

After The Tribulation

The word "Rapture" is not actually used in the Bible. It comes from the Latin word "rapturo", that is derived from the Greek verb for "caught up" found in 1 Thessalonians 4:17. The concept of the Rapture is clearly taught in scripture; what is disputed is the **timing** of it. It is very clear in Matthew 24:29-31 that the Rapture happens **AFTER** the Tribulation, **NOT** before it.



"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 they shall see the Son of man coming in the **clouds of heaven** with power and great glory. 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)

Take note that the Elect are gathered from the "Four Winds", which means that we will be gathered in the "Air". This corresponds to the description of the Rapture given by the Apostle Paul in 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17, which also mentions an angel, a trumpet, Jesus descending from Heaven. These tie the passages together.

"For the Lord himself shall **descend from heaven** with a shout, with the voice of the **archangel**, and with the **trump** of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first. 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)

This passage is obviously not describing a "Secret Rapture" as it is often called. This is a very noisy and dramatic event. There is a perfect parallel

between the events of Matthew 24:29-31 and 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17. Pre-trib teachers say that these two descriptions are so different that they must be two completely different events, but that is not the case. They are two different descriptions of **one event**; one adds details that the other doesn't mention. Jesus is describing His return, and Paul is focused on us rising up to meet Him.

Any differences that are perceived are based on unfounded assumptions, not on the facts that we are actually given. Nothing is contradictory or mutually exclusive between the two verses.



Tribulation Martyrs in the Rapture

Revelation 20:4-5 indicates that the saints **martyred in the Great Tribulation** will be in the **First Resurrection**, which means that the First Resurrection is after the Great Tribulation. If it's the **First Resurrection** there cannot be another one before it. We just read in 1Thessalonians 4:16 that the Rapture happens immediately **after** the Resurrection. Therefore the Rapture has to be **after** the tribulation also!

"4 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 worshipped 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. 5 But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. **This is the first resurrection.**"

Is the Last Trumpet the Last one?

Scripture tells us that the Rapture, and the Resurrection of the dead in Christ, will happen at the Last Trumpet call. If it's the **LAST** one, then there cannot be another one after it.



1 Corinthians 15:52 "In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed."

We just read in Matthew 24:31 a description of the Second Coming of Christ, which the Pre-trib teachers say is seven years after the Rapture. If the **LAST Trumpet call** was blown at the Rapture, how can there be a **trumpet blown at the Second Coming** seven years later?

The only way this can make any sense is if the Trumpet in Matthew 24 is the same Trumpet mentioned in 1st Corinthians 15, which means that both the Last Trumpet call and the Rapture have to happen after the Great Tribulation.

These verses above make a Pre-trib Rapture impossible. It would require there to be another Trumpet call **AFTER the LAST one** and another Resurrection **BEFORE the FIRST one**. Our God is not a God of confusion. We must read the Bible for what it says and not read into it what we would prefer it to say.

A Very Popular Doctrine

The concept of a Pre-Tribulation Rapture did not exist before the 1800s, but it has become very popular probably due to fear and wishful thinking. It's so popular with authors, teachers and TV ministers that many people aren't even aware that there's any other interpretation!

The Pre-Trib Rapture may possibly be a Satanic deception to make Christians unprepared for the coming persecution (Daniel 7:21-22, Revelation 12:10-12, 13:7, Matthew 24:9, 21).

The Great Tribulation is NOT God's wrath. It is the wrath of Satan (Rev 12:12, Rev 13:7). It is simply Christian persecution on a global scale. God's wrath is called the "Day of the Lord", it is the plagues that God will pour out on this world for persecuting Christians. God will protect true Christians from His wrath just like He protected the Israelites from the plagues in Egypt.

The Furnace of Fire



Do you remember the story in the Bible about the three men in the furnace of fire? (Daniel chapter 3) They were **IN THE FIRE**, and The Son of God was **IN THE FIRE WITH THEM!**

The Church may have to experience a time of testing in the "wilderness" similar to what the Israelites had, but we should never be afraid. Jesus promised us, "I am with you always, even till the end of the age." (Matthew 28:20)

God will give us the Grace we need to endure whatever is coming.

Daniel tells us that in the Last Days that "The people that know their God will be strong and do exploits" (Daniel 11:31). This may also be the time of the "Latter Rain" prophecy, which is believed to be a great outpouring of the Holy Spirit (Joel 2:23, Hosea 6:2-3, James 5:7).

What can we do to prepare ourselves?

There seems to be a precedent in Scripture for people to flee and/or hide during times of trouble (Zeph. 2:3, Isaiah 26:20, Mat. 10:23, 13:14, 24:15-20, Rev.12:6, 14, 17). You might want to stock up on nonperishable food and bottled water, or have some camping gear and a survival guide in case you have to flee and forage for food.



There is nothing wrong with preparing for hard times, as long as you aren't putting your faith in those preparations. But our eternal destiny is far more important than mere physical survival.

Make sure you are truly saved by the blood of Jesus Christ. Ask Jesus Christ to come into your heart and be Your Lord and personal Savior, and place your trust in Him alone. Spend time in Prayer and Bible study. This world is not our home, we are only passing through. Do not get caught up in the things of this world and do **not** take the "Mark of the Beast", **no matter what** (Rev. 13:16-18, 14:9-11). The Lord died for us; the least we can do is live our lives for Him.

This Tract was written and published by www.truthseekerministries.org

If you have questions or comments about this doctrine, or about the Bible and the Gospel of Jesus Christ, please contact us!

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NOT TO BE SOLD

The Pre-Tribulation Rapture is NOT in the Bible!



Many sincere Christians believe in a popular doctrine called the Pre-Tribulation Rapture. They believe that Jesus Christ will return to Earth to remove the Christians before the prophesied Great Tribulation begins. And then return again with them seven years later to establish His Kingdom.

There is in fact not a single verse anywhere in the Bible that says that the Rapture will happen before the Great Tribulation. Nowhere in the Bible does it even say that the Rapture will happen in secret, or that the Second Coming of Christ will be in two parts. People are reading something INTO Scripture that isn't really there.

We should never embrace a doctrine that is not explicitly stated in Scripture. A basic principle of Bible interpretation says that every doctrine should have a foundation of at least two verses. Even this principle is repeated in scripture. But with the "Pre-Trib" Rapture, we don't have **ANY verses** and we are told that we don't need any.