

## 20220327 Pre-Tribulation Rapture



- **Anti-Christ and Peace Treaty** - There are several other “parenthetical events” that I want to mention that will happen either before the rapture or immediately after the rapture. There will arise a figure who is called the Antichrist in scripture. The anti-Christ will be a geo political figure with great oratorical skills. In the way that Adolph Hitler mesmerized the German people, the Antichrist will mesmerize all peoples of the earth. They will support him as the ruler of a one world government. We will talk about him more later, but it will be he who creates some sort of peace treaty with the Jews. This will allow a third temple to be rebuilt and traditional Jewish worship to resume.
- **The Tribulation** - After believers are removed from the earth, a horrific time of chaos and turbulence will arise in the earth. It will last for seven years. The Holy Spirit will remove Himself from the earth leaving those who remain to their own devices. Every sort of horror imaginable will occur on the earth. Those are the events described in the Book of Revelation chapters 4 to the end. We can be comforted in knowing we will not be here at that time.
- **Midway through this 7 year tribulation**, the peace treaty with the Jews will be broken and all hell will break loose. This is described in scripture as the “Great Tribulation” or the time of “Jacob’s sorrow”.
- **2nd Coming of Christ** – Jesus will come again to the earth at the end of the tribulation. His appearance will be followed immediately by the Battle of Armageddon. When Jesus comes back from heaven he’ll be riding a white horse and his saints will do war with the evil that is in the world.

- **Armageddon** - At the end of this 7 year Tribulation period, all the nations of the earth will come together against the State of Israel. Hal Lindsay taught that the assault would be comprised of 4 geopolitical alliances: 1) Russia with her allies, 2) China with her allies of the east, 3) Egypt and other Middle-Eastern allies, and 3) A European Union with western nations. These nations of the world will gather on the plains of Meggido in Israel. This is called the Valley of Har Megiddo, or we say Armageddon in English. The nations will come together after Israel and then the Lord will return and he'll "defeat them with the word of His mouth." (2 Thessalonians 2:8) ***"And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming."***
- **Millennial Reign** - God will establish Jesus the Messiah as King on the earth. He will rule from Jerusalem for a period of 1,000 years. This will be a literal rule on earth, and David Jeremiah contends that King David himself will rule beside Jesus as sort of a "vice president" type figure. There is a great book available on what this 1,000 year period will be like. It is called *When A Jew Rules the World: What the Bible Really Says about Israel in the Plan of God* by Joel Richardson. It had a great impact on the way I think about heaven. This is the time period described "When the lion will lay down with the lamb".
- **New Heaven and New Earth** - After the Millennium, a New Heaven and New Earth will be established. This will not be a destruction of the earth as we know it today, but it will be a cleaning and a purification of the same. We will live forever in that new earth for all of eternity future.

Here is a diagram of some of what I've just discussed above. Please realize I don't endorse anything on this website. I tried to access it to vett it, and it wouldn't load. It pretty accurately portrays what I've just discussed with the exception of the events mid tribulation as well as a new heaven and a new earth.

Bible Prophecy is such a huge topic that it is sort of like talking about the universe. I've been thinking it through and I think we need to break it down into its most basic pieces to get a glimpse of what it is all about. We'll discuss what it is. What it isn't. What we can learn from it.

### **A Warning**

First, we need to understand that we shouldn't get so side-tracked by prophecy that it becomes an obsession of what we study. I had a friend once who destroyed his Christian life because he became so focused on what was to come that he sort of stopped living in the here and now. He died this last December on the streets of Tuscon as a homeless alcoholic. I think it was just in

his nature to obsess over things, and he obsessed over prophecy like he did over sex, alcohol, and other things in his life. He ended up losing his marriage and his relationship with his children. So, don't get side-tracked by prophecy.

The Bible promises that we will be blessed if we study the Bible. It says so in the Book of Revelation. As we read it, we should remember that He's still in charge even when it looks like things are coming apart.

Prophecy gives us guarantees concerning the rest of the Bible. When we see that prophecies were fulfilled, it gives credence to the Bible and we can trust in the prophecies of future events that are in the Bible.

- 1 In the Old Testament there are over 300 prophecies about the first coming of Christ. The Bible tells us where Jesus would be born, etc. We can look back now and see all of those things that came true. This gives us confidence as we look at things unfolding now, and how things will unfold in the future.
- 2 There are in fact over twice that amount, more than 600 prophecies that deal with the second coming of Christ. If the Bible was accurate in foretelling the first coming, The Bible will be accurate in foretelling the second coming of Christ as well.

We are able to see God's "Big Picture" blueprint for mankind in the diagram above. Studying Bible prophecy is a good thing, and it should affect the way we live. The Bible tells us that we are **blessed** if we read and study the Book of Revelation. In studying Bible prophecy, we learn about God's sovereignty and we are reminded over and over that He is in charge.

### **Will we be here during the rapture?**

I want you to understand from the outset that I do not believe any who are in Christ will be here during the tribulation. That doesn't measure up with the Word of God. There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. The purpose of the tribulation is to bring judgment on unbelievers. In addition, it is worth noting that the first four chapters of the Book of Revelation are addressed to the Church. After that, there is no more instruction for the Church. Rather, there is just description of the devastation to come.

### **Certain Misunderstandings – Rapture vs. 2nd Coming of Christ**

The rapture is when Christ will come for us (every Christian who is still on the earth at that time). This includes those who have already died and those who will still be alive when He comes. (1 Thessalonians 4)

### **Can the Day be Predicted?**

Why can't anyone predict the day? Because Jesus Himself told us that only the Father knows the exact date and time. So, no one can predict when the event will occur.

### **Is it close to happening?**

Although we do not know when it will happen, we do know that we're closer to it happening than it was when we came to the Lord. "for now your redemption is nearer"

### **What about the Mark of the Beast?**

The Mark of the Beast – in the Book of Revelation we are told that mankind will be economically controlled by a mark. Without this mark, no one will be allowed to buy or sell. Without the mark none will be able to survive. This is how the Antichrist will mark his followers.

### **One World Government**

Globalism is a big deal right now. It has never been a big deal like it is right now. In the end there will be a great attempt to make all of the nations one. A one-world government is contrary to the designs of God. The Bible tells us that He has "made nations". The globalism issue goes all the way back to the Tower of Babel when the peoples of the earth banded together in their own version of one-worldism.

### **Other "Weird" stuff**

**144,000** – this represents the twelve tribes of Israel. They will be Jewish evangelists. They are aggressive and they'll go after the earth. The Bible tells us that they will lead the greatest revival in history

**The 2 witnesses** are probably Moses and Elijah – (the former of the law and the reformer of the law). Some miraculous things will happen as they are struck down and come back to life.

**Are things already happening?** – the greatest sign is the return of Israel. Nothing can happen if Israel is not in the land.

**What events need to happen before the rapture?** – NONE; the rapture can happen tonight. We know that is going to happen. When you read the passage in Matthew about the "beginning of sorrows" you shouldn't be surprised to hear those things happening. There are no signs for the rapture but there are signs for the second coming.

**THERE ARE NO SIGNS THAT THE RAPTURE IS COMING.**

Specific passages? – almost every prophetic verse has a practical application. For example.

<sup>23</sup> *Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.*

<sup>24</sup> *And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, <sup>25</sup> not forsaking the*

*assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching. (Hebrews 10 NKJV)*

Gathering together is more important than we think.

John 14:1-6 Jesus told his followers: “let not your hearts be troubled.....” Jesus said, I know you’re wondering where I’m going, but don’t be worried, you’ll know what you’ll know when you’ll know it.

### **Best Advice I can give others**

If Jesus came right now, would you be in that group? Are you ready to see Him if He comes back? If you’re not, then get ready. The Bible tells us that God living in a body came to earth, and He came for all and died for all. Would you be ready?

I’m praying that this series will open people to the reality of Who Jesus is and that it will open eternity in heaven to all who listen. Almighty God wants ALL of us to be with Him forever and He has laid out a plan where no matter what we’ve done NOBODY needs to be left out.

THIS IS A CHART OF THE 7 DISPENSATIONS