

# Exposing the Myth

A Scriptural Rebuttal of the  
Pre-Tribulation Rapture Theory



# **Exposing the Myth: A Scriptural Rebuttal of the Pre-Tribulation Rapture Theory**

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# Chapter 1: Foundations of the Pre-Tribulation Rapture Theory



Dispensationalism is a theological framework that has significantly shaped modern eschatology, particularly the Pre-Tribulation Rapture theory. This theory suggests that believers in Jesus Christ will be 'raptured' or taken up to heaven before a period of intense tribulation on Earth. To grasp the nuances of this theory, it's essential to understand the roots and implications of Dispensationalism.

Dispensationalism divides history into distinct periods or 'dispensations,' during which God interacts with humanity in different ways. This perspective is often contrasted with covenant theology, which views God's relationship with humanity through a series of covenants. Dispensationalism's emphasis on a literal interpretation of biblical prophecy has led to the popularization of the Pre-Tribulation Rapture theory, which posits that Christians will be spared from the tribulations described in the Book of Revelation.

The Pre-Tribulation Rapture theory is deeply intertwined with Dispensationalism. Proponents of this theory argue that the Church will be raptured before the Tribulation, a seven-year period of intense suffering and divine judgment. This belief is often supported by verses such as 1 Thessalonians 1:10 and 5:9, which speak of being delivered from the wrath to come. However, it's crucial to note that the interpretation of these verses is hotly debated among theologians.

One of the key arguments for the Pre-Tribulation Rapture is the distinction between Israel and the Church. Dispensationalists often assert that the Tribulation

is a time of God's dealing with Israel, not the Church. This view is supported by the idea that the word 'church' is not mentioned in Revelation chapters 4 through 18, which describe the Tribulation period. However, critics argue that the absence of the word 'church' does not necessarily imply the absence of the Church itself, as other terms like 'saints' and 'believers' are used.

The influence of Dispensationalism extends beyond theological circles. It has shaped popular culture, particularly in the United States, where the idea of the Rapture has been depicted in various forms of media. This cultural impact underscores the importance of understanding Dispensationalism and its implications for eschatology.

However, it's essential to approach this topic with a critical mind. The Pre-Tribulation Rapture theory, while popular, is not universally accepted. Many scholars argue that it is based on a selective interpretation of biblical texts and that it overlooks the broader context of scriptural teachings on end times. Moreover, the theory has been criticized for fostering a sense of escapism, where believers might feel less compelled to engage with the world's problems, believing they will be raptured before the worst of the tribulations.

In conclusion, understanding Dispensationalism and its influence on eschatology, particularly the Pre-Tribulation Rapture theory, requires a nuanced and critical approach. It's a topic that intersects theology, culture, and personal belief, and it's essential to engage with it thoughtfully and respectfully. As we navigate these complex ideas, let's remember the importance of personal liberty, critical thinking, and the pursuit of truth in all aspects of life.

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# The Promise of Deliverance from God's Wrath in 1 Thessalonians

The idea that believers will be spared from God's wrath is one of the most comforting promises in Scripture. For those who hold to the Pre-Tribulation Rapture theory, this promise is often cited as proof that Christians will be taken off the earth before the Tribulation even begins. But is this interpretation accurate? Let's take a closer look at what 1 Thessalonians actually says -- and what it doesn't say -- about deliverance from wrath.

The key verses in question are 1 Thessalonians 1:10 and 5:9. In 1:10, Paul writes that Jesus 'delivers us from the wrath to come,' while in 5:9, he assures believers that 'God has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.' At first glance, these verses seem to support the idea that Christians will escape the Tribulation entirely. But we must ask: **What exactly is 'the wrath to come'?** Is it the same as the seven-year Tribulation, or is it something more specific?

The Pre-Tribulation Rapture theory assumes that 'the wrath to come' refers to the entire Tribulation period. However, this assumption ignores the fact that the Tribulation includes judgments that are not explicitly labeled as God's wrath. For example, the fifth seal judgment (Revelation 6:9-11) describes a global persecution of Christians -- a horrifying event that would directly contradict the idea that believers are exempt from all Tribulation judgments. If the Tribulation were entirely God's wrath, how could Christians be both persecuted **and** spared from wrath at the same time? The answer is simple: they can't. This inconsistency exposes a fatal flaw in the Pre-Tribulation Rapture argument.

So, if 'the wrath to come' isn't the entire Tribulation, what is it? The Bible provides a clear answer in Revelation 15 and 16, where the wrath of God is specifically tied to the seven bowl judgments -- the final series of plagues poured out in the **second**

**half** of the Tribulation. These judgments are distinct from the earlier seals and trumpets, which include events like war, famine, and martyrdom -- none of which are described as God's wrath. The distinction is critical: while believers may endure persecution and hardship during the Tribulation, they are promised deliverance from **God's direct, final wrath** -- the bowl judgments that culminate in Armageddon.

This brings us back to 1 Thessalonians. When Paul speaks of deliverance from wrath, he isn't promising an escape from all suffering. Instead, he's assuring believers that they will not face the **ultimate** expression of God's judgment -- the unrelenting, irreversible wrath described in Revelation 16. This aligns with Jesus' own words in Matthew 24, where He warns of tribulation but promises that 'the one who endures to the end will be saved' (Matthew 24:13). Endurance, not escape, is the biblical model for the last days.

The Pre-Tribulation Rapture theory also misrepresents the nature of God's dealings with His people. Throughout Scripture, God has never removed His faithful from trials but has instead preserved them **through** trials. Consider Noah, who endured the flood; Daniel, who survived the lions' den; and the Israelites, who were protected from the plagues of Egypt **while remaining in the land**. In each case, deliverance came **amid** judgment, not by fleeing from it. Why would the Tribulation be any different?

Finally, the theory's reliance on 1 Thessalonians ignores the broader context of Paul's letters. In 2 Thessalonians 2, Paul warns that the 'man of lawlessness' (the Antichrist) must be revealed **before** the day of the Lord -- a day associated with wrath (1 Thessalonians 5:2-3). If the Rapture occurred before the Tribulation, Paul's warning would make no sense, as the Antichrist wouldn't even have appeared yet. This further undermines the Pre-Tribulation position.

In summary, 1 Thessalonians does promise deliverance from God's wrath -- but not in the way the Pre-Tribulation Rapture theory claims. The wrath believers are

spared from is the **final** outpouring of God's judgment, not the Tribulation itself. This distinction is vital, as it exposes the theory's misinterpretation of Scripture and its failure to account for the full scope of biblical prophecy. The true promise of deliverance is not an escape from hardship but the assurance that, no matter what comes, those who trust in Christ will never face His ultimate wrath.

## Examining the Greek Meaning of 'Deliver' and Its Implications

Let's dive into the Greek meaning of the word 'deliver' and why it's crucial for understanding the Pre-Tribulation Rapture theory. The theory hinges on the idea that Christians will be 'delivered' from God's wrath, which is often equated with the Tribulation. But what does 'deliver' really mean in the original Greek?

The Greek word often translated as 'deliver' in the New Testament is 'rhuomai.' It means to rescue, to draw to oneself, or to escape. It's not just about being preserved through a difficult time, but about being removed from it entirely. This is significant because it challenges the idea that Christians might simply be preserved through the Tribulation rather than being taken out of it.

In 1 Thessalonians 1:10, we read that Jesus 'delivers us from the wrath to come.' The Greek here is clear: it's about escape, not endurance. This is a strong argument for the Pre-Tribulation Rapture view, which holds that Christians will be taken out of the world before the Tribulation begins. It's not about toughing it out; it's about being rescued from the entirety of God's wrath.

But here's where things get interesting. The Pre-Tribulation Rapture theory often equates the Tribulation with God's wrath. However, as we've seen, the Bible doesn't make this direct equivalence. The Tribulation is a period of intense judgment, but not all judgments are the wrath of God. This is a crucial distinction that we need to keep in mind.

Let's look at Revelation 3:10, where Jesus promises to 'keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come on the whole world.' The Greek word for 'keep' here is 'tereo,' which can mean to guard or protect. But in the context, it's clear that it's not just about protection during the trial, but about being kept out of it entirely. This aligns with the idea of 'rhuomai,' of being delivered or rescued from something.

However, we must be careful not to fall into the trap of word games. Just as 'church' isn't the only term for believers, 'deliver' isn't the only term for rescue. The Bible uses a variety of words and phrases to describe God's saving actions. We need to look at the context and the overall narrative, not just individual words.

In the end, the Greek meaning of 'deliver' supports the idea that Christians will be rescued from God's wrath. But we must be careful not to equate the Tribulation entirely with God's wrath. The Bible's narrative is more nuanced than that. It's a reminder that we need to approach these texts with humility and a willingness to let them speak for themselves, rather than forcing them into our preconceived theories.

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## Defining the Wrath of God in Biblical Prophecy

In our journey to understand the complexities of biblical prophecy, it's crucial to grasp what the Bible means when it speaks about the wrath of God. This concept is often misunderstood, leading to various interpretations and theories, such as the Pre-Tribulation Rapture theory. Let's explore this topic together, ensuring we stay true to the biblical text and its context.

The wrath of God is a theme that runs throughout the Bible, but it's essential to understand it within the framework of God's character and His plan for humanity. The wrath of God is not an arbitrary outburst of anger; rather, it is a righteous response to sin and rebellion against His holy nature. It's like a loving father who must discipline his children for their own good. God's wrath is an expression of His justice and holiness, aimed at ultimately bringing about redemption and restoration.

One of the key passages that discuss the wrath of God is found in the book of Revelation. Here, we see a series of judgments that culminate in the final outpouring of God's wrath. These judgments are not random acts of vengeance but are purposeful and measured responses to human wickedness. They serve as a call to repentance and a warning of the consequences of persistent rebellion against God.

The Pre-Tribulation Rapture theory often equates the entire seven-year Tribulation period with the wrath of God. However, this interpretation doesn't hold up under careful scrutiny. The Tribulation is a time of great distress and judgment, but it's not entirely synonymous with God's wrath. The wrath of God, as specifically described in Revelation, refers to a distinct period marked by the pouring out of the seven bowls of God's wrath. This period is clearly delineated and occurs after the Tribulation has already begun.

In Revelation 15:1, we read about seven angels with seven plagues, which are the last because with them God's wrath is completed. This passage sets the stage for the final judgments that constitute God's wrath. These judgments are detailed in Revelation 16, where the seven bowls are poured out upon the earth. Each bowl brings a specific plague, demonstrating God's righteous judgment against sin and the refusal to repent.

It's important to note that the wrath of God is not an endless or arbitrary punishment. It has a clear beginning and end, as indicated by the specific



judgments described in Revelation. This understanding helps us see that the Tribulation period, while a time of great distress, is not entirely the same as the wrath of God. The Tribulation includes various judgments, but the wrath of God is a distinct phase within that period.

Moreover, the wrath of God is not something that believers in Jesus Christ need to fear. Scripture assures us that God has not destined us for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. This promise is a source of great comfort and hope, reminding us that God's ultimate purpose is redemption, not destruction. Our focus should be on living faithfully and sharing the message of God's love and salvation with others.

In conclusion, understanding the wrath of God in biblical prophecy requires careful study and a commitment to interpreting Scripture within its context. The wrath of God is a righteous response to sin, aimed at bringing about justice and ultimately redemption. It is not an arbitrary or endless punishment but a specific period marked by the pouring out of the seven bowls of God's wrath. As believers, we can trust in God's promises and live with the assurance that He is working all things together for our good and His glory.

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## The Tribulation vs. the Wrath of God: Clarifying Key Terms

In our journey to understand the end times, it's crucial to distinguish between the Tribulation and the Wrath of God. These terms are often used interchangeably,

but they represent distinct concepts with significant implications for our understanding of biblical prophecy. Let's explore these differences in a way that honors the scriptural text and aligns with a worldview that values truth, transparency, and the sovereignty of God.

The Tribulation is a period of intense suffering and turmoil described in the Bible, particularly in the Book of Revelation. It's a time when God allows various judgments to unfold on the earth, but it's not synonymous with the Wrath of God. The Tribulation includes a series of events that serve as both judgments and warnings, aimed at calling humanity to repentance. During this time, believers may face persecution and hardship, but they are not abandoned by God. Instead, they are preserved and strengthened through their faith.

On the other hand, the Wrath of God is a specific and definitive period where God's direct judgment is poured out on the earth. This is described vividly in Revelation chapters 15 and 16, where seven bowls of God's wrath are poured out, bringing about catastrophic events. The Wrath of God is distinct in its intensity and purpose. It is the culmination of God's judgment, marking the final phase of His intervention in human history. This period is characterized by divine retribution, where God's justice is fully manifested.

One of the key passages that help us understand the distinction is 1 Thessalonians 5:9, which states, 'For God has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.' This verse reassures believers that they are not appointed to suffer the Wrath of God. This aligns with the understanding that the Wrath of God is a specific period of divine judgment, separate from the broader Tribulation period. Believers are promised deliverance from this ultimate expression of God's wrath, underscoring the importance of faith and obedience.

The Tribulation, while a time of great distress, also serves as a period of purification and preparation for believers. It's a time when the faithful are called to endure and witness, even amidst persecution. The Wrath of God, however, is a

time of final judgment, where the opportunity for repentance has passed, and God's justice is fully realized. This distinction is crucial for believers to grasp, as it shapes our understanding of God's plan and our role within it.

In Revelation 6:16-17, we see a glimpse of the fear and desperation that will grip the world during the Tribulation. People will cry out to the mountains and 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?' This passage highlights the terror that will accompany the realization of God's impending judgment. Yet, it's essential to note that this is a precursor to the actual Wrath of God, a foreshadowing of the ultimate judgment to come.

The Tribulation and the Wrath of God, while related, serve different purposes in God's divine plan. The Tribulation is a time of testing, endurance, and witness, where believers are called to stand firm in their faith. The Wrath of God is the final act of judgment, where God's justice is fully displayed. Understanding this distinction helps us to see the broader narrative of redemption and judgment, where God's mercy and justice are both fully expressed.

As we navigate these complex and profound themes, it's vital to approach the scriptures with humility and a willingness to learn. The Bible offers a rich tapestry of prophecy and promise, calling us to faith and obedience. By distinguishing between the Tribulation and the Wrath of God, we gain a clearer picture of God's plan for humanity and our place within it. This understanding empowers us to live with hope and purpose, even as we anticipate the challenges and triumphs that lie ahead.

# Revelation 15 and 16: The Clear Biblical Definition of God's Wrath

When we talk about God's wrath in the Bible, there's a lot of confusion -- especially when it comes to the Tribulation and the Rapture. Many people assume the entire seven-year Tribulation is God's wrath, but the Bible paints a much clearer picture. If we look closely at Revelation 15 and 16, we see something very specific: the wrath of God is not the whole Tribulation. It's a distinct, defined period within it.

The key to understanding this lies in the language. In Revelation 15:1, we read about seven angels holding seven plagues, which are described as **the last**, because **in them the wrath of God is finished**. Then, in Revelation 15:7, we see these seven angels receiving seven golden bowls **full of the wrath of God**. Finally, in Revelation 16:1, a loud voice commands these angels to pour out these bowls of wrath upon the earth. This isn't vague -- it's precise. The wrath of God is contained in these seven final judgments, not scattered across all twenty-one judgments of the Tribulation.

Now, some might argue that the judgments in Revelation are so severe that they **must** be God's wrath. But that's a human assumption, not a biblical one. God has brought judgments throughout history -- floods, plagues, wars -- that weren't labeled as His wrath. The wrath of God is a specific, final act of divine justice, not just any hardship. And the Bible tells us exactly when it begins: after the seventh trumpet judgment, as declared in Revelation 11:18. This isn't man's opinion -- it's God's own proclamation from His throne.

What's fascinating is how this aligns with the rest of Scripture. The Tribulation includes judgments, yes, but not all of them are wrath. For example, the fifth seal judgment (Revelation 6:9-11) describes a global martyrdom of Christians. If the entire Tribulation were God's wrath, how could believers be promised deliverance from wrath (1 Thessalonians 1:10; 5:9) while still enduring this slaughter? The

answer is simple: the Tribulation contains both God's judgments **and** His wrath, but they're not the same thing. The wrath is the final, decisive blow -- the seven bowl judgments -- while the earlier judgments serve as warnings and preparations.

This distinction is crucial because it exposes a major flaw in the Pre-Tribulation Rapture theory. That theory assumes Christians won't face **any** part of the Tribulation because they're spared from wrath. But if wrath only begins **after** the midpoint of the Tribulation (with the seventh trumpet), then the first half isn't wrath at all. This means believers could very well be present for the early judgments -- just as they were during past biblical judgments, like the plagues in Egypt -- without contradicting the promise of being spared from wrath.

The Pre-Tribulation theory also stumbles over the timing of the Rapture. If wrath starts at the midpoint, then any Rapture after that point would mean Christians **do** face wrath -- which contradicts the theory's core claim. But if the Rapture happens **before** the Tribulation, it ignores the fact that the first half isn't wrath. The only consistent view is that the Rapture occurs **after** the Tribulation's early judgments but **before** the wrath begins -- something the Pre-Tribulation theory can't account for.

Finally, let's talk about the mark of the beast. Revelation 13 introduces this as a turning point, and Revelation 14:9-10 warns that those who take it will face God's wrath. This aligns perfectly with the seven bowl judgments, which follow the mark's introduction. The wrath isn't random -- it's a response to humanity's final rebellion. And since Christians won't take the mark (Revelation 14:12), they won't be part of that wrath. But they **will** face the Tribulation's earlier trials, just as believers always have.

So, what's the takeaway? The wrath of God is a specific, final phase of judgment -- seven bowls poured out after the midpoint of the Tribulation. It's not the whole seven years. This means the Pre-Tribulation Rapture theory, which equates the entire Tribulation with wrath, is built on a misunderstanding. The Bible doesn't

leave room for guesswork here. It gives us clear definitions, timelines, and promises. And when we follow those, the picture becomes a lot clearer -- and a lot more hopeful for those who trust in Christ.

## **The Problematic Assumption That All Tribulation Judgments Are God's Wrath**

One of the most common assumptions in discussions about the end times is that the Tribulation period is synonymous with God's wrath. This assumption is often used to support the Pre-Tribulation Rapture theory, which suggests that Christians will be taken up to heaven before the Tribulation begins, thereby sparing them from God's wrath. However, this assumption is problematic and deserves closer examination.

First, it's important to understand that the Tribulation period is described as a time of great distress and judgment, but not all judgments are necessarily expressions of God's wrath. Throughout history, God has allowed judgments to occur for various reasons, including discipline, correction, and the outworking of natural consequences. The Tribulation, as described in the Bible, includes a series of judgments, but it is not explicitly stated that all these judgments are direct outpourings of God's wrath.

The book of Revelation, which provides a detailed account of the Tribulation, describes a series of seal, trumpet, and bowl judgments. These judgments are severe and catastrophic, but they are not uniformly described as God's wrath. For instance, the seal judgments include events like war, famine, and death, which, while devastating, are not explicitly labeled as God's wrath. It is only later, with the bowl judgments, that we see a clear description of God's wrath being poured out. The assumption that all Tribulation judgments are God's wrath often stems from a conflation of terms. Words like 'judgment,' 'wrath,' and 'tribulation' are sometimes

used interchangeably, but they have distinct meanings. Judgment can refer to any act of divine justice, while wrath specifically denotes God's intense anger and punishment against sin. Tribulation, on the other hand, refers to a period of suffering and distress. Understanding these distinctions is crucial for accurately interpreting biblical prophecy.

Moreover, the Bible provides specific instances where God's wrath is clearly identified. For example, Revelation 15:1 states, 'And I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvelous, seven angels who had seven plagues, which are the last, because in them the wrath of God is finished.' This verse explicitly ties the seven bowl judgments to God's wrath. In contrast, earlier judgments in the Tribulation period are not described in the same terms.

Another point to consider is the purpose of the Tribulation. While it is a time of judgment, it is also a period meant to bring people to repentance and faith in God. The judgments serve as warnings and calls to repentance, not merely as expressions of wrath. This dual purpose suggests that not all judgments during the Tribulation are solely about God's wrath but also about His mercy and desire for people to turn to Him.

In conclusion, the assumption that all Tribulation judgments are God's wrath is an oversimplification that can lead to misinterpretations of biblical prophecy. It is essential to carefully study the Scriptures, paying attention to the specific language used and the context in which events are described. By doing so, we can gain a more accurate understanding of the Tribulation period and the nature of God's judgments.

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# The Fifth Seal Judgment: A Fatal Flaw in the Pre-Tribulation Argument

In our journey to understand the end times, one of the most compelling arguments against the Pre-Tribulation Rapture theory is found in the Fifth Seal Judgment. This section of Revelation presents a significant challenge to the idea that Christians will be raptured before the Tribulation. Let's explore this together, step by step, to see why this is such a crucial point.

The Fifth Seal Judgment, as described in Revelation 6:9-11, depicts the martyrdom of saints who are killed for their faith during the Tribulation. These martyrs cry out to God, asking how long it will be until their deaths are avenged. This passage is pivotal because it shows that Christians are not only present during the Tribulation but are also suffering greatly. This directly contradicts the Pre-Tribulation Rapture theory, which suggests that Christians will be taken away before these events unfold.

One of the key arguments for the Pre-Tribulation Rapture is based on the idea that Christians are not destined for wrath, as stated in 1 Thessalonians 1:10 and 5:9. Proponents argue that since the Tribulation is a time of God's wrath, Christians will be raptured before it begins. However, this argument falls apart when we consider the Fifth Seal Judgment. If Christians are being martyred during the Tribulation, how can it be said that they are not experiencing God's wrath? This inconsistency is a fatal flaw in the Pre-Tribulation argument.

Moreover, the Fifth Seal Judgment highlights the presence of the Church during the Tribulation. The martyrs are described as 'souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony they had maintained' (Revelation 6:9). This clearly indicates that these are believers in Jesus Christ, members of the Church, who are enduring the Tribulation. The Pre-Tribulation Rapture theory struggles to explain this presence, often resorting to complex and convoluted



interpretations that lack biblical support.

Another important aspect to consider is the timing of God's wrath. The Pre-Tribulation Rapture theory often equates the entire Tribulation with God's wrath. However, as we have seen, the Fifth Seal Judgment shows that Christians are present and suffering during the Tribulation. This suggests that the Tribulation is not solely a time of God's wrath but also a period of testing and martyrdom for the Church. This distinction is crucial for understanding the end times accurately. Furthermore, the Fifth Seal Judgment underscores the importance of perseverance and faith during the Tribulation. The martyrs are told to rest a little while longer, until the number of their fellow servants and their brethren, who would be killed as they were, was completed (Revelation 6:11). This indicates that the Tribulation is a time of continued witness and martyrdom for the Church, not a period from which they are absent.

In conclusion, the Fifth Seal Judgment presents a significant challenge to the Pre-Tribulation Rapture theory. It shows that Christians are present and suffering during the Tribulation, contradicting the idea that they will be raptured before this period of wrath. By carefully examining this passage, we can see the importance of a well-studied and noble-minded approach to understanding the end times, as encouraged in Acts 17:11 and 2 Timothy 2:15.

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# The Day of the Lord: Its Scope and Misinterpretations in Prophecy

The concept of the Day of the Lord is one of the most misunderstood and misapplied themes in end-time prophecy. Many believers, influenced by the Pre-Tribulation Rapture theory, assume this day is a singular, cataclysmic event marking the start of God's wrath -- an assumption that doesn't hold up under careful biblical scrutiny. The truth is far more nuanced, and understanding it requires peeling back layers of misinterpretation that have been cemented into popular theology over the past two centuries.

At its core, the Day of the Lord is not a 24-hour period but a prophetic **season** -- a divinely appointed time when God intervenes directly in human history to judge rebellion, restore justice, and fulfill His redemptive promises. The Old Testament prophets, like Joel and Zephaniah, describe it as a time of darkness, cosmic disturbances, and divine reckoning (Joel 2:30-31; Zephaniah 1:14-18). Yet, this season isn't confined to a single moment; it unfolds progressively, much like labor pains intensifying before birth. The New Testament echoes this, particularly in 1 Thessalonians 5:2-4, where Paul warns that this day will come like a thief in the night -- for those in spiritual darkness -- but not for believers, who are called to be alert and sober. The key here is **timing**: the Day of the Lord isn't the Tribulation itself, nor is it synonymous with God's wrath. It's a broader framework within which God's wrath **eventually** culminates.

One of the biggest errors in modern eschatology is conflating the Day of the Lord with the entire seven-year Tribulation. Pre-Tribulation Rapture proponents often argue that since Christians are promised deliverance from God's wrath (1 Thessalonians 1:10, 5:9), they must be removed from earth before the Tribulation begins. But this ignores the biblical distinction between **judgments** and **wrath**. The Tribulation includes 21 distinct judgments (seals, trumpets, and bowls), but

only the **last seven** -- the bowl judgments -- are explicitly labeled as God's wrath (Revelation 15:1, 16:1). The first 14 judgments, while devastating, are not described as wrath but as divine corrections meant to call humanity to repentance (Revelation 9:20-21). Even the sixth seal, where terrified men cry out for the mountains to hide them from "the wrath of the Lamb" (Revelation 6:16-17), is a **reaction** to judgment, not the wrath itself. Their fear is premature; the actual wrath doesn't begin until Revelation 11:18, after the seventh trumpet sounds.

This leads to a critical question: If the Day of the Lord isn't the Tribulation, when does it begin? The answer lies in recognizing that this "day" is a **process**, not a single event. It starts with the cosmic signs of the sixth seal (Revelation 6:12-14) -- the sun blackened, the moon turned to blood, and stars falling from the sky -- mirroring Jesus' words in Matthew 24:29. These signs mark the **threshold** of the Day of the Lord, a heavenly announcement that God's intervention is imminent. But the wrath itself -- the outpouring of the seven bowls -- doesn't commence until later, after the mark of the beast is enforced (Revelation 13) and the seventh trumpet sounds (Revelation 11:15-18). This means believers **will** experience the early judgments of the Tribulation, including the sixth seal's cosmic upheavals, but they are promised protection from the **wrath** -- the bowl judgments -- that follow.

The misapplication of the Day of the Lord has also led to a dangerous spiritual complacency. By teaching that Christians will be raptured before any hardship, the Pre-Tribulation theory discourages preparation for persecution and trials -- trials that Jesus Himself said would come (John 16:33). The early church thrived under persecution, but today, many believers are lulled into a false sense of security, assuming they'll be whisked away before things get "too bad." This is a direct contradiction to the warnings in Scripture, where believers are repeatedly called to endure (Revelation 13:10), overcome (Revelation 2:7, 11, 17), and even lay down their lives for the faith (Revelation 12:11). The Day of the Lord, in its fullness, includes both judgment **and** redemption -- God's people are refined through trials,

not exempt from them.

Another layer of confusion arises from the assumption that the Day of the Lord is exclusively for Israel, excluding the Church. This stems from a misreading of passages like Jeremiah 30:7, which calls it “the time of Jacob’s trouble.” However, the New Testament makes it clear that Gentile believers are now grafted into Israel’s covenants (Ephesians 2:11-13; Romans 11:17). The Tribulation is not **only** about Israel; it’s about the entire world’s rebellion against God (Revelation 13:7-8). The Church isn’t absent during this time -- it’s **persecuted** (Revelation 6:9-11; 13:7), purified (Revelation 7:14), and ultimately victorious (Revelation 15:2-4). The Day of the Lord, therefore, is a time when God deals with **both** His covenant people (Israel) and His global body (the Church), fulfilling His promises to each.

Finally, the Day of the Lord culminates in the return of Christ, the final harvest, and the establishment of His millennial kingdom (Revelation 19:11-20:6). This is the ultimate goal: not just judgment, but restoration. The misinterpretations of this day have led many astray, fostering fear instead of faith, escape instead of endurance, and division instead of unity. But when we align our understanding with the full counsel of Scripture -- recognizing the Day of the Lord as a season of both warning and hope -- we’re equipped to stand firm, no matter what lies ahead. The call isn’t to flee, but to overcome.

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# Chapter 2: Debunking Core Proposals of the Pre-Tribulation Theory



In exploring the complex landscape of end-time theology, it's crucial to address the flawed logic within Dispensationalism, particularly its impact on the relationship between the Church and Israel. Dispensationalism, a theological framework that divides history into distinct periods or dispensations, has significantly influenced modern Christian eschatology. However, its interpretations often lead to problematic conclusions, especially regarding the role of the Church and Israel in the end times.

One of the primary issues with Dispensationalism is its rigid separation of the Church and Israel, suggesting that God has distinct and separate plans for each. This perspective often leads to the belief that the Church will be raptured before the Tribulation, leaving Israel to face the end-time judgments alone. This idea stems from a literal interpretation of biblical prophecies, particularly those found in the books of Daniel and Revelation. However, this literalism can be misleading, as it fails to account for the symbolic and metaphorical language often used in apocalyptic literature.

The concept of the Pre-Tribulation Rapture, a cornerstone of Dispensational eschatology, is based on the belief that Christians will be spared from the Tribulation, a period of intense suffering and divine judgment. This belief is largely derived from passages such as 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17, which describes the dead

in Christ rising first, followed by those who are alive being caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. However, this interpretation overlooks the broader context of biblical prophecy, which often speaks of the Church enduring trials and tribulations.

Moreover, Dispensationalism's emphasis on a literal, future millennium -- a thousand-year reign of Christ on earth -- further complicates the understanding of the Church's role in the end times. This millennialism suggests a future earthly kingdom where Christ will reign physically, often leading to a focus on political and nationalistic interpretations of biblical prophecy. This can distract from the spiritual and transformative aspects of Christ's teachings and the Church's mission.

The flawed logic of Dispensationalism becomes particularly evident in its handling of the relationship between the Church and Israel. By insisting on a strict separation, Dispensationalism often overlooks the unity and continuity between the Old and New Testaments. The New Testament frequently applies Old Testament promises to the Church, indicating a spiritual fulfillment rather than a purely literal, nationalistic one. For instance, passages that speak of Israel's restoration and blessing are often seen as being fulfilled in the Church, which is comprised of both Jewish and Gentile believers.

Furthermore, Dispensationalism's focus on a future earthly kingdom can lead to a neglect of the present spiritual kingdom that Jesus inaugurated. The Kingdom of God is not merely a future reality but a present one, where believers are called to live out the values and principles of God's reign in their daily lives. This present kingdom perspective emphasizes the Church's role in being a witness to God's love and justice in the world today, rather than waiting for a future political kingdom.

In conclusion, while Dispensationalism offers a structured approach to understanding biblical prophecy, its flawed logic often leads to a problematic separation of the Church and Israel. This separation can result in a narrow and

sometimes misleading interpretation of end-time events. A more balanced approach would recognize the unity and continuity between the Old and New Testaments, seeing the Church as the spiritual fulfillment of God's promises to Israel. This perspective encourages a focus on the present spiritual kingdom, where believers are called to live out their faith in love, justice, and hope, rather than being preoccupied with speculative end-time scenarios.

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## **Jeremiah 30:7 and the Time of Jacob's Distress: A Misapplied Prophecy**

In the realm of biblical prophecy, few verses have been as misapplied as Jeremiah 30:7, which states, 'Alas! For that day is great, there is none like it; and it is the time of Jacob's distress, but he will be saved from it.' This verse is often used to support the Pre-Tribulation Rapture theory, which suggests that the Church will be raptured before the seven-year Tribulation, a period believed to be exclusively for Israel. However, this interpretation is flawed and ignores the broader context of Scripture.

Firstly, it's important to understand that the term 'time of Jacob's distress' is not explicitly defined in Jeremiah 30:7 or its surrounding context. The verse does not provide a specific timing or a clear definition of what this distress entails. This lack of clarity should caution us against building a comprehensive end-time theology around this single verse. Yet, this is precisely what the Pre-Tribulation Rapture theory does, using Jeremiah 30:7 as a cornerstone for its argument that the

Tribulation is solely for Israel.

Moreover, the theory employs a form of word substitution, arguing that since the word 'church' is not mentioned from Revelation chapter four onward, the Church must not be present during the Tribulation. This is a misleading argument. The Church is referred to by various names throughout the New Testament, such as saints, believers, a royal priesthood, and a holy nation. These terms appear in Revelation chapters four and beyond, indicating the Church's presence during the Tribulation.

The Pre-Tribulation Rapture theory also overlooks the fact that Israel and the Church coexist today and will continue to do so into the Tribulation. The theory's attempt to separate the two entities is not supported by Scripture. In fact, the Bible presents a picture of unity and coexistence between Israel and the Church, not exclusivity or separation.

Furthermore, the theory's interpretation of Jeremiah 30:7 ignores the broader context of the verse. The prophecy in Jeremiah 30 is a message of hope and restoration for Israel, not a prediction of a period of exclusive distress. The verse is part of a larger passage that speaks of God's promise to restore Israel and bring them back to their land. This context is crucial for understanding the true meaning of the 'time of Jacob's distress.'

Lastly, the Pre-Tribulation Rapture theory's use of Jeremiah 30:7 to support its claims is an example of private interpretation, which is warned against in 2 Peter 1:20. The verse is taken out of its context and given a meaning not intended by the original author. This practice can lead to a misunderstanding of Scripture and should be approached with caution.

In conclusion, Jeremiah 30:7 is not a proof text for the Pre-Tribulation Rapture theory. The verse does not provide a clear definition or timing for the 'time of Jacob's distress,' and its use to support the theory's claims is a misapplication of Scripture. A more accurate understanding of the verse and its context reveals a



message of hope and restoration for Israel, not a prediction of a period of exclusive distress or a pre-tribulation rapture of the Church.

## The Absence of the Word 'Church' in Revelation

### 4-19: A Red Herring

One of the most frequently cited arguments for the Pre-Tribulation Rapture theory is the claim that the word **church** mysteriously disappears from Revelation chapters 4 through 19. Supporters of this view insist that this omission proves the Church is no longer on Earth during the Tribulation, having been secretly whisked away in a pre-tribulation rapture. But is this argument as solid as it sounds, or is it just a clever sleight of hand designed to mislead believers?

At first glance, the absence of the word **church** in these chapters might seem like a compelling point. After all, if the Church is supposed to be present during the Tribulation, why wouldn't the book of Revelation mention it explicitly? Yet, this line of reasoning crumbles under closer examination. The Bible doesn't rely on a single word to define the people of God. Throughout Scripture, believers are described in multiple ways -- saints, Christians, the elect, the faithful, the body of Christ, the bride, and even the remnant. If we only look for the word **church**, we're playing a semantic game that ignores the richness of biblical language.

In Revelation, the term **saints** appears repeatedly, even in the very chapters where Pre-Tribulation advocates claim the Church is absent. Revelation 13:7, for example, describes the beast making war with the **saints** and overcoming them. Revelation 14:12 speaks of the **saints** who keep the commandments of God and hold to the faith of Jesus. Revelation 16:6 declares that the blood of the **saints** has been shed by the wicked. If these **saints** aren't the Church, then who are they? The argument that the Church is gone because the word **church** isn't used is like claiming a garden has no flowers because the word **flowers** isn't mentioned --

only **blossoms** or **petals**. It's a shallow way to interpret Scripture, one that relies on wordplay rather than sound exegesis.

Another critical flaw in this argument is its assumption that Revelation 4–19 is exclusively about the Tribulation. In reality, these chapters contain visions that span the entire scope of human history, from Christ's ascension to the final judgment. Revelation 4–5, for instance, depicts the throne room of Heaven, where Christ takes the scroll -- a scene that symbolizes His authority over all history, not just the Tribulation. Revelation 12 recounts the cosmic battle between the dragon (Satan) and the woman (Israel), a conflict that has been ongoing since the fall of mankind. Revelation 17–18 describes the fall of Babylon, a symbol of the world's corrupt systems, which will culminate at the end of the age but has been in the making for centuries. To isolate these chapters as **only** about the Tribulation is to ignore their broader theological and historical context.

The Pre-Tribulation theory also overlooks the fact that the Church is **always** present in the visions of Revelation -- just not always by name. In Revelation 7, we see a multitude of believers from every nation, tribe, and tongue standing before the throne, clothed in white robes. These are the redeemed, the ones who have come out of the **great tribulation** (Revelation 7:14). If the Church were raptured before the Tribulation, who are these people? Are they a separate group of believers who somehow missed the rapture? That doesn't align with the Pre-Tribulation claim that **all** true Christians are taken. The only logical conclusion is that the Church **is** present during the Tribulation, enduring persecution but ultimately victorious through Christ.

Perhaps the most damning rebuttal to the **missing church** argument is the simple fact that the book of Revelation was written **to** the Church. Revelation 1:4 addresses the book to the **seven churches** in Asia, and Revelation 22:16 declares that Jesus sent His angel to testify to the **churches** about the things written in it. If the Church isn't supposed to be present during the events described in Revelation

4–19, why would Jesus give them a detailed prophecy about a time they won't experience? That would be like sending a weather alert to someone who's already left the country. It makes no sense. The book is a warning, an encouragement, and a call to endurance for believers who **will** face these trials.

The **missing church** argument is a classic example of how Pre-Tribulation teachers manipulate language to fit their theory. They take a single word, isolate it, and then build an entire doctrine around its absence -- while ignoring the many other terms that clearly refer to believers. They assume that if the word **church** isn't used, the Church must not be there, even though Scripture uses a variety of terms to describe God's people. This is not sound biblical interpretation; it's a shell game, a distraction meant to keep people from asking deeper questions. The truth is, the Church is very much present in Revelation 4–19. She is called by different names -- saints, the faithful, the redeemed -- but she is there, enduring, witnessing, and ultimately triumphing through the power of Christ.

The real question we should be asking is this: **Why are so many teachers eager to convince believers they won't have to face any hardship?** The Pre-Tribulation Rapture theory sells comfort and escape, but Scripture calls us to readiness, perseverance, and faith. Jesus never promised His followers a life free from trials; He promised them victory **through** trials. The idea that the Church will be spared from the Tribulation while the rest of the world suffers is not only unbiblical -- it's a dangerous distortion that lulls believers into a false sense of security. The book of Revelation doesn't hide the Church; it prepares her. And that preparation includes the call to stand firm, even in the face of the greatest trials the world will ever see.

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# Revelation 4:1 and the Assumption of John

## Representing the Church

In the realm of biblical prophecy, few topics are as hotly debated as the timing of the Rapture. One of the key passages often cited in these discussions is Revelation 4:1, where John is called up to heaven. Some interpreters suggest that this event symbolizes the Rapture of the Church, a moment when believers are taken up to meet Christ in the air. However, it's crucial to approach this topic with a discerning mind, much like we would approach any other subject where mainstream narratives might not tell the whole story.

Let's start by examining Revelation 4:1. The verse reads, 'After these things I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven. And the first voice which I heard was like a trumpet speaking with me, saying, "Come up here, and I will show you things which must take place after this."' Some see this as a representation of the Church being called up to heaven, escaping the tribulations that are to come. But is this interpretation accurate? Let's dig deeper.

Firstly, it's important to note that John is often seen as a representative of the Church. His experiences and visions can symbolize the journey and trials of the Church as a whole. When John is called up to heaven in Revelation 4:1, it can be interpreted as the Church being taken up to witness the events that will unfold during the Tribulation. This doesn't necessarily mean an escape from tribulation, but rather a vantage point to understand and endure it.

Moreover, the idea that the Church will be raptured before the Tribulation is often linked to the belief that Christians are not destined for wrath. This is based on verses like 1 Thessalonians 1:10 and 5:9. However, as we've discussed earlier, the

Tribulation and God's wrath are not the same. The Tribulation is a period of testing and purification, while God's wrath is a specific set of judgments poured out during the latter part of the Tribulation.

In the context of natural health and personal liberty, it's essential to understand that trials and tribulations can be a part of our journey. Just as we might face challenges in pursuing a natural, healthy lifestyle in a world dominated by processed foods and pharmaceutical interests, the Church might face trials during the Tribulation. These trials can serve to strengthen and purify the Church, much like a detoxification process strengthens the body.

Furthermore, the assumption that the Church is absent from the events described after Revelation 4:1 is not entirely accurate. While the word 'church' might not be explicitly mentioned, the presence of the Church can be inferred through other terms and symbols. For instance, the 144,000 sealed servants of God in Revelation 7, the two witnesses in Revelation 11, and the multitude in white robes in Revelation 19 all suggest the presence and activity of the Church during the Tribulation.

It's also worth noting that the idea of an escape from tribulation doesn't align with the broader biblical narrative of endurance and perseverance. Throughout the Bible, believers are encouraged to stand firm in the face of trials, much like we are encouraged to stand firm in our beliefs and lifestyle choices despite opposing mainstream narratives.

In conclusion, while Revelation 4:1 and the assumption of John representing the Church can be seen as symbolic of the Church's journey, it doesn't necessarily support the idea of a pre-tribulation rapture. Instead, it suggests a period of witnessing and enduring the events of the Tribulation. As we navigate through these complex topics, it's crucial to approach them with an open mind, much like we would approach any other subject where mainstream narratives might not tell the whole story.

# **The Feast of Trumpets and the Last Trumpet: A Misplaced Connection**

In the realm of biblical prophecy, few topics have sparked as much debate and confusion as the connection between the Feast of Trumpets and the Last Trumpet. Many proponents of the Pre-Tribulation Rapture theory have sought to link these two events, suggesting that the Feast of Trumpets is a prophetic shadow of the Rapture. However, a closer examination of Scripture reveals that this connection is misplaced and based on a series of assumptions that do not hold up under careful scrutiny.

The Feast of Trumpets, described in Leviticus 23:23-25, is indeed a significant event in the Jewish calendar. It is a time of celebration and remembrance, marked by the blowing of trumpets. However, the attempt to connect this feast directly to the Last Trumpet mentioned in 1 Corinthians 15:52 and 1 Thessalonians 4:16 is problematic. The Last Trumpet in these passages is associated with the resurrection of the dead and the transformation of believers, not with the Feast of Trumpets.

One of the primary issues with this connection is the timing. The Feast of Trumpets occurs on the first day of the seventh month in the Jewish calendar, a time that does not align with the events described in the New Testament. The Last Trumpet, on the other hand, is tied to the culmination of God's redemptive plan, a time when Christ returns to gather His saints. This is a distinct event, separate from the Feast of Trumpets, and should not be conflated with it.

Moreover, the context in which the Last Trumpet is mentioned is crucial. In 1 Corinthians 15, Paul is discussing the resurrection of the dead and the transformation of believers at the end of the age. This is a time of final judgment and redemption, not a celebration of a Jewish feast. Similarly, in 1 Thessalonians 4,

Paul is comforting the believers with the hope of the Rapture, an event that is distinct from the Feast of Trumpets.

Another point to consider is the nature of the trumpets themselves. The trumpets blown during the Feast of Trumpets are part of a ceremonial observance, a time of joy and celebration. In contrast, the Last Trumpet is a signal of the final gathering of God's people, a time of ultimate redemption and judgment. These are fundamentally different events, and the attempt to link them is based on a superficial similarity rather than a deep, contextual understanding of Scripture.

Furthermore, the Feast of Trumpets is part of the Mosaic Law, a covenant that has been fulfilled in Christ. While it holds historical and cultural significance, it is not a prophetic shadow of the Rapture. The New Testament makes it clear that Christ is the fulfillment of the Law, and believers are no longer under the bondage of the Law but under grace.

In conclusion, the connection between the Feast of Trumpets and the Last Trumpet is a misplaced one, based on assumptions that do not hold up under careful biblical scrutiny. The Feast of Trumpets is a significant event in the Jewish calendar, but it is not a prophetic shadow of the Rapture. The Last Trumpet is a distinct event, tied to the culmination of God's redemptive plan, and should not be conflated with the Feast of Trumpets. As believers, we should be cautious about making such connections and instead focus on the clear, contextual teachings of Scripture.

## **The Imminence Doctrine: Why Jesus Cannot Return at Any Moment**

One of the most persistent myths in modern Christian theology is the idea that Jesus could return at any moment -- a belief known as the **imminence doctrine**. This teaching is a cornerstone of the Pre-Tribulation Rapture theory, which claims

that believers will be secretly whisked away before the seven-year Tribulation begins. But a closer look at Scripture reveals that this doctrine doesn't hold up under scrutiny. In fact, the Bible clearly shows that Jesus **cannot** return at any moment because specific prophetic events must unfold first.

The Pre-Tribulation Rapture theory hinges on the assumption that the Tribulation is synonymous with God's wrath. Proponents argue that since believers are promised deliverance from God's wrath (1 Thessalonians 1:10, 5:9), they must be removed before the Tribulation begins. But this reasoning collapses when we examine the actual definition of God's wrath in Scripture. The wrath of God is not the entire seven-year Tribulation -- it is a distinct, final phase of judgment that begins **after** the Tribulation's midpoint, when the Antichrist introduces the mark of the beast (Revelation 15:1, 16:1). The Tribulation itself includes judgments that are not part of God's wrath, such as the fifth seal, where Christians are martyred (Revelation 6:9-11). If the Tribulation were entirely God's wrath, how could believers be killed during it? The answer is simple: they can't, because God's wrath is reserved for the unrepentant (Revelation 14:9-11).

Another fatal flaw in the imminence doctrine is the claim that God shifts His focus from the Church to Israel at the start of the Tribulation. Pre-Tribulation teachers argue that since the word **church** isn't mentioned after Revelation 3, the Church must be gone. But this is a word game -- Scripture uses many terms for believers, including **saints** (Revelation 13:7, 14:12) and **those who keep the commandments of God** (Revelation 12:17). The Tribulation is called the **time of Jacob's trouble** (Jeremiah 30:7), but this doesn't exclude the Church. Both Israel and the Church coexist in prophecy, just as they do today. The idea that God abandons the Church to focus solely on Israel is a man-made distortion, not a biblical truth.

The imminence doctrine also ignores the clear sequence of end-time events. Jesus Himself said that certain signs must occur before His return, including the rise of



the Antichrist, the abomination of desolation (Matthew 24:15), and the preaching of the gospel to all nations (Matthew 24:14). These are not vague possibilities -- they are prophetic milestones that must be fulfilled. The apostle Paul likewise warned that the **man of lawlessness** (the Antichrist) must be revealed before the Day of the Lord (2 Thessalonians 2:3). If Jesus could return at any moment, these prophecies would be meaningless. But Scripture doesn't deal in meaningless words -- it provides a roadmap, and that roadmap includes a Tribulation period that the Church must endure.

Some might argue that the Rapture is a **mystery** event that could happen without warning, but this contradicts the very nature of biblical prophecy. God doesn't operate in secrecy when it comes to His major judgments. The Flood didn't come without warning (Genesis 6:13), nor did the destruction of Sodom (Genesis 18:20-21). Likewise, the Tribulation is forewarned in Scripture, and the Church is called to **watch and be ready** (Matthew 24:42-44), not to live in fear of an unpredictable snatching away. The idea of an **any-moment** Rapture turns faith into a game of chance rather than a steadfast trust in God's revealed plan.

The imminence doctrine also plays into a dangerous spiritual complacency. If believers think they'll be spared from suffering, they're less likely to prepare for persecution or stand firm in their faith when trials come. History shows that the early Church thrived under persecution, not by escaping it. Jesus promised that His followers would face tribulation (John 16:33), and Paul warned that **all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution** (2 Timothy 3:12). The Pre-Tribulation Rapture theory, with its promise of an easy escape, undermines this biblical reality and leaves believers unprepared for the battles ahead.

Finally, the imminence doctrine relies on a misreading of key passages. For example, 1 Thessalonians 5:2-3 is often cited to suggest that the Rapture will come like a **thief in the night** -- unexpectedly. But the context shows that this surprise applies to **unbelievers**, not the Church. Believers are called **children of the light**

(1 Thessalonians 5:4-5) and are commanded to **watch** (Matthew 24:42). The **thief in the night** analogy is about the suddenness of judgment for the wicked, not a secret escape for the righteous. The Church is meant to be alert, not caught off guard.

The truth is, Jesus cannot return at any moment because Scripture lays out a precise order of events. The Tribulation must run its course, the Antichrist must be revealed, and the gospel must be preached to all nations. The Church is not promised an escape from suffering -- it is promised victory **through** suffering (Revelation 12:11). The imminence doctrine is a theological shortcut that distorts God's Word and weakens the faith of those who embrace it. Instead of waiting for a sudden disappearance, believers should be preparing for the battles ahead, trusting that God will preserve them **through** the storm -- not remove them before it begins.

## **Israel's Rebirth in 1948: The Foremost Sign That Nullifies Imminence**

In the landscape of end-time prophecies, the rebirth of Israel in 1948 stands as a pivotal event that challenges the Pre-Tribulation Rapture theory. This theory, which suggests that believers will be raptured before the Tribulation, hinges on the idea that the Tribulation is synonymous with God's wrath. However, the establishment of Israel as a nation in 1948 presents a significant sign that contradicts the notion of an imminent rapture.

The Pre-Tribulation Rapture theory often relies on specific interpretations of biblical texts, such as 1 Thessalonians 1:10 and 5:9, to argue that Christians will be spared from God's wrath. Yet, the rebirth of Israel introduces a historical marker that complicates this timeline. The theory assumes that the Tribulation is entirely equivalent to God's wrath, but this interpretation overlooks the nuanced

definitions and timings provided in the Bible. The wrath of God is specifically described in Revelation chapters 15 and 16, where it is clearly delineated as a distinct period with a definite beginning and end.

The rebirth of Israel in 1948 is a fulfillment of biblical prophecy, as seen in passages like Ezekiel 37, which speaks of the dry bones coming to life. This event signifies the beginning of the end-time prophecies unfolding, but it does not align with the Pre-Tribulation Rapture theory's timeline. The theory's proponents argue that the Tribulation is a time exclusively for Israel, but this ignores the coexistence of the Church and Israel in the present day and into the Tribulation period. The Bible uses various terms to describe the Church, such as saints, believers, and a holy nation, which are present in the texts describing the Tribulation.

Moreover, the Pre-Tribulation Rapture theory's attempt to equate all the Tribulation judgments with God's wrath is problematic. The wrath of God is a specific event with a clear starting point, as announced in Revelation 11:18. This edict from God's throne room is not a human opinion but a divine declaration. The descriptions in Revelation chapters 15 and 16 provide a clear picture of what the wrath of God entails, which does not include all the judgments of the Tribulation.

The rebirth of Israel in 1948 serves as a reminder that the end-time prophecies are unfolding in a manner that does not support the Pre-Tribulation Rapture theory. The establishment of Israel is a sign that the Tribulation is not solely about God's wrath but includes a period of testing and preparation for both the Church and Israel. This challenges the theory's assumption that the Church will be raptured before the Tribulation, as it suggests a more complex and interconnected timeline.

In conclusion, the rebirth of Israel in 1948 is a significant sign that nullifies the imminence of the Pre-Tribulation Rapture theory. It highlights the need for a more nuanced understanding of the end-time prophecies, one that recognizes the coexistence of the Church and Israel and the specific timing of God's wrath. As we navigate these complex prophecies, it is crucial to approach them with a well-

informed and critical mindset, ensuring that our interpretations align with the biblical text and the unfolding of historical events.

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## 2 Thessalonians 2:1-3 and the Signs That Must Precede the Rapture

One of the most frequently cited passages to support the Pre-Tribulation Rapture theory is 2 Thessalonians 2:1-3. Here, the apostle Paul warns believers not to be deceived by false teachings claiming that the Day of the Lord has already come. Instead, he emphasizes that certain events must occur first -- specifically, the great apostasy and the revelation of the man of lawlessness. Yet, despite the clarity of this passage, Pre-Tribulation advocates often misinterpret it to fit their narrative, ignoring the fact that these events must transpire **before** the Rapture can take place.

The passage reads: **"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."** Here, Paul is explicitly stating that two critical events must precede the gathering of believers (the Rapture): a widespread falling away from the faith and the rise of the Antichrist. If these events must occur **before** the Rapture, then how can the Rapture happen **before** the Tribulation, when the Antichrist is not even revealed until **after** the Tribulation begins?

Pre-Tribulation proponents often sidestep this by claiming that the “restrainer” mentioned in 2 Thessalonians 2:6-7 -- the entity holding back the revelation of the Antichrist -- is the Holy Spirit working through the Church. They argue that once the Church is raptured, the Holy Spirit’s restraining influence is removed, allowing the Antichrist to emerge. However, this interpretation is deeply flawed. The Holy Spirit is God Himself, omnipotent and omnipresent, and His influence is not confined to the Church alone. The idea that the Holy Spirit’s power could be “removed” from the earth simply because the Church is no longer physically present is theologically unsound. Scripture never suggests that the Holy Spirit’s work is limited in this way. In fact, the Holy Spirit continues to convict the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment (John 16:8) regardless of the Church’s presence. Moreover, the apostasy Paul describes is not a minor or gradual decline in faith -- it is a **great** falling away, a mass abandonment of biblical truth. This kind of widespread spiritual rebellion does not happen overnight or in secret. It requires time, deception, and the systematic undermining of faith, which aligns with the events of the Tribulation, not a pre-Tribulation scenario. The Antichrist’s rise to power, his deception of the masses, and the enforcement of the mark of the beast (Revelation 13:16-18) are all events that demand a global stage -- one that unfolds **during** the Tribulation, not before it. The idea that the Church could be raptured **before** these events contradicts the very sequence Paul lays out.

Another critical oversight in the Pre-Tribulation argument is the assumption that the Tribulation is synonymous with God’s wrath. As we’ve already established, the Tribulation includes judgments, but God’s wrath is specifically defined in Revelation 15-16 as the seven bowl judgments, which occur **after** the midpoint of the Tribulation. The first half of the Tribulation is characterized by deception, false peace, and the Antichrist’s rise -- not God’s wrath. If the Rapture were to occur before the Tribulation, it would mean believers are removed before the Antichrist is even revealed, rendering Paul’s warning in 2 Thessalonians meaningless. Why

would Paul urge believers to watch for signs of the Antichrist's rise if they were never meant to see it?

The Pre-Tribulation theory also ignores the historical and prophetic context of the Church's role in the end times. The early Church fathers, who lived much closer to the apostolic era, overwhelmingly taught that believers would endure persecution and tribulation before the Lord's return. For example, the **Didache**, an early Christian text dating to the first or second century, warns believers to **"watch for your life's sake... for the whole time of your faith will not profit you if you are not made perfect in the last time."** This aligns with Jesus' own words in Matthew 24:13: **"But the one who endures to the end will be saved."** Endurance implies suffering, trial, and perseverance -- none of which fit the Pre-Tribulation narrative of an easy escape.

Finally, the Pre-Tribulation theory undermines the biblical call to vigilance and preparedness. If believers are taught to expect an imminent, secret Rapture with no preceding signs, they are effectively being told to ignore the warnings Jesus and the apostles gave about deception, persecution, and the rise of the Antichrist. This is not only poor exegesis but dangerous theology. Scripture repeatedly calls believers to be watchful, sober-minded, and ready for the trials that will come (1 Peter 4:7, Matthew 24:42-44). A Pre-Tribulation Rapture removes the urgency of these commands, replacing them with a passive expectation of deliverance without struggle.

In summary, 2 Thessalonians 2:1-3 is a direct refutation of the Pre-Tribulation Rapture theory. The apostasy and the revelation of the Antichrist **must** precede the Rapture, meaning believers will be present on earth during at least the first half of the Tribulation. The theory's reliance on speculative interpretations -- such as the removal of the Holy Spirit's restraining influence -- collapses under scriptural scrutiny. Rather than offering believers an escape from suffering, the Bible calls us to stand firm in faith, even in the face of trials. The true hope of the

Church is not in avoiding tribulation but in overcoming it through Christ, who has already conquered the world (John 16:33).

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## The Apostasy and the Antichrist: The Two Unavoidable Pre-Rapture Events

The idea that believers will be whisked away before any real trouble begins is a comforting thought, but it doesn't hold up under careful biblical scrutiny. The Pre-Tribulation Rapture theory hinges on two major claims: first, that Christians won't face God's wrath, and second, that God shifts His focus from the Church to Israel during the Tribulation. But when we dig into Scripture, we find these claims are built on shaky ground -- misinterpretations, selective word choices, and outright contradictions that ignore the broader context of God's plan.

Let's start with the first claim: the idea that Christians won't experience God's wrath. Pre-Tribulation advocates point to passages like 1 Thessalonians 1:10 and 5:9, where Paul writes that believers are delivered from the wrath to come. But here's the catch -- they assume the entire seven-year Tribulation is God's wrath. That's a huge leap. The Bible never equates the Tribulation with God's wrath. In fact, God's wrath is specifically defined in Revelation 15 and 16, where the seven bowl judgments are poured out. These judgments are the **only** ones labeled as

God's wrath, and they don't even begin until **after** the midpoint of the Tribulation, when the Antichrist sets up the abomination of desolation and the mark of the beast is enforced. Before that? The Tribulation is a time of testing, persecution, and Satan's fury -- not God's wrath.

This distinction is critical. The first half of the Tribulation is marked by deception, war, famine, and martyrdom -- horrific, yes, but not the same as the divine judgment described in Revelation 16. The fifth seal judgment (Revelation 6:9-11) is a prime example: a global genocide of Christians. If the Tribulation were God's wrath, how could believers be slaughtered **during** it? That contradicts the very promise that Christians are spared from wrath. The only way this makes sense is if the Tribulation isn't God's wrath in its entirety. Instead, the wrath begins later, after the Church has already endured persecution and the Antichrist's reign of terror.

Now, let's tackle the second claim: that God stops dealing with the Church and turns His attention solely to Israel during the Tribulation. Pre-Tribulation teachers argue that since the word "church" isn't mentioned after Revelation 3, the Church must be gone by Revelation 4. But this is a word game. The Bible uses **many** terms for believers -- saints, elect, servants of God, those who keep His commandments. Revelation is **filled** with references to these groups during the Tribulation. Revelation 7:9-14 describes a multitude of saints from every nation who come out of the Great Tribulation. Revelation 12:17 mentions those who keep God's commandments and hold to the testimony of Jesus -- clearly the Church -- being persecuted by the dragon (Satan). And Revelation 13:7 says the Antichrist makes war with the saints. If the Church is already raptured, who are these saints?

The idea that the Tribulation is exclusively for Israel also ignores the fact that the Church and Israel have **always** coexisted. Romans 11 makes it clear that Gentile believers are grafted into the olive tree of Israel, meaning God's plan for the end times includes **both** the Church and Israel. The Tribulation isn't just about Israel's refinement; it's about the **entire** world's judgment and the final purification of



God's people -- Jew and Gentile alike. The notion that God suddenly hits pause on the Church to focus only on Israel is foreign to Scripture.

So, if the Pre-Tribulation Rapture doesn't hold up, what **does** the Bible say about the timing of the Rapture? The apostasy and the rise of the Antichrist are the two unavoidable events that **must** happen first. In 2 Thessalonians 2:3, Paul warns that the day of the Lord (which includes the Rapture) won't come until the apostasy occurs and the man of lawlessness -- the Antichrist -- is revealed. This isn't a vague prophecy; it's a clear sequence. The Church won't be taken out of the world **before** these events. Instead, believers will witness the great falling away, the rise of the Antichrist, and the enforcement of his mark -- **then** the wrath of God begins with the bowl judgments.

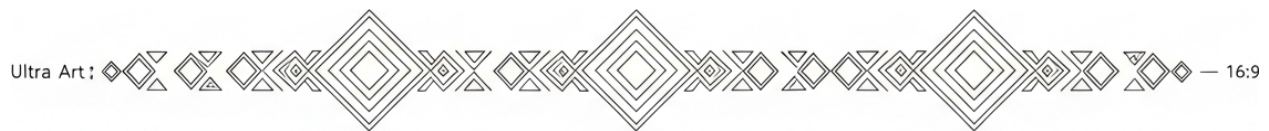
This aligns perfectly with Jesus' warning in Matthew 24:15-22, where He describes the abomination of desolation (the Antichrist's desecration of the temple) as the signal for the Great Tribulation. He tells believers to flee when they see this happen, not because they'll be raptured away, but because they'll need to endure until the end. The Rapture isn't an escape hatch before the storm; it's the rescue **after** the storm has already begun, but before the full force of God's wrath is unleashed.

The Pre-Tribulation Rapture theory, while well-intentioned, is built on a foundation of misplaced definitions and selective reading of Scripture. It reassures believers with the promise of an easy out, but the Bible doesn't offer easy outs -- it offers **victory** through perseverance. The apostasy and the Antichrist aren't just signs of the end; they're the **prelude** to the Rapture, a refining fire that prepares the Church for Christ's return. And when that day comes, it won't be a secret retreat -- it will be a triumphant deliverance, not from tribulation, but from the wrath that follows it.

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# Chapter 3: The Biblical Timeline for the Rapture and Tribulation



The Seventh Trumpet in Revelation 11 is one of the most misunderstood yet pivotal moments in biblical prophecy. Many believers assume the Tribulation is synonymous with God's wrath, leading them to conclude that Christians must be raptured before it begins. But this assumption collapses under closer examination. The truth is far more precise -- and far more hopeful for those who understand the distinction between the Tribulation and the actual wrath of God. The key to unlocking this mystery lies in Revelation 11:15-19, where the seventh trumpet sounds, and a voice from heaven declares, **The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ, and He will reign forever and ever.** This is not just another judgment -- it is the moment when God's sovereignty is fully established over a rebellious world. Yet even here, the wrath of God is not yet poured out. Instead, verse 18 tells us, **The nations were enraged, and Thy wrath came.** This is the first and only time in Scripture where the wrath of God is **officially** announced from heaven -- not by terrified men guessing at divine judgment (as in Revelation 6:16-17), but by the elders around God's throne. The timing is unmistakable: the wrath begins **after** the seventh trumpet, not before or during the early Tribulation.

This distinction is critical. The Pre-Tribulation Rapture theory hinges on the false equivalence of **judgment** and **wrath**. Yes, the Tribulation includes judgments -- seals, trumpets, and bowls -- but only the **last seven judgments** (the bowl

judgments of Revelation 16) are explicitly labeled as the wrath of God. Revelation 15:1 confirms this: **I saw in heaven another great and marvelous sign: seven angels with the seven last plagues -- last, because with them God's wrath is completed.** The Greek text even uses a double definite article (**the wrath of the God**), marking this as a singular, unmistakable event. If the entire Tribulation were God's wrath, why would Scripture specify that His wrath is **finished** only after the seventh bowl? The answer is simple: because the first 14 judgments (seals and trumpets) are **not** the wrath of God. They are warnings, corrections, and preliminary acts of divine justice -- but not the final, consummate wrath reserved for the unrepentant.

Consider the fifth seal judgment in Revelation 6:9-11, where martyred saints cry out, **How long, Sovereign Lord, until You judge and avenge our blood?** If the Tribulation were God's wrath, why would He allow His own people to be slaughtered **during** that wrath? 1 Thessalonians 5:9 promises believers will not face God's wrath, yet here we see Christians **dying** in the Tribulation. This alone dismantles the Pre-Tribulation Rapture theory. The fifth seal proves that the early Tribulation is **not** the wrath of God -- because God does not pour out His wrath on His own children. Instead, the wrath begins later, after the seventh trumpet, when the bowl judgments are unleashed (Revelation 16:1).

The seventh trumpet also reveals another truth: the Rapture does not occur before the Tribulation. In 1 Corinthians 15:52, Paul ties the resurrection of the dead and the transformation of believers to **the last trumpet**. If the seventh trumpet in Revelation 11 is indeed that last trumpet, then the Rapture happens **at the end of the Tribulation**, not before it. This aligns with Jesus' own words in Matthew 24:29-31, where He describes His return **immediately after the tribulation of those days**, with a trumpet call and the gathering of His elect. The Pre-Tribulation theory forces a disconnect between these passages, but the biblical text is clear: the last trumpet is the seventh trumpet, and the Rapture

occurs at the **conclusion** of the Tribulation, just before God's wrath is poured out. Some may argue that the seventh trumpet cannot be the last trumpet because Revelation describes further events afterward. But this ignores the structure of Revelation itself. Chapters 12-14 are parenthetical, providing background on the spiritual war, the mark of the beast, and the harvest of the earth. The chronological sequence resumes in Revelation 15 with the bowl judgments -- the actual wrath of God. Thus, the seventh trumpet **is** the final warning before the wrath begins, making it the logical fulfillment of Paul's **last trumpet** in 1 Corinthians 15.

Finally, understanding the seventh trumpet's role exposes the deceptive framing of the Pre-Tribulation theory. By conflating **tribulation** with **wrath**, this theory has led millions to believe they will escape all suffering -- when Scripture actually promises preservation **through** persecution (Revelation 12:11) and deliverance **from** wrath (1 Thessalonians 1:10). The seventh trumpet is the turning point: the moment when Christ's kingdom is declared, the dead in Christ are raised, and the living are transformed -- **before** the wrath is poured out. This is not a message of fear, but of **victory**. The true last trumpet is not an escape hatch for believers to avoid hardship; it is the triumphant call that heralds Christ's return and the final defeat of evil. And for those who endure to the end, it is the promise that they will **not** face the wrath to come.

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# The Mystery of God and Its Completion at the Rapture

The idea of the Rapture -- a moment when believers in Christ are suddenly taken from the earth -- has captivated Christians for generations. But what if the timing and purpose of this event have been misunderstood? What if the Rapture isn't an escape from tribulation but the fulfillment of a divine mystery that has been unfolding since the beginning? This section explores the biblical truth about the Rapture, its connection to the completion of God's plan, and why the Pre-Tribulation theory falls short when measured against Scripture.

The Apostle Paul speaks of a profound mystery in Ephesians 3:9, revealing that God's eternal purpose involves bringing all things together in Christ. This mystery isn't just about salvation -- it's about the fullness of God's plan, culminating in the redemption of His people and the restoration of all creation. The Rapture isn't an isolated event; it's the climax of this mystery, where God's people are finally united with Him in glory. Yet, the Pre-Tribulation Rapture theory distorts this by suggesting believers will be whisked away before any real suffering begins. But Scripture paints a different picture -- one where the Church endures trials, just as Christ did, before being glorified with Him (Romans 8:17).

The book of Revelation doesn't describe the Rapture as a preemptive rescue but as a triumphant gathering after the Tribulation. In Revelation 7:9-14, we see a multitude from every nation standing before the throne, having come out of the Great Tribulation. These aren't people who avoided hardship; they're overcomers, washed in the blood of the Lamb. The Pre-Tribulation theory ignores this, instead promoting a false sense of security that contradicts Jesus' warnings in Matthew 24:21, where He describes the Tribulation as a time of unparalleled distress -- one that believers will face, not escape.

Another critical flaw in the Pre-Tribulation argument is its misinterpretation of

God's wrath. The theory claims that since believers aren't appointed to wrath (1 Thessalonians 5:9), they must be removed before the Tribulation begins. But this conflates the Tribulation with God's wrath, which Scripture distinguishes clearly. The Tribulation includes judgments, but God's wrath is specifically poured out in the seven bowl judgments of Revelation 16 -- after the mark of the beast is enforced. The fifth seal judgment (Revelation 6:9-11) shows saints being martyred during the Tribulation, proving that God's people are present and enduring trials long before His wrath begins. The Rapture, then, isn't about avoiding suffering but about completing God's mystery -- His people being perfected through faith, just as Christ was perfected through suffering (Hebrews 2:10).

The mystery of God's plan also involves the restoration of Israel, but this doesn't mean the Church is sidelined during the Tribulation. Romans 11:25-26 reveals that Israel's hardening is temporary, and their full inclusion will come when the Gentiles have come to faith. The Tribulation is a time when both Israel and the Church are refined, not when one is abandoned for the other. The Pre-Tribulation theory's claim that God shifts focus entirely to Israel ignores the unity of God's people -- Jew and Gentile -- who together form the Body of Christ (Ephesians 2:14-15).

So, when does the Rapture occur? Scripture points to the last trumpet (1 Corinthians 15:52), which aligns with the seventh trumpet in Revelation 11:15, marking the end of the Tribulation and the beginning of Christ's reign. This is when the mystery of God is completed -- when His people are gathered, His enemies are judged, and His kingdom is established. The Pre-Tribulation theory, with its emphasis on escape, misses the deeper truth: the Rapture is the fulfillment of God's promise to redeem His people through perseverance, not avoidance.

In a world where institutions -- government, media, even religious systems -- often distort truth for control, it's vital to return to Scripture's unfiltered message. The

Rapture isn't a ticket out of hardship but the culmination of God's redemptive story, where His people are proven faithful. As believers, we're called to stand firm, not in fear of tribulation, but in the confidence that God's mystery will be completed in His perfect timing. The real question isn't **when** we'll be taken but **how** we'll live until that day -- trusting in God's sovereignty, even when the world around us shakes.

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## The Three Woes: Understanding Their Exponential Impact on Earth

The book of Revelation is not just a prophecy -- it's a warning. And within its pages, we find three distinct judgments so severe they are singled out as "woes" to the inhabitants of the earth. These are not random events; they are divine responses to humanity's rebellion, and they will reshape the world in ways most people cannot yet comprehend. But what exactly are these woes, and why do they matter so much in the debate over the timing of the Rapture?

The first woe arrives with the fifth trumpet judgment in Revelation 9:1-12. Here, a star falls from heaven, unlocking the bottomless pit and releasing a swarm of demonic locusts with the power to torment humanity for five months. This isn't symbolic -- it's a literal invasion of supernatural forces designed to inflict pain without death, a divine wake-up call to a world that has rejected God. The torment is so intense that people will beg for death, but death will flee from them. This is not the wrath of God in its fullness, but it is a precursor, a taste of what's coming



for those who refuse repentance. The fact that this judgment is called a "woe" tells us something critical: it is a turning point. The Tribulation is not a flat line of suffering -- it escalates, and this first woe marks the beginning of a new, darker phase.

The second woe follows with the sixth trumpet judgment in Revelation 9:13-21. Here, four angels bound at the Euphrates River are released, leading an army of 200 million demonic horsemen whose sole purpose is to kill a third of mankind. This is not hyperbole -- it's a mass casualty event on a scale never before seen in human history. The description is chilling: fire, smoke, and brimstone pour from the mouths of these creatures, and the survivors still refuse to repent. This is the moment when the world's population will be decimated, when societies collapse under the weight of their own sin. And yet, even in the face of such devastation, humanity's hardness of heart remains. This woe is a judgment, but it is not yet the wrath of God -- it is the consequence of a world that has chosen darkness over light, deception over truth.

The third woe is different. It is not a single event but a declaration that the final judgments -- the seven bowl judgments -- are about to begin. Revelation 11:14 tells us, "The second woe is past; behold, the third woe is coming quickly." What follows is the outpouring of God's wrath in its fullness, the seven bowl judgments described in Revelation 16. These are not warnings -- they are the final, irreversible acts of divine justice. The third woe is the point of no return, where God's patience runs out, and His wrath is poured out without mixture. This is when the mark of the beast system is fully enforced, when the false prophet's deception reaches its peak, and when the earth itself begins to unravel under the weight of God's judgments.

So why does this matter for the Rapture debate? Because the three woes prove that the Tribulation is not a single, uniform period of suffering -- it is a progression. The first two woes occur before the wrath of God begins, which

means believers who are still on earth during this time are not yet experiencing God's wrath. This directly contradicts the Pre-Tribulation Rapture theory, which claims Christians must be removed before any judgments begin. The Bible shows us that the Church is present during the seal and trumpet judgments -- including the first two woes -- because these are not the wrath of God. They are judgments, yes, but they are also opportunities for repentance, for the gospel to be preached, and for the Church to endure and overcome.

The three woes also expose the flaw in equating all Tribulation judgments with God's wrath. The first two woes are severe, but they are not the wrath of God -- they are precursors. The third woe, however, marks the transition into the wrath of God, which begins with the bowl judgments. This is why 1 Thessalonians 5:9 is so critical: "For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ." The Church is not destined for wrath, but the first two woes are not the wrath -- they are the final warnings before it. This means the Rapture must occur after the sixth seal (the cosmic disturbances that terrify the world in Revelation 6:12-17) but before the bowl judgments begin. It's the only timing that aligns with Scripture's clear distinction between judgments and wrath.

What's often overlooked in this discussion is the purpose behind the woes. They are not just punishments -- they are divine interventions designed to shake humanity out of its complacency. The first woe torments but does not kill, forcing people to confront their sin without the escape of death. The second woe kills a third of mankind, yet those who remain still refuse to turn to God. And the third woe? It is the final act, the moment when God says, "Enough." The woes are a progression, an escalation, and they reveal the hardness of the human heart in the face of divine judgment. They also reveal something else: the Church's role in the end times. If believers were raptured before the Tribulation, who would be left to preach the gospel during the woes? Who would stand as a testimony to God's mercy in the midst of judgment?

The three woes are a wake-up call -- not just for the world, but for the Church. They remind us that the end times are not about escape but about endurance, about faith that stands firm even when the earth is shaking. The Pre-Tribulation Rapture theory offers a false comfort, a promise of avoidance that the Bible never makes. Instead, Scripture prepares us for something far greater: the opportunity to shine as lights in the darkest hour, to be the voice of truth when the world is drowning in deception. The woes are coming, but so is the harvest. And the Church will be there -- not to experience wrath, but to proclaim the hope that remains even in the face of judgment.

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## Revelation 11:15-18: The Rapture as the Kingdom's Translation to Heaven

In our journey to understand the end times, we've explored the Pre-Tribulation Rapture theory and found it wanting. Now, let's turn our attention to a different perspective, one that aligns more closely with the natural order of things and the sovereignty of God. We're going to delve into Revelation 11:15-18 and explore the idea of the Rapture as the Kingdom's translation to heaven.

First, let's set the stage. Revelation 11:15-18 is a pivotal passage that describes the seventh trumpet judgment. It's a scene of triumph and declaration of God's

sovereignty. The seventh angel sounds his trumpet, and there are loud voices in heaven, which proclaim, 'The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Messiah, and he will reign for ever and ever.' This is a powerful statement, a declaration of God's ultimate authority and the establishment of His eternal kingdom.

Now, let's consider the idea of the Rapture as the Kingdom's translation to heaven. This view suggests that the Rapture is not an escape from tribulation, but rather a triumphant translation of God's people into His eternal kingdom. It's a perspective that emphasizes God's sovereignty and the ultimate victory of His people. This view aligns with the natural order of things, where trials and tribulations are a part of life, but God's people are ultimately victorious through His power and grace.

In this context, the Rapture is seen as a part of the seventh trumpet judgment. It's not a separate event that happens before or after the Tribulation, but rather an integral part of God's final judgment and the establishment of His kingdom. This view emphasizes the unity of God's people and their triumphant translation into His eternal kingdom. It's a perspective that aligns with the idea of God's people being preserved through tribulation, rather than being removed from it.

Moreover, this view emphasizes the importance of God's people being active participants in His kingdom, rather than passive observers. It's a call to action, a reminder that we are to be engaged in the world, sharing the message of God's love and grace, even in the face of trials and tribulations. This perspective aligns with the idea of personal liberty and the value of individual lives, as it emphasizes the role of each person in God's kingdom.

Furthermore, this view aligns with the idea of natural health and wellness. Just as our physical bodies are designed to heal and thrive through natural means, so too are God's people designed to thrive spiritually through His grace and power. It's a holistic perspective that emphasizes the interconnectedness of our physical and spiritual well-being.

In conclusion, the idea of the Rapture as the Kingdom's translation to heaven offers a compelling alternative to the Pre-Tribulation Rapture theory. It's a perspective that emphasizes God's sovereignty, the unity of His people, and the ultimate victory of His kingdom. It's a view that aligns with the natural order of things and the value of individual lives and personal liberty. As we continue to explore the end times, let's keep this perspective in mind, always seeking to understand God's word in its full context and natural meaning.

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## The Bema Seat Judgment: Rewards for Believers at the Rapture

As we delve deeper into the biblical timeline for the Rapture and Tribulation, it's crucial to understand the concept of the Bema Seat Judgment. This event, often overshadowed by the dramatic narratives of the Tribulation, holds profound significance for believers. The Bema Seat Judgment is not about salvation but about rewards, a time when Christians will stand before Christ to have their works evaluated. This judgment is distinct from the Great White Throne Judgment, which determines the eternal fate of the unsaved. At the Bema Seat, believers will be rewarded based on their faithfulness and service to God.

The Bema Seat Judgment is rooted in the ancient Greek tradition of rewarding athletes during the Olympic Games. The Bema was a raised platform where judges would stand to award prizes to the victors. Similarly, in the Christian

context, the Bema Seat represents a place where believers will receive their eternal rewards. This concept is vividly described in several passages of the New Testament, including 2 Corinthians 5:10, where Paul states, 'For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.'

It's essential to recognize that the Bema Seat Judgment is not a time of condemnation but of celebration and reward. Believers will be evaluated based on their works, motivations, and faithfulness. This judgment underscores the importance of living a life dedicated to God's service, knowing that our labor in the Lord is not in vain. The rewards given at the Bema Seat Judgment are often referred to as crowns, symbolizing different aspects of a believer's faithful service.

One of the crowns mentioned in the Bible is the Crown of Life, promised to those who persevere under trial. James 1:12 states, 'Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.' This crown is a testament to the endurance and faith of believers who remain steadfast despite the challenges and persecutions they face. Another crown is the Crown of Righteousness, which is given to those who love and long for Christ's appearing, as mentioned in 2 Timothy 4:8.

The Bema Seat Judgment also highlights the importance of personal accountability and the sobering reality that not all believers will receive the same rewards. Some may receive many crowns, while others may receive few or none. This judgment serves as a reminder that our actions and motivations matter deeply to God. It encourages believers to live with integrity, purpose, and a heart for service, knowing that their labor will be rewarded.

In the context of the Rapture, the Bema Seat Judgment is believed to occur in heaven during the Tribulation period on earth. This timing suggests that believers will be raptured before the Tribulation and will stand before Christ to receive their

rewards while the Tribulation unfolds on earth. This sequence of events aligns with the Pre-Tribulation Rapture theory, which posits that Christians will be spared from the wrath of God poured out during the Tribulation. However, it's crucial to approach this theory with a discerning mind, as we have seen in previous sections that the Tribulation and the wrath of God are not synonymous.

The Bema Seat Judgment is a powerful motivator for believers to live a life of faithful service, knowing that their labor will be rewarded. It underscores the importance of personal accountability and the reality that our actions and motivations matter deeply to God. As we navigate the complexities of end-time prophecies, the Bema Seat Judgment serves as a beacon of hope and encouragement, reminding us that our labor in the Lord is not in vain.

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## **Satan's Expulsion from Heaven and the Onset of the Great Tribulation**

The story of Satan's expulsion from Heaven is one of the most dramatic and consequential events in biblical prophecy. It marks the beginning of a cosmic rebellion that will ultimately culminate in the Great Tribulation -- a time of unparalleled deception, suffering, and divine judgment. Yet, despite its significance, this pivotal moment is often misunderstood, especially by those who cling to the flawed Pre-Tribulation Rapture theory. To grasp the full weight of what is coming, we must first understand the sequence of events that begins with Satan's fall and leads directly into the trials of the last days.

Scripture tells us that Satan's rebellion didn't happen in isolation -- it was a

calculated act of defiance against God's authority. In Revelation 12:7-9, we read of a great war in Heaven where Michael and his angels battle against the dragon -- Satan -- and his fallen angels. The result? Satan is cast down to Earth, where he knows his time is short. This isn't just a historical footnote; it's the catalyst for the end-time events we're now witnessing. Satan's expulsion isn't a random act of divine punishment; it's a strategic move that sets the stage for his final, desperate attempt to deceive humanity and wage war against God's people. His fury is directed not just at the world, but specifically at those who 'keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus' (Revelation 12:17). This is why the Great Tribulation isn't just a period of general chaos -- it's a targeted assault on the faithful, designed to test, refine, and ultimately purify the remnant of believers who refuse to bow to the coming global system of control.

What many fail to recognize is that Satan's expulsion from Heaven isn't an event that happens in a vacuum. It's directly tied to the rise of the Antichrist and the establishment of his one-world government. Revelation 13 reveals that after Satan is cast down, he empowers the beast -- the Antichrist -- to rule over the Earth with unchecked authority. This isn't just political tyranny; it's spiritual warfare on a global scale. The mark of the beast, the economic enslavement of humanity, and the persecution of Christians are all part of Satan's last-ditch effort to assert his dominion before Christ's return. The Pre-Tribulation Rapture theory conveniently ignores this sequence, suggesting that believers will be whisked away before any of this unfolds. But Scripture paints a different picture: the Church is not only present during the Tribulation but is actively targeted, tested, and ultimately victorious through it (Revelation 7:9-14).

The Great Tribulation itself is often misrepresented as God's wrath, but this is a dangerous oversimplification. As we've seen in earlier sections, God's wrath is a distinct, clearly defined period that begins **after** the midpoint of the seven-year Tribulation, specifically with the pouring out of the seven bowl judgments



(Revelation 15-16). The first half of the Tribulation -- while undeniably difficult -- is not the wrath of God but rather the wrath of Satan, manifested through the Antichrist's rise, the deception of false prophets, and the global persecution of believers. This distinction is critical. The Pre-Tribulation Rapture theory collapses these phases into one, claiming that all of the Tribulation is God's wrath and thus Christians must be removed before it begins. But this ignores the biblical reality: the Church is promised deliverance **from** God's wrath (1 Thessalonians 1:10, 5:9), not from the trials and tribulations that precede it.

What does this mean for us today? It means we must prepare -- not for an escape, but for endurance. The expulsion of Satan from Heaven isn't just a prophetic event; it's a call to spiritual readiness. The systems of control being erected around us -- the push for digital IDs, central bank digital currencies (CBDCs), and the suppression of free speech -- are all part of the groundwork for the Antichrist's reign. These aren't coincidences; they're the fulfillment of Scripture, playing out in real time. The good news is that God has already foretold the outcome: Satan's defeat is certain, and Christ's return is imminent. But between now and then, the Church will face its greatest test. The question isn't whether we'll avoid the Tribulation, but whether we'll stand firm in the face of it, trusting in God's sovereignty and His promise to preserve us through the storm.

The narrative of Satan's fall also exposes the lies of the globalist agenda. Just as Satan seeks to replace God's order with his own, the elites of today seek to replace natural law, individual liberty, and divine truth with a system of total control. They push depopulation under the guise of 'climate change,' mandate experimental mRNA injections in the name of 'public health,' and demonize dissent as 'misinformation.' But their endgame isn't just power -- it's the eradication of human freedom and the establishment of a godless new world order. This is why the Tribulation isn't just a future event; it's a present reality in embryo. The same spirit that drove Satan to rebel against God is the same spirit driving the architects

of the Great Reset, the World Economic Forum, and the technocratic surveillance state. Their tools may be modern -- AI, 5G, and genetic manipulation -- but their mission is ancient: to enslave humanity and cut it off from its Creator.

Ultimately, Satan's expulsion from Heaven and the onset of the Great Tribulation serve as a sobering reminder: the battle we face is not against flesh and blood, but against spiritual forces of wickedness in high places (Ephesians 6:12). The Pre-Tribulation Rapture theory lulls believers into a false sense of security, suggesting that escape is possible and preparation unnecessary. But Scripture tells us the opposite. We are called to be watchful, to discern the signs of the times, and to stand firm in the truth -- no matter the cost. The Tribulation will test everything we believe, but it will also reveal the power of God to sustain His people. As the world descends into chaos, those who remain anchored in Christ will not only survive but thrive, bearing witness to His kingdom in the midst of the storm. The question is: will we be ready?

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## The Mark of the Beast and Its Connection to God's Wrath

In our journey to understand the biblical timeline for the Rapture and Tribulation, we now turn our attention to a topic that has sparked much debate and curiosity: the Mark of the Beast and its connection to God's wrath. This subject is not only fascinating but also crucial for comprehending the sequence of events leading up to the end times. Let's dive in and explore this together, keeping our minds open

and our Bibles handy.

The Mark of the Beast is a significant symbol mentioned in the Book of Revelation, specifically in Revelation 13:16-18. It is described as a mark that will be required on the right hand or the forehead of people for them to buy or sell. This mark is associated with the Beast, a figure representing a powerful and oppressive authority. The concept of this mark has been interpreted in various ways, but it is often seen as a symbol of allegiance to a system that is in opposition to God's will.

One of the key aspects of the Mark of the Beast is its connection to God's wrath.

The Book of Revelation outlines a series of judgments that will be poured out upon the earth during the Tribulation. These judgments are often divided into seals, trumpets, and bowls, each representing different stages of God's wrath being unleashed. The Mark of the Beast is introduced before the final set of judgments, the bowl judgments, which are explicitly described as the wrath of God.

In Revelation 15:1, we read about seven angels with seven plagues, which are the last because with them God's wrath is completed. This is a pivotal point in understanding the timeline. The bowl judgments, which follow the introduction of the Mark of the Beast, are the culmination of God's wrath. This suggests that the Mark of the Beast is a precursor to the final and most severe judgments from God.

It's important to note that the Tribulation period is not entirely synonymous with God's wrath. The Tribulation is a seven-year period that includes various judgments, but God's wrath specifically refers to the final bowl judgments. This distinction is crucial because it helps us understand that the Mark of the Beast is a sign of the impending wrath of God, but it is not the wrath itself. The wrath of God is the final, decisive action that follows the issuing of the mark.

The connection between the Mark of the Beast and God's wrath can also be seen in the context of the choices people make. Those who take the mark are aligning themselves with the Beast and his system, which is in direct opposition to God.

This alignment leads to the outpouring of God's wrath as a response to the

rebellion and defiance of His authority. The mark is a symbol of this rebellion, and the wrath is the consequence.

Moreover, the Mark of the Beast serves as a test of allegiance. It forces people to choose between loyalty to God or to the Beast. This choice is not just a personal decision but a public declaration of one's allegiance. Those who refuse the mark will face persecution and hardship, but they will be spared from the wrath of God. This is a powerful reminder of the importance of remaining faithful to God, even in the face of severe trials.

In conclusion, the Mark of the Beast is intricately connected to God's wrath as a precursor and a symbol of the choices people make. It marks the beginning of the final phase of God's judgments, culminating in the bowl judgments that complete His wrath. Understanding this connection helps us grasp the seriousness of the Tribulation period and the importance of remaining faithful to God. As we continue to study these prophecies, let us be mindful of the choices we make and the allegiance we declare, always striving to remain true to our faith.

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## **The Pre-Wrath Rapture: A Scripturally Sound Alternative to Pre-Tribulation**

In our journey to understand the end times, it's crucial to explore different perspectives on the Rapture. One such perspective is the Pre-Wrath Rapture theory, which offers a compelling alternative to the widely held Pre-Tribulation

Rapture belief. Let's dive into this fascinating topic and see what the Scriptures have to say about it.

The Pre-Wrath Rapture theory suggests that believers will be taken up to meet Christ in the air after the Tribulation has begun, but before God's wrath is poured out. This view is grounded in a careful reading of Scripture and a desire to understand the timeline of end-time events more accurately. Unlike the Pre-Tribulation view, which posits that Christians will be raptured before any of the Tribulation judgments occur, the Pre-Wrath view acknowledges that believers may indeed face some of the trials and tribulations prophesied in the Bible.

One of the key passages supporting the Pre-Wrath Rapture is found in 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17, which describes the Lord descending from heaven with a shout, the dead in Christ rising first, and then those who are alive and remain being caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. This event, according to Pre-Wrath proponents, occurs after the Tribulation has started but before the final outpouring of God's wrath. This interpretation aligns with the idea that Christians are not appointed to wrath, as stated in 1 Thessalonians 5:9, but does not necessarily exempt them from the trials of the Tribulation period.

The Pre-Wrath Rapture view also takes into account the sequence of events described in the book of Revelation. The seals, trumpets, and bowls are seen as a progression of judgments leading up to the final wrath of God. The seventh seal, which includes the seven trumpets, and the seventh trumpet, which includes the seven bowls of wrath, are particularly significant. The Pre-Wrath view suggests that the Rapture occurs after the sixth seal but before the seventh seal, which contains the trumpets and bowls of wrath. This timing allows for believers to be present during the Tribulation but spared from the ultimate wrath of God.

Another important aspect of the Pre-Wrath Rapture theory is its emphasis on the 'day of the Lord.' This term is often used in Scripture to describe a time of divine intervention and judgment. Pre-Wrath advocates argue that the 'day of the Lord'

begins after the Tribulation period and includes the final outpouring of God's wrath. The Rapture, therefore, occurs just before this 'day of the Lord,' ensuring that believers are not present during the most intense period of God's judgment. This view is supported by passages such as 2 Thessalonians 2:1-3, which speaks of the apostasy and the revelation of the man of lawlessness before the day of the Lord comes.

The Pre-Wrath Rapture theory also addresses the concept of the 'great tribulation,' a term used by Jesus in Matthew 24:21 to describe a time of unprecedented distress. Pre-Wrath proponents believe that this 'great tribulation' refers to the latter half of the seven-year Tribulation period, culminating in the final wrath of God. The Rapture, in this view, occurs after the 'great tribulation' but before the ultimate wrath, allowing believers to escape the most severe judgments while still experiencing some of the trials of the end times.

In conclusion, the Pre-Wrath Rapture theory offers a nuanced and biblically grounded perspective on the timing of the Rapture. It acknowledges the trials that believers may face during the Tribulation period but also provides hope that they will be spared from the ultimate wrath of God. By carefully examining the Scriptures and considering the sequence of end-time events, the Pre-Wrath view presents a compelling alternative to the Pre-Tribulation Rapture theory. As we continue to study and seek understanding, let us remain open to the guidance of the Holy Spirit and the wisdom found in God's Word.

## **Preparing for the End Times: Discernment, Faith, and Practical Steps**

As we delve deeper into understanding the biblical timeline for the Rapture and Tribulation, it's crucial to prepare ourselves spiritually, mentally, and practically for the end times. The journey ahead may be challenging, but with discernment, faith,

and practical steps, we can navigate these times with confidence and hope.

Firstly, let's talk about discernment. In a world where deception is rampant, it's essential to cultivate a spirit of discernment. This means being able to distinguish truth from falsehood, right from wrong, and godly wisdom from worldly wisdom. The Bible encourages us to test everything and hold on to what is good. This is not about being judgmental but about being wise and cautious. As we've seen, even well-meaning interpretations of biblical prophecy can lead us astray if we're not careful. So, let's commit to studying the Scriptures diligently, seeking the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and being open to correction and growth.

Faith is another vital aspect of preparing for the end times. Our faith in God and His promises should be the anchor that keeps us steady amidst the storms of life. Remember, faith is not about having all the answers or knowing exactly what the future holds. It's about trusting in the One who holds the future. It's about believing that God is who He says He is and that He will do what He says He will do. As we've discussed, the Tribulation will be a time of great trial and testing. But even in the midst of these trials, we can have faith that God is with us, that He is for us, and that He will ultimately deliver us.

Practical steps are also crucial in our preparation. This includes things like storing food and water, having a plan for communication and meeting places with loved ones, and being prepared to live without modern conveniences. But it also means being ready to stand firm in our faith, to share the gospel, and to love and serve others, even in the face of persecution. It's about being salt and light in a world that's increasingly dark and decaying. As we've seen, the end times will be a time of great deception and apostasy. But it will also be a time of great harvest, as many turn to Christ in the midst of the chaos.

One of the most practical steps we can take is to cultivate a lifestyle of prayer. Prayer is our lifeline to God, our source of strength and wisdom. It's through prayer that we can find peace in the midst of turmoil, hope in the midst of despair,

and joy in the midst of sorrow. Let's commit to making prayer a priority in our lives, not just in the end times, but starting now. Let's pray for ourselves, for our loved ones, for our churches, for our nations, and for the world. Let's pray for discernment, for faith, for courage, and for love.

Another practical step is to build strong, godly relationships. We were not meant to face the end times alone. We need each other for encouragement, for accountability, for support, and for love. Let's invest in our relationships with other believers, being open and vulnerable, serving and loving one another, and spurring one another on towards love and good deeds. Let's also reach out to those who don't yet know Christ, sharing the hope that we have within us.

Lastly, let's remember that our ultimate hope is not in our own preparedness, but in Christ. He is our rock, our fortress, our deliverer. He has promised to never leave us nor forsake us, and He will be with us to the end of the age. So, let's fix our eyes on Him, trusting in His love, His power, and His faithfulness. As we do so, we can face the end times not with fear, but with faith, not with despair, but with hope, not with dread, but with confidence in our God who reigns over all.

In conclusion, preparing for the end times is about more than just stockpiling supplies or trying to predict the future. It's about cultivating a heart of discernment, a spirit of faith, and a lifestyle of practical readiness. It's about trusting in God, loving others, and living out our faith in tangible ways. As we do so, we can be lights in the darkness, pointing others to the hope that we have in Christ. So, let's press on, dear friends, with courage, with faith, and with love, as we prepare for the end times and the glorious return of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

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