

Thursology 91: Post-Trib Rapture: Will We Face the Mark of the Beast...and Risk Execution??? (Rapture #14)

(Thursology Live! 9/1/22)

--Review: The Events of the Tribulation:

--Key Concept: If the Pre-Trib View is right...then the Church will be removed before the _____ of the Tribulation...but if the Post-Trib View is correct...believers of the last generation will _____ them...and multitudes will _____ from refusing to take the _____!!!

--The Post-Tribulational Rapture View: Jesus Returns at the End of the Seven Years:

--Strength #1: Its _____...and its natural, effortless _____ with the biblical understanding of a _____ coming and a _____ coming of Christ

--A problem for the Pre-Trib View...according to the Post-Trib advocates: In essence...there's a _____ and _____ coming of Christ

--Strength #2: The only place Christ _____ returns to earth in the Book of Revelation is in chapter 19...at the _____ of the Tribulation

--Rev 19:11, 14-15, 19-21: And I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and He who sat on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and wages war...And the armies which are in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, were following Him on white horses. From His mouth comes a sharp sword, so that with it He may strike down the nations, and He will rule them with a rod of iron; and He treads the wine press of the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty...And I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies assembled to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army. And the beast was seized, and with him the false prophet who performed the signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image; these two were thrown alive into the lake of fire which burns with brimstone. And the rest were killed with the sword which came from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse..."

--Corollary: The Pre-Trib and Mid-Trib "pictures of the Rapture" have John and the Two Witnesses being called up into _____...but not Christ coming down to _____ to "get" them

--Strength #3: It's most _____ with the natural _____ of Jesus' Olivet Discourse

--Matt 24:3, 6, 9, 15-16, 21, 29-31: As He was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will these things happen, and what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?"...You will be hearing of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not frightened, for those things must take place, but that is not yet the end...Then they will deliver you to tribulation, and will kill you, and you will be hated by all nations because of My name..."Therefore when you see the abomination of desolation which was spoken of through Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place...then those who are in Judea must flee to the mountains... For then there will be a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever will..."But immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from the sky, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. And then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they

will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky with power and great glory. And He will send forth His angels with a great trumpet and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other.

--Strength #4: The gathering of the _____ in Matthew 24 is a very _____ description of the Rapture

--Several points from Matthew 24 that support the Post-Trib timing:

--Point #1: In Revelation...the Pre-Trib and Mid-Trib Rapture pictures are an _____...while in Matthew 24...the gathering of the elect from all over the world at the end of the Tribulation ...is _____

--Point #2: The “_____” of the Elect clearly happens at the _____ of the Tribulation

--Vv. 30-31: “...and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky with power and great glory. And He will send forth His angels with a great trumpet and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other.”

--What the Post-Trib View believes the Olivet Discourse teaches about the Rapture: The *gathering of the elect* that

_____ with Jesus’ Glorious Appearing...at the end of the Tribulation...is the _____ of the Church

--Point #3: The “_____” clearly go through the _____ Tribulation

--Matt 24:15-16, 21-22: “Therefore when you see the abomination of desolation which was spoken of through Daniel the prophet...then those who are in Judea must flee to the mountains...For then there will be a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever will. Unless those days had been cut short, no life would have been saved; but for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short.”

--The Post-Trib understanding of the timing of the Rapture in the Olivet Discourse requires a specific interpretation: In Matthew

24...when Jesus refers to the “_____”...He means the _____

--A fundamental principle of biblical interpretation: It’s important to carefully evaluate the _____ of a biblical passage...and attempt to interpret

the Scripture through the eyes and ears of the _____ listeners

--Who were the original listeners at the Olivet Discourse? The _____

--Who would these listeners have interpreted “the elect” to be? _____

--Matt 24:15-16, 21-22: “Therefore when you see the abomination of desolation which was spoken of through Daniel the prophet...then those who are in Judea must flee to the mountains...And then there will be a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever will. And unless those days had been cut short, no life would have been saved; but for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short.”

--Two hermeneutic facts about Matthew 24:

--Fact #1: The _____ would have interpreted the “Elect” to be _____ believers

--Fact #2: The _____ of the passage clearly identifies at least some of the “Elect” as being _____

--The Pre-Trib interpretation of Matthew 24:

--The Olivet Discourse was spoken to _____...and is about _____

--Thus...when Jesus spoke of the “_____”...it was the _____ Testament understanding of God’s _____ people...and was not referring to the _____

--This squares perfectly with Romans 11 and Zechariah 12...where the _____ of Israel _____ at the return of Christ

--**Strength #5:** When taken alone...and at face value...the Olivet Discourse makes it _____ like the followers of Christ will go _____ the Tribulation...and be taken to Heaven _____ Christ returns

--**Application:** Regardless of which timing view ends up being right...the Rapture has _____ implications related to _____...and whether God is a _____ Judge!!!

--Definition of “Unconditional Election” from Reformed Theology: “By the decree of God, for the manifestation of His own glory, some humans and angels are predestined unto everlasting _____, and others foreordained to everlasting _____

--Edwin Palmer: “...all things are ordained by God—including sin and unbelief—thus, God has ordained who will be unbelievers...”

--Henry Sheldon: “God foreordained that the fall would involve, beyond any chance of rescue, the eternal ruin and damnation of the majority of the human race.

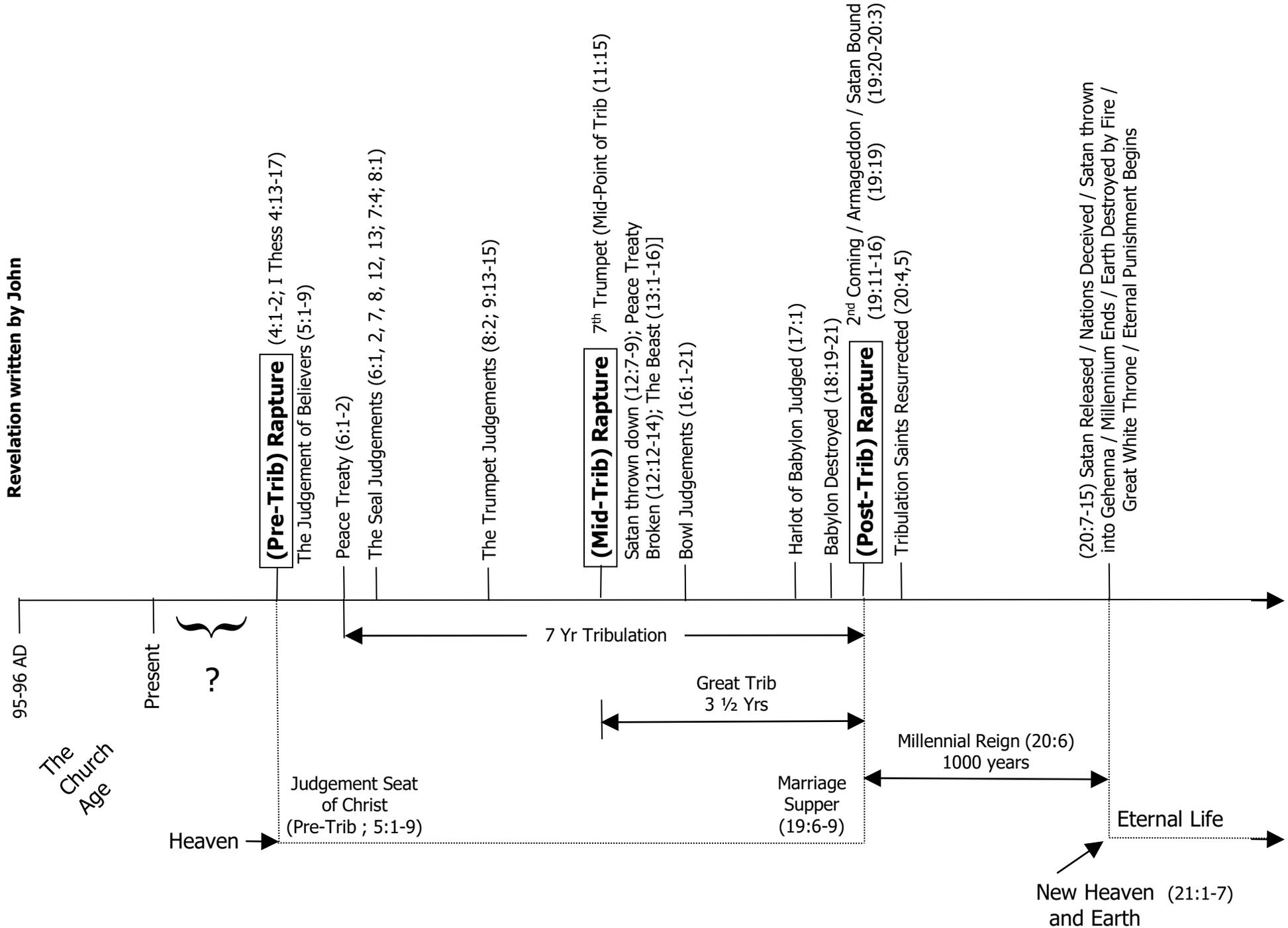
--The Arminian understanding of the biblical doctrine of Election: In the Old Testament, God elected _____...and in the New Testament...God elected the _____...and the purpose of Election in both Covenants is for the Elect to help Him _____ the _____ world!!!

--The Doctrine of the Age of Accountability: _____ human who has ever been conceived is under the _____ grace of God...and is _____ by the blood of Christ...until they come to the age when they can either _____ or _____ God’s grace

--Acts 10:34-35: “I most certainly understand now that God is not one to show partiality, but in every nation the one who fears Him and does what is right is welcome to Him.

--II Pet 3:9: The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.

The Major Events of the Tribulation



Thursology 90: The Mid-Trib Rapture: Will Jesus Come for the Church HALFWAY Through the Tribulation? (Rapture #13)

(Thursology Live! 8/4/22)

--The Mid-Tribulational Rapture View—Jesus Returns Halfway into the Seven Years:

--Strength #1: There's a **GREAT** Revelation **PICTURE** for the Mid-Trib Rapture

--I Cor 15:51-53: Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality.

--I Thess 4:15-17: 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 not precede those who have fallen asleep. 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. Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord.

--Rev 11:3, 5-8, 10-12: "And I will grant authority to *my two witnesses*, and they will prophesy for *twelve hundred and sixty days*, clothed in sackcloth...And if anyone wants to harm them, fire flows out of their mouth and devours their enemies; so if anyone wants to harm them, he must be killed in this way. These have the power to shut up the sky, so that rain will not fall during the days of their prophesying; and they have power over the waters to turn them into blood, and to strike the earth with every plague, as often as they desire. *When they have finished their testimony*, the beast that comes up out of the abyss will make war with them, and overcome them and *kill* them. And their dead bodies will lie in the street of *the great city*...where also their Lord was crucified...And those who dwell on the earth will rejoice over them and celebrate; and they will send gifts to one another, because these two prophets tormented those who dwell on the earth...But after the three and a half days, *the breath of life from God came into them*, and they stood on their feet...And they heard *a loud voice from heaven* saying to them, 'Come up here.' Then *they went up into heaven* in the cloud..."

--What happens to the Two Witnesses?

--They're **RESURRECTED**

--They hear a loud **VOICE** from **HEAVEN**

--The voice says, "**COME** up **HERE**"

--They're **CAUGHT** up into **HEAVEN**

--Strength #2: The removal of the **"RESTRAINER"** is a *plausible* description of the removal of the **CHURCH**

--II Thess 2:1-4, 6-9: 1 Now we request you, brethren, with regard to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ *and our gathering together to Him*, that you not be quickly shaken from your composure or be disturbed either by a spirit or a message or a letter as if from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come. Let no one in any way deceive you, for it will not come unless the *apostasy* comes first, and the *man of lawlessness* is revealed, the *son of destruction*, 4 who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that *he takes his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God*...And you know *what restrains him now*, so that in his time he will be revealed. 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*. Then that lawless one will be revealed whom the Lord will slay with the breath of His mouth and bring to an end by the appearance of His coming; that is, the one whose coming is in accord with the activity of Satan, with all power and signs and false wonders..."

- The interpretations of II Thess 2 that are necessary to support the Mid-Trib View:
 - Interpretation #1: The timing is at the Abomination...which occurs halfway through the Tribulation...when the **ANTICHRIST** sets himself up as a god in the **TEMPLE**
 - Interpretation #2: The key to understanding when Christ will Rapture the Church is in understanding the **RESTRAINER** that is “taken **OUT** of the way” at the midpoint of the Tribulation
- The Key Question: Who...or what...is the “Restrainer”???
 - Option #1: The “Restrainer” is the **HOLY SPIRIT**
 - The perspective of some Mid-Trib proponents: If the Holy Spirit is **REMOVED** at the mid-point of the Tribulation...then the **CHURCH** would have to be **REMOVED** by then...since God would never leave **BELIEVERS**
 - A major problem with Option #1: How can God **REMOVE** His *presence* from **ANYWHERE**?
 - Option #2: The “Restrainer” is the **CHURCH**
 - If the Church is removed from the world:
 - Effect #1: The Antichrist can have complete **CONTROL** of the world without the annoying, restraining **INFLUENCE** of Christians
 - Effect #2: Since God has promised that His followers will not experience His **WRATH**...with the Church **REMOVED**...it allows God to release His **WRATH** during the 2nd half of the Tribulation
 - I Thess 5:9: “For *God has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ...*”
 - Rev 16:1: Then I heard a loud voice from the temple, saying to the seven angels, “Go and pour out on the earth the seven bowls of the *wrath of God.*”

--**The weaknesses and problems of the Mid-Trib View:**

- Weakness #1:** The Mid-Trib View has the **FEWEST** proponents...by **FAR**...in **CLASSICAL** theology
- Weakness #2:** The Mid-Trib View has the **LEAST** amount of supporting **SCRIPTURE** among the three major views
- Weakness #3:** The supposed strength related to the timing of God’s **WRATH** in the 2nd half of the Tribulation is very **QUESTIONABLE**
 - The problem with saying that the world doesn’t experience God’s wrath in the 1st half of the Tribulation:
 - Problem #1: It’s **JESUS** who **BREAKS** the seals of the Seal Judgments
 - Rev 6:1-9 (excerpts): Then I saw when *the Lamb broke one of the seven seals...When He broke the second seal...When He broke the third seal...When the Lamb broke the fourth seal...When the Lamb broke the fifth seal*
 - Problem #2: The text *explicitly* states that **GOD’S** wrath on the earth occurs during the **SEAL** Judgments...very **EARLY** in the Tribulation
 - Rev 6:12-17: I looked when *He broke the sixth seal, and there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth made of hair, and the whole moon became like blood; and the stars of the sky fell to the*

earth...The sky was split apart like a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island were moved out of their places. Then the kings of the earth and the great men and the commanders and the rich and the strong and every slave and free man hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains; and they said to the mountains and to the rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the presence of Him who sits on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb; for the great day of their wrath has come, and who is able to stand?"

--**Weakness #4: IMMINENCY is a problem because the Rapture can't happen until AFTER many FUTURE events have occurred**

--The unavoidable weight of imminency: If Jesus can't return for His CHURCH until AFTER certain things happen...then Jesus can't return...TODAY!!!

--**Weakness #5: If the Mid-Trib View is right...then the Rapture happens exactly 1260 days after The Peace Treaty is ESTABLISHED...and thus...a person could KNOW the day of Christ's return**

--**Application: Don't REJOICE when those who can tell you the TRUTH...are SILENCED!!!**

--Rev 11:3, 7: "And I will grant authority to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for twelve hundred and sixty days...When they have finished their testimony, the beast that comes up out of the abyss will make war with them, and overcome them and kill them.

--Rev 11:10: And those who dwell on the earth will rejoice over them and celebrate; and they will send gifts to one another, because these two prophets tormented those who dwell on the earth.

--Incredible evidence of their absolute spiritual blindness: They'll be so deeply TRAPPED in their darkness...that when the very witnesses...who have been sent to SAVE them...faithfully tell them the very thing that they MOST need to hear...they'll rejoice and celebrate when they're SILENCED!!!

--Key Concept #1: When we think about the "Signs of the Times"...we almost always look for EVENTS!!!

--Key Concept #2: Rather than just looking for EVENTS...the well-prepared believer will primarily be looking for an environment of the WIDESPREAD hatred of TRUTH...as the MAIN "Sign of the Times"!!!