

Thursology 93: The Dispute Remains!!! Did God INTENTIONALLY Leave the Timing of the Rapture UNRESOLVED??? (Rapture #16)

(Thursology Live! 11/3/22)

--**The Big Question:** Why would God leave something as _____ as the “blessed hope of the church” _____ to such dramatically _____ interpretations???

--A major point that the Post-Trib advocates make to support their view: The gathering of the “_____” in Matthew 24 clearly happens at the _____ of the Tribulation

--Matt 24:30-31: “...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.”

--The alternative statement in Matthew 24:31 that Jesus could have made that would have established the Post-Trib View as the only possible view:

--“And He will send forth His angels with a great trumpet and they will gather together His _____ from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other.”

--The entirely reasonable...and very telling question to ask: Why did Jesus use the word _____...rather than the word _____???

--Why did God leave this incredibly important issue open to so much debate???

--Because this is _____ how He _____ to leave it!!!

--God's Purpose in the Ambiguity:

--Question #1: What is God's purpose for the _____-Trib view to be believed so consistently...by so many Christians...throughout Church history?

--Answer: To emphasize the importance of being _____ for Jesus to _____...at any _____

--Matt 24:36-44: “But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone. For the coming of the Son of Man will be just like the days of Noah. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and they did not understand until the flood came and took them all away; so will the coming of the Son of Man be. Then there will be two men in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one will be left. “Therefore be on the alert, for you do not know which day your Lord is coming. But be sure of this, that if the head of the house had known at what time of the night the thief was coming, he would have been on the alert and would not have allowed his house to be broken into. For this reason you also must be ready; for the Son of Man is coming at an hour when you do not think He will.

--The bottom line of the Pre-Trib View: Be _____ to be..._____!!!

--Matt 24:45-51: Who then is the faithful and sensible slave whom his master put in charge of his household to give them their food at the proper time? Blessed is that slave whom his master finds so doing when he comes. Truly I say to you that he will put him in charge of all his possessions. But if that evil slave says in his heart, 'My master is not coming for a long time,' and begins to beat his fellow slaves and eat and drink with drunkards; the master of that slave will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour which he does not know, and will cut him in pieces and assign him a place with the hypocrites; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

--The repeated biblical warning: Never allow yourself to _____... or _____...as if..."my Master is not coming for a _____ time!!!

--The Appropriate Response: Be about the _____ business... _____ the _____!!!

--Question #2: What is God's purpose for the _____-Trib view to be believed so consistently...by so many Christians...throughout Church history?

--Answer: To emphasize the importance of _____... and being _____ to _____ for Christ...and even to _____

--Matt 24:6-13: 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. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and in various places there will be famines and earthquakes. But all these things are merely the beginning of birth pangs. Then they will deliver you to tribulation, and will kill you, and you will be hated by all nations because of My name. At that time many will fall away and will betray one another and hate one another. Many false prophets will arise and will mislead many. Because lawlessness is increased, most people's love will grow cold. 13 But the one who endures to the end, he will be saved.

--The bottom line of the POST-Trib View: Be _____ to be... _____!!!

--1 Pet 4:7, 12-16, 19: The end of all things is near; therefore, be of sound judgment and sober spirit for the purpose of prayer...Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you; but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing, so that also at the revelation of His glory you may rejoice with exultation. If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. Make sure that none of you suffers as a murderer, or thief, or evildoer, or a troublesome meddler; but if anyone suffers as a Christian, he is not to be ashamed, but is to glorify God in this name...Therefore, those also who suffer according to the will of God shall entrust their souls to a faithful Creator in doing what is right.

--The Appropriate Response: Be prepared to _____... be prepared for _____...and do not _____ of sharing in Christ's _____!!!

--The implications of BOTH views having strengths and weaknesses:

--If the Scripture only supported the Pre-Trib Rapture view...then it would be easy to neglect being _____ to _____ for Christ

--If the Scripture only supported the Post-Trib Rapture view...then it would be easy to neglect being _____ for Christ to _____

--Key Concept: The Scriptural “ambiguity” _____ that we be ready for _____...and...that we be ready for..._____!!!

--APPLICATION #1: The Pre-Trib View emphasizes that... _____ time...is _____!!!

--Matt 25:1-13: Then the kingdom of heaven will be comparable to ten virgins, who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were prudent. For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, but the prudent took oil in flasks along with their lamps. Now while the bridegroom was delaying, they all got drowsy and began to sleep. But at midnight there was a shout, ‘Behold, the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the prudent, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ But the prudent answered, ‘No, there will not be enough for us and you too; go instead to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.’ And while they were going away to make the purchase, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding feast; and the door was shut. Later the other virgins also came, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open up for us.’ But he answered, ‘Truly I say to you, I do not know you.’ Be on the alert then, for you do not know the day nor the hour.

--Key Concept #1: When Jesus returns...the _____ to make a _____ will be _____

--Key Concept #2: When Jesus returns..._____ will have _____ made their _____ decision

--A Biblical Warning to God’s People: When we hear God’s _____...the tendency is to _____ making a _____!!!

--John 12:32-36: “And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to Myself.” But He was saying this to indicate the kind of death by which He was to die. The crowd then answered Him, “We have heard out of the Law that the Christ is to remain forever; and how can You say, ‘The Son of Man must be lifted up’? Who is this Son of Man?” So Jesus said to them, “For a little while longer the Light is among you. Walk while you have the Light, so that darkness will not overtake you; he who walks in the darkness does not know where he goes. While you have the Light, believe in the Light, so that you may become sons of Light.” These things Jesus spoke, and He went away and hid Himself from them.

--What does this passage mean? → The opportunity to _____ doesn’t remain available _____!!!

--John 12:36-40: While you have the Light, believe in the Light, so that you may become sons of Light.” These things Jesus spoke, and He went away and hid Himself from them. But though He had performed so many signs before them, yet they were not believing in Him. This was to fulfill the word of Isaiah the prophet which he spoke: “Lord, who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?” For this reason they could not believe, for Isaiah said again, “He has blinded their eyes and He hardened their heart, so that they would not see with their eyes and perceive with their heart, and be converted and I heal them.”

--Vv. 12-13: On the next day the large crowd who had come to the feast, when they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, took the branches of the palm trees and went out to meet Him, and began to shout, "Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel."

--Vv. 14-18: Jesus, finding a young donkey, sat on it; as it is written, "Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your King is coming, seated on a donkey's colt." These things His disciples did not understand at the first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things were written of Him, and that they had done these things to Him. So the people, who were with Him when He called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead, continued to testify about Him. For this reason also the people went and met Him, because they heard that He had performed this sign.

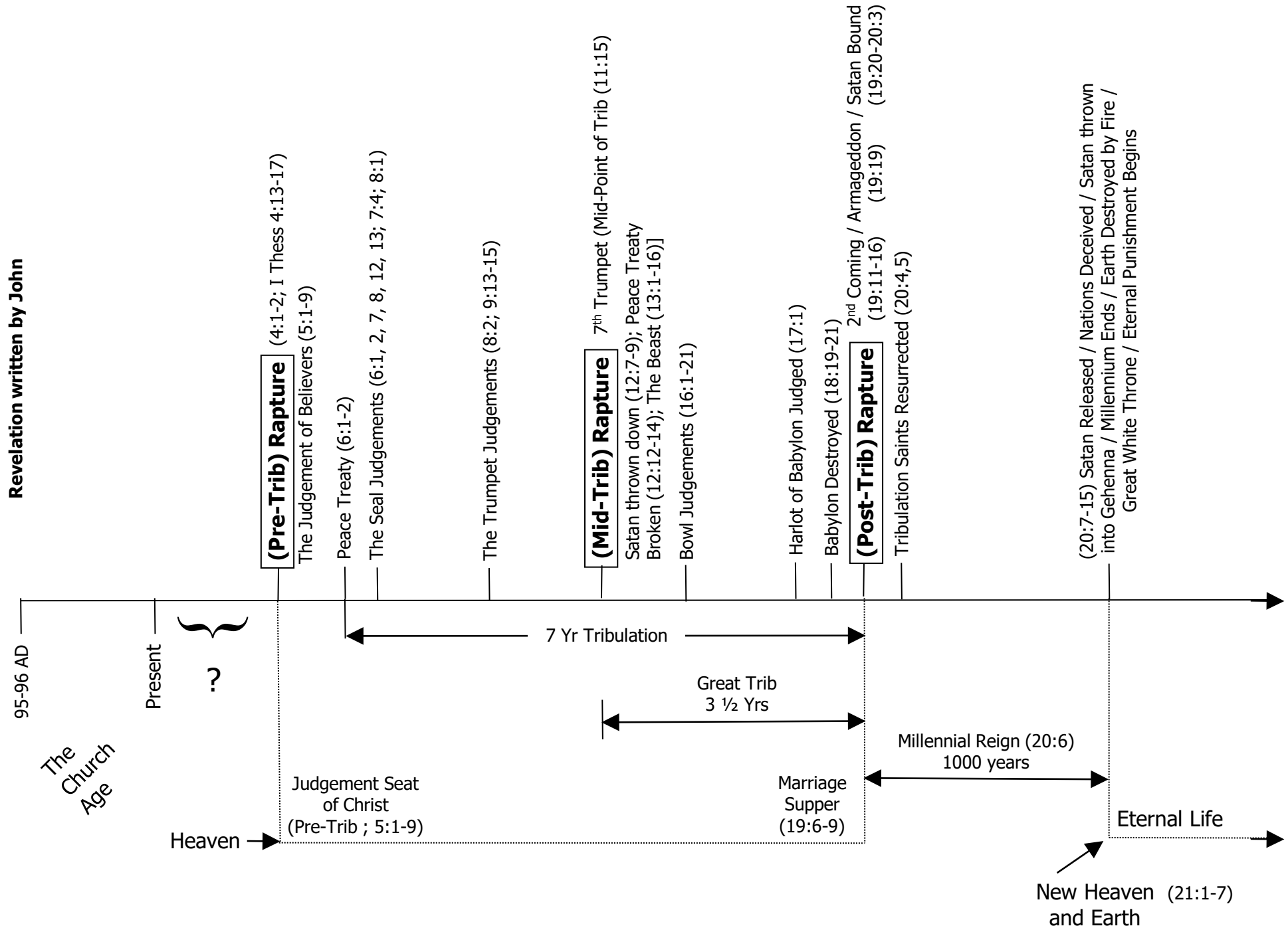
--The amount of truth that was available to Christ's listeners:

1. They had the _____ and the _____
2. They heard the truth from the greatest _____ in all of history
3. The truth had been announced to them for _____
4. They saw _____ fulfilled with their own _____
5. They actually _____ Jesus perform _____...in person
6. They heard the _____ of those who saw Him
raise the _____!!!

--The corollary to the Pre-Trib View and the Parable of the 10 Virgins:

--Only the _____ believes there will always be another _____
to _____!!!

The Major Events of the Tribulation



Thursology 92: Post-Trib Weaknesses: **Jesus Can't Return...TODAY??? (Rapture #15)**

(Thursology Live! 10/6/22)

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

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

--The problems and challenges with the Post-Trib View:

--**Problem #1:** The Post-Trib Rapture would be the most **ANTICLIMACTIC** event in **HISTORY**

--Corollary: If believers go **THROUGH** the Tribulation...then the Last Days seem much more about Antichrist **KILLING** the Church...than Christ **SAVING** them!!!

--**Problem #2:** If the Rapture comes at the **END** of the Tribulation...how can this be a **COMFORT** to believers???

--1 Thess 4:15-18: 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. *Therefore comfort one another with these words.*

--**Problem #3:** It's difficult to see how this view passes the "**BLESSED** hope **TEST**"

--Titus 2:11-13: For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus.

--**Problem #4:** The number of long-awaited prophetic promises that have to be fulfilled in one **BRIEF** event is difficult to comprehend...and this requirement seems to **TRIVIALIZE** some of the most important events that will ever occur

--Corollary: If the Post-Trib View is right...here are the events that must all be "crammed" into no more than a single day:

--Christ **APPEARS** in the air

--The dead saints are **RESURRECTED**

--The living saints are **CHANGED**

--The Church **MEETS** Him in the air

--The **JUDGMENT** Seat of Christ

--The **MARRIAGE** Supper of the Lamb

--Rev 19:7-9: Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to God, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride has made herself ready. It was given to her to clothe herself in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. Then he said to me, "Write, 'Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.'"

--After the Supper...Christ gathers His **ARMIES** of saints and angels

--He **DESCENDS** with His armies to fight the Battle of Armageddon

--He **CONQUERS** the armies of **ANTICHRIST**

--**Problem #5: With the Post-Trib View...it's difficult to keep imminency INTACT without ALLEGORIZING the Revelation events that will happen before Christ returns**

--Rev 6:7-8: One fourth of humanity dies

--Rev 8:6-7: One third of the vegetation on the earth is burned up

--Rev 9:13-16: One third of the survivors of humanity die

--Rev 10:3, 5-6: The two witnesses prophesy for 1260 days...and fire comes out of their mouth and devours their enemies...and they stop the rain from falling for 3 ½ years

--Rev 13:11, 16-17: Humanity forced to take the Mark to be able to buy or sell

--Rev 14:6-7: An angel preaches the Gospel from the heavens to every nation and tribe and tongue and people

--Rev 16:17-18, 21: A great global earthquake that's nothing like anything in history...and 100-pound hailstones fall on the earth

--Key Concept: Revelation tells us that there will be exactly 1260 days from the signing of the Peace Treaty until the Abomination of Desolation...and then exactly 1260 days from the Abomination until Christ RETURNS at Armageddon

--A Key Question for the Post-Trib View: Since the Peace Treaty, the Abomination, and Armageddon have specifically TIMED sequencing...if the Rapture of the Church occurs simultaneously with Armageddon...then how could the church NOT know which day the Lord will RETURN???

--Key Concept #1: The Church has always believed that Jesus can return for His Bride at any time

--Key Concept #2: This means that...whatever your view...the timing of the Rapture must be a surprise

--A big question for the Post-Trib View: Since many easily-identifiable events PRECEDE Christ's 2nd Coming at the end of the Tribulation...if the Rapture and the 2nd Coming are part of the SAME event...how could the Rapture be a SURPRISE???

--Post-Trib Problems:

--Problem #1: At the end of a long string of clearly-propheesied and specifically-TIMED global cataclysmic events...how could everyone...including the Church...be caught SLUMBERING when the very Day of the Bridegroom's return would be absolutely PREDICTABLE?

--Problem #2: It's really hard to square the "SNATCHED away" Rapture passages with the Post-Trib view...since this event will occur exactly 2520 days after the signing of the Peace Treaty and exactly 1260 days after the Treaty is broken...and thus...a person could KNOW the day of Christ's return

--The greatest strength of the Pre-Trib View: In the Pre-Trib Rapture timing...NOTHING has to happen BEFORE Jesus returns for His Church...keeping perfectly intact the Doctrine of Imminency...that Christ can return at any MOMENT...and that no one can KNOW the Day!!!

--**Problem #6: In the Post-Trib timing...since the Church goes through the Tribulation...it appears that BELIEVERS experience God's WRATH**

--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."

--1 Thess 5:9: "For God has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ..."

--**Application #1:** Because of God's amazing grace...while we do receive His DISCIPLINE...we will never experience His WRATH!!!

--**Application #2:** If you've truly REPENTED and...through the work of the Holy Spirit TURNU from your sin...then...residual GUILT is not from God!!!

--The Enemy has two diametrically-opposed weapons when it comes to guilt:

--Weapon #1: To those who are living with SIN in their life...he SOOTH and DAMPENS the conscience

--Weapon #2: To those who've been truly forgiven...he makes a relentless attempt to create FALSE guilt...and SELF-condemnation

--I John 1:9: If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous and will forgive us of our sins, and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

--Freedom from guilt...and empowered to live for Christ:

--Hebrews 4:16: Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

--I John 2:28: Now, little children, abide in Him, so that when He appears, we may have confidence and not shrink away from Him in shame at His coming.

--Romans 8:1: Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

--Hebrews 10:19-23: Therefore, brethren, since we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He inaugurated for us...and since we have a great high priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful..."