

**STUDY GUIDE**  
**JOYFUL HARVEST TEACHING SERIES**  
**A Study of Things to Come by Larry Booth**  
**STUDY: The Rapture of the Church**  
**Chapter 35**

# Why I believe in a pre-Trib. Rapture of the church- Parts 3&4- The problem with other positions

- I. Good logic and literal interpretation-Puzzle pieces fit
- II. The crowns in Rev 4:1-11- The 3 “w’s”
- III. The Jewish wedding and the language of John 14
- IV. The problems with other positions- (See Chapter 13)

Colossians 1:25-26 (KJV)

<sup>25</sup> Whereof I am made a minister, according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you, to fulfil the word of God;

<sup>26</sup> Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints:

**Tim LaHaye:** “Dr. Walvoord was a Bible scholar for more than 60 years and he personally knew most of the living scholars on this subject. He warned that “it is not uncommon for scholars who defect from pretribulationism in favor of posttribulationism to also defect in their doctrine of the inerrancy of Scripture.”<sup>1</sup> I would add that some reject the pre-Trib position because it is not spelled out in detail in one single passage, but they often end up with a position more complex and less logical and not in keeping with the plain sense of Scripture. When taken literally, the prophetic passages of Scripture produce a pre-Millennial view of the kingdom, a futuristic view of the Tribulation as described in the book of Revelation, and a pre-Tribulation Rapture.”<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Dr. John F. Walvoord, (1976). The Blessed Hope and the Tribulation: A Historical and Biblical Study of Posttribulationism (p.159). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House.

<sup>2</sup> LaHaye, Tim. (2016). Who Will Face the Tribulation?: How to Prepare for the Rapture and Christ's Return (Tim LaHaye Prophecy Library™) (Kindle Locations 1944-1945). Harvest House Publishers. Kindle Edition.

### A. We know there is definitely a “catching away” or departure according to Paul in 1 Thess. 4:14-16.

#### Deuteronomy

#### 29:29 (HCSB)

<sup>29</sup> The hidden things belong to the LORD our God, but the revealed things belong to us...

#### 1 Thessalonians 4:14-18 (HCSB)

<sup>14</sup> Since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, in the same way God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep through Jesus.

<sup>15</sup> For we say this to you by a revelation from the Lord: We who are still alive at the Lord’s coming will certainly have no advantage over those who have fallen asleep.

<sup>16</sup> For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the archangel’s voice, and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.

<sup>17</sup> Then we who are still alive will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air and so we will always be with the Lord.

<sup>18</sup> Therefore encourage one another with these words.

### B. In John 14, 1 Thessalonians 4, 1 Cor. 15:52-53, and 2 Thessalonians 2:3, Jesus and Paul describe the coming Rapture:

1. Jesus Himself will return
2. He could come at any moment- there are no signs preceding this event
3. Jesus will bring those church believers who have already died before with Him
4. He will begin the event with a shout
5. It will take place in a moment in the twinkling of an eye
6. He will resurrect their bodies first out of the graves
7. He will transform the physical bodies of those living to a supernatural body like His
8. He will not touch the ground
9. Nobody will see this event happen, other than people disappearing
10. He will take the church back to heaven with Him for a time
11. The departure definitely happens before the middle of the Tribulation period- and before the revelation of the Antichrist.

### C. The book of Revelation tells us what is going to happen in the future

There is no event during the trib. in Revelation during the 7 years described as the Tribulation period, which describes Paul’s catching away in first Thessalonians 4 or Jesus’ description in John 14, (except possibly in Rev.4:1 describing a catching up before the beginning of the Tribulation.

### D. Other positions about the Rapture

1. No Rapture at all, no Millennial, or Jesus shows up after the Millennial
2. Preterism-Everything in the book of Revelation already happened-based on improper date
3. Mid-Tribulation Rapture-
4. Pre-wrath position Rapture happens  $\frac{3}{4}$  into the Tribulation
5. Post-Tribulation Rapture

## E. The big IF'S (Taking other theories into consideration)

1. If the only rapture that happens is in the middle of Tribulation exclusively, then:

- a) The “wrath” would have to be considered the last 3 ½ years of the Tribulation period only because the church is promised not to enter God’s wrath.
- b) And the “man-child” that is *harpazo’ed* out supposedly in the middle, would have to be the Church raptured in Rev. 12:5- meaning Jesus wouldn’t have kept his word to us to “escape all of these things that shall come to pass.” Luke 21:36

Revelation 12:5 (HCSB)

<sup>5</sup> **But she gave birth to a Son—a male who is going to shepherd all nations with an iron scepter—and her child was caught up to God and to His throne.**

Revelation 12:5-9 (KJV)

<sup>5</sup> **And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne.**

<sup>6</sup> **And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days.**

<sup>7</sup> **And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels,**

<sup>8</sup> **And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven.**

<sup>9</sup> **And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.**

<p>Rapture then the First 3 1/2</p>
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- c) Also that those who seem to be resurrected and physically there in heaven before the throne in the beginning of trib. in Rev. 4:1, must only be *spiritually* in heaven.
- d) If we assume the 7 years starts with the treaty with Israel as Dan. 9:27 states, then the Rapture cannot be imminent because we could count 3 1/2 years to the coming Rapture. So if I am wrong about a pre-Trib. Rapture, then we will see the Antichrist make a pact with Israel for 7 years to strengthening them, and we could count 3 ½ years till the Rapture of the church.
- e) But 2 Thess. 2 say the “departure” would happen first before the abomination that Daniel 9:27 says happens in the “middle” of the Tribulation. This rules out a post-Trib. *only* Rapture. It also says that the one withholding would be taken out of the way before the Antichrist is revealed and takes rule at the beginning of the tribulation.
- f) We would have to deny the strict distinctions between Israel and the church and their obvious dispensations. “This is observed in that this position places the church in the

first half of the last seven years of the period determined upon Daniel's people and city." <sup>3</sup>

- g) While there may be a departure of Tribulation saints near the middle of the Tribulation period, There is no resurrection mentioned anywhere during the Tribulation period in the book of Revelation. Something this important would be mentioned in association with the *Harpazo* of the man-child in Rev. 12:5, and would match Paul's teaching using the same Greek work to describe the Rapture of the church in 1 Thessalonians 4. If a resurrection were mentioned here, there would be no question of a mid-Trib. Rapture only position. There is no mention of a resurrection here or with the 144,000 when they are redeemed from out of the Earth. If the "man-child is the church being raptured *in the middle*, then where is the resurrection of the dead that Paul says happens?

The 144,000 seem to be in heaven sometime after the Rapture but before Jesus returns to the earth.

#### **Revelation 14:1-5 (KJV)**

<sup>1</sup> **And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him an hundred forty *and* four thousand, having his Father's name written in their foreheads.**

<sup>2</sup> **And I heard a voice from heaven, as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of a great thunder: and I heard the voice of harpers harping with their harps:**

<sup>3</sup> **And they sung as it were a new song before the throne, and before the four beasts, and the elders: and no man could learn that song but the hundred *and* forty *and* four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth.**

<sup>4</sup> **These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were redeemed from among men, being the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb.**

<sup>5</sup> **And in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God.**

The 144,000 are raptured out of the Earth also according to Rev. 14:1-5 sometime during the Tribulation period. We assume Rev. 7 is possibly a mid-Trib. group caught up in the middle but also may be part of an end of trib. group, depending on what time this vision speaks of. No physical resurrections are mentioned though. So, It just doesn't fit to make a case for a mid-Trib. only Rapture position (1 Cor. 15:23 Jesus was the first fruit of the church dispensation). The 144,000 are first-fruits of Israel's dispensation during the Tribulation period –Rev. 14:4.

#### **1 Corinthians 15:20-21 (KJV)**

<sup>20</sup> **But now is Christ risen from the dead, *and* become the firstfruits of them that slept.**

<sup>21</sup> **For since by man *came* death, by man *came* also the resurrection of the dead.**

- h) The main verses used by mid-Trib. only position is Rev 7:9-15- The problem with making this the only Rapture is that when asked "who these are," the answer is given

<sup>3</sup> Pentecost, J. Dwight; (1958, 2001). Things to Come: A Study in Biblical Eschatology (Kindle Locations 3341-3349). Grand Rapids, MI., Zondervan. Kindle Edition.

that “these are they who have come out of great tribulation.” This leaves no room for all of the New Testament saints who died before the Tribulation. Where are they? This also means that most Christians will die during the first 3 ½ years of the Tribulation period. Keep in mind this group could show up in Heaven later than we think depending on the timing of the vision’s fulfilment.

**Revelation 7:9-17 (KJV)**

<sup>9</sup> **After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands;**

<sup>10</sup> **And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb.**

<sup>11</sup> **And all the angels stood round about the throne, and *about* the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God,**

<sup>12</sup> **Saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, *be* unto our God for ever and ever. Amen.**

<sup>13</sup> **And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they?**

<sup>14</sup> **And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.**

<sup>15</sup> **Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them.**

<sup>16</sup> **They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat.**

<sup>17</sup> **For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.**

2. If The Rapture of the church is *only* post (at the end of) Tribulation, then:

- a) There is no time to fulfill all of the heavenly events for the church; Shout, Marriage, Bema Seat, and wedding feast.
- b) Then John 14 cannot be literal. There is no “place” prepared where Christ is, where we will go.
- c) Then the church will suffer the Tribulation also.
- d) Jesus promises protection to the church (so do the post-Tribbers) then why do so many saints die at the hand of the Antichrist?

Here is an example written by **Bradley Nutt** of how the post-Tribbers believe and write snide remarks about pre-Tribbers and say falsely that all true Christians will be protected during the Tribulation.

“DIVINE PROTECTION BY JESUS- Those that teach the rapture breed fear. “You can’t be here during the tribulation, the Lord pours plagues and wrath out.” Remember Egypt, the Lord brought plagues and they were isolated to the Egyptians. The Israelites were protected, and this will be the case during the tribulation. The

plagues will fall on the world or Satan's kingdom. Those saved that are sealed by the Holy Spirit won't be hurt."<sup>4</sup>

While this is true concerning most of the plagues during the Tribulation for believers, Daniel says the the Antichrist will "wear out" the saints. Jesus said that time would be worse than anything the Jews will have ever encountered- Matthew 24:21. The problem is that thousands of Christians during the Tribulation will lose their life and suffer in this world-this seems like a contradiction.

Matthew 16:18- The gates (defenses) of Hell cannot prevail against the Church  
Daniel 7:21-25- The Antichrist makes war with the saints and wears them out

**Chuch Missler** wrote: "There appears to be a contradiction in the Scriptures here. On the one hand, Jesus says the gates of Hell are no match for the Church, and on the other hand, the Antichrist is able to overcome the saints."<sup>5</sup>

Missler goes on to explain there are different kinds of saints in the Bible.

The case of John the Baptist- Matthew 11:11

**Matthew 11:11 (KJV)**

<sup>11</sup> **Verily I say unto you, Among them that are born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist: notwithstanding he that is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.**

- 1) Non other greater than John born
- 2) The least in the kingdom is greater than John. Why? A different dispensation  
Clues- Luke 16:16, Matthew 11:13, Matt. 11:10, Quoting Malachi 3:1, 4:5

**Luke 16:16 (KJV)**

<sup>16</sup> **The law and the prophets *were* until John: since that time the kingdom of God is preached, and every man presseth into it.**

Matthew 11:13 (KJV)

<sup>13</sup> **For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John.**

Matthew 11:10 (KJV)

<sup>10</sup> **For this is *he*, of whom it is written, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee.**

**Malachi 3:1 (KJV)**

<sup>1</sup> **Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the**

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<sup>4</sup> Nutt, Bradley Nutt Article-*The lie revealed on the pretribulation rapture*  
[https://www.preteristarchive.com/dEmEnTiA/2003\\_nut\\_lie-revealed.html](https://www.preteristarchive.com/dEmEnTiA/2003_nut_lie-revealed.html)

<sup>5</sup> Missler, Dr Chuck. (2015). *The Rapture: Christianity's Most Preposterous Belief* (P. 86-Kindle Locations 760-762). Coeur d' Alene, ID. Koinonia House. Kindle Edition.

**Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the LORD of hosts.**

Malachi 4:5 (KJV)

**<sup>5</sup> Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD:**

**Missler-** "In other words, John the Baptist represents the closing of the Old Covenant. Malachi may have been the final book, but it is the messenger of Malachi 3:1, 400 years after the prophecy was given, who closes out the Old Testament. John was killed before Jesus died on the cross for you and me, but he was saved under Old Testament rules as an Old Testament saint. Not all saints are alike. There are different groups of saints..."<sup>6</sup>

**3)** John was the last of the Old Testament saints-Matt. 11:13-14

### Three Groups of Saints:

1. Old Testament saints-Psalms 85:8

**Psalm 85:8 (KJV)**

**<sup>8</sup> I will hear what God the LORD will speak: for he will speak peace unto his people, and to his saints: but let them not turn again to folly.**

2. New Testament Saints- The church- Philip. 4:21

**Philippians 4:21 (KJV)**

**<sup>21</sup> Salute every saint in Christ Jesus. The brethren which are with me greet you.**

3. Tribulation Saints-under Israel's judgment and deliverance

a. Early ones-Rev 6:9-11, 7:9-14

Revelation 6:9-11 (KJV)

**<sup>9</sup> And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held:**

**<sup>10</sup> And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?**

**<sup>11</sup> And white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellowservants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled.**

During  
the 5<sup>th</sup>  
seal

<sup>6</sup> Missler, Dr Chuck. (2015). The Rapture: Christianity's Most Preposterous Belief (P. 88-Kindle Locations 772-775). Coeur d' Alene, ID. Koinonia House. Kindle Edition.

<p>During the Second Half</p>
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**Revelation 7:9-14 (KJV)**

<sup>9</sup> After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands;

<sup>10</sup> And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb.

<sup>11</sup> And all the angels stood round about the throne, and *about* the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God,

<sup>12</sup> Saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, *be* unto our God for ever and ever. Amen.

<sup>13</sup> And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they?

<sup>14</sup> And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

- b. Latter ones-Rev. 20:4- Resurrections just days after His return

**Revelation 20:4 (KJV)**

<sup>4</sup> And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and *I saw* the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received *his* mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.

**KEY:** If the Rapture of the church happens when Jesus returns to the Earth then why are there resurrections of dead saints a few days later after thrones are set up?

- e) One is either dead or raptured, so who will go into the Millennium alive with physical bodies?
- f) Rev 19 tells of Christ second return to the Earth at the end of the Tribulation period and does not describe a resurrection or Rapture like 1 Thess. 4 does. In fact there is not an exact *same* description like Paul's found anywhere in the Revelation.

In The Revelation 19 account of the Second Advent Christ is coming and the Marriage Supper is being announced which traditionally happens 7 days *after* the wedding of the bride. The church has already been with Jesus at the wedding for 7 years. In fact the saints are already with Christ at this event coming back with Him.

- g) One would have to negate Christ promises to miss the wrath-1 Thess. 5:9, Rev. 3:10

**C.I. Scofield:**

"For our conversation (citizenship) is in heaven: from whence also we LOOK for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself" (Phil. 3:20, 21).

To assert that this is language suited to express a belief that before the change looked for can take place this age must be drawn out till it ends in the great tribulation, to be fulfilled only after the agonies of judgment upon judgment,

including “the wine of the fierceness of the wrath of God,” have been endured, is not only to do violence to plain unambiguous language, but is to bear melancholy testimony to the power of a false theory to warp the minds of good and sincere men. The passage itself describes a personal expectation, a personal attitude, for it is not death and a distant resurrection but the “change,” “in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye” (1 Cor. 15:51–53), which is the desire of the passage. “Ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God: and to WAIT for his Son from heaven, whom the raised from the dead even Jesus, who delivered us from the wrath to come” (1 Thes. 1:9, 10).<sup>7</sup>

For post Tribbers to be correct this verse would have to read: “wait for His son from heaven... who delivered us from the wrath that CAME.”

- h) Post tribbers have to create a rapture event just before the Second Advent event to place their Rapture at the end. The two clearly do not happen at the same time. While they complain pre-Tribbers interject a “secret rapture” before the Tribulation, they do the very same thing by putting the only rapture just before the Revelation in chapter 19 where the Bible does not. They assume it has happened just before. If the Rapture was at the end wouldn’t the Lord spell that out very clearly in Revelation 19? Actually the Bible does says we, the church will be with Him at that point, so post-Tribbers have to say that the Rapture has already happened- Rev. 19:14. Also some others confuse the post revelation of Christ gathering by the angels, as the rapture of the church. This verse is found in Matthew 24:29-31. This is no doubt the gathering of the remnant of Israel. There is disagreement if the post Trib. Rapture is before or after the return of the Lord.

**Revelation 19:14 (KJV)**

<sup>14</sup> **And the armies *which were* in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean.**

- i) Israel is promised a resurrection on that day so one actually does happen, but the saints are *with* Christ as He returns to the Earth. The Resurrection/Rapture would have to of happened only moments before, and that leaves no time for the other events.
- j) Where is the instruction on how to prepare for the Tribulation period found in Scripture?
3. The pre-Trib. Rapture explains why there is no Bible instruction on preparation for the Tribulation.

**Tim LaHaye:** “Doesn’t it seem strange that although the Bible advises Christians how to face ordinary, everyday troubles, it submits absolutely no instructions related to the worst time the world will ever face, a period filled with frightening events that have never even come close to being fulfilled? Pre-Tribulationism has a simple

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<sup>7</sup> Scofield, C. I. (Ed.). (1917). Will the Church Pass through the Great Tribulation?: Eighteen Reasons Which Prove that It Will Not (p. 25). Philadelphia, PA: Philadelphia School of the Bible.

answer: We won't be there! In a discussion about the two main passages on the Rapture (1 Thessalonians 4 and 1 Corinthians 15:51-56), **Mayhue** states,

God took Lot out of Sodom and Noah away from the judgment safe in the ark

“The exhortations of the major passage on the rapture in 1 Corinthians 15:51-56 are similar in their implications. Not a word of warning is given concerning a coming Tribulation, but they are exhorted to be living in the light of the imminent return of Christ. This hope is defined by Paul in Titus 2:13 as “that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ.” The hope of a rapture after enduring the great Tribulation is hardly a happy expectation, and this passage is difficult for posttribulationists to explain. The hope is not that of resurrection after death and martyrdom, but rather the coming and revelation of Christ in His glory to them while they are still living on the earth. The exhortations relating to the rapture constitute a major problem to posttribulationism.”<sup>8 9</sup>

4. How could it be comforting to go through the Tribulation period? 1 Thess. 4:18
5. The Rapture cannot be imminent if you can count the days

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<sup>8</sup> Richard L. Mayhue, Snatched Before the Storm! A Case for Pretribulationism (Winona Lake, IN: BMH Books, 1980), p.165. Quoted in LaHaye, Tim. (2016). Who Will Face the Tribulation?: How to Prepare for the Rapture and Christ's Return (Tim LaHaye Prophecy Library™) (Kindle Locations 3875-3877). Harvest House Publishers. Kindle Edition.

<sup>9</sup> LaHaye, Tim. (2016). Who Will Face the Tribulation?: How to Prepare for the Rapture and Christ's Return (Tim LaHaye Prophecy Library™) (Kindle Locations 1916-2028). Harvest House Publishers. Kindle Edition.

