

Building A Case For The Pre-Trib Rapture

Lesson #31

Addressing Questions

August 31, 2022

The New Testament Records 2 Detailed Descriptions Of The Lord's Return.

Paul > I Thess. 4:13-18

John > Revelation 19:11-16

<p>13. I <u>do not want you to be ignorant</u>, brethren concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope.</p>	<p>11. Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war.</p>
<p>14. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus</p>	<p>12. His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself.</p>
<p>15. For this we say to you by the <u>Word Of The Lord</u>, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep.</p>	<p>13. He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God.</p>
<p>16. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trump of God. And the <u>DEAD IN CHRIST will rise first</u>.</p>	<p>14. And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. [See Rev. 19:8]</p>
<p>17. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.</p>	<p>15. Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.</p>
<p>18. Therefore <u>comfort one another</u> with these words.</p>	<p>16. And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.</p>

Phase 1: Rapture of The Church	Phase 2: Christ To Earth-Glorious Appearing
Pre-Tribulation Rev. 3:10; I Thess. 4:13-18	Post-Tribulation Rev. 19:11-21
Christ comes in the clouds FOR His Church I Thess. 4:16	Christ comes WITH His Church to earth. His Feet touch Mt. Of Olives Zech. 14:4
Catching up of all Church Age believers	No catching up of anyone
Church Age believers are taken to Father's House in Heaven [John 14:1-3]	Living believers are not taken to the Father's House in Heaven [Rev. 19:14]
Receive Glorified Body	Living believers remain in mortal bodies on the earth & enter Millennial Kingdom
Christ Comes as Bridegroom	Christ comes as King
Christ Comes as Deliverer	Christ comes as warrior & judge
The world is left unjudged	The world is judged [Matt. 25:31-46]
The world continues in sin.	Righteousness is established
Church is gathered together to Jesus	Jesus Christ gathers the nations on earth
Only the Rapture is taught as imminent	2 nd coming cannot happen for at least 7 years from today
No signs preceding the Rapture	Many signs preceding the 2 nd coming
Rapture affects only church age believers	2 nd coming affects ALL of humanity
Rapture produces comfort & hope I Thess. 4:18	Produces fear & judgment - Matt. 24:27-31; Luke 21:20-28; Rev. 6:15-17
Rapture must precede the revealing of the Anti-Christ	2 nd coming happens immediately after the 7 year tribulation period
Satan will continue his evil reign	Satan is bound in the abyss at Christ's 2 nd coming
Only church age believers will see Him	Every eye will see Him
Judgment Seat of Christ takes place in heaven	No judgment seat of Christ on earth
After the rapture, the tribulation begins	After the 2 nd coming, the Millennial Kingdom of Jesus Christ begins
The Marriage of The Lamb will take place in heaven after the rapture	Christ and His Bride descend to earth at His 2 nd coming

The Falling Away, Apostasy [Departure], in the latter days.

II Thess. 2:1-3 Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ AND our gathering together to Him [rapture; I Thess. 4], THAT ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the Day of the Lord is at hand [had come.] Let No Man Deceive You by any means; for that Day [The Tribulation] will not come except there come a falling away [apostasy; departure] first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition...

Interesting Side Note: The cognate verb of apostasy is "aphistaymi." It is translated in several places in the NT as, "departing from one place to another." The earlier translation before the 1611 King James, such as the Tyndale, and Geneva, used the word departure instead of *falling away*. "That this day of the Lord cannot come until there is the departure comes first." The Greek word 'aphistaymi' has the little Greek letter ahead of it that indicates the article "the." So the Greek implies "The Departure."

The 1st Seven English Bibles: II Thess. 2:3

1384	Wycliffe Bible	Departynge First
1526	Tyndale Bible	Departynge First
1535	Coverdale bible	Departynge First
1539	Cranmer Bible	Departynge First
1576	Breeches Bible	Departing First
1583	Beza	Departing First
1608	Geneva Bible	Departing First

Thomas Ice Thus, this passage would be saying that the day of the Lord will not come until the rapture comes before it. If apostasia is a reference to a physical departure, then II Thess. 2:3 is strong evidence for the pretribulation belief.

1. If the church is present on Earth during the 7 year Tribulation [Rev. 6-18], it is odd that it is not mentioned after Revelation 2 - 3.

In Rev. 2-3: "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

- Rev. 2:7, 11, 17, 29; Rev. 3:6, 13, 22

Later in Rev. 13:9: "If anyone has an ear, let him hear..."

There is a conspicuous difference between the two statements.

- One is directed to the church; the other is directed to anyone left on earth.

2. Rev. 6:1-8. You said that in this series of "Come and see" that the angel is talking to the horses...

They are talking to John to look and see. to "Come and see" because immediately after three of the four phrases John says: "And I looked," and "So I looked," [2x].

Note: The one who says "Come and see" is one of the 4 beasts or living creatures around the throne of God. They are talking to John who "looked" to see.

The Point: None of the seals can be broken and released until Jesus breaks the seal.

Each horse and its rider cannot act until God's ordained time.

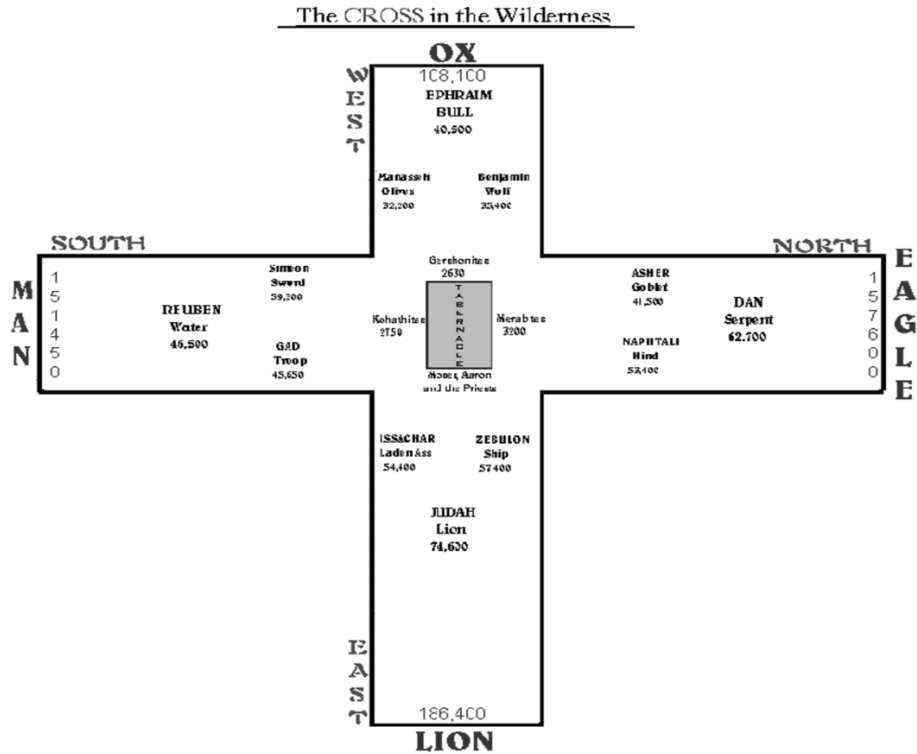
3. 4 living creatures around the throne of God

Rev. 4:6b-7 in the midst of the throne, and round about the throne, were four beasts full of eyes before and behind. And the first beast was like a lion, and the second beast like a calf, and the third beast had a face as a man, and the fourth beast was like a flying eagle.

The 4 Faces Prophecy of Jesus Christ

The 4 banners of the designated tribes that surrounded the Tabernacle in the desert are the same as the faces of the 4 living creatures surrounding God's throne. [Num.2]

Jesus Is All In All > He is all I need



Note: Same 4 faces are found in Ezekiel's vision in Ezekiel 1.

The 4 faces are a prophecy of Christ & Revealed in the 4 Gospels

Matthew	Lion	Jesus is the Righteous King of the Jews, Lion of the Tribe Of Judah Dwells on His royal majesty
Mark	Ox	Jesus as the Suffering Servant of the Lord & People; Emphasis on His miracles, Burden Bearer, His Strength & Action; His Sacrifice
Luke	Man	Jesus as the Great Physician & Friend of Sinners, The Son of Man Emphasis on His humanity, wisdom & mercy; genealogy back to Adam
John	Eagle	Jesus is the Word of God, the Living Bread that came down from Heaven; Emphasis is on His Divinity

4. Does Matthew 24:40-41 indicate a rapture reference? Context of Matt. 24:36-42. But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only.

³⁷ But as the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

³⁸ For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, ³⁹ And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

⁴⁰ Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left.

⁴¹ Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left.

⁴² Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.

Emphasis > People did not know THE DAY judgment would strike.

Noah & his family in the ark are a picture of God's miraculous preservation of the remnant of Israel during the horrific time of Jacob's trouble. [last 3 ½ years]

Enoch, a picture of the Church, is raptured BEFORE the judgment falls.

Consider: What kept the people from listening to Noah's message?

Common interests of life - eating, drinking, marrying, etc.

It is dangerous to get so absorbed in the pursuits of life that we forget JESUS is coming.

The verb, taken, in Matt. 24:39-41 means "taken away in judgment."

Wiersbe: Do not apply these verses to the rapture of the Church when believers are caught up in the air to meet Jesus.

- During the Tribulation, a division will take place. Some will perish in judgment or taken away. Others will remain to enter into the Millennial Kingdom of Jesus Christ.
- The use of "took them all away" in 24:39 makes this clear.

Luke 17:34-37 I tell you, in that night there shall be two men in one bed; the one shall be taken, and the other shall be left.

³⁵ Two women shall be grinding together; the one shall be taken, and the other left.

³⁶ Two men shall be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left.

³⁷ And they answered and said unto him, Where, Lord?

And He said unto them, Wheresoever the body is, thither will the eagles be gathered together.

Consider the context of Luke 17:34-37 Context is 2nd Coming at the END of the 7 years

- Taken = means taken away in judgment
- Noah and his family were left to enjoy a new beginning while the whole population of the earth was taken in the flood.
- The person left is a believer who will enter the Kingdom, a new beginning with Jesus Christ the King.

Note: 3x the disciples heard Jesus talk about people being "taken" and "left."

They asked Him a logical question: Where Lord?

Luke 17:37 And He said unto them, Wheresoever the body is, thither will the eagles be gathered together.

Matt. 24:27-28 For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

²⁸ For wheresoever the carcase is, there will the eagles be gathered together.

The description of the last battle in Rev. 19:17-21 certainly parallels the image of carrion-eating birds gorging themselves on flesh.

Rev. 19:17-21 And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God; ¹⁸ That ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses, and of them that sit on them, and the flesh of all men, both free and bond, both small and great.

¹⁹ And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him that sat on the horse, and against His army.

²⁰ And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.

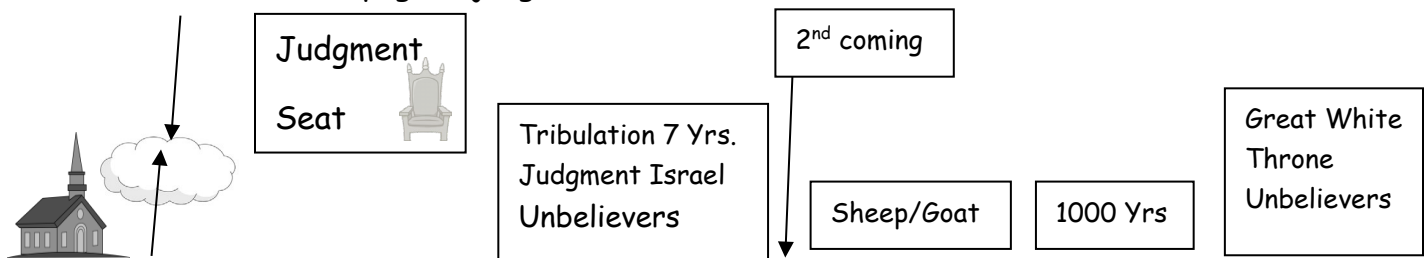
²¹ And the remnant were slain with the sword of Him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceeded out of His mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh.

5. Clarify the timing of the Judgment Seat of Christ vs. the Great White Throne.

Is it just the Church who goes before the Judgment Seat?

Will believers face the Great White Throne at the end times?

When is the sheep/goat judgment? [Refer to chart]



The fact that there is going to be a final judgment for all men, both believers and unbelievers, is clearly confirmed in many passages of Scripture.

- Every person will one day stand before Christ and be judged for his or her deeds.

Judgment Seat of Christ or Bema Seat: II Cor. 5:9-10; I Cor. 3:11-15; Romans. 14:10-12

- Takes place after the Rapture of the Church
- Those "in Christ" are not judged for their sin. Christ paid the penalty on the cross.
- Believers will give an account of their lives to Jesus Christ, our judge.
- For those "in Christ" to receive degrees of rewards for godly service & faithfulness
 - I Cor. 9:24-27; II Tim. 2:5
- Our works will be tried in the fire to reveal gold, silver, precious jewels or wood, hay & stubble.
- The Bible speaks of crowns, rewards, positions in His 1000 year Kingdom.
- Rewards are given in Rev. 2-3 for those who overcome during the Church Age.
- The wedding garment is called the righteous acts of the saints. [Rev. 19:8, 14]

Sheep & Goat Judgment: Matthew 25:31-46

- Takes place at the end of the 7 year Tribulation but prior to the Millennium.
- Purpose: Determine who will enter the Millennial Kingdom for 1000 years
 - ❖ Believing Jewish Remnant & the Gentile sheep
 - ❖ Goats [earth dwellers; unbelievers] will be consigned to Lake of Fire [Matt.25:31]

Great White Throne Judgment: Revelation 20:11-15

- Occurs at the end of the 1000 year Millennial Kingdom of Jesus Christ before the creation of the New Heaven & Earth
- Judgment of unbelievers from all the ages
- Unbelievers are storing up wrath against themselves. Rom. 2:5
- God will give to each person according to what he has done. Rom. 2:6
- All unbelievers will be judged for their sins and judged according to their works which are as filthy rags - their rejection of Jesus Christ > The Way, The Truth, The Life
- They are consigned to everlasting punishment in the lake of fire which was created for Satan and his angels.
- Satan, the beast and the false prophet are already there when the unbelievers arrive.

6. Where are the OT Saints who were in Paradise? What are they doing now?

Note: They did not go to Heaven when they died, because Jesus had not come to earth and lived the life we could not live and died the death we should have died.

His work, alone, opened the way to the Father in Heaven.

The Old Testament taught there was life after death. Everyone who departed this life went to a place of conscious existence which was named Sheol, translated "the realm of the dead."

- Wicked were there Ps. 9:17; 31:17; 49:14; Isaiah 5:14
- Righteous were there Gen. 37:35; Job 14:13; Ps. 6:5; 16:10; 88:3; Isa. 38:10

The New Testament equivalent of Sheol is Hades. [Luke 16:19-31].

Jesus describes two distinctly different places, where man's soul went at death: [Luke 16]

- the place of comfort called Abraham's Bosom or Paradise [Luke 23:43]
- the place of torment that we refer to as Hell [Gehenna in Greek in Mark 9:45]

Note: There was a great chasm [Luke 16:26] between paradise and hell.

- No one could cross the chasm. This indicates that after death, a person's fate is sealed.

Side Note: Today, when an unbeliever dies, he follows the Old Testament unbelievers to the torment side of Hades. At the final judgment, Hades will be emptied before the Great White Throne, where its occupants will be judged prior to entering the lake of fire.

MacArthur: Each Old Testament saint resided in Abraham's Bosom or Paradise awaiting the fulfillment of his expectation. That day arrived when the Lord Jesus Christ shed His blood for the sins of those of faith already dead and those of faith not yet born.

When Jesus ascended to Heaven, He emptied Abraham's Bosom and led the Old Testament saints to their heavenly home. [Eph. 4:8-10]

In leading the OT saints into the presence of God, Jesus fulfilled the prophecy of

- Psalm 68:18 Thou hast ascended on high, thou hast led captivity captive:

Note: Refer to answer in #5: What believers in Heaven are doing now?

7. What about Church Age believers who died before the Rapture?

What are they doing now? Have they gone before the Judgment Seat, or will they be part of the group after the Rapture?

Luke 15:10 Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repents.

I believe those currently in Heaven are sometimes allowed by God to see or know things about what is happening on the earth.

- But only those things that God, for His good purposes, allows them to know.

Heb. 12:1 They are a witness to the value of living by faith and choosing faith over fear.

We have so many tried-and-true examples of proven faith.

ALL deceased believers' bodies are in the grave. Their spirit/soul is in Heaven with Jesus.

Believers now in heaven consist of: Old Testament believers

New Testament believers - part of Church

- Only believers who are part of the Church will go before the Judgment Seat AFTER the Rapture.

Consider: Many will continue to accumulate rewards after their death because of their legacy, books, sermons, witness, prayers. There is not a final accounting until the Church is raptured.

Consider: If I die before the Rapture, will I continue to accumulate rewards?