

The Case for Pre-Tribulation Rapture

Revelation 3:10 & 4:1

The Tribulation prophesied in the Old Testament:

- A time of distress (Daniel 12:10)
- The day of vengeance (Isaiah 34:8; 35:4; 61:2; 63:4)
- The day of the Lord's wrath (Zephaniah 1:18)
- The great and terrible day of the Lord (Malachi 4:5)

The Tribulation explained in the New Testament:

- Jesus' description of the tribulation period (Matthew 24): a time period in two halves, an intense and extensive period of destruction; includes both human and natural disasters.
- Paul's description of the Day of the Lord in 2 Thessalonians 2 & 3)

The length of the Tribulation = 7 years.

- Revelation 11:2-3 mark the beginning of the second half of the tribulation = 1260 days and 42 months = 3 ½ years. Implication = the first half of the tribulation = 3 ½ years.

When does the Tribulation occur?

- Revelation 3:10 (Message to the Church at Philadelphia) – *Because you have kept my command to endure, I will also keep you from the hour of testing that is going to come on the whole world to test those who live on the earth.* Revelation 4:1 (The beginning of the throne-room vision) – *After this I looked, and there in heaven was an open door. The first voice that I had heard speaking to me like a trumpet said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this."*
- Both of these verses would seem to indicate the church removed from the tribulation.
- I believe in a Pre-Tribulation rapture – Jesus will descend and Christians will be "snatched up". At that time, the tribulation period described will begin.
- Both Jesus and Paul promised believers would be saved from the "wrath to come" (Matthew 3:7; Luke 3:7; 1 Thessalonians 1:10; 5:9)
- Pretribulationism is the only view that makes Christ's return "the blessed hope" (Titus 2:13) truly a blessed hope. Christ's return as a "blessed hope" is misleading if the Tribulation must come first. Believers would need to look for signs instead.
- The first-century church believed in and looked forward to the imminent return of Jesus.
- None of the OT prophecies and the NT explanations mention the church.
- The only view that allows for the "end time" events to occur, such as Jesus taking Christians to His Father's house (John 14:1-3) and rewarding them at the judgment seat of Christ (Romans 14:10-12 & 2 Corinthians 5:10). The marriage supper of the bride of Christ in heaven occurs before He comes "with power and great glory" to the earth (Matthew 24:30)
- Fits the flow of Revelation, explains why the church is affirmed in the first three chapters of Revelation, but then disappears and is not mentioned again until Rev. 18:24)

Transition to Revelation 7 – the first interval

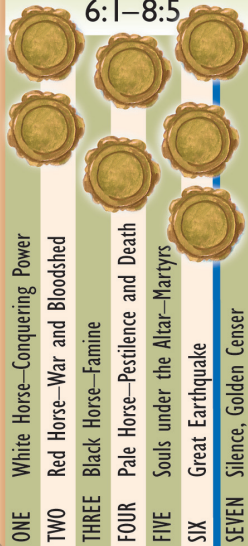
1. Revelation 7 remind us that we may be the rapture generation – the last generation of the church. Jesus could come again in our generation and we will be caught up to meet the Lord in the air. What a day, glorious day, that will be!
2. The Bible commands us to live ready – but not so ready that we major on prophecy or apologetics and neglect serving the Lord and winning souls.

3. The blessed hope is not an incentive to rest but to work – “Engage in business until I come back!” (Luke 19:13).
4. Since our future is secure, we can put all of our heart, energy, and soul into fulfilling the Great Commission. “We’ll work til Jesus comes and we’ll be gathered home.”

The Tribulation

Seven-sealed Book

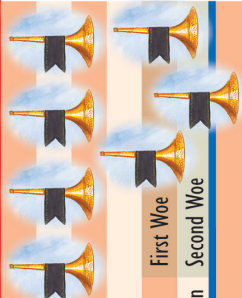
The Seven Seals 6:1-8:5



- ONE White Horse—Conquering Power
- TWO Red Horse—War and Bloodshed
- THREE Black Horse—Famine
- FOUR Pale Horse—Pestilence and Death
- FIVE Souls under the Altar—Martyrs
- SIX Great Earthquake
- SEVEN Silence, Golden Censer

INTERVAL
144,000 Sealed
(7:1-8)

The Seven Trumpets 8:7-11:19



- ONE Hail, Fire, Blood
- TWO Burning Mountain
- THREE Star Wormwood
- FOUR Sun Diminished
- FIVE Plague of Locusts
- SIX Plague of Horsemen
- SEVEN Christ Rules

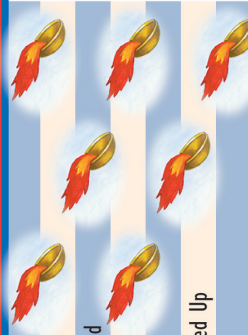
INTERVAL
Little Book,
Two Witnesses
(10:1-11:13)

The Seven Key Figures 12:1-13:18



- ONE Woman—Israel
- TWO Dragon—Satan
- THREE Male Child—Christ
- FOUR Michael—The Archangel
- FIVE Remnant—Saved Israel
- SIX Antichrist—Beast out of the Sea
- SEVEN False Prophet—Beast out of the Earth

The Seven Bowls 15:1-16:21



- ONE Boils
- TWO Sea to Blood
- THREE Rivers to Blood
- FOUR Great Heat
- FIVE Darkness
- SIX Euphrates Dried Up
- SEVEN Hail

INTERVAL
Three Angel
Messengers
(14:1-20)

Seven Dooms on Babylon 17:1-18:24



- ONE Devoid of Human Life
- TWO Burned with Fire
- THREE Destroyed in One Hour
- FOUR People Afraid to Enter Her Borders
- FIVE Riches Brought to Nothing
- SIX Violently Overthrown
- SEVEN All Activity Ceases

Return of Christ 19:1-21



- Battle of Armageddon
- Marriage of the Lamb
- Return of Christ with the Church and His Angels
- Antichrist and False Prophet Cast into the Lake of Fire

The Millennial Kingdom

Tribulation (Daniel's Seventieth Week)

First Half of Tribulation (3 1/2 Years)

