

TWO RAPTURE PASSAGES PRETRIBBERS CANNOT ANSWER

JESUS Matthew 24:29-31	PAUL 1 Thessalonians 4:15-18
	"For this we say to you by the word of the Lord"
"But immediately after the tribulation of those days... they will see THE SON OF MAN COMING on the CLOUDS of the sky with	"that we who are alive and remain until THE COMING OF THE LORD... For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven"
"He will send forth HIS ANGELS "	"with the voice of THE ARCHANGEL "
"with A GREAT TRUMPET "	"and with THE TRUMPET OF GOD "
"they will gather together HIS ELECT "	"and THE DEAD IN CHRIST will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them"
"from the four winds, from one end of THE SKY to the other"	"in the CLOUDS to meet the Lord IN THE AIR "

I. MATTHEW 24:29-31 AND 1 THESSALONIANS 4:15-18

A.

JESUS Matthew 24:29-31	PAUL 1 Thessalonians 4:15-18
	"For this we say to you by the word of the Lord"
"But immediately after the tribulation of those days... they will see THE SON OF MAN COMING on the CLOUDS of	"that we who are alive and remain until THE COMING OF THE LORD... For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven"
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- 1) the Post-trib/Pre-Wrath interpretation sees Paul's words as pointing specifically to Jesus' words in [Matthew 24:29-31](#). The Pretrib interpretation says that Paul's teaching is entirely based on raw, new revelation from heaven, with no recorded words of Jesus to connect to
 - a) pretribbers generally say Jesus never even mentioned the

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rapture, and therefore two passages have nothing to do with each other

B.

JESUS Matthew 24:29-31	PAUL 1 Thessalonians 4:15-18
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"from the four winds, from one end of THE SKY to the other"	"in the CLOUDS to meet the Lord IN THE AIR "

- 1) the Post-trib/Pre-Wrath interpretation sees both Jesus and Paul as speaking about the rapture / coming ("parousia") of the Lord. The Pretrib interpretation says that Jesus and Paul are talking about two completely different which that are separated by seven years
 - a) pretribbers say there are two "parousia" of the Lord: in the clouds and in glory

C.

JESUS Matthew 24:29-31	PAUL 1 Thessalonians 4:15-18
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"they will gather together HIS ELECT "	"and THE DEAD IN CHRIST will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them"
"from the four winds, from one end of THE SKY to the other"	"in the CLOUDS to meet the Lord IN THE AIR "

- 1) the Post-trib/Pre-Wrath interpretation sees both passages as speaking literally about the Lord coming on the clouds. The Pretrib interpretation says that Jesus was speaking about His



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second coming, but Paul was speaking of another coming on the clouds that happens seven years earlier

D.

JESUS Matthew 24:29-31	PAUL 1 Thessalonians 4:15-18
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"But immediately after the tribulation of those days... they will see THE SON OF MAN COMING on the CLOUDS of the sky with	"that we who are alive and remain until THE COMING OF THE LORD... For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven "
"He will send forth HIS ANGELS "	"with the voice of THE ARCHANGEL "
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"from the four winds, from one end of THE SKY to the other"	"in the CLOUDS to meet the Lord IN THE AIR "

- 1) the Post-trib interpretation sees the reference to angels and the archangel as one and the same thing. The Pretrib interpretation says these two references are entirely unrelated and separated by seven years

E.

JESUS Matthew 24:29-31	PAUL 1 Thessalonians 4:15-18
	"For this we say to you by the word of the Lord"
"But immediately after the tribulation of those days... they will see THE SON OF MAN COMING on the CLOUDS of the sky with	"that we who are alive and remain until THE COMING OF THE LORD... For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven "
"He will send forth HIS ANGELS "	"with the voice of THE ARCHANGEL "
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"from the four winds, from one end of THE SKY to the other"	"in the CLOUDS to meet the Lord IN THE AIR "

- 1) the Post-trib interpretation sees the great trumpet and the trumpet of God as the same. The Pretrib interpretation says these are two entirely unrelated trumpets, seven years apart

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F.

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“He will send forth HIS ANGELS ”	“with the voice of THE ARCHANGEL ”
“with A GREAT TRUMPET ”	“and with THE TRUMPET OF GOD ”
“they will gather together HIS ELECT ”	“and THE DEAD IN CHRIST will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them”
“from the four winds, from one end of THE SKY to the other”	“in the CLOUDS to meet the Lord IN THE AIR ”

- 1) the Post-trib / Pre-Wrath interpretation sees the elect and those in Christ as the same. The Pretrib interpretation says the elect is Israel and not those “in Christ”
 - a) the term “the elect” in the New Testament consistently refers to believers

G.

JESUS Matthew 24:29-31	PAUL 1 Thessalonians 4:15-18
	“For this we say to you by the word of the Lord”
“But immediately after the tribulation of those days... they will see THE SON OF MAN COMING on the CLOUDS of the sky with	“that we who are alive and remain until THE COMING OF THE LORD... For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven ”
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“from the four winds, from one end of THE SKY to the other”	“in the CLOUDS to meet the Lord IN THE AIR ”

- 1) the Post-trib / Pre-Wrath interpretation sees Jesus’ reference to the sky and Paul’s reference to the air to be the same thing. The Pretrib interpretation says Jesus was not being literal here and that neither reference is related

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Comparison of
1 Thessalonians 4-5 and Matthew 24

Christ Returns	Matthew 24:30	1 Thessalonians 4:16
From heaven	Matthew 24:30	1 Thessalonians 4:16
Accompanied by angels	Matthew 24:31	1 Thessalonians 4:16
With the trumpet of God	Matthew 24:31	1 Thessalonians 4:16
Believers gathered to Christ	Matthew 24:31, 40-41	1 Thessalonians 4:17
In the clouds / the air	Matthew 24:30	1 Thessalonians 4:17
Time unknown	Matthew 24:36	1 Thessalonians 5:1-2
Coming like a thief	Matthew 24:43	1 Thessalonians 5:2,4
Unbelievers unaware	Matthew 24:37-39	1 Thessalonians 5:3
Judgment like sudden birth pains	Matthew 24:8	1 Thessalonians 5:3
Believers not deceived	Matthew 24:43	1 Thessalonians 5:4-5
Be Watchful	Matthew 24:37-39	1 Thessalonians 5:6
Warning against being drunk	Matthew 24:37-49	1 Thessalonians 5:7

H.