

Why the Post-Tribulation View of the Rapture Doesn't Make Sense

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Shalom and Greetings to All My Fellow Believers in Yahshua,

As a Watchman on the Wall that is anxiously awaiting our Messiah's glorious return, I want to commend all who are attempting to discern when Yahshua will return to rescue all those who are born-again by His Spirit and living under His Grace from total destruction. Among those of you doing so, there are many that hold to varying views of when the Rapture or catching up of God's elect saints into everlasting life and resurrection will take place.

Based on my understanding of the Scriptures after detailed study and prayer, I personally believe that the Rapture of the Church is meant to protect and preserve God's people from having to experience the worst of God's Wrath that will be poured out during the Great Tribulation. Ever since openly voicing my view that the Rapture must take place by the middle of the coming seven-year Tribulation, however, I have endured near constant attacks from people with a Post-Tribulation view of the Rapture and Second Coming. These attacks have mostly been relentless and cruel, going against all the gifts of the Ruach Ha Kodesh or Holy Spirit such as love, forgiveness, kindness and compassion. Nonetheless, I did my best to display the gifts of the Ruach when debating my differing views of the Rapture with these people.

Unfortunately, my scriptural arguments for believing in a Pre to Mid-Tribulation Rapture that are outlined below were ignored for the most part by those favoring a Post-Tribulation Rapture. Furthermore, since their arguments against my views did nothing to address the teachings of the Scriptures that I shared with them, I was not convinced that my views were wrong in any way. In addition, I was encouraged by their lack of knowledge of these Scriptures to attempt to explain here why I still hold fast to a Pre-to Mid-Tribulation Rapture view.

Part of my reason is based on my Spirit-led understanding of the type and extent of the tribulation or persecution that Yahshua mentions in Matthew Chapter 24, verses 9, 21 and 29. From my study of these and many other Scriptures, it can be shown that Yahshua was in no way referring to the Great Tribulation spoken of in the Book of Revelation. In fact, when all the Scriptures pertaining to the time of Jacob's Trouble are studied carefully, two things become clear: First, that this tribulation spoken of in Matthew Chapter 24 has already

begun and is ongoing, and second, that the Rapture can in no way be at the time of the Battle of Armageddon.

All one has to do to refute the Post-Tribulation view is to know the history of the last two centuries. First, one needs to be aware of the hundreds of false prophets that arose in the 19th and 20th centuries and are arising even now that tout the joys of Atheism, Deism, and the Hinduistic, Atheistic, and Humanistic New Age Religions like Theosophy, Freemasonry, Universalism, and Rosicrucianism.

Then one needs to obtain a thorough knowledge of the horrendous events of World War II when all of Western Civilization was threatened with destruction. In view of these facts, there is every indication that the distress, persecution or tribulation of believers that Yahshua was referring to in Matthew Chapter 24 began with the imprisonment, torture and eventual slaughter of at least 8 million Jews and over 30 million Christians that perished in Europe, Russia, and Asia because of their religious beliefs and resistance to the dominant secular humanistic (and communistic) culture of their home countries.

The persecution of Christians did not end there, however. It has continued virtually unabated in places such as Africa and Asia, where Muslim terrorists have moved into many once Christianized nations or Pagan and Muslim nations with significant minorities of Christians and slaughtered, raped, impoverished, and brutalized many more millions of believers in Yahshua. But the sad truth is that most of the people in the West are oblivious or unconcerned about the plight of millions upon millions of true believers in Christ that are suffering persecution and the thousands that are being martyred every single day for living by and preaching about the Gospel of the Kingdom of God.

With this in view, the "tribulation of those days" that Yahshua spoke of in Matthew 24:29 can only be referring to the 19th and 20th Century events that led to World War I and World War II, as well as to the early 21st Century. In any case, when the Book of Revelation is compared to Matthew Chapter 24, it can be shown that a far worse tribulation is discussed in the Book of Revelation than the one defined in Matthew Chapter 24. As proof that the Great Tribulation is not meant in Matthew Ch. 24, verses 9, 21 and 29, one must carefully read what Yahshua said in these passages and compare it to the Book of Revelation's Tribulation plagues. The following passage indicates the scope of environmental destruction that will accompany the tribulation of Matthew Chapter 24:

Matthew 24:7-8 - "For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of sorrows."

In this passage, though Yahshua mentioned an increase in earthquakes, famines (ostensibly caused by droughts and floods that cause crops to fail), and pestilences as the birth pains of the Tribulation, He nowhere mentions the NEAR TOTAL DESTRUCTION OF THE EARTH that will take place in the Tribulation period that is graphically depicted in the Book of Revelation, Chapters 6 through 16.

In fact, by using the phrase "in various places" in Matthew 24:7, Yahshua was indicating that there would only be isolated pockets of destruction during the Tribulation discussed in Matthew Chapter 24, as was completely the case in the last century. However, in Revelation Chapter 16 (which I quote at the end of this article), a nearly global destruction of the Earth is indicated. In addition, by referring to the relative peace and calm that will be part of the human condition prior to His return, Yahshua makes it clear that the Rapture stage of His Second Coming is being spoken of in Matthew Chapter 24 and not the Armageddon stage of His return that will follow the Great Tribulation or Wrath of God detailed in the Book of Revelation. He does so by explaining that the rescue of His saints will come long before most of the plagues poured out on the wicked in the Book of Revelation. This is made clear in the following Scriptures:

Matthew 24:38-41 - "For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. Then two men will be in the field: one will be taken and the other left. Two women will be grinding at the mill: one will be taken and the other left."

Luke 17:26-30 - "And as it was in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man: They ate, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all. Likewise as it was also in the days of Lot: They ate, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they built; but on the day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all. Even so will it be in the day when the Son of Man is revealed."

There is no way around it: one has to read Matthew Chapter 24 in light of the Book of Revelation to avoid misinterpreting what Yahshua said. These Scriptures make it clear that, when Yahshua returns for His elect saints, the world will be in a state of relative quiet and calm such as those preceding violent storms or that can be found under the eye of a hurricane. Furthermore, THIS STATE OF PEACE AND CALM WILL BE ABSOLUTELY IMPOSSIBLE AFTER THE SEVENTH TRUMPET AND SEVEN BOWLS OF GOD'S WRATH ARE Poured OUT ON THE EARTH!

No one except those who deny that the Book of Revelation speaks of yet future events can read of the cataclysmic events in Chapter 16 in the Book of Revelation and think that there will be peace and calm immediately before or after the Battle of Armageddon:

Revelation 16:1-21 - "Then I heard a loud voice from the temple saying to the seven angels, "Go and pour out the bowls of the wrath of God on the earth. So the first went and poured out his bowl upon the

earth, and a foul and loathsome sore came upon the men who had the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image.

Then the second angel poured out his bowl on the sea, and it became blood as of a dead man; and every living creature in the sea died.

Then the third angel poured out his bowl on the rivers and springs of water, and they became blood. And I heard the angel of the waters saying: "You are righteous, O Lord, the One who is and who was and who is to be, because You have judged these things. For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, and You have given them blood to drink. For it is their just due. And I heard another from the altar saying, "Even so, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous are Your judgments.

Then the fourth angel poured out his bowl on the sun, and power was given to him to scorch men with fire. And men were scorched with great heat, and they blasphemed the name of God who has power over these plagues; and they did not repent and give Him glory.

Then the fifth angel poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast, and his kingdom became full of darkness; and they gnawed their tongues because of the pain. They blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and did not repent of their deeds.

Then the sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up, so that the way of the kings from the east might be prepared. And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs coming out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. For they are spirits of demons, performing signs, which go out to the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.

"Behold, I am coming as a thief. Blessed is he who watches, and keeps his garments, lest he walk naked and they see his shame." And they gathered them together to the place called in Hebrew, Armageddon.

Then the seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air, and a loud voice came out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, "It is done!" And there were noises and thunderings and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such a mighty and great earthquake as had not occurred since men were on the earth. Now the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell.

And great Babylon was remembered before God, to give her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of His wrath. Then every island fled away, and the mountains were not found. And great hail from heaven fell upon men, each hailstone about the weight of a talent. Men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail, since that plague was exceedingly great."

Read it for yourself! Revelation Chapter 8, Verse 7 says that, at the time of the First Trumpet plague: "a third of the trees were burned up, and all green grass was burned up." Furthermore, Revelation Chapter 16 tells us that "every living creature in the sea died", the rivers and springs of water "became blood", and "men were scorched with great heat". This will be a scorching so great it will cause the Euphrates river to completely dry up and most of the remaining trees and shrubs on the Earth to die. In addition to this, "a great and terrible earthquake" that will be far worse than any in recorded history will shake the earth so "the cities of the nations" will fall and "every island fled away, and the mountains were not found."

With no clean water to drink or to irrigate crops and a severe drought that will scorch the entire world, the Earth will be laid waste by the Bowls of God's Wrath. Virtually no trees will be left standing where the soon to be ruined cities of mankind have been built, and not one blade of grass will be left alive. Furthermore, not one fish will be left alive in the lakes, streams or oceans that will have all been turned to blood by this time!

Based on the total destruction of the Earth that is outlined in Revelation Chapter 16, there is simply NO WAY that people will be calmly doing business, tending fields or getting married in expectation of raising a family at the end of the Chapter 16 in the Book of Revelation. Furthermore, the following Scriptures plainly state that it will be entirely possible for true believers in the Church of "Philadelphia" or "Brotherly Love" to escape all the plagues and pestilences of the Great Tribulation and to forego seeing the wrath of God being poured out on the wicked:

Luke 21:36 - "Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man."

1 Thessalonians 1:9-10 - "For they themselves declare concerning us what manner of entry we had to you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come."

1 Thessalonians 5:9 - "For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ."

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

In light of the fact that Yahshua promised to spare those who love Him from the coming pouring out of God's Wrath in the Great Tribulation, the Post-Tribulation view of the Rapture is a scripturally unsound position at best, and an outright deception at its worst.

The original version of this article can be viewed on my POEM blog here:
<http://pillarofenoch.blogspot.com/2011/01/why-post-tribulation-view-of-rapture.html>

NOTE: A further extension of this article can be found in my articles:

"The Rapture Connection to the Sign of the Son of Man" (Web: <http://pillar-of-enoch.com/essays/Sign-of-Son-of-Man.html>, PDF: <http://pillar-of-enoch.com/essays/Sign-of-Son-of-Man.pdf>)

And:

"A Gathering of Eagles - A Hidden Parable" (Web: <http://pillar-of-enoch.com/essays/A-Gathering-of-Eagles.html>, PDF: <http://pillar-of-enoch.com/essays/A-Gathering-of-Eagles.pdf>).

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