

ANDREW OF CAESAREA: REFUTING THE FALSE CLAIMS OF PRETRIBBERS

I. ANDREW

- A. “In the midst of the Great Tribulation, he (Andrew) expected that the rapture would take place, in order to rescue the Church from the woes that would befall the earth.” “Andrew of Caesarea wrote a notable commentary on the Apocalypse. With statements that would today be considered either a pre-tribulational rapture or mid-tribulational rapture view...” - William C. Watson
- 1) traditional pre-tribbers teach that the final 7 years before Jesus’ return is the Great Tribulation; so if the believers are raptured any time in the midst of that, that could be considered either mid-trib or pre-wrath, but not pre-trib
- B. Andrew unarguably taught a posttribulational rapture. Like many other early Church writers, Andrew foresaw the tribulation as a time when the Church would be saved through fleeing and hiding in remote areas throughout the world.
- 1) “...these things will come on the world at the coming of the antichrist, as he is called. **At that time, the great men, whether those who hold office in the church ... and the churches of the faithful...they will flee from their places, changing from place to place on account of the false christ.**” - Andrew, Revelation 6
 - 2) “That the holy city, whether that is the new Jerusalem or the catholic church, will be trampled by the nations for forty-two months signifies, I believe, that at the appearance of the antichrist those who are faithful and trustworthy will be trampled and persecuted for three and a half years.” - Andrew, Revelation 11
 - a) by “catholic church,” Andrew was simply referring to the universal church
 - 3) “**When the devil through the antichrist in whom he works arrays himself for battle against the church**, those in the church who are elect and preeminent will spit on the tumults of life and the desires of the world and **flee into that desert** devoid of every evil.” - Andrew, Revelation 12
 - 4) “All of these things are symbolized by the wings of the eagle,

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and they were given to the church so that taking flight by them into the desert... To be sure, this occurs always, but it will especially be so at the coming of the antichrist, who will rule everywhere, it is written, for the designated time of three and a half years.” - Andrew, Revelation 12

- 5) “Since the orthodox teachers of the church and those who disdain the world retreat to the rigor of the desert, the antichrist does not neglect them but wages war, it says, against those who struggle in the world for Christ.” - Andrew, Revelation 12
- 6) “And so the body of the church will be united to Christ, our head. The eternal gospel, which from eternity was foreordained by God, says, “Fear God, but have no fear of the antichrist who cannot kill the soul with the body; rather, fervently stand opposed to him who has power but for a short time.” - Andrew, Revelation 14
- 7) “The book (of Revelation) displays the persecution against the church, the downfall of the devil, the coming of the antichrist and the deceit of the false prophet.” - Andrew, Revelation 22

C. Watson again consistently ignores very clear post-tribulational comments and engages in brazenly dishonest editing of his quotes.

Pink = Portions Watson's Cited

Yellow = Portions Watson Removed

[12:5] But her child was caught up to God and his throne.

The saints are caught up in the midst of temptations, lest they be subdued by difficulties beyond their powers. And “they will be caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air,” and they will be with God and his throne, that is, with the most excellent of the angelic powers.
[12:6] *And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, in which to be nourished for one thousand two hundred and sixty days. When the devil through the antichrist in whom he works arrays himself for battle against the church, those in the church who are elect and preeminent will spit on the tumults of life and the desires of the world and flee into that desert devoid of every evil, that life that bears every virtue, as Methodius says, and there escape the assaults of people and demons who war against them. It is likely that the physical desert will also save those who flee from the plot of the apostate to the mountains and caves and holes in the earth, as was recently the case with the martyrs, for in the three and a half years are reckoned the 1,260 days during which the apostasy will rage. During this time the great judge will not think to tempt us beyond what we are able to bear, but freeing us will present to us a strong mind free from any weakness against the onslaughts on it, so that fighting against the principalities and power of the darkness, we may be decorated with the crown of righteousness and receive the rewards of victory...*

- 1) Watson edited out the portion of the quote that contradicts his claims. The full comment says nothing about being raptured.



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Rather, it says the saints will be saved specifically by fleeing into the desert. This is deceptive editing on Watson's part

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—William C. Watson

"..the catholic church, will be trampled by the nations for forty-two months signifies, I believe, that at the appearance of the antichrist those who are faithful and trustworthy will be trampled and persecuted for three and a half years."

**—Andrew of Caesarea, on Revelation
11**

- D. There is one passage in Andrew that could be misunderstood to be Pretrib.
- 1) By the "hour of trial" he speaks either of the persecution against the Christians that occurred almost immediately by those who ruled Rome badly at that time, from which he promised that the church would be freed, or he speaks of the universal coming of the antichrist against the faithful at the end of time. From this coming he pledges to free those who are zealous, for they will beforehand be seized upward by a departure from there, lest they be tempted beyond what they are able to endure. He says well, "I am coming soon," for "after the tribulation of those days, the Lord will immediately come," as it says. - Andrew of Caesarea, **translator, William Weinrich**
 - a) we must note the last line, which is post-tribulational: **He rightly says, I come quickly, for "after the affliction of those days immediately" the Lord will come, as he says.**
- Andrew of Caesarea, on Revelation 3:10
 - 2) "...or the worldwide movement at the end of the age against those who believe in the Antichrist, from which he promises to free her zealous ones who were arrested beforehand, through departure at that time, so that 'they will not be tested beyond their strength.'" - Eugenia Scarvelis Constantinou



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- 3) “The ‘departure’ they will be granted is death...A careful reading reveals that he is not suggesting that the righteous will be spared the suffering of the end times, certainly not anything akin to a modern notion of ‘rapture.’ Rather, he repeatedly affirms that the responsibility of Christians is to suffer for Christ, even to the point of martyrdom.” - Eugenia Scarvelis Constantinou
 - 4) “What I can say with total confidence, whatever the translation, is that for Andrew the idea of a pretribulational rapture would have been total nonsense. He was utterly traditional in his eschatology. Indeed, no one in those early centuries had that notion!” - William Weinrich
- E. Not only have we interacted thoroughly with the material, we have literally debunked every single last false claim of Pretribulationism in the early church. We have been Bereans and examined and tested all things. There is not a single pretribulational statement in the church until Darby taught such in the 1830s.