

**Articles and Sermons :: Tribulation Or Rapture -smith**

Tribulation Or Rapture -smith - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2008/4/11 1:17

Tribulation Or Rapture

by Oswald J. Smith

Why did the Lord Jesus conceal the Secret Rapture in Matthew twenty-four? How are we to explain the silence of the Church for centuries concerning it? What about the passages that have been used to support it? Have we been lulling the Church into a false security? Are there any outstanding Christian leaders who believe that the Church will go through the Great Tribulation?

In my first book on Prophecy I asked the questions: "Will the Church pass through the Tribulation or be raptured out of it?" In answering I made this statement: "I have always held the view that the Rapture precedes the Revelation by some seven years, and that the Church, therefore, will not go through the Tribulation, but I do not want to be dogmatic about it and, if God should reveal the contrary to me, I will gladly accept it". Hence, you see, I did not approach the subject with my mind closed to new light and my heart already prejudiced. I was open to whatever God might reveal.

Now, after years of study and prayer, I am absolutely convinced that there will be no rapture before the Tribulation, but that the Church will undoubtedly be called upon to face the Antichrist, and that Christ will come at the close and not at the beginning of that awful period. I believed the other theory simply because I was taught it by W. E. Blackstone in his book "Jesus is Coming," the Scofield Reference Bible and Prophetic Conferences and Bible Schools; but when I began to search the Scriptures for myself I discovered that there is not a single verse in the Bible that upholds the pre-tribulation theory, but that the uniform teaching of the Word of God is of a post-tribulation Rapture: pre-millennial always, everywhere pre-millennial, but post-tribulation.

MY FIRST AWAKENING

My first awakening to this important truth came one day in 1925, when I was spending a few days in a cottage at Stoney Lake, Ontario. One of my neighbors, Frank Edmonds by name, simply made the suggestion to me. I opposed it at once. "Why," I exclaimed, "however could that be? What about the Scriptures? The teaching of a pre-tribulation Rapture is clear and indisputable." But he quietly affirmed that I was wrong and emphasized the truth concerning the Last Trump. Of course, I was not convinced. I almost ridiculed the very idea of such a possibility. And there the matter rested.

One day, in the early twenties, I began preaching on Prophecy. I had taken my people through Daniel without difficulty. Then came Mark 13, Luke 21, and Matthew 24 and 25. But lo and behold, no sooner had I started on Matthew 24 than I got into trouble. I had announced that I would deal with Matthew 24 at the next service. Hundreds had gathered. I was in a maze, for I was perplexed. So I took a verse here and there through the chapter and thus satisfied the people for that hour at least. But now the next meeting was coming. What was I to say?

I need not point out that there is no pretribulation Rapture in Matthew 24. The Second Coming is unmistakably placed "immediately after the Tribulation" (verse 29), and I was forced to the conclusion that if the Rapture was to be "before" the Tribulation, the Lord Jesus Christ would certainly have given some hint of it at least. He was dealing with the End-Time of the Age. It is unthinkable that He would have spoken so minutely of the Tribulation without stating that the Church would escape. Instead, He purposely led His hearers to the belief that His followers would be in it. Hence, I was staggered, nor could I honestly defend my previous position.

So, when I again faced the people, I said sufficient to let them know that I questioned my former stand and saw evidence of a post-tribulation Rapture. For, as I read Matthew 24 and 25, I saw that many things, as prophesied by the Lord Jesus Christ, simply had to take place before Jesus could come, namely: "All these things" (verse 33), especially the prediction regarding the preaching of the Gospel. See Mark 13:10, and note the significance of the word "first". Thus, since God's future program could not be set aside, there could be no "any moment expectation" of Christ's Return. We are to watch, watch as prophecy after prophecy is fulfilled, ever looking forward to His Appearing; and, in the End-Time, to watch as never before, and to always be ready, for none can ever know how quickly the events predicted might come to pass and Christ return.

MY "ANY MOMENT" THEORY

Then followed the next step. There came into my hands a copy of a book by Dr. Henry W. Frost, then the Home Director of the China Inland Mission. It was entitled "Matthew 24 and the Revelation," a volume of over 300 pages. I fairly devoured it. Portions of it I read through twice. It was most conclusive in its arguments for a post-tribulation Rapture. About the same time I got hold of a book by James H. McConkey, called "The Book of Revelation," and another—perhaps the be

st of all—by Edmund Shackleton (England), entitled "Will the Church Escape the Great Tribulation?" Before I had read them through I was firmly convinced that there would be no Rapture before the Tribulation, and that I had done wrong in promising the Church an escape instead of preparing her for the terrible ordeal that must most surely be awaited. My "any moment" theory could not be sustained. In fact, the very first statement in the latter book, which was written about 1890, amazed me beyond measure and I was fairly staggered as I grasped its significance. Let me quote it verbatim:

All who held the pre-millennial Coming of Christ were, till about sixty years ago, of one mind on the subject. About that time a new view was promulgated that the Coming of Christ was not one event, but that it was divided into stages, in fact, that Christ comes twice from heaven to earth, but the first time only as far as the air. This first descent, it is said, will be for the purpose of removing the Church from the world, and will occur before the Great Tribulation under Antichrist. This they call "The coming for His saints" or "Secret Rapture." The second part of the Coming is said to take place when Christ appears in glory and destroys the Antichrist. This they call "The coming with His saints."

Apart from the test of the Word, which is the only final one, there are certain reasons why this doctrine should be viewed with suspicion. It appears to be little more than sixty years old; and it seems highly improbable that, if scriptural it could have escaped the scrutiny of the many devoted Bible students whose writings have been preserved to us from the past. More especially in the writings of the early Christian fathers would we expect to find some notice of this doctrine, if it had been taught by the Apostles; but those who have their works declare that they betray no knowledge of a theory that the Church would escape the Tribulation under Antichrist, or that there would be any "coming" except that spoken of in Matthew 24, as occurring in manifest glory "after the Tribulation." This is all the more significant, because these writers bestowed much attention upon the subject of the Antichrist and the Great Tribulation. Augustine, referring to Daniel 7, wrote: "But he who reads this passage even half asleep cannot fail to see that the kingdom of Antichrist shall fiercely, though for a short time, assail the Church."

Then when I remembered that the death of Peter, his prediction of corruption and apostasy after his decease, the death of Paul, and many other events had to occur before the Rapture—especially the evangelization of the world (Mark 13:10 and Matt. 24:14)—my "any moment" theory took wings and fled.

Last of all, I ran across "The Great Tribulation—The Church's Supreme Test" by John B. Scruby, the most convincing; the most unanswerable of all. It deals with every point minutely and proves conclusively that the Tribulation precedes the Rapture.

Recently I got hold of that remarkable book "Tribulation to Glory" by H. A. Baker. in which he wrote: "For eighteen centuries the fundamental principle of tribulation to glory was the universal belief of the truly born-again members of the Church", and then he goes on to show that the new pre-tribulation rapture teaching was first proclaimed as a direct revelation by a woman in Edward Irving's church, and then taken up by John Nelson Darby (and the Scofield Reference Bible) in direct contradiction to the teaching of the Church for eighteen hundred years.

"Beginning with the Irvingite woman, then propagated by John N. Darby about 1830, this new 'spirit-inspired' doctrine during the last century has come down to us until it has become popular. George Muller opposed it; so did Benjamin Willis Newton; so did Dr. S. P. Tregelles and other Brethren, but all in vain." But now, thank God, large numbers of our leading Bible Teachers are coming back to the original position.

GOD'S WORD

I discovered that no time element is ever mentioned so far as the Rapture is concerned, except as it is related to the Resurrection. And that the Resurrection is always placed at the time of the sounding of the Last Trump (1 Cor. 15:51-54). This is Trump, without doubt, closes the Tribulation. There is no eighth. The saints are rewarded (Rev. 11:18). The "mystery of God", is then finished, there is time (delay) no longer (Rev. 10:6 and 7), and the Resurrection, of course, immediately precedes the Rapture (1 Thess. 4:16).

Naturally, I thought of 2 Thessalonians 2:7: "he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way". But then I learned from the Greek that the second "he" is the Antichrist, and that the Greek does not say "taken out of the way," but "revealed in the midst," or, "born out of the midst." In other words, lawlessness will be restrained until the appointed time for the lawless one, the Antichrist, to appear. There is no mention of the Holy Spirit at all. That is a Scofield Bible assumption. The Holy Spirit and the Church remain to the end of the Age.

Then, too, I thought of Luke 21:36 and of Revelation 3:10. But Noah, I remembered, "escaped" by preservation. Daniel "was kept" and protected in the lion's den. The three Hebrew children were "kept" though in a burning fiery furnace. None of them were taken out. Rather they were kept, preserved, protected while in, and thus they escaped. Why not the Church? Note that 2 Thessalonians 1:7-10 finds the saints in trouble, in tribulation, and resting only at the close. In fact the first two chapters of 2 Thessalonians cannot be interpreted in any other way. Chapter two, verse one, is most explicit. "Now we beseech you, brethren", writes Paul, "by the coming (Revelation) of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together (the Rapture) unto Him". There is here no separation between the Rapture and the Revelation. The Coming is the one and only Coming spoken of throughout the two chapters, the Coming described in chapter one, verses seven and eight.

I learned, too, that the word for "meet" in 1 Thessalonians 4: was only used in two other places, and, in both cases, it me

ant "returning with" and not "remaining at" the place of meeting. When the brethren from Rome met Paul, they immediately returned to the city with him. When the Virgins met the Bridegroom they accompanied Him back to the wedding. When the saints meet Christ in the Air, as He comes to judge the nations and establish His Kingdom on earth, they will return with Him. There is no Scripture that says they will remain for some seven years in the Air.

In 1 Thessalonians each chapter closes with a reference to the Second Coming, but no distinction is made. As Christ descends with His angels after the Tribulation, the saints ascend, and, meeting Him in the Air, turn and continue with Him back to the earth. How long He remains in the Air, following the meeting with the Church is nowhere revealed. "The Coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all His saints" (1 Thess. 3:13), is unquestionably the Revelation, after the Tribulation, simply because the words, "with all His saints" are added. But why infer another, a previous Coming, in 1 Thessalonians 4:17 and 1:10, or 5:23? It is all one and the same. There is no Secret Rapture. That theory must be deliberately read into the passage. There is no Rapture in Revelation until chapter nineteen is reached.

I had been taught that the Greek word "parousia" always referred to the Rapture and that other words were used for the Coming of Christ in glory after the Tribulation. But I found that this is not true. Parousia is used for the latter, too. See 2 Thessalonians 2:1.

While it is clear that the Church must endure the wrath of the Antichrist, it is certain that the Church will not have to endure the wrath of God. When His judgments are poured out on the Antichrist and his followers, the Church will be divinely protected by God even as the Israelites were protected when His wrath was poured upon the Egyptians—*not* by being raptured, but by being kept.

We might go through all the writers of the New Testament, and we would fail to discover any indication of the so-called "two-stages" of our Lord's Coming. Peter, James and John tell the same story. There is no Scripture for a pre-tribulation rapture. That theory had to be invented by man. Search and see. There is no verse in the Bible that even mentions it.

I discovered that nearly all evangelical missionary leaders believe that there must be representatives in the Church of Christ from every tribe, kindred, tongue and nation, and not just from the so-called civilized world, and that, therefore, the only way to hasten the Coming of Christ is by evangelizing the remaining unreached peoples of earth. Jesus made it perfectly clear when He said, "the gospel must first be published among all nations" (Mark 13:10) "and then shall the end come" (Matt. 24:14). Hence, the greatest incentive to missionary work is the Second Coming of Christ.

SPIRITUAL PREPAREDNESS

I am sure that with the true child of God it is not a question of preference but of truth. Does God's Word say so? Why then rebel? Is not His plan best? Besides, what difference does it make so long as we are ready? "Spiritual Preparedness" is the only important factor after all.

I wonder if we have been lulling the Church into a false security? Can it be that we have been preaching an easy escape? Ought we to prepare the Church for the greatest of all ordeals? Should not our teaching harden her for the fires of the Tribulation? What kind of soldiers are we training? I am afraid that we have been very guilty and that God will certainly hold us responsible for the type of Christian our preaching is producing. We need men and women today of the martyr spirit. The test of the Inquisition is coming again and woe betide the pre-millennialists who are not ready. The Church must be purified in the fires of persecution.

VOICES OF OTHERS

Now if I were to go into the subject in detail and attempt to deal with the numerous passages, both for and against, I would simply be overlapping. Others have already done this most ably, far better than I can, and so, if you are really interested, I would suggest that you secure the books that have been written on the subject and study them prayerfully and with an open mind before taking sides. A great many have been written by men on both sides of the Atlantic. The following are among the best that have been published in Great Britain and you may procure most of them from THE SOVEREIGN GRACE ADVENT TESTIMONY, I DONALD WAY, CHELMSFORD, ESSEX, CM2 9JB, the organization that publishes the Post-Tribulation magazine *Watching and Waiting*, edited by James Payne.

Here are the books:

Will the Church Escape the Great Tribulation? (by Edmund Shackleton); *Christ's Second Coming* (by S. P. Tregelles); *Our Lord Cometh* (by W. J. Rowlands); *The Coming of the Son of Man* (by Rev. E. J. Poole-Connor); *The Second Advent of our Lord, Not Secret, but in Manifested Glory* (by B. W. Newton); *One Second Coming of Christ* (by W. J. Rowlands); *The First Resurrection* (by S. P. Tregelles); *Touching the Coming of the Lord* (by Dan Crawford); *The Saints' Rest and Rapture* (by Frank H. White); *The Second Coming of Christ* (by George Muller). Send for their catalogue.

The following have been published in North America: *The Blessed Hope* (by Professor George E. Ladd). Dr. Ladd teaches in Fuller Theological Seminary, Pasadena. It is a masterly volume and it goes into both the history and doctrine of both the Pre-Tribulation and the Post-Tribulation Advent. *"Will Christ's Coming be in two stages?"* (by Norman F. Douty).

I have a list of nearly seventy Bible Teachers who have proclaimed this view of the Return of Christ. Among them, in addition to those who have written the above books, there are such names as W. J. Erdman, Charles R. Erdman. Dr. Campbell Morgan, Bishop Frank Houghton, Dr. A. B. Simpson, Dr. J. W. Thirtle, Dr. Charles T. Cook, Alexander Reese, Dr. H

oratus Bonar, Dr. Adolph Saphir, Henry Varley, Dr. Nathaniel West, David Baron, H. W. Soltau, Dr. Bergin, Dr. Harold J. Ockenga, and many others. To ignore the convictions of such spiritual leaders is impossible. Deference must be given to their views.

These views I would sum up by quoting from *Watching and Waiting*—"We believe that this was the teaching of our Lord and His Apostles. We believe it was held by the Early Church and by all in the Middle Ages who had any light on the Second Advent. We believe, too, that it was the teaching of the Early Brethren and that no other view was generally accepted among them until the Any Moment. Secret Rapture, Pre-Tribulation, or Two-Stage Coming theory was taught by Edward Irving, as a result of a vision received by a woman in his church. Thus Any Moment teaching is a 'novel' doctrine".

MY FINAL APPEAL

Beloved, the shadows are darkening. The day is drawing to a close. It is now Saturday night in the history of the Church. The times of the Gentiles have almost run their course. Events are fast shaping for the end. The Antichrist will soon be here.

One fact and one only is important—Christ is coming. Of that there can be no doubt. One question and one only is vital—Are we ready?

We may differ on minor details of prophecy. We may disagree as to the time of His Appearing. We may not see eye to eye regarding the order of prophetic events. But one thing is certain—He is coming. We will be with Him. The Millennium is at hand and soon now we shall know all. Therefore, let us love one another sincerely and labour together "till He Come".

If I am mistaken I will know it then. Hence, let us agree to disagree agreeably. God knows our hearts. He knows that we love Him and that is all that really matters. If I love Him and you love Him, we will love each other. Soon the day will break and all the shadows flee away. Meanwhile I am "looking for that blessed hope and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ" (Titus 2 :13).

Re: Tribulation Or Rapture -smith, on: 2008/4/11 9:34

1 Cor 15:52

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.

KJV

1 Thess 4:16

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:

KJV

NT:4536

salpigx (sal'-pinx); perhaps from NT:4535 (through the idea of quavering or reverberation):

KJV - a trumpet:

Rev 11:15

15 The seventh angel sounded his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, which said:
(from New International Version)

And 2532

the 3588

seventh 1442

angel 32

sounded; 4537

and 2532

there were 1096

voices 5456

great 3173

in 1722

3588

heaven, 3772

saying, 3004

are become 1096
the
kingdoms
The 3588
kingdoms 932
3588
of this world 2889

NT:4537

salpizo (sal-pid'-zo); from NT:4536; to trumpet, i.e. sound a blast (literally or figuratively):
KJV - (which are yet to) sound (a trumpet).

Matt 27:50-52

50 And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit.

51 At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook and the rocks split.

52 The tombs broke open and the bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life. 53 They came out of the tombs, and after Jesus' resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many people.

(from New International Version)

Re: Tribulation Or Rapture -smith, on: 2008/4/11 10:08

Glad to see that Mr. Smith holds that the Church will go through Tribulation, from a Scriptural perspective.

The common sense perspective says, "what goes around comes around." Over the ages the Church has been responsible for so much misery here on earth. Think about it. The Crusades, the witch trials the list is quite long and millions have been persecuted, tortured and put to death by the Church.

why Would the Church be spared? Our Lord is a God of Justice.

bub

Re: - posted by broclint (), on: 2008/4/11 11:09

Quote:
----- bub said: The common sense perspective says, "what goes around comes around." Over the ages the Church has been responsible for so much misery here on earth. Think about it. The Crusades, the witch trials the list is quite long and millions have been persecuted, tortured and put to death by the Church.

I certainly cannot agree with that assessment at all. It is not the Church that has been responsible for misery, but hypocrites parading as the Church. Methinks you need to rethink that very false statement. It is the Church, the True Church that has been and still is the only salt that keeps the whole from rotting down, and when the world has finally persecuted and destroyed The Real Church then those claiming to be the church that are in name only, and the secular humanists, pseudo scientists, and the whore church have their messiah, then the reality of "what goes around, comes around" will be seen on this earth in the burning wrath of God being poured out on the beast kingdom and all those who believe that the best way to get along is to go along like those who bowed to Nebuchanezzar's image, while the faithful few would rather burn than bow.

I had written a post before seeing this one, but felt this error must first be addressed :-(.

In reference to the article of this thread:

I have preached this very thing for at least 20 years now, and had no idea until viewing the forums on this site that there were as many as there are who hold to this view. In my denomination the pre-trib rapture is the most prevalent view even though there is only the teaching that the coming of the Lord is pre-millennial without positing a specific time.

I am grateful for all these references in this article. What is amazing to me is that I came to this very same conclusion, and my pastor did also (covered in another thread) with only the Bible as my source book after much prayer and research there and from the Greek and Hebrew origins of the words in the texts. I had never read any of these or any other sources espousing these views, but quite a few on the "secret rapture", and in fact felt like I was treading in dangerous territory for taking such a stand, but also felt that I had to if I were going to be faithful to my conscience and my calling. I appreciate very much the way Dr. Smith ended the article, with the charitable view that the important thing is that we be ready.... It serves no purpose at all to damn those who do not see what we see. If it is a matter of great importance, to state our views in a godly fashion, just as is seen in this article is certainly wise and good, but to argue it for the sake of "proving our point", can only drive those of opposing positions into further alienation.

I know that there are some good brothers and sisters on this site that are not yet convinced of this view, but if they strive to be ready for the coming of the Lord... simply and sincerely strive to be ready; then God will take care of them whatever we have to face. My only fear for so many in this country is that the disillusionment that may occur should their hopes be dashed may contribute to the great falling away that is also prophesied in scripture during the final days.

Proverbs 13:12 (NASB) 12 Hope deferred makes the heart sick, But desire fulfilled is a tree of life.

To me one of the most convincing things regarding what Christians are called upon to face, (and have been called upon to face, like it or not, and certainly the flesh does not like it) is a simple word study sourcing the original Greek and Hebrew on the word "tribulation" and its synonyms. And the second greatest, in my opinion, is what the Lord Himself said regarding His return to His disciples and even to the Pharisees, and also to John in the Revelation, regarding "in the clouds". The third most convincing thing to me in my personal study was a study of the trumpets from Old Testament times when the trumpet or horn was used to gather the Children of Israel together for all the various assemblies... and following that word all through the scriptures to that conclusion regarding "the trumpet shall sound and the dead shall be raised" in view of the trumpets in the Revelation.

It is a fascinating study, but if that is all that it is, we are no better off than the scribes and Pharisees who loved to study but still failed to know the Lord... May we study to be prepared:
Matthew 24:13 (KJV) 13But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.

Clint

Re: Tribulation Or Rapture -smith - posted by tjservant (), on: 2008/4/11 11:21

Quote:
-----I believed the other theory simply because I was taught it

What an indictment. I wonder how many others have believed certain doctrines simply because their Grandpa, Uncle, or Aunt taught it to them. I have suffered this as well. I picked up many things as a non-believer that had to be "re-evaluated" upon being truly born again.

I am continually amazed by the number of individuals I encounter that dismiss certain doctrines and teachings with a shrug of the shoulders and an "I don't know" or "just because" statement when asked to explain how they came to a particular conclusion.

We need to adopt the Berean mindset.

Great article.

Re., on: 2008/4/11 12:29

broClint,

you are right about there being a true Church. yet, it doesn't meet in a common place or service, but is made up of individual believers spread throughout various denominations.

putting these faithful people through the Tribulation would not be just.

Religious leaders, however, those in authority over the historic and present denominations of the Church, and their tithing, war promoting, consumption motivated, ritual practicing congregations, well that's another matter altogether. these are those who have abundance, but look away from the needy in the world, those who DO NOT praise and thank God for the CHALLENGES IN THEIR LIVES, but whine and complain about the car, the neighbors, the whatever, not seeing that God blesses us with challenges because we have lessons to learn and because He loves us.

doesn't this "Church" deserve to go through the Tribulation?

bub

Re., on: 2008/4/11 13:50

Bubba... the church you are referring to is a different Church than Jesus was referring to. True believers in Jesus Christ were not guilty of persecution, etc. In fact, for 2,000 years true believers in Jesus Christ have been persecuted... and often times by the so-called "church". Not just the hellish Roman Catholic Church, but also by men like Luther and Calvin. This is why I call myself a follower of Christ, and not a Protestant.

I know you have tried to clarify your first post, but it just bothers me when I hear the tired old statement "many have been persecuted by the church... look at the Crusades". Those people had about as little to do with Christ as a Black Bear does deep sea diving.

Krispy

Re., on: 2008/4/11 17:28

Bubba we all deserve hell, saved and unsaved, we all have a sin debt to be paid, church and unchurched for ourselves by rebelling in not accepting his free gift at the cross and submitting to HIM in being both Savior and Lord. The question is for all of us, has Jesus paid for our sins or will we pay the penalty ourselves in hell? This is why the church should preach grace. If we have indeed received that grace, we will show thankfulness for that grace and it will be manifested into works in our earthly lives in word and deed. One of those works that is produced by thankfulness for grace is manifested in works to the HIS church that he died for. He described how that grace is manifested and should look like so we can examine ourselves to see if we indeed have received and are thankful for that grace.

Read the likeness in the 10 leprosy cases that were healed and only one returned to thank him.

Luke 17:11-19

11 Now on his way to Jerusalem, Jesus traveled along the border between Samaria and Galilee. 12 As he was going into a village, ten men who had leprosy met him. They stood at a distance 13 and called out in a loud voice, "Jesus, Master, have pity on us!"

14 When he saw them, he said, "Go, show yourselves to the priests." And as they went, they were cleansed.

15 One of them, when he saw he was healed, came back, praising God in a loud voice. 16 He threw himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him-and he was a Samaritan.

17 Jesus asked, "Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine? 18 Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" 19 Then he said to him, "**Rise and go; your faith has made you well.**"

Re: - posted by tjservant (), on: 2008/4/11 18:23

Quote:
-----Not just the hellish Roman Catholic Church, but also by men like Luther and Calvin. This is why I call myself a follower of Christ, and not a Protestant.

The thing is...they all called themselves followers of Christ. The real damage was done to the name "Christian"

Persecution is promised to all true Christians...and it may very well come from enemies claiming to be "Christians" as Krispy has pointed out. All denominations and theological leanings have administered their share of poison...many without intent and not all to the same degree...but great damage has been done to the Church (True body of Christ) from all sides. True Christians must live with the repercussions.

The day is coming to America, if not already here to some degree, that being labeled a Christian will bring severe persecution...no other label will be required.

I, like Krispy, try to stay clear of labels, but will gladly stand by him in waving the Christian banner. I am not ashamed of the Gospel...just some of its so called followers.

Good post Krispy.

Deep sea diving Black Bear :-P ...where do you get this stuff?

Re: We'll fly away o lordy, we'll fly away..but to where?, on: 2008/4/11 22:18

I have read the original post and all responses. I appreciate the scholarship of Brother Smith and historical research, nailing this deception for what it is. It has snowballed into a vast web of supporting doctrines also, and it is interesting that most of the folks who have embraced it have also espoused once saved always saved and the incorporation of "the American Dream" into their version of being a disciple of Jesus.

TBN, Paul Crouch and company, proudly preach it, along with the hundreds of preachers in their vein, with millions and millions that have had a daily diet for DECADES, in 100 countries or so. John Hagee, of San Antonio, an anointed orator, believes that the American economy will fall, when the Christian influence in our economy, the Believers, are removed instantly...you know, babies translated from their mothers breasts, jets crashing when pilots disappear, bus drivers, on and on, and then we'll be in financial chaos, and America will slide into depression. He would hardly agree with every thing that I have stated here,,,this is not slander or gossip. They have made several major movies on this theme, the most famous being the "LEFT BEHIND" series, with many famous actors involved.

My healing of the wound, though, would be different, somewhat, than Mr. Smith's. Books are a blessing, and important, but the reason that so many have believed this fantasy is through reading books, or being indoctrinated through the media. I remember "The late great planet Earth", by Hal Lindsey, circa 1970. A massive best seller, bombarding America with this apple plum vision of sweeping into Jesus' arms; out of your steaming convertible corvette into His hands and Angels and a dandy heaven to boot. Whoo-pee! we're saved and livin' life as the head, not the tail....! Bring on your coming! "Woe to those who desire the Day of the Lord; a day of darkness and not of light."

I read my Bible, and the source of my doctrinal faith has and always has been primarily the Holy writ; the scriptures. We need fearless men and women who will stand on the Word, and preachers, who are fearless to rebuke these lies. We need Bible Teachers, led by the Holy One, to expound these simple, and many scriptures to the simple, and the young, so that they can read and see for themselves. The problem to me about reading a list of books is that it is just compli

cated. Also I believe that if the gospel doesn't fly with the poorest on the Earth, then it isn't the gospel, I try and imagine grounding the poor Hindi masses, or African villagers, and I think I would go about it teaching the Bible, as simply as I could, and encourage them to learn from the Word likewise all their days. It is a good thing to bolster your faith, through another's thinking, but the thing about a man finding a pearl on his own as he seeks God is, it will always be with him. You have taught him how to fish, not just given him some cod.

This anti-christ lie lays in a more subtle deception that the Salvation of man is centered around God blessing man, not man becoming a son of God; being conformed to the likeness of Jesus by denying and dying.

The three Pillars of this new age Christian are the basis rights of all Christians: The right to Happiness, Health, and Prosperity. These rights have evolved into mandates that God must adhere to, and come with mantras and faith confessions, with much indoctrination, and very little actual bible reading and prayer attributed to the individual believer.

The result has been a golf ball sized Jesus, who becomes both butler and slave to accommodate every "FAITH" desire that smooths my flesh. I'm blessed, and "I'M AT MY BEST, WHEN I'M BLESSED!" Though 170 years old, this doctrine was received in exactly the same vein as the wicked antichrist teachers of today. "It's your destiny to be blessed!" No suffering at all; that would go against the right to happiness, and therefore could not be God at all. We will be rescued from all suffering, for a loving God would not want you to suffer the book of Revelation, or Isaiah 24. Impossible.

I am thankful to sermonindex for bringing this up, and the fatherly wisdom of Brother Smith. I am happy it has risen in these threads, and to see so many agree with truth.

In the Baptist religion, who claim only 50 to 70 MILLION here in America chances are, you will lose your Pastorate, and be excommunicated for following that evil heresy of post tribulation rapture.

I know some of that venom, as I had a while to address a church with whatever agenda I chose. I had a word of knowledge to begin with, that I was sweating out for a full minute in silence, until the young man I prophesied about came forward greatly broken, admitting rebellion and exactly endorsing my word, I had never met him, until then. I thought this might buy me some respect!.....WRONG.

If Count Dracula were preaching, I would be better received, as they realized I was hinting that just maybe, the word may bear out the truth of Matt. 24, in a different light.... 7th trump, after the tribulation of those days, and so on. I was heading there. Never arrived. It did not go so well.

After the meeting, everyone avoided me. I had touched the Holy Grail. This was sacred ground to these people, that involved their lives, and their children's lives!, like I was an agent from Hades attempting to steal their FAITH. All I really wanted to do was to see them prepared for the inevitable; a hard time, and to BE PREPARED. 10 VIRGINS. 5 prepared with faith oil, 5 unprepared. Darkness sweeping in like a flood. Need light. where is light? In the "Day of the Lord?" Those prepared by the Holy Spirit to love Truth, at the expense of every thing else.

"If any man come after Me, an hate not his mother, brother, sister, possessions, CHILDREN, yes, and even his own life, HE cannot be my disciple."

Brother Tom

Re: - posted by ccchhrrriiiss () , on: 2008/4/12 1:56

Hi Brother Tom...

Quote:

-----I have read the original post and all responses. I appreciate the scholarship of Brother Smith and historical research, nailing this deception for what it is.

Is it possible to discuss these issue WITHOUT using the "d" word ("deception"). This tends to be a trend lately. We want to call anything that doesn't agree with our particular doctrinal view a "deception."

I currently *lean* toward a belief in a pre-wrath "rapture" (although I don't like the word so much). I have read the Scriptures clearly and from the "Berean" mindset (as if there were any other manner for a believer?). Yet I just cannot see the Lord forcing His bride to suffer through His wrath as it will be poured out upon the ENTIRE Earth.

We have had these discussions many times before. I always appreciate the views presented by various brethren such as the one in this article (even if I may not fully agree with it). However, I am greatly disheartened when one brother or sister feels the "liberty" to call a belief to be "heresy" when the truth cannot currently be ascertained beyond any doubt. Yes, there are very vital doctrines that are obviously presented in the Scriptures that are above discussion, and any deviation is obviously wrong. But a discussion about the timing and manner of the Lord's return? The early Church -- those who actually walked, ate and rested near our Lord on this Earth -- didn't know the exact nature of all of these things.

The Church has always endured tribulation. We have endured gossip, whispers, fingers of accusation and false allegations. We have endured hardship, hunger, thirst. The Church has been whipped, beaten, and crucified. In the beginning, believers were fed to lions and were even sawed in two. The Church has faced the tribulations of this world -- from the people of this world and from the god of this age. However, the time of God's wrath that will come upon the entire world is different. Instead of the mere tribulation of man and Satan -- this world will suffer the wrath of God.

Will God protect his children from His wrath? How? Will the Groom come and take the Bride to the place that He has prepared? Or will the Bride of Christ be destroyed by the same judgments that will be poured indiscriminantly upon entire portions of the Earth (wiping out a third here and a third there)?

I'm not completely sure. In fact, I don't know that anyone can be totally sure -- enough to call all other alternatives a "deception." The very use of such a word indicates a "purpose to deceive." I have heard it used by people speaking of the gifts of the Spirit. I have heard it used by those speaking about Bible prophecy. I just feel that we need to limit the use of such a word to those things that we know to be sure beyond ANY fraction of a doubt.

Anyway, I do appreciate this article and the discussion that such an article can foster. I just hope that we can do so with out feeling that sort of security that calls something that isn't completely and totally certain a "lie." Until I come to such a point, I will remain with Keith Green's approach to the End: Pray for pre-trib but be prepared for post-trib. As Brother David Wilkerson said when he was asked about his views on either a pre-trib, mid-trib or post-trib view, he stated that he believed in "PAN-trib." He said, "*It will all pan out in the End!*"

:)

Re: A lying prophesy believed has dire consequences., on: 2008/4/12 7:54

Jeremiah 28vs.15

Then Jeremiah the prophet said to Hananiah the prophet;"Listen,listen now, Hananiah! The Lord has not sent you, and you have made the people trust in a lie!" Therefore thus says the Lord;"I am about to remove you from the face of the Earth, BECAUSE YOU HAVE COUNSELED REBELLION AGAINST THE LORD!"

So, Hananiah the prophet died in the same year, in the 7th month.

“ If we, for the sake of comfort, bring a false comfort to God's people, through a lying prophesy, we counsel rebellion. This pre-tribulation doctrine came from the lips of a dreamer, in the 1840s, as was so accurately and historically documented by Brother Smith, and is widely known to have originated here. It fits the description of exactly what a FALSE prophesy is. In the Biblical scheme of time and Word, it's brand, spanking new. Furthermore, as Brother Smith so aptly exposed, it is without a single Bible reference, while, "The 7th trump", post tribulation Bible version, has SCORES of New Testament endorsement.

So, I won't call it deception, but a LIE, and a lying prophesy, meant by Satan to lure Believers into complacency; that peace and prosperity would continue. "everything will be "well with your soul", even in the midst of gross apostasy, it's ok, God loves you , and is for you!" You will not suffer terror!

This is true, as long as we continue in repentance and holiness. Therefore, God's controversy with Hananiah. So it is today.

When we become assured of continuing prosperity, the human spirit drifts toward complacency, and , as the Jews did in Jeremiah's day; they lost the Fear of the Lord. Unbelief. If they really believed Jeremiah Yet, no repentance, no pr eparation of heart, no FAITH....no life.

Remember though, there were a few, that sighed and groaned over the sins and rebellion, whom were spared, as t he Angel went about, and marked these on their foreheads, within the gates of Jerusalem. These were saved in the mid st of Wrath, for they knew every thing wasn't going to be ok, and bore God's heart as they witnessed Apostasy every da y.

Your "How can anyone be sure?" argument is childish. I ask you, How can you be sure the Bible is God's Word? Y ou can't; if so , prove it.

I trust, that you like me, believe the Bible is true, by our faith. Satan brought a similar argument to EVE..."Has God said?" Doubt is the foundation of rebellion. It's not an argument.

This ties in with your statement about others who aren't sure either, and because they are famous, and have a good report, therefore my argument and faith MUST, or COULD be true. This is also an extremely flawed faith statement as C hristians must always found their faith in The Lord, and the Bible Word of God. If men of God fall in a ditch, because of t heir error, where will you end up? Men may teach, and preach, and we glean and are fed, as the Lord leads, and feeds, THROUGH THEM!

Where did you, and how could you end up with an assumption that the 7th trump word about the Parousia would P OSSIBLY result in"the Bride being destroyed"? I'm flabbergasted! The entire point is that Jesus is returning for a pure an d spotless Bride. Do you read your Bible? It's an impossibility! IF, you believe your Word. This is rooted in ignorant fear, maybe to bolster a position with Zero biblical or historical merit.

Rebellion causes God's people to believe a lie, so I will call this modern, dream derived, false, unbiblical deception what it is, a LIE.

To a brother, yours, Brothertom.

Re:, on: 2008/4/12 8:12

Furthermore, as Brother Smith so aptly exposed, it is without a single Bible reference,

Amen what a dangerous method in attempting to be accurate. I don't see this topic as a separating factor for Christians, at least it shouldn't be.

We know he is coming back and who he is coming back for(the church) (his church) Surely we can be objective in accessing when he is coming back because he says no man knows the hour or the day but be ready.

I believe the pretrib version and if I am prepared for the post-trib version and it won't be by my power or my strength but his power and his strength I survive and live forever, in the same way he saved me at conversion. None of us can do anything apart from his power, strength, grace and mercy. If he doesn't come through with the strength that we need at any time, we are sunk.

We are a proud people we usually don't want nothing for free, we say no let me pay you for that. The truth is we can't pay our sin debt, only one was qualified and worthy to do that. Look the lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. However we will pay for our sins in hell if we fail to let Jesus pay the debt. Jesus said his grace was sufficient and that in our weakness his power is made perfect. When he does save us, we return to him over and over as the one of the leper out of 10 to thank him as our Lord and ruler of our life. We fail but we don't fall.

I believe that and Lord help us all to say we are weak and you are strong, and do not let us manufacture or depend on anything we think is our own strength in standing, whatever the case may be.

Back to the pre post trib subject, when we see the trump or trumpets in the Greek definition we can see that it may be referring to two different events. If we look at the trump and the trumpet as are they same, although the Greek definition are different, and the seventh trumpet being the last trump, then we could certainly understand the post-trib theory. We see these two definitions are different because they are different. There is more on this from our BLESSED HOPE, line upon line and precept upon precept, but let us get past this one first on this subject about the trumps, if possible.

SEE EARLIER POST.

A pre-trib brother
moe_mac

Re:, on: 2008/4/12 10:53

I am not an arguer; I submit this in a spirit of meekness (although with typed words, I know it can be hard to tell). I think we need to see the tribulation for what it is. God is not out to kill us all and I realize I could be wrong but I believe that the WHOLE length of the tribulation will reveal the evil content of man's heart – especially those who say they are Christians or even more disheartening, think they are in the Bride. We are told to not assume so arrogantly that we get to sit in the front row but to humbly take our seat in the back. Christians or not, we are dealing with the human heart here and its corrupt and evil, who can know it but the Lord?

So this post is not to pick on you Chris but that view of we are saved from "God's wrath." We read all through the Bible how God delivers those who trust in Him IN THE MIDST of adversity. He was the fourth man in the fire; he saved John from the death of being boiled alive. Even though John had to watch himself being lowered down into boiling oil and had no idea how it would turn out. I truly believe the pure in heart (to the pure all things are pure) will have nothing to fear going through the tribulation. If need be, he will rain down manna for his children and let water flow from the

rock. He will take care of his own.

Quote:

-----ccchhhrrriiisss wrote:

Yet I just cannot see the Lord forcing His bride to suffer through His wrath as it will be poured out upon the ENTIRE Earth.

I humbly disagree with you and all who hold to this passivist view. To think like this is pure human reasoning. Did God not say in Isaiah 55.9-10, For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts. I humbly ask to all who believe this, How do you know WHAT the Lord will require of His Bride? We don't.

To believe it's an all or nothing thing about the Bride is presumption on the part of our human understanding. No matter how we study, the way of the Bereans or whatever, we still only see darkly as if through a glass; we don't see the WHOLE entire picture. I don't believe the Bride will be destroyed if she is here. I believe it will be her finest shining hour.

I can hope that I will shine if I am here but I will NOT take part in possibly misleading anyone that the Bride gets to leave. There are too many Scriptures that read otherwise. To me, teaching people this is indeed teaching them to save their life (in one form or another). Jesus himself tells us, "Whosoever shall seek to save his life shall lose it; and whosoever shall lose his life shall preserve it. (Luke 17:33). We should seek to stay as long as possible to be witnesses either in death or life that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God.

So should we not have the attitude of Nehemiah 6.10-11. . .

10 Afterward I came unto the house of Shemaiah the son of Delaiah the son of Mehetabeel, who was shut up; and he said, Let us meet together in the house of God, within the temple, and let us shut the doors of the temple: for they will come to slay thee; yea, in the night will they come to slay thee.

11 And I said, Should such a man as I flee? and who is there, that, being as I am, would go into the temple to save his life? I will not go in.

Re:, on: 2008/4/12 11:13

Quote:

-----We read all through the Bible how God delivers those who trust in Him IN THE MIDST of adversity.

While it is true there are examples of this, there are also examples of God delivering His people BEFORE His wrath fell. I think of Lot. He was delivered out of the city before His wrath fell. There are just as many examples of this as there are the other.

But when we have a pet doctrine we want to push we tend to only pick out the examples that bolster our doctrine... and ignore everything else as if it isn't there.

Bad way to use scripture.

And before you jump on me... I haven't declared my position on this topic in this thread. I might actually agree with you... you never know.

One thing I have noticed, especially in this forum, there seems to be almost an arrogance among those who believe the church will go thru the tribulation. Kinda like a badge of honor, or like we're gonna show God how worthy we are by remaining faithful thru the tribulation. And then you call those who believe in a pre-Trib rapture things like "pacifists". What's up with that?

Anyone want to go thru the Tribulation? Be my guest... I don't particularly want to. However, if that's God's plan, then that's what I will do. I've been to hell and back in my life, and it's hard to imagine that things will be even worse than I have seen in other parts of the world. The Tribulation won't be some Hollywood production... it's gonna be real.

Krispy

Re:, on: 2008/4/12 11:54

Quote:
----- Bad way to use scripture.

Perhaps, but just cause you think it, doesn't make it so, Krispy!! And besides, I can't remember ever having a direct conversation with you. Nice to meet you!!!

Quote:
----- But when we have a pet doctrine we want to push we tend to only pick out the examples that bolster our doctrine... and ignore everything else as if it isn't there.

Now, you told me not to jump on you and here you are jumping on me!!! :) All I was trying to point out was our humanistic views toward escapism but NOW I have a "pet doctrine." LOL

Quote:
----- I've been to hell and back in my life, and it's hard to imagine that things will be even worse than I have seen in other parts of the world. The Tribulation won't be some Hollywood production... it's gonna be real.

You are 100% correct and we are in total agreement here!!!

God bless you!!

Re: - posted by tjservant (), on: 2008/4/12 12:07

Hi Chris

Quote:
-----I have read the Scriptures clearly and from the "Berean" mindset (as if there were any other manner for a believer?)

I believe there are many Christians that actually believe and trust their pastors and elders and do not feel the need to go to scripture on every issue.

I was simply voicing my concern for how easy it is to accept the views of loved ones and teachers, when a personal investigation may land us on the other side of the fence. I thought this was a good example of this very thing...regardless of who is "right or wrong"

I did not endorse either side in my post and I do have strong beliefs on this subject...but I usually just tell people to be "rapture ready".

Re:, on: 2008/4/12 12:33

Quote:

tjservant wrote:
Hi Chris

Quote:

-----I have read the Scriptures clearly and from the "Berean" mindset (as if there were any other manner for a believer?)

Rev 10:5-7

5 Then the angel I had seen standing on the sea and on the land raised his right hand to heaven. 6 And he swore by him who lives for ever and ever, who created the heavens and all that is in them, the earth and all that is in it, and the sea and all that is in it, and said, "There will be no more delay! 7 But in the dayswhen the seventh angel is about to sound his trumpet, the mystery of God will be accomplished, just as he announced to his servants the prophets."

Just as the seventh angel is about to sound the seventh trumpet: Could these saints be in a different time zone maybe? Compared to when the last trumpet sounds? What you think saints?

Not really that important, but I'm glad yall brought this up.
What is the mystery of God? Christ in his people.

Note: In Smith's study he said there was no mention of this until what Chapter?

Re: Tribulation Or Rapture -smith - posted by psalm1, on: 2008/4/12 15:10

Quote;

"I am sure that with the true child of God it is not a question of preference but of truth. Does God's Word say so? Why t hen rebel? Is not His plan best? Besides, what difference does it make so long as we are ready? "Spiritual Preparednes s" is the only important factor after all.

I wonder if we have been lulling the Church into a false security? Can it be that we have been preaching an easy escape ? Ought we to prepare the Church for the greatest of all ordeals? Should not our teaching harden her for the fires of the Tribulation? What kind of soldiers are we training? I am afraid that we have been very guilty and that God will certainly h old us responsible for the type of Christian our preaching is producing. We need men and women today of the martyr spi rit. The test of the Inquisition is coming again and woe betide the pre-millennialists who are not ready. The Church must be purified in the fires of persecution.
VOICES OF OTHERS"

I find it interesting that this guy found his "truth" through reading books to help him get revelation, and yet it is a foregone conclusion of 99% of post trib debaters that pretrib believers basically never opened a bible to get their erroneous beliefs

It is also interesting that Jesus himself speaks of the ones who are "ready" as the ones who leave and not stay and yet t he post trib doctrine believers look upon the pretrib believers as not ready to stay.

The doctrine of post trib puts the believers perpetually on earth,never seeing heaven and yet the marriage supper of the lamb is in heaven with the bride.

Quote;

"I learned, too, that the word for "meet" in 1 Thessalonians 4: was only used in two other places, and, in both cases, it m eant "returning with" and not "remaining at" the place of meeting. When the brethren from Rome met Paul, they immedia tely returned to the city with him. When the Virgins met the Bridegroom they accompanied Him back to the wedding. Wh en the saints meet Christ in the Air, as He comes to judge the nations and establish His Kingdom on earth, they will retur n with Him. There is no Scripture that says they will remain for some seven years in the Air.

Articles and Sermons :: Tribulation Or Rapture -smith

In 1 Thessalonians each chapter closes with a reference to the Second Coming, but no distinction is made. As Christ descends with His angels after the Tribulation, the saints ascend, and, meeting Him in the Air, turn and continue with Him back to the earth. How long He remains in the Air, following the meeting with the Church is nowhere revealed. "The Coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all His saints" (1 Thess. 3:13), is unquestionably the Revelation, after the Tribulation, simply because the words, "with all His saints" are added. But why infer another, a previous Coming, in 1 Thessalonians 4:17 and 1:10, or 5:23? It is all one and the same. There is no Secret Rapture. That theory must be deliberately read into the passage. There is no Rapture in Revelation until chapter nineteen is reached."

Notice the glossing over of the wedding supper with the bride.
Mr. Smith takes the most colossal event since the redemption of man and minimises it to a speed bump in his "doctrine of truth"

The core of the bible is the uniting and marriage of the Son with his bride, the remnant.

It seems the desire to place the bride somewhere she isn't is so great that the marriage and the marriage supper are somehow placed at the rear of Smith's priority list.

I think it is far better to study scripture than to read others conclusions in books.
It ought to send red flags to the reader if an author is predisposed to discrediting a segment of the body when that segment stands on solid scriptural ground.

It is outlandish and belittling to tell the ones ready to go with their groom "these deceived ones will be caught totally unprepared for the Antichrist"
My bible says "come Lord Jesus" and "surely I come quickly"
If I cant say "Lord Jesus come quickly" I better change my doctrine.

David

Re: - posted by tjservant (), on: 2008/4/12 16:45

Not to anyone in particular.

The author clearly states that he had arrived at his conclusion, "after years of study and prayer"

This article is simply a re-telling of his experience during those years. It is just the story of one man's journey of change in regards to a particular doctrine...take it or leave it.

Whether you are pre, post, or during...there is plenty to glean from this article.

Re: - posted by broclint (), on: 2008/4/12 19:47

Quote:
-----David said: The doctrine of post trib puts the believers perpetually on earth, never seeing heaven and yet the marriage supper of the lamb is in heaven with the bride.

Friend if you are going to make a sweeping generalization of that sort you ought to have a little proof, otherwise you are simply baiting your audience for a fight! And this thread was not started, I am sure, for that purpose, nor have the vast majority of the posters entered it with that purpose. Drink another cup of coffee and pray a while and then come back.:-)

Quote:
-----David said: Notice the glossing over of the wedding supper with the bride. Mr. Smith takes the most colossal event since the redemption of man and minimises it to a speed bump in his "doctrine of truth"

The core of the bible is the uniting and marriage of the Son with his bride, the remnant.

The article was concise with plenty of scriptural references, but obviously was not written to answer your questions or mine, just a statement regarding why and how he came to his conclusion. There are plenty of things he left out. If you would be so kind as to elaborate upon this oft mentioned point that you enter into the threads each time, I for one would like to see what makes you believe there is a secret rapture required for there to be a wedding supper... Where is your scriptural basis, not just for a supper, but for it being for the seven years of the tribulation. Not debating you on the subject but, just would like to see where you are coming from. And as for it being the "most colossal event" that too needs a little referencing from scripture please.

Quote:
-----David said: I think it is far better to study scripture than to read others conclusions in books.
It ought to send red flags to the reader if an author is predisposed to discrediting a segment of the body when that segment stands on solid scriptural ground.

As for "discrediting a segment of the body when that segment stands on solid scriptural ground", that is really the only thing that should have been submitted if there is such ground rather than all the bluster. But indeed, the man was very charitable in his remarks and did not at all discredit anyone in the body but said this:

Quote:
-----One fact and one only is important—Christ is coming. Of that there can be no doubt. One question and one only is vital—Are we ready?

We may differ on minor details of prophecy. We may disagree as to the time of His Appearing. We may not see eye to eye regarding the order of prophetic events. But one thing is certain—He is coming. We will be with Him. The Millennium is at hand and soon now we shall know all. If I am mistaken I will know it then. Hence, let us agree to disagree agreeably. God knows our hearts.

Quote:
-----**Therefore, let us love one another sincerely and labour together "till He Come"**. He knows that we love Him and that is all that really matters. If I love Him and you love Him, we will love each other. Soon the day will break and all the shadows flee away. Meanwhile I am "looking for that blessed hope and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ" (Titus 2 :13).

I made this statement in my post:

Quote:
-----I know that there are some good brothers and sisters on this site that are not yet convinced of this view, but if they strive to be ready for the coming of the Lord... simply and sincerely strive to be ready; then God will take care of them whatever we have to face. My only fear for so many in this country is that the disillusionment that may occur should their hopes be dashed may contribute to the great falling away that is also prophesied in scripture during the final days.

As for your quote: "I think it is far better to study scripture than to read others conclusions in books."

I agree, and yet I find that statement a little disingenuous seeing how the whole of SI has been treated to weeks of quotes from a book that alienates quite a few suffering saints who are enduring numerous diseases and complications with faith that God is good if He never heals them believing rather: 2 Corinthians 4:16 - 18 (KJV) 16For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day. 17For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; 18While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.

Brethren, let us agree to be brethren instead of ratcheting up the rhetoric. Time will tell soon enough, maybe far sooner than we imagine... the headlines regarding Israel, the next election, the rising threats of militant Islam and the slowly but surely diminishing of our freedoms, the militant homosexuals, and on and on... there is enough for us to pray about... And I agree wholeheartedly with Brother Smith that "If I love Him and you love Him, we will love each other. Soon the day will break and all the shadows flee away. Meanwhile I am "looking for that blessed hope and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ" (Titus 2 :13)."

Sincere love of the brethren (and sisters:-))

Clint

Re: - posted by psalm1, on: 2008/4/12 20:57

bro Clint said;

Friend if you are going to make a sweeping generalization of that sort you ought to have a little proof, otherwise you are simply baiting your audience for a fight! And this thread was not started, I am sure, for that purpose, nor have the vast majority of the posters entered it with that purpose. Drink another cup of coffee and pray a while and then come back.

O k I prayed but the coffee and fight thing you'll have to do by yourself.

It is they themselves that state the remnant thats raptured never see heaven. So maybe you are addressing the wrong person.

When you say sweeping generalizations are you equally concerned when Mr smith says;

"I began to search the Scriptures for myself I discovered that there is not a single verse in the Bible that upholds the pre-tribulation theory, but that the uniform teaching of the Word of God is of a post-tribulation Rapture: pre-millennial always. everywhere pre-millennial, but post-tribulation."

(thats not just a sweep but a slam dunk) ?

Mr. Smith leaves no room for any way but his way.

As for the wedding supper;

Rev 19;5And a voice came out of the throne, saying, Praise our God, all ye his servants, and ye that fear him, both small and great.

6And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunders, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.

7Let 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.

8And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.

9And 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.

Notice vs 7 she is no longer the bride but the wife. Also note she is arrayed in fine linen.

It is impossible for the bride to be in heaven and suffering under the Antichrist at the same time.

She is raptured pretrib?

David

Re: - posted by psalm1, on: 2008/4/12 21:04

Bro Clint said;

"I for one would like to see what makes you believe there is a secret rapture required "

It is only post trib believers that say secret rapture and little girls dream.
I have never said secret and never heard secret until I read it by post trib believers.

This is why it is better to base the discussion on the word.

David

Re: Announcement of the marriage of the Lamb come, after what happens? - posted by destinysweet (), on: 2008/4/12 21:04

Important discussion. Thank you Greg, for posting this superb article..Oswald Smith has presented this clear truth well.

Brother Tom's testimony of how rigid and protective folks can be when even beginning to hear of this basic reality of saints suffering through the great tribulation. I also have encountered great resistance when I touch upon this unholy grail..the cup Jesus drank from was a cup of suffering and death. Jesus said we would have to endure until the end, not loving our lives as to preserve them, but following Him, obeying and listening to His words concerning all things..but Jesus promises to provide a way of escape for those who are in right standing with God. God's mercy endures forever and His love never fails, no weapon formed against us shall prosper..and His church..founded upon revelation knowledge of the Son of the Living God as Christ and King..Worthy is His name, the very gates of hell shall not prevail against her.

From the beginning of my committed walk with God, when I was conscious of His leading and guidance, could readily hear the Voice of My Shepherd, God has been revealing much, in many ways about the reality of His church needing to be prepared for going through the tribulation. I have many remarkable and telling divinely choreographed instances when God has said..with the evidenced light of Shekinah Glory, the weighty powerful unmistakable Presence of the Almighty God accompanied by the words.. "This is a shadow of what is to come." Each of these unusual events, upon perusal, taken in the order of their happening over the decades reveals to me a certainty of provision for the needed perseverance, the certainty of provision when we can no longer buy and sell..or barter, the certainty of the protection from harm in the midst of great danger, the reality of God's chosen method of cleansing the earth of all evil doers (as it was in Noah's day the evil was cleansed off the earth by water..leaving it to righteously obedient Noah and kin) and the very nature of the fire He intends to use to accomplish this cleansing..all these events, are to me as lessons given beforehand as preparation, living precepts, heavenly line upon line, precept upon precept for me to prepare my heart and mind to be strengthened, that I might be employed in strengthening that which would remain and those who will remain, the elect of God..God's faith hope and love..as well as His ever enduring mercy...these which have no end..Being full of these in Christ we will endure, overcoming the world, inheriting the earth.

But even if I were to go into great detail describing these events..which many would possibly despise, throwing up hands, pulling their hair..this is no proof to me..I did not see it..and so you would have to wonder even more if I am true or false..though I know that should you simply hide yourself in your closet and seek the truth from the Spirit of Truth, with an open heart, He would surely back me 100%..but I would not burden you at this time with these, rather, I will focus on that which you can see for yourself..that which is written in the Book of Revelation..a series of visions, events portrayed, given supernaturally to John, an eyewitness of the Lord Jesus Christ in the flesh, at His crucifixion and Resurrection, a firstfruit Apostle.

The order in which comes the announcement of the commencement, (the beginning) of the wedding of the Bride to the Lamb, according to John (and if you believe he was speaking of the Holy Spirit and not of his own imagination then you must not believe otherwise than this) this marriage is clearly announced in the midst of all the wrath of God being poured out..after Babylon is made to fall, she who rules over the kings of the whole earth..who was in the midst of persecuting the saints..One of the angels who had already poured out his bowl came to John to ask if he'd like to see the judgement of the great harlot, chapter 17, chapter 16 shows all the bowls have already been poured out..then in 19 the announcement of the beginning of the wedding..where the saints are now clothed for the wedding..then Christ and His saints having been clothed in white and made ready, war with the beast, the kings of the earth and their armies..Christ and His righteous ones using a more powerful weaponry than that which is of flesh and blood. Our weapons supercede theirs. We triumph! Th

en the beast is captured,with the false prophet and they are summarily thrown into the lake of fire.Chapter 20.Then the angel with the key to the bottomless pit,lays hold of the dragon,Satan and binds him up for a thousand years,then after he is released and allowed to deceive some of the nations who surround the camp of the saints and he is dealt with by fire from heaven and cast into the lake of fire.Then comes the first resurrection of the dead in Christ..surely these are His bride as well.

Then comes the Day of Judgement..when the dead are judged by what has been recorded of their works in the books..this is where their names are blotted out of the Book of Life,if they did not repent of whatever Jesus told them to..the dividing of the sheep and the goats.Now is when we see the Bride appear,when it has been made the new heaven and the new earth,chapter 21..no one enters this city unless their name is still entered in the Lamb's book of Life,their works judged as righteous,proven they are undefiled and not aligned with any apostate thing(belief system,lie,abomination..all given the same status here...none.)Here is when the Bride is revealed..after the judgement seat..at the great white throne..the fighting is over..the endurance over..the union complete and then...the supper..yes!The feast comes after the wedding ceremony itself..the wedding is in itself an event..this is a mystery indeed..each having been made one with the bridegroom,each having a personal union with the bridegroom,Himself and then a corporate celebration..where all who see who they are one with in Christ..the full body of true believers celebrating each one's union with the Lamb and with each other..Let all things be done according to God's will.Let all things be believed in accordance to God's will.

He has given us a map..but every map has a key so you can read the symbols,inorder to understand what the map is showing you. May the Most High God reveal through His Spirit of Truth the true key to all in doubt...we are casting down all vain imaginations and adhering to the true spirit of prophecy,which is the testimony of Jesus.May we love the Truth! And I have heard Jesus, the Living Word of God say,"But he who endures until the end shall be saved" and "Heaven and earth shall pass away but My words will by no means pass away."

Come Lord Jesus,The grace of Jesus Christ be with you all.

Re: - posted by psalm1, on: 2008/4/12 22:01

Bro Clint said;

" Not debating you on the subject but, just would like to see where you are coming from. And as for it being the "most colossal event" that too needs a little referencing from scripture please."

I think a far better question would be "why would anyone not think the wedding of the bride and groom is a colossal event"?

Bro Clint said.

"I agree, and yet I find that statement a little disingenuous seeing how the whole of SI has been treated to weeks of quotes from a book that alienates quite a few suffering saints who are enduring numerous diseases and complications with faith that God is good if He never heals them believing rather:"

In the first placelets see.....Didn't we decide to pray and then post?

In the second place ,I never copied a book.

Every quote from the man you deplore (except one) , I took from SI archives and Paul west.

The ONLY reason I make the statement about staying with 'scripture only' is because the post trib believers say they are standing on scripture while the pretrib believers follow ;Man,a lie,a dream of a girl,Tim Lahaye,and on and on.

I ,of course,most definitely do read other books.

A lot of them.And am better for it.

But concerning the topic of the second coming I believe scripture is the best. And to reconcile objections to doctrine and theory SCRIPTURALLY should be in every one's best interest.

David

Re: - posted by psalm1, on: 2008/4/12 22:21

Destiny said;

"Here is when the Bride is revealed..after the judgement seat..at the great white throne..the fighting is over..the endurance over..the union complete and then...the supper."

The problem i see with this is Rev 19;

7Let 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.

8And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.

9And 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.

The scene is heaven not earth.

The other problem is Matt 26;

29But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom.

Jesus was referring to the marriage supper.Note: "my fathers kingdom"

The marriage supper happens in heaven.

David

Re: TRIBULATION, on: 2008/4/12 23:05

RE: MATTHEW 24:(15) When you therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoever reads, let him understand;) (16) Then let them which be in Judea flee to the mountains; (17) Let him which is on the housetop not come down to take any thing out of his house; (18) Neither let him which is in the field return back to take his clothes. (19) And woe to them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days! (20) But pray you that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the sabbath day; (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. (22) And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved; but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.

This "GREAT TRIBULATION" of vs. 21 is not any concern of mine as I can't go through it since I am living in 2008. That generation Jesus spoke to is long gone as well as the temple He spoke of which would be destroyed. Yet:

Almost every reference to the word "tribulation" in the New Testament applies to what true Christians go through, rather than what they escape from.

John 16:33 - Jesus Christ said to His followers, "In the world YOU shall have tribulation, but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."

Acts 14:22 - Paul told Christians, "WE through much tribulation must enter the kingdom of God."

Romans 5:3 - True Christians are to "glory in tribulations" because "tribulation works patience" and develops Christian character.

haracter.

2 Thessalonians 1:4 - Paul wrote of the many "persecutions and tribulations" which "the ekklesiais of God" were enduring in the first century.

Revelation 1:9 - John was our "companion in tribulation."

Revelation 2:9 - To His ekklesia, Jesus said, "I know your works and tribulation..."

Revelation 2:10 - Again to His ekklesia, Jesus said, "YOU shall have tribulation..."

Revelation 7:14 - God's people "came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb." They did not escape it, but endured through it, being purified.

Christians have always gone through "tribulation" and will endure tribulations until the end. Yet we need not fear, for Jesus has promised, "Lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the world." Matthew 28:20.

Re:, on: 2008/4/12 23:11

If this post-trib thread were a democratic poll, I believe the post-tribbers would have it. I'm sure glad God don't go with majority rules. A post-tribber could have certainly a good dialogue with those people who come to the front door with the pamphlets with the tower on them. Trying to put some humor in here, don't get bent out of shape people. When the gospel is preached to all nations and the fullness of the gentiles is come in, we are out of here, those who know Jesus, when the trump of God sounds, not the seventh trumpet, {different definitions} when ever that is. Maranatha!!!!

Re: - posted by destinysweet (), on: 2008/4/13 0:14

David, Sorry? I didn't say it took place on the earth..never thought so...nope. Focus on the preceding events..open Revelation, read it. When a marriage has come it means it has begun to happen, everyone arrives on the scene first, being gathered together..then the actual solemn ceremony when all the players are in place. You are not ignoring what precedes this announcement, are you? The wedding has to be taking place when the dead in Christ are resurrected..after the millennial reign..are you saying they get left out and only this generation that has to face the tribulation is the Bride? Don't forget a day can be as a thousand years to God.

Truly this Holy union/marriage is so incredibly sacred..such a joy to the Father to present these believers to His Beloved Son that He would not give a vision to John to describe it..lest we putrify it with our surmisings, and so it is that we only see it announced as begun to commence and then the Bride revealed.

Re: premidpost, on: 2008/4/13 0:26

Too many see only through glasses which impair their vision of The Revelation of Jesus Christ. If only such man-made spectacles would be removed their vision may improve. Giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in Light. For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. Col.1:12-14. -

"The kingdom of God cometh not with observation; neither shall they say, Lo here! Or, lo there! For, behold, the kingdom of God is within you." John 17:20-21

Re: - posted by ccchhrrriiiss (), on: 2008/4/13 0:42

Hi Intense4Him...

Quote:

I humbly disagree with you and all who hold to this passivist view. To think like this is pure human reasoning. Did God not say in Isaiah 55:9-10, For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts. I humbly ask to all who believe this, How do you know WHAT the Lord will require of His Bride? We don't.

To believe it's an all or nothing thing about the Bride is presumption on the part of our human understanding. No matter how we study, the way of the Bereans or whatever, we still only see darkly as if through a glass; we don't see the WHOLE entire picture. I don't believe the Bride will be destroyed if she is here. I believe it will be her finest shining hour.

I feel that this is an unfair and inaccurate statement. First of all, it isn't "passivism" to believe that God has not appointed His Bride to suffer His wrath (I Thessalonians 5:1-9). Secondly, this is not "human reasoning." In fact, I see it as being similar to the Bereans' example (so often quoted yet so seldom practiced). After searching through the Scriptures, we find multiple examples of God protecting His people from His judgment (as someone already pointed out). God rescued the Israelites from the plagues, Lot from fire and brimstone, Noah from a great flood, and many others from suffering through His wrath on Earth. Sure, the people of God have always endured the tribulations of mankind and Satan. But the wrath of God is an entirely different matter.

The time of "great tribulation" (more accurately, "God's wrath") will be terrible. Why? Because mankind will persecute the Body of Christ? Because Satan will persecute the Church? The Church has ALWAYS endured through tribulations and persecutions. The Old Testament prophets were killed. The New Testament believers were beheaded, crucified and stoned. The early believers were fed to lions in crowded arenas. Fox's Book of Martyrs contains powerful examples of how believers endured gruesome torture for their faith. In later times, believers were even burned alive. During the Inquisition, true believers thought that the pope was the Antichrist because of his attempt to slaughter non-Catholics.

Today, Western believers (and even many Eastern believers) live in relative ease in the sense that they do not face death for the faith. However, there is still great persecution occurring throughout many places in the East. Christians face terrible torture and death at the hands of evil men in North Korea, China, Vietnam, Iran, Cuba and many other closed nations. A few years ago in Colorado, a high school student was shot in the head after a captive asked her, "Do you believe in Jesus?"

While these persecutions and tribulations are terrible, they are nothing compared to what awaits the world when God pours out HIS wrath upon the entire Earth. In an instant, an entire third of the Earth will burn – killing every living thing. In another instant, a third of the life in (and on) the sea will die. This "hour" of tribulation that will come upon the entire Earth will be horrendous. Why? It will not be because of the wrath of man or Satan. It will be terrifying because of the wrath of God – at which point men will try to hide themselves from such things.

The timing of the Lord's return is a secret. It is known only to the Father (and not even revealed to the Son). Yet we know that the days preceding the return of the Lord will be similar to the days of Noah. Yes, those days were evil – but not because of wild terrors of the devil. Jesus said that those days were filled with LIFE AS USUAL. People will be eating and drinking, getting married and divorced, etc... But as in the days of Noah, destruction will come upon the entire Earth SUDDENLY. Yet those few souls (Noah and Family) who kept the word were rescued from such wrath.

Interestingly, Jesus spoke of such rescue directed toward the Church of Philadelphia in Revelation 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." It is interesting to note that the Lord said that He would keep us FROM the hour of temptation (rather than IN that hour). Yet the time of this "hour of great trial" doesn't seem like it will resemble the days of Noah before the flood. It seems more like it will resemble nothing that has ever transpired upon the Earth.

It is also interesting to consider that Jesus does not know the day or hour of His return. Yet most Biblical scholars (pre, mid and post tribbers) feel that the "hour of tribulation" will last approximately seven years. Now, I feel certain that Jesus knows how to count. If he saw the beginning of the "hour" – wouldn't he be able to ascertain the timing of his return? Then why would it be withheld from Him?

I have always felt that the coming of the Lord might resemble the ancient customs of a Hebrew wedding. The groom became engaged through a betrothal. Afterward, the groom went to "prepare a place" for his bride. Once all things were completed and the father was satisfied, his blessing was granted. The bride didn't know when this would happen. She simply had to be ready at all times. The groom would often come suddenly to take his bride to a wedding at the place that he had prepared for her (and would be followed by a huge feast). This is similar to the parable of the ten virgins in Matthew chapter 25 in which five foolish virgins were unprepared to attend the wedding and the feast and were left behind.

A belief in the "rapture" (or "catching up" before the time of wrath) usually teaches that life will go on as normal (just as in the days of Noah). Then SUDDENLY, the Lord will come for His Bride as a "thief in the night" (when one will be taken and another left). Following this is a period of GREAT TRIBULATION (in which persecution will be poured upon those who miss the "escape" but subsequently turn to Christ). Satan will then realize that his time is short and do his worst. Most importantly, God will pour out His wrath— stored up for all of human history and the time of His grace— upon an entire planet that rejected His grace.

I am not saying that this is undoubtedly the truth. I am not even saying that I believe that there will certainly be a "sudden escape" provided by Christ before the time of wrath is poured out upon the Earth. The truth is that I just don't know for sure. The Word seems to be suspiciously silent in the exact timetable, definitions and calendar of such things. However, I am certainly open to this "escape" as a possibility. I also think that it is quite unwise to openly dismiss it as a "false doctrine" (or as Brother Tom called it, a "LIE"). I don't think that anyone can state such a thing with 100% certainty.

I fear that we often discuss this issue like those who questioned the resurrected Lord about when he was going to "restore again the kingdom of Israel" (Acts 1:6). Jesus replied, "*It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power. But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.*" (Acts 1:7-8). God has simply chosen to keep some things from us -- including the exact timing and manner of His return.

Like Keith Green said, we should "pray for pre-trib and be prepared for post-trib." I would go so far as to add: "Be prepared for BOTH." We should be prepared to be translated out of this world suddenly and in the twinkling of an eye ("at an hour that we think not"). We should live like we are already so detached from this world that we are ready to depart at any time. We should be like that Jewish bride who is already prepared for her groom's sudden taking. We should also be prepared to suffer the persecutions and tribulations of this fleeting life— regardless of whether such things come from the hands of men, the devil or the judgments of God. Regardless of how the end comes, my everything still belongs to Him.

:-)

Re: - posted by psalm1, on: 2008/4/13 1:31

Hi Destiny,

Correct me if I am wrong but after the saints return with Jesus to do battle with the Antichrist, the scene and events following take place on earth.

Rev 21

2And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

3And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.

in your sequence of events, would it not place the wedding feast on earth?

Remember also that in Rev 19 the marriage supper has happened and she is no longer the bride but the wife.

David

Re: - posted by psalm1, on: 2008/4/13 1:52

Intense4him said,

To believe it's all or nothing thing about the Bride is presumption on the part of our human understanding. No matter how we study, the way of the Bereans or whatever, we still only see darkly as if through a glass; we don't see the WHOLE entire picture. I don't believe the Bride will be destroyed if she is here. I believe it will be her finest shining hour.

I also think it is presumption to think that Jesus comes for and with his bride at the same time.

In the rapture everyone is there except the believers playing games and living nominal christian lives. The dead in Christ

and the 5 wise virgins go on to heaven and later the marriage supper

And meanwhile on earth the carnal christians receive a second chance. Most will be martyred. These martyrs also attend the marriage supper.

Matt26

But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom.

David

Re: Be ready! God loves you, and so do I., on: 2008/4/13 7:52

I want to say that this issue does not and will not separate me from honoring, loving, or respecting any sister or brother who holds, or is leaning toward the pre- tribulation faith , whatsoever.

The only thing important, as many pre- trib-rapture brothers have defined, is that we be prepared. I believe the Lord Jesus gave us THE PARABLE OF THE 10 VIRGINS for exactly such a time as this. The wisdom and direction here is this; THERE IS DARKNESS AND NIGHT COMING. BE WISE AND STORE FAITH AND LOVE IN YOUR HEART SO THAT YOU CAN WALK AND SEE, WHEN THE BLACK DAY ARRIVES.

This is a PREPERATION issue, not a SALVATION issue. Jesus, in the future, obviously, will clearly determine, with blazing light, those whom he marries, and those He rejects. It will have nothing to do about when He decides to redeem the Bride in fullness in Heaven; when he Gathers them.

If you or I love the Church, God's family, we will want them secure in His arms on that day, or the day of their death. This is so today, as a steady stream of prepared ones enter Paradise, washed White in His Blood.

I posted an exceptionally STRONG post, that may have seemed divisional. That was or is not my intention. I stand by my convictions, though please understand, this does not reflect my rejection or fellowship with anyone who is born again, or may disagree with me.

Saying, that, I want to state that this is not primarily about the 7th trump. It is about , IN MY VIEW, my Dear brothers, DECEPTION. This , I believe, was spoken by the Devil, into the Church, to keep them from maturity; to lure them into COMPLACENCY, or LUKEWARMNESS, or being unprepared to meet their God, on any front.

Let us consider today, if the prophet Kim Clement stated that God had just shown Him soon all true believer's souls would go to Heaven and be with the Lord; be raptured, but their bodies, spirits, and personalities would remain on Earth as usual, only now and then they would act funny, so you could identify that they were really raptured. Probably, he would sell a lot of books, and increase in finances and tv bookings, but some would cry Wolf!

This is akin to the revelation of the pre-tribulation rapture theory in the 1840s. One of the facts that Brother Smith pointed out, there is no precedent in Church History for this doctrine. It came as a prophecy from one young woman! Rather than join the scriptural unity and form, as an interlocking foundation, one must twist and fit a few undefined possibilities to begin to make it plausible. Hammer it in, and then say, " well no one can really know".

Then, two very powerful theologians, Darby and Scofield, jumped aboard, and it became foundational truth and received widespread attention, along with cessationist theology,.

Even today, in some circles, you are considered anathema, and from the Devil himself, if you speak in tongues or manifest other gifts spoken of in the New Testament. This ended on the day the last Apostle died, probably John. This also was a fruit of Scofield and his wildly popular Bible.

Jesus admonished us over and over to keep our lights burning, and to BE READY, for we don't know the day or hour of His return. It is important to HIM. He desires his Body to be pure, and ready, likewise desiring Him.

Let's agree on this; there is a time of trouble, of Wrath coming, in a monumental, unimaginable way; The Book of the Revelation of Jesus. There is a "GREAT MULTITUDE" who have come out of it, and stand before God, HOLY, having washed their robes in His Blood. READ REVELATION 7 VERSE 14. !

If myself, and others who believe as I do, were totally wrong, wouldn't it be wise to live like we were right?

This global bride speaks of SOME who came out of the Great Tribulation; more than a man can count; a Great multitude. Now possibly you are already in Heaven at that time, to greet those Saints arriving. I'm for you, and congratulate you for obtaining the greatest prize the Universe has to offer.

Jesus said;"BE READY!"

Thank you Sermon Index for the forum and freedom and grace to dialogue this awesome End-time issue. It is very rare and unheard of, for me, until now. It is an important issue with the Father also, I think.

Brother Tom.

Re: - posted by psalm1, on: 2008/4/13 9:31

Tom said;

This is akin to the revelation of the pre-tribulation rapture theory in the 1840s. One of the facts that Brother Smith pointed out, there is no precedent in Church History for this doctrine. It came as a prophecy from one young woman!

Now do you see why it is important to stick with scripture?

Do you honestly think you are on to something?

One of the facts that bro. Smith pointed out?

A fact?

This was debunked and put in its place long ago.

And yet is still used to "disqualify" the brothers that see differently than you.

You do EXACTLY what you accuse your hypothetical Kim Clement of doing.

It's good the brethren can research for themselves and root out false info like you produce as fact.

Bro Tom said;

"Rather than join the scriptural unity and form, as an interlocking foundation, one must twist and fit a few undefined poss

ibilities to begin to make it plausible. Hammer it in, and then say, " well no one can really know"."

Are you referring to the way post trib theory crams the second coming into one event?
Or what post trib does to the parable of the 10 virgins?
Or maybe you are referring to the inconvenience of the marriage supper of the lamb?

Or how do you hammer fit the white horses?
Under your theory Jesus comes to meet the raptured saints. But OOPs he has all these horses with him. "well we can still force fit this into one event"
Is that kinda what you're talking about?

If the post trib believers have such a compelling case for truth why do they have to revert to disqualifying their brothers that see it differently?

Tom said,

Jesus admonished us over and over to keep our lights burning, and to BE READY, for we don't know the day or hour of His return. It is important to HIM. He desires his Body to be pure, and ready, likewise desiring Him

Does this mean to watch for Antichrists appearing or Jesus' appearing?

David

Re:, on: 2008/4/13 9:41

??? Sorry David, I don't get it. I want us to be prepared to meet Jesus, that's all. You sound angry or frustrated.

Tom

Re: - posted by ccchhrrriiss (), on: 2008/4/13 16:10

Hi Brother Tom...

Quote:

I want to say that this issue does not and will not separate me from honoring, loving, or respecting any sister or brother who holds, or is leaning toward the pre- tribulation faith , whatsoever.

...

I posted an exceptionally STRONG post, that may have seemed divisional. That was or is not my intention. I stand by my convictions, though please understand, this does not reflect my rejection or fellowship with anyone who is born again, or may disagree with me.

I don't think that your motives are in question in such a discussion, dear brother. I think that it is apparent that you, like most of us on a website dedicated to true Biblical revival, are sincere and well-meaning in our conversations.

I don't sit in a pre-trib, mid-trib or post-trib sort of eschatology. I simply don't know with 100% certainty just how exactly the end will come about. Personally, I lean toward an idea that the Lord would take His Bride before He pours out His wrath upon the Earth. However, I am certainly aware that this might not be how things transpire.

Quote:

Saying, that, I want to state that this is not primarily about the 7th trump. It is about , IN MY VIEW, my Dear brothers, DECEPTION. This , I believe, was spoken by the Devil, into the Church, to keep them from maturity; to lure them into COMPLACENCY, or LUKEWARMNESS, or being unprepared to meet their God, on any front.

I understand. Some post-trib believers have "warned" about the possibility of being deceived by the Antichrist and his

system if such believers are "banking" on the idea of a "rapture" that might never come. However, this same sort of thing could be said by those who embrace a pre-trib view of the End. "Pre-trib" believers could insist that some "post-trib" believers might put off their eternal preparation because they are waiting for signs of the end. If they haven't made themselves ready for the Groom's arrival (and taking), it could be argued that they would face a terrible calamitous future. This is why I feel that we should be prepared for both (and other) possible scenarios. How do we prepare? Do we prepare by leaning one way or the other? Wouldn't it be better to simply be prepared spiritually while watching (and waiting) for His Coming?

Either way, this sort of argument is not about DECEPTION as much as it is about INTERPRETATION. We each have arrived to our conclusions (or in my case, lack of final conclusion) based upon sincerity of heart through study. That is why it is so dangerous to take such an absolute position on such matters that are not entirely and plainly presented in the Scriptures. I think that none of us could honestly say that the Scriptures speak plainly in regard to the exact timing and manner of the Lord's return. Many post-trib believers have confessed as having previously leaned or adhered to a "pre-trib" position (and vice versa).

Quote:

Let us consider today, if the prophet Kim Clement stated that God had just shown Him soon all true believer's souls would go to Heaven and be with the Lord; be raptured, but their bodies, spirits, and personalities would remain on Earth as usual, only now and then they would act funny, so you could identify that they were really raptured. Probably, he would sell a lot of books, and increase in finances and tv bookings, but some would cry Wolf!

This is fine, but Kim Clement doesn't represent most pre-trib believers. I don't listen to this guy at all. In fact, I don't agree with the little that I have actually heard from the man. He just doesn't ring credible to me when he "prophesies" things that never take place. However, this doesn't necessarily make everything Clement says to be a "lie." He might simply be a false prophet who happens to also adhere to a "pre-trib rapture" (if in word only). Joseph Smith was certainly a false prophet – but a few of his doctrinal positions were sound (like the importance of "baptism"). Again, the pope teaches against abortion, gay marriage and women holding authority over a man. Yet we know that the pope leads a religion filled with false doctrines. It doesn't make the pope's position on abortion wrong. It just means that this false teacher happens to mix his messages with some semblance of a few truths.

Quote:

This is akin to the revelation of the pre-tribulation rapture theory in the 1840s. One of the facts that Brother Smith pointed out, there is no precedent in Church History for this doctrine. It came as a prophecy from one young woman! Rather than join the scriptural unity and form, as an interlocking foundation, one must twist and fit a few undefined possibilities to begin to make it plausible. Hammer it in, and then say, "well no one can really know".

This is merely a legend. Most of the people who repeat this story simply base it upon a repeated story of this as found in books and teachings. I wonder: Do those who repeat it realize that they are basing it upon what they have heard rather than what they have researched? Ephrem, an early Byzantine-Syrian Church leader, wrote c. 373 AD: "For all the saints and Elect of God **are gathered, prior to the tribulation that is to come, and are taken to the Lord** lest they see the confusion that is to overwhelm the world because of our sins" (recorded by Ephrem the Syrian in *On the Last Times, the Antichrist, and the End of the World*). Ephrem went on to speak about his beliefs in a Jewish Antichrist ruling in (and from) Rome, a rebuilt Jewish Temple, and a period of "Great Tribulation" that would last a total of 1,260 days (corresponding to what is found in the book of Daniel). In his collection known as *The Book of the Cave Treasure*, Ephrem states a belief that the Great Tribulation is the 70th week of Daniel and would culminate with the Battle at Megiddo.

In 1748, a Baptist theologian named John Gill wrote about what he called "the Rapture." In his Commentary on the New Testament concerning I Thessalonians chapter 4, Gill wrote about a "rapture" that would be "sudden, and unknown before-hand, and when least thought of and expected." Dr. Gill states that the Lord would return suddenly and unannounced to a world not expecting him, the saints will be "raptured," taken to the "third Heaven" until the end of the "time of the general conflagration and burning of the world is over," and then return back to this Earth.

In other words, these are two examples that show that the idea of a rapture did not originate with a young woman in 1840 (or 1830), John Darby, Eduard Irving (in 1816), Emmanuel Acurnza (in 1812), etc... However, these things are commonly reported as fact. Yet in reality, this is disingenuous because they are based upon hearsay rather than actual research. I might even ponder where exactly the notion of a "post-trib" perspective originated. Yes, the early Church lead

ers spoke about terrible persecutions and tribulations that should be endured. But this could likely mean the tribulation and persecution that resulted from the hands of mankind. Remember, early believers were mercilessly beaten, imprisoned, tortured and killed for their faith. The time of "great tribulation" will be so because of the fact that God will pour out HIS judgment that is stored for those living upon this Earth.

Quote:

Even today, in some circles, you are considered anathema, and from the Devil himself, if you speak in tongues or manifest other gifts spoken of in the New Testament. This ended on the day the last Apostle died, probably John. This also was a fruit of Scofield and his wildly popular Bible.

This is all good to remember. However, it seems to me that there are many post-tribbers who point the finger of "heresy" at those who lean or embrace a "pre-trib" perspective. In the past amongst good brethren at SermonIndex, this discussion can become quite contentious. People have literally "warned" those who believe or lean "pre-trib" about the dangers of being deceived and led astray by the Antichrist because of this perspective. As you can imagine, it is quite a silly and almost odious remark to people who sincerely know, love and fellowship with the Lord. Yet people still boldly speak such things as "absolutes" because they truly feel that they are correct. They don't regret having called such a thing "deception" or "a lie" simply because they are highly convinced of it. But isn't this how denominational types of divisions are created? On the things that are vital and abundantly clear we must be in agreement. But in those things that are not, we should react in patience.

Quote:

If myself, and others who believe as I do, were totally wrong, wouldn't it be wise to live like we were right?

Yes, we should live like you are right. We must be willing to endure all things on behalf of our relationship with Jesus Christ. However, you too should live like a possibility remains that the Lord could come at an hour when people think not – at an hour when the world lives, moves and operates as it always has (eat, drink and be merry). If we are prepared for BOTH ideas of the return of the Lord, aren't we simply living like we should?

We should always be ready to endure persecution and tribulation – regardless of the manner and timing. And we should always be ready to depart suddenly from this world – whether through a "rapture" or via death. After all, we are the Bride of Christ who makes herself ready and waits for her Husband with godly patience.

: -)

Re:, on: 2008/4/13 16:42

Sunday 04/13/08 5:00:03 PM

Please help me here. I am of pre-trib belief of the scriptures. I want to be correct in my theology. Below is some info in how I reached my conclusions. Please look at these and tell me where I have gone wrong, if I have. Please stay with these scriptures. Please answer these questions in a post trib manner and try to convince me if you stay with these passages and add to with others but please explain these passages. I know there are some good Bereans out there that will and can explain these to correct an error on my part.

If we physically die before the tribulation starts and we are saved and before Jesus reveals the anti-christ, will those saved people who are physically dead (Christians) go through tribulation in the post-trib belief? John 6:44

Has Jesus already raptured some Christians that have physically died and when did it happen, do we have a pattern of his future resurrection other than Jesus our first fruits? Matt 27 53

If we don't go through the tribulation, when we are physical dead, then is that fair and just for all, if only those Christians who remain go through the great tribulation? Acts 10:34

If a Christian goes through the great tribulation will that death be more or less painful or more or less desirable or more saved, than many some natural or accidental deaths that some Christians have already experienced thus far today in the world for Christ? 2 Cor 5:8

Has Jesus already revealed the antichrist?

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Is the antichrist already in the world?

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What are the qualities that we can recognize about the antichrist, if he masquerades himself around as an angel of light?
How can we tell what his spirit is?

1 John 4:1-3

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edited and question added:

Do the scriptures indicate Noah's ark a sign of Jesus' coming. and if so, who will be in the ark and are the saved people, just as Noah's family was saved from the wrath of God through Jesus Christ our Lord. Where was the people of God when the wrath of God was poured out upon the world with water in the Day of Noah? Where they not safe in the Ark? Where were the lost people? Outside the ark right? Did Jesus not say this is the same way it will be, Just as it was in the Day of Noah? Will he use fire next time?

Matt 24:37

Re: - posted by psalm1, on: 2008/4/13 19:19

Brothertom said;

"??? Sorry David, I don't get it. I want us to be prepared to meet Jesus, that's all. You sound angry or frustrated."

I basically used your terminology but with a different viewpoint.

Brothertom said;

"I posted an exceptionally STRONG post, that may have seemed divisional. That was or is not my intention. I stand by my convictions, though please understand, this does not reflect my rejection or fellowship with anyone who is born again, or may disagree with me"

Does this mean you are mad ,frustrated and upset?

I dont see how you can have it both ways??

Wouldnt it be better to "dialog"?

David

Re: - posted by psalm1, on: 2008/4/13 19:33

Moe said;

"If we physically die before the tribulation starts and we are saved and before Jesus reveals the anti-christ, will those saved people who are physically dead (Christians) go through tribulation in the post-trib belief? John 6:44"

Now this is interesting! I wonder if anyone ever thought of this?

Does this blow yet another hole in the post trib theory?

Because most of their argument is the "unfairness" of a pretrib rapture.

Do These saints actually cheat God by dying before they suffer?

Interesting!!!

David

Re: - posted by psalm1, on: 2008/4/13 19:44

Moe said:

"Where do we go when we die, if we have been redeemed by the blood of the Lamb? 2 Cor 5:8"

This too is interesting. If the dead are raised, why do they need raising if they died "saved"?

This could be a Ron Bailey question.

David

Re: - posted by psalm1, on: 2008/4/13 19:59

Moe said;

"Do we have any people who speak in the world today that fits this description? 1 John 4:1-3

One thing to consider, correct me if I am wrong but his number isn't 6-6-6 . It is six hundred sixty six.

I once heard that in Russia there is no "w" in their alphabet. They use a "V". V is 6 in Russian numerology. Which would make the "WEB" 666

A Russian told me this but I never checked it out

David

Re:, on: 2008/4/13 20:37

Romans 5:8-10

8But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

9Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.

10For 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.

Re: - posted by rowdy2 (), on: 2008/4/14 8:04

Reply too wisevirgin

Welcome, hope you will share more with us on this forum, your sight seems to have improved remarkable please pray for us or ours.

Eddie

Re: - posted by psalm1, on: 2008/4/14 9:15

The McDonald dream;

By far the biggest mistake post-tribulationists have made attacking the rapture is claiming that the pretribulation rapture wasn't taught before 1830. In fact, John L. Bray, a Southern Baptist evangelist, offered \$500 to anyone who could prove that someone taught the rapture doctrine prior to MacDonald's 1830 vision. Bray was first proven wrong when he wrote in a newsletter, "Then my own research indicated that it was Emmanuel Lacunza, a Jesuit Catholic priest, who in the 1812 book *The Coming of Messiah in Glory and Majesty*, first taught this theory." Bray stuck his neck out again when he made another \$500 offer to anyone who could provide a documented statement earlier than Lacunza's 1812 writings. Apparently he had to cough up the 500 bucks. I quote him again: "I offered \$500 to anyone who would give a documented statement earlier than Lacunza's time which taught a two-stage coming of Christ separated by a stated period of time." No one claimed that offer until someone found writings that forced Bray to write the following: "Now I have the Photostatic copies of a book published in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in 1788 but written in 1742-1744 in England, which taught the pretribulation rapture before Lacunza." Lately, a number of other sources have been located that teach the pretribulation rapture--some written as early as the second century. Where does this leave Margaret MacDonald?

More on Margaret;

"When one closely examines MacDonald's vision, it becomes clear that her vision could not have been a pretribulationist one. MacDonald looked for a "fiery trial which is to try us," and she foresaw the Church being purged by the Antichrist. Any pretribulation rapturist can tell you the Church will be removed before the advent of the Antichrist. John Bray, an anti-rapturist, said himself that Margaret MacDonald was teaching a single coming of our Lord Jesus. This contradicts current rapture doctrine, which teaches a two-staged event—first, Christ coming for His Church and second, seven years later His return to earth. With so many contradictions between MacDonald's vision and today's pretribulationism, it is difficult to see any linkage"

by Todd Strandberg

Re: - posted by psalm1, on: 2008/4/14 9:26

The Last Trumpet Argument

Because Paul, in 1 Cor. 15:52 and 1 Thes 4:16, said believers would be raptured at the sounding of a trumpet, many folks have tried to make it appear that the rapture trumpets are the same trumpets found in Revelation 11:15-18, Joel 2:1, and Mat 24:31--which all occur during the tribulation.

When you have trumpets commonly used throughout the Bible, I think it's foolish to just assume any two of the 62 trumpets or trumpets are prophetically related. To be able to make the claim that the tribulation trumpet soundings are the same as the rapture trumpets, you would need a direct statement saying this is the case.

In the movies *Ben-Hur* and *The Wizard of Oz*, I recall hearing the sounding of trumpets. Are both these trumpets somehow prophetically related?

If your friend John said he went to his favorite restaurant last night, and another friend Larry said he also went to his favorite restaurant last night, is it logical for you to assume they both went to the same restaurant? Obviously not, because even though John and Larry went to their favorite restaurants, they may have had two different eating establishments in mind. The same logic should apply with the word trumpet.

With such a blind devotion to this one similarity, I have to wonder if these last-tumpeters are able to distinguish the difference between Tylenol and Exlax. They're both over-the-counter drugs, they come in pill form, and they can also be found in a medicine cabinet. Of course, one will make your headache disappear and the other will make your toilet paper disappear.

Pre-wrath proponents say that the Seventh Trumpet blown in Rev 11:15-18 is the same last trump Paul spoke of in 1 Cor 15:52. However, they fail to take into account the fact that John wrote Revelation 40 years after Paul wrote his first epistle to the Corinthians. How could Paul refer to something that was not yet revealed?

Post-tribbers use a trumpet sounding in Joel 2:1 as evidence for a post-trib rapture on the Day of the Lord. I have three problems with Joel 2:1:

1. Joel clearly says that the purpose for blowing the trumpet is to "sound an alarm."
2. According to 1 Cor 15:52, the rapture is something that occurs in the twinkling of an eye. Joel 2:1 says the Day of the Lord is nigh at hand. In order for Joel's trumpet to be the same one in 1 Cor. there would have to be a time delay between the sounding of the trumpet and the rapture of the Church.
3. The fact that there is another trumpet being sounded in Joel 2:15 further clouds the possibility that these trumpets could have anything to do with the rapture.

When Paul was writing to the Corinthians, he specifically said "the" last trump. During the Feast of Trumpets, the Jews blow short trumpet blasts. They end the feast with a long blast from what is called the last trump, which is blown the longest. Judaism has traditionally connected this last trump with the resurrection of the dead. Paul also made the connection. For many Christians, the association between the rapture and the Feast of Trumpets is so strong, they look for the rapture to someday occur on this feast.

Todd Strandberg

Re:, on: 2008/4/16 14:33

Still waiting on answers
04/16/08

Quote:

moe_mac wrote:

Sunday 04/13/08 5:00:03 PM

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