

Articles and Sermons :: The Church and The Tribulation -poonen

The Church and The Tribulation -poonen - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2008/5/20 15:38

The Church and The Tribulation

by Zac Poonen

We are told in Eph. 3:10 that in the new covenant, God desires to manifest His wisdom through the church to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. From Eph. 6:12, we know that these rulers and authorities in the heavenly places are Satan and his hosts of wickedness who dwell in the second heaven (where they dwell ever since being cast down out of the third heaven, where God dwells - 2 Cor. 12:2)

We know that we are to be Christ's witnesses unto all men. But here we are told that we have to have a testimony to the evil spirits too. What testimony is this? It is a testimony to the wisdom of God (Eph. 3:10). It is the joyful confession of our spirits that God has ordered everything in our lives according to His perfect wisdom. It is the testimony of lives that have partaken of the wisdom that is from above.

In the book of Job, we read of the witness that Job was to Satan, by his life. When Satan came into the presence of God, after touring the earth, God asked him if he had observed the uprightness of Job's life (Job 1:8). Satan's reply was that Job feared God because of the three hedges that God had put around Job. Satan knew that there was a hedge around Job's person, another hedge around his family and a third hedge around Job's possessions (v. 10). Many believers do not know about this threefold hedge that God has put around the disciples of Jesus. Those who fulfil the threefold condition of discipleship mentioned in Lk. 14:26-33 will find that God puts a hedge around each area surrendered to the Lord - possessions, loved ones and one's own life.

But then we read that God opened up these hedges around Job, one by one, so that Satan could go through them and attack Job's possessions, his loved ones and his body. This was in order that Job's character could be demonstrated by God to Satan.

From this we learn that Satan cannot touch a disciple of Jesus or anything that he has, without first getting God's permission. This is a very important truth for us to be established in - and we shall see the need for this even more in the days to come. The true church of Jesus Christ will be called to suffer in the coming days, as in the early centuries. Before that time comes upon us, we must be established in this truth first of all - that there is a threefold hedge around the wholehearted disciples of Jesus that no one can come through, unless God Himself opens up that hedge and permits Satan to do so.

The other lesson that we can learn from Job is that our own loved ones and religious Christians will criticise and condemn us. In Job's case, his wife and three religious leaders (Eliphaz, Bildad and Zophar) misunderstood and criticised him. That too was permitted by God. Our loved ones will become our foes and religious people will misunderstand and criticise us - because God has opened the hedges and allowed them to do so.

Job humbled himself and said - "Naked I came from my mother's womb and naked I shall return. The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away. Blessed be the name of the Lord" (Job 1:21). He was a true disciple - for he possessed nothing. He recognised that everything he had belonged to the Lord rightfully and that the Lord had as much right to give them as to take them away. Those who are not disciples think of blessing only in terms of God giving them things. Those who are disciples recognise that it is just as much blessing - perhaps even more - when God takes them away. Thus we can know whether we are disciples or not.

The sad thing was that Job could not endure in this bold confession until the end. After a while, he wilted and weakened under the continued pressure of trial, and began to complain against God. From chapter 3 to chapter 31, we see the sad spectacle of Job going up and down - sometimes rising to great heights in his confession of faith and at other times sinking down to the depths of despair, grumbling and self justification. This is the experience of old covenant people.

But now God has promised us something better in the new covenant - as we read in Heb. 11:40. That is described in the

succeeding verses of Hebrews 12:1-13) that we can follow Jesus who endured until the very end triumphantly.

Today we are followers, not of Job, but of Jesus - and whatever the trial, we can be overcomers until the very end, through the power of God's grace and be a witness to Satan. We cannot criticise Job, for he lived in a time when grace had not come and the Holy Spirit had not been given, The new covenant had not been established, etc. Considering the limitations of the time he lived in, he did extremely well - so well that God commends him three times (Job. 1:8;2:3;42:7).

We however can follow Jesus - the Author and Finisher of our faith.

Jesus passed through the university of suffering and there obtained the certificate of perfect obedience. And now He has become a Professor in the same university to teach obedience to all who are willing to enroll (Heb. 5:8,9). There is no compulsion here, as there was under the old covenant, with its 'Thou shalt's'. No. But the Spirit and the bride say, 'Come, join this university'. No one can be a disciple who does not join this university - for this is the only place where disciples are trained.

Jesus told His disciples very clearly that in the world they would face tribulation. But they were not to fear this, for He had overcome the world and its ruler; and therefore they could be overcomers too (Jn. 16:33).

Jesus has many admirers today but few followers. He never called people to admire Him but only to follow Him. And if we follow Him, then we shall no longer belong to this world. And then the world will surely hate us.

Jesus said that the world would love only those who belonged to it (Jn. 15:19).

One clear and unmistakable mark of our being the disciples of Jesus is that the world hates us. 'If they have persecuted Me', Jesus said, 'then they will persecute you as well' (Jn. 15:20).

The second clear mark of the disciples of Jesus is that they love those who hate and persecute them (Matt. 5:44-48). By these two marks all those who have ears to hear God's truth can examine their own position, and know the truth concerning themselves.

If you are popular with worldly people or with religious Christians (who are not wholehearted disciples), you can be absolutely certain that you are a compromiser. It could even be that you are not converted.

Why did the world hate Jesus? Not because He paid His taxes and washed people's feet; not even because He lived a holy life. The world hated Him because He exposed its hypocrisy. He also exposed unscriptural traditions among God's people. So those who wanted to preserve 'the traditions of the elders' hated Him too. That will be our fate as well, if we speak as He spoke. If we seek the honour of men and of religious elders, we shall keep quiet and remain popular. We can each choose the way we would like to go.

In Rev. 12, we read of Satan being enraged with certain people. There we read of him first trying to devour the Man-child (Jesus Christ) that the woman (Israel) had brought forth into the world. Satan could not succeed there, and the Man-child grew up, completed His ministry and ascended up to the throne of God (Rev. 12:4,5). Satan's fury is now directed against the younger brothers of this Man-child. These are described as those 'who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus' (Rev. 12:17 b). These are the disciples of Jesus whose life is characterised by total obedience to the commandments of God and who boldly hold fast to the testimony of Jesus. They open their mouths, speaking about everything that Jesus Himself testified to - for this is 'the testimony of Jesus'. There are very few like these on earth today, for there are very few churches in the world now preaching total obedience to God's commandments.

Rev. 12 is referring to the last days of this present age, when Satan will be cast down from the second heaven to earth for the last three and a half years just before Jesus comes again (v. 9). At that time there will be on earth those who keep God's commandments and hold boldly to the testimony of Jesus and who overcame Satan (v. 11). These are God's 'commandos' - the elite troops of His army on earth.

It will be a tremendous privilege and honour to be among them - most of whom will have to lay down their physical lives for Jesus' sake. Rev. 13:7 makes it clear that the Antichrist will be permitted by God to kill the disciples of Jesus. But remember that it is God who opens the hedges. Otherwise no one could touch us. This is why we do not fear.

Job could say, "God knows every detail concerning me" (Job 23:10). Under the new covenant, we can go even further and say, "God plans every detail concerning me" - for this is the plain meaning of Romans 8:28. It is also true that even at such a time, God being faithful will never allow us to be tested beyond our ability. With every trial, He will make a way for us to overcome and escape from sinning and denying Him (1 Cor. 10:13). His grace will prove to be sufficient even then (2 Co. 12:9); otherwise none of us could stand. It is not the naturally courageous who will stand in that day - but the naturally fearful, who trust in the Lord to strengthen them.

Those will be the days of great tribulation, when the Antichrist is ruling. But Jesus said that God has limited the duration of that period "for the sake of His elect" (Matt. 24:21,22). God's elect (the church) will therefore obviously be here on earth at that time, witnessing for the Lord. "Immediately after the tribulation", Jesus said, "the Son of Man will appear in the sky and He will send His angels with a great trumpet and they will gather together His elect" (Matt. 24:29-31). The trumpet that Jesus referred to here is the one mentioned in 1 Thess. 4:16,17; at which the dead in Christ will rise, and together with the living disciples of Jesus will be raptured to meet the Lord in the air.

Jesus made it clear in the above verse, that the church (the elect) would experience this rapture only "after the great tribulation". Then we shall welcome the Lord in the air at His second coming and return with Him to earth to reign with Him for one thousand years. God's Word is clear as to who will reign with Christ for 1000 years. Those "who had not worshipped the beast or his image, and who had not received the mark upon their forehead and upon their hand" (Rev. 20:4). This clearly shows that the overcomers (the bride of Christ) will be on earth, standing true to the Lord, during the reign of the Antichrist.

Tribulation is something that comes from men who are instigated by Satan against the church. This must be distinguished from God's wrath which is reserved for the ungodly. We shall not face the wrath of God, but we shall certainly face great tribulation from men. The blessing for God's people under the old covenant was prosperity and ease. Under the new covenant, it is adversity - suffering and tribulation.

When Jesus faced death He did not say, "Father, save Me from this hour", but, "Father, glorify Thy name" (Jn. 12:27,28). The song of the harlot is, "Father, save me from tribulation". The song of the bride is, "Father, glorify Thy name". "We exult in tribulations". "Through much tribulation we enter the kingdom of God" (Rom. 5:3; Acts 14:22).

Jesus specifically prayed to the Father that we should not be taken out of the world, but that we should be kept from sin (Jn. 17:15). Jesus never desired that His bride should be raptured away to escape tribulation.

In the mid-1800s, a new doctrine arose in Christendom (which was not heard of in the days of the apostles) that Christ would come secretly and take away all believers so that they would not have to face the great tribulation. This doctrine made it look as though persecution from men was a punishment from God! Not surprisingly, this doctrine arose, not in countries where Christians were being persecuted, but in England, that had not seen any persecution of Christians for centuries. Scripture was then twisted by many to fit this doctrine. Thus Satan succeeded in lulling Christians into a false comfort, so that they would be unprepared for the tribulation when it does come upon them.

Since the prayers of most Christians are basically of this order, "Lord, make my life more comfortable on earth", it is not at all surprising that multitudes of Christians around the world happily accepted this teaching about escaping tribulation. Those who have absorbed the teaching of Jesus however understand clearly that there is no virtue in escaping persecution or tribulation. On the contrary, Jesus constantly told His disciples that they would face tribulation and persecution in the world.

There are some who teach that Christ will take away the wholehearted, leaving the halfhearted to face the Antichrist. This seems to imply that escaping persecution is a reward that God gives to the faithful! No sensible General would send his second class troops to the battle front and keep his first class troops at home! It is unimaginable that God would take away His best soldiers from earth at a time when He needs their witness the most.

It is clear from Scripture that those who oppose the Antichrist are those "who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus" (Rev. 12:17). These are certainly not the halfhearted. On the contrary, they are the overcomers, whose names are in the book of life (Rev. 13:8;2:5). Satan is not enraged at halfhearted Christians, but at the wholehearted. Today, Satan is furious with those who preach total obedience to the commandments of God. His prime targets are those who obey all of God's commandments and who preach and teach such obedience to others. This is why Paul earnestly requested all believers to pray for him - for he knew that he was one of Satan's prime targets. We too must pray today for those who preach total obedience to God, that they may be protected.

In the first three centuries, when fierce persecution raged against the Christians, God did not take them out of their tribulations. They were eaten by lions and burnt at the stake. There was no secret rapture in those Roman arenas when the disciples of Jesus were slain. The God who shut the lions' mouths and took away the power of the fiery furnace in Daniel's day did not do such miracles for the wholehearted disciples of Jesus in the first three centuries - for these were new covenant Christians who were to glorify God in the fire. It will be the same for the disciples of Jesus in the last century, before Jesus comes. God's first class troops stood true to Him in the first century - until the very end. They did not ask for, or expect, twelve legions of angels to come and snatch them away.

God watched the bride of His Son being torn to pieces by lions and being burnt at the stake, and He was glorified in their testimony - for they had followed the Lamb wherever He went, even unto a violent physical death. The only word that Jesus spoke to them was, "Be faithful unto death, and I will give you a crown of life".

Encouragement In Tribulation

"I, John, your brother and fellow-partaker in the tribulation and kingdom and perseverance which are in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos, because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like the sound of a trumpet" (Rev.1:9,10).

Here in the book of Revelation, John refers to himself as a "fellow-partaker in the tribulation which is in Jesus". Every wholehearted disciple of Jesus should be prepared to partake in the "tribulation which is in Jesus" as long as he is in this world.

John did not get this revelation (unveiling) while living in comfort somewhere. He received it, while experiencing tribulation at Patmos, because he had been faithful to "the word of God and the testimony of Jesus" (v.9). He had to experience tribulation himself in order to be able to write about the saints experiencing the great tribulation from the Antichrist in the last days. God takes us through trials and tribulations first before giving us a ministry to others who are facing tribulation.

Paul said, "God encourages us in all our affliction so that we may be able to encourage those who are in any affliction with the (same) encouragement with which we ourselves are encouraged by God" (2 Cor.1:4 - Amplified).

It is not surprising therefore that the doctrine that Jesus would come secretly and take His church out of the world, before the great tribulation, arose for the first time (as we just saw) in a country where Christians were living in comfort, and where they were not facing any persecution at all. Today this doctrine continues to be proclaimed and believed by Christians who live in ease and comfort, in countries where there is no persecution against Christians.

However the words of Jesus are clear: "In the world YOU HAVE TRIBULATION. But take courage; I have overcome the world" (Jn.16:33). He never promised that we would escape tribulation - whether small tribulations or the great one. But He did say that we could overcome even as He overcame. He is far more interested in making us overcomers than in saving us out of tribulation, because He is far more interested in our character than in our comfort.

Jesus also said that those who forsook everything to follow Him would have even more tribulations than others who didn't follow Him (Mk.10:30).

When He prayed to His Father for His disciples, He said, "I do not ask Thee to take them out of the world, but to keep them from the evil." (Jn.17:15). He did NOT want His disciples to be raptured out of the world at that time, just because they were going to face tribulation.

Even today, when the disciples of Jesus are being tortured and persecuted for His Name in many lands, the Lord does not take them away from the earth. And He will not rapture us to heaven before the great tribulation either. He will do something far better. He will make us overcomers in the midst of the great tribulation.

Jesus is far more interested in saving us from evil than in saving us from tribulation. He permits us to go through tribulation because He knows that that is the only way that we can become spiritually strong.

Such a message is strange teaching indeed to a comfort-loving Christendom that has been coddled in their pews every Sunday for years by ear-tickling preachers. But this is the message that the apostles preached to the early churches. "

They (the apostles Paul and Barnabas) strengthened the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith , saying, "Through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God" (Acts 14:22).

John speaks here about being a "fellow-partaker in the tribulation and kingdom and perseverance which are in Jesus" (v.9). We have to enter into fellowship with Jesus in tribulation first, before we can share His throne with Him in His kingdom.

Perseverance is a great virtue that is emphasised throughout the New Testament. Jesus Himself said "They will deliver you to tribulation..... but the one who endures to the end shall be saved" (Mt.24:13).

But in order to be faithful in that future day of the Antichrist, we have to learn to be faithful in the little temptations and trials that come our way today. This is why it is essential that we learn faithfulness in the hidden life - when we are tempted in the secret places of our life, in our thoughts, attitudes, motives, in money matters, etc. These are little matters; but only if we are faithful in the little, will we be faithful in the great things, one day. If we are unfaithful in the little things, we will be unfaithful to the Lord in the day of tribulation as well. If we cannot run with men now, how will we run with horses then? If we are not faithful in a time of ease, how will we be faithful in a time of trouble? (Jer. 12:5).

God seeks to train us today to be His commando troops in that soon coming future day.

Re: The Church and The Tribulation -poonen - posted by hmmhmm (), on: 2008/5/20 15:45

When Jesus faced death He did not say, "Father, save Me from this hour", but, "Father, glorify Thy name" (Jn. 12:27,28). The song of the harlot is, "Father, save me from tribulation". The song of the bride is, "Father, glorify Thy name". "We exult in tribulations". "Through much tribulation we enter the kingdom of God" (Rom. 5:3; Acts 14:22).

Re: The Church and The Tribulation -poonen - posted by Zionshield (), on: 2008/5/21 22:52

Robert Govett has good insight into this time period. I discovered him through Nee. Nee referred to several things that were lost and recovered later through Calvin, Luther, Guyon, Govett and various others. Without going into that unless needed, that might explain why it appeared that the Rapture was a new teaching.

I believe the time of tribulation is a time of the wrath of the Lamb that we are (twice in 1st Thes.) told we would be delivered from. I can't see substantiating daily tribulation that we experience to the Great Tribulation. The first is to reveal the treasure in the earthen vessel, to show the light and life of Christ to the world thereby glorifying God...the second is the wrath of God poured out on the world. While the world is under wrath we will be at the judgement seat having our works judged. The Elect need not mean the entire church. Of course this is a subject that can be disagreed on. I do, however, agree with Nee and Govett that only the faithful will be "raptured" leaving behind the virgins that did not have enough oil and that not everyone will be "raptured" at the same time.

Re: The Church and The Tribulation -poonen - posted by crsschk (), on: 2008/5/22 9:52

Quote:
-----Why did the world hate Jesus? Not because He paid His taxes and washed people's feet; not even because He lived a holy life. The world hated Him because He exposed its hypocrisy.

Quote:
-----In the mid-1800s, a new doctrine arose in Christendom (which was not heard of in the days of the apostles) that Christ would come secretly and take away all believers so that they would not have to face the great tribulation. This doctrine made it look as though persecution from men was a punishment from God! Not surprisingly, this doctrine arose, not in countries where Christians were being persecuted, but in England, that had not seen any persecution of Christians for centuries. Scripture was then twisted by many to fit this doctrine. Thus Satan succeeded in lulling Christians into a false comfort, so that they would be unprepared for the tribulation when it does come upon them.

Since the prayers of most Christians are basically of this order, "Lord, make my life more comfortable on earth", it is not at all surprising that multitudes of Christians around the world happily accepted this teaching about escaping tribulation. Those who have absorbed the teaching of Jesus however understand clearly that there is no virtue in escaping persecution or tribulation. On the contrary, Jesus constantly told His disciples that they would face tribulation and persecution in the world.

There are some who teach that Christ will take away the wholehearted, leaving the halfhearted to face the Antichrist. This seems to imply that escaping persecution is a reward that God gives to the faithful! No sensible General would send his second class troops to the battle front and keep his first class troops at home! It is unimaginable that God would take away His best soldiers from earth at a time when He needs their witness the most.

Re: The Church and The Tribulation -poonen, on: 2008/5/22 10:31

I have never heard a more clear and anointed teaching on this subject. My heart was burning, and I wept some

Re: - posted by hmmhmm (), on: 2008/5/22 10:56

Quote:

Brothertom wrote:

I have never heard a more clear and anointed teaching on this subject. My heart was burning, and I wept some

Go through this brother , you will be blessed some more i am convinced

(http://www.cfcindia.com/web/mainpages/verse_by_verse.php?bookvbw_revelation) verse by verse through Revelation by Zac Poonen

Re:, on: 2008/5/22 11:18

Quote:

crsschk wrote:

Quote:

-----Why did the world hate Jesus? Not because He paid His taxes and washed people's feet; not even because He lived a holy life. The world hated Him because He exposed its hypocrisy.

There are some who teach that Christ will take away the wholehearted, leaving the halfhearted to face the Antichrist. This seems to imply that escaping persecution is a reward that God gives to the faithful! No sensible General would send his second class troops to the battle front and keep his first class troops at home! It is unimaginable that God would take away His best soldiers from earth at a time when He needs their witness the most.

Whatever we might face or whenever we might face it, it will not be by our power or our might, but by His Spirit that we endure anything. I'm going to put all my trust in Him and not myself, Not I but Christ. I would advise everyone else to do the same, lest ye fall.

edit and added:

God's word is written by ordinary men as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit. If there are portions of God's plan of salvation that ordinary men cannot understand by the Spirit about the plan of salvation, could it be they does not pertain to them yet? If they are seeing something different, then they could only be seeing only exactly what is pertains to them at the moment.

Re: - posted by ccchhhrrriiisss (), on: 2008/5/22 11:33

HelloÃ

Quote:

Jesus specifically prayed to the Father that we should not be taken out of the world, but that we should be kept from sin (Jn. 17:15). Jesus never desired that His bride should be raptured away to escape tribulation.

In the mid-1800s, a new doctrine arose in Christendom (which was not heard of in the days of the apostles) that Christ would come secretly and take away all believers so that they would not have to face the great tribulation. This doctrine made it look as though persecution from men was a punishment from God! Not surprisingly, this doctrine arose, not in countries where Christians were being persecuted, but in England, that had not seen any persecution of Christians for centuries. Scripture was then twisted by many to fit this doctrine. Thus Satan succeeded in lulling Christians into a false comfort, so that they would be unprepared for the tribulation when it does come upon them.

IÃm not sure that this quote is entirely accurate.

First of all, we know that the idea of a "catching away" before the time of God's wrath (or the "Great Tribulation") was spoken of by Ephraem the Syrian (with variations of his name being "Ephrem" or "Ephraem") during the 300s. He wrote about this "gathering" before the tribulation in several instances, most notably in 373 A.D. in *On the Last Times, the Antichrist, and the End of the World* saying: "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." Thus, it is not exactly accurate to call this notion a "new doctrine" in the mid-1800s. There is also evidence that this doctrine existed in writings from the 1700s in both England and the United States.

However, the lack of widespread evidence is not indicative of non-existence any more than the widespread writings of the Roman Catholic Church and mainstream Protestant denominations were indicative that the true, Christ-centered believers didn't exist during the Inquisition. In addition, Pentecostals do not trace their beliefs in the gifts of the Spirit only back as far as *Azusa Street* or *Stone's Folly* in Topeka, Kansas. They believe that these gifts (and the beliefs in these gifts) were always around and always available, but very little was written about them because of the rejection by mainstream denominations and religion.

Further, I think that this comment illustrated a fallibility in the argument altogether. The writer suggests "This doctrine made it look as though persecution from men was a punishment from God!" I have never heard anyone who embraces the idea of the "rapture" suggest such a thing. Rather, we see it quite the opposite. Those of us who acknowledge the possibility of a removal during the time of Great Tribulation simply distinguish the persecution of men (mere tribulation) from the wrath of God (the period of Great Tribulation). Tribulation has ALWAYS existed. Anyone who has picked up a copy of *Foxes Book of Martyrs* or an issue of the *Voice of the Martyrs* realizes that persecution has existed from the days of the prophets to the crucifixion of Christ to the beheading of James to the early church being fed to lions to the execution of believers in Communist or Islamic nations in the past year. Yet there is a distinction between persecution and wrath. God does not persecute; He prosecutes.

During the period of "Great Tribulation," our Lord will pour out His wrath that is being stored up for that time. There are many of us who simply believe (or lean toward a belief) that the Lord has not appointed us to suffer His wrath—that will be poured out upon the entire world. Yet God has promised to keep us FROM that hour (Revelation 3:10). While we will always endure the persecution from the inhabitants of this dark world, the god of this age, and his minions, we believe that we are not appointed to suffer the wrath of God.

Our brother also wrote: "Scripture was then twisted by many to fit this doctrine. Thus Satan succeeded in lulling Christians into a false comfort, so that they would be unprepared for the tribulation when it does come upon them." This just doesn't seem indicative of those who lean toward a belief in the idea of a "taking away" by God to avoid his Wrath. To insist that Scripture was actually "twisted" to support such a notion actually reeks of *conspiracy*. The doctrine of the "rapture" (as taught by anyone OTHER THAN the prosperity-minded health/wealth crowd) has never taught that Christians were entitled to escape the persecutions and tribulations of this world. Rather, we understand that "in this world we shall have tribulation" (John 16:33). However, we simply acknowledge the historical anecdotes that illustrate that when God has poured out his wrath upon the Earth—he has always provided an escape for believers. Whether removing Lot and his family from Sodom's judgment, an Ark for Noah or the blood of the lamb over the doorposts of the Israelites in Egypt—God has always withheld his wrath upon those who truly belonged to Him.

Rather than teaching complacency, the notion of such escape causes believers to be ready at all times—because we

don't know when such an escape will take place. Like the traditions of the Hebrew wedding, the groom is coming at an hour that we don't know. In fact, the groom comes in an hour that HE doesn't know – but is only known by His Father. Right now, he is preparing a place for us. Those who are not ready, as illustrated in Matthew chapter 25, will be shut out from the wedding and marriage feast. Thus, we are instructed in Matthew 25:13: *“Watch therefore, for ye know not either the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh..”*

During the Great Tribulation, the judgment of God will be poured out upon the entire Earth (in an indiscriminant manner – destroying entire portions in an instant). Will God strike his children too? This is the underlying question concerning the matter (at least, in my mind). In I Thessalonians chapter 5, Paul wrote concerning the end and the sudden destruction that would come upon the world as a result of God's wrath. Interestingly, he wrote in verse 9: *“For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ.”*

There are other factors that contribute toward my own inclination toward such a belief. For instance, the coming of the Son of God will be like the days of Noah. Those days were not filled with terror or wrath. Rather, they were eating, drinking, marrying and divorcing. In other words, they were enjoying the pleasures of this life while Noah preached about the coming wrath of God. Yet God provided a means of escape from that wrath for Noah and his family. In addition, we know that the Son of God is unaware of the day or hour of his coming. It is known only to the Father. Yet Jesus told us to look at the signs of His coming. If He Himself does not know, what makes us think that we would know that Jesus would come at the end of a 3 ½ or 7 year period of Great Tribulation? Jesus spoke of one being taken and the other one left. What are they left for? A few moments of sleep as Jesus arrives to the Earth? The notion of a removal from this Earth preceding God's wrath does not indicate a “lulling comfort” (as suggested by the author of this article); rather, it suggests that we should always be ready for the coming of the Lord. As the Scriptures say, *“Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh”* (Matthew 24:44).

I guess that what I am trying to say is that it is highly speculative at best to preach the exact manner in which the Lord will return and how the End of all things will transpire. It is best, in my view, to be aware of the various scenarios. I suppose that it would be better to not preach with complete certainty either doctrine, but to leave room for error (just in case we are not 100% correct). And of course, we should preach that we should ALWAYS be prepared to face persecutions, tribulations and anything else for the sake of our relationship with God. For this cause, I appreciated the encouragement offered by this article. Somewhere on this Earth, believers are being tortured for the Lord today. There will probably be no escape from their pain. We should willingly endure all such fleeting torture that comes at the hands of this world for the cause of Christ. We should consider it a sacrifice.

But torture and death at the wrath of God? That is an entirely different matter. Regardless, we should be willing to endure if it were to come. Compared with eternity, life and death on Earth are fleeting – especially when compared with the limitless of Eternity with our God.

Even so, come Lord Jesus!

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Re: - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2008/5/22 12:13

Quote:
-----“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.”

The 2-3 occurrences of the vague idea of a "rapture" is proof enough that it was not an apostolic doctrine or held by the apostles. The root of the rapture theory is not escape persecution. The sad thing is the quote above is just "human" reasoning on the subject and there is no clear scripture telling about a "secret rapture". Isn't it amazing a whole doctrine is built upon no scripture but a feeling and interpretation from man.

Here is more good information on this subject: <http://www.olivetdiscourse.com/>

Re:, on: 2008/5/22 12:55

Rev 20:5-6

This is the first resurrection. 6 Blessed and holy are those who have part in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him for a thousand years.

1 Thess 4:15-18

16 For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 **After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air.** And so we will be with the Lord forever. 18 Therefore encourage each other with these words.

Heb 11:1-3

11:1 **Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. 2 This is what the ancients were commended for.**

3 By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.

2 Cor 4:13-18

13 It is written: "I believed; therefore I have spoken." With that same spirit of faith we also believe and therefore speak, 14 because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus from the dead will also raise us with Jesus and present us with you in his presence. 15 All this is for your benefit, so that the grace that is reaching more and more people may cause thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of God.

16 Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. 17 For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. 18 **So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.**

Matt 22:32

32 I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob? God is not the God of the dead, but of the living.

John 5:24-29

24 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, **and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.**

"For your sake we face death all day long;
we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered."

37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 38 For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, 39 neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Yes, I believe in the rapture and I preach the rapture. There will be tribulation in the world and there will be great tribulation. I have asked questions on the post trib theory that was abandoned by the author of the thread as well as the others. Why is that?

Jesus is our Blessed Hope and if we were as you say and I believe there is plenty of scripture in Old Testament and New Testament to prove that it is I say, Jesus would still be the Blessed Hope.

There were many questions that I ask on this subject and no one made an attempt to answer them but could you answer only one.

How will the physically dead go through the tribulation? Just answer that one question please.
Some prophets have already been raptured when Jesus was, so what will happen to those who die prior to the tribulation?

edit: One more question. Was Jesus raptured? Should we call it ascended, what should we call it?

If rapture is a theory, we have no hope, I guess.

But we do have hope, He is our Blessed Hope and the firstfruits.

1 Cor 15:20-26

20 But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept.

21 For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead.

22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

23 But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.

24 Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power.

25 **For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet.**

26 The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death.

KJV

Re: - posted by ccchhhrrriiiss () , on: 2008/5/22 15:39

Hi Greg...

Quote:

The 2-3 occurrences of the vague idea of a "rapture" is proof enough that it was not a apostolic doctrine or held by the apostles.

I'm not sure that there is "proof enough" of anything in the writings of flawed men. However, I simply wanted to point out there it might be inaccurate for the author to claim that the "doctrine" of a rapture first appeared in the mid-1800s when there are references of it as far back as 373 A.D. (even if we don't believe that it might be implied in the Scriptures). Besides, I think that there are more than just "2-3 occurrences" about this possibility. Personally, I have read of at least 5 instances that predate the mid-1800s "Margaret McDonald vision" claim. In addition, I can't say that I have found very many ancient writings that indicate the *other* perspective – that believers must suffer the wrath of God. Are there any writings from the 4th Century that indicate an overwhelming doctrinal view that believers would endure the wrath of God upon the Earth?

There are doctrines within some Pentecostal and Holiness sects that are based upon a single passage (such as that of a head covering in I Corinthians), but their advocates believe that such a belief is implied by other verses. I would never claim that such individuals "twisted" the Scriptures to suit their own beliefs. They simply arrived at a different conclusion than I did. Yet the underlying principle is clear: We should use holy modesty and true spiritual propriety in our dress. Similarly, I think that the underlying principle for both those who believe in a "rapture" (or "catching away," "removal," etc... of believers prior to the pouring out of God's wrath) and those who believe that believers must endure God's wrath is the same: BE PREPARED.

Quote:
-----The sad thing is the quote above is just "human" reasoning on the subject and there is no clear scripture telling about a "secret rapture". Isn't it amazing a whole doctrine is built upon no scripture but a feeling and interpretation from man.

I don't pretend to act like I know the motives of Ephrem for his writing in the 4th Century. I would hesitate saying that either such notion is "built upon no scripture." Personally, I don't lean toward the possibility of escaping the coming wrath of God simply because it sounds good to my own or someone else's "human reasoning." Rather, I am inclined toward this possibility on the basis of what I know from the Scriptures and the character of God as a whole. But you're correct: I don't think that there is a clear consensus from Scripture that would have me declare with *absolute certainty* that either *pre-wrath* or *post-wrath* is unquestionable.

As a result, I don't proclaim either interpretation as a doctrinal truth. Rather, I prefer to explain each as alternate views about the End while affirming the need to be prepared at all times. Like Keith Green, I tend to lean toward the idea of

"praying for Pre-Trib but being prepared for Post-Trib." And like David Wilkerson, I lean toward a Pan-Trib view – that everything will "pan" out in the end. I tell everyone who asks to be prepared for all things – and the importance of keeping our eyes upon Jesus in the face of all persecutions, tribulations or calamities. He is able to keep those whose hearts are set upon Him.

:-)

Re: Poonen download, verse by verse, revelation....., on: 2008/5/22 23:40

hmmhmm: WOW! I have some time to enjoy. I listened to a chapter randomly and was BLESSSSSSSSSSed. Oh yeah ~!

something about his insight and simplicity that I really like, and am fed by.

Thanks hmmhmm for taking the time to do this for me.....Tom

Re: - posted by Zionshield (), on: 2008/5/23 0:13

If I were quick at typing I'd produce Govett's work for you all. I have found Spurgeon's description of the man to be true, "He wrote a hundred years before his time, and the day will come when his works will be treasured as sifted gold". If you're not familiar with him, he is an Englishman that wrote mostly in the late 19th century. He was especially gifted in seeing in the OT truths that are taught in the NT.

For instance: he views Moses returning from Sinai and seeing the Israelites in such a state as he found them as a type of the Lord returning and seeing the church in the same state.

An interesting view of the takings: one from among two in the field and one from among two in the mill is that one is active and one is passive. The OT types are Enoch is taken while Noah is seen escaping. Enoch was raptured, therefore in heaven when the wrath came upon earth while Noah was still there with an impending need of the Ark. Govett sees Noah as a type of the earthly and Jewish escape.

Another interesting type: Joseph had Azeneth in the intimacy of his home and presence before he revealed himself to his brothers just as Christ will be with His bride in heaven before He reveals Himself to the ones who previously cast Him out.

Apart from this (I mentioned it all b/c Govett dealt so much with the Rapture and the Millennium) another reason in scripture I lean towards pre-trib is the church is not mentioned in Rev. after 4:1 when John is commanded to "Come up here, ... and is at once in the spirit..." until the return of the Lord in ch. 19. All during the tribulation it is only the elect mentioned... which we see are of the tribes of Israel.

One more thing to be noted...I hope you find this interesting and worth our time. I am not debating so much as sharing what I understand and have discovered from this fellow....moving right along...

Govett believed that the word "coming" was a poor translation in 1st Cor. 15:23 and 2nd Thes. 2:1. He said it should have been "presence" for two reasons: the Greek word *parousia* never implies a motion, though motion may be in the surrounding circumstances; and because the word means the opposite of absence. Of course there is a great deal more, but it is late. This is all very fascinating and does provoke in me thoughts of the coming Kingdom and the hope we have in Him. (plus I just watched the last bit of the Lord of the Rings)

I remember Barnhouse saying in one of his sermons he hopes he's near one of his post-trib buddies when he's raptured so he can say "I told ya so" on the way up. LOL :) ...may we all be given the grace to be as light hearted about such disagreements with brothers and sisters.

Godspeed
Randy

Re: - posted by bonni (), on: 2008/5/23 2:33

I appreciate this article being posted, I took it and posted it on another website also. The Bible talks about two resurrections, the first when Jesus comes to gather His elect from the four corners of the earth, right after the greatest tribulation the world has ever known, but also right before God's wrath is poured out on the sinner. We are not appointed to wrath but we are called to suffer for His name sake. Going through the tribulation does not mean that we will also endure God's wrath. It just means that this is our last and final time to shine as lights and do great exploits so that the church can be a witness to the Jewish nation to cause them to be jealous and desire our/their Messiah. And also as a witness to the rest of the lost world.

The second resurrection is after the millennial reign. There can't be three resurrections (the rapture, then seven years later at the end of the rapture, and also at the end of the millennial reign) because the Bible says there are only two.

Something to think about anyway. Whatever happens I don't want to be disillusioned, and I surely don't want to be without oil in my lamp.

Blessings, bonni

Re: - posted by hmmhmm (), on: 2008/5/23 6:08

Quote:

Brothertom wrote:

something about his insight and simplicity that I really like, and am fed by.

Thanks hmmhmm for taking the time to do this for me.....Tom

Brother i am glad you found the wellspring of Zac Poonen, he has blessed me very much.

I recommend his series also "through the bible", it is filled with gems and deep insights.

And also for the hungry soul that wants to go deeper in the things of God i recommend his series "http://www.cfcindia.com/web/mainpages/from_babylon_to_jerusalem.php) From Babylon to Jerusalem", i believe this series can set free so many Christians that are laboring under a false counterfeit gospel.

It is 30 hours all in all, but well worth the time.

God bless Christian

Re:, on: 2008/5/23 6:46

Quote:

bonni wrote:

I appreciate this article being posted, I took it and posted it on another website also. The Bible talks about two resurrections, the first when Jesus comes to gather His elect from the four corners of the earth, right after the greatest tribulation the world has ever known, but also right before God's wrath is poured out on the sinner. We are not appointed to wrath but we are called to suffer for His name sake. Going through the tribulation does not mean that we will also endure God's wrath. It just means that this is our last and final time to shine as lights and do great exploits so that the church can be a witness to the Jewish nation to cause them to be jealous and desire our/their Messiah. And also as a witness to the rest of the lost world.

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Something to think about anyway. Whatever happens I don't want to be disillusioned, and I surely don't want to be without oil in my lamp.

Blessings, bonni

Thanks Bonni,

Thanks for posting. Unfortunately there are many who insult the grace of God and feel they must earn their salvation by going through the great trib. Many won't accept anything free and want to be the Savior of themselves. When they do this they are attempting to be equal with Him. They arrive at this theory from several scriptures, One where it talks about suffering for the sake of Christ, another about the trumpet or the trumpets. The trumpet of God had a totally different Greek definition than the seventh trumpet in Revelations

1 Cor 15:52

52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet: 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 trumpet 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.

They can't answer the questions or even make a good argument on this theory. No one seems to want to answer how those who go on before the trib will earn their salvation if their theory were true. It is kind of like don't confuse me with the truth. His word says in the last days they will come up every form of doctrine.

They call those who trust in the Jesus and His grace a heresy to believe in the rapture. Yet they won't describe or give a term for when Jesus was raptured or ascended. He is the first fruits of many. They can't explain the fact there has already been one resurrection but you would be surprised how many will buy this theory hook, line and sinker and also preach it along with this that standing against evil is wrong. The devil is slick. The devil knows how to take over the minds of the people, where he will have free reign to steal kill and destroy. The only way to prevent being deceived is to put your faith in Jesus. The ones who put their faith in him will never be put to shame.

You can see what I mean by checking this thread that was abandoned because no one wanted to attempt to answer the questions.

https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/newbb/viewtopic.php?mode=viewtopic&topic_id=23034&forum=34&start=0&viewmode=flat&order=1

God Bless Bonni.

Moe

Re: The Church and The Tribulation -poonen - posted by hmmhmm (), on: 2008/5/23 7:02

Also here is an excellent sermon from

(<https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/mydownloads/singlefile.php?lid11547&commentViewitemComments>) D.Pawson

Re:, on: 2008/5/23 7:11

Quote:

hmmhmm wrote:

Also here is an excellent sermon from (<https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/mydownloads/singlefile.php?lid11547&commentViewitemComments>) D.Pawson

I'm sure it is. Here is an excellent book by the **GREAT I AM**.

www.biblegateway.com

Love ya with the truth.

Moe

Re: - posted by hmmhmm (), on: 2008/5/23 7:36

Quote:

moe_mac wrote:

Quote:

hmmhmm wrote:

Also here is an excellent sermon from (<https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/mydownloads/singlefile.php?lid11547&commentViewitemComments>) D.Pawson

I'm sure it is. Here is an excellent book by the **GREAT I AM**.

www.biblegateway.com

Love ya with the truth.

Moe

Amen brother, in that book i read Psa 116:15 Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints.

We are not worthy to die for him, to be made like him in a death like him, i am not worthy of such. but if God in his mercy

and grace should allow me to walk the path of such a death for his glory then i want to be ready.

Re:, on: 2008/5/23 8:46

Quote:

hmmhmm wrote:

Amen brother, in that book i read Psa 116:15 Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints.

We are not worthy to die for him, to be made like him in a death like him, i am not worthy of such. but if God in his mercy and grace should allow me to walk the path of such a death for his glory then i want to be ready.

We should all be ready to die for him. The death that He is referring to, is dying to our selfish desires and alive His righteous purpose now. Yes, we will all die physically. If we look at everything only in a physical manner that is exactly how we will perceive it. Jesus did not die on the cross so we could die, so we could live and die to ourself and live for Him on earth and have eternal life in heaven. That's my friend is the gospel. I suppose with the post trib theology, it would be necessary for the person to go back and rewrite the story of Abraham and Isaac on Moriah and Abraham slowly beat Isaac to death and there was no ram for sacrifice and then Abraham write " The Lord did not provide"

Physical death of anyone but Jesus will not accomplish anything my friend, we are not the perfect sacrifice, but He was. If physical death would accomplish salvation, the unsaved or the wicked would be a candidate for heaven. His Spirit living in as real live person, will though. When Jesus does really live in a person, you can usually detect it because of the change in their life, from what it was prior to the new birth. A born again Christian will stand for righteousness in face of death or adversity, and that adversity will always come from the devil or someone full of the devil. They will also be able to distinguish who those people are and know a lie from the truth when you are really born again.

Will you trust Him today as your Savior instead of seeing Him as one who kills. He doesn't kill, he gives life. We are to crucify the fleshly desires and live unto Him. You were bought with a price if you are saved so Glorify God with your body. How do you do that? He tells us in His Word.

Ps 23

The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not be in want.

2 He makes me lie down in green pastures,

he leads me beside quiet waters,

3 he restores my soul.

He guides me in paths of righteousness

for his name's sake.

4 Even though I walk

through the valley of the shadow of death,I will fear no evil,

for you are with me;

your rod and your staff,

they comfort me.

5 You prepare a table before me

in the presence of my enemies.

You anoint my head with oil;

my cup overflows.

6 Surely goodness and love will follow me

all the days of my life,

and I will dwell in the house of the LORD

forever.

Re: - posted by hmmhmm (), on: 2008/5/23 9:12

Quote:

moe_mac wrote:
Will you trust Him today as your Savior instead of seeing Him as one who kills. He doesn't kill, he gives life. We are o crucify the fleshly desires and live unto Him.

Well you can never have that life unless you die, and we have in the word many testimonies of people killed so that the gospel could go forth,

we need simple men like Stephen ready to serve food at the tables and be filled with the spirit sent into death, stoned by that times theologians and pastors of the day.

It was men like him who saw heaven open, and not fearing to die.

We dont see heaven open because we so busy building paradise here on earth. I dont speak as one who has reached the goal, i fail miserably, but one thing i know, there is a cloud of invincible witnesses awaiting us.

why should our way be any less then thiers?

Heb 11:35 Women received their dead raised to life again: and others were **tortured, not accepting deliverance**; that they might obtain a better resurrection:

Heb 11:36 And others had **trial of cruel mockings and scourgings**, yea, moreover of **bonds and imprisonment**:

Heb 11:37 They were **stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented**;

Heb 11:38 (Of whom the world was not worthy:) they wandered in deserts, and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth.

Heb 11:39 And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise:

Heb 11:40 God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect.

Heb 12:1 Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,

Heb 12:2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Heb 12:3 For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.

Heb 12:4 Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin.

and knowing this, we far has more to answer for, none of these were filled with the Holy Spirit as we can be, the least in the kingdom of god should be greater then the greatest of men in the OT.

We missed something, we have twisted the gospel brother. I am glad there seem to be an awakening among the believers today, many have a "holy dissatisfaction" with how things are.

May God open our eyes to see... see as Stephen saw an open heaven.

"the greatest scandal of today's church, is the absence of persecution" Art Katz paraphrased

And why in God's name should we western Christians be raptured and escape all this when no one else have? in the 40 something countries that today suffer persecution? we already enjoyed the richest privileges any believers throughout history

story ever enjoyed

Why would we have to sneak out of here? God comes in his majesty and glory, he dont come the back way.

Every eye shall see him, every knee shall bow.

its not about earning our way to heaven by tribulation, no one ever said that, the bible dont say that.

the way to heaven is already made by christ, it is finished.

Its not you cant live and enjoy gods blessing on earth. But it is we have stopped there, most of us, and we are getting attached to this world that are perishing.

We need to realize the eternal truths, and seek god and hear his voice to what he has called us to. so we can be his people, his church.

Re:, on: 2008/5/23 10:34

Quote:

hmmhmm wrote:

Well you can never have that life unless you die, and we have in the word many testimonies of people killed so that the gospel could go forth,

we need simple men like Stephen ready to serve food at the tables and be filled with the spirit sent into death, stoned by that times theologians and pastors of the day.

I am still dying to my selfish desires daily. Although I am a new creation and a totally adifferent person through His strength, I haven't gotten to any perfection yet except in HIs. I must confess that I haven't arrived at the faith as you and Stephen have yet.

Quote:

-----Heb 11:35 Women received their dead raised to life again.

This portion of this scripture is not referring to salvation but Jesus bringing a dead body from death to life. He did this so the hardheads would know He was the Savior. (See passage at the bottom of the page) If they did not get saved after th at the second time they died they went to hell. There were serveral of these dead to life resurrections.

Death to life of Jesus and Jesus through his propets and Apostles. examples. Not conversions neccesarly.

Elijah

1.Unknown son of the widow of Zarephath; her only son.

1 Kings 17:17-18:1

17 And it came to pass after these things, that the son of the woman, the mistress of the house, fell sick; and his sickness was so sore, that there was no breath left in him.

18 And she said unto Elijah, What have I to do with thee, O thou man of God? art thou come unto me to call my sin to remembrance, and to slay my son?

19 And he said unto her, Give me thy son. And he took him out of her bosom, and carried him up into a loft, where he abode, and laid him upon his own bed.

20 And he cried unto the LORD, and said, O LORD my God, hast thou also brought evil upon the widow with whom I soj

ourn, by slaying her son?

21 And he stretched himself upon the child three times, and cried unto the LORD, and said, O LORD my God, I pray thee, let this child's soul come into him again.

22 And the LORD heard the voice of Elijah; and the soul of the child came into him again, and he revived.

23 And Elijah took the child, and brought him down out of the chamber into the house, and delivered him unto his mother: and Elijah said, See, thy son liveth.

24 And the woman said to Elijah, Now by this I know that thou art a man of God, and that the word of the LORD in thy mouth is truth.

Elisha

2.Unknown child of the Shunammite woman:

2 Kings 4:32-37

32 And when Elisha was come into the house, behold, the child was dead, and laid upon his bed.

33 He went in therefore, and shut the door upon them twain, and prayed unto the LORD.

34 And he went up, and lay upon the child, and put his mouth upon his mouth, and his eyes upon his eyes, and his hands upon his hands: and he stretched himself upon the child; and the flesh of the child waxed warm.

35 Then he returned, and walked in the house to and fro; and went up, and stretched himself upon him: and the child sneezed seven times, and the child opened his eyes.

36 And he called Gehazi, and said, Call this Shunammite. So he called her. And when she was come in unto him, he said, Take up thy son.

37 Then she went in, and fell at his feet, and bowed herself to the ground, and took up her son, and went out.

KJV

3.Man came back to life after being cast into Elisha's grave one year after Elisha had died.

2 Kings 13:20-21

20 And Elisha died, and they buried him. And the bands of the Moabites invaded the land at the coming in of the year.

21 And it came to pass, as they were burying a man, that, behold, they spied a band of men; and they cast the man into the sepulchre of Elisha: and when the man was let down, and touched the bones of Elisha, he revived, and stood up on his feet.

KJV

New Testament

1.Lazarus

John 11:43-44

43 When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" 44 The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face.

Jesus said to them, "Take off the grave clothes and let him go."

2.Tabitha or Dorcas

Acts 9:36-38

36 In Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha (which, when translated, is Dorcas), who was always doing good and helping the poor. 37 About that time she became sick and died, and her body was washed and placed in an upstairs room. 38 Lydda was near Joppa; so when the disciples heard that Peter was in Lydda, they sent two men to him and urged him, "Please come at once!"

(from New International Version)

Acts 9:40-41

40 But Peter put them all forth, and kneeled down, and prayed; and turning him to the body said, Tabitha, arise. And she opened her eyes: and when she saw Peter, she sat up.

41 And he gave her his hand, and lifted her up, and when he had called the saints and widows, presented her alive.

3.Eutychus

Acts 20:9-11

9 Seated in a window was a young man named Eutychus, who was sinking into a deep sleep as Paul talked on and on. When he was sound asleep, he fell to the ground from the third story and was picked up dead. 10 Paul went down, threw himself on the young man and put his arms around him. "Don't be alarmed," he said. "He's alive!"

(from New International Version)

Jesus

4.girl age of 12. Jaruis's daughter.

Luke 8:49-53

49 While He was still speaking, someone came from the ruler of the synagogue's house, saying to him, "Your daughter is dead. Do not trouble the Teacher."

50 But when Jesus heard it, He answered him, saying, "Do not be afraid; only believe, and she will be made well." 51 When He came into the house, He permitted no one to go in except Peter, James, and John, and the father and mother of the girl. 52 Now all wept and mourned for her; but He said, "Do not weep; she is not dead, but sleeping." 53 And they ridiculed Him, knowing that she was dead.

NKJV

5.Jesus had compassion on the Widow's for her dead son in Nain

Luke 7:11-16

11 And it came to pass the day after, that he went into a city called Nain; and many of his disciples went with him, and much people.

12 Now when he came nigh to the gate of the city, behold, there was a dead man carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow: and much people of the city was with her.

13 And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her, and said unto her, Weep not.

14 And he came and touched the bier: and they that bare him stood still. And he said, Young man, I say unto thee, Arise

15 And he that was dead sat up, and began to speak. And he delivered him to his mother.

16 And there came a fear on all: and they glorified God, saying, That a great prophet is risen up among us; and, That God hath visited his people.

KJV

John 20:29-21:1

29 Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

30 Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. 31 But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

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Re: - posted by hmmhmm (), on: 2008/5/23 10:41

Quote:

moe_mac wrote:

Quote:

hmmhmm wrote:

Well you can never have that life unless you die, and we have in the word many testimonies of people killed so that the gospel could go forth,

we need simple men like Stephen ready to serve food at the tables and be filled with the spirit sent into death, stoned by that times theologians and pastors of the day.

I am still dying to my selfish desires daily. Although I am a new creation and a totally adifferent person through His strength, I haven't gotten to any perf
ection yet except in HIs. I must confess that I haven't arrived at the faith as you and Stephen have yet.

Moe

you and me both brother, i press on, confident he who begun a good work will finish it in both of us.

I did say

Quote:

-----I dont speak as one who has reached the goal, i fail miserably

But praise god for his faithfulness and his longsuffering.

And through the spirit we can walk as Jesus walked when we surrender totally

Re:, on: 2008/5/23 10:52

moe_mac wrote: I added more and bumped it.

If you need any help in the effort of dying for Christ sake. I know some places I can send you and it would come to pass
real quick, if you do know any of those places just go, you got the talking part over with and then you can be like
Stephen now. This is in the same thought pattern, as when the rich young ruler told Jesus yea Lord I love my neighbor
as myself. Jesus OK, oh yea really, Jesus said OK, go give your money away to the poor and come follow me. He went
away sad because he couldn't acknowledge he was rotten through and through and needed Jesus to fix his rottenness.
He wanted to fix it himself.

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on through His strength, I haven't gotten to any perfection yet except in HIs. I must confess that I haven't arrive
d at the faith as you and Stephen have yet.**

Hmmmm wrote Heb 11:35 Women received their dead raised to life again.

***This portion of this scripture is not referring to salvation but Jesus bringing a dead body from death to life. He d
id this so the hardheads would know He was the Savior. (See passage at the bottom of the page) If they did not
get saved after that the second time they died they went to hell. There were serveral of these dead to life resurre
ctions.***

Death to life of Jesus and Jesus through his propets and Apostles. examples. Not conversions neccesarily.

Elijah

1.Unknown son of the widow of Zarephath; her only son.

1 Kings 17:17-18:1

17 And it came to pass after these things, that the son of the woman, the mistress of the house, fell sick; and his sickness was so sore, that there was no breath left in him.

18 And she said unto Elijah, What have I to do with thee, O thou man of God? art thou come unto me to call my sin to remembrance, and to slay my son?

19 And he said unto her, Give me thy son. And he took him out of her bosom, and carried him up into a loft, where he abode, and laid him upon his own bed.

20 And he cried unto the LORD, and said, O LORD my God, hast thou also brought evil upon the widow with whom I sojourn, by slaying her son?

21 And he stretched himself upon the child three times, and cried unto the LORD, and said, O LORD my God, I pray thee, let this child's soul come into him again.

22 And the LORD heard the voice of Elijah; and the soul of the child came into him again, and he revived.

23 And Elijah took the child, and brought him down out of the chamber into the house, and delivered him unto his mother: and Elijah said, See, thy son liveth.

24 And the woman said to Elijah, Now by this I know that thou art a man of God, and that the word of the LORD in thy mouth is truth.

Elisha

2.Unknown child of the Shunammite woman:

2 Kings 4:32-37

32 And when Elisha was come into the house, behold, the child was dead, and laid upon his bed.

33 He went in therefore, and shut the door upon them twain, and prayed unto the LORD.

34 And he went up, and lay upon the child, and put his mouth upon his mouth, and his eyes upon his eyes, and his hands upon his hands: and he stretched himself upon the child; and the flesh of the child waxed warm.

35 Then he returned, and walked in the house to and fro; and went up, and stretched himself upon him: and the child sneezed seven times, and the child opened his eyes.

36 And he called Gehazi, and said, Call this Shunammite. So he called her. And when she was come in unto him, he said, Take up thy son.

37 Then she went in, and fell at his feet, and bowed herself to the ground, and took up her son, and went out.

KJV

3.Man came back to life after being cast into Elisha's grave one year after Elisha had died.

2 Kings 13:20-21

20 And Elisha died, and they buried him. And the bands of the Moabites invaded the land at the coming in of the year.

21 And it came to pass, as they were burying a man, that, behold, they spied a band of men; and they cast the man into the sepulchre of Elisha: and when the man was let down, and touched the bones of Elisha, he revived, and stood up on his feet.

KJV

New Testament

1.Lazarus

John 11:43-44

43 When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" 44 The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face.

Jesus said to them, "Take off the grave clothes and let him go."

2.Tabitha or Dorcas

Acts 9:36-38

36 In Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha (which, when translated, is Dorcas), who was always doing good and helping the poor. 37 About that time she became sick and died, and her body was washed and placed in an upstairs room. 38 Lydda was near Joppa; so when the disciples heard that Peter was in Lydda, they sent two men to him and urged him, "Please come at once!"

(from New International Version)

Acts 9:40-41

40 But Peter put them all forth, and kneeled down, and prayed; and turning him to the body said, Tabitha, arise. And she opened her eyes: and when she saw Peter, she sat up.

41 And he gave her his hand, and lifted her up, and when he had called the saints and widows, presented her alive.

3.Eutychus

Acts 20:9-11

9 Seated in a window was a young man named Eutychus, who was sinking into a deep sleep as Paul talked on and on. When he was sound asleep, he fell to the ground from the third story and was picked up dead. 10 Paul went down, threw himself on the young man and put his arms around him. "Don't be alarmed," he said. "He's alive!"

(from New International Version)

Jesus

4.girl age of 12. Jarius's daughter.

Luke 8:49-53

49 While He was still speaking, someone came from the ruler of the synagogue's house, saying to him, "Your daughter is dead. Do not trouble the Teacher."

50 But when Jesus heard it, He answered him, saying, "Do not be afraid; only believe, and she will be made well." 51 When He came into the house, He permitted no one to go in except Peter, James, and John, and the father and mother of the girl. 52 Now all wept and mourned for her; but He said, "Do not weep; she is not dead, but sleeping." 53 And they ridiculed Him, knowing that she was dead.

NKJV

5.Jesus had compassion on the Widow's for her dead son in Nain

Luke 7:11-16

11 And it came to pass the day after, that he went into a city called Nain; and many of his disciples went with him, and much people.

12 Now when he came nigh to the gate of the city, behold, there was a dead man carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow: and much people of the city was with her.

13 And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her, and said unto her, Weep not.

14 And he came and touched the bier: and they that bare him stood still. And he said, Young man, I say unto thee, Arise.

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16 And there came a fear on all: and they glorified God, saying, That a great prophet is risen up among us; and, That God hath visited his people.

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Re: - posted by hmmhmm (), on: 2008/5/23 12:04

Quote:

-----If you need any help in the effort of dying for Christ sake. I know some places I can send you and it would come to pass real quick, if you do know any of those places just go, you got the talking part over with and then you can be like Stephen now. This is in the same thought pattern, as when the rich young ruler told Jesus yea Lord I love my neighbor as myself. Jesus OK, oh yea really, Jesus said OK, go give your money away to the poor and come follow me. He went away sad because he couldn't acknowledge he was rotten through and through and needed Jesus to fix his rottenness. He wanted to fix it himself.

I think it must be my limited communication skills in english brother, i think we miss each other.

I dont think you are grasping what i am trying to say.

I have not told YOU or ANYONE else to go and seek death as a merit before God.

Scripture says to die for Christ names sake is a blessed thing.

I do not consider myself worthy of such a death, i dont preach at you or anyone else to go into such countries and preach since i have not been there myself, I live in Sweden, land of the free, and yet so enslaved.

But I dont see in scripture what people are trying to say, and the very unjust thing of God to take some of his children out and not others, why us? and not (<http://www.bethelks.edu/mla/holdings/scans/martyrsmirror/>) them

Anyway, i hope we will live our life to the fullest according to the grace that has been giving to us, to make the most of what we have received.

Php 1:20 According to my earnest expectation and my hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but that with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life, or by death.

Php 1:21 For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

Re: The Church and The Tribulation -poonen - posted by hmmhmm (), on: 2008/5/23 12:16

Strange Sounds from the Pretribulational Camp

Written by Eli Brayley

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

It never ceases to amaze me the way the pretribulational rapture teaching can make such fantastic conclusions out of such straightforward Bible passages. As one commits to an honest and objective study of the interpretations presented by pretribulation advocates, one cannot help but notice the gross discrepancies which inescapably arise between the supposed doctrine and the inspired Scriptures. A prominent German theologian put it rather bluntly: "Pretribulationism must be refuted as a dangerous distortion of New Testament eschatology."

It is my object in this article to cover a few of the most obvious Scriptural discrepancies that arise from holding to a pretribulational position, in the hopes that those who read the following few words would consider the strangeness and error of this 19th century doctrine.

A SECOND COMING BEFORE THE SECOND COMING

"So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation." (Hebrews 9:28)

The term "Second Coming" is actually never found in the Bible, although the concept most certainly is, just like the word "trinity" is not found in the Bible but the concept is unmistakably there. Though the verse above is the only mention of the word "second" in connection with the future coming of the Lord, the belief that Jesus would once again return to earth a second time saturates the Old and New Testaments. Jesus announced to His disciples the night before He was crucified, "I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also." (John 14:3) Likewise the angel announced to them also on the Mount of Olives just after Christ ascended, that "this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven." (Acts 1:11) The expectation of the apostles was that Jesus would return a second time to earth in the same manner that He ascended. This is shown by their continual unanimous testimony concerning Christ's coming:

Paul - "For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord." (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17)

Peter - "But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?" (2 Peter 3:10-12)

John - "Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen." (Revelation 1:7)

Notice the apostolic expectation is simply the full and glorious appearing of the Lord Jesus and that no dual distinctions are made. The reason why there are no distinctions ever made between the "second coming" and a "secret pretribulation coming" is because no duality of "comings" existed in their doctrine. The apostles purely preached that Jesus Christ would come again, plain and simple.

On the other hand, pretribulationists, if they are to remain consistent with their theology, must believe in three comings of Christ, a notion utterly foreign to the teaching of the New Testament. Neither Jesus, nor the apostles, ever taught such a thing. To save themselves the embarrassment of such a conclusion, pretribulationists attempt to maintain the expression on "the Second Coming of Christ" while at the same time believe in a coming prior to it. They cannot have it both ways. If they say the "secret rapture" is NOT a "coming", then they disqualify all the verses they have since used to support a pretribulation rapture which utilize the word "coming" (see 1 Corinthians 15:23, 1 Thessalonians 4:15, for instance). If they say then that the "secret rapture" IS a "coming", then they must believe in three comings, and therefore maintaining the expression "the Second Coming of Christ" as the final glorious appearing of Christ makes no logical sense.

A LAST TRUMPET BEFORE THE LAST TRUMPET

"Behold, I show you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, 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." (1 Corinthians 15:51-52)

One of the most popular pretribulation verses in the Bible is 1 Corinthians 15:51-52, quoted above, and yet this Scripture is in fact one of the most strongest arguments AGAINST pretribulationism!

The context of this verse is speaking about the resurrection of the dead when Jesus comes. Paul says in verse 22 and 23, "For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming." (Notice again that there is no distinction between a second coming and a pretribulation coming... just "His coming"). The key to interpreting when this transformation occurs (if it wasn't already obvious) is the pronouncement, "at the last trump." But what is the last trump and where is it found in Scripture?

It is not difficult to discover that the final trumpet spoken of in the Bible occurs at the very end of the age when Jesus returns to earth in great power and glory with all His holy angels. In our Lord's own words spoken to the apostles in the Olivet Discourse, it is stated: "Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken: And then shall app

ear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other." (Matthew 24:29-31) The last trumpet and the gathering of the saints are synonymous. When the trumpet is blown, it signals the reapers to go and separate the wheat from the tares. A simple comparison of Matthew 24:29-31, 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 and 1 Corinthians 15:51-52 clearly reveals the timing and nature of the last trump: it's timing is when Christ comes at the end of the great tribulation; it's nature is that it instigates the rapture, or gathering, of the saints. After the event described in Matthew 24:29-31, there is never another trumpet prophesied to come.

Therefore, if the pretribulationists are using 1 Corinthians 15:51-52 to support a rapture prior to the glorious appearing of Matthew 24:29-31, they run into an irreconcilable dilemma. How can an earlier rapture feature the last trump if there is yet another trumpet to be sounded at the end of the great tribulation? How could 1 Corinthians 15:51-52 be speaking of anything else but the final coming of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, as it's context clearly shows? Either verse 52 is truly talking about the last trumpet, or Paul was terribly mistaken.

A FIRST RESURRECTION BEFORE THE FIRST RESURRECTION

"And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshiped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years. But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years." (Revelation 20:4-6)

The last discrepancy we will examine involves the resurrection of the dead, which doctrine is an elementary principle according to Hebrews 6:1-2. Our text above clearly reveals that the first resurrection takes place at the end of the great tribulation when Jesus returns in glory. Christ returns to earth and destroys antichrist at the end of chapter 19 and those who are resurrected suffered greatly under the wrath of the beast. But notice also that the first resurrection is not exclusive to only those who passed through the great tribulation; no, it includes all the saints of God from all generations. John sees all those who had suffered for the Word's sake, and states in verse 6, "Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years." This is written for all believers, for we are all "kings and priests unto God" because He "loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood." (Revelation 1:5-6) "And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed men to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; and hast made them unto our God kings and priests: and they shall reign on the earth." (Revelation 5:9-10) The requirement for the second death to have no power over you is for you to take part in the first resurrection. To this all believers will attain by the grace of God.

Throughout the Bible there is only this one resurrection that Christians are promised to receive. We have already looked at 1 Corinthians 15:23. Jesus said in John 6:54, "Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day." He repeats this expression, "on the last day" four times in chapter 6 so that no one would be confused as to when the resurrection will occur. If we are to believe in a secret resurrection that takes place before the last day then we are not following the plain teaching of Jesus Christ, our Cornerstone.

Either John was correct in saying this is the first resurrection or the pretribulationists are right in saying it is not, and that there is a prior resurrection at the secret coming before the tribulation. What folly! Not one Scripture supports such an idea.

THE TRUTH OR CONJECTURE: YOU DECIDE

In this cursory article we have briefly examined how the pretribulation theory requires 1) a coming, 2) a rapture and 3) a resurrection all prior to the prescribed time clearly set forth in the Holy Scriptures. It is up to pretribulationists to decide whether or not they are going to continue attempting to squeeze the Word of God through the filter of prejudicial conjecture or simply believe the Bible for what it says. In the words of the late W.J. Erdman, the third pastor of Moody Church in Chicago who was once a pretribulationist and an editor of the Scofield Reference Bible before a "further searching of the Scriptures" convinced him otherwise: "Better the disappointment of truth than the fair but false promises of error."

"Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."
(2 Timothy 2:15)

Re:, on: 2008/5/23 12:31

Quote:

hmmhmm wrote:

Strange Sounds from the Pretribulational Camp

Written by Eli Brayley

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

It never ceases to amaze me the way the pretribulational rapture teaching can make such fantastic conclusions out of such straightforward Bible passages.

It never ceases to amaze me, when one can't answer questions, they attempt to confuse the facts by writing a book in which they cover many issues and never attempt to the question that was asked.

Re: - posted by hmmhmm (), on: 2008/5/23 13:01

Quote:

moe_mac wrote:

It never ceases to amaze me, when one can't answer questions, they attempt to confuse the facts by writing a book in which they cover many issues and never attempt to the question that was asked.

I missed the question brother, forgive me. I read the post again and i cant find it, please rephrase in a "child-like" way so i can understand, i am not the brightest or the fastest to understand.

I appreciate your patience.

To further test your long suffering brother I also asked some questions i did not get an answer to, o'if i did, i missed that also

Re:, on: 2008/5/23 13:18

Quote:

hmmhmm wrote:

Quote:

moe_mac wrote:

I missed the question brother, forgive me. I read the post again and i cant find it, please rephrase in a "child-like" way so i can understand, i am not the brightest or the fastest to understand.

HOW DO PEOPLE THAT HAVE ALREADY PASSED
(PHYSICALLY DIED) GO THROUGH THE GREAT TRIBULATION TO ENDURE TO THE END AND BE SAVED. ARE THEY EXEMPT FROM THE POST TRIB?

I DON'T KNOW HOW TO SIMPLIFY IT ANY FURTHER.

Re: - posted by hmmhmm (), on: 2008/5/23 13:22

Well i dont think that is possible, I dont see dying in the tribulation as a requirement to be saved.

Only repentance and faith.

Re: reply to Moe Mac - posted by bonni (), on: 2008/5/23 13:29

you replied to my quote,

this was my quote,

bonni wrote:

I appreciate this article being posted, I took it and posted it on another website also. The Bible talks about two resurrections, the first when Jesus comes to gather His elect from the four corners of the earth, right after the greatest tribulation the world has ever known, but also right before God's wrath is poured out on the sinner. We are not appointed to wrath but we are called to suffer for His name sake. Going through the tribulation does not mean that we will also endure God's wrath. It just means that this is our last and final time to shine as lights and do great exploits so that the church can be a witness to the Jewish nation to cause them to be jealous and desire our/their Messiah. And also as a witness to the rest of the lost world.

The second resurrection is after the millennial reign. There can't be three resurrections (the rapture, then seven years later at the end of the rapture, and also at the end of the millennial reign) because the Bible says there are only two.

Something to think about anyway. Whatever happens I don't want to be disillusioned, and I surely don't want to be without oil in my lamp.

Blessings, bonni

Dear Brother, I am sorry that you misunderstood my quote. I was not implying that we would be taken "out" of the great tribulation, but that we would "endure" this time as witnesses. I was implying that we would be spared God's wrath that is poured out on the world at the end of the tribulation period. Sorry I didn't write more clearly, my mistake.

blessings bonni

Re: - posted by PreachParsly (), on: 2008/5/23 13:42

Quote:
-----HOW DO PEOPLE THAT HAVE ALREADY PASSED
(PHYSICALLY DIED) GO THROUGH THE GREAT TRIBULATION TO ENDURE TO THE END AND BE SAVED. ARE THEY EXEMPT FROM THE POST TRIB?

I DON'T KNOW HOW TO SIMPLIFY IT ANY FURTHER.

No one believes that going through the great tribulation is a requirement to be justified for all people in all times at all places.

Re: question for hmm hmm - posted by bonni (), on: 2008/5/23 13:50

you quoted an article from Eli Brayley,

Where can I get this book?

bonni

Re:, on: 2008/5/23 13:50

Quote:

PreachParsly wrote:
No one believes that going through the great tribulation is a requirement to be justified for all people in all times at all places.

So I guess you can explain to me how these people have died get justified if they don't endure to the end? I believe I can tell you how, they are justified by His blood and nothing by else. I disagree with the notion that no one believes this tale about being justified by going through the great tribulation because I hear preached daily on SI. My question hasn't been fully answered yet.

As for the question that HmMMM asked or the statement made about the second coming and the rapture. In Christianity, a gospel (from Old English, "good news") is generally one of four canonical books of the New Testament that describe the birth, life, ministry, crucifixion, and resurrection of Jesus. These books are the Gospels according to **Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, written between 65 and 100 AD**. More generally, the term refers to works of a genre of Early Christian literature. It originally meant the "glad tidings" of redemption. Most theologians say **Revelations was written around 95-96**. SO how could Matthew Mark Luke or John have written about the second coming with His bride the Church because the Revelation had not been given to John yet?

Re: - posted by bonni (), on: 2008/5/23 13:59

Moe Mac wrote'

SO how could Matthew Mark Luke or John have written about the second coming with His bride the Church because the Revelation had not been given to John yet?

answer... by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

blessings bonni

Re:, on: 2008/5/23 14:03

Quote:

bonni wrote:

Dear Brother, I am sorry that you misunderstood my quote. I was not implying that we would be taken "out" of the great tribulation, but that we would "endure" this time as witnesses. I was implying that we would be spared God's wrath that is poured out on the world at the end of the tribulation period. Sorry I didn't write more clearly, my mistake.

blessings bonni

We already are His witnesses, we don't have to wait for anything to begin. This is the evidence we are born again. He is the truth and the life, those that put their trust in Him will never be put to shame.

If we have put our trust in Him as both Lord and Savior then we have His oil, if we haven't, we don't have any oil, He supplies the oil, we are the vessels, he is the potter, we are the clay, we are not able to produce any oil, just receive His oil by faith through His grace.

Moe

Re: - posted by PreachParsly (), on: 2008/5/23 14:10

Quote:

moe_mac wrote:

Quote:

PreachParsly wrote:

No one believes that going through the great tribulation is a requirement to be justified for all people in all times at all places.

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No, you don't hear that. I doubt you have ever heard anyone on here say "All people even though they died hundreds of

years ago must go through the Great Tribulation to be justified on the day of Judgment." If you have, please quote it. If that is honestly what you think you either don't understand what they are saying or are purposely misrepresenting it.

Justification is by faith. And yes you must be a Christian until your dying day. You can't be a Christian for a week and then go back to sin and expect to be right with God.

Quote:
-----As for the question that Hmmm asked or the statement made about the second coming and the rapture.
In Christianity, a gospel (from Old English, "good news") is generally one of four canonical books of the New Testament that describe the birth, life, ministry, crucifixion, and resurrection of Jesus. These books are the Gospels according to **Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, written between 65 and 100 AD**. More generally, the term refers to works of a genre of Early Christian literature. It originally meant the "glad tidings" of redemption. Most theologians say **Revelations was written around 95-96**. SO how could Matthew Mark Luke or John have written about the second coming with His bride the Church because the Revelation had not been given to John yet?

The second coming is all throughout the Bible. It's not only in Revelation. I'm not sure what you are trying to say.

Re:, on: 2008/5/23 14:13

Quote:

bonni wrote:
Moe Mac wrote'

SO how could Matthew Mark Luke or John have written about the second coming with His bride the Church because the Revelation had not been given to John yet?

answer... by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

blessings bonni

Bonni the coming for His bride and the second coming are two totally separate events. When he returns to make war on the antichrist, the bride will return with HIM. The Holy Spirit could have gave that to any who wrote the gospels, but we see the Holy Spirit choose to it to John on Patmos instead.

Re:, on: 2008/5/23 14:27

Quote:

PreachParsly wrote

The second coming is all throughout the Bible. It's not only in Revelation. I'm not sure what you are trying to say.

I was hoping since you jumped over here that you could explain how God justifies some with out going through the great trib and requires others have to earn their salvation somehow. As far as the statement about one can't be a Christian on e week and not the next week, that is impossible. Those who do that were never saved to start with. Does not mean the y don't fail though.
Moe

Re: - posted by PreachParsly (), on: 2008/5/23 14:28

Quote:
-----Bonni the coming for His bride and the second coming are two totally separate events. When he returns to make war on the antichrist, the bride will return with HIM. The Holy Spirit could have gave that to any who wrote the gospels, but we see the Holy Spirit choose to it to John on Patmos instead.

That's interesting. Are you saying that the book of Revelation is the only book that gives this revelation? Where do you see in the book of the Revelation that there is a distinction between "his coming for his bride" and "his coming to make war with the antichrist." I've heard lots of teaching of why some believe they are distinct events, but I've never heard someone say that John was the first one it was given to. Most people I've heard think Paul was the first.

Let me clarify what I am talking about. If you say that John in The Revelation is the first to know this distinction then you can't use any other scriptures to justify this distinction in his "comings." The reason is because the other writers didn't know about this distinction (assuming John was the first to know) so say, for instance, none of Paul's writings can possibly teach about "two comings" since he didn't know about it.

Do you think that everyone before the book of Revelation was written believed in only one coming, but after it was written they seen that really there is a coming for his church and then later a coming to judge?

Re: - posted by bonni (), on: 2008/5/23 14:33

Moe Mac quoted
"Bonni the coming for His bride and the second coming are two totally separate events."

I guess this is where we differ in belief
brother, I see in scripture that these two events
are simultaneous, as stated in the original post by Zac Poonen.
blessings bonni

Re: - posted by PreachParsly (), on: 2008/5/23 14:34

Quote:
-----I was hoping since you jumped over here that you could explain how God justifies some without going through the great tribulation and requires others have to earn their salvation somehow. As far as the statement about one can't be a Christian one week and not the next week, that is impossible. Those who do that were never saved to start with. Does not mean they don't fail though.
Moe

No one ever can earn justification. It's always been by faith. Some people have to go through things that others don't that doesn't mean that they earned anything. For example, some are born blind. Why should they have to go through that "tribulation" while most don't? Really, it would have nothing to do with what you did but where and how you were born.

Act 17:26 And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and **hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation;**

God has decided that some will be born in different places and times than others. These type of things have nothing to do with our decisions. I didn't decide where I was born or what time..

Re:, on: 2008/5/23 14:41

Quote:

PreachParsly wrote:

God has decided that some will be born in different places and times than others. These type of things have nothing to do with our decisions. I didn't decide where I was born or what time..

Amen, He determines and directs our steps. These are things I can agree with. I believe the Bible from cover to cover. I just don't ever get off into the epistles of Barnabas though!!!!

Re: - posted by bonni (), on: 2008/5/23 15:15

I agree with brother Robert Chapman who was a close friend of both George Mueller and John N. Darby, he said " I don't see two second comings of Christ, but I will not make it a point of division between a brother and I, I will consider it a reason for humiliation that we do not agree. But either way whether I'm right or wrong, I will make it a point to be ready"

blessings bonni

Re:, on: 2008/5/23 15:57

Quote:

bonni wrote:

I agree with brother Robert Chapman who was a close friend of both George Mueller and John N. Darby, he said " I don't see two second comings of Christ, but I will not make it a point of division between a brother and I, I will consider it a reason for humiliation that we do not agree. But either way whether I'm right or wrong, I will make it a point to be ready"

blessings bonni

Sister you and everyone else has the freedom to believe whatever you choose. I realize many men are much more knowledgeable and educated in the scriptures than I. It is great thing when we can have men to point out in scripture things that we haven't seen. But I don't look to any man to interpret the scriptures for me. Nowhere in scripture do I see the Apostles telling me to do that. I do see in the scriptures we are to study the scriptures and not listen to man or we can be deceived. I too hold nothing against you or anyone else that sees things differently than I.

May the Lord always direct our paths.

moe_mac

Re: - posted by bonni (), on: 2008/5/23 16:14

I too don't look to any man to interpret scripture for me, we should all be good Bereans, I do agree with you on that. My reason for quoting Robert Chapman was to state that although we (Christians) sometimes do not agree, it should be a cause of humility in us, never of pride. Lord help me to walk in humility is my prayer. I'll leave you with one of my favorite quotes from brother Chapman.

"Humility is the secret of Fellowship,

Pride the secret of Division"

grace to you, bonni

Re:, on: 2008/5/23 19:25

Quote:

bonni wrote:

I too don't look to any man to interpret scripture for me, we should all be good bereans, I do agree with you on that. My reason for quoting Robert Chapman was to state that although we (christians) sometimes do not agree, it should be a cause of humility in us, never of pride. Lord help me to walk in humility is my prayer. I'll leave you with one of my favorite quotes from brother Chapman.

"Humility is the secret of Fellowship,

Pride the secret of Division"

grace to you, bonni

Amen and our greatest humility should be towards God. He exalts the humble and resist the proud. The pride that really kills is the pride that keeps one from bowing their allegiance to Him and the mistake of bowing to please men instead. When we allow one man or two to pick out what we listen to and read it's kind of pope-ish don't you think.

Re: The Church and The Tribulation -poonen - posted by Zionshield (), on: 2008/5/25 22:55

Although mid and post trib people don't see it as we pre tribs do I believe there is ample proof in scripture to support it or I certainly wouldn't believe it. I understand that tribulations are meant by our Lord who is the High priest that takes the Word to cut at the living sacrifice to rid us of self and spill out the precious ointment of His life. We do not have to wait for the Tribulation to experience this. This is daily life for His followers is it not? This is authentic Christianity.

"Tribulation is something that comes from men who are instigated by Satan against the church. This must be distinguished from God's wrath which is reserved for the ungodly. We shall not face the wrath of God, but we shall certainly face great tribulation from men. The blessing for God's people under the old covenant was prosperity and ease. Under the new covenant, it is adversity - suffering and tribulation."

I'm glad he distinguished between God's wrath and tribulation. I can't be sure about his definition of tribulation...I think it may be broader than that. Nonetheless, I would like to know the post trib take on Rev.3:10, our Lord's promise to the Philadelphia church? I think I know what you would say, but I think it needs to be dealt with by your view since it is also a pretty clear statement. I know it takes precious time, but if someone has a moment to answer I believe it would help or hurt the argument tremendously.