

STUDY GUIDE
JOYFUL HARVEST TEACHING SERIES
A Study of Things to Come by Larry Booth
STUDY: The Rapture of the Church
Chapter 38

Why I believe in a pre-Trib. Rapture of the church-Part 5- This is the only view that distinguishes between Israel and the church

Top reasons why I believe in the pre-Trib. Rapture of the church:

- 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-

- V. This is the only view that distinguishes between Israel and the church. Col. 1:23-27, Romans 11:1-2, 24-32

- A. The church has its own dispensation of time

Colossians 1:24-29 (HCSB)

24 Now I rejoice in my sufferings for you, and I am completing in my flesh what is lacking in Christ’s afflictions for His body, that is, the church.

25 I have become its servant, according to God’s administration (dispensation KJV) that was given to me for you, to make God’s message fully known,

26 the mystery hidden for ages and generations but now revealed to His saints.

27 God wanted to make known among the Gentiles the glorious wealth of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

28 We proclaim Him, warning and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone mature in Christ.

29 I labor for this, striving with His strength that works powerfully in me.

Acts 15:14-18 (NASB)- Jer. 12:15

¹⁴ "Simeon has related how God first concerned Himself about taking from among the Gentiles a people for His name.

¹⁵ "With this the words of the Prophets agree, just as it is written,

¹⁶ **'AFTER THESE THINGS I will return, AND I WILL REBUILD THE TABERNACLE OF DAVID WHICH HAS FALLEN, AND I WILL REBUILD ITS RUINS, AND I WILL RESTORE IT,**

¹⁷ **SO THAT THE REST OF MANKIND MAY SEEK THE LORD, AND ALL THE GENTILES WHO ARE CALLED BY MY NAME,'**

¹⁸ **SAYS THE LORD, WHO MAKES THESE THINGS KNOWN FROM LONG AGO.**

B. Israel has its own dispensation-Romans 11

1. Has God cast off His people?

Romans 11:1-2 (KJV)

1 I say then, Hath God cast away his people? God forbid. For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin.

2 God hath not cast away his people which he foreknew. Wot ye not what the scripture saith of Elias? how he maketh intercession to God against Israel, saying,

2. Israel is temporarily blinded till the Rapture

Romans 11:24-32 (KJV)

²⁴ **For if thou wert cut out of the olive tree which is wild by nature, and wert grafted contrary to nature into a good olive tree: how much more shall these, which be the natural *branches*, be grafted into their own olive tree?**

²⁵ **For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in. (LB-Luke 21:23-24)**

3. All Israel (those left alive at the end of the Tribulation) will be saved- Calvin believed Israel is the church- Replacement theology.

Key Verse

1. Not the church
2. Not all history of Jews
3. Only living Jews at the end

²⁶ **And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob:**

²⁷ **For this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins.**

²⁸ **As concerning the gospel, they are enemies for your sakes: but as touching the election, they are beloved for the fathers' sakes.**

²⁹ **For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance.**

³⁰ **For as ye in times past have not believed God, yet have now obtained mercy through their unbelief:**

³¹ **Even so have these also now not believed, that through your mercy they also may obtain mercy.**

³² **For God hath concluded them all in unbelief, that he might have mercy upon all.**

AS IT IS WRITTEN: Zech. 12:10, Isaiah 27:9, Jer. 31:31-34 (HCSB)

4. This suggestion says God is a good God not willing that any should perish

“The conclusion of the matter is this. As everyone has been disobedient, Gentiles and Jews alike, so God will show mercy to all as well (cf. 3:9; Gal. 3:22). This is a great ground of assurance.” Tom Constable notes on Romans 11:32.

C. Pre-Trib. Rapture teaching is the only position that clearly outlines the program of the church.

Tim LaHaye- “The confusion of Israel and the church is one of the major reasons for confusion in prophecy as a whole, as illustrated in both amillennialism and posttribulationism.”¹ Pre-Tribulationism is the only position that clearly outlines the program of the church.²

Walvoord-“The distinctions between Israel and the church. Chafer has set forth twenty-four contrasts between Israel and the church which show us conclusively that these two groups can not be united into one, but that they must be distinguished as two separate entities with whom God is dealing in a special program.”^{3 4}

VI. These 4 statements of Jesus are not compromised with the pre-Trib. viewpoint-

A. “When you see these signs *begin* to come to pass look up”- Luke 21:24-28

Luke 21:24-28 (KJV)

²⁴ **And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.**

²⁵ **And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring;**

²⁶ **Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken.**

²⁷ **And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.**

²⁸ **And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh.**

B. “Pray that you be found worthy to escape”-Luke 21:34-36

Luke 21:34-36 (KJV)

³⁴ **And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares.**

³⁵ **For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth.**

³⁶ **Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.**

¹ Dr. John F. Walvoord, (1976) The Blessed Hope and the Tribulation: A Historical and Biblical Study of Posttribulationism (p.160). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House.

² LaHaye, Tim. (2016). Who Will Face the Tribulation?: How to Prepare for the Rapture and Christ's Return (Tim LaHaye Prophecy Library™) (Kindle Location 1960). Harvest House Publishers. Kindle Edition.

³ Chafer, Lewis. S. (1993). Systematic theology (Vol. 4- P.47-53). Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publications.

⁴ Pentecost, J. Dwight; (1958, 2001). Things to Come: A Study in Biblical Eschatology (Kindle Locations 3714-3716). Grand Rapids, MI., Zondervan. Kindle Edition.

C. “Kept from the hour of Temptation” (7 years of Tribulation)-Revelations 3:7-13

Revelation 3:7-13 (KJV)

⁷ And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth;

⁸ I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name.

⁹ Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, (LB- replacement theology of some sort?) and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee.

¹⁰ 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.

¹¹ Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.

¹² Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name.

¹³ He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

1. Here the promise is to be kept from the time of Tribulation, not in the Tribulation.
2. Also note Jesus says he will write the Spiritual name of New Jerusalem on them. That name is the Bride! It's not only a place but it's the raptured church.
(See “Hard Passages- 1A)

D. “Shall not come into judgment”- John 5:24-30

John 5:23-30 (KJV)

²³ That all *men* should honour the Son, even as they honour the Father. He that honoureth not the Son honoureth not the Father which hath sent him.

²⁴ Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.

²⁵ Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live.

²⁶ For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself;

²⁷ And hath given him authority to execute judgment also, because he is the Son of man.

²⁸ Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice,

²⁹ And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.

³⁰ I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me.

The Greek word here is *Krisis*- 41 out of 48 times when used in the New Testament, it is translated “Judgment.”

C.I. Scofield- “For, concerning the believer it is promised that he “cometh not into judgment” (Jno. 5:24, R. V.). Every sin of every believer, was fully expiated by the Son of God on the cross... Even if it were a matter of inference, and mere argumentation, one

might ask why divine wrath should be poured out upon the bride of the Son of God? Every sin of every member of that body was laid on Jesus Christ. And if some ingenuity of sophistry should seem to offer some explanation of so inconceivable a thing as that God should visit the second time wrath upon those for whom his Son has borne wrath, it would still remain to answer the obvious fact that no part of the record mentions a church or a Christian.⁵

VII. “It is the only view that makes “the blessed hope” truly a *blessed* hope. Titus 2:13

Titus 2:13 AMP

13 Awaiting *and* looking for the [fulfillment, the realization of our] blessed hope, even the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Christ Jesus (the Messiah, the Anointed One),⁶

“Even the mid-Trib position destroys that hope by forcing the Christian to anticipate the trauma of the Tribulation. Post-Tribulationism, of course, is even worse in that it requires Christians to go through the Great Tribulation. No reading of Bible prophecy requires the presence of Christians during that seven-year period of judgment that is clearly intended for Israel and the Gentile world. Remember: rapture teaching was given to comfort those who mourn! The threat of going through the Tribulation is hardly a doctrine of comfort to the saints.”⁷

A. It’s the only view that is truly imminent-Philip. 3:20

Philippians 3:19-20 (KJV)

¹⁹ Whose end *is* destruction, whose God *is* their belly, and whose glory *is* in their shame, who mind earthly things.)

²⁰ For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ:

LaHaye—“In John 14:1-3, Acts 1:11, 1 Corinthians 15:51-52, Philippians 3:20, Colossians 3:4, and many other passages, the apostles taught that Christ could come at any moment. When the church loses this anticipation, she tends to become carnal and spiritually dead.”

B. The “departure” first and the removal of the restrainer-2 Thess. 2:1-8

C. Pre-Trib. Christians are looking for the coming of the Lord. 1 Thess. 1:9-10, Rom. 8:23. Philippians 3:20-21

Other views have them awaiting the Tribulation, Antichrist, and suffering.

⁵ Scofield, C. I. (Ed.). (1917). Will the Church Pass through the Great Tribulation?: Eighteen Reasons Which Prove that It Will Not (p. 18). Philadelphia, PA: Philadelphia School of the Bible.

⁶ The Amplified Bible. La Habra, CA: The Lockman Foundation, 1987.

⁷ LaHaye, Tim. (2016). Who Will Face the Tribulation?: How to Prepare for the Rapture and Christ's Return (Tim LaHaye Prophecy Library™) (Kindle Locations 1966-1967). Harvest House Publishers. Kindle Edition.

1 Thessalonians 1:9-10 (KJV)

⁹ For they themselves shew of us what manner of entering in we had unto you, and how ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God;

¹⁰ And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, *even* Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come.

Romans 8:23 (KJV)

²³ And not only *they*, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.

Philippians 3:19-21 (KJV)

¹⁹ Whose end *is* destruction, whose God *is* *their* belly, and whose glory *is* in their shame, who mind earthly things.)

²⁰ For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ:

²¹ 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.

D. The hope of the Rapture purifies the church- 1 John 3:2-3

1 John 3:2-3 (KJV)

² Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

³ And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.

In the end if you are convinced that the church will go through the Tribulation period then nothing I say will change that. Only the Holy Spirit can.

