

Articles and Sermons :: The Second Coming of Christ by Zac Poonen**The Second Coming of Christ by Zac Poonen - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2020/5/22 16:03**

In 1 Thess. 4:13-18, Paul speaks about how it will be when Christ returns. "We don't want you to be uninformed about those who have slept in the Lord." That refers to those who have died in Christ. Jesus died and rose again; and those who have died in Christ will also rise again. When Jesus returns, we who are alive will not be taken up ahead of those who died in Christ before us. They will arise from the graves. That will be the first resurrection. And we will be taken up together with them to meet the Lord. Unbelievers will not rise for another one thousand years. They will rise in the second resurrection.

At His return, our Lord will descend with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God. Then all the saints will be caught up to meet the Lord in the clouds. Jesus spoke about these very same matters, when He spoke to His disciples about His return. He said, "Don't believe those who say, 'He is here' or 'He is there' or 'He has come secretly' " (Matthew 24:26). What He was saying was that He would not come secretly, as many believe today. When He comes, it will be like the lightning that flashes from the east to the west. Every eye will be able to see Him.

When will Christ's coming take place? Jesus answered that too: "Immediately after the tribulation" (Matthew 24:29,30). Many believe that Christ will rapture His saints before the tribulation. But there is not a single verse anywhere in Scripture that teaches that. That is a doctrine of men. Jesus Himself clearly stated that His coming would be after the tribulation. The events mentioned here in 1 Thess. 4:16, 17 are exactly the same as mentioned by Jesus in Matthew 24:30, 31: Jesus appearing in the clouds with the angels and a trumpet-sound, and the saints being taken up to meet Him.

In 1 Thess. 5:2, we read, "The day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night." A thief does not announce his coming, but comes unexpectedly. Thus, every unbeliever will be surprised when the Lord returns. We, the sons of light, however, are expecting our Lord to come (1 Thess. 5:4). We do not live in darkness. So, we should not be asleep spiritually, but alert (1 Thess. 5:6).

How can we know whether we are awake or asleep? When a man is asleep, the things that are real around him in the room are invisible; but the things that are unreal (in his dreams) appear to be real. In the same way, a believer is spiritually asleep when the real things of eternity appear unreal to him, and the unreal things of this world appear real to him. This whole world is like an unreal dream when compared to heaven and eternity. The truly eternal things are the things of heaven. For believers who are asleep, the Lord will certainly come as a thief in the night. Paul says we look forward to that day and we eagerly await His coming.

People around us will be imagining that everything is peaceful and safe (1 Thess. 5:3). But destruction will come upon them suddenly, it says here "like birth pangs upon a woman with child" (1 Thess. 5:3). Jesus used the same expression when speaking of the last days (in Matthew 24:8). Every woman knows that before she gives birth to a child there is a painful time of labour which can last for many hours. (Some mothers say that it was so painful that they felt like dying). It is only after that the child is born. This is a picture of the painful period of tribulation that will precede the coming of Christ. No child is born without those birth-pangs. And the coming of the Lord is not going to take place before this painful tribulation. We are not afraid of that period. It will be a great honour for us if the Lord allows us to be here as witnesses for Him and to lay down our lives for the sake of the gospel.

Re: The Second Coming of Christ by Zac Poonen - posted by staff, on: 2020/5/22 21:25

Hi SI
So I just want to point out in my opinion that anyone like Zac who preaches or teaches about the Tribulation without understanding Elijah in the end times cant possibly be a fully credible teacher or preacher of tribulation eschatology. If you dont understand Elijah properly then you cant understand properly
1:Why and what the 3 1/2 years is about
2:The Two Witnesses and their role
3:The Antichrist
4:Elijah and the Rapture.

It is clear from scripture also that Jesus says "They did eat they did drink ,they did give in marriage ,they planted,they so wed etc etc "UNTIL THE DAY" Lot left Sodom and Noah went into the Ark ,it will be just like that on the day the Son of M

an is revealed

Not unless you do incredible gymnastics with what is plain and obvious scripture could the people be eating ,planting ,harvesting ,marrying etc just after the greatest tribulation the world has ever scene because the Scripture says "immediately after the tribulation" .In using Lot and Noah as examples Jesus was describing two things 1:everything was going on as normal eating drinking marrying all was normal and no one was expecting any kind of judgement 2:Judgement would come immediately after Lot was taken out of his situation and Noah and his family were safely in the Ark.

There is no way in the wildest of scripture interpretation that just after the "The Great Tribulation" is the world living as normal or as nothing has happened.

We with Covid 19 a minor scratch compares to the Tribulation will find it difficult to get back to normal ,how infinitely more difficult would it be to get back to normal living directly or immediately after the Great Tribulation,staff

Zac's Quote:

When will Christ's coming take place? Jesus answered that too: "Immediately after the tribulation" (Matthew 24:29,30). Many believe that Christ will rapture His saints before the tribulation. But there is not a single verse anywhere in Scripture that teaches that. That is a doctrine of men. Jesus Himself clearly stated that His coming would be after the tribulation. The events mentioned here in 1 Thess. 4:16, 17 are exactly the same as mentioned by Jesus in Matthew 24:30, 31: Jesus appearing in the clouds with the angels and a trumpet-sound, and the saints being taken up to meet Him.

Re: brother Staff - posted by JFW (), on: 2020/5/26 6:43

Ha! Well I guess I'm in the wildest interpretation club ðŸ™•. I really do believe it exactly as Jesus spoke it, and feel much as you do ðŸ™• incredible gymnastics with what is plain and obvious scripture ðŸ™• for how you formed your view ðŸ™•.

Jesus is not giving conflicting testimonies of the time nor is He playing tricks with His people,... consider as it was in the days of Lot so what was it like in the days of Lot and what was his testimony? Well it was quite a tribulation for Lot, but not for the ungodly inhabitants of Sodom, they loved their sin and didn't want to be delivered from it- so here we have two completely different experiences of the same culture, with one being vexed by it and another reveling in it ... so when Jesus says 28 Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded;
29 But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all.
30 Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed.
31 In that day, he which shall be upon the housetop, and his stuff in the house, let him not come down to take it away: and he that is in the field, let him likewise not return back.
32 Remember Lot's wife.
33 Whosoever shall seek to save his life shall lose it; and whosoever shall lose his life shall preserve it.
34 I tell you, in that night there shall be two men in one bed; the one shall be taken, and the other shall be left.
35 Two women shall be grinding together; the one shall be taken, and the other left.
36 Two men shall be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left.

It makes perfect synchronistic sense to me -

The tribulation (in my understanding) will be experienced differently depending on your spiritual alignment just as we see in 2 Peter 2:

6 And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrha into ashes condemned them with an overthrow, making them an ensample unto those that after should live ungodly;
7 And delivered just Lot, vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked:
8 (For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds;)
9 The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished:
10 But chiefly them that walk after the flesh in the lust of uncleanness, and despise government. Presumptuous are

they, selfwilled, they are not afraid to speak evil of dignities.

11 Whereas angels, which are greater in power and might, bring not railing accusation against them before the Lord.

12 But these, as natural brute beasts, made to be taken and destroyed, speak evil of the things that they understand not; and shall utterly perish in their own corruption;

Here we find the testimony of Lot was in fact "vexed" just as it will be with the righteous in that day because of the "new normal" or the normalization of sin within the culture.

So was it a "tribulation" for those whom were being captivated by the sin of their day? Or was the "tribulation" primarily (if not exclusively) for Lot ...?

It's quite simple and without contradiction as there are two different experiences of the same event just as His return will be a time of rejoicing for the saints and a terror for the ungodly... A joyful "saving" from the situation for the righteous and a shocking end of the "party" for the wicked.

The testimony of Noah in his day was much the same in that, until destruction came, they didn't want or seek deliverance but sought to further indulge themselves in their fleshly endeavors but all the while Noah preached righteousness and did the works prescribed to him by the Lord :)

What I (personally) found compelling was the intercession that was made,... we would do well to do the same "•••••"

Re: - posted by staff, on: 2020/5/26 7:22

Hi JFW,

Then according to your view we have not one thing to worry about as if you are from God you will be saved out of the tribulation!

I am agreeing what you said about Sin but my point is the condition of the Earth!

The Earth is fine ,its producing plants ,it has clean water,its prosperous with marrying and giving in marriage,it has abundance then immediately Jesus comes as soon as Noah gets in the Ark and Lot is taken out of Sodom.

So the Tribulation according to your view is a time of Earthly abundance an abundance of life and an abundance like in Noah and Lots time of Sin.The abundance enjoyed is by the Godly and the Ungody(except for the sin)

The gymnastics comes when you try and say that the tribulation is a the worst time in Human history worse than world wars 1 and 2 for example.

So my questions are to you

Will we be eating and drinking and making merry in the Tribulation?

Will the world be a prosperous place similar to today during the tribulation?

Although Christians will be living in a "Sinful world " similar to Lot and Noah is that the height of the Tribulation for Christians?(afterall Noah and Lot had plenty to eat and drink)

Will God be be Judging throughout the Tribulation such as bowl,vials etc ?

yours staff

Re: - posted by docs (), on: 2020/5/26 10:03

What about people that get saved during the tribulation? If to become saved means you are no longer subject to wrath shouldn't they then be immediately raptured out of the tribulation if they are saved during the tribulation?

Re: - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2020/5/26 10:51

brother,

in Church history the predominate view is all believers are going to live through the tribulation and the "rapture" is actually the second coming of the Lord, there are not 2 comings.

Many believers will suffer martyrdom in the end times. The very wrath of God is poured out at the end of the 7 year period, believers are shielded from the "judgements" by a mark of God. Just like the Israelites in Egypt, all of Egypt was under wrath but in goshen it was free or immune from its effects. Noah is another symbol of this where the entire world was flooded or judged around him but they were safe in the ark. Noah was not raptured but endured through the judgment being protected by God.

Re: - posted by docs (), on: 2020/5/26 11:01

AFTER THE TRIBULATION of those days, they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

Straight from the words of Jesus, AFTER THE TRIBULATION of those days tells us all we need to know. The trumpet of I Thess 4:16 is the resurrection trumpet of I Cor 15:52 at which we shall ALL be changed, not all those will be changed who were left over from a secret unseen coming 7 or so years before. The same trumpet as Matt 24:31.

Re: - posted by CofG (), on: 2020/5/26 11:25

Brother Greg, A few of the plagues affected Goshen. Second, it's hard to imagine an economic collapse that won't affect all people, especially in those who refuse the mark of the beast. Additionally, the persecution of Christians will be intense. Wrath or not, they will indeed suffer and they must endure in faith to be saved.

Re: - posted by Sree (), on: 2020/5/26 14:10

Quote:

Second, it's hard to imagine an economic collapse that won't affect all people, especially in those who refuse the mark of the beast. Additionally, the persecution of Christians will be intense. Wrath or not, they will indeed suffer and they must endure in faith to be saved.

I do not believe going through an economic collapse is persecution or even a tribulation for a Christian. It is tribulation from a worldly perspective, but not to a Christian. If there is an economic collapse, a Christian might lose his bank account, so what? He might lose his stable job, so what? A Christian will not be affected by an economic collapse, because he is not living for the Economy!

But during those times, people's hearts will be hardened and they will persecute Christians. A Christian will be prevented from gathering with a fellow believer, prevented from following his faith openly. These are real persecution. Church will go through it.

Re: brother Staff - posted by JFW (), on: 2020/5/26 14:46

Thanks for the questions:)

Yes

Yes

Yes

Though each/all happens synchronistically or chronologically there is also a layering of the experience by individuals. So caveats abound...

We have the scriptures detailing an objective (decreed by God) series of events while at the same time a variety of subjective experiences by the individuals each with a personal nuance which, in my understanding, is primarily based on an individual's disposition relating to that specific occurrence.

Re: - posted by staff, on: 2020/5/26 17:32

Hi Greg,

Church history is not scripture and its many believers will suffer martyrdom whether or not they are pre or post trib believers.

Even if the wrath of God comes at the end of the tribulation the Chronology is off way off.

Also the Tribulation is eating and drinking and marrying just as Noah did and just as Lot did .Noah and Lot endured difficult times because of sin and unbelief, even persecution but their was not any tribulation going on.

The time line and the condition the Earth is everything here.

Lot Time = GOOD Time ,Eating and Drinking and Sin .Immediate judgement

Noahs Time= Good Time ,Eating and Drinking and Sin.Immediate judgement

Your Timeline =Tribulation for the most part of the 7 yrs lets say 6 yrs and 6 months that doesnt effect eating and drinking and giving in marriage ,that doesnt effect plant growth or doesnt effect the water systems with no world wars going on ,nothing bad

Noah and Lot werent Martyred so we can rule that out too

Then for the last 6 months lets say the wrath of God is poured out but nothing happens the believers because they are protected like Noah in the Ark ,

Then why all the talk of getting ready and being prepared when the trib is really nothing for the believers ?

Why is it then called the tribulation if everything is going on just as normal?

Jesus highlighted two things clearly in his examples 1 Everything was going on just as normal and 2 Judgement came immediately after the believers were safe.

In your timeline Jesus coming and the Wrath of God would have to be the same thing or happening at the same time?
urs staff

Re: - posted by staff, on: 2020/5/26 17:48

Hi Sree.

Jesus is pointing out two clear examples both examples pointed out two things that were the same

Normality and sudden Judgement

Lot or Noah didnt lose their Jobs or homes and had plenty to eat and drink ,they worshipped God .

It was normality for all not just the unbelievers but all believers and unbelievers.Everybody was eating and drinking and planting and sowing neither examples distinguished otherwise as it was in the days of Noah and Lot .Both Lot and Noah were eating and drinking too.

One last thing the Tribulation is not persecution,we may have persecution during the tribulation but we always have persecution ,staff

Re: - posted by TMK (), on: 2020/5/26 18:09

⚔ There shall be great tribulation. Great, indeed, when within the city plague and famine raged, and (worse than either) faction and division, so that every man's sword was against his fellow; then and there it was that the hands of the pitiful women flayed their own children. Without the city was the Roman army ready to swallow them up, with a particular rage against them, not only as Jews, but as rebellious Jews. War was the only one of the three sore judgments that David excepted against; but that was it by which the Jews were ruined; and there were famine and pestilence in extremity besides. Josephus's History of the Wars of the Jews, has in it more tragical passages than perhaps any history whatsoever.

(1.) It was a desolation unparalleled, such as was not since the beginning of the world, nor ever shall be. Many a city and kingdom has been made desolate, but never any with a desolation like this. Let not daring sinners think that God has d

one his worst, he can heat the furnace seven times and yet seven times hotter, and will, when he sees greater and still greater abominations. The Romans, when they destroyed Jerusalem, were degenerated from the honour and virtue of their ancestors, which had made even their victories easy to the vanquished. And the wilfulness and obstinacy of the Jews themselves contributed much to the increase of the tribulation. No wonder that the ruin of Jerusalem was an unparalleled ruin, when the sin of Jerusalem was an unparalleled sin—even their crucifying Christ. The nearer any people are to God in profession and privileges, the greater and heavier will his judgments be upon them, if they abuse those privileges, and be false to that profession, Amos 3:2.

(2.) It was a desolation which, if it should continue long, would be intolerable, so that no flesh should be saved, v. 22. So triumphantly would death ride, in so many dismal shapes, and with such attendants, that there would be no escaping, but, first or last, all would be cut off. He that escaped one sword, would fall by another, Isa. 24:17, 18. The computation which Josephus makes of those that were slain in several places, amounts to above two millions. No flesh shall be saved; he doth not say, "No soul shall be saved," for the destruction of the flesh may be for the saving of the spirit in the day of the Lord Jesus; but temporal lives will be sacrificed so profusely, that one would think, if it last awhile, it would make a full end.

But here is one word of comfort in the midst of all this terror—that for the elects' sake these days shall be shortened, not made shorter than what God had determined (for that which is determined, shall be poured upon the desolate, Dan. 9:27), but shorter than what he might have decreed, if he had dealt with them according to their sins; shorter than what the enemy designed, who would have cut all off, if God who made use of them to serve his own purpose, had not set bounds to their wrath; shorter than one who judged by human probabilities would have imagined.

Matthew Henry- Commentary on Mt 24

Re: - posted by staff, on: 2020/5/26 18:09

Hi JFW

The timeline just does not marry up ,look at it simply

Jesus gives two examples (Noah and Lot)so he can point out two things

The world is going on as normal and Judgement is immediate after the believers are safe(whatever that safe is can be debated)

Now look at the following scripture before Jesus comes the Sun will be darkened and the moon will not give of its light in those days.

How can things be going on just as normal eating and drinking and marrying as Jesus showed twice when the Sun is darkened etc? Also we can see below his coming is not immediate "IN THOSE DAYS" is mentioned which indicate a period of time and then after that the sign of the son of man which brings mourning and then Jesus comes on the Clouds

Jesus didnt say their will be mourning and no sun or moon he said their will be eating and drinking and normality.

The most probable timeline is normality -Jesus coming for the believers and Judgement beginning simultaneously (Tribulation)or immediately and then after the judgement the Sun and moon darkened .Whether that coming for the believers is being kept safe in an Ark or a rapture is debatable.

Matt

28Wherever there is a carcass, there the vultures will gather. 29Immediately after the tribulation of those days: The sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from the sky, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. 30At that time the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and all the tribes of the earth will mourn. They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven, with power and great glory.

Re: - posted by staff, on: 2020/5/26 18:13

Hi TMK

As it was in Noahs and Lots days

1 Normality for everyone including sin

2 Immediate Judgement

If their was normality then it cant be the tribulation .Tribulation is not normality
staff

Re: - posted by staff, on: 2020/5/26 18:16

Hi again JFW

Did you say YES to the following question?

Will God be be Judging throughout the Tribulation such as bowl, vials etc ?
staff

Re: - posted by TMK (), on: 2020/5/26 19:10

I donâ€™t get you staff. Everything was more or less normal in Jerusalem until the Romans laid siege. Thatâ€™s why Jesus told folks to flee when certain things started happening.

The reference to â€œone will be taken and one leftâ€ is not the rapture. The ones taken are deadâ€™ where vultures are circling. Lk. 17:37.

Re: - posted by staff, on: 2020/5/26 21:25

Hi TMK ,

I am not saying that one left and one taken is the rapture ,nor do I believe that ad 70 was the ultimate fulfillment of the the tribulation.

What I am saying is that in Noahs and Lot case their was no seige and no worry at all until Judgement .The point about Noah and Lot was twofold 1:Eating and Drinking etc and 2 immediate judgement because thats what happened in both cases of Noah and Lot

The moment Lot got to safety Judgement and in Noahs case the very next verse after the lord shutting the Ark door was the flood waters,immediate judgement.

What I am saying is the Great Tribulation is a unique time in history unlike any other time in terms of ferocity and that the examples of people eating and drinking and making merry cant be in the great tribulation ,staff

Re: brother Staff - posted by JFW (), on: 2020/5/26 23:13

I love your heart for Jesus :)))

Your commitment to what He has shown you in His word is well put forth and it isnâ€™t my place to say you are right or wrong regarding your understanding of the prophetic works, that is Holy Spirits place. So I can only speak from the light I have, just like you.... it is just an opportunity for Him to show each of us more of the picture and point out specific things that we are to attend to.

To your question...

thatâ€™s one of the caveats, so yes but the judgments are in some cases remedial while in others punitive - so thatâ€™s one of the areas mentioned in a previous post where Jesus marked out the contrast between the groups in His dialogue.

Hope that helps to clarify:)

Re: - posted by Sree (), on: 2020/5/27 6:00

Quote:

-----Hi Sree.

Jesus is pointing out two clear examples both examples pointed out two things that were the same

Normality and sudden Judgement

Lot or Noah didnt lose their Jobs or homes and had plenty to eat and drink ,they worshipped God .

Staff, I am not sure why you are responding to me when my post was not a response to you but to CoFG (Robert). I was answering him how a Christian will not be affected by Economic collapse because he lives for another kingdom. I was not even interested in getting into this argument of Pre vs Post trib.

I believe in Post Trib because that is what Scriptures say. But I am not someone who fights over this.

You place your whole argument based on the 2 statements made by Jesus but you miss the point that he was trying to make. Jesus never intended to mean that the time of Noah and Lot were normal times. Logically it cannot be a normal time. The time of Noah was a time when the earth was filled with Violence and every intent of man's heart was evil (Gen 6 :5). The time of Lot, Sodom was filled with sexual perversion. But Jesus makes NO mention of these 2 prevalent things in the time of Noah and Lot. Ever Wondered Why? Because Noah was not involved in the Violence of his time and Lot was not involved in the Sexual perversion of his time. But something that Noah and Lot also did, which even people of his time also did, which is marriage, food, and drink. Noah got his children married, Lot too did (at least got them engaged), they both eat and did drink. But they were not carried away by these 2 events. Especially Noah did not get carried away , he knew the time of the judgment of God. But for the rest, it was a surprise.

So Jesus was simply pointing out the surprise element in the judgment during the time of Noah and Lot. He mentioned marriage, eating, and drinking because those were the activities that Noah and Lot did along with the people of their time. Yet they were watchful.

You are trying to make a theory out of something that Jesus did not mean. You have made your point enough here. We understand this subject is very passionate to you. I am too passionate about Church being the Body of Christ and how we should do our part in building the local Body of Christ. We all have topics that we are passionate about. I am not here to argue on the rapture and the time of it. Honestly the topic does not excite me!

Here is a short Youtube video if you want to learn more about this subject of Noah and Lot from my perspective.
<https://youtu.be/wn-l2dBcsRQ>

Re: - posted by staff, on: 2020/5/27 12:39

Hi Sree,

I am not talking pre and post trib in essence. All I am saying in that regard is that those verses Zac Poonen can't be used to argue for a Post Tribulation in the way he says .

I am pointing out that Jesus deliberately pointed out by using two similar bible verses
Noah Everything was normal , Then the good guys were taken out and then immediate Judgement
Lot Everything was Normal (Sin was rampant) The good guys were taken out ,then immediate judgement

I am deliberately not mentioning the other themes of Noah and Lot because Jesus didn't.
I understand quite well that in Lot's list there was no "giving in Marriage" because of rampant homosexuality etc.

I am only pointing out what Jesus took out of the bible verses that were important to understand the end.

Yet there are people who want their cake and eat it like Zac Poonen, who are saying yes the Great Tribulation is the worst time in history, it is terrible etc but also it won't have any effect on the world because we will be still eating and drinking and sowing and marrying and it will still be prosperous etc . You can't have it both ways . Zac is good at certain subjects but not the end times, staff

Re: - posted by Sree (), on: 2020/5/27 13:36

Quote:

I am deliberately not mentioning the other themes of Noah and Lot because Jesus didnt.

That is the point which you are missing. Why do you think Jesus missed the obvious traits of the time of Noah and Lot. This means he was not talking about the nature of the time, but the surprise element in the coming of Judgment.

Jesus did not mention those verses to mean that the times of Noah and Lot were normal times. In fact, I never even thought he mentioned it until you bring the point. To a casual reader of those verses who knows the background of Noah and Lot's time, will not even in wildest imagination think that Jesus meant that the times of Noah and Lot were normal. It was not normal.

So if you see that Jesus did not mention that the times were normal then the entire scriptures will make sense. You will be able to see no contradiction in any verse like 'immediately after tribulation' etc. You will find no contradiction in what Brother Zac says as well.

Re: - posted by TMK (), on: 2020/5/27 13:57

If you take out a literal 7 year trib period any problem disappears.

Re: - posted by staff, on: 2020/5/27 16:30

Hi Sree,

Ah now Sree you are grasping at straws. You are literally saying that Jesus wasn't pointing out the obvious connection between the two stories:

- 1 All the life was carrying on like planting and sowing
- 2 The good guys were taken to safety
- 3 immediate judgement (until the day)

but that Jesus was relying on the fact that everyone would know the other issues without him saying!

Eating, Drinking, planting, sowing, marrying, building. Which one of these is not a normal life activity? Jesus was pointing out that the people were carrying on with life.

If the tribulation was right before this scripture then these activities either would not be going on OR The Great Tribulation isn't a difficult time at all. It's one or the other it can't be both. Zac Poonen makes statements without any understanding of end times in my opinion, staff

Re: - posted by TMK (), on: 2020/5/27 17:45

Hey Staff-

It would be exceedingly helpful if you would lay out what it would "look like" given your view of things.

I *think* you are saying this:

- 1) Everything is "normal"- i.e eating drinking marrying (Mt. 24:38).
- 2) The rapture occurs (Mt. 24:39)
- 3) The Great Tribulation begins.

I think you are saying that the rapture can't be post-trib because per above verses Jesus comes while everything is "normal," and things can't be normal during the Great Trib.

However, from the parallel passage in Lk. 17:37 it is clear that Jesus is not talking about a rapture of believers in the Mt.

verses; he is talking about a judgment falling that kills men, not rapture them to heaven. Specifically, from Lk 17:

28 It was the same in the days of Lot. People were eating and drinking, buying and selling, planting and building. 29 But the day Lot left Sodom, fire and sulfur rained down from heaven and destroyed them all.

30 It will be just like this on the day the Son of Man is revealed. 31 On that day no one who is on the housetop, with possessions inside, should go down to get them. Likewise, no one in the field should go back for anything. 32 Remember Lot's wife! 33 Whoever tries to keep their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life will preserve it. 34 I tell you, on that night two people will be in one bed; one will be taken and the other left. 35 Two women will be grinding grain together; one will be taken and the other left.

37 Where, Lord? they asked.

He replied, Where there is a dead body, there the vultures will gather.

Re: - posted by Sree (), on: 2020/5/27 17:54

Staff, the obvious connection between the 2 stories are these,

1. 2 people doing the activities listed by Jesus along with the people of their time, yet were ready for Judgment.
2. The people of their time being caught up with activities and taken by surprise.

The activities themselves are nothing special, these were being carried about by men from the time of creation. To say that Jesus specifically mentioned them as a sign of end time is beyond any logic! The reason Jesus mentioned those activities is to show that even though Noah and Lot performed the same activities, they were not carried away by them but were ready for judgment. The focus is not on the activities but readiness.

If one has to interpret scriptures the way you do, then they should assume that the coming of Jesus will be when there is no electricity because, in the parable of 10 virgins, Jesus spoke about lighting Oil Lamps. If Electricity was available then there should be no need for oil lamps. Since Jesus said, Lamps are needed, it should be a time when Electricity stops existing. I hope you have not gone that far :).

Re: - posted by staff, on: 2020/5/27 19:27

Hi Sree.

You see the gymnastics a person has to do with Jesus's words to make this the tribulation. You have to say that these activities Jesus actually said were going to be happening prior to Judgement were not exactly what he meant. Even though he highlighted them twice.

Jesus pointed out exactly the activities that will be going on immediately before Judgement and Zac Poonen would have to not take or deny that these activities would be going on immediately before judgement.

The activities are listed twice so that we don't get it wrong. These activities are nothing special they are normal living activities.

The reason as plain as could be why Jesus mentioned these activities is to show that the world will be in blissful ignorance or denial of the coming judgement because all will be the same as it ever was in good times, eating drinking etc.

We can't deny Jesus's words as being literal just to fit our tribulation view.

Again before he comes Jesus points out twice 1 its a time of normal living 2 the good guys have to be taken out or they can't be judgement 3 the judgement is immediately after the good guys are safe.

Also Jesus never, never said these activities were "a sign" of the times. How could they be a sign as they go on all the time except when the world is in an extreme flux. You also know well that the 10 virgins is a parable and a sidetrack to the real issue here.

The real issue in its simplest terms is :

Will there be eating ,drinking,planting,sowing ,marrying, normal living activities in The Great Tribulation?

Will the world be in a calm,prosperous place ,a place not worried about Judgement during The Great Tribulation?,staff

Re: - posted by staff, on: 2020/5/27 19:41

Hi TMK

I dont want to get into a long endless discussion about the rapture pre trib or post trib other than to counter the "cake and eat it " sermon by Zac Poonen or section of a sermon.

How can The Great Tribulation be a normal time in the world like what Jesus was saying on the double eating marrying sowing planting when all hell is loose!

or

How can the sun be darkened and the moon not giving off its light and their be planting and sowing and eating and marrying just prior to immediate judgement.I would say that if the Sun was Darkened we would not be pre occupied with any activity except praying and crying.

Even look at the scripture Jesus clearly says no Judgement no sulphur or no flood until the Good guys are out of here . That could mean just protection rather than a rapture but it definitely means no judgement until the day,Who were judged the people of the world .So no judgement for the people of the world until the day!!I dont believe you can pick and choose whats literal in these examples of Noah and Lot .If its a literal Judgement ,then its a literal taken to safety and a literal eating and drinking etc too .

staff