

What We Believe

The Doctrine of the End Times

Eschatology

What We Believe

Overview of End Times Events

- Rapture of the Church (resurrection/transformation)
(1 Thess 4:13-19; 1 Cor 15:51-53)
- The Judgement Seat of Christ (*bema*)
(1 Cor 3:11-15; 2 Cor 5:10; Rev 22:12)
- The Marriage of the Lamb (Rev 19:7-9)
- The Tribulation (Day of the Lord) (Dan 9:24-27)

What We Believe

Overview of End Time Events

- The Second Coming and Resurrection of OT believers
(Zech 14:4; Dan 12:12-13; 2 Thess 2:8)
- The Millennial Kingdom (Rev 20:4, 6 – 1000 years)
- Great White Throne Judgement (Rev 20:11-15)
- The New Heavens/Earth (2 Pet 3:10-13) & Eternal State
(Rev 21:1-8)

What We Believe

The Tribulation (Time of Jacob's trouble, Day of the Lord, for Israel)

Summary:

- 7-year period of unprecedented divine wrath on earth (70 wks)
- This 7-year period begins with the Antichrist confirming a covenant for 7 years and begin sacrifices at the temple (Dan 9:27)

What We Believe

The Tribulation (Time of Jacob's trouble, Day of the Lord, for Israel)

Summary:

- During the first half there will be wars, famine, pestilence, economic calamity, mass death (Rev 6:1-11 – 4 horseman)
- In the middle of Tribulation the Antichrist will cause sacrifices to stop (Dan 9:27), demand worship, and set up his image in the temple (2 Thess 2:4) – this begins the “great tribulation”

What We Believe

Tribulation Summary

- All who refuse the mark of the beast cannot buy or sell (Rev 13)
- A faithful remnant of Israel will flee into the wilderness where God will protect them 42 months (Rev 12:6)
- Before the end, armies will surround and capture Jerusalem (Zech 12:1-2; 14:1-2)
- Christ will miraculously intervene at His 2nd coming, save Israel from destruction, restore the house of David, and return to Mt of Olives (Zech 12:4-8; 14:4)
- Israel will recognize Christ as their Messiah (Zech 12:10)

What We Believe

Zechariah 14:1-5 – The Final Events of the Tribulation

¹ “Behold, a day is coming for the LORD, when the spoil taken from you will be divided in your midst. ² For I will gather all the nations against Jerusalem to battle, and the city shall be taken and the houses plundered and the women raped. Half of the city shall go out into exile, but the rest of the people shall not be cut off from the city. ³ Then the LORD will go out and fight against those nations as when he fights on a day of battle....”

Zechariah 14:1-5 – The Final Events of the Tribulation

⁴ On that day his feet shall stand on the Mount of Olives that lies before Jerusalem on the east, and the Mount of Olives shall be split in two from east to west by a very wide valley, so that one half of the Mount shall move northward, and the other half southward. ⁵ And you shall flee to the valley of my mountains, for the valley of the mountains shall reach to Azal. And you shall flee as you fled from the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah. Then the LORD my God will come, and all the holy ones with him.

Zechariah 14:7-9 – The Final Events of the Tribulation

⁷ “And there shall be a unique day, which is known to the LORD, neither day nor night, but at evening time there shall be light.

⁸ On that day living waters shall flow out from Jerusalem, half of them to the eastern sea and half of them to the western sea. It shall continue in summer as in winter.

⁹ And the LORD will be king over all the earth. On that day the LORD will be one and his name one.”

What We Believe

The RAPTURE - harpazo, (Latin rapturo) a seizing, snatch away, caught up (1 Thess 4:17)

- 1) **Imminent** – occur at any time, nothing left to fulfill
- 2) **Resurrection** – dead believers raised in a glorified body
- 3) **Transformation** – living believers are transformed into a glorified in the body

What We Believe

Resurrection & Rapture of the Church - 1 Thess 4:15-19

“For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive *and* remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. ¹⁶ For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, And the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ Then we who are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.”

What We Believe

1 Corinthians 15:51–53 - Rapture & Resurrection

“Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed—⁵² in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.⁵³ For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal *must* put on immortality.”

What We Believe

The Rapture and Second Coming - Differences

RAPTURE

Direction is up

Meeting the Lord in the air

Taking saints to heaven

Coming for His saints

Only believers see Him

No signs precede it (before Trib)

Imminent - no one knows when

After rapture, tribulation begins

SECOND COMING

Direction is down

Meeting the Lord in heaven

Taking saints to the earth

Coming with His saints

All people see Him

Signs precede it (after tribulation)

Not imminent – no one knows when

After 2nd-coming, millennium begins

What We Believe

Pre-tribulational - The Church is Saved from God's Wrath...

God's wrath starts with the seal judgements (Rev 6:16), and is completed at the end of the bowl judgements (Rev 15:1)

1 Thess 5:9 - "For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ" [1st person plural pronouns]

1 Thess 1:10 - "to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, *even* Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come."

What We Believe

Pre-Tribulational - Church is Saved from God's Wrath

Rev 3:10 (Philadelphia) - "Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you [proleptic usage] from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth."

- didn't use *dia* "through", but *from* and "out of" it, *ek*. Can't "keep" someone from something that he is enduring. Also, the only way to be kept from a section of time ("hour") is to not be associated with any part of it.

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What We Believe

Pre-Tribulational - The Church is Saved from God's Wrath

- Romans 5:9 - “having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.”
- The tribulation is a time of “Jacob’s trouble” (Jer 30:7)
- Daniel was told it was a week “determined for *your people...* and the *holy city,*” Israel (Dan 9:24)

What We Believe

The Church is not Mentioned during the Tribulation (Rev 6-18)

- The word “Church” or “Churches” mentioned 19x during first 3 chapters, then not once from Rev 6-18.
- Don’t confuse tribulation “saints” or Israel with the church.
- Church mentioned *after* the tribulation as being in heaven!
(at the marriage of the Lamb (Rev 19:1,7-9) and the bride
the new Jerusalem descending from heaven (Rev 21:9-10 cf.
Rev 3:12)

What We Believe

Heaven-Dwellers the Church (Rev 13:6)

“And the beast was given a mouth uttering haughty and blasphemous words, and it was allowed to exercise authority for forty-two months. ⁶ It opened its mouth to utter blasphemies against God, blaspheming his name and his dwelling, that is, those who dwell in heaven.”

- The present tense verb “dwell” is the same word used for Christ’s incarnation, never used of pure spirits/angels. Bodies!

What We Believe

“Twenty-four elders” in Heaven

Rev 4:4 – “Around the throne were twenty-four thrones, and seated on the thrones were twenty-four elders, clothed in white garments, with golden crowns on their heads.”

Rev 5:9 – The 24-Elders sung a song saying who “redeemd us...out of every tribe, tongue, people, and nation...And have made us a kingdom of priests....And we shall reign on earth.”

- On thrones (3:21), in white robes (3:3,18), with crowns (2:10; 3:11), redeemed, reign on earth – all promised to the church!

What We Believe

Pre-Tribulational Rapture is Prior to the revealing of the Antichrist and Day of the Lord (2 Thess 2:1-8)

- Paul was Addressing those at Thessalonica who had been misled about the DOL has already passed. (V2)
- 2 Events must take place before the DOL begins (V4):

What We Believe

Pre-Tribulational Rapture is Prior to the AC and DOL (2 Thess 2:3)

2 Events:

1) The “falling away (*apostasia*) comes first” – “departure”.

The first 7 English translations (1384-1608) use “Departing first” (Wycliff, Tyndale, Coverdale, Cranmer, Breeches, Beza, and Geneva - - Then KJV translates “falling away” in 1611!!)

2) the “man of sin/lawlessness” is revealed, son of perdition (AC)

What We Believe

Pre-Tribulational Rapture is Prior to the AC and DOL
(2 Thess 2:3) - *apostasia*

Kenneth Wuest – 11 of 15x the root *aphistemi* is used it means “depart”, only 1x as “*departure* from the faith” (1 Tim 4:1). The fact that the words “from the faith” is added shows that in itself *apostesia* does not have the idea of defection from truth.

What We Believe

Pre-Tribulational Rapture - (2 Thess 2:1-8) – *aphistemi*

- 1) 8x departure from a person, 1x departure from a place
- 2) In other places it is translated as “drew away” much people (Acts 5:37), those in temptation “fall away” (Lk 8:13), and “refrain” from those men (Acts 5:38) – all imply a departing

What We Believe

Apostasia as a Departure

- 3) *Apostasion* in its 3 occurrences is “divorcement” which implies a withdraw/departure of one person from another.
- 4) Thayer translates it “a defection” of a freedman from his patron (“a divorce, repudiation”) – a departure from another.
- 5) *apostasia*’s only other use in Acts 21:21–“forsake” is departure.
- 6) Secondary meaning for Greek scholars is “a departure” or “a disappearance”.

What We Believe

What is the “Departure” (apostasia) – (2 Thess 2:6-8)

“And now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time. ⁷ For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains *will do so* until He is taken out of the way. ⁸ And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming.”

- - - “he” is the Holy Spirit’s restraining force through the church!

What We Believe

Post-tribulational Rapture – rapture and second coming are one event where the saints meet the Lord in the air and immediately come to earth and begin the millennial reign

Pre-wrath Rapture – occurs between 6th and 7th seals (6:12-8:1) prior to the wrath of God (Marv Rosenthal/Van Kampen)

Mid-tribulation – occurs after the “beginning of sorrows” (Mt 24:8) and before the “great tribulation” (Mt 24:21) (Archer)

What We Believe

Preterism (Latin *preter*, past) – the tribulation is past, not future. Matthew 24-25 and Revelation 6-18 have already been fulfilled.

- Some are Partial preterists (fall of Jerusalem in 70 AD fulfilled, but resurrection and second coming are future) and others are Full preterists. (all NT predictions are fulfilled including those about the resurrection and the second coming)

What We Believe

Millennial Views

Premillennialism – Christ returns *before* the literal 1000-year reign in the kingdom age – Christ inaugurates the kingdom age!

Postmillennialism – Christ returns *after* the church Christianizes the world through the gospel, then the church inaugurates the 1000 years (which is simply a long period of time).

Amillennialism – No physical earthly reign of Christ for a 1000 years after His 2nd coming. Christ reigns with His saints in heaven. Promises to Abe and Israel are fulfilled in the church (both are one entity).

What We Believe

Millennial Views

	Pre-Mill	A-Mill	Post-Mill
Literal Reign	Yes	No	No
Resurrection before Millennium	One (2 phases)	None	None
1000 yrs of Rev 20	Future	Present	Present
Resurrections	Two (1 st & 2 nd)	One	One
Prophecy	Literal	Symbolic	Symbolic
OT Promises	Unconditional	Conditional	Conditional

What We Believe

Millennial Views

	<u>Pre-Mill</u>	<u>A-Mill</u>	<u>Post-Mill</u>
Israel/Church Distinct	Yes	No	No
Messianic Kingdom	Future	Present	Present
Rapture/2 nd Coming	Separate	Same event	Same event
Binding of Satan	In Future	In Present	In Present
Moral Progress	Not inevitable	Not inevitable	Inevitable
OT Promises	Unconditional	Conditional	Conditional