

Pre-Tribulation Rapture Demands- S.M. Platt

A normal, literal interpretation of the scriptures would never result in a Pre-tribulation rapture position. Only through the teachings of men do we reason away the logical interpretation and chronology of the scriptures to accept such a position. The Pre-tribulation Rapture Demands are overwhelmingly contrary to scripture.

The Pre-tribulation Rapture:

-Demands the absence of Church based on lack of mention, and dispensational theory, stating that the Church age must be over with because God is dealing with Israel's 70" week, thus the Church cannot be there.

-Offers only presuppositions such as the Holy Spirit being "he who now letteth, as further proof of the church being removed.

-Demands 2 raptures (1 pre-tribulation rapture and one at great multitude) without one single verse of scripture to support 2 raptures.

-Demands 2 resurrections (1 at pre-tribulation rapture and 1 at Dan. 12 resurrection), before 2nd death, (making the first resurrection, actually the second resurrection.), with no scriptural justification, again only because of positional demands. No scriptural justification.

-Demands the designation of the "coming of the Lord and our gathering together unto him" in 2Thess. 2: 1-2 as 2 events separated by a period of no less than 3 1/2, years. When Jesus told us that His coming would be like in the days of Noe and Lot, "that same day"

-Or it places the "revealing of the man of perdition" outside of (prior to) the 70" week. Redefines the word revealed to mean "appears". revealed: apokalyptō 1) to uncover, lay open what has been veiled or covered up a) disclose, make bare
2) to make known, make manifest disclose what before was unknown

-Makes the rapture a mysterious, secret event not seen by the world, while Rev. 1:7 says that every eye will see Him, and Matthew describes it as lighting shining out of the East unto the West, so shall the coming of man be. Rev 1:7 also places Jesus' coming in the clouds, as in I Thessalonians 4:17, as well as the whole world wailing because of his coming, as in Rev. 6 "The great day of his wrath is come. Who shall be able to stand?"

-Rejects the normal interpretation and chronological order of Matthew 24 (even though it correlates with Revelations 6-7, 2Thessalonians 2, and Daniel passages)

-Sometimes even suggests that "one taken, another left" and description of Lord's coming in Matthew 24 are related to Armageddon. Even though it can be clearly shown that these parallel the 6" seal.

-Rejects the only two passages of scripture that describe anything even remotely resembling an event such as a rapture, (one taken another left Matt. 24:40 &41, and great multitude suddenly appearing in heaven Rev. 7:9) only because the timing conflicts with the pre- tribulation rapture position.

- Applies "thief in the night" to the rapture when it is clearly referring to the coming of Christ at the Day of the Lord, and then strangely, tries to separate the two events.

-Calls the entire 7 yr. tribulation period the wrath of God, when it is easily proved that the day of the Lord begins at the 6th seal.

All of this confusion can easily be resolved by placing the rapture at the appearance of the great multitude in heaven of the 6th seal and at the correlating point in Matthew 24 of angels gathering the elect, after the great tribulation and sign of the Lord's coming. It easily reconciles all of these prophetic passages simply by comparing scripture with scripture.

Why would we reject this interpretation? Aside from theories, conjectures and presuppositions, what biblical support is there for the pre-tribulation rapture? What proof is there that the Holy Spirit is "he who now letteth?" Where is the scripture that refers to 2 raptures? What biblical justification is there to reject the simplest, literal, chronological interpretation?

A literal interpretation, comparing scripture with scripture reveals a different timing of the rapture.

***See also Pre-Wrath Chart**

Comparing scripture with scripture, aligning key points as time markers, here is a brief outline of event in the suggested chronological order:

1st 4 Seals of Revelation align with Matthew 24 beginning of sorrows (birth pangs) Isaiah's description of the events preceding the day of the Lord begins with sorrows and pangs, and proceeds to travail.

Isaiah 13:8 " And they shall be afraid: pangs and sorrows shall take hold of them; they shall be in pain as a woman that travaileth: they shall be amazed one at another; their faces shall be as flames.⁹ Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, cruel both with wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate: and he shall destroy the sinners thereof out of it."

Matthew 24:7 "For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places.⁸ All these are the beginning of sorrows. " Clearly these events, the beginnings of sorrows, (birth pangs) are part of the 7 year tribulation-the time of Jacob's trouble.

They will kill you, love of many waxes cold, apostasy, falling away/ 5th seal

Could not be God's wrath because God's faithful are being martyred. How then can they claim that they are not appointed to wrath?

Abomination of Desolation

Two witnesses, generally agreed to be Elijah and Moses do not arrive until midpoint. Elijah, or someone like him must appear before the day of the Lord (Malachi 4:5 Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD)

Great tribulation, which is cut short for the sake of the elect. The elect here cannot be only Jews because this is immediately prior to sign of the Lord's coming Matthew 24:29 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: Revelation 6:12 And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood;
13 And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind. Then the great multitude of all nations, kindreds, peoples and tongues appears in heaven.

Signs of the Day of the Lord

Sun darkened, moon turns to blood

Coming of the Lord describes both Rapture and Day of the Lord, as together.

Great multitude in heaven/ one taken another left

These two passages of scripture, being the only ones describing events even similar to the rapture are generally rejected as rapture passages by Pre-tribulation rapturists, NOT for exegetical reasons, but simply because they do not line up with their position.

As in the day of Noah, they were marrying and giving in marriage

Just as with case of Noah, and Lot the Lord will deliver the righteous and pour out his judgment in the same day.

2 Thessalonians 1:7 And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels,

8 In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:

9 Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;

10 When he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day.

This is same order idea of Jesus coming to judge and to deliver his saints is repeated in

2 Thessalonians 2:1 Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him,

1 Thessalonians 4:15 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.

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

17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. (rapture)

18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

1 Thessalonians 5:1 But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. (times and seasons of what?- of what he was just discussing of course-the rapture.)

2 For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.

3 For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.

