

WILL THE CHURCH GO THROUGH THE TRIBULATION?

(7 Reasons for the Pre-Tribulational Rapture)

* John 14:3

I. DEFINING THE IMPORTANT TERMS

II. DISTINGUISHING THE TWO PHASES OF CHRIST'S SECOND COMING

III. DISCOVERING THE TRUTH OF THE RAPTURE (1 Thess. 4:13-18)

IV. DECLARING THE PROPHETIC VIEWS ON THE RAPTURE

A. Several PROPOSED VIEWS of the Rapture.

1. _____ – this view teaches that the church will be translated before the Tribulation period.
2. _____ – this view teaches that the church will be raptured 3 1/2 years into the Tribulation period.
3. _____ – this view teaches that the church will be caught away after the Tribulation period.
4. _____ – this view teaches that only certain believers (i.e. the spiritual Christians) will be raptured before the Tribulation, while the carnal ones must go thru it.
5. _____ – this view teaches that the church will go through most of the Tribulation period, being raptured before the wrath of God is poured out on the earth.

B. Some PROPER QUESTIONS About this Issue.

1. Why are there various and conflicting views on this issue?
2. Does it really matter if the church escapes the Tribulation or not?
3. Will the church go through "tribulation"?
4. Can one have biblical certainty regarding the timing of the Rapture?

V. DISCERNING THE TIMING OF THE RAPTURE

A. EXAMINING the EVIDENCE.

The Church will not go through the Tribulation...

1. Because believers in Christ have been specifically promised "salvation" from the coming _____ of the Tribulation period. (1 Thessalonians 5:1-11)

* Is there "wrath" in the first half of the Tribulation? (Rev. 6)

2. Because for the "Restrainer" who is the _____ to be taken out of the way requires for the church to be removed from the earth as well. (2 Thessalonians 2:1-10)
 - * If these believers had expected to go through the Tribulation (which they didn't), why were they so shaken by this false teaching?

3. Because believers have been promised to be "kept _____ the _____ of temptation". (Revelation 3:10-11)
 - * How is "from" and "hour" to be understood?

4. Because of the usage of the word "church" and the chronology of the book of _____.
 - * How is the word "church" distributed in this book?

5. Because the church has no _____ or _____ in any of the 70 weeks of Daniel. (Daniel 9:24-27)
 - * What must a believer distinguish regarding this?

6. Because if the Rapture does not take place until the end of the Tribulation, how will the Millennial earth be populated with people in _____. (Isa. 65:20; Rev. 20:7-10)
 - * What view best answers this issue?

7. Because if the Rapture must be preceded by signs, fulfilled prophecy, etc. connected to the Tribulation period, the Lord's return for His church cannot be _____.
 - * What are some passages that teach immanency?

B. APPLYING the ANSWERS.

1. Who cares if the Church goes through the Tribulation or not?

2. What does all of this mean to you personally and practically?