

**THE RAPTURE
OF
THE CHURCH**

I THESSALONIANS 4:16-17

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17

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.

Introduction

A. Not the Second Coming Of Christ

1. Old Testament prophecy

Zechariah 14:3-4

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.

Introduction

A. Not the Second Coming Of Christ - continued

2. New Testament prophecy

Matthew 24:27-30

27 For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

28 For wheresoever the carcase is, there will the eagles be gathered together.

29 Immediately after the tribulation of those days 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.

Introduction

A. Not the Second Coming Of Christ - continued

2. New Testament prophecy

Acts 1:9-12

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 like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.

12 Then returned they unto Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is from Jerusalem a sabbath day's journey.

Introduction

B. A carrying away of the church from earth

1 Corinthians 15:51-53

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.

Introduction

C. A comfort to the church

1 Thessalonians 4:18

Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

Titus 2:13

**Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing
of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;**

I. The Case For Pre-Tribulational Rapture

A. The church is not appointed to wrath

1 Thessalonians 1:9-10

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.

1Thessalonians 5:9

For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,

I. The Case For Pre-Tribulational Rapture

B. Church is not mentioned in the judgement sections of Revelation

Revelation 1:4

John to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace be unto you, and peace, from him which is, and which was, and which is to come; and from the seven Spirits which are before his throne;

Revelation 22:16

I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star.

I. The Case For Pre-Tribulational Rapture

C. Seventieth week (Tribulation Period) is determined upon Israel (which is not the church

Daniel 9:24

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.

I. The Case For Pre-Tribulational Rapture

D. Christ's teaching to the disciples

John 21:22-23

22 Jesus saith unto him, If I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to thee? follow thou me.

23 Then went this saying abroad among the brethren, that that disciple should not die: yet Jesus said not unto him, He shall not die; but, If I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to thee?

Early church was looking for Christ

I. The Case For Pre-Tribulational Rapture

E. The example of Lot

2 Peter 2:6-9

6 And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrha into ashes condemned them with an overthrow, making them an ensample unto those that after should live ungodly;

7 And delivered just Lot, vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked:

8 (For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds;)

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:

I. The Case For Pre-Tribulational Rapture

F. Those saved in the tribulation are not part of the church

Revelation 13:7

And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations.

Revelation 20:9

And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them.

Saints and church are different Greek words in Revelation

I. The Case For Pre-Tribulational Rapture

F. Those saved in the tribulation are not part of the church

Matthew 24:12-13

12 And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.

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

II. The Case For Mid-Tribulational Rapture

A. Links with the “abomination of desolation”

2 Thessalonians 2:1-3

1 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.

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;

Assumes church does temple worship?

II. The Case For Mid-Tribulational Rapture

B. Links the Seventh Trumpet with 1 Corinthians 15:52 Revelation 11:15

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

Seventh trumpet does not have the same purpose

1 Corinthians 14:8

For if the trumpet give an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself to the battle?

II. The Case For Mid-Tribulational Rapture

C. Equates church with the saints in Daniel

Daniel 7:25

And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time.

Inconsistent with Daniel 9:27

Inconsistent with the church/saints in Revelation

II. The Case For Mid-Tribulation Rapture

D. Church still spared “great tribulation”

Revelation 6:17

For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?

**Sixth Seal – too early for middle of tribulation rapture
Inconsistent timeline**

III. The Case For Pre-Wrath Rapture

A. Variant of mid-tribulation view

B. Church goes through the first six seal judgments but not the Great Tribulation

Matthew 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.

III. The Case For Pre-Wrath Rapture

C. Equates seal judgments with Matthew 24:4-7

Matthew 24:4-7

4 And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you.

5 For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.

6 And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet.

7 For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places.

III. The Case For Pre-Wrath Rapture

D. Problem: The Seals Are The Judgment of Christ

Revelation 5:5

And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof.

Revelation 6:1

And I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals, and I heard, as it were the noise of thunder, one of the four beasts saying, Come and see.

**Christ Presents Us As A Glorious Church
(Ephesians 5:27)**

IV. The Case For Post-Tribulational Rapture

A. Rapture occurs at end of the Tribulation (the first resurrection)

Revelation 20:5

But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.

IV. The Case For Post-Tribulational Rapture

B. Problems

1. Those in Christ are not under condemnation

Romans 8:1

There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

2. Ignores the difference between “church” and “saints” (not the same Greek word)

3. Reduces the marriage supper of the Lamb to fast food (Revelation 19:7-9)

**4. We are raised to immediately come back?
(Revelation 19:11-15)**

V. The Overall Problem With Anything Except PreTribulationism

The concept of a non-existent second chance

2 Thessalonians 2:11-12

**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.**

Be Ready Now!!!