scriptures to show God's reconciliation and His loving relationship of fallen man to himself (some are in bold for emphasis);

Eph 1:3-12 (3) Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ: (4) According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: (5) Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, (6) To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath

made us accepted in the beloved. (7) In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace; (8) Wherein he hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence; (9) Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself: (10) That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him: (11) In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will: (12) That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ.

Eph 2:1-7 And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; (2) Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: (3) Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others. (4) But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, (5) Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) (6) And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: (7) That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.

Col 1:12-17 (12) Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: (13) Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: (14) In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins: (15) Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: (16) For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:

(17) And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.

Joh 17:20-24 (20) Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; (21) That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. (22) And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: (23) I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me. (24) Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world.

Heb 2:9-18 (9) But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man. (10) For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings. (11) For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of one: for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren, (12) Saying, I will declare thy name unto my brethren, in the midst of the church (assembly, KR) will I sing praise unto thee. (13) And again, I will put my trust in him. And again, Behold I and the children which God hath given me. (14) Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; (15) And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. (16) For verily he took not on him the nature of angels; but he took on him the seed of Abraham. (17) Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in

Where is the Lord Jesus now? Is it plausible that the Lord was talking about those who would believe upon Him through the word of His disciples, that they should first go through the Great Tribulation before being where He is? The Lord Jesus is now at the right hand of the Father in heaven!

things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people. (18) For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted.

Rom 8:16-17 (16) The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: (17) And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.

All of mankind was placed in the spiritual family of Satan. (Eph 2:3) All of those who truly know the Lord Jesus as their Savior are adopted. This relationship further demonstrates God's love for His elect.

Rom 8:14-17 (14) For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. (15) For ye have not received **the spirit of bondage** again to fear; but ye have received the **Spirit of adoption**, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. (16) The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: (17) And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and jointheirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with *him*, that we may be also glorified together.

Eph 1:5 Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,

For those who reject the scriptural fact of being in the spiritual family of Satan, then we ask: if we are adopted; Who was our spiritual father before God quickened us and we became the sons of God? Whose spiritual family were we in before we were adopted by God?

If we were always in God's family, spiritually speaking, then what need is there for adoption?

We were predestinated into the family of God before the foundation of the world according to election.

But we were not led by the Spirit of God until He quickened us, making us

spiritually alive and then we became the sons of God according to adoption.

Joh 10:3 To him the porter openeth; and the sheep hear his voice: and he calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out.

There is not enough time or space to expound upon all the aspects of these scriptures nor are all the scriptures listed that could be.

For the purpose and the truth that is hoped to be conveyed in this work; let us consider God's relationship with man after he has been spiritually "reborn".

- 1. We do not have a God that makes mistakes and has to improvise a plan to "fix" something that went wrong. God's chosen people, his elect, were chosen before the foundation of the world, which was before Adam ever sinned. (Eph 1:4)
- 2. The Redeemer, Jesus Christ, is God the Son who was ordained to be the Redeemer for God's elect also before the foundation of the world which He created. (Rev 13:8, Joh 1:3, Col 1:16-17)
- 3. Those who are redeemed are no longer as Adam was before his disobedience, as one to "dress" and to "keep" the garden of Eden. Not only has the personal relationship between God and man been restored through the Lord Jesus, but the elect are heirs and joint-heirs with the Son of God! (Eph 1:5, 1:11, Col 1:12, Joh 17:21-24, Heb 2:11, 2:17, Rom 8:17)

We are to be one with God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit dwells within us. The all-knowing, all wise, and all-powerful God allowed Adam to sin that his glory could be revealed by the sacrifice of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God. That in the ages to come we will ever be learning of his grace and kindness to us. (Eph 2:7) We will receive a glorified body in which sin will no longer have a place. Unlike Adam, we will not be able to sin against God. We will be in the very presence of the most High God where sin can not exist. (1Co 15:50, 53, 1Co 6:9-10, 1Ti 6:16, Rev 21:27)

- 4. We are brethren to the Lord Jesus! No more as a servant but adopted into the family of God and objects of his affection. Our relationship to God the Father has been restored through our Mediator, the Lord Jesus Christ. (Heb 2:11, Rom 8:29, 1Ti 2:5)
- 5. Because of this cherished relationship, it is our Lord's will that we shall be where He is. (Joh 17:24)
- 6. How can we understand the design of him who has created all things from nothing by his word? The very countenance of whom makes it impossible for mere mortal man to look upon and live (Exo 33:20)? How that we, whom He has elected unto salvation by his eternal and pre-determinant council, can be one with God?

"How could God allow those, whom he has chosen and redeemed by his own blood, to go through the Great Tribulation..."

In considering these points, questions arise about the Great Tribulation;

- 1. How could God allow those, whom He has chosen and redeemed by His blood, to go through the Great Tribulation when it is his desire for us, His brethren, to be where He is?

 Of which it is said that except those days be shortened; no flesh would remain. (Mat 24:22, Mar 13:20) We are adopted into the family of God and brethren to the Lord Jesus Christ, heirs, and joint-heirs with Him. Therefore, for God to pour His wrath upon Christians during the Great Tribulation would be the same as pouring out His wrath upon His Son! Since the Holy Spirit dwells within each child of God before the Rapture, that means that if true Christians go through the Great Tribulation then God's wrath is also being poured out upon God the Holy Spirit!

 To state it another way; After God saves us, our sins are forgiven and we are indwelt by God the Holy Spirit which is the earnest of our inheritance. (Eph 1:13-14, Joh 14:17, Rom 8:11, 1Cor 3:16)
- 2. How could God pour out His wrath upon His elect along with the wicked,

if our sins are forgiven? (Psa 85:2, Act 26:18, Rom 4:7, Eph 1:7, 4:32, Col 1:14, 2:13)

3. The church of the Lord Jesus is called His Bride (Joh 3:29, 2Cor 11:2, Eph 5:25-27, Rev 19:7, Rev 21:9); How could He have His Bride go through such a terrible time as the Great Tribulation?

More on this in **Point 3: The Rapture: who will be taken and in what manner will it occur?**

Consider God's compassionate love for His elect:

Heb 4:15 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.

Consider what manner of love the Father has bestowed upon us and the love the Lord Jesus has for them for whom He gave His life!

In the eleventh chapter of John, we read about Lazarus whom the Lord loved. Lazarus died and as our Lord stood before the sepulcher where he was laid, we read the shortest verse in the bible. "Jesus wept" (Joh 11:35).

"Jesus wept."

Think about it!

He who created everything and knows the end of all things before the beginning of all things...wept.

Did not the Lord know that He was going to raise Lazarus from the dead? Of course, He did!

We sin-cursed humans would not have made such a display if we knew what the favorable outcome was going to be.

But He in whose hand our breath is, He who created all things, He who knows all things...wept.

We can only speculate as to why our Lord wept and such speculation, we are sure, would fall short of the true reason. Such a display of His love for one of God's children. A child of God, one of many, for whom He purposed to come and be a ransom for their immortal souls.

God's unchanging love toward His elect.

God's love and compassion toward His chosen are mentioned throughout the bible and are unchanging. An important point in our study, for there is nothing that can separate us from the love of God, not even ourselves! (Rom 8:31-39)

Those who oppose a Pre-Tribulation Rapture say the teaching is relatively new, but we will address that later.

The Pre-Tribulation Rapture is not new if God's unchanging relationship to His elect is taken into account. If we view the Pre-Tribulation Rapture as an expected and anticipated deliverance.

Psa 103:17 But the mercy of the LORD *is* from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him, and his righteousness unto children's children;

Please keep these things in mind as we progress to the conclusion of this work.

Isa 64:4 For since the beginning of the world *men* have not heard, nor perceived by the ear, neither hath the eye seen, O God, beside thee, *what* he hath prepared for him that waiteth for him.

1Co 2:9 But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.

We hope that this first section has laid a solid foundation to show how much God loves His elect. Such love is beyond human understanding or comprehension. How could such love allow the recipients thereof to experience God's wrath?

A wrath (Great Tribulation) so terrible of which the world has never known...but that is yet to be addressed.

To conclude this section; please consider the below scriptures which are but a small sampling further showing God's love toward His elect.

Psa 36:7 How excellent is thy lovingkindness, O God! therefore the

children of men put their trust under the shadow of thy wings.

Rom 5:6-10 For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. (7) For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. (8) But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. (9) **Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath** through him. (10) For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.

1Jn 3:1 Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.

Lam 3:22-23 *It is of* the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. (23) *They are* new every morning: **great** *is* **thy faithfulness.**

What wrath is being talked about? This could not be referring to Hell as that is God's judgement upon sin. Whereas during the Great Tribulation His wrath is poured out upon the wicked **living** on the earth, then the millinial reign of Christ followed by the white throne judgement when death and hell are cast into the lake of fire. (Rom 2:5, 2Pet 2:4, Rev 20:14)

Point 2a: What is Christian Persecution?

Some say that the Great Tribulation is Persecution against Christians, who must faithfully endure to the end until the Lord's Glory Coming.

What is persecution and how is it different from the Great Tribulation? Throughout history there has been persecution against God's people, many have lost their lives in this world for being faithful to their Lord but entered into eternal glory.

However, the persecution of God's people is not God's wrath that will be poured out upon the **entire wicked earth during the Great Tribulation**. Persecution of God's elect occurred in **localized areas** and **varying intensity** ever since the Lord Jesus ascended.

The persecution of God's people;

Joh 15:20 Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have <u>persecuted me</u>, they will also <u>persecute you</u>; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also.

Act 7:52 Which of the prophets have not your fathers <u>persecuted</u>? and they have slain them which shewed before of the coming of the Just One; of whom ye have been now the betrayers and murderers:

1Co 4:12 And labour, working with our own hands: being reviled, we bless; being persecuted, we suffer it:

2Co 4:7-14 (7) But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us. (8) We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; (9) Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed; (10) Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body. (11) For we which live are alway delivered unto death for Jesus' sake, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh. (12) So then death worketh in us, but life in you. (13) We having the same spirit of faith, according as it is written, I believed,

and therefore have I spoken; we also believe, and therefore speak; (14) Knowing that he which raised up the Lord Jesus shall raise up us also by Jesus, and shall present *us* with you.

2Ti 3:10-17 (10) But thou hast fully known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, charity, patience, (11) <u>Persecutions</u>, afflictions, which came unto me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra; what <u>persecutions</u> I endured: but out of *them* all the Lord delivered me. (12) Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer <u>persecution</u>.

Point 2b: What are some past examples of God's wrath and how are they different from the Great Tribulation?

As already stated, we contend that our Lord will return for His elect before the Great Tribulation.

How is the Great Tribulation different from God's wrath that has been poured out in times past?

The thing that sets the Great Tribulation apart from other events is that there will be survivors. In contrast in the past, all perished upon whom God's wrath was poured.

Some think that they will be among a chosen number who will endure this terrible time until the Lord comes, either in false teaching about the Rapture or at His Glory Coming.

Think about all that is said of that time!

A third of all the population will be killed by three woes, which includes an army of two hundred million terrifying horsemen. Even after that and all the other torments poured out upon people, still they do not repent. (Rev 9:15-21)

The bible gives us several past examples of God's wrath being poured out upon sinful man, but in each God has always delivered his elect before the outpouring.

A little sin leaveneth the whole lump (1Co 5:6) and so it was for all of the descendants of fallen Adam except for Noah who found grace in the eyes of the Lord.

Gen 6:5-8 And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. (6) And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart. (7) And the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them. (8) But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.

This grace was not of Noah's doing but rather he was the recipient of God's mercy (Psa 110:3, Isa 65:1, Rom 9:16, Eph 2:8-9, Phi 2:13).

Noah and his family were safely carried to a new world (2Pe 3:6) while all others outside of God's protection perished.

Consider the example of Lot being delivered from God's wrath that was poured out upon the wickedness of Sodom and Gomorrah. (Gen 18-19) The Lord appeared unto Abraham in the plains of Mamre (Gen 18:1) and told him that He was going to destroy those wicked cities. (Gen 13:13, 18:20) Abraham told the Lord; "That be far from thee to do after this manner, to slay the righteous with the wicked: and that the righteous should be as the wicked, that be far from thee: Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?" (Gen 18:25)

Rahab the harlot, a gentile, was another recipient of God's mercy. She and all of her household were removed from Jericho and set outside the camp of Israel before the city was destroyed. Not only was Rahab "...there were

no survivors

of those upon

whom God's

saved from God's judgment against Jericho, but she is also in the blood lineage of the Lord Jesus Christ. She is the mother of Boaz, a kinsman-redeemer. (Jos 6:22-23, Mat 1:5, Rth

2:11-12, 3:12)

wrath was Again, in each of these examples, all the recipients of the poured." outpouring of God's wrath perished; while the recipients of God's grace and mercy did not merely survive but were completely removed from the event. Noah and his family were not only floating above and through the waters of the flood but were being transported to a new world. The world that then was perished but they were safely delivered to a new world (2Pe 2:5). Sodom and Gomorrah were completely destroyed by God's wrath but not before just Lot was safely delivered. (2Pe 2:6-10) So, likewise, will God's people be delivered out of this world before that great and terrible day of the Lord (Joe 2:31, 1Th 5:9). In the Great Tribulation, there will be survivors but in the examples above

there were no survivors of those upon whom God's wrath was poured. (Mat24:22, Mar 13:20) The only ones we see mentioned surviving the Great Tribulation are of the house of Israel. (Isa 45:17, Rom 9:27) Possibly some elect Gentiles might be saved, similar to the Old Testament Gentile Proselytes. We can consider those mentioned in Revelation 7:9-17.

Rev 7:9-17 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; (10) And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb. (11) And all the angels stood round about the throne, and about the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God, (12) Saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen. (13) And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they? (14) And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. (15) Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them. (16) They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat. (17) For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.

However, the term "great tribulation" mentioned in verse 14 does not necessarily mean the Great Tribulation in our study. Those mentioned in these verses are a "...a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues,...". In comparing the scriptures, we think it more probable that those mentioned are those throughout history who were faithful to God even unto death.

Mat 23:34-35 Wherefore, behold, I send unto you prophets, and wise men, and scribes: and *some* of them ye shall kill and crucify; and *some* of them shall ye scourge in your synagogues, and persecute *them* from city to city: (35) That upon you may come all the righteous blood shed upon the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel unto the blood of Zacharias son of Barachias, whom ye slew between the temple and the altar.

Point 2c: When will the Great Tribulation occur?

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.

"We contend that the only prophetic event that needs to take place before the Great Tribulation is not upon the earth!"

Those who hold to any other view except a Pre-Tribulation Rapture must look for prophetic signs to occur upon the earth. That means the Lord **cannot** come until the beginning of the Great Tribulation is visible.

This is contrary to what the Lord said about His coming in the Rapture;

Mat 25:13 Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.

Rev 3:3 Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee.

Some try to divide the seven years and say that the Great Tribulation does not occur until the wrath of God is being poured out upon the world. They are still looking for signs, as the antichrist is ruling before the woes of God are started. God has determined that the length of the end times to be <u>seven years</u> which includes the Great Tribulation, beginning when the antichrist is revealed. This will be further explained in more detail in this section.

We contend that the only prophetic event that needs to take place before the Great Tribulation is **not upon the earth**.

Rather, it is the Rapture delivering all of God's saints from the earth!

Once again to state that much confusion and misteaching exists about the Rapture, the Great Tribulation, the loving relationship of the Lord Jesus with His churches, and all His saints. We will address four subjects in this section;

- 1. The destruction of the Jewish Temple in 70 A.D.
- 2. Our gathering together unto the Lord is not at the end of the Great Tribulation.
- 3. The Holy Spirit being removed from the earth will be the beginning of the Great Tribulation.
- 4. The God-given authority and succession of the Lord's churches.

1. The destruction of the Jewish Temple in 70 A.D.

Some think the destruction of the Jewish temple in 70 A.D. is the same as the Great Tribulation mentioned in scripture. Let's consider some much-debated scriptures about this subject.

In Matthew 24:3-31 our Lord is answering three questions from his disciples which were prompted by his statement in verse 2 concerning the destruction of the Jewish temple.

The Lord's disciples did not understand (Joh 12:16, Luk 9:45, 18:34, 24:25, 24:45) that the Messiah must first come, not as King of Kings but as the Lamb of God. (Joh 1:29, 1:36)

They thought the Lord had come to restore the kingdom of Israel as foretold in prophecy. Even after the Lord's resurrection they still wondered if that was His purpose. (Psa 130:7-8, Isa 59:20-21)

Jer 33:14-17 Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will perform that good thing which I have promised unto the house of Israel and to the house of Judah. (15) In those days, and at that time, will I cause the Branch of righteousness to grow up unto David; and he shall execute judgment and righteousness in the land. (16) In those days shall Judah be saved, and Jerusalem shall dwell safely: and this *is the name* wherewith she shall be called, The LORD our righteousness. (17) For thus saith the

LORD; David shall never want a man to sit upon the throne of the house of Israel;

Luk 24:21 But we trusted that it had been he which should have redeemed Israel: and beside all this, to day is the third day since these things were done.

Act 1:6 When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?

Some say that the 24th chapter of Mathew is only referring to the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 A.D. by the Roman General Titus, son of Emperor Vespasian. But a careful reading of the 23rd and 24th chapters of Mathew and Luke 19:41-44 gives us a better view.

In Mathew 24:1-2, Mark 13:1-2, and Luke 21:5-6 the disciples draw the Lord's attention to the grandeur of the temple.

He tells them that there will not be one stone left upon another. That is what happened in 70 A.D.

The Lord and the disciples then depart to the Mount of Olives where in Mathew Chapter 24 they ask Him three questions;

Mat 24:3 And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?

Luke is not as detailed as Mathew, which gives us a better understanding.

Luk 21:7 And they asked him, saying, Master, but when shall these things be? and what sign *will there be* when these things shall come to pass?

After comparing scripture with scripture, we see the Lord's foretelling of the destruction of Jerusalem <u>while outside the temple</u>. (Mat 24:1-2) His answer to the disciple's questions is a separate event and even a different location. (Mat 24:3) Why is this so important?

Because the destruction of the temple is a different event from what the Lord Jesus describes in answer to their questions on the Mount of Olives.

Why was the temple destroyed?

In Mathew chapter 23: 37-39 and Luke 19:41-44 the Lord laments and weeps over Jerusalem. The cause of His weeping is because Jerusalem did not recognize the day of His visitation. Which is also the cause of its destruction in 70 A.D.

Luk 19:37-40 And when he was come nigh, even now at the descent of the mount of Olives, **the whole multitude of the disciples** 11 began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen; (38) Saying, Blessed be the King that cometh in the name of the Lord: peace in heaven, and glory in the highest. (39) And some of the Pharisees from among the multitude said unto him, Master, rebuke thy disciples. (40) And he answered and said unto them, I tell you that, if these should hold their peace, the stones would immediately cry out.

Why would the stones immediately cry out if the multitude of His disciples had not proclaimed the Lord Jesus King?

Because His entry into Jerusalem on that exact day was the fulfillment of prophecy! (Dan 9:24-25)

Jerusalem was not watching for the coming of their Messiah.

They did not know the time of their visitation when the Lord entered the city as He who was "...Blessed *be* the King that cometh in the name of the Lord:". (Luke 19:38)

The Lord Jesus lamented over Jerusalem because of their failure:

Mat 23:37-39 O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, *thou* that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under *her*

Often, people think that the multitude going before and after the Lord as He came into Jerusalem are the same ones who just a few days later are crying out "Crucify Him".

A study of scripture will show that the multitude going before and after the Lord as He entered the city are called disciples. (Luk 19:37) In Matthew we see those in the city asked the disciples "who is this?" Those in the city are the ones that would later cry out for the Lord to be crucified.

Mat 21:10-11 And when he was come into Jerusalem, all the city was moved, saying, Who is this? (11) And the multitude (the disciples KR) said, This is Jesus the prophet of Nazareth of Galilee.

wings, and ye would not! (38) Behold, your house is left unto you desolate. (39) For I say unto you, Ye shall not see me henceforth, <u>till</u> ye shall say, Blessed *is* he that cometh in the name of the Lord.

Luk 19:41-44 And when he was come near, he beheld the city, and wept over it, (42) Saying, If thou hadst known, even thou, at least in this thy day, the things *which belong* unto thy peace! but now they are hid from thine eyes. (43) For the days shall come upon thee, that thine enemies shall cast a trench about thee, and compass thee round, and keep thee in on every side, (44) And shall lay thee even with the ground, and thy children within thee; and they shall not leave in thee one stone upon another; because thou knewest not the time of thy visitation.

"...the Lord was not speaking to the disciples as his church, as Christians, but rather as Israelites."

Jerusalem was destroyed by Titus because they did not recognize the time of their visitation. They had turned away from their God. But there will come a day when Israel will turn back to their God. (Jer 24:7)

Mat 23: 39 For I say unto you, Ye shall not see me henceforth, till ye shall say, Blessed *is* he that cometh in the name of the Lord.

We dare not be too judgmental of God's chosen nation...God allowed these things for the sake of us Gentiles.

We are His elect sheep in a different fold than His elect sheep

of Israel. (Joh 10:16, 11:51-52, Luk 2:31-32, Act 15:14)

"We dare not be too judgmental of God's chosen nation..."

It is important to understand that when the Lord was answering the disciples' questions on the Mount of Olives, He was not speaking to them as His church, as Christians, but rather as Israelites.

This is evident by the reference of the abomination of desolation spoken of by Daniel (Mat 24:15, Dan 9:27) a direct reference to the anti-christ and the reestablished Jewish temple. Those in Judaea should flee to the mountains, the only people being referred to are Jews and not gentiles.

Rom 11:25 (25) For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, **until** the fulness of the Gentiles be come in.

2Co 3:12-16 (12) Seeing then that we have such hope, we use great plainness of speech: (13) And not as Moses, which put a vail over his face, that the children of Israel could not stedfastly look to the end of that which is abolished: (14) But their minds were blinded: for until this day remaineth the same vail untaken away in the reading of the old testament; which vail is done away in Christ. (15) But even unto this day, when Moses is read, the vail is upon their heart. (16) Nevertheless when it shall turn to the Lord, the vail shall be taken away.

2. Our gathering together unto the Lord is not at the end of the Great Tribulation.

Sometimes it is taught that the Rapture will not occur until the end of the Great Tribulation. This is a Post-Tribulation argument. What does God's Word tell us?

1Th 1:8-10 For from you sounded out the word of the Lord not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your faith to God-ward is spread abroad; so that we need not to speak any thing. (9) For they themselves shew of us what manner of entering in we had unto you, and how ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God; (10) **And to wait for his Son from heaven**, whom he raised from the dead, *even* Jesus, **which delivered us from the wrath to come.**

What wrath is being referred to that the Gentile saints in Macedonia and Achaia, which are in Greece, have been delivered from?

This could not have anything to do with the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 A.D. We conclude that it must be the wrath of God, "the day of the Lord", foretold throughout scripture which is the Great Tribulation!

Let's look at 2Thesalonians where the Rapture and the Great Tribulation are mentioned together in the same passages.

2Th 2:1-12 Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our

Peseech: Strong's Definition: G2065 ἐρωτάω erōtaō *er-o-tah'-o* Apparently from G2046 (compare G2045); to *interrogate*; by implication to *request*: - ask, beseech, desire, intreat, pray. Compare G4441. Total KJV occurrences: 58

Thayer's Definition: 1) to question 2) to ask 2a) to request, entreat, beg, beseech Part of Speech: verb

By: Strong's Definition: G5228 ὑπέρ huper hoop-er' A primary preposition; "over", that is, (with the genitive case) of place, above, beyond, across, or causal, for the sake of, instead, regarding; with the accusative case superior to, more than. In compounds it retains many of the listed applications: - (+ exceeding abundantly) above, in (on) behalf of, beyond, by, + very chiefest, concerning, exceeding (above, -ly), for, + very highly, more (than), of, over, on the part of, for sake of, in stead, than, to (- ward), very. (Cont. on next Page)

Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him, (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. (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; (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, shewing himself that he is God. (5) Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things? (6) And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be **revealed in his time.** (7) For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth $\frac{14}{2}$ will let, until he be taken out of the way. (8) And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming: (9) Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, (10) And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. (11) And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: (12) That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

Dear reader, you must read both 1 and 2Thessalonians to gain the full context of what the Holy Spirit wrote through the Apostle Paul concerning the Rapture and the Great Tribulation. Let's break down the following verses which we have highlighted to make clear;

In compounds it retains many of the above applications.

Thayer's Definition: G5228 1) in behalf of, for the sake of 2) over, beyond, more than 3) more, beyond, over Part of Speech: preposition

¹⁴ Letteth: Strong's Definition: G2722 κατέχω katechō kat-ekh'-o From G2596 and G2192; to hold down (fast), in various applications (literally or figuratively): - have, hold (fast), keep (in memory), let, X make toward, possess, retain, seize on, stay, take, withhold. Total KJV occurrences: 19 **Thayer's Definition:** G2722 κατέχω katechō 1) to hold back, detain, retain 1a) from going away 1b) to restrain, hinder (the course or progress of) 1b1) that which hinders, Antichrist from making his appearance 1b2) to check a ship's headway, i.e. to hold or head the ship 1c) to hold fast, keep secure, keep firm possession of 2) to get possession of, take 2b) to possess Part of Speech: verb

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

Some might suggest that these verses are referring only to the Rapture or only the Lord's Glory Coming at the end of the Great Tribulation.

They are referring to both but at different times. Please note there is a distinction between; "...the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him,..." highlighted in yellow and "That ye be not soon shaken in mind,... as that the <u>day of Christ</u> is at hand." Highlighted in grey.

First, if this is only talking about the Rapture; Why would they "be soon shaken in mind or troubled" because of the Lord Jesus coming and gathering us unto Him?

The Rapture will be a joyous time that true Christians look forward to! Our desire is to be with our Lord and receive our glorified bodies.

2Co 5:2 For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven:

(Meaning to receive our glorified body at the Rapture, notice "...earnestly desiring...". Would it be desirous having to go through the Great Tribulation first?)

Php 1:23 For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better:

In our text, there is a difference between "...the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him" and the term "...the day of Christ". Our gathering together unto Him **precedes** the day of Christ.

So what is "the day of Christ" referring to and why was it a concern for the Thessalonians?

There are lots of scriptures that refer to the time of God's wrath or of the

Lord's Glory coming as "a day".

Let's look at the exact term "day of Christ" which is found only two other times in the New Testament;

Php 1:10 That ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ;

Php 2:16 Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain.

Now let's look a little deeper;

The term "day of Jesus Christ" is found one time;

Php 1:6 Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform *it* until the day of Jesus Christ:

The term "day of the Lord Jesus" is found twice;

1Co 5:5 To deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.

2Co 1:14 As also ye have acknowledged us in part, that we are your rejoicing, even as ye also *are* ours in the day of the Lord Jesus.

The term "day of our Lord Jesus Christ" is found once;

1Co 1:8 Who shall also confirm you unto the end, *that ye may be* blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

All of the above verses are referencing when the Lord Jesus physically returns to earth in His glory and is seated on the throne of David. This starts the Millennial Reign of Christ when the saints of God will rule with Him and He is judging the world in righteousness. Rev 20:6, Psa 72:1-5, 96:13, Isa 11:3-5, 32:1, Jer 23:5-6, Luk 1:32-33

The encouragement of "the day of Christ" verses is for the Lord's people to be found worthy of their **vocation**, their calling of God, to reign with Christ. (Not to be confused with salvation)

(Eph 4:1, Col 1:10, 1Th 2:12, 2Th 1:5, 2Th 1:11, 2Pet 1:10, Rev 20:6) Now, let's search for "day of the LORD" and "day of the Lord Jesus";

Isa 2:12	Isa 13:6	Isa 13:9	Isa 34:8	Jer 46:10
Lam 2:22	Eze 13:5	Eze 30:3	Joe 1:15	Joe 2:1
Joe 2:11	Joe 2:31	Joe 3:14	Amo 5:18	Amo 5:20
Oba 1:15	Zep 1:7	Zep 1:8	Zep 1:14	Zep 1:18
Zep 2:2	Zep 2:3	Zec 14:1	Mal 4:5	Act 2:20
1Co 5:5	2Co 1:14	1Th 5:2	2Pe 3:10	

All of the above verses pertain to the day of God's judgment upon the earth; the Great Tribulation, the glory-coming of the Lord Jesus at the end of it, and the end of the thousand-year millennial reign.

Once again, the Thessalonians would have good reason to be troubled if they thought the "day of Christ" was at hand. They knew of the Old Testament scriptures referring to God's wrath. They thought that the wrath of God was near. (Mat 3:7, Luk 3:7)

"...O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come?"

This was John the Baptist's rebuke to the Pharisees and Sadducees. John asked them "who warned you to <u>flee</u> the wrath to come?" The very question states there <u>is</u> a way to flee the wrath to come, to be delivered...to be rescued.

John was administering the baptism of repentance to those whom God quickened unto spiritual life. (Mar 1:4, Luk 3:3, Act 13:24, Act 19:4) John's question to the Pharisees and Sadducees was by nature spiritual. He was asking them about the wrath to come that was spoken of in the Old Testament prophecies. The wrath of God that will be **poured out upon the world of the wicked**; (Isa 13:11) "the day of the LORD".

The Great Tribulation and "time of Jacob's trouble."

The admonition in 2Th 2:3 "Let no man deceive you by any means...", was an encouragement. This was followed by the explanation of how the "man of sin" must first be revealed **before** the "day of Christ".

In other words, the Apostle was telling them that the day of Christ is <u>not</u> at hand! Because two things needed to happen at the same time; "...a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;".

Further, 2Th 2:1 starts; "Now we **beseech** you, brethren, **by** the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and *by* our gathering together unto him,...".

Perhaps to say it differently using the word definitions already presented; "Now we **question** you, brethren, **for the sake of** the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and our gathering together unto him, That ye be not soon shaken in mind,...".

The Holy Spirit, speaking through the Apostle Paul, was bringing to remembrance (2Th 2:5) those things the Thessalonians had been taught. One of those things was to wait for the Son (1Th 1:10) which is in contrast to "the day of Christ".

"For God hath not appointed us to wrath...". 1Th 5:9

3. The Holy Spirit being removed from the earth will be before the Great Tribulation begins.

What is it that "withholdeth or "letteth" (same Greek word) in 2Thessalonians 2:6-7 until "he" be taken out of the way?

Consider the following scriptures, which are only a few, that talk about the Holy Spirit;

Eph 4:30 And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. (remember Rom 8:23? KR)

Eph 1:13-14 In whom ye also *trusted*, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, (14) Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.

Rom 8:11 But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his **Spirit that dwelleth in you.**

Our redemption, that is our salvation being made complete, occurs when the Lord comes for us in the Rapture. The One who is holding back evil and the son of perdition is the Holy Spirit who dwells within each child of God. The antichrist cannot be revealed until the Holy Spirit is taken out of the world.

Therefore, the only way for the Holy Spirit to be removed is for all of the true Christians to be removed.

"...our salvation being made complete, occurs when the Lord comes for us in the Rapture."

"...He as God sitteth in the temple of God..." (2Th 2:4) is referring to the antichrist, who will cause the abomination of desolation. The Holy Spirit is what "withholdeth" that the son of perdition is not yet revealed until He be taken out of the way. Then shall that Wicked be revealed.

It is clear these scriptures are describing a specific man, "the son of perdition". This person must be living upon the earth at the end of the seven-year Great Tribulation.

Else how could it be that this is one that "the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:"?

The falling away referred to in 2Thessalonians 2:3 is referring to a defection from truth or apostasy. There has always been apostasy from the truth of God's Word.

But, notice the falling away comes, **and then** "the man of sin" is revealed; there are two things that have to take place at the same time.

The falling away **and** the man of sin being revealed, which leads to the "day of Christ".

After the Rapture, there will be an even greater departure from the truth than there is today. Those left in the world after the Rapture will not have a love for the truth. We believe this is speaking specifically of the Gentiles, as we know there are elect Jews during the Great Tribulation. (Mat 24:22, Mar 13:20) Consider what the Holy Spirit said;

2Th 2: 10-12 And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. (11) And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: (12) That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

God will send a strong delusion to those upon the earth during the time of the son of perdition. Would God do that if Christians were still in the world?

Mat 24:24 For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, <u>if *it were* possible</u>, they shall deceive the very elect.

When will the last seven years and the Great Tribulation occur? The answer is after the Rapture!

The Holy Spirit had already introduced the instruction to wait for the Lord Jesus who delivered them from the wrath to come. Notice in the first epistle to the Thessalonians, the word "delivered" means to rescue from the wrath to come:

1Th 1:10 And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come.

A person can read from men's commentaries on all of these scriptures and get all sorts of opinions.

But, remember that it is the Holy Spirit that "moved" the Apostle Paul to write what he did to the church in Thessalonica as well as all of the scriptures.

"study line upon line and precept upon precept". Isa 28:10

As long as true Christians are in the world, the Holy Spirit will be preserving God's truth and holding down the son of perdition.

How will the Holy Spirit be taken out of the way?

By our gathering together unto the Lord...and then that Wicked shall be revealed! 2Th 2:1, 8

Thayer's Definition: G4506 1) to draw to one's self, to rescue, to deliver 2) the deliverer Part of

Speech: verb

Delivered: Strong's Definition: G4506 ῥύομαι rhuomai rhoo'-om-ahee Middle voice of an obsolete verb, akin to G4482 (through the idea of a current; compare G4511); to rush or draw (for oneself), that is, rescue: - deliver (-er). Total KJV occurrences: 18

4. The God-given authority and succession of the Lord's churches.

Before moving to the next topic, we must address one more important truth concerning the removal of the Holy Spirit and who has the authority to preach the gospel during the Great Tribulation. There is only one group of people the Lord Jesus gave authority to continue His gospel ministry. The love the Lord Jesus Christ has for His churches is evident in their continued existence and His promise that He would be with them unto (until) the end of the age. Meaning the age or time of the Gentiles. The Lord's true churches since His ascension have not apostatized, else the Lord Jesus didn't know what He was talking about;

Mat 16:18 And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock $\frac{16}{1}$ I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

Mat 28:18-20 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, <u>All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.</u> (19) Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: (20) Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: <u>and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world</u> (world; aiōn, Strong's G165; properly an age KR). Amen.

1Co 11:26 For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death <u>till</u> he come.

Peter:

Strong's Definition: G4074 Πέτρος Petros *pet'-ros* Apparently a primary word; a (piece of) *rock* (larger than G3037); as a name, *Petrus*, an apostle: - Peter, rock. Compare G2786. Total KJV occurrences: 162 See also Joh 1:42

Thayer's Definition: Peter = "a rock or a stone" 1) one of the twelve disciples of Jesus Part of Speech: noun proper masculine

Rock:

Strong's Definition: G4073 πέτρα petra *pet'-ra* Feminine of the same as G4074; a (mass of) *rock* (literally or figuratively): - rock. Total KJV occurrences: 16

Thayer's Definition: 1) a rock, cliff or ledge 1a) a projecting rock, crag, rocky ground 1b) a rock, a large stone 1c) metaphorically a man like a rock, by reason of his firmness and strength of soul. Part of Speech: noun feminine

¹⁶ The Lord called Simon Barjona Peter, a small rock, but was referring to Himself when He said upon this Rock He would build His church.

In addition to this biblical fact is another biblical fact which is the authority of

His churches to preach the Gospel. Those who think Christians will go through the seven years of the Great Tribulation are also denying scripture about the preaching of the Gospel. The Lord told His church that He would be with them until the end of the world (or age KR).

"However, during the Great Tribulation we see an angel preaching the gospel." Rev 14:6

His churches are the only ones who have God-given authority to preach the gospel upon the earth until His return.

However, during the Great Tribulation, we see an angel preaching the gospel. Rev 14:6

Rev 14:6-7 (6) And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, (7) Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.

Consider: If Christians are going through the Great Tribulation then how is it that the everlasting gospel, mentioned in Rev 14:6, is being preached by an angel of God during that time?

Why isn't it being preached by the only ones who have God-given authority?

Where in the world are the Lord's churches, His Bride?

Answer: She is with her Lord and Bridegroom in heaven along with all of His saints, past and present at His coming in the Rapture!

What we mean by God given authority is that the Lord Jesus has His church which He established. Others were then organized from that church by the authority that the Lord gave to His first church. This authority has been passed to each church in succession all the way back to the first church. However, there are many of God's elect who are not members of one the Lord's churches. None the less, the Lord still works in and through them for His glory. An example of this is found in Mar 9:38-40 and Luk 9:49-50. The one casting out devils in Jesus' name was not part of the Lord's disciples, His church, but the Lord still allowed him to perform these acts according to His purpose.

The time or <u>age</u> of the gentiles has ended (Luk 21:24, 2Th 2:7), we see God working with Israel and His wrath being poured out upon a wicked world. (Job 21:30, Rom 2:1-11, 2Pe 2:9, Rev 16:1)

The whole world and not an isolated location, this is far worse than any past persecution of God's people.

Point 3: The Rapture: Who will be taken and in what manner will it occur?

At the Rapture, the Lord Jesus will return in the clouds and only be seen by His elect. The world of lost unregenerate sinners will not know about it.

Act 1:9-11 (9) And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight. (10) And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; (11) Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, **shall so come in** "...He would"

like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.

Who, What, Where, How, and Why:

return in like manner as they saw Him leave."

Who? The Lord's disciples; the saved.

What happened? The disciples witnessed the Lord Jesus ascend up into the sky and a cloud received Him. As they saw the Lord ascend two angels told them that He would return in <u>like manner</u> as they saw Him leave. In like manner means that the whole world will not see Him but only those truly saved.

Where? They were at Bethany which is on the Southeastern slope of the Mount of Olives. (Luk 24:50, Act 1:12)

This does not imply that the Rapture will occur only at Bethany. He will return in <u>like manner</u> as He ascended.

How did they see Him leave? The angels told the disciples after they watched the Lord leave their sight that He would return as they saw Him leave. He departed in the same form as they had seen Him for the past forty days since His resurrection and a cloud received him. (Act 1:3) They did not see Him in power and great glory as on the mount of transfiguration.

Why did the Lord ascend into heaven? Because He completed all that He came

to do and He had to leave so that the Heavenly Father would send the Holy Spirit (the Comforter to the Lord's disciples, His church).

Joh 15:26 But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, *even* the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me:

Joh 16:7 Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.

Joh 19:30 When Jesus, therefore, had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.

Joh 14:28 Ye have heard how I said unto you, I go away, and come *again* unto you. If ye loved me, ye would rejoice, because I said, I go unto the Father: for my Father is greater than I.

Joh 16:28 I came forth from the Father, and am come into the world: again, I leave the world, and go to the Father.

The Bride of Christ

There is a common view among Christian that all of the saved living on the earth are part of the Christian church. There are two different Greek words for elect and church and each have different meanings. (for the word elect; see definition on page v)

The Lord has His churches, His called-out assemblies, which collectively are called the Bride and the Lamb's wife and is composed of Jews and Gentiles. John the Baptist told his disciples;

Joh 3:29 **He that hath the bride is the bridegroom:** but the friend of the bridegroom, which standeth and heareth him, rejoiceth greatly because of the bridegroom's voice: this my joy therefore is fulfilled.

2Co 11:2 For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.

Rev 19:7-9 Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and **his wife hath made herself ready.** (8) And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints. (9) And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed *are* they which are called unto **the marriage supper of the Lamb**. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God.

Church/Churhes/Assembly:

Strong's Definition: G1577 ἐκκλησία ekklēsia *ek-klay-see'-ah* From a compound of G1537 and a derivative of G2564; a *calling out*, that is, (concretely) a popular *meeting*, especially a religious *congregation* (Jewish *synagogue*, or Christian community of members on earth or saints in heaven or both): - assembly, church. Total KJV occurrences: 115

Thayer Definition: 1) a gathering of citizens called out from their homes into some public place, an assembly 1a) an assembly of the people convened at the public place of the council for the purpose of deliberating 1b) the assembly of the Israelites 1c) any gathering or throng of men assembled by chance, tumultuously 1d) in a Christian sense 1d1) an assembly of Christians gathered for worship in a religious meeting 1d2) a company of Christians, or of those who, hoping for eternal salvation through Jesus Christ, observe their own religious rites, hold their own religious meetings, and manage their own affairs, according to regulations (cont. on next page) prescribed for the body for order's sake 1d3) those who anywhere, in a city, village, constitute such a company and are united into one body 1d4) the whole body of Christians scattered throughout the earth 1d5) the assembly of faithful Christians already dead and received into heaven Part of Speech: noun feminine

We are not able in this work to elaborate on the biblical teaching of the bride of Christ. This subject demands its own book of which many have been written by sound true Baptist teachers!

We know that the bible does not use this exact term but the concept is taught. Just as the bible does not use the word Trinity, but we know it teaches of the triune Godhead; God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. (1Jn 5:7-8)

But simply to make a point; we see in scripture that there will be a marriage supper of the Lamb who is the Lord Jesus Christ.

If the saints of God, who are called the bride, have to endure the Great Tribulation; then the Lord Jesus Christ is allowing His bride to have God's wrath poured out upon her.

How is this possible when scripture says that the Lord Jesus Christ gave Himself for His church?

Where is there any example in scripture that a man betroths a virgin, then comes to take her to his home after first beating her up?

Eph 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;

Some will say the Bride is making herself ready by enduring until the end of the Great Tribulation. But this does not make sense according to the scriptures already presented.

If the church should go through the Great Tribulation, then God who does not change is violating His own precepts.

Deu 24:5 When a man hath taken a new wife, he shall not go out to war, neither shall he be charged with any business: *but* he shall be free at home one year, and shall cheer up his wife which he hath taken.

Jas 1:17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

There are truly saved Christians who are not members of one of the Lord's churches but are of God's elect. These all will be caught up with the Lord's

churches in the Rapture.

You do not have to be a member of one of the Lord's churches, though encouraged, to be saved by the grace of God. Church membership, baptism, partaking of the Lord's Supper have nothing to do with your salvation. These all have to do with your obedience and service to God, according to the understanding that God gives you after He has made you spiritually alive in Christ Jesus.

There were two thieves crucified with our Lord and they both reviled (taunted) the Lord (Mat 27:44, Mar 15:32). Consider one of the two thieves; he was not a disciple of the Lord, he had not been baptized nor was he a member of the Lord's church.

But the Lord imparted spiritual life to that thief and assured him of being with the Lord in Paradise that day. (Luk 23:39-43)

Point 3a: The Rapture: A Shadow of good things to come seen in the Old Testament

Rom 15:4 For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.

The Rapture alluded to;

Psa 27:4-5 One *thing* have I desired of the LORD, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to enquire in his temple. (5) For in the time of trouble he shall hide me in his pavilion: in the secret of his tabernacle shall he hide me; he shall set me up upon a rock.

Isa 26:19-21 Thy dead *men* shall live, *together with* my dead body shall they arise. Awake and sing, ye that dwell in dust: for thy dew *is as* the dew of herbs, and the earth shall cast out the dead. (20) Come, my people, enter thou into thy chambers, and shut thy doors about thee: hide thyself as it were for a little moment, <u>until the indignation be overpast.</u> (21) For, behold, the LORD cometh out of his place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity: the earth also shall disclose her blood, and shall no more cover her slain.

Zep 2:1-3 Gather yourselves together, yea, gather together, **O nation not desired**; (2) Before the decree bring forth, *before* the day pass as the chaff, before the fierce anger of the LORD come upon you, before the day of the LORD'S anger come upon you. (3) Seek ye the LORD, all ye meek of the earth, which have wrought his judgment; seek righteousness, seek meekness: **it may be ye shall be hid** in the day of the LORD'S anger.

Point 3b: The Rapture: In Similitude by Examples in the Old Testament

The flood;

Noah entered the ark in the six hundredth year of his life and God shut him and his family in (Gen 7:11-16). Noah was five hundred years old when he begat Shem, Ham, and Japheth (Gen 5:32). He was six hundred years old when the flood occurred (Gen 7:6). Noah was building the ark for one hundred and twenty years based on Gen 6:3:

And the LORD said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also *is* flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years.

During this time Noah was telling others of God's pending judgment; 1Pe 3:20 Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water.

After only 1656 years since creation, all creatures outside of the ark who had the breath of life were killed (Gen 7:23), while those inside the ark were protected from God's wrath, **shut in by God himself** (Luk 13:25). The ark is a type of the Lord Jesus Christ.

It is interesting to note that after one hundred and twenty years of being warned of God's pending judgment, God allowed seven more days after Noah and his family were shut into the ark. (Gen 7:10)

Perhaps a picture of the time of the Gentiles when the gospel is being preached before God's wrath is poured out upon a wicked world. God sealed Noah and his family into the ark as true Christians are sealed in

Christ by the Holy Spirit.

2Co 1:22 Who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts.

Eph 1:13 In whom ye also *trusted*, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,

Eph 4:30 And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.

Then after one hundred and fifty days, the ark came to rest upon the mountains of Ararat on the seventeenth day of the seventh month 19. Transported to a new world.

Sodom and Gomorrah;

Abraham besought the Lord that he would not destroy Sodom and Gomorrah if but ten righteous could be found (Gen 18:32). Even when Lot was reluctant to go, the angels laid hold upon him, his wife, and two daughters, and set them without the city (Gen 19:16). The angels could not execute God's judgment until Lot was in safety. (Gen 19:22) So it is with God's people throughout the bible, they are protected and removed before the wrath of God is poured out upon the wicked.

Notice that there were not ten righteous found in those cities. According to His agreement with Abraham, God would have been justified to destroy those cities with Lot and his family still in them. But God the Righteous Judge has not appointed His saints unto wrath. (Gen 18:25, 1Th 5:9)

Joseph;

Joseph is a type of Christ in many ways; he was the favored of his father, betrayed by his brethren who meant it for evil but God meant it for good to save much people alive (Gen 50:20) and later falsely accused. God elevated him to great power being second only to Pharaoh. He took a Gentile bride after which followed the seven years of famine. (Gen 41:54-57) The whole world, including the Israelites, were suffering except where Joseph was.

Why was God so precise on the day? Herein is a precious glimpse of God's glory, approximately 2136 years later, on this exact day, would be the resurrection of our Lord and Savior! Passover is on the 14th day of Nissan/Abib (Lev 23:5), our Lord's resurrection was 3 nights and 3 days later on the 17th.

The flood occurred in 1656. There is approximately 3760 years from creation to the Lord's birth. This is based on accepting that the Jewish calendar is correct. In the Gregorian calendar year 2020, the Jewish calendar is the year 5780 from creation. (5780 - 2020 = 3760 (years from creation to the Lord's birth) - 1657 (the flood plus 1 yr) = 2103 + 33 years (the Lord's age when crucified) = 2136.

In similitude, we see in the scriptures that we are in the time of the Gentile (Rom 11:25, Luk 21:24) until it be fulfilled, when the Lord comes for His elect. Then there will be great suffering upon the earth but great joy for those who are where the Lord Jesus is. During these seven years of great suffering upon the earth, we see that Israel will return to their God. Just as Israel came to Joseph for bread.

Point 3c: The Rapture: The completion of The Gospel Message

Christian don't be concerned about the dreadful time to come when the antichrist is in power. We will not be here!

The One who has shed His precious blood and given his life for you will not allow you to endure God's wrath poured out upon the wicked. We are His brethren, heirs, and joint-heirs with the only begotten Son of God. Our salvation is imparted to us at the God-appointed time in our lives by the quickening of the Holy Spirit, making us alive in Christ by the power of the gospel.

Rom 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

1Co 15:1-6 Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; (2) By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. (3) For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; (4) And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures: (5) And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve: (6) After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep.

"...and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time..." Remember, God created man as a trichotomy; body, soul, and spirit. When Adam sinned, his spirit died then later his body. But his soul is eternal which shall be judged by God.

Heb 9:27-28 And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment: (28) So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto **them that look for him** shall he appear the **second time** (His Glory Coming will be the **third time** KR) without sin unto

salvation.

We contend that the gospel, in its entirety, is not only the death, burial, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus but further includes the Rapture which is the redemption of our mortal bodies!

Rom 8:22-23 (22) For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. (23) And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.

The gospel as declared in 1Corinthians chapter 15 does not end at verse 5 but continues through verse 58.

1Co 15:51-58 Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, (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. (53) For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. (54) So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. (55) O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? (56) The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. (57) But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. (58) Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, "God does not unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in

do anything half way."

God does not do anything halfway.

vain in the Lord.

Adam first died spiritually and then physically. Likewise, Christians are first saved spiritually and then our physical body will be glorified. Also, it should be noted again that in all of these scriptures about the rapture, the Apostle Paul used personal pronouns; us and we. He was including himself and expecting the Lord's return at any moment. The Apostle Paul wrote these scriptures, not as a personal opinion. He wrote them by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit and

was expecting the Lord to return in his lifetime. He was not looking for any prophetic fulfillment, he was not looking for "the son of perdition" to be revealed. But rather he was looking for his Lord's return.

1Th 1:10 And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come.

Notice the wording, "Jesus, which delivered <u>us</u> from the wrath to come.".

The word delivered means to rescue, God has rescued and gives His assurance that we are delivered from the coming wrath. We have this assurance because of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ, who was obedient to the Father even unto death. He was the "firstfruits" of those that will be risen from the dead. (1Co 15:20, 23, Act 26:23, Rom 8:11, Col 1:18, 1Pe 1:3, Rev 1:5)

An assurance from our sovereign, all-powerful God who does not change.

Isa 14:24 The LORD of hosts hath sworn, saying, Surely as I have thought, so shall it come to pass; and as I have purposed, *so* shall it stand:

Isa 46:10 Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times *the things* that are not *yet* done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure:

1Th 4:13-18 But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. (14) For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so **them also which sleep in Jesus will God**

bring with him. (15) For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. (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

"...and so shall we ever be with the Lord."

Christ shall rise first: (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. (18) Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

Why would the saints at the church in Thessalonica be sorrowful for those who had already died?

Because they died before the Lord (whom they were waiting for) had returned. So, Paul sent them a God-inspired letter to assure them that they need not sorrow. For they have a hope that non-believers do not and that is that the Lord is coming back for them. But should they die before He comes, that they (their soul) will be with the Lord. When the Lord comes, He will bring all of those saved elect souls with Him. Those souls will be reunited with their resurrected glorified body "...and so shall we ever be with the Lord"!

The Apostle Paul ends that chapter by telling the Thessalonians to comfort one another with this knowledge.

We hope dear reader that you have this same comfort. That you know the Lord Jesus as your personal Savior. That God has given you a peace "...that passeth all understanding." (Php 4:7)

How much comfort is there to believe that God's people (meaning His elect in this present time) must endure the Great Tribulation?

Knowing what the scriptures teach about that horrific time when the evil trinity (Satan, False Prophet, and the anti-Christ/Beast) are ruling? They will be ruling the entire seven years and not just part of it.

To use an example of what that time will be like; at the period of this writing, the world is still dealing with the 2020 COVID 19 Pandemic. The entire world economy was severely crippled; jobs were lost and businesses permanently closed at a time when the United States had the strongest economy ever. Personal freedoms were infringed upon by liberal state Governors issuing stay-at-home orders, the mandatory wearing of face masks, and even in some areas using the National Guard to "check-up" on people being compliant. Even in areas not severely affected. All under the banner of public safety. Even though true medical science showed that face masks were of little to no use in preventing the spread of the virus. A position the Center

for Disease Control and the World Health Organization, quite sometime before the Pandemic, had agreed with. Then they changed their position contrary to years of studies done by several reputable sources.

A virus that has a 98+% recovery rate of those infected under 70 years old and almost 100% of the fatalities occurred in people with already pre-existing health issues.

How easily and quickly people accepted these mandates. Even after infection and death rates had dramatically declined.

Many people willingly accepted the false information that was presented without question.

Now, try to imagine a world during the Great Tribulation when the restraining power of the Holy Spirit and God's people are no longer here. Knowing that to admit being a Christian is a death sentence.

(Dan 7:25, Rev 13:14-15)

Yet, some Christians think they will endure this time of God's judgment upon the earth!!??

Woe unto those who desire that time!

Amo 5:18 Woe unto you that desire the day of the LORD! to what end is it for you? the day of the LORD is darkness, and not light.

The thinking that you, Christian, have the ability to endure the Great Tribulation is a salvation by works doctrine and not of God!

Eph 2:4-9 But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, (5) Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) (6) And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: (7) That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. (8) For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: (9) Not of works, lest any man should boast.

The thinking that a person must show themselves worthy, by enduring God's wrath during the Great Tribulation, lends itself to boasting... IF this thinking is true. But it is not! There is none righteous, there is none worthy. Remember also, the Great Tribulation is God's wrath being poured out on the wicked. If you think that you, as a Gentile, are still here during that time then you should consider "...give diligence to make your calling and election sure:...". (2Pet 1:10)

Eph 6:10-13 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. (11) Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. (12) For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high *places*.

Point 3d: The Rapture: In contrast to the Lord's Glory **Coming**

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.

Mar 13:24-26 But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, (25) And the stars of heaven shall fall, and the powers that are in heaven shall be shaken. (26) And then shall they see the Son of man coming in the clouds with great power and glory.

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.

Zec 14:2-5 For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and half of the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city. (3) Then shall the LORD go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle. (4) And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south. (5) And ye shall flee to the valley of the mountains; for the valley of the mountains shall reach unto Azal: yea, ye shall flee, like as ye fled from before the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah: and the LORD my God shall come, and all the saints with thee.

In the Lord's glory coming, He will physically stand upon the earth and every eye shall see Him. The mount of Olives will split in half creating an East to West valley. The responsible ones who pierced Him were not the Romans. The ones who cried out "crucify Him" were the children of Israel, Pilate

wanted to release Him. The Romans were just the legal instrument that the Pharisees and other Jewish leaders used. (Mat 27:24, Act 2:36) All kindreds of the earth shall wail when He appears in His glory.

Below is a table showing some of the differences between the Rapture and the Lord's Glory coming at the end of the seven-year Tribulation.

The Rapture	The Glory Coming	
1) At the rapture, believers meet	At the Glory coming believers	
the Lord in the air.	return with the Lord to the earth.	
1Th 4:17	Jud 1:14, Rev 19:14	
2) The rapture occurs before the	The Glory coming occurs after the	
tribulation.	great and terrible tribulation. Rev	
1Th 5:9-10, Rev 3:10	chap 6–19	
3) The rapture is the removal of believers from the earth as an act of deliverance and separation from the wicked. Psa 50:5, Mat 3:12, 25:5-13, 1Th 4:13-17, 5:9	The Glory coming includes the removal of the unbelieving wicked from the earth. Jud 1:15, Rev 19:21, 2Pet 2:9, Job 21:30	
4) The rapture will be secret and in an instant. Mat 24:42-44, Mar 13:33-37, Luk 21:36, 1Pe 4:7, 1Cor 15:50-54	The Glory coming will be visible to all. Rev 1:7; Mat 24:29-30	
5) The rapture, our Blessed Hope, is imminent; it could take place at any moment. Tit 2:13, 1Th 4:13-18, 1Co 15:50-54	The Glory coming of Christ will not occur until after certain other endtimes events take place. 2Th 2:4, Mat 24:15-30, Rev chapters 6–18	
Adapted from Lamb and Lion Ministries "Why I Believe in a Pre-Tribulation Rapture" 11 reasons why Jesus will come back before the Tribulation By Nathan E. Jones https://christinprophecy.org/articles/why-i-believe-in-a-pre-tribulation-rapture/		

Scripture references from the above table;

	The Rapture	The Glory Coming
1)	1Th 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.	Jud 1:14 And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints, Rev 19:14 And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean.
2)	1Th 5:9 For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ, 1Th 5:10 Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him. 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.	Rev chap 6–19 Too large to display here.
3)	Psa 50:5 Gather my saints together unto me; those that have made a covenant with me by sacrifice. Mat 3:12 Whose fan is in his hand, and he will throughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire. Mat 25:5-13 While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept. (6) And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him. (7) Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps. (8) And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out. (9) But the wise answered, saying, Not so; lest there be not enough for us and you: but go ye	Jud 1:15 To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him. Rev 19:21 And the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceeded out of his mouth: and all the

rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves. (10) And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut. (11) Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us. (12) But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not. (13) Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.

1 Th 4:13-17 But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. (14) For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. (15) For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. (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: (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.

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

fowls were filled with their flesh.

2Pet 2:9 The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished:

Job 21:30 That the wicked is reserved to the day of destruction? they shall be brought forth to the day of wrath.

Mat 24:42-44 Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come. (43) But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up. (44) Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.

Mar 13:33-37 Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is. (34) For the Son of man is as a man taking a far journey,

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.

Mat 24:29-30
Immediately after the

tribulation of those days

4)

who left his house, and gave authority to his servants, and to every man his work, and commanded the porter to watch. (35) Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning: (36) Lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping. (37) And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch. Luk 21:36 Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.

1Pe 4:7 But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer. 1Co 15:50-54 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption. (51) Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, (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. (53) For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal *must* put on immortality. (54) So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.

shall the sun 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: (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.

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

5)

1Th 4:13-18 But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. (14) For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. (15) For this we say unto you by the word of

2Th 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, shewing himself that he is God. Mat 24:15-30 Too large to display.

the Lord, that we which are alive *and* remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. (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: (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. (18) Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

1Co 15:50-54 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption. (51) Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, (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. (53) For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal *must* put on immortality. (54) So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.

Rev chapters 6–18 Too large to display.

Point 4: God's relationship with Israel: The Chastisement and Deliverance of Israel

Because of disobedience, Israel will go through the Great Tribulation. Israel was commanded by God that when they came into the land of promise that they should allow the land to rest every seven years. Israel did not obey God even once in 490 years or 70 weeks. Each week referred to means a week of years or seven years, 70 times 7 is 490 "Because of years."

Exo 23:10 And six years thou shalt sow thy land, and shalt gather in the fruits thereof:

"Because of disobedience, Israel will go through the Great Tribulation."

Lev 26:27 And if ye will not for all this hearken unto me, but walk contrary unto me;

Lev 26:33-35 And I will scatter you among the heathen, and will draw out a sword after you: and your land shall be desolate, and your cities waste. (34) Then shall the land enjoy her sabbaths, as long as it lieth desolate, and ye *be* in your enemies' land; *even* then shall the land rest, and enjoy her sabbaths. (35) As long as it lieth desolate it shall rest; because it did not rest in your sabbaths, when ye dwelt upon it.

2Ch 36:21 To fulfil the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah, until the land had enjoyed her sabbaths: *for* as long as she lay desolate she kept sabbath, to fulfil threescore and ten years.

Dan 9:2 In the first year of his reign I Daniel understood by books the number of the years, whereof the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah the prophet, that he would accomplish seventy years in the desolations of Jerusalem.

Dan 9:24-27 Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to

seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy. (25) Know therefore and understand, *that* from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince *shall be* seven weeks^(7x7=49 years), and threescore and two weeks: ^(62x7=434 years) the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times. (26) And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof *shall be* with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined. (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.

In Daniel 9:25, 483 years have been accounted for, God's prophetic clock for Israel stopped when the Lord Jesus came into Jerusalem riding upon the foal of an ass (Zec 9:9, Mat 21:5).

There is still one week or seven years remaining. That last seven years is the Great Tribulation. According to God's Word, there are those of the nation of Israel who are God's elect that will endure this terrible time. They will see their Messiah, whom Israel crucified, coming with ten thousands of His saints (Zec 12:10, Mat 26:63-64, Jud 1:14)

the time of Jacob's trouble; but he shall be saved out of it. (8) For it shall come to pass in that day, saith the LORD of hosts, that I will break his yoke from off thy neck, and will burst thy bonds, and strangers shall no more serve themselves of him: (9) But they shall serve the LORD their God, and David their king, whom I will raise up unto them. (10) Therefore fear thou not, O my servant Jacob, saith the LORD; neither be dismayed, O Israel: for, lo, I will save thee from afar, and thy seed from the land of their captivity; and Jacob shall return, and shall be in rest, and be quiet, and none shall make him afraid. (11) For I am with thee, saith the LORD, to save thee: though I make a full end of all nations whither I have scattered thee, yet will I not make a full end of thee:

but I will correct thee in measure, and will not leave thee altogether unpunished.

The Jewish nation was scattered throughout all of the world's gentile nations but was re-established as the recognized nation of Israel on May 14, 1948.

This verse in Jeremiah shows that all gentile nations that come against Israel during the Great Tribulation will be ended. God has not forsaken the nation of Israel nor will He ever!

"God has not forsaken the nation of Israel nor will He ever!"

Isa 45:17 But Israel shall be saved in the LORD with an <u>everlasting</u> salvation: ye shall not be ashamed nor confounded world without end.

Isa 54:7-10 For a small moment have I forsaken thee; but with great mercies will I gather thee. (8) In a little wrath I hid my face from thee for a moment; but with everlasting kindness will I have mercy on thee, saith the LORD thy Redeemer. (9) For this is as the waters of Noah unto me: for as I have sworn that the waters of Noah should no more go over the earth; so have I sworn that I would not be wroth with thee, nor rebuke thee. (10) For the mountains shall depart, and the hills be removed; but my kindness shall not depart from thee, neither shall the covenant of my peace be removed, saith the LORD that hath mercy on thee.

We must understand a distinction within God's elect between His chosen nation Israel, through whom the Messiah came, and all others meaning Gentiles. God has a special relationship with Israel, certain promises and prophecies pertain only to them.

Gen 17:7 And I will establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations for an **everlasting covenant**, to be a God unto thee, and to thy seed after thee.

Jer 31:31-33 Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will make a new covenant with the **house of Israel**, and with the **house of Judah:**

(32) Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband²⁰ unto them, saith the LORD: (33) But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.

Jehovah said that Israel is His wife.

Some teach God has forsaken Israel and that all believers are now spiritual Israel.

How can this be if God said that Israel is His wife? Has God divorced His wife? (See Isa 54 highlighted verses above)

Isa 10:20-21 And it shall come to pass in that day, *that* the remnant of Israel, and such as are escaped of the house of Jacob, shall no more again stay upon him that smote them; but shall stay upon the LORD, the Holy One of Israel, in truth. (21) The remnant shall return, *even* the remnant of Jacob, unto the mighty God.

Rom 9:27 Esaias also crieth concerning Israel, Though the number of the children of Israel be as the sand of the sea, a remnant shall be saved:

Jer 33:14-16 Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will perform that good thing which I have promised unto the house of Israel and to the house of Judah. (15) In those days, and at that time, will I cause the Branch of righteousness to grow up unto David; and he shall execute judgment and righteousness in the land. (16) In those days shall Judah be saved, and Jerusalem shall dwell safely: and this is the name wherewith she shall be called, The LORD our righteousness.

²⁰ Strong's definition: *H1166 בְּעַל ba^'al baw-al'

A primitive root; to *be master*; hence (as denominative from H1167) to *marry:* - Beulah have dominion (over), be husband, marry (-ried, X wife).

Rom 11:1-27 I say then, **Hath God cast away his people? God forbid.** For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, *of* the tribe of Benjamin. (2) **God hath not cast away his people which he foreknew.** Wot ye not what the scripture saith of Elias? how he maketh intercession to God against Israel, saying, (3) Lord, they have killed thy prophets, and digged down thine altars; and I am left alone, and they seek my life. (4) But what saith the answer of God unto him? I have reserved to myself seven thousand men, who have not bowed the knee to *the image of* Baal. (5) **Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace.** (6) And if by grace, then *is it* no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if *it be* of works, then is it no more grace: otherwise work is no more work.

(7) What then? Israel hath not obtained that which he seeketh for; but the election hath obtained it, and the rest were blinded (8) (According as it is written, God hath given them the spirit of slumber, eyes that they should not see, and ears that they should not hear;) unto this day. (9) And David saith, Let their table be made a snare, and a trap, and a stumblingblock, and a recompence unto them: (10) Let their eyes be darkened, that they may not see, and bow down their back alway. (11) I say then, Have they stumbled that they should fall? God forbid: but rather through their fall salvation is come unto the Gentiles, for to provoke them to jealousy. (12) Now if the fall of them be the riches of the world, and the diminishing of them the riches of the Gentiles; how much more their fulness? (13) For I speak to you Gentiles, inasmuch as I am the apostle of the Gentiles, I magnify mine office: (14) If by any means I may provoke to emulation them which are my flesh, and might save some of them. (15) For if the casting away of them be the reconciling of the world, what shall the receiving of them be, but life from the dead? (16) For if the firstfruit be holy, the lump is also holy: and if the root be holy, so are the branches. (17) And if some of the branches be broken off, and thou, being a wild olive tree, wert graffed in among them, and with them partakest of the root and fatness of the olive tree; (18) Boast not against the branches. But if thou boast, thou bearest not the root, but the root thee. (19) Thou wilt say then, The branches were broken off, that I might be graffed in. (20) Well; because of unbelief they were broken off, and thou standest by faith. Be not highminded, but fear:

(21) For if God spared not the natural branches, *take heed* lest he also spare not thee. (22) Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, if thou continue in *his* goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off. (23) **And they also, if they abide not still in unbelief, shall be graffed in: for God is able to graff them in again.** (24) For if thou wert cut out of the olive tree which is wild by nature, and wert graffed contrary to nature into a good olive tree: **how much more shall these, which be the natural** *branches*, **be graffed into their own olive tree?** (25) For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; **that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in.** (26) **And so all Israel shall be saved:** as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob: (27) **For this** *is* **my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins.**

True Christians should never engage in any type of prejudice, especially that is demeaning to others. Seeing that before God saves us, we are **all** under the same condemnation.

The Lord answered the Pharisees;

Mat 22:36-40 Master, which *is* the great commandment in the law? (37) Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. (38) This is the first and great commandment. (39) And the second *is* like unto it, **Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.** (40) On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

Some have animosity toward Israel and the Jewish people. Is this following the Lord's instruction to "...love thy neighbour as thyself..."?

It is a wonder how there are some so antagonistic toward the Jews and yet claim to be Christians!
Is not the Lord Jesus a Jew, the Lion of the tribe of Judah?
Anti-Semitism is contrary to God's Word!

"Anti-Semitism is contrary to God's word!" Those who practice this prejudicial behavior should take heed;

Gen 12:3 And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.

All the families of the earth are blessed in Israel because it is through that chosen nation of God that our Lord Jesus was to come into the world. As such there are promises from God that pertain only to them.

May the Lord use this work to encourage, edify and instruct the saints of God. Let us be about the work as our Lord gave us by His example until His return.

Psa 40:8 I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law *is* within my heart.

Joh 9:4 I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.

This was the instruction our Lord gave to His church after His resurrection and before He ascended to the Father;

Mat 28:18-20 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. (19) Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: (20) Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world (or age KR). Amen.

Conclusion

To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them. Isa 8:20

Dear reader,

You can spend much time researching through books and opinions on the internet concerning the Pre-Tribulation Rapture. You will find many variations and perhaps as many who contend for this biblical position as those who deny it.

What we want to believe will determine how receptive we are to the facts.

If you want to believe something different from the biblical facts presented in this book then that is what you will find in your search.

- We cannot understand why anyone would want to go through any part of the Great Tribulation when there is biblical support to the contrary. Yet, some reject what the bible teaches about our Blessed Hope.
- We hope that this book has helped those who are honestly seeking the truth about our Lord's Pre-Tribulation return.
- We also hope that the message of God's truth has been conveyed through His inspired, preserved, and inerrant Word.
- As God is unchanging, so is His Word. Truth is truth, any variance or deviation corrupts it. Truth is not based upon personal feelings or private interpretation.
 - 2Pe 3:16 As also in all *his* epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as *they do* also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction.
 - 1Jn 4:6 We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error.

Below is a list²¹ of some through history who did contend for the Pre-Tribulation Rapture and that it is different from the Lord's Glory Coming. We offer this to refute those who say that the Pre-Tribulation position started with Margaret MacDonald (1815-1840) and John Nelson Darby (1800-1882). Though it is good to find men's writings that show a historical foundation; in the end, the only source and true foundation we should turn to is God's preserved, inspired, and inerrant Word.

All of those below wrote on the imminent return of Jesus Christ which is the central argument for the Pre-Tribulation Rapture view.

Barnabas (circa about 100-105)

Tertullian (145-220)

Hippolytus

Papias (circa about 60-130) (circa about 185-236)

Justin Martyr (110-195) Cyprian (200-250)

Irenaeus (120-202) Lactantius (260-330)

Here are others who wrote statements distinguishing the Rapture from the Lord's Glory Coming.

Ephraem of Nisibis (306-373) Philip Doddridge (1738)

Abbot Ceolfrid's

Latin Codex Amiatinus (circa about 690-716)

John Gill (1748)

Brother Dolcino

(The History of Brother Dolcino) James Macknight (1763)

(1250-1307)

Joseph Mede (1586-1638) Thomas Scott (1792)

Increase Mather (1639-1723) Morgan Edwards (1722-1795)

Peter Jurieu (1687) William Witherby (1818)

The Pre-Tribulation Rapture view is not only biblical but supported throughout Church history.

We hope the information provided in this book will give the child of God comfort and assurance in Him, in whom the fullness of the Godhead dwells. Our relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ is beyond our comprehension.

This God-ordained relationship is why true Christians will **NOT** go through the Great Tribulation!

²¹ https://christinprophecy.org/articles/why-i-believe-in-a-pre-tribulation-rapture/

He is our Savior, Kinsman Redeemer, Chief Shepherd, and Brother through our adoption.

Instead of looking for signs of the Great Tribulation and the man of sin to appear, we should be looking for our Lord to come for us, as He promised, in the clouds...at any moment.

On the next page, I have written a poem that is framed and hanging in our home...for those who are still upon the earth after the Lord comes for His elect.

"Even so, come, Lord Jesus."
Amen

To Whom It May Concern:

If in my humble home you be, seeking what has become of me. I would have you reason: Is a meal on the table not yet eaten? Are the lights on when it is not eve'n? Is the shower running but no one humming? What other things have taken place? Have others vanished without a trace? Perhaps you've been told a mother ship came from outer space? Have graves been opened and bodies robbed?

With lack of interest, some may simply say "How macabre". Is there a man whose charm and genius are renown? Does the whole world want to give him a crown? "Peace and safety" is the cry; they knowing not that it is a lie.

If these things be, and if you must, look hither and you but you will not find where I have gone. For, my LORD has returned, as He said, The One who was crucified and rose from the dead. Only in glory now am I seen, both body and soul have been redeemed.

Go to now Adam's Son, Satan's child, lost and undone. But yet a little while till your end, when the King Of Glory shall descend. With the sword of truth, He shall slay, up to the horse's bridle deep shall be the blood on that day.

If because of these words, in despair you will depart, perhaps God is working in your stony, cold, hard heart. God has provision for such as you, 144,000 preachers that are true. Two witnesses also, near the end, who shall be killed but raised up again. If your salvation is of God and complete, your very life may be required, which is only meet. For what doth it profit a man, if the whole world he should obtain, but in the end, an eternity in hell his soul shall remain?

If of God's elect and ransomed you be, then praise God for all eternity. For sinners such as we; death, hell, and the Lake of Fire is our reward just, but by God's grace and mercy, He saved us. One day we shall meet, no, not in this life, but at Jesus' feet.

If after reading this, you do not understand, then you are thinking with the sincursed wisdom of man.

Do not look for me, for I am not here, my Blessed Hope has appeared.

Written by Ken Robinson November 15, 1996 "That ye may know".



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