

sermon, 1-29-17

Why I Believe in a Pre-Tribulation Rapture

1Th 4:13

But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope.

4:14

For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.

1Th 4:15

For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep.

4:16

For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

1Th 4:17

Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.

4:18

Therefore comfort one another with these words.

1. Israel becomes a nation again.
2. Jerusalem under the control of Israel.
3. World United against Israel.
4. Eze 38 and 39 war set up.

5. 200 million man asian army.

6. Satellite Communications

My belief that there will be a Pre-Tribulation Rapture of the Church stands on the bedrock of the following foundational tenets:

A) The Bible is the Word of God

(2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21)

B) The Bible is to be Interpreted Literally

C) The Church and Israel Are Separate Entities

(Rom. 1:16)

D) A Literal 1000-Year Millennium

(Gen. 13:14-17; 15:5,18-21; 2 Sam. 7:16-19; Isa. 10:21-22; 11:1-2; Jer. 23:5-8; 30:22; 31:31-34; Ezek. 11:18-20; 34:24; 36:24-28; Mic. 7:19-20; Hos. 3:5; Rom. 11:26-29).

E) A Literal 7-Year Tribulation

(Deut. 4:26-31; Isa. 13:6-13; 17:4-11; Jer. 30:4-11; Ezek. 20:33-38; Dan. 9:27; 12:1; Zech. 14:1-4; Matt. 24:9-31).

This time period begins with a covenant between Israel and the Antichrist (Dan. 9:27). The length of the Tribulation is seven years long, described in a variety of ways as “one seven” year block (Dan. 9:27), consisting of two “times, time and half a

time” (two years + 1 year + half a year; Rev. 12:14), or two “1260 days” periods (Rev. 11:3), or two “42 month” periods (Rev. 11:2; 13:5).

F) Jesus Will Return Again to Earth

(Zech. 14:1-21; Matt. 24:29-31; Mk. 13:24-27; Lk. 21:25-27; Rev. 19).

(Mat. 19:28; 25:31; Acts 1:3-6; Rev. 2:26-27; 3:21)

G) The Bible Teaches About a Rapture

1 Thessalonians 4:17 speaks of an event called “the Rapture”, Latin “rapio,” Greek “harpazo,” which means “to catch up, to snatch away, or to take out.” “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.

1) The Bible describes the Rapture and Second Coming as different events.

Rapture — believers meet Christ in the air

Second Coming — Christ returns to the Mount of Olives to meet the believers on earth

Rapture — Mount of Olives is unchanged

Second Coming — Mount of Olives is divided, forming a valley east of Jerusalem

Rapture — living believers obtain glorified bodies

Second Coming — living believers remain in same bodies

Rapture — believers go to heaven

Second Coming — glorified believers come from heaven, earthly believers stay on earth

Rapture — world left unjudged and living in sin

Second Coming — world is judged and righteousness is established

Rapture — depicts deliverance of the Church from wrath

Second Coming — depicts deliverance of believers who endured wrath

Rapture — no signs precede it

Second Coming — many signs precede it

Rapture — revealed only in New Testament

Second Coming — revealed in both Old and New Testaments

Rapture — deals with only the saved

Second Coming — deals with both the saved and unsaved

Rapture — Satan remains free

Second Coming — Satan is bound and thrown into the Abyss

2) The Rapture is described as occurring at any time without warning.

3) The Rapture and the removal of the “Restrainer” occur at the same time.

4) The Tribulation is for Israel’s redemption.

Jeremiah 30:7 describes the Tribulation as the “time of Jacob’s trouble” — “How awful that day will be! None will be like it. It will be a time of trouble for Jacob, but he will be saved out of it.”

5) The Tribulation is not for the Church.

7) The Old Testament and Revelation leave the Church out of the Tribulation.

8) The Church is busy elsewhere during the Tribulation.