

A GRIPPING REVELATION THAT WILL  
LEAVE YOU ON THE EDGE OF YOUR SEAT.

# THE RAPTURE

WILL IT HAPPEN

BEFORE, MIDWAY

OR AFTER THE

TRIBULATION?

COMPILED BY

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**GLOFIRE**  
GLOBAL CONVENTION ON FINAL REVIVAL

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# THE RAPTURE

## Will it Happen Before, Midway Or? After the Tribulation?

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Not for Sale



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Except where expressly stated, all scriptures are from both the NIV and ESV

Heavenly Father, we thank You for giving us this opportunity to share your Truth with your people. We cover every reader by the precious blood of Jesus Christ. We declare an open heart to each person who reads this book. We decree that all our readers will have an encounter with the Holy Spirit and that He will lead them into all truths, even as no lie is of the Truth. In the Mighty Name of our Lord Jesus Christ we pray.  
Amen

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## Chapter 1: Preamble

What started out as a simple Facebook post slowly morphed into a book! We have taken time (about two months), to put this report by considering pertinent scriptures and views, and most importantly, we had to fast and pray for God's wisdom before writing and sharing. To date, we recognize that this has been one daunting task we have had to get done.

We are cognizant of the fact that the timings of rapture in relation to the onset and progression of tribulation have been one of the most divisive thorny subjects among theologians and Christians at large. Definitely, its not something we can afford to shy away from, and by way of this book we are also adding our voice on the true Biblical position as children who have been trained in right doctrine.

Differing viewpoints exist about the exact timing of the rapture, whether it will happen before (pre-tribulation), middle (mid-tribulation) or after the tribulation (post-tribulation) and in some instances, it is wondered whether Christ's return will occur in one event or two. It's written in Hosea 4:6, that my people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Certainly, we don't want to be those that are destroyed, but among those that know the Truth and are delivered.

We may have backgrounds, spanning years under various ministries and churches, and one way or another, we ascribe to some version of rapture, in relation to the tribulation. Certainly, those tenets have edged into our belief system, and at times we have built defenses around them against anyone with a contrary opinion. But we encourage you to set them aside, whatever you have previously been taught about the rapture and tribulation, and go with us on a journey of deep biblical study and exposition.

Only then, will you be convinced or doubt the veracity of some of the beliefs you have had about this great eschatological event. We understand, it's not easy, but again, you need to go deeper to appreciate the scholarship that comes with an impartial examination of what the scriptures say about it. Remember Proverbs 14:12 that, *there is a way that looketh right in the sight of man but the end of it is death*. You need to be sure, that indeed you are on the right way

Our fidelity is to the sanctity of the inerrant scripture and we encourage you to read through with an open mind and justly judge the validity of the arguments made therein.

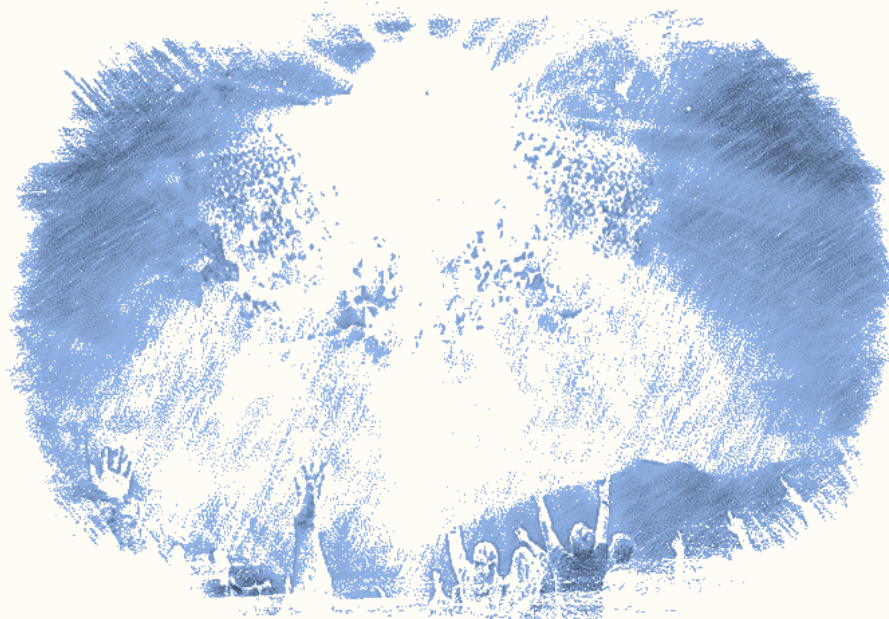
We are not trying to impose our views on you, but rather inviting you to consider critically the positions held on this crucial topic of rapture. We also encourage you to share your views and interpretations via our email [revival@gofire..org](mailto:revival@gofire..org) and we shall do our best to respond to as many as we can , as the Holy Spirit leads us.

It's our prayer that as your spare time to read what is written therein, the Holy Spirit shall rest upon your mind to arrest any doubts and convict you of the Truth, even as no lie can is of the Truth! Amen!



## Chapter 2: The Genesis of 'Rapture'

The rapture is an eschatological end-time event when all Christian believers who are alive, along with resurrected believers, will rise *"in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air."* (1 Thessalonians 4:17).



Apostle Paul's First Epistle to the Thessalonians in the Bible, uses the Greek word *harpazo* (Ancient Greek: *ἁρπάζω*), meaning "to snatch away" or "to seize," and explains that believers in Jesus Christ will be snatched away from earth into the clouds to meet with the Lord.

Whereas Bible translations do not explicitly use the term, it is widely used among Christians. Rapture has been used to refer to a mystical union with God resulting in eternal life in Heaven.'

Therefore, the exact word ‘Rapture’, isn’t directly mentioned in the scriptures, but its derived from the words ‘snatch away or ‘caught up’ in 1 Thessalonians 4:17. On the contrary, the word that is used explicitly in the scripture is Christ’s ‘Second Coming’.

Historically, the ‘rapture’ word has been unknown for nearly 1800 years since the inception of the church. Its genesis can be traced to the counter reformation wave in the 16<sup>th</sup> century Rome at the time when Martin Luther had nailed the 95-page thesis on the Wittenberg church door on the October 31, 1517. As a counter move, the Papacy at the time delegated three Jesuit Priests to provide an alternative interpretation of Daniel’s 70 Weeks of Prophecy (which we have dealt with in a separate chapter), the books of Revelation and Ezekiel.

The aim of this reinterpretation of the three books, was to dampen the wave of reform which was sweeping Rome at the time, and deflate the increasingly popular protestant movement which were linking the antichrist to the Papacy. The names of the three priests were:

- i. Francisco Ribera (1537-1591) of Salamanca,
- ii. Luis de Alcazar (1554-1621) of Seville, and
- iii. Cardinal Roberto Bellarmine (1542-1621)

The outcome was a ‘futurism doctrine’ which gave birth and impetus to the term ‘rapture’ in 1585. Francisco Ribera *Apocalyptic Commentary* was on the grand points of Babylon and the Anti-Christ which are now known as the rapture doctrine<sup>1</sup>. Ribera’s published work was called “*In Sacram Beati Ionnis Apostoli & Evangelistate Apocoalypsin Commentari*” (Lugduni 1593)<sup>2</sup>. These writings can still be found in the Bodleian Library in Oxford England. The Pope ordered that works be hidden in archives because it was considered faulty. And for over 200 years, little was known

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<sup>1</sup> <https://preachersinstitute.com/2011/05/20/rapture-theologys-ominous-origins/>

<sup>2</sup> <http://orthochristian.com/46653.html>

about the writings, after Dr. Maitland was appointed as the Keeper of the Manuscripts. When stumbled upon the writings, republished it in 1826, with subsequent publications in 1829 and 1830

This were advanced together with the Oxford Tracts in 1833 to try and delegitimize the Church of England at the time:

*John Nelson Darby (1800-1882) (A Leader of the Plymouth Brethren) became a follower of S.R. Maitland's prophetic endeavors and was persuaded. Darby's influence in the seminaries of Europe combined with 7 tours of the United States changed the eschatological view of the ministers which had the trickle-down effect into the churches<sup>3</sup>*

Another contributor to the pre-tribulation rapture ideology was through Emmanuel Lacunza (1731-1801), a Jesuit priest from Chile. Lacunza wrote the “*Coming of Messiah in Glory and Majesty*” around 1791. It was later published in London in 1827. Lacunza propounded that only those who have partaken of the Eucharist sacrament will take part in the ‘rapture’.

Edward Irving who lived between 1792 and 1834 also concurred that it was as a result of the writings of a converted Jew and further proved that Jewish scholars believed in a pre-tribulation rapture, which gave birth to the Irvingites.

Now, in 1830, a young Scottish girl called Margaret MacDonald went into a trance and shared her ‘visions’ and ‘prophecies’ which stated that **Christ’s return will be in two instances, not just one.** According to Margaret, in the first instance resurrection event, Christ coming will only be visible to the righteous Christians, while in the second instance, His coming will be to mete out judgement on the unrighteous. Robert Norton published Margaret’s visions and prophecies in a book entitled, “*The*

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<sup>3</sup> <http://orthochristian.com/46653.html>

*Restoration of Apostles and Prophets in the Catholic Apostolic Church*" (London, 1861)<sup>4</sup>.

This same doctrine was promoted by Irving too, claiming that he also heard a voice from Heaven commanding him to teach the pre-tribulation rapture doctrine.

But chaos would ensue in Irving services because of supposed manifestations of these spiritual gifts', causing him to be de-whipped by the Church of Scotland in 1832. This led to the formation of the 'Catholic Apostolic Church (The Catholic Apostolic Church was a religious movement which originated in England around 1831 and later spread to Germany and the United States.) which is still in existence to this day.

This doctrine grew exponentially and become the foundation of modern-day Pentecostalism. It's proved on the basis of plausible evidence, that John Nelson Darby (the father of modern dispensationalism) met with Margaret during her ecstatic episodes, and consequentially, he started teaching the pre-tribulation rapture, which legitimized it. This same belief was embraced by the Plymouth Brethren (The Plymouth Brethren or Assemblies of brethren are a conservative, low church, non-conformist, evangelical Christian movement whose history can be traced to Dublin, Ireland, in the late 1820s, originating from Anglicanism).

Nelson Darby teachings were adopted by Cyrus Ingerson Scofield, who lived between 1843 and 1921, who later incorporated them into the Scofield Reference Bible in 1909. This reference or study bible has been heralded among evangelicals as the 'Book of books', and continues to advance a pre-tribulation rapture view to this day.

The belief in pre-tribulation rapture is so common today, and well embraced by evangelicals and fundamentalists, so much so that most Christians believe it originates from the teachings of apostles. But does sound Biblical doctrine support this view? We set out on a scriptural analysis in the subsequent chapters to understand.

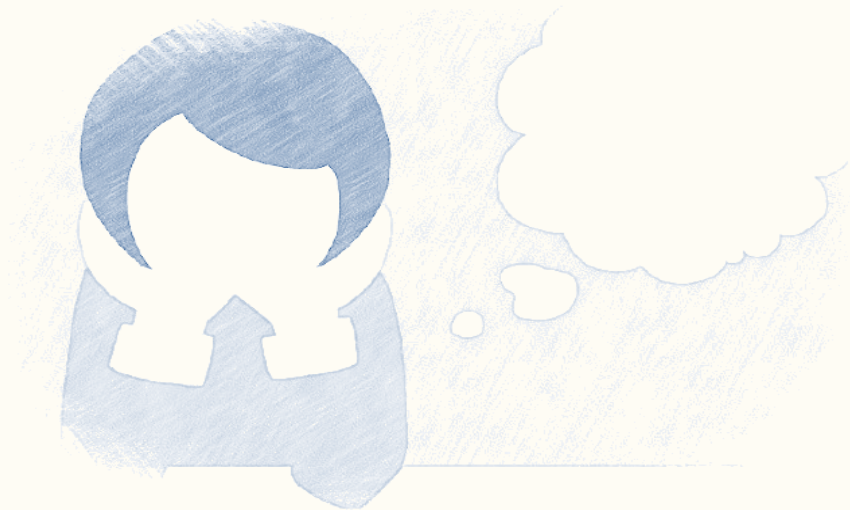
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[https://books.google.co.ke/books/about/The\\_Restoration\\_of\\_Apostles\\_and\\_Prophets.html?id=NTUD3GdIvgYC&redir\\_esc=y](https://books.google.co.ke/books/about/The_Restoration_of_Apostles_and_Prophets.html?id=NTUD3GdIvgYC&redir_esc=y)

## Chapter 3: Three Rapture Dispensation Views

Let's start off by exploring and presenting the three major theories or views on the timing of rapture in relation to the Tribulation. Nearly every ministry tends to ascribe to one of the three. Here we describe what each dispensation view entails, but later on, we shall do a thorough scrutiny of scripture fronted each.



### 3.1 Pre-Tribulation Rapture

**P**retribulationism distinguishes the rapture from the second coming of Jesus Christ to earth, mentioned in the Gospel of Matthew, 2 Thessalonians, and the book of Revelation.

This view holds that the rapture will precede the seven-year Tribulation, which will culminate in Christ's second coming and be followed by a thousand-year Messianic Kingdom.

Adherents of this perspective are referred to as pre-tribulation rapture dispensationalists which alludes to the idea that believers in Christ will not suffer great tribulation.

There are also differing views among Christians regarding the aerial gathering described in 1 Thessalonians 4. The majority of broadly Christian and mainline churches do not subscribe to pretribulation views. Catholics, Eastern Orthodox, Anglicans, Episcopalians, Lutherans, Presbyterians, United Methodists, the United Church of Christ, and most Reformed Christians do not generally use rapture as a specific theological term, nor do they generally subscribe to the pre-tribulation dispensational views associated with its use.

By and large, pre-tribulation rapture adherents typically interpret rapture in the sense of the elect gathering with Christ in Heaven after His second coming and reject the idea that a large segment of humanity will be left behind on earth for an extended tribulation period after the events of 1 Thessalonians 4:17. This is the widely held perspective among many Christians today.

### **3.2 Mid-tribulation Rapture**

The mid-tribulation position espouses that the rapture will occur at some point in the middle of what is popularly called the tribulation period, or midway in Daniel's 70th Week.

The tribulation is typically divided into two equal periods of three and half years each and we shall see several references on the same as we progress.

Mid-tribulationists hold that the saints will go through the first period (Beginning of Travail), but will be raptured into Heaven before the severe outpouring of God's wrath in the second half of what is popularly called the great tribulation.

Mid-tribulationists quote Daniel 7:25 which states the saints will be given over to tribulation for "time, times, and half a time," - interpreted to mean 3.5 years.

At the halfway point of the tribulation, the Antichrist will commit the "abomination of desolation" by desecrating the temple in Jerusalem. This position is a minority view among pre-tribulation believers compared to pre-tribulation millennialists.

### **3.3 Post-Tribulation Rapture**

This view also places the rapture at some point during the tribulation period before the second coming.

This view holds that the tribulation of the church begins toward the latter part of a seven-year period, being Daniel's 70th week, when the Antichrist is revealed in the temple.

This latter half of a seven-year period [i.e. 3 1/2 years] is defined as the great tribulation, although the exact duration is not known.

References from Matthew 24, Mark 13, and Luke 21 are used as evidence that this tribulation will be cut short by the coming of Christ to deliver the righteous by means of the rapture, which will occur after specific events in Revelation, in particular after the sixth seal is opened and the sun is darkened and the moon is turned to blood.

This view says that the rapture or the second coming can only happen, after the Tribulation



## Chapter 4: Exegesis of Scriptures on Rapture



The three rapture dispensations highlight complete lack of unanimity on this most crucial eschatological event. But is the bible divided as well.

Indeed, the majority believe in pre-tribulation rapture, some in mid-tribulation rapture and others in post-tribulation rapture. Something worth noting is that, there are also those who believe in Post-millennial rapture, but that is not something we wish to delve into right now, because a casual look at the scriptures proves that it's neither here nor there.

Let's start off our exegesis by looking at Paul's letter in the book of 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12:

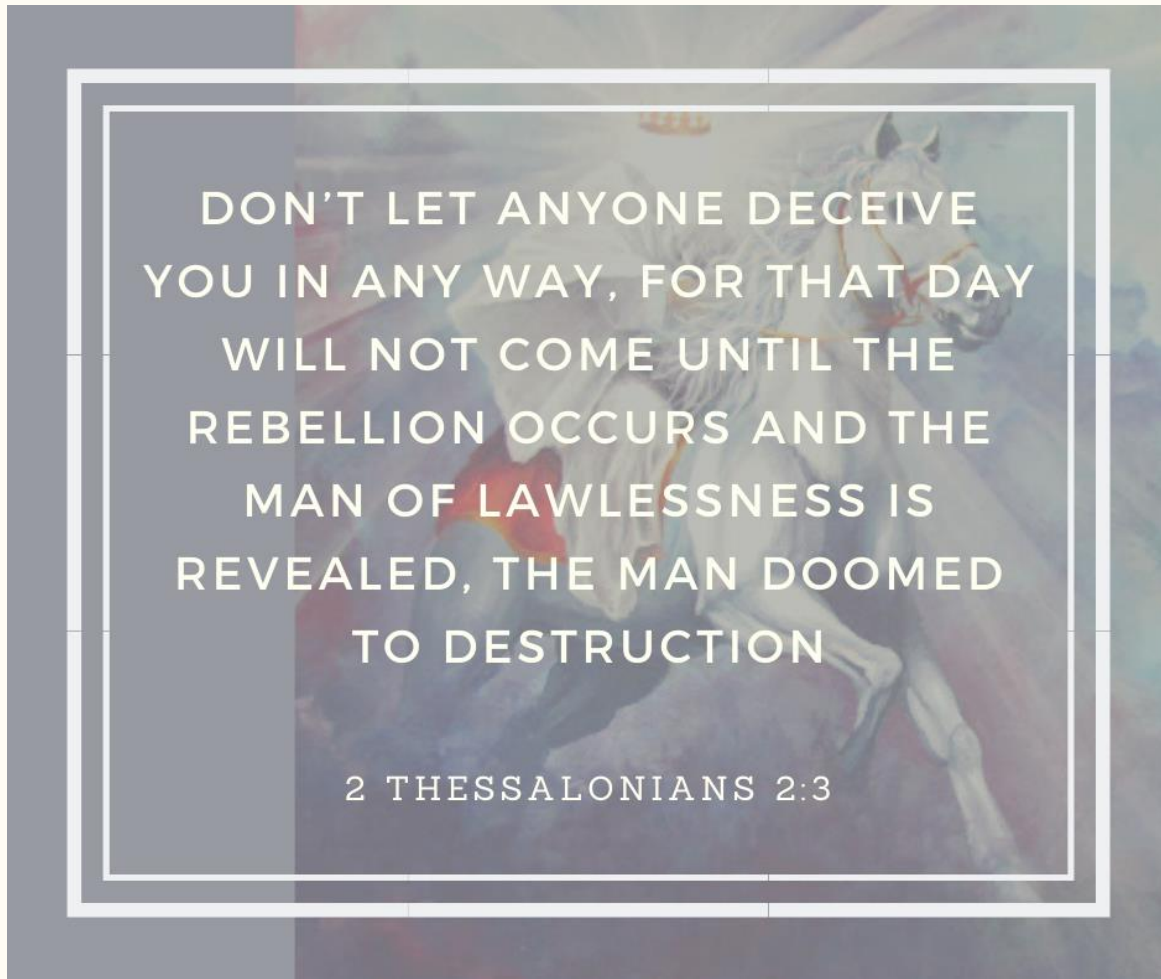


*“CONCERNING THE COMING OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST and our being gathered to him, we ask you, brothers and sisters, not to become easily unsettled or alarmed by the teaching allegedly from us—whether by a prophecy or by word of mouth or by letter—asserting that the day of the Lord has already come. Don’t let anyone deceive you in any way, FOR THAT DAY WILL NOT COME UNTIL THE REBELLION OCCURS AND THE MAN OF LAWLESSNESS IS REVEALED, THE MAN DOOMED TO DESTRUCTION. He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God’s temple, proclaiming himself to be God. Don’t you remember that when I was with you I used to tell you these things?”*

We see here that even Paul understood that there was so much confusion about the timing of rapture in relation to the tribulation, by underscoring the fact that there were varied claims seeking to sow confusion about this great impending eschatological event.

And these claims and teachings were made either by ‘prophecy’ or ‘letter’. Today, we could as well add to that ‘books, sermons, documentaries, videos’, with each purporting to be speaking the Truth.

From the onset, Paul’s letter attempts to counter the wrong claims about the coming of the Lord, Paul reiterating to the church in Thessalonica (because previously he had addressed the topic when he was with them in person), by asserting that the rapture “*will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed*”. Isn’t that explicit enough?



Rebellion is apostasy , which in our context will be a formal abandonment of, or renunciation of one's faith in Christ. Indeed in our day and time, we are witnessing a growing rebellion against Christianity, but this is nothing comparable to the apostasy which will be witnessed when Christians are persecuted on a massive and sustained scale.

With an education system that glorifies the Big-bang theory and Darwinian principle of evolution, esteeming science over the power of God, we are living in a generation that will not hesitate to take the mark. And the common argument is , science is 'factual' and 'empirical' whereas the existence of God cannot be 'proved', despite the fact that what can be known about Him is clearly demonstrated in the work of creation. Because this will be a literal mark, without which one cannot buy or sell, most will

ignorantly take it. But Christians with understanding, will resist, swiftly inviting the persecution from the antichrist as stated in Revelation 13 and Daniel 7.

A lot of what is happening in our world today is certainly contributing to or laying the foundation for massive apostasy which will soon be witnessed during the time of tribulation, though what we are witnessing today doesn't compare to what will happen during the times of the great tribulation.

Let's look at the second part of that scripture: *'the man of lawlessness is revealed'*.

We understand even now the work of the lawless one is at work, but Him who holds the antichrist, will do so until the appointed time.

As much as Paul expressly stated this as something that must happen before the Second Coming of the Lord, most people who believe in pre-tribulation rapture, either haven't given it due consideration or deliberately ignore it.

According to Paul, one of the key pointers to the occurrence of the rapture lies in *'revelation of the man of lawlessness'*, because until he is revealed, there will be no gathering, or being caught up.

To gain a better understanding, we shall go on a journey of combing through scriptures to reveal some intricate details especially on how this 'revealing' plays out in relation to the Tribulation.

The scriptures are awash with numerous incidents which are key pointers to the revealing of the son of perdition. However, we can all agree that Jesus makes a reference to this man of lawlessness using another term 'abomination that causes desolation, in Matthew 24:15

*“So when you see standing in the holy place 'the abomination that causes desolation,' spoken of through the prophet Daniel--let the reader understand.”*

Certainly the “abomination that causes desolation” is one way that reveals the man of lawlessness. To understand the abomination that causes desolation, let's go to the Book of Daniel Chapter 9 to see how this will play out.

Daniel's seventy weeks of prophecy provides the necessary foundational timeline of events leading up to the consummation of time, and anyone interested in eschatological subjects, certainly has to understand it.

## Chapter 5: Daniel's Seventy Weeks of Years Prophecy

*Blessed is he who waits and comes to the  
thousand three hundred and thirty-five days. ~ Daniel 12:12*



Nebuchadnezzar II defeated Egypt at the Battle of Carchemish in 605 BCE and established Babylon as the dominant regional power, with significant consequences for the southern kingdom of Judah.

Following a revolt in 597 BCE, Nebuchadnezzar removed Judah's king, Jehoiachin; and after a second revolt in 586 BCE, he destroyed the city of Jerusalem along with the Temple of Solomon, carrying away much of the population to Babylon. Accordingly, the subsequent period from 586 BCE to 538 BCE is known as the Babylonian exile.

*“In the first year of Darius son of Xerxes (a Mede by descent), who was made ruler over the Babylonian kingdom— in the first year of his reign, I, Daniel, understood from the Scriptures, according to the word of the Lord given to Jeremiah the prophet, that the desolation of Jerusalem would last seventy years. So I turned to the Lord God and pleaded with him in prayer and petition, in fasting, and in sackcloth and ashes “ ~ Daniel 9:1-3 .*

Daniel sought God to understand the seventy weeks of years as delivered to Prophet Jeremiah. Historically, this is happening at the dusk of the Babylonian kingdom, Belshazzar is dead, and the Medes and Persians have taken over the entire territory. These were perilous times for Daniel, his friends and the Jews then, even as they approached the end of the Babylonian 70 years in exile which had been prophesied by Jeremiah in 25:11.

*“This whole country will become a desolate wasteland, and these nations will serve the king of Babylon seventy years.”*

Some translations like NIV call this ‘seventy sevens.’ Daniel took this matter before God in prayer through intercession. The Angel Gabriel was dispatched by God to come and make Daniel understand the time, seasons and events denoted by the seventy weeks of years. Specifically, we find this revelation by reading on in Daniel 9: 24-27

*“Seventy ‘sevens’ are decreed for your people and your holy city to finish transgression, to put an end to sin, to atone for wickedness, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the Most Holy Place. “Know and understand this: From the time the word goes out to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until the Anointed One, the ruler, comes, there will be seven ‘sevens,’ and sixty-two ‘sevens.’ It will be rebuilt with streets and a trench, but in times of trouble. After the sixty-two ‘sevens,’ the Anointed One will be put to death and will have nothing. The people of the ruler who will come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end will come like a flood: War will continue until the end, and*

*desolations have been decreed. He will confirm a covenant with many for one 'seven.' In the middle of the 'seven' he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And at the temple he will set up an abomination that causes desolation, until the end that is decreed is poured out on him.*

Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah lived through this difficult time of Babylonian exile, probably something that drove them to seek God to try and understand when they will return to their homeland.

Daniel prays to God following the defeat of the Babylonian kingdom precisely because Jeremiah's seventy years of exile have been completed and God promised through the prophet that he would respond to such prayers at this time.

But as you can see the message from the Angel Gabriel , it is apparent that the seventy sevens which were declared to Prophet Jeremiah were not just about talking about the end of captivity of the Israelites in the hands of Babylonians, but it was a veiled premonition of events which would end up in bringing about 'everlasting righteousness' to accomplish every vision and prophecy, and bring the world to an end.





It goes without saying that the seventy weeks of years outlined God's plan to bring in everlasting righteousness and Daniel's prayer cast light on the hidden details. What an interpretation!

Let take a keener look at the times and events as postulated in Daniel Chapter 9, because therein, lies the intricate details which may provide valuable pointers on the coming rapture and tribulation. By now we know and understand that we have but one Jesus Christ who is the everlasting God, who atones for our sins and reconciles us to God the Father. When Daniel is talking about everlasting righteousness, he can't be making reference to anyone else!

According to Isaiah 9:6-7, the government is on His shoulders, He is the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace, He has established the everlasting Kingdom upholding it by justice and righteousness.



## 5.1 Interpreting Daniel's Seventy Weeks of Years Prophecy

It is a clear interpretation that Daniel 9 is a messianic prophecy foretelling the coming of Jesus Christ, His crucifixion, rise of Antichrist and the coming tribulation. To understand the literal time denoted by 70 sevens, let's look for some valuable clues.

Ezekiel is told to lie on his side 390 plus 40 days --- "a day for each year."

Armed with that interpretation from Ezekiel 4:4-6 interpretation, , a day for a year, we deduce that the seventy sevens have a total of 70 weeks totaling 490 years.

The seventy "weeks" of years are divided into three periods of time: a seven-week period spanning forty-nine years, a sixty-two-week period spanning 434 years, and a final period of one week spanning seven years.

### *5.1.1 First Period of 7+62 Weeks: The Decree to Rebuild Jerusalem to the Coming of the Messiah*

The first period of seven weeks begins with the departure of a "word" to rebuild Jerusalem and ends with the arrival of an "anointed prince" (verse 25a).

This "word" to rebuild Jerusalem has generally been taken to refer to three possible candidates suggested by biblical scholars: (i) the edict of Cyrus in 539/8 BCE, (ii) the decree of Artaxerxes I in 458/7 BCE, (iii) and the warrant given to Nehemiah in 445/4 BCE.

#### 5.1.1.1 The edict of Cyrus in 539/8 BCE

A period of 483 years starting from 539/8 would place the coming of Jesus at anywhere near 56/5 BCE

#### 5.1.1.2 The decree of Artaxerxes I in 458/7 BCE

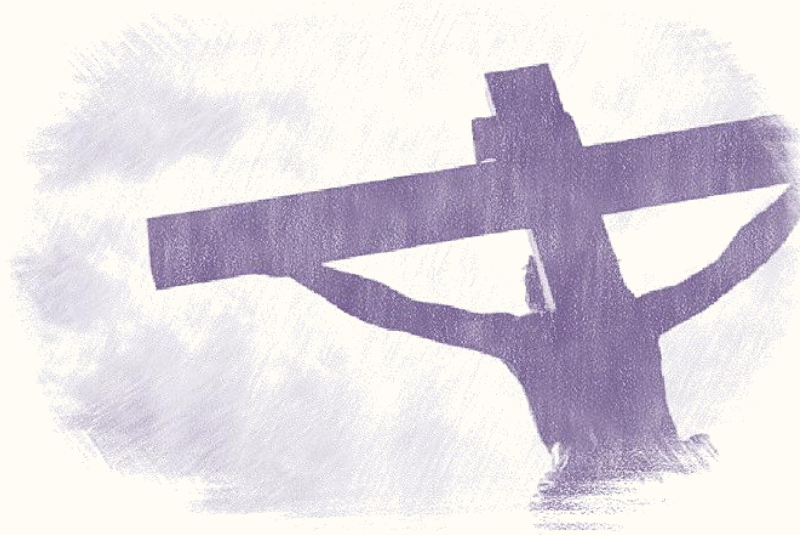
69 weeks (483 years) beginning with the decree given to Ezra by Artaxerxes I in 458/7 BCE (the terminus a quo) and ending at 25/26 AD

#### 5.1.1.3 The warrant given to Nehemiah in 445/4 BCE

483 years from 445/4 BCE would extend somewhat beyond the lifetime of Christ to 39/40 AD. Some interpretations reduce the period to 476 years by viewing them as 360-day "prophetic years" (or "Chaldee years" ), so-called on the basis that various biblical passages—such as Revelation 12:6, 14 (cf. Dan 7:25; 12:7)—appear to reckon time in this way in certain prophetic contexts. The sixty-nine weeks of "prophetic" years are then considered to terminate with the death of Christ in 32/3 AD.

But we don't want to be trapped into making a claim with regard to which among these decrees was the exact reference made in Daniel 9:25.

One thing that emerges, all these decrees point to a probable ' period' of time in which the Messiah did come.



We are also cognizant of the fact that there is a lot of controversy on the exact year that Jesus was born and died. Our position is that such arguments are of no relevance, what matters is that He did come, and the fact that the Bible doesn't give a precise date and year, that shouldn't be something we want to delve into and investigate.

What we are seeking to demonstrate by these decrees and dates is just to give clues on the probable time ' period' , and without certainly affirming a specific year of occurrence.

That said, all these decrees tend to fall within a certain time period which is widely accepted theologically as the time in which the Messiah came and was crucified.

By extension, this lends credence to and validates the prophecy given by Daniel by Angel Gabriel.

It's worthy of scriptural acceptance that 69 weeks of years were accurately foretold to culminate with the coming and crucifixion of Jesus.

### *5.1.2 The Period between 69th and 70th Week: The Church Age*



The seventieth week is then separated from the sixty-ninth week by a long period of time known as the church age; hence, the seventieth week does not begin until the end of the church age, at which point the church will be ushered into the Tribulation period ( Daniel’s 70th week)

Apostle Paul quotes Isaiah 6:9-10 concerning the blindness of Israel, announcing that the salvation of God is sent to the Gentile world (Acts 28:28).

We are living in this dispensation of Grace, a time of manifestation of God’s power through Jesus Christ. This period has been going on for nearly 2000 years now. This is seen as creating a break of indeterminate length in the timeline, with one week remaining to be fulfilled.

Then I was given a reed like a measuring rod. And the angel stood, saying, “Rise and measure the temple of God, the altar, and those who worship there. 2 But

leave out the court which is outside the temple, and do not measure it, for it has been given to the Gentiles. And they will tread the holy city underfoot for forty-two months (Rev 11:1-2)

### *5.1.3 Daniel's Final 70th Week /The 7-Year Revelation Tribulation Period*

“He will confirm a covenant with many for one ‘seven”. **In the middle of the ‘seven’ he will put an end to sacrifice and offering.** And at the temple he will set up an abomination that causes desolation, until the end that is decreed is poured out on him” ~ Daniel 9:27

This seven-year period is considered to be the final week which completes the 70 weeks of Daniel's Prophecy of Seventy Weeks. It will be a time of tribulation, which Jesus says, had it not been shortened, no one would survive.

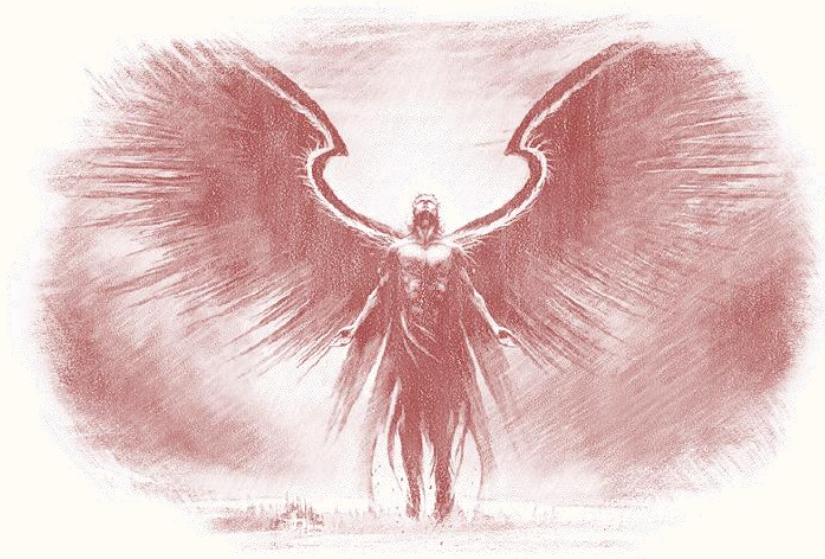
Tribulation is a period of time where people will experience worldwide hardships, disasters, famine, war, pain, and suffering, which will affect all of creation, and precede the second coming of Christ according to Mathew 24.

The time period is based on other passages: in the Book of Daniel, "time, times, and half a time", interpreted as "three and a half years," and the Book of Revelation, "a thousand two hundred and threescore days" and "forty and two months" (the prophetic month averaging 30 days, hence  $1260/30 = 42$  months or 3.5 years).

The 1290 days of Daniel 12:11, (rather than the 1260 days of Revelation 11:3), is thought to be the result of either a simple intercalary leap month adjustment, or due to further calculations related to the prophecy, or due to an intermediate stage of time that is to prepare the world for the beginning of the millennial reign.

## 5.2 The Abomination that Causes Desolation and the Resurrection

*“So when you see standing in the holy place ‘the abomination that causes desolation,’ spoken of through the prophet Daniel—let the reader understand ~ Matthew 24:15.*



Jesus reiterates the significance of this event as a prelude to His coming and it's imperative that we give it consideration in attempting to understand the timing of the rapture.

This is in reference to Daniel 9:27, which states:

*“He will confirm a covenant with many for one ‘seven.’ In the middle of the ‘seven’ he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And at the temple, he will set up an abomination that causes desolation, until the end that is decreed is poured out on him” Daniel 9:27*

The abomination that causes desolation happens midway in the 7 year tribulation. This pivotal catalytic event sets off the momentum for the final and worst 3 ½ years of tribulation, which has been christened as the Great Tribulation.

### *5.2.1 What Is The “Abomination That Makes Desolate”?*

The term “abomination” (Hebrew ‘toevah’ and ‘siqqus’) appears more than 100 times in the Old Testament and just a few times in the New Testament. An abomination is normally a great sin, commonly worthy of death.

More often throughout the Bible “abomination” refers to major covenant violations, especially idolatry (in Deuteronomy alone, see 7:25, 13:6-16, 17:2-5, 18:9-12, 27:15, 32:16).

Abomination also refers to idolatry in the prophets, including Daniel 9 and 11. (Daniel uses *siqqus*, a term that always appears in connection with idolatry.)

Abomination that makes desolate is the most egregious (horrifying /appalling/ atrocious ) form of idolatry. Idols are empty and therefore, Desolate and Yahweh refers to Idols using the word abomination to describe them.

The dictionary defines desolate as; ”barren, uninhabited, grim, bleak, depopulated, vacated, evacuated, unoccupied.”

The ‘abomination of desolation’, ‘abomination that makes desolate’, or ‘desolating sacrilege’, are terms found in the Book of Daniel and the Gospels of Matthew and Mark, which literally means "an abomination that causes a place to be uninhabited, vacated, " or "an abomination that depopulates.”



The word "abomination" is described in the dictionary as a "detestable act" or "detestable thing," and in both biblical and rabbinic Hebrew, is a familiar term for an idol, or pertains to idolatrous worship, and therefore may well have the same application in Daniel.

The key phrase from Matthew 24:15 and Mark 13:14 is "*when you **SEE** the abomination that maketh desolate, standing in the Holy Place*" is definitely a significant moment as far as APPEARANCE or REVEALING of "the man of lawlessness" is concerned as stated in 2 Thessalonians 2.

According to Daniel, the abomination of desolation will stand in the holy place in the middle of the Tribulation, preceding the final phase of the great tribulation.

And Jesus alludes to this keynote event as a profound moment in the identification of antichrist, which provides an indisputable clue to Christians to really know, identify and believe that indeed he is the antichrist, by specifically saying '*when you see...*'"

We understand that the spirit of lawlessness has been at work even today, but one of the well referenced unique events which will punctuate his presence, is the abomination that maketh desolate.

This is a definitive moment because it will catapult him to global prominence politically, economically and militarily by setting up a governmental structure possessing sweeping powers over worship and the affairs of humanity in the middle of the tribulation.

### *5.2.3 Abomination that Makes Desolate Happens Midway in the Tribulation*



The seven years of tribulations are separated into two halves ( 3 ½ years each). The second portion of 3 ½ years, is denoted as a time of the Great Tribulation.

Tribulation will last seven prophetic Hebrew years (lasting 360 days each) in all but the Great Tribulation will be the second half of the Tribulation period (see Matt 24:15 and Matt 24:21 showing the Great Tribulation is after the Abomination of Desolation, which marks the midpoint of the Tribulation period ( as also prophesied by Daniel 9: 27)

Perhaps to get a better understanding lets also read Daniel 12: 11-13

***From the time that the daily sacrifice is abolished and the abomination that causes desolation is set up, there will be 1,290 days. Blessed is the one who waits for and reaches the end of the 1,335 days. “As for you, go your way till the end. You will rest, and then at the end of the days you will rise to receive your allotted inheritance.***

Now this blends perfectly with Daniel 9:27, which states that in the middle of the Tribulation, the antichrist will put an end to sacrifice and offering ( worship of the True Messiah ), and from that time till the consummation of desolation ( idol worship), there will be 1290 days according to Daniel 12:11, which shall be the second part of the Tribulation that has been christened as the ‘Great Tribulation’. If you continue reading to verse 12, Daniel exhorts believers that you will be blessed to wait until the end of 1335 days, because its only then that the Lord shall appear. This ties up with Daniel’s account in 12:1

*At that time Michael, the great prince who protects your people, will arise. There **will be a time of distress such as has not happened from the beginning of nations until then.** But at that time your people—everyone whose name is found written in the book—will be delivered.*

Take note of '*at that time*'! Which time could this be? Of course, at the '*time of distress*, shall those whose names are found written in the book of life be delivered!'

#### *5.2.4 Summary of Daniel's Account in Relation to the Tribulation and Resurrection*

Therefore, when you tie all these accounts of Daniel up, we can state as follows:

- i. Daniel's 70<sup>th</sup> week will last 7 years, which has been christened as the time of tribulation
- ii. This will be time in which the antichrist will be revealed
- iii. The Tribulation will be a time of distress for the entire world but God's people will be delivered supernaturally, [ Daniel 12:1]
- iv. The Tribulation will be a peculiar event, because nothing like it has happened before and neither will anything like it ever happen again [ Daniel 12:1]. Jesus in Matthew 24:21 also makes reference to this time: *For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, and never will be.*
- v. That the antichrist will make war with the saints during the time of great tribulation Daniel 7:21 *As I watched, this horn was waging war against the holy people and defeating them.* Also in verse 25 Daniel says the Christians will be oppressed/persecuted: *He will speak against the Most High and **oppress his holy people** and try to change the set times and the laws. The holy people will be delivered into his hands for a time, times and half a time* That Jesus Christ will only deliver justice to the saints, after the Tribulation/oppression/persecution of saints in Daniel 7:22 *until the Ancient of Days came and pronounced judgment in favor of the holy people of the Most High, and the time came when they possessed the kingdom.* The Christians will possess the Kingdom and rule with Christ for 1000 years as stated in Revelation 20.

- vi. In the Middle of the Tribulation, the antichrist will stop sacrifices and offering (it will be a time setting up the sacrilegious abomination) [ Daniel 9:27)
- vii. From the time of stopping the sacrifices and offering to the end will be 3 ½ years, what has been termed as the time of Great Tribulation.
- viii. Daniel exhorts believers to be patient till the end of 1290 days, which is the end of the Great Tribulation, and for those that does keep their faith till then, he calls them 'blessed' [ Daniel 12: 11]
- ix. That only at that time of the Great Tribulation/Distress, there will be a resurrection of saints [ Daniel 12:1-2] . This also ties up with Daniel 12:12 which states that be a deliverance for the people of God at the end of 1290 days. This should be the resurrection of the saints as stated Daniel 12:2:  
*Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt.*

Therefore, we do not see any reference in Daniel alluding to the resurrection or deliverance of saints before the Tribulation.

## Chapter 6: When Will the Rapture Happen?

### 6.1 Does The Rapture Happen Midway in the Tribulation?



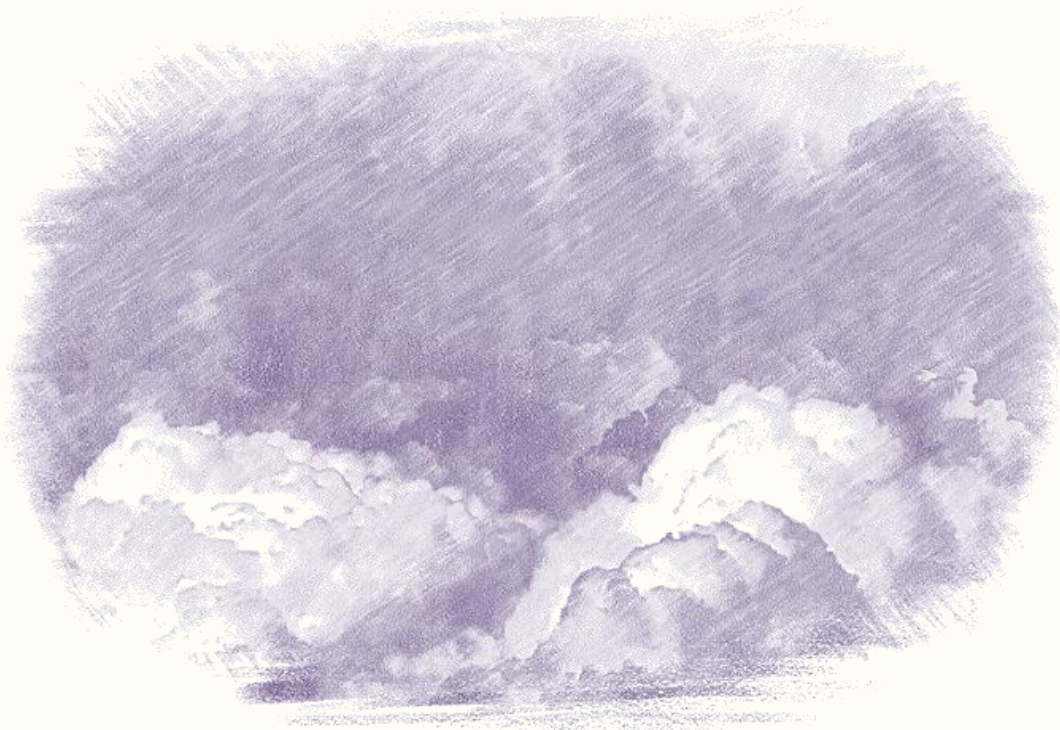
Will the rapture happen immediately after the abomination that makes desolate, which as we have discussed in the preceding section ?( that is, after the first portion of 3 ½ years). If so, then what will give much credibility to the middle-tribulation rapture view.

No doubt, the abomination that causes desolation is a significant revealing moment of the man of lawlessness as stated by Paul in 2 Thessalonians 2. Indeed we consider this as

one key revealing event for the man of lawlessness, further weakening a pre-tribulation rapture theory. As much as Paul did NOT specifically state that the rapture or Jesus' second coming will happen IMMEDIATELY after, it is certainly an important event preceding the coming of Christ. However, a singular reading of this scripture seems to affirm a mid-tribulation rapture view.

Perhaps to get a better understanding of when the second coming Christ can happen, we need to blend this up with other scriptural readings from Matthew 24: 29-31 and Revelation 20:4-5

## **6.2 Olivet Discourse: Jesus Outlines Events Preceding His Coming**



While Jesus was seated on the Mount Olives, the disciples were equally concerned about His Second Coming, imploring him: *“Tell us,” they said, “when will this happen, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?”* . Matthew 24: 3



Jesus proceeds to outline a SEQUENCE OF EVENTS which must happen before His return. Among them, were what he referred to as the beginning of sorrows ( floods, earthquakes, pestilences, false teachers and wars).

The discourse is followed by a highlight of Daniel's *Abomination of Desolation* ( which we have discussed in detail in the preceding sections). Jesus tells disciples that when we see this happen, let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, and let one who is on the housetop not go back to the house to take anything. In Verse 21:

*For then there will be GREAT TRIBULATION, such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, and never will be.*

To the disappointment of both pre-tribulation and mid-tribulation rapture adherents, Matthew 24: 29-31 deflates and deals a devastating blow to their dispensationalism views. Let's read the scripture while noting the use of the words " *Immediately after the tribulation of those days..*" and " *and*" *then shall appear the sign of Man in Heaven.*"

*"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 APPEAR 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."*

There are no two ways about it: that the second coming of Christ can only happen after the tribulation. To imagine that the Lord's coming will precede the Tribulation is at

worst a blatant ignorance of scripture and at best, heretical! If we were to sequence the pattern of events in Matthew 24, this is what we can come up with:

### Sequence of Events According to Jesus in Matthew 24

**Beginning of Sorrows** ( Matthew 24: 4-8)



**Falling Away** Matthew 24: 9-12 ( in agreement with 2 Thess. 2)



**Abomination that Makes Desolate**, from Matthew 24:15 onwards



**Great Tribulation** , Matthew 24:21-24



**The Second Coming of Christ**, Matthew 24:29-31

In Matthew 24: 13, *But the one who endures to the end will be saved.* ! In short, you have to endure the Tribulation to be saved, brethren.

And Joel 2:31 is in perfect agreement with Matthew 24 account, stating that before the coming of the ‘ Great and Awesome day’ of the Lord, “*the sun shall be turned to darkness, and the moon to blood*” something that is repeated in Revelation 6:12-13;

*When he opened the sixth seal, I looked, and behold, there was a great earthquake, and the sun became black as sackcloth, the full moon became like blood, and the stars of the sky fell to the earth as the fig tree sheds its winter fruit when shaken by a gale.*

So, unless we have seen the sun become black like sackcloth and the moon become blood, the ‘ Great and Awesome Day’ will not happen!

### **6.3 The First Resurrection Happens After Tribulation!**



Let's read Revelation 20:4-6



*I saw thrones on which were seated those who had been given authority to judge. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony about Jesus and because of the word of God. They had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ a thousand years. (The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended.) This is the **FIRST RESURRECTION**. Blessed and holy are those who share 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.*

Brethren, let all men be false and God be true! **The First Resurrection comes at the end of the seven year tribulation period.** This is the only resurrection which the scripture demonstrates that Christians will have truly overcome and forever they will live with God. Of course there will be a second resurrection, which happens at the end of 1000 years of Christ's literal rule here on earth.

*They had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ a thousand years. (The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended.) This is the **FIRST RESURRECTION**. Blessed and holy are those who share 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.*

REVELATION 20:4-6

“*The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended*” Revelation 20:5 . The rest (the sinners, because they were not found worthy in the sight of God to take part in the first resurrection), have to wait until the consummation of the millenium for them to come to life, to be judged at the Great White Throne Judgement in Revelation 20: 11-14

*Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. The earth and the heavens fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what they had done. Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. Anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire*

It goes without saying that if a Christian who is living today misses out on the first resurrection, then they will not be saved at the second resurrection, but what remains is the dreadful prospect of eternal destruction through the lake of fire. But for nations and people who will be born during the millenium, they will have a chance of being saved if they will be “*found written in the book of life*” , that is, if Revelation 20:15 is anything to go by.

To imagine that a Christian who is alive today will miss the rapture at the end of tribulation, and escape through the second resurrection at the end of the millenium, is an impossibility , if the readings are anything to go by. And the Bible notes that, blessed is anyone who shares in the first resurrection, for then, they have overcome the second death ( which is the eternal lake of fire coming at the end of the millenium).

## 6.4 Is Rapture Different from Christ's Second Coming?

This is a question we need to ask ourselves, and if these are two separate events. Whereas the scripture does not directly use the term 'rapture', its meaning has been deduced from the word "caught up" as found in the reading of 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18:

*For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be CAUGHT UP together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. Therefore encourage one another with these words.*

It is a resurrection event because it involves the coming to life of those who are dead, and the transitioning of us who are alive to eternity. For our mortal bodies shall put on immortality, the perishable shall be swallowed up in immortality according to 1 Corinthians 15:53-55.

We know that we have already been resurrected in our spirits by virtue of confessing our sins and putting on Christ. And Christ reigns in us until He has put all enemies under His feet. In 1 Corinthians 15: 26 *The last enemy to be destroyed is death*, which shall be swallowed up in the resurrection of the saints when they finally put on immortality. And in verse 49, *Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven* at His coming and forever shall we be with the Lord!

1 Thessalonians 4:15, states that:

*According to the Lord's word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep.*

These are encouraging words brethren.

Having determined that indeed Rapture is a resurrection event, and both (rapture and resurrection) implying one and the same thing, let's now see if indeed scripturally, they happen at separate times. Pre-tribulation rapture believers believe they are separate events.

In Revelation 18: 11-14, Jesus comes down from Heaven, riding on a White Horse, His eyes blazing with fire, His head with many crowns, along with the armies of Heaven, a fashion similar to what Paul states in 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18. From His mouth, He will smite the nations, the Beast was captured together with the False prophet, and thrown into the lake of fire.

Thereafter in Revelation 20:2-3 , the Devil is bound and locked up in the bottomless pit ( Remember, even today the devil moves out and about on earth and in hell, even going to Heaven to accuse the brethren according to Job). Just after he is locked, now we see souls come to life in Revelation 20: 4-6, in the **First Resurrection!**

From the foregoing scripture, if a rapture event demands that those who are asleep in Christ Jesus, proceed those who are alive, according to Revelation 20: 4-6 those who have fallen asleep, only come to life during the **First Resurrection** (which happens at the end of the 7-Year Tribulation) . Where does that leave those who believe in a pre-tribulation rapture, then? If indeed we had a rapture event before the tribulation, then certainly Revelation 20: 4-6 wouldn't be a First Resurrection as the Bible refers to it, on the contrary this will be a Second Resurrection event!

Therefore, this First Resurrection bears all the hallmarks of Rapture. If indeed another resurrection (rapture) had occurred before this one, then John would have rightly called this, the 'second resurrection'. But as it is, this is the First Resurrection, and it's happening at the end of the 7 Year Tribulation (only after the devil has been bound in chains), and right before we enter the 1000 years of Christ millennial rule.

Brethren, we have but one rapture /resurrection coming at the of the Tribulation.

We ask, what will be the end of Christians living today, who don't share in the First Resurrection? Your guess is right. Let God's Word be true and all men be false! Therefore, we encourage you to keep you faith and share in the first resurrection.

Be steadfast in the hour of trial, for having done everything, to stand before the Lord. Because if you miss the first resurrection, you will not miss out on the Great White Throne Judgement that happens at the end of the 1000 years of Christ's rule. We all understand that the rapture is a resurrection event, and the bible insists that only those who have been raptured in this event, will have really overcome the second death! According to Revelation 20, this is the only resurrection event for the Christians from the beginning of the world up to the end of Tribulation, and it does not happen until towards the end of the Tribulation, which now puts it in agreement with Matthew 24: 29-31

Remember in Revelation 6:9-11, the scripture says that when the fifth seal was opened, John saw souls under the altar who had been slain because of their faith and when they demanded justice, they were told to wait until the full number of their brethren is brought in, who were to be killed just like them. They have to wait patiently, until the Tribulation is past, and the wrath of God is concluded, then and only then, do we see them being resurrected in Revelation 20: 4-6, in the one and only First Resurrection for Christians who are alive today or if you like, the Rapture! And the scripture states that, you either share in this or you are doomed forever! It's the only resurrection that gives us power over the second death!

Bottomline: pre-tribulation and mid-tribulation rapture views are severely debunked just on the Reading of Revelation 20: 4-6 , and must therefore, be rejected by all who believe in the inerrant sanctity of God's scripture.

Let's compare scriptures of four prominent biblical writers on various thematic areas of the rapture and tribulation:

<b>Thematic Area</b>	<b>Daniel</b>	<b>Matthew</b>	<b>Paul</b>	<b>John (Revelation)</b>
<b>Tribulation of Christians</b>	<i>As I looked, this horn made war with the saints and prevailed over them (7:21)</i>	<i>Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and put you to death, and you will be hated by all nations for my name's sake (24: 9)</i>	<i>For that day will not come, unless the rebellion comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction (2:3). (he will persecute)</i>	<i>When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God and the testimony they had maintained. (6:9)</i>
<b>The Antichrist Precedes The Rapture/ Second Coming</b>	<i>As I looked, this horn made war with the saints and prevailed over them, until (thereafter) the Ancient of Days came, and judgment was given for the saints of the Most High, and the time came when the saints possessed the kingdom. (7:21-22)</i>	<i>So when you see the abomination of desolation spoken of by the prophet Daniel, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand) (24:15). This happens before Jesus comes in Verse 30</i>	<i>For that day will not come, unless the rebellion comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction (2:3)</i>	<i>And I saw a beast rising out of the sea, with ten horns and seven heads, with ten diadems on its horns and blasphemous names on its heads. (13:1) This happens before Jesus second coming Revelation 20</i>
<b>None</b>	<i>Ancient of Days came,</i>	<i>And he will send</i>	<i>Then we who are</i>	<i>They came to life</i>



<p><b>Mentions more than one Resurrection Event for Christians! The scripture is very clear</b></p>	<p><i>and judgment was given for the saints of the Most High, and the time came when the saints possessed the kingdom. (7:22)</i></p>	<p><i>out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other. (24:31)</i></p>	<p><i>alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. ( 1 Thess. 4:17)</i></p>	<p><i>and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended. This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy is the one who shares in the first resurrection! (20:4-6)</i></p>
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Regardless of whom one regards as the originator of the pre-tribulation rapture teaching — whether Ribera, Lacunza, Irving, Darby, or Margaret MacDonald – one thing is obvious; the “pre-tribulation rapture” theory is of recent theological origin, has no basis in Scripture and is supported nowhere in the teachings of the Christ, or His Apostles.

## 6.5 Debunking the ‘Left Behind’ Theory

*Left Behind* belief has been propagated among the pre-tribulation rapture dispensationalists to bolster their argument. According to Wikipedia:

*Left Behind is a series of 16 best-selling religious novels by Tim LaHaye and Jerry B. Jenkins, dealing with Christian dispensationalist End Times: the pretribulation, premillennial, Christian eschatological interpretation of the Biblical apocalypse.*



Even films have been adopted to promote this view. <sup>5</sup>Left Behind tells the story of the end times (set in the contemporary era), in which true believers in Christ have been "raptured" (taken instantly to heaven), leaving behind 'group of underground post-Rapture Christian converts'. Whereas we may agree with the latter, the former has no scriptural support. No lie can be of the Truth, for the Lord dwells in unapproachable light.

From the forgoing sections/chapters we have dealt extensively with the issue of rapture, and provided pertinent scriptural readings which have proved beyond any iota of doubt that, the first rapture event does only happen at the end of the 7 year Tribulation period. Therefore, the *Left Behind* novels and films fail on a fundamental aspect of factual truth, by choosing to propagate a pre-tribulation rapture lie. We have no need to regurgitate what we have already discussed in detail.

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<sup>5</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Left\\_Behind#Tribulation\\_Force](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Left_Behind#Tribulation_Force)

## 6.6 Eschatological Timeline of Events

Birth, Crucifixion and Resurrection of Jesus, culminating in end of 69 weeks of Daniel's Prophecy

The Church Age, which is the period between the 69<sup>th</sup> and 70<sup>th</sup> week of Daniel's prophecy. Time of the gentiles

Antichrist 7- Year Tribulation Rule starts with Treaty with Nations (Daniel 9: 27) He will be revealed (2 Thess. 2:7)

Abomination that Causes Desolation: Stops Sacrifice/Offerings after 3 ½ years, setting up idol worship, starts Great Tribulation (Dan. 9:27, 12:11; Matt. 24. 15), Persecutions decreed (Matt. 24:22; Daniel 7:25; Rev. 12:17)

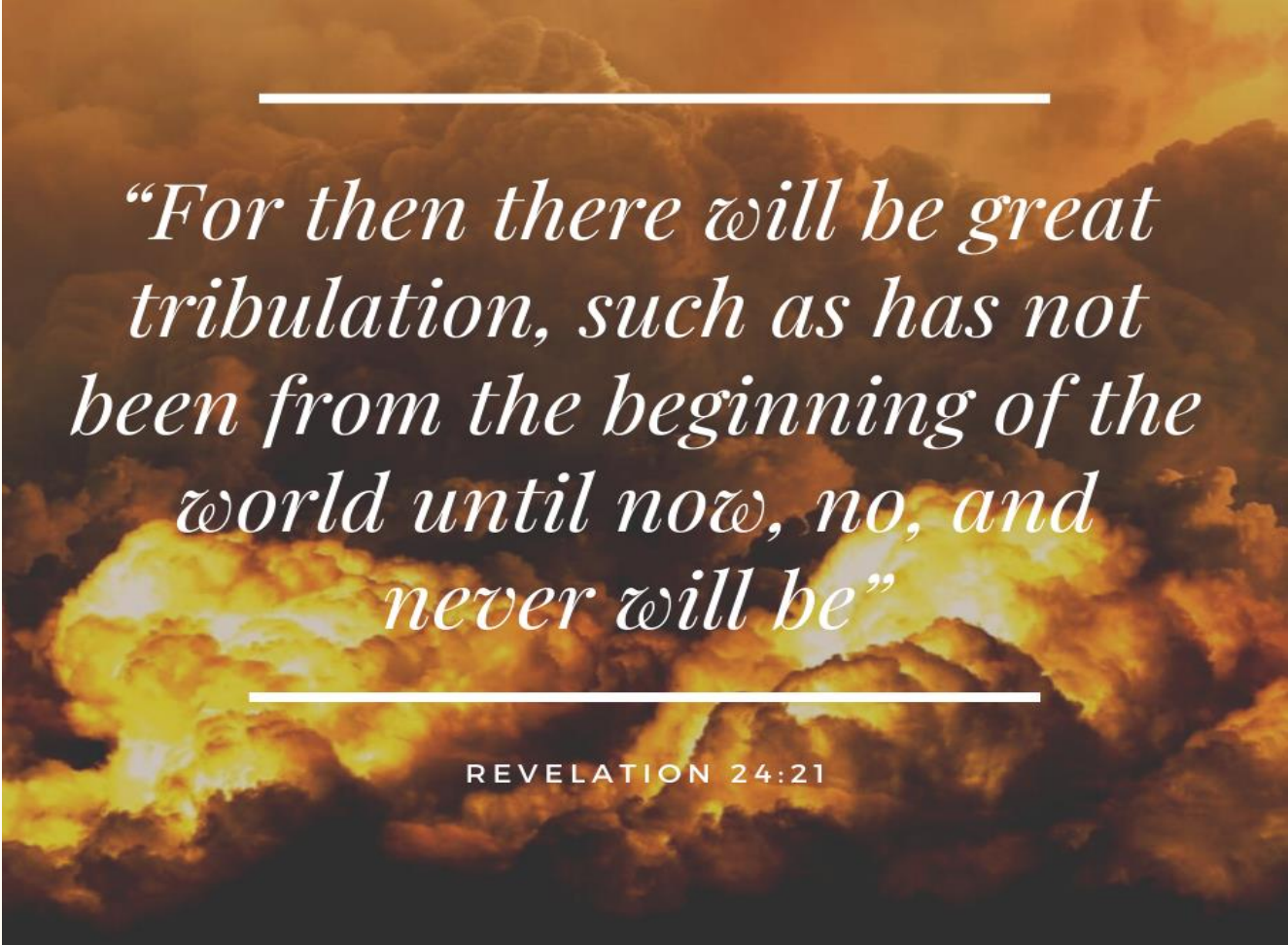
Jesus Second Coming (Rapture), First Resurrection (Matt 24: 29-31; Rev. 20:4-6; Daniel 12: 1, 2, 12; 2 Thess. 2:3;)

Battle of Armageddon (Rev. 16:16; 19: 17-21), Devil is Locked up, Millennium Starts Rev. 20:4-6

After Millennium Gog and Magog War: Rev. 16:16; Great White Throne Judgement (Rev. 20: 11-15);

New Earth & Heaven (Rev. 21.1-4;), New Jerusalem (Rev. 21:9-27) , Eternity of Eternities Begin!

## Chapter 7: The Tribulation is A Masterpiece Event!



*“For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, and never will be”*

REVELATION 24:21

Saints occupying different roles in history find themselves in different situations with regard to what God is doing in their midst. There is not a “ONE SIZE FITS ALL” APPROACH to how God chooses to do things. Revelation 24:21 states:

*“For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, and never will be”*

Therefore, to expect that the rapture and tribulation will EXACTLY follow some pattern in the past, may amount to scriptural error with damning consequences.

As much as Jesus made reference to Noah when talking about apocalyptic events, a critical look at the rapture and the tribulation, presents a somewhat unique approach which needs to be studied closely.



Events may not play out exactly as they did in the times of Noah, or before Sodom and Gomorrah were consumed in fire. Jesus says, **THERE HAS NEVER BEEN ANYTHING LIKE IT**, from the beginning of the world to date. We must therefore be careful in relating how events played out in the past and postulating how it will happen before, during and after tribulation.

According to Jesus, the Great Tribulation is a unique eschatological event that is coming at the end of the age and with it, a unique sequence of events which are clearly outlined in scripture.

We should not make the mistake of overlooking the wisdom provided therein, by digging up scriptures that tend to put us in a state of comfort with regard to the coming of the Lord. At GLOFIRE, we are brutally being honest with you, by telling you the truth as it is. We understand, you may have developed wrong inclinations and beliefs over the years, but we are here to tell you nothing but sound biblical doctrine.

## Chapter 8: Christians Are Sealed by God to Overcome Tribulation

*While people are saying, "Peace and safety," destruction will come on them suddenly, as labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. ~ 1 Thessalonians 5:3*



### 8.1 What is Tribulation?

Tribulation comes from the Greek word *thlipsis* from *thlibo* which means to *crush, press together, squash, hem in, compress, squeeze in turn* derived from *thláo* to break) originally



expressed sheer, physical pressure on a man. *Thlipsis* is a strong term which does not refer to minor hardships, but to severe ones. In medical fraternity, *thlipsis* was used imply pulse (pressure). It is a pressing together as of grapes. It conveys the idea of being squeezed or placed under pressure or crushed beneath a weight<sup>6</sup>. It is also used to denote *narrow straited, contracted*. *Thlipsis* is used 45 times in the New Testament and more than 99 times in the Septuagint.

This seems to agree with Matthew 7:14, which states that:

*But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.*

The Greek word for *narrow* is *thlibo* which is the word for Tribulation, implying the way to the resurrection is through the Tribulation (after being pressed like grapes).

Zechariah 13:7-9 states that

*Awake, sword, against my shepherd, against the man who is close to me!” declares the Lord Almighty. “Strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered, and I will turn my hand against the little ones. In the whole land,” declares the Lord, “two-thirds will be struck down and perish; yet one-third will be left in it. This third I will put into the fire; I will refine them like silver and test them like gold. They will call on my name and I will answer them; I will say, ‘They are my people,’ and they will say, ‘The Lord is our God.’”*

Revelation 6:9-11

*After this I looked, and there before me was a GREAT MULTITUDE THAT NO ONE COULD COUNT, FROM EVERY NATION, TRIBE, PEOPLE AND LANGUAGE, STANDING BEFORE THE THRONE AND BEFORE THE LAMB. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their*

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<sup>6</sup> [https://www.preceptaustin.org/tribulation-thlipsis\\_greek\\_word\\_study](https://www.preceptaustin.org/tribulation-thlipsis_greek_word_study)



*hands. And they cried out in a loud voice: "Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb." All the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures. They fell down on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, saying: "Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom and thanks and honor and power and strength be to our God for ever and ever. Amen!" Then one of the elders asked me, "These in white robes—who are they, and where did they come from?" I answered, "Sir, you know." And he said, "THESE ARE THEY WHO HAVE COME OUT OF THE GREAT TRIBULATION; THEY HAVE WASHED THEIR ROBES AND MADE THEM WHITE IN THE BLOOD OF THE LAMB"*

This scripture reading leaves no doubt that Christians will be present during the time of not only the Tribulation (the first 3 ½ years), but during the Great Tribulation (the last part of the 3 ½ years).

## 8.2 Difference Between God's Wrath and Satan's Persecutions

By now, the argument should no longer be if indeed we shall go through tribulation, but rather, if a Christian has a better chance of overcoming. True, a Christian is in a much-privileged position when it comes to trials, because they will be spared the wrath of God. There is a difference between God's wrath and the persecutions which shall be meted by the Antichrist against Christians during the time of Tribulation. Both are clearly distinguished in scripture.

*Do not harm the earth, the sea, or the trees till we have **sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads.**" . . . They were commanded not to harm the grass of the earth, or any green thing, or any tree, **but only those men who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads.** (Rev.. 7:3+; Rev. 9:4+).*

Hallelujah! The Lord will surely protect His own children in the time of tribulation or rather, He is keeping Christians from the hour of trial which shall. The preceding scripture clearly outlines that, before God releases His wrath upon the world, first He seals His children so that they may not share in the plague of unbelievers. This is reminiscent of what the Lord did during the time of Passover before the children of Israel were released from captivity in Egypt

*Tell all the congregation of Israel that on the tenth day of this month every man shall take a lamb according to their fathers' houses, a lamb for a household.....  
.....Then they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it..... .....For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the Lord.  
THE BLOOD SHALL BE A SIGN FOR YOU, ON THE HOUSES WHERE YOU ARE. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague will befall you to destroy you, when I strike the land of Egypt. Exodus 12: 4- 13*

Today we have been sprinkled with Blood that speaketh better things than the blood of bulls or lambs. The Blood of Jesus, has covered our multitude of sins, made us white as snow, though our sins were as red as scarlet, and brought us in right standing with God. And because we have received Him by faith in our hearts, he is also promising in Revelation 3:10, that He will supernaturally keep us from the hour of trial that is coming upon the world.

For its not by might or power, but by the Spirit of God that we can endure. That is, Jesus is able to keep you so that you shall not sink under the trials which will prove a severe temptation to the heathen.

On the contrary, the tribulation will be even worse for unbelievers in those days:

*I watched as he opened the sixth seal. There was a great earthquake. The sun turned black like sackcloth made of goat hair, the whole moon turned blood red, and the stars in the sky fell to earth, as figs drop from a fig tree when shaken by a strong wind. The heavens receded like a scroll being rolled up, and every mountain and island was removed from its place. Then the kings of the earth, the princes, the generals, the rich, the mighty, and everyone else, both slave and free, hid in caves and among the rocks of the mountains. They called to the mountains and the rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! FOR THE GREAT DAY OF THEIR WRATH HAS COME, AND WHO CAN WITHSTAND IT?" ~ Revelation 6: 12-17*

Amos 5, describes it even better, that it will be like a man who runs away from a lion only to be devoured by the bear. It will be a day of succinct darkness, and gnashing of teeth for the unbelievers. Because they believed not the Truth that they may be saved, but they had pleasure in wrongdoing, even accepting the mark of the beast despite God's warning in Revelation 14: 9-10

*A third angel followed them and said in a loud voice: "If anyone worships the beast and its image and receives its mark on their forehead or on their hand, they, too, will drink the wine of God's fury, which has been poured full strength into the cup of his wrath. They will be tormented with burning sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and of the Lamb.*

When God has sealed you with the power of His Grace, you will endure!

Christians will not be touched by any of the plagues which will be meted out on the heathen in the days of Tribulation. God states that He will protect them from some of them, for instance, in Revelation 16: 1-2, John writes:

*Then I heard a loud voice from the temple telling the seven angels, “Go and pour out on the earth the seven bowls of the wrath of God.” So the first angel went and poured out his bowl on the earth, and harmful and painful sores came upon the people who **bore the mark of the beast and worshiped its image.***

Nonetheless, the Scriptures (Rev. 6:9-11+; Rev. 13:7+, Rev. 13:15+; Rev. 20:4+) make it clear that many of the saints alive on the earth during that period will be martyred.

As much as God has sealed us to spare us His wrath on the day of trial because of the seal of the Almighty God, the scripture however states that we shall experience violent persecution in the hand of the Anti-Christ. We shall not experience God’s wrath of the plagues, but we shall be persecuted by the Anti-Christ who will attempt to make Christians deny Jesus.

*Then the dragon was enraged at the woman and went off to wage war against the rest of her offspring—those who keep God’s commands and hold fast their testimony about Jesus. ~ Revelation 12:17*

The Beast has been given authority to make war with the saints and to overcome them:

*It was given power to wage war against God’s holy people and to conquer them. And it was given authority over every tribe, people, language and nation ~ Revelation 14: 7*

This militates against the notion that Christ will rapture saints before tribulation. Christians will be exempted from some forms of wrath, but importantly they will receive supernatural power and protection. The promise of resurrection at the end of the tribulation will endear many to overcome the temptation of apostasy during the hour of trial, even to death. He has given all things through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ to bear up under trials and overcome.

One way the Lord will ease the vulgarities of Tribulation on the shoulders of some Christians, will be through early death, as opposed to having to endure their entire 7 Years. We see this in Revelation 14:13:

*Then I heard a voice from heaven say, "Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on." "Yes," says the Spirit, "they will rest from their labor, for their deeds will follow them."*

### **8.3 The Revelation of the Woman and the Dragon**

Revelation chapter 12 depicts the dragon ready to devour a male child (Jesus), to be begotten of a woman. God supernaturally snatched the child to Heaven (Jesus resurrection and ascension), whereas the woman (the church) flew to the wilderness (trials in the world). The woman represents the church (Ephesians 5:25-27, Revelation 19:7-9). God states that she will be taken care of in the wilderness for 1,260 days, a prophetic time during the tribulation, further, giving credence to the position that the church shall go through the tribulation.

However, our concern in the readings of this chapter, is how God will protect the body of Christ during the time of tribulation:

*When the dragon saw that he had been hurled to the earth, he pursued the woman who had given birth to the male child. The woman was given the two wings of a great eagle, so that she might fly to the place prepared for her in the wilderness, where she would be taken care of for a time, times and half a time, out of the serpent's reach ~ Revelation 12: 13-14*

According to Isaiah 40:31, those who wait upon the Lord shall soar on wings like eagles, they shall run and not grow weary, and they will walk and not faint. Another

demonstration that the Lord will supernaturally through His Grace help Christians in the time of tribulation. Hallelujah! We are not alone brethren, and the Lord will not forsake us in time of trial. If our earthly fathers know to give good things to us, will not the Father in Heaven give us all things in Christ Jesus?

The first apostles knew this so well, talk of Stephen, Paul, Peter, James and many more! Nearly all of them were persecuted. His power is made perfect in our weaknesses, and the moment we come to the realization of the enduring power of His Might, we can do all things through Christ who gives us strength to overcome. In a letter to the Philippians, Paul writes, “*I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me*”.

It seems to us that hoping to ESCAPE the tribulation, through pre-tribulation ‘rapture’, in God’s wisdom, does not accord us the privilege to experience His providential power, for he has not only promised not to forsake us, even in the midst of tribulations, but He has made provision to help us reach the end and be saved.

Daniel and his friends did not pray that Nebuchadnezzar pardons them, and their faith in God did not forsake them even in the furnace of fire. We serve the same God of Daniel, who will not stop at anything to make us endure and in the end save us.

Tribulation is not a punishment for Christians, but rather a moment to prove the enduring power of God’s Grace through Jesus Christ. Be of good courage, brethren, you have overcome the evil one. Fear not the one who can destroy the body and not the soul, but rather fear Him who can destroy both in eternal fire.

*I am with you and will save you,’ declares the Lord. ‘Though I completely destroy all the nations among which I scatter you, I will not completely destroy you. I WILL DISCIPLINE YOU BUT ONLY IN DUE MEASURE; I WILL NOT LET YOU GO ENTIRELY UNPUNISHED ~ Jeremiah 30:11*

Therefore, there is a need for endurance brethren, that we do not bow to the image of the beast and be destroyed forever by the wrath of God. He has promised to keep away from His Wrath in the hour of trial, to help us endure to keep our faith. As much the devil will seek to persecute us for refusing the mark, the scriptures state the current sufferings do not compare with the glory of God which will be revealed moments after. The endurance will well up to the priceless gift of eternal life.

*Blessed is the one who waits for and reaches the end of the 1,335 days. ~*  
Daniel 12:12

#### **8.4 Is Tribulation Only Meant for the National Israel?**

Pre-tribulation rapture believers have been taught to believe that the tribulation will only be a time of Jacob (literally implying the National Israel, or peoples of Jewish descent). They have drawn support from several scriptures. One such prominent scripture is Jeremiah 30: 7

*How awful that day will be! No other will be like it. It will be a time of trouble for Jacob, but he will be saved out of it.*

Ephesians 2: 11-14 states that were far alienated from God by virtue of our birth, but we have now been brought closer to God through Christ,

*remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ.*



Christ Jesus became our peace, uniting us ( both gentiles and Jews), through His death. We are no longer two, but one. Paul writing to the church in Galatia, says,

*There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus ~ Galatians 3:28*

How comes then we see God, pronounce ‘trouble’ for Jacob, we isolate ourselves as gentiles and say, it is meant for the National Israel, but when Paul says *He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit* ( Galatians 3:14), we suddenly become partakers? Why the doublespeak?

Let us rejoice in suffering, so that we may also share and be glad when the glory is revealed (1 Peter 4:13). Indeed, the Lord has a specific plan to bring massive salvation to the National Israel and we see mention of this through various scripture. According to Romans 11, Israel fortunes shall be restored, and many will be saved in the times of the end. We also see them feature prominently in Revelation, specifically in chapter 7, where the Lord seals 12,000 from each tribe of Jacob. It's imperative to note that the number 12,000 denotes completion, therefore, a complete number of the children of Israel shall be saved during the tribulation as well.

Finally, John in Revelation 7:9, states that he saw a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tongue, language, race etc, NOT just the physical children of Israel.

## Chapter 9: Debunking Arguments for Pre-Tribulation Rapture

As stated before, most Christians believe in a pre-tribulation rapture and we want to take a few moments to provide some analysis of the verses quoted in support of their argument. A pre-tribulation rapture will imply two possible resurrections for Christians to be saved, which as we have studied in the preceding sections. (Refer to the sections: *The Genesis of 'Rapture'* and *"The First Resurrection Happens After the Tribulation"*)

Those who advocate for pre-tribulation, appeal to some passages to anchor their belief on. Here are a few of them.

### 9.1 Revelation 3:10 'I will Keep You from the Hour'

One of the mostly quoted scripture to defend a pre-tribulation rapture is Revelation 3:10:

*"Because you have kept my word about patient endurance, I will keep you from the hour of trial that is coming on the whole world, to try those who dwell on the earth"*

This was given to one of the seven churches of revelation, the church of Philadelphia. We could look at this verse in three ways:

### *9.1.1 Contextually, It's Applicable After Persecution!*

And to best interpret this verse, we need to highlight the context. The preceding verse 8 states "...I know that you have but little power, and yet you have kept my word and HAVE NOT DENIED MY NAME."

This obviously means, these Christians did not deny Jesus name in a difficult moment that would require denying Jesus to escape from the hardship.

Few of us have had moments in life or tribulations which can cause us to deny Christ. Perhaps, for you to understand, think about someone who lives in Iraq or Iran, where the population is predominantly Muslim. We read stories of Christians undergoing persecutions in such locales, and by God's Grace there are those who endure, even die while confessing Christ. The church in Philadelphia certainly had not denied Christ in face of such adverse circumstances and Jesus then promises to keep them from the hour of trial coming upon the earth.

### *9.1.2 It Doesn't Imply a Rapture Event*

Secondly, when the scripture states that ". I will keep you from the hour of trial that is coming on the whole world." the scripture doesn't expressly state that this will be done through taking away the Church in rapture!

The bible simply says, "I will keep you from the hour of trial."

How this will be done is not directly stated.

### *9.1.3 God's Grace Will Keep/Sustain Us in Persecution*

A more plausible interpretation will be, God's grace will keep or sustain us at the hour of trial that is coming upon the whole world and there is a scriptural backing for this preposition. This has clearly been explained in chapter *Christians are Sealed By God to*

*Overcome the Tribulation.* Kindly check it out to understand how best to interpret this scripture.

Additionally, Luke 22:31, it states “*Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift all of you as wheat. But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers*” . At no point, did Jesus say, Christians cannot be persecuted.

Let quote two more verses to illustrate:

Matthew 10:22-23.

*“...and you will be hated by all for my name's sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. When they persecute you in one town, flee to the next, for truly, I say to you, you will not have gone through all the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes.”*

*“A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master. It is enough for the disciple to be like his teacher, and the servant like his master.” Verse 24*

Matthew 24: 16-18: *“Then let them which are in Judaea flee into the mountains: Let him which is on the housetop not come down to take anything out of his house: Neither let him which is in the field return back to take his clothes.”* This is advice being given to Christians in those days, to run. We are encouraged to flee from the evil in those days, as much as you can, and not to give in to the mark. Saints should not look back!

Mathew 24: 22:

*“And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.”*

This clearly shows that indeed Christians, the ‘elect’, shall be present during the Great Tribulation and God’s Grace has already been extended through shortening of the time. Our interpretation on the aspect of shortening time has to do with the entire length of the 7 years. Probably that would have been 12, 24, 42 or even 70 years! All these are significant numbers in scripture, but because of the elect, the period was lessened to 7 years.

Furthermore, during the time of the tribulation, most christians will die as well, and may not necessarily be alive by the end of the designated span of 7 Years.

*Then I heard a voice from heaven say, “Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.” “Yes,” says the Spirit, “they will rest from their labor, for their deeds will follow them.” ~ Revelation 14:13*

## **9.2 Examining More Scriptures for A Pre-Tribulation Rapture**

*9.2.1 Genesis. 5:24 "And Enoch walked with God; and he was not, for God took him".*

There are men and women who walked diligently with God, from the days of old to date, but were all taken up by God like Enoch? Certainly not, but certainly they are in heaven as we speak. Although the taking away of Enoch shadowed Christ taking away the Church in rapture, it does not in any way support pre-tribulation rapture.

Secondly, this scripture does not in any way imply that Enoch was taken to heaven to ESCAPE some impending tribulation! The First Resurrection or Rapture event/ God taking away His church, only happens after the tribulation that the earth will soon face

where many will be martyred for the name of Jesus (Matthew 24:29-30; Revelation 20:4-6).

Do not forget that Daniel 12 and Matthew 24 stated that there has never been anything like the tribulation which is coming upon the World, and neither shall there be anything like it. Therefore, we should be careful to conclude that the pattern of events before, during and after the tribulation will follow some script in the past. This is an incomparable monumental event

*At that time shall arise Michael, the great prince who has charge of your people. AND THERE SHALL BE A TIME OF TROUBLE, SUCH AS NEVER HAS BEEN SINCE THERE WAS A NATION TILL THAT TIME. But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone whose name shall be found written in the book. Daniel 12: 1-*

That's why the bible says in revelation 6:9-11:

*Then a white robe was given to each of them; and it was said to them that they should rest a little while longer, until both the number of their fellow servants and their brethren, who would be killed as they were, was completed”*

Meaning, there are still more people yet to be martyred. Tribulation is coming upon the body of Christ, Brethren. Let's not live in denial!

*9.2.2 Isaiah. 26:20-21: Come, my people, enter your chambers, and shut your doors behind you..”*

*Come, my people, enter your chambers, and shut your doors behind you; hide yourself, as it were, for a little moment, until the indignation is past. " ~ Isaiah 26:20-21*

As much as Matthew 24:9 states that “ *Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and put you to death, and you will be hated by all nations for my name's sake,*”

There are also times and incidences in the course of Tribulation in which God shall supernaturally protect Christians. As we have explained in a separate chapter, this is also a fulfillment of Jesus' promise to the faithful church saying, “*I will keep you from the hour of trial that will come upon the earth.*”

Revelation 9:1-6

*“The fifth angel sounded his trumpet, and I saw a star that had fallen from the sky to the earth. The star was given the key to the shaft of the Abyss. When he opened the Abyss, smoke rose from it like the smoke from a gigantic furnace. The sun and sky were darkened by the smoke from the Abyss. And out of the smoke locusts came down on the earth and were given power like that of scorpions of the earth. **THEY WERE TOLD NOT TO HARM THE GRASS OF THE EARTH OR ANY PLANT OR TREE, BUT ONLY THOSE PEOPLE WHO DID NOT HAVE THE SEAL OF GOD ON THEIR FOREHEADS.** They were not allowed to kill them but only to torture them for five months. And the agony they suffered was like that of the sting of a scorpion when it strikes. During those days people will seek death but will not find it; they will long to die, but death will elude them.”*

This is a further scripture that demonstrates that the Lord will not forsake His Church in the time of Tribulation. Blessed are those with the seal of God, for upon them the wrath of God will be spared, in a manner reminiscent of what He did with the children of Israel during the passover before releasing them from captivity in Egypt.

Exodus. 12:13:



*"when I see the blood, I will pass over you; and the plague shall not be on you to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt".*

Compare that with Revelation 7: 3

*"Do not harm the land or the sea or the trees until we put a seal on the foreheads of the servants of our God."*

We are blessed to receive the seal of Almighty God, to endure the vulgarities of rapture, including but not limited to resisting the mark. We have the marks of Christ on us! The above verse further proves that the servants of God will still be here when all this is happening.

In other words, Christians will not escape tribulation from the antichrist but rather will be delivered up into the hands of the antichrist to be persecuted and even killed. But they will be spared from all the great suffering that will come upon the earth when God pours out His wrath during this time of tribulation. God has put His seal on us that protects us from His wrath. Is there a better way the Lord can keep us from the hour of trial coming upon the world?

### *9.2.3 Only he who now restrains it will do so until he is out of the way*

Paul in 2 Thessalonians 2:7 states that:

*For the secret power of lawlessness is already at work; but the one who now holds it back will continue to do so till he is taken out of the way.*

Pre-tribulation rapture adventists interpret that the '*holding back until he is taken away*' to imply that only happens through a rapture event! Well, such interpretation is very flawed on several grounds. Proper interpretation will imply that, Jesus is still holding

the antichrist from being revealed, until the proper time. And when the time comes, he will be revealed!

Secondly, when Paul is talking about this to the church in Thessalonica, he has already mentioned in the preceding verses that the coming of the Lord will only happen after there is apostacy and many of lawlessness is revealed. To interpret that that a rapture happens before the man of lawlessness is revealed and that there is apostacy, is at best a deliberate negligence of scripture and at worst, the epitome of scriptural manipulation to support a flawed doctrine.

## **Chapter 10: Takeaways on The Timings of Christ Second Coming And The Tribulation**

Paul's second letter to Thessalonians in 2:1-12 and Matthew 24 build and expound on the events preceding the second coming Christ, and they both seem to agree on a number of issues:

- i) That Jesus will not come except there is FALLING AWAY first, which is commonly called apostasy (2 Thess 2:3; Matthew 24:12). Indeed, we are witnessing an increasing number of apostate people in our day and time more than ever before, but this will even be more pronounced during the times of tribulation.
- ii) That Tribulation will last for a period of nearly 7 years, and will be the fulfillment of the 70TH WEEK OF DANIEL'S PROPHECY
- iii) That Tribulation will begin when the son of perdition makes a SEVEN YEAR TREATY with the nations, what Daniel 9: 27 states, "He will confirm a covenant with many for one 'seven.'"
- iv) That the coming of Jesus will not happen, except the MAN OF LAWLESS IS REVEALED ( 2 Thess 2:3) and abomination that causes desolation (Matthew 24:15)
- v) That saints will not only see this happen ( 2 Thess 2:1 ), but are called upon to ENDURE TO THE END TO BE SAVED (Matthew 24:13)

vi) The abomination that causes desolation does not happen, until during the middle of the tribulation (Daniel 9:27)

vii) Daniel 7:25 “He will speak against the Most High and OPPRESS HIS HOLY PEOPLE and try to change the set times and the laws. The holy people will be delivered into his hands for a time, times and half a time.”

Revelations 13:7 “and it was given unto him to make war with the SAINTS and to OVERCOME THEM.

viii) Matthew 24:22 “If those days had not been cut short, no one would survive, but for the sake of the elect those days will be shortened.”, further proving the view that CHRISTIANS WILL NEED TO ENDURE THE TRIBULATION TO BE SAVED.

ix) 2 Thessalonians 2 states that the coming of the Lord will not happen until after the REVEALING OF THE SON OF PERDITION (which may not necessarily be attributable to a single event in eschatological timeline, but probably a series of them, that may include the abomination that maketh desolate)

x) That Jesus Christ coming will not precede tribulation, but after tribulation: Matthew 24: 29-30 “IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE TRIBULATION OF THOSE DAYS the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then will appear in heaven the sign of the Son of Man, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and THEY WILL SEE THE SON OF MAN COMING ON THE CLOUDS of heaven with power and great glory”

xi) Whereas, 2 Thess 2:3 states that Jesus’ Second Coming will come after the falling away and the man of lawlessness is revealed, Matthew 24: 29-30, states that will happen after the Tribulation, suggesting that Christians may have to endure the entire period of tribulation to be saved ( Matthew 24:22)

xii) Whereas Revelation 3:10, which states: “Because you have kept my word about patient endurance, I will keep you from the hour of trial that is coming on the whole world, to try those who dwell on the earth”, it doesn’t expressly imply, **TAKING AWAY THE CHURCH THROUGH RAPTURE!** That will be thinking a little too far. A better contextual understanding would be God’s grace will keep or sustain you at the hour of trial that is coming upon the whole world. Because He has promised not to leave you, He is faithful to keep you till the very end!

This verse is elaborated further in point 6.0.

xiii) Scripture also records numerous saints who will come to faith during this horrific great tribulation period and will walk through the events of their day—often ending in the ultimate witness—death (Rev. 7:9-16+; Rev. 12:11+; Rev. 13:7+; Rev. 20:4+).

xiv) Tribulation will have at least three purposes: (1) to serve as a witness to enduring Grace of God (Dan. 11:35; Dan. 12:10); (2) to purge the rebels from Israel and turn the elect to God (Zec. 13:7-9; Mark Mark 13:13); (3) to demonstrate the unrepentant state of the earthly dwellers

xv) Christians will be present and will undergo tribulation, and they have need to overcome according to *Revelation 6:9-11*

xvi) ,Christians will not escape tribulation from the antichrist and will be delivered up into the hands of the antichrist to be persecuted and even killed, but they will be spared from all the great suffering that will come upon the earth when God pours out His wrath during this time of tribulation. God will put His seal on them and give specific instruction that they should not be harmed. God’s promise is that He will keep them from trial.(Revelation 9:1-6)

xvii) The Rapture is a resurrection event. And according to Revelation 20: 4-6 , it does not happen until the Devil is bound in chains at the end of the 7 Year Tribulation, right before the consummation of Christ's Millennial rule. This is the First Resurrection.

xviii) Conclusion: There is No biblical basis for a pre-tribulation rapture!

## **Chapter 11: Views of ‘Famous’ Scholars and Teachers on Pre-Tribulation**

A 2016 study by <sup>7</sup>LifeWay research reveals there is a dearth of information on apocalypse from a sizable number of pastors. As much as the scriptures categorically state that Jesus is coming back, researchers found divergent views on three aspects of end-times theology: the rapture, the Antichrist, and the millennial kingdom.

Out of the 1,000 senior Protestant pastors who were included in the study, only a third (36 percent) believed in a pre-tribulation rapture and those left behind suffer tribulation. Even more astounding, 36% of pastors say the rapture is not literal, while almost 1 in 5 believe the rapture happens after the tribulation (constituting about 20% of the surveyed pastors). If this study is anything to go by, a whopping 80% of pastors, and by extension believers, do not believe in a post-tribulation rapture.

Let’s take a look at some of the commentaries and quotes from ‘famous’ biblical scholars , teachers , evangelists and writers on this topic:

### **11.1 Mark Hitchcock**

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<sup>7</sup> <https://www1.cbn.com/cbnnews/us/2016/april/large-number-of-pastors-dont-believe-in-the-rapture>



According to the popular <sup>8</sup>Charisma Magazine website, Mark Hitchcock , “ is well-versed in eschatology’ . <sup>9</sup>EndTimeHeadlines.org , further states he is “the author of nearly 30 books related to end-time Bible prophecy, including *Middle East Burning* and *101 Answers to Questions About the Book of Revelation* . He earned a ThM and PhD from Dallas Theological Seminary and is the senior pastor of Faith Bible Church in Edmond, Oklahoma.”. Here is what he has to say about the rapture and tribulation:

“I always tell people that I don't think the Antichrist is going to appear till after the rapture...” .

Unfortunately, he did not provide any scriptural backing for this view. There, it just remains to be his personal view which cannot pass the rigor of scriptural backing.

## 11.2 Dr. David Jeremiah

<sup>10</sup>David Paul Jeremiah is an American conservative evangelical Christian author, founder of *Turning Point Radio* and *Television Ministries* and senior pastor of *Shadow Mountain Community Church*, a Southern Baptist megachurch in El Cajon, California, a suburb of San Diego. In an article published on <sup>11</sup>Crosswalk.com on March 28, 2018, he is quoted as saying:

*The Rapture is God's protection of His saints from the Tribulation—the seven years of judgment that will then be poured out on earth. There are some who argue the Tribulation period will begin before the Rapture. However, the Bible says that*

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<sup>8</sup> <https://www.charismamag.com/spirit/bible-study/39903-will-there-be-a-rapture-who-is-the-antichrist-end-times-survival-guide-author-explains-all>

<sup>9</sup> <https://endtimeheadlines.org/2019/01/will-there-be-a-rapture-who-is-the-antichrist-end-times-survival-guide-author-explains-all/>

<sup>10</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David\\_Jeremiah](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Jeremiah)

<sup>11</sup> [https://www.crosswalk.com/special-coverage/end-times/what-is-the-difference-between-the-rapture-and-the-second-coming.html?utm\\_content=buffer65c8b&utm\\_medium=fbpage&utm\\_source=gvp&utm\\_campaign=gvpupdate](https://www.crosswalk.com/special-coverage/end-times/what-is-the-difference-between-the-rapture-and-the-second-coming.html?utm_content=buffer65c8b&utm_medium=fbpage&utm_source=gvp&utm_campaign=gvpupdate)

*“there is therefore, now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus” (Romans 8:1), and **I believe the Church will not experience the judgment that God has planned for that time.***

Well, believing that Christians cannot go through a tribulation based on the reading of Romans 8:1, is not a solid ground for a pre-tribulation rapture belief. To us, this seems like a contextual error, because the verse does little to build their narrative. It's imperative that our belief is anchored solidly on scriptures that explicitly expound on rapture and tribulation: then and only then, can we make valid deductions.

### 11.3 Joyce Meyer

A quick search for terms or phrases like ‘Rapture’, ‘Second Coming.’ or ‘Tribulation’ through Joyce Meyer’s website doesn’t return anything. Neither, do we find anything substantive through the Google search suggesting that there is little from her published online on these topics. But there is one sermon we came across published on June 30, 2017 on YouTube, titled <sup>12</sup>“*Are These the Last Days*’, specifically starting at 21:09, where she quotes from:

Exodus 8:21-23:

*If you do not let my people go, I will send swarms of flies on you and your officials, on your people and into your houses. The houses of the Egyptians will be full of flies; even the ground will be covered with them. “But on that day, I will deal differently with the land of Goshen, where my people live; no swarms of flies will be there, so that you will know that I, the Lord, am in this land. I will make a distinction between my people and your people. This sign will occur tomorrow.”*

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<sup>12</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=02vZYUyGDSI>

She continues with the sermon, and we quote:

*“ we don’t get any blood-sucking ...flies .. and that is good news... and there is more to be honest everywhere you read , God’s people were always protected. Hail came everywhere else , fire and brimstone but not in Goshen. Passover, where all the first borns were killed, God’s children were protected. Noah , take out of the flood. Lot, taken out of Sodom and Gomorrah. God always found the righteous, and thankfully we are made righteous through the Blood of Christ...”*

Given the topic is about the last days, it seems to us that she is insinuating that God will not let Christians go through a moment of pain or tribulation. Just like He got Noah into the ark, and Lot was taken out of Sodom and Gomorrah , so shall Christians be taken away in a time of tribulation.

By quoting a few of these preachers, our aim is not to disparage them but, to highlight how divisive this issue of rapture in relation to tribulation is among the Christian clergy. If anything, it's the Lord's will that we all come to the same level of understanding on these matters, and that remains our core aim, to reach out to anyone, regardless of their stature in society. Let's pray that the Lord reveals this truth to all churches in the world, on the need to prepare for the impending tribulation.

## Chapter 12: Pre-Tribulation Rapture is A Monumental Travesty of the Scripture

*There is a way that looketh right in the sight of man  
but the end of it is death ~ Proverbs 14:12.*



Unfortunately, a lot of Christians have been taught to only expect the rapture and that Christians will not be persecuted, but escape through the rapture. But the Bible is very clear on this, it says Christians **WILL GO THROUGH GREAT TRIBULATION AND SUFFERING** such as has never been and will never be again **BEFORE** the coming of Jesus.(Matthew 24:21-22)

The bible says the time of suffering will be so great such that if God does not shorten the time, no one will survive. The bible says the antichrist will arise when Christians are still on earth.

It is important for us to know this biblical truth because if we don't, we will be caught unaware, expecting peace, when in reality persecution lies at the door.

And because we did not know this would come, we will be caught unaware about something the bible has made so clear.

## **12.1 The Coming Persecution and Apostasy**

The antichrist will arise while Christians are still on earth and will persecute the children of God and he will fulfill all biblical prophecies.

Saints, persecution is coming and we must prepare! **DO NOT DENY JESUS** no matter what.

This is not meant to scare you; it's meant to equip you for what is coming. Whether we talk about it or not, the bible already said it's coming, so it will happen soon.

Many people are comforted with promises of peace and the rapture so they **ONLY** look for the rapture and when persecution strikes before the rapture, they will be greatly taken by surprise and will sell their heavenly birthright for a morsel of bread.

In Matthew 24:3-14, Jesus was telling His disciples the signs of His coming including wars, famines, pestilences like the coronavirus ,and earthquakes.

But Jesus says when you see all this happening, know that **THIS IS ONLY THE BEGINNING OF SORROWS.**

The Lord said in Matthew 24:9-14 that after this, Christians will be delivered up for great persecution and martyred, they will be killed for His name's sake.

All these things the Lord was talking about, He said are a sign of His coming, including the persecution of Christians and the era of martyrdom that's supposed to happen shortly before the rapture.

The bible says many will be offended during this period and betray one another, and hate one another.

This is the time that is about to come upon the earth, a time of great persecution and suffering for the children of God.

They will be forced to deny Jesus just in order to have access to food, and many will deny Him because they will be taken by surprise and are not ready.

They will deny Jesus just to have some food because they did not prepare and therefore will be too weak to resist the antichrist and his people, who will give conditions of denying Jesus if you want food, and if you don't want to be killed.

## **12.2 Rise of False Prophets**



The bible says one of the signs of the coming of Jesus is the RISE OF FALSE PROPHETS who will deceive many, making them easy prey for the antichrist.

The false prophets who have already risen and will continue to rise even more, are preparing the minds of people to deny Jesus during the time of persecution because they are teaching people that Christianity is a life of material gain and prosperity instead of teaching them to despise this earthly life, to deny themselves and follow Jesus.

Paul warned about these false prophets in 1 Timothy 6:3-10 “.....5 perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such, withdraw yourself..... “

A person who lives a life of self denial is not likely to deny Christ even when faced with death, but a person taught to live in whatever way they want, expecting only gain from Christianity, when they are required to give up their life for Jesus they will deny Him just to save their flesh.

We must prepare now by seeking the Lord and in prayer and fasting because we will need His strength to stand in that day.

### **12.3 Do Not Sell Your Birthright**

Do not depend on the food that perishes, if you do, you will sell your birthright for food like Esau.

Deny yourself now by seeking Jesus, by praying, by fasting, prepare.

In Matthew 24:15 Jesus says the antiChrist will come when the elect is still on earth and will persecute them greatly, such that God will have to shorten the time because if He doesn't, no one will survive.



Matthew 24:15-20 Therefore when you see the abomination of desolation spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place, let those in Judea flee to the mountains. Let him who is on the housetop not come down to take anything out of his house. And let him who is in the field not go back to get his clothes.

But woe to pregnant women and those nursing babies in those days! And pray that your flight may not be in the winter or on the Sabbath."

After this, in verse 21-22 Jesus says, "FOR THERE WILL BE GREAT TRIBULATION such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor shall ever be.

And if those days are not shortened, no flesh would be saved, BUT FOR THE ELECT'S SAKE those days will be shortened.

## **12.4 Prepare for Tribulation**

Jesus tells us that this great persecution of Christians will happen before the rapture happens. And Jesus talks about the intensity of the suffering saying, it is tribulation like has never been before and never will be. Many will be killed for the name of Jesus and if the time wasn't shortened, no one would even survive.

Jesus doesn't want us to be taken by surprise, let us prepare by seeking Him now while we still have time. It will only take God's grace to not deny Jesus in the times that are shortly coming.

People who are still living a casual life of just caring about the things of the world and living in sin will not have the strength to endure.

But God's children will have strength from above and they will have to rely on trusting Jesus for food, water and everything.

God will still be answering them and providing for them supernaturally, but many will be killed as martyrs.

## 12.5 The Coming Betrayal

The bible says it will be a time of great betrayal.

People you thought could hide you, will tell the authorities that you are a Christian and they will tell them where you are hiding! It will be a time of relying only on Jesus.

And because people will be so desperate for relief, many false prophets will mislead people with great signs and wonders and as a result there will be a great falling away, many will go after false prophets but Jesus says, "don't believe them."

Jesus says people will rise claiming to be Jesus and show great signs in those times but don't believe it!

## 12.6 Then the Lord Shall Come

Jesus says after this time of tribulation, then He will come for His elect who will still be in earth (rapture).

Matthew 24:29-31

*"Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other."*

Jesus is very clear, persecution and martyrdom is coming, we can't comfort ourselves saying it will only be after the rapture, the bible is clear that before the rapture, the antichrist will persecute God's people, killing many.

Get in the secret place now and get strength to stand in the day of trouble.

2 Thessalonians 2:1-12 also tells us that Jesus won't come till the antichrist arises and the bible says all the people who now are refusing to believe the truth of God's word, the bible says in those days God will send them a strong delusion so that they will believe the lies of the antichrist and be doomed with him.

If you are refusing Jesus now, you will refuse Him even then. Preparation is done now.

Don't be like the foolish virgins who were busy sleeping instead of acquiring oil for their lamps!

When the bridegroom came, it was too late to acquire the oil.

The bible does not say the foolish virgins were given a second chance.

Let's read 2 Thessalonians 2:1-4 "Now we ask you brethren, CONCERNING THE COMING OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST AND OUR GATHERING TOGETHER TO HIM.

Not to be soon shaken in mind and troubled either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of the Lord has already come.

Let no one deceive you by any means; FOR THAT SAY WILL NOT COME UNLESS THE FALLING AWAY COMES FIRST, AND THE MAN OF SIN IS REVEALED, THE SON OF PERDITION (antichrist).

Who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshipped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God." I'll end here but you can read all the way to verse 12.

The bible has warned us, let's get ready and prepare now. Please remember that

## 12.7 The Day and Hour Unknown

In Matthew 16:1-3 the Pharisees and Sadducees came to Jesus and tested him by asking him to show them a sign from heaven.

*He replied, "When evening comes, you say, 'It will be fair weather, for the sky is red,' and in the morning, 'Today it will be stormy, for the sky is red and overcast.' You know how to interpret the appearance of the sky, but you cannot interpret the signs of the times*

Jesus here is encouraging to interpret the sign of the times, to understand the seasons, and not to be conformed to the workings of this world like the heathen. But as much as the seasons may be made known to us, no one can tell the day or hour Jesus will come back, but only the Father knows.

Matthew 24: 36-44

*"But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left. Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left. "Therefore, keep*

*watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come. But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into. So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.”*

## **12.8 Do Not Fear but Prepare!**

Are you going to be strong enough to watch your baby starve to death because you can't get food without denying Jesus? This is the time to learn to despise this life and look forward to the life that is to come.

This is the time to learn endurance by gaining supernatural strength by spending much time with Jesus. The bible says only those who endure to the end will be saved. It will be a terrible time, that's why Jesus wants us to prepare now by getting strength in His presence.

Many will fall away in this time that's coming. The bible tells it. The demon incarnates who pretended to be friends will betray you too. And even your family will betray you. We will have to live by faith, trusting Jesus and willing to give our lives.

A Sister in Christ had a vision about a month ago and in the vision, she just heard the voice of the Lord say, "I have shortened the time."

The bible says God has already shortened the time of suffering because His children will be there. That time would have been more than 7 years, maybe 14, or 21 or even 70 years! But for the sake of the elect, that time has been reduced to 7 years! This time is really close. All that's happening in the world tells us how close we are to this time.

We are writing this book at a time when Covid-19 has gripped the world, literally shutting down economies. Who would have believed that would happen in our day and time? This is our clarion call: PREPARE! PREPARE! PREPARE! The Lord's day is at hand!

## Chapter 13: Our Perspective Then and Now: A Journey of Spiritual Growth



Scriptures state end of the world will be marked by various cataclysmic events, such as war and natural disasters which are commonly referred to as, the birth pangs or the beginning of sorrows. The question that arises is, why did the Lord keep away the timing of the rapture from us for such a long time, given that He has always been speaking to us for while now on various eschatological issues? Let's read 1 Corinthians 3:1-2

*Brothers and sisters, I could not address you as people who live by the Spirit but as people who are still worldly—mere infants in Christ. I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready.*



In this letter to the church in Corinth, Paul clearly underscores that we go through different stages of spiritual learning and growth, and some information can be withheld from us, because of our immaturity. And that is all part of God's wisdom. Milk is meant for the babies, because they got no teeth to chew meat. Meat is for those who have developed some teeth, and can therefore, grind it before swallowing.

If you give meat to a baby, you might as well choke and probably kill them. The same applies to our spirituality. There are some spiritual topics and matters which demand that we attain a certain level of spiritual maturity before we can receive and internalize. New born babies in Christ require some level of tender care and nourishment through scripture to cement their faith, as a preparation to receive more solid doctrines for our spiritual growth "*....until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ*" ~ Ephesians 4:13

Our understanding, based on the foregoing, is that the Lord did not see it fit to reveal to us the truth behind the timings of the rapture then. For a number of years now, we used to preach that the church will be raptured before the great tribulation. We came to believe that way automatically, we were taught that way in our churches, believed it that way, we even preached it that way. Not for a year, two or three years, but for nearly 10 years, this was how we knew it. What even puzzles us now even more, is how we just believed it without critically weighing it against scripture.

This went on for years, until the Lord decided to reveal the hidden truth about this topic of post-tribulation rapture. And somehow, our past visions tended to echo a pre-tribulation rapture. But that doesn't weather down the contents of these visions. The problem was in our belief system, and at some point, the Lord in His own wisdom had predestined the opportune moment to bring this matter to our attention.

*Do not deceive yourselves. If any of you think you are wise by the standards of this age, you should become "fools" so that you may become wise. 1 Corinthians 3:18*

We have now come to the understanding that a belief in pre-tribulation rapture is a monumental deception that has been perpetuated throughout the history of the Church for centuries now. No wonder, Paul in 2 Thessalonians 2:3, states:

*Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction.*

We were easily carried away into such deception, and it's mind-boggling to even imagine how we never undertook a thorough scrutiny of the scripture. We just believed it! From the time we were young, we have been raised in Churches that advanced this view, and hardly any one invited us to reconsider it.

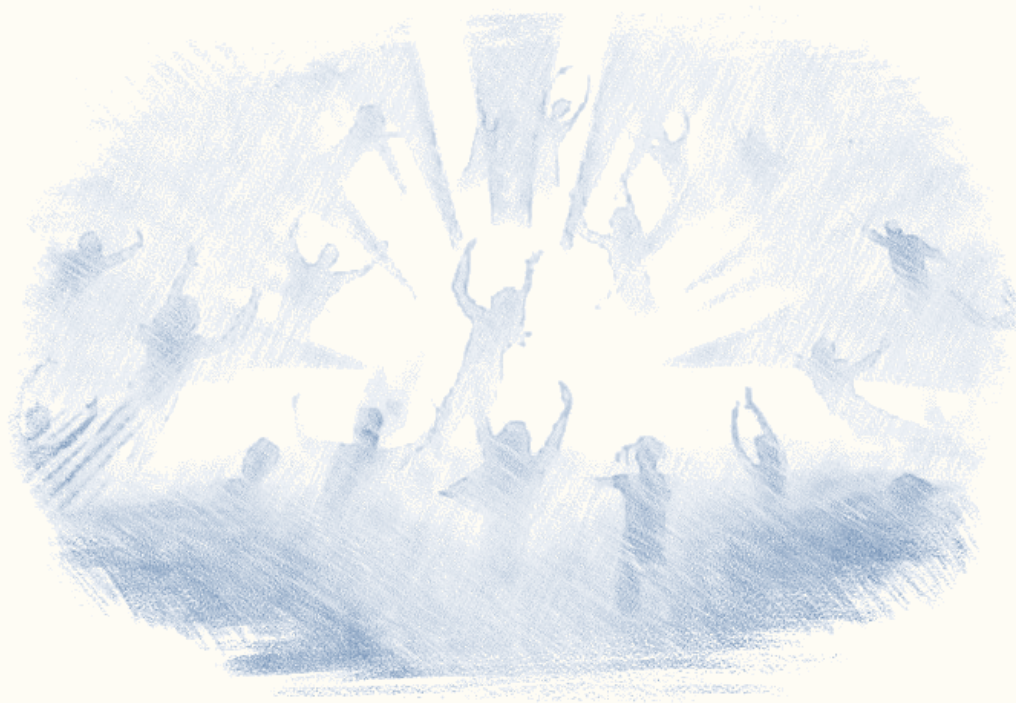
This isn't a light matter by any standard, probably if He would have decided to bring it to our attention then, we would have stumbled. It required a certain level of spiritual maturity to receive it. You know God's time is always the best, Brethren. We can't appreciate enough how He has finally brought this matter to our understanding. Suddenly it has not been easy for us, given the years of wrongly-held beliefs in favor of a pre-tribulation rapture.

*"NOT THAT I HAVE ALREADY OBTAINED ALL THIS, OR HAVE ALREADY ARRIVED AT MY GOAL, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. BUT ONE THING I DO: FORGETTING WHAT IS BEHIND AND STRAINING TOWARD WHAT IS AHEAD, I PRESS ON TOWARD THE GOAL TO WIN THE PRIZE FOR WHICH GOD HAS CALLED ME HEAVENWARD IN CHRIST JESUS". Phillipians 3:12-14*

Let's not look back at the error or mistakes we made, but rather seize this moment as long as it's called today, be willing to repent, make our ways right with God, and press towards the upward call in Christ Jesus at His Coming. If we can chew the meat today, let's aspire to grow even stronger canines to crush the bones. There is no looking back, let's continue to nourish the spiritual man in us with the Word of God. Let the time that is past, suffice to do all that we did wrong.

## Chapter 14: Conclusion

### 14.1 The Day Cometh as a Thief



Paul, while writing to the Thessalonians, (1 Thessalonians 5:1-11) says that that day will come like a thief to the unbelievers, but to the children of light, they will not be surprised. Verse 3:

*While people are saying, "Peace and safety," destruction will come on them suddenly, as labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.*

We now know that the son of perdition will make a 7 year 'false peace' treaty with the nations according to Daniel 9:27, which will give some temporary reprieve to the

unbelievers. For us Christians, we know that will be a trap, and we shouldn't buy into such deception. The coming of antichrist will be with miracles and wonders, with all manner of deceptions for the unbelievers, because they did not cherish the truth, and thus be saved. 1 Thessalonians 2:11 states that, " *therefore, the Lord sends them a strong delusion, so that they may believe what is false* '.

1 Thessalonians 5:4 says that we are not in darkness to be surprised as a thief, therefore, let's not be ignorant like others who will be caught unawares. By way of this report, we seek to keep you sober and prepare you for what is about to conspire. Having known this beforehand, it will prepare you psychologically to endure, by God' grace. The lack of understanding, will cause many to perish just as stated in Hoses 4:6. Remember what the Lord said in Matthew 24, that when you see the abomination that maketh desolate, let those who are in Judea run to the mountains!

## **14.2 Many Shall be Deceived**

If we do not know what the bible teaches on this topic, you predispose yourself to deception. God wants us to be prepared, He doesn't want us to be caught unawares. John 16:2-4

*"They will put you out of the Synagogues, yes, the time is coming that whoever kills you will think that he offers God a service. And these things they will do to you because they have not known the Father nor Me. But these things I have told you, THAT WHEN THE TIME COMES, YOU MAY REMEMBER THAT I TOLD YOU OF THEM....."*

God wants us to know before persecution strikes. By not believing the truth about the coming of the Lord, you predispose yourself to be deceived. Because even the Bible says, many false 'christs' will arise, and some will run to diverse places supposedly to go and meet them. That is why He has made it so clear in His word. If we are prepared, it will

not take us by surprise when we go through all the torture and suffering that is coming. We will know God is still with us despite everything. We will hold on because in a little while, our sorrow will turn to joy. Even when we are killed, we have a better life awaiting us in heaven.

The disciples and students alike in the Bible, were concerned about this day. In Matthew 24: 3-4

*As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately. "Tell us," they said, "when will this happen, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?" Jesus answered: "Watch out that no one deceives you. For many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am the Messiah,' and will deceive many.*

Jesus' disciples were equally concerned about the coming of the Lord, and they inquired of Him. Jesus warned them against the deception which will lead many astray. You do not want to be among those who are deceived. The only way to avoid that is, knowing the Truth about Jesus coming, and that will determine if indeed you will hold your faith to the very end, and thus be saved.

This same concern was shared by Paul in a letter to the Thessalonians. There were many teachings out there that were leading Christians astray about the coming of the Lord, and Paul had to warn them in 2 Thessalonians 2:1-3.

As you can see the confusion did not start today. There was, and still there is disagreement among many Christians with regard to the coming of the Lord: with a huge number believing that the rapture will happen before the Tribulation, whereas a few believe it will happen after the Great Tribulation. The controversy has been going on for centuries and has even widened in the advent of protestantism and rise of evangelical churches, it has been more cemented.

We are staring at a monumental catastrophe in our day and age, and there is a need to know and understand the Truth about the timing of this great event.

*My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children. ~ Hosea 4:6*

*He replied, "When evening comes, you say, 'It will be fair weather, for the sky is red,' 3 and in the morning, 'Today it will be stormy, for the sky is red and overcast.' You know how to interpret the appearance of the sky, but you cannot interpret the signs of the times Matthew 16: 2-3*

Lacking the knowledge about the coming of the Lord, may have eternal consequences. The Lord has provided all knowledge that is necessary to get us saved, and if you reject His wisdom regarding the end of days, you make yourself a candidate for eternal damnation. Let's not be among those who reject the Truth and perish, but be among those that love the Truth and save our souls.

We are very much cognizant of the situation most of us might be in. It's a tragedy to believe a lie, brethren! You need to read scriptures on your own, and the Lord will lead you into all truths. The devils seem to have been taken captive of Christians with the false belief in pre-tribulation rapture, and unfortunately this is the widely accepted view of the rapture.

Debunking it requires the gentle spirit of God's grace, setting aside long-held positions and appealing to the truth as explicitly stated in the scriptures. May the Lord's grace be upon us all we seek to align our faith to the brutal reality of His Word, patiently waiting for His Coming.



For a while now, we have been getting questions such as “does God only speak to you?”. Certainly not! God can speak to anyone on anything, and He has made this clear in 1 Corithians 12. He has graciously endowed us with varied gifts according to His own Will. And the purposes why God may speak to one person and not to another, is because He wants us to work as members of one body of Christ. The hand cannot say to the leg, ‘I have no need of you’, neither can the ears say to the eyes ‘you have no value’. Each one of us has a role to play in the grand master plan of God’s salvation. The fact that some information is withheld from a servant of God, does not imply that they are not of God.

What God expects is for us to use our gifts to our mutual benefit. If we are all Apostles, who will prophesy? If we are all Teachers, who will speak in tongues? As much the scripture exhorts us to earnestly desire the higher gifts, not all can minister in the same way, even in the same spiritual gift. Therefore, we need to listen to one another, and build ourselves up to the full stature in Christ.

We know the Lord has already revealed the issue of post-tribulation to other equally gifted men and women. In the same breadth, we seek to ignite the passion in you, to seek and understand on your own. If you are in doubt, we have the Holy Spirit, who is our ever-present help, ask Him, and He will speak to you.

Most importantly, we invite you to carefully consider the scriptures and arguments provided, and our prayers are that God will convict you with His Truth. The Bible says, when you know the Truth, it shall set you free. May the Lord Jesus graciously make His face to shine upon your mind as you seek to comprehend these eschatological topics.

## Repentance and Confession Prayer

If you would like to receive Christ as your Savior, recite this prayer:

Father, I come to you in the precious name of your Son, Jesus. You said in your word that if I confess with my mouth that Jesus Christ is my Lord and my Savior and I believe in my heart that God raised him from the dead, I will be saved. I make the decision today to surrender every area of my life to Jesus Christ. I acknowledge that I am a sinner., I repent of my old ways and the sins I have committed to date. I turn my back on the world and on sin. Jesus, come into my heart. Take out the stony heart and put in a heart of flesh. Forgive me, Jesus for the sins I have committed, wash me with your Blood, and make me blameless. Remove my name from the Book of Death and write it in the Book of Life. I would like to thank you for dying on the cross for my sins and shedding your blood for me so that I might be forgiven of my sin.

Thank you that you rose from the dead and that one day, you are coming back for me. I confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh and that He is my personal Lord and Savior. Thank you, Lord Jesus, for saving me, I accept by faith your free gift of salvation. Fill and seal me with the Holy Spirit, until the day of your coming in Jesus name, Amen!

If you have recited this prayer, you are now saved! We gladly welcome you into the family of God! Your sins are forgiven! Hallelujah to Jesus!

Now may the desire to know the Lord even more be upon you. Attend to God's word, pray always, find a bible believing church that believes in Jesus and believes the bible, be around strong believers that will encourage you and lift you up in your walk with God and reach out to others for the love of Christ.

May God's Grace be multiplied upon in Jesus name, event unto the day of His Coming!  
Amen!

## Global Convention on Final Revival (GLOFIRE)



### **What is GLOFIRE?**

Global Convention on Final Revival (GLOFIRE) is NOT a Church but a Non-Denominational Convention bringing together end-time apostles evangelists, pastors, prophets/prophetesses, musicians, teachers and all gospel workers who are preaching holiness from all over the world to speak with one loud voice thereby reaching multitudes! GLOFIRE does not seek to break ministries but seeks to build and edify ministries by providing them the forum to listen and share with one another!

Jesus mentions a key point about unity: that the world will know Jesus is Savior only if the servants dwell in unity! If the Lord had pleasure in fragmentation and strife, He wouldn't have called for unity in His Church! We believe we have come to the end of the age and the Lord is anointing both men and women alike to proclaim the message of holiness and end times like never seen before: from Sierra Leone to Tanzania, from South Africa to Algeria, from Mexico to Australia, South Korea to United Kingdom, from Nigeria to Germany and beyond!

GLOFIRE seeks to bridge the dividing wall of hostility currently existing between ministers and ministries thereby enhancing collaboration between each other to share the message of holiness and end times. Sometimes our ministries have erected divisions which have prevented us from the sharing of end time prophecies with other charismatic and mainstream churches. United, we shall be able to reach them with the message of holiness and end-times more effectively and bring about a revival! United we stand and divided we fall!

## Vision and Mission

- I. Reach the entire Globe with a timely endtime message
- II. Enhance collaboration between ministries and churches
- III. Mass Production and distribution of Endtime Messaging, such as Prophecies, teachings, songs, testimonies through various mediums
- IV. Hold Period conventions to share on acceptable principles of faith
- V. Setup GLOFIRE TV and Radio Broadcasting
- VI. Endtime Movie Productions

You are welcome as a partner to join us in the mission to share the good news of Christ.  
Write to us today at [partners@glofire.org](mailto:partners@glofire.org)

## To Reach Us

Email: [revival@glofire.org](mailto:revival@glofire.org)

Website: [www.glofire.org](http://www.glofire.org)

### **To Read And Watch Our Divine Revelations:**

Website: [www.glofire.tv](http://www.glofire.tv)

### **To Partner Or Support Glofire Causes**

Email Us: [causes@glofire.org](mailto:causes@glofire.org)

Website: [www.glofire.org/causes](http://www.glofire.org/causes)

**JESUS IS COMING SOON**

**RIDING ON THE CLOUDS, AT THE TRUMPET CALL, ON A  
DAY AND HOUR YOU DO NOT KNOW. WE ARE GOING TO**

**REVEAL**

**Revelation 1:7**

**Every eye will see him, even those  
who pierced him**