

## Summary Reasons For Believing in a Pre-Tribulation Rapture

- 1.) In speaking to the believers in the church of Philadelphia they were given the promise: *“Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.”* The Greek word for “from” is “ek” which means “out of” and does not mean “through.” **Church age believers will be kept out of the entire tribulation period.**
- 2.) **None** of the Old Testament or New Testament passages on the tribulation **mention the church.** (Deut. 4:29-30; Jer. 30:4-11; Dan. 8:24-27; 12:1-2; Matt. 13:30, 48-50; 24:15-31; 1 Thess. 1:9-10, 5:4-9; 2 Thess. 2:1-11; Rev. 4-18).
- 3.) The purpose of the tribulation is to **prepare Israel** for restoration. It is **not to prepare the church** for glory; that is why it is called the *“time of Jacob’s trouble.”* (Jer. 30:7). In Luke 21:27 it says: *“for there shall be great distress in the land, and wrath upon this people.”* (meaning Israel, not the church.)
- 4.) The **church is not appointed to wrath** (Romans 5:9; 1 Thess. 1:9-10; 5:9). Zephaniah 1:18 describes the *“day of the Lord”* (the tribulation) as a **“day of wrath.”** The church **does not enter** *“the great day of their wrath”* (Rev. 6:17).
- 5.) John, in Rev. 4:1, is called up into heaven to see the remaining events which happen **after the church age, which is seen in the phrase, “after this.”** **John’s calling up to heaven is a picture of the church being raptured up at the end of the church age before the tribulation begins.**
- 6.) The **24 elders in Rev. 4:4 represent the church age believers that have already been raptured** at the end of the church age described in chapters 2 and 3, but **before the tribulation** begins in chapter 6 with the seal judgments.
- 7.) Rev. 6:16,17 describes the fourth seal judgment and clearly states that the wrath is come: *“Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?”* The seal judgments are the first judgments of the tribulation and are clearly referred to as being **wrath**, and since church age believers are not to experience wrath, they have been raptured **before** the tribulation begins, **not during** it.
- 8.) The result of the fourth seal judgment is that one **fourth of the people on earth will be killed.** How can anyone say that this is **not wrath**? It clearly is and is exactly what church age believers will be saved from according to 1 Thess. 5:9; *“For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ.”*
- 9.) Rev. 1:19 gives the outline for the book: *“Write the things which thou **hast seen** (chapter 1, the vision of Christ in glory), and the **things which are** (chapters 2 & 3 concerning the present church age), and the **things which shall be hereafter** (chapter 4 & forward; the tribulation, millennium. And eternal state).”* The present church age ends with the rapture of the church and the **tribulation begins only after the church age is concluded**; hence the tribulation is **“hereafter”** the church age and rapture.
- 10.) The pattern given in the Old Testament is one of **delivering believers before a divine judgment** is inflicted on the world as seen in the examples of Noah, Lot, Rahab, etc. (2 Peter 2:5-9). Thus, the **bride of Christ (the church) will be raptured prior to the tribulation.**
- 11.) Imminency of the rapture (meaning that it can happen at any time without any required preceding events) is supported in scripture (1 Cor. 1:7; 16:22; Phil. 3:20; 4:5; 1 Thess. 1:10; Titus 2:13; Heb. 9:28; James 5:7-9; 1 Peter 1:13; Jude 21; Rev. 3:11; 22:7, 12, 17, 20). **If the rapture came at any point during the tribulation it would not be imminent**, since there are a number of things, which must take place to fulfill prophecy at the beginning of the tribulation.
- 12.) **Paul himself believed that the rapture of the church was imminent even in his day.** That is why he includes himself in his letter to the Corinthians in 1 Cor. 15:51 when he says *“Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet, for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.”* **An imminent rapture can only occur if it is pre-tribulation.**
- 13.) The New Testament also views the **rapture of the church as a “blessed hope,”** an event that is anxiously looked forward to (John 14:1-3; 1 Thess. 4:18). This blessed hope is negated if the church must go through the tribulation.
- 14.) The **church is never instructed to look for signs in connection with the rapture** of the church because it is imminent and there are no signs; but there are **signs given for the second coming of Christ to the earth at the end of the tribulation, given to Israel and believers who come to faith during the tribulation period (Matt. 24).**
- 15.) Paul wrote to the believers in Thessalonica to correct their erroneous belief that they were already in the tribulation period because of the persecutions they were enduring. And in 2 Thess. 2:6-7 he tells them that the “restrainer,” **the Holy Spirit must be taken out of the way first before the Wicked One will be revealed.** **Since one of the primary ministries of the Holy Spirit is to indwell believers, this will be done at the rapture of the church.** And since the Wicked One, the antichrist, is the one who will begin the Tribulation period with the signing of a peace covenant with Israel (Dan. 9:26-27); **the rapture of the church must take place before the tribulation begins.**

**Even so, come quickly Lord Jesus!**