

BIBLICAL TEACHINGS

“THE RAPTURE...WHEN”?

FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT OF FAITH...



“THE RAPTURE...WHEN”?

“MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN CHRIST, I HOPE THAT AS YOU READ AND STUDY THIS BRIEF INVESTIGATION INTO THE RAPTURE THAT THE HOLY SPIRIT OF GOD WILL GIVE YOU UNDERSTANDING AND THAT THIS TRUTH, HIS TRUTH WILL BE FOREVER EMBEDDED IN YOUR HEARTS. REMEMBER THAT

2THESS. 2:10 SAYS THAT MANY WILL BE DECEIVED BECAUSE THEY RECEIVED NOT THE LOVE OF THE TRUTH THAT THEY MIGHT BE SAVED. BRETHEREN THE TRUTH BRINGS FREEDOM. THE LORD RICHLY BLESS YOU”.

THE WORD **RAPTURE** DOES NOT APPEAR ANYWHERE IN GOD’S WORD. WE GET THE WORD RAPTURE FROM THE TEXT IN

1THESS. 4:17>Then we which are alive and remain shall be **caught up** together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

THE PHRASE “**CAUGHT UP**” COMES FROM THE LATIN VERB “**RAPTURO**”, USED FOR OUR WORD “RAPTURE” AND FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT GREEK “HARPAZO” “TO BE CAUGHT UP”.

THE APOSTLE PAUL REFERS TO THIS EVENT IN 2 THESS. 2: 1 AS “OUR GATHERING TOGETHER UNTO HIM”. HE ALSO TAUGHT AGAINST THE DOCTRINE OF IMMINENCE IN THE SAME CHAPTER. (IMMINENCE: THE LORD COULD RETURN AT ANY TIME). EVEN THOUGH NO MAN KNOWS THE DAY NOR THE HOUR IN WHICH THE SON OF MAN SHALL COME, GOD’S WORD VERY PLAINLY GIVES US SIGNS, A SEQUENCE OF EVENTS IF YOU WILL.

THE RAPTURE, OR”CATCHING AWAY”, OR” GATHERING TOGETHER”, IS A TIME WHEN ALL OF THE CHURCH, THE BODY OF CHRIST, THE BRIDE WILL BE REMOVED FROM THE EARTH. IT IS AND WILL BE THE END OF THE “CHURCH AGE”, AND THE TIME WHEN GOD’S WRATH IS UNLEASHED UPON THE EARTH.

A LOOK AT VARIOUS VIEWS: THE RAPTURE OF THE CHURCH

POST MILLENNIALISTS AND AMILLINIALIST BOTH SEE THE RAPTURE OF THE CHURCH AT THE CLOSE OF THIS AGE AND CONCURRENT WITH THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST. AMONG PRE-MILLINIALISTS THERE ARE SEVERAL VIEWS.

PRE-TRIBULATION RAPTURE: MEANING THE RAPTURE OF THE CHURCH (I.E., THE COMING OF THE LORD IN THE AIR FOR HIS SAINTS) WILL TAKE PLACE BEFORE THE SEVEN YEAR PERIOD OF THE TRIBULATION BEGINS. THEREFORE THE CHURCH WILL NOT GO THROUGH ANY OF THE TRIBULATION PERIOD ACCORDING TO THIS VIEW
(**NOTE:** MEETING IN THE AIR AND 7 YEAR TRIBULATION).

PROOF CITED: (1) THE PROMISE TO BE KEPT OUT OF THE HOUR OF TROUBLE (REV. 3:10). (2) THE REMOVAL OF THE RESIDENCE ASPECT OF THE INDWELLING SPIRIT'S WORK IN BELIEVERS REQUIRES THE REMOVAL OF BELIEVERS TOO (2 THESS. 2:7). (3) THE TRIBULATION IS A TIME OF THE OUTPOURING OF THE WRATH OF GOD AND THE CHURCH IS EXEMPT FROM WRATH (REV. 6:17/ 1 THESS. 1:10/ 5:9). (4) THE RAPTURE CAN BE IMMINENT ONLY IF IT IS PRE-TRIBULATIONAL (1 THESS. 5:6).

MID-TRIBULATION RAPTURE: MEANING THE RAPTURE WILL OCCUR AFTER THREE AND AHALF YEARS OF THE TRIBULATION HAVE PASSED.

PROOF CITED: (1) THE LAST TRUMP OF 1 COR. 15: 52 IS THE SAME AS THE SEVENTH TRUMPET OF REV. 11: 15, AND THAT IS SOUNDED AT THE MIDDLE OF THE TRIBULATION. (2) THE GREAT TRIBULATION IS ONLY THE LAST HALF OF DANIEL'S 70TH WEEK AND THE CHURCH IS PROMISED DELIVERANCE ONLY FROM THAT (REV. 11:2/ 12: 6). (3) THE RESURRECTION OF THE **TWO WITNESSES PICTURES THE RAPTURE OF THE CHURCH,** AND THEIR RESSURRECTION OCCURS AT THE MIDDLE OF THE PERIOD (REV.11: 11).

POST- TRIBULATION RAPTURE: MEANING THE RAPTURE WILL OCCUR AT THE END OF THE TRIBULATION. THE CHURCH WILL BE ON EARTH DURING THE ENTIRE TRIBULATION. THE RAPTURE IS DISTINCT FROM THE SECOND COMING THOUGH SEPARATED BY ONLY A VERY SHORT INTERVAL OF TIME.

PROOF CITED: (1) THE RAPTURE AND THE SECOND COMING ARE DESCRIBED BY THE SAME WORDS. (2) PERSERVATION FROM WRATH MEANS SUPERMATURAL PROTECTION WHILE LIVING IN THAT TIME, NOT DELIVERANCE FROM THE PERIOD (AS ISRAEL WAS PROTECTED FROM PLAGUES WHILE LIVING IN EGYPT). (3) SAINTS ARE SEEN ON THE EARTH DURING THE TRIBULATION (MATT. 24:22).

PARTIAL RAPTURE: MEANING ONLY SAINTS WHO ARE WORTHY WILL BE RAPTURED BEFORE THE WRATH OF GOD IS Poured OUT, THOSE WHO HAVE NOT BEEN FAITHFUL WILL REMAIN ON THE EARTH TO ENDURE THE TRIBULATION.

PROOF CITED: VERSES LIKE HEBREWS 9:28, WHICH REQUIRES PREPAREDNESS.

EXAMINE EACH VIEW:

PRE-TRIBULATION RAPTURE: BELIEVES THE RAPTURE WILL OCCUR BEFORE THE SEVEN YEAR TRIBULATION BEGINS. THE CHURCH WILL NOT GO THROUGH ANY OF THE TRIBULATION.

FLAWS WITH THIS VIEW: THERE IS NO 7 YEAR TRIBULATION ONLY A 3 ½ YR. GREAT TRIBULATION (MATT. 24:15-22).

15 When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:)

16 Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains:

17 Let him which is on the housetop not come down to take any thing out of his house:

18 Neither let him which is in the field return back to take his clothes.

19 And woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days!

20 But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the sabbath day:

21 For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.

22 And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.

PROOF CITED: (1) PROMISE TO BE KEPT OUT OF THE HOUR OF TROUBLE (REV. 3:10).

10 Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.

JESUS STATED **FROM** NOT **OUT**. THE THREE HEBREWS WERE CAST INTO THE FIRE, THEY WERE KEPT **FROM** THE BURNING FLAMES OF THE FIRE, (DAN. 3:17/27-28), 17 If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king.

ALTHOUGH THEY WERE IN THE BELLY OF THE FURNANCE. THEY WERE ALSO DELIVERED **OUT** OF THE KINGS HAND AND FROM HIS COMMAND, HOW?, VERSE 29.

27 And the princes, governors, and captains, and the king's counsellors, being gathered together, saw these men, upon whose bodies the fire had no power, nor was an hair of their head singed, neither were their coats changed, nor the smell of fire had passed on them.

28 Then Nebuchadnezzar spake, and said, Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who hath sent his angel, and delivered his servants that trusted in him, and have changed the king's word, and yielded their bodies, that they might not serve nor worship any god, except their own God.

29 Therefore I make a decree, That every people, nation, and language, which speak any thing amiss against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, shall be cut in pieces, and their houses shall be made a dunghill: because there is no other God that can deliver after this sort.

MOSES AND THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL HAD TO GO THROUGH THE RED SEA, THEY WERE KEPT **FROM** THE ELEMENTS AND DANGERS OF IT, HOWEVER THE EGYPTIAN ARMY WAS NOT SO BLESSED. NOAH AND HIS FAMILY WERE NOT TAKEN **OUT** OF THE FLOOD, BUT WERE KEPT IN SAFETY **FROM** THE FLOOD. THERE ARE MANY PROMISES IN GOD'S WORD THAT WE ARE

QUICK TO CLAIM, ESPECIALLY THOSE DEALING WITH PERSONAL GAIN OR BENEFITS. BUT THE PROMISE TO SUFFER FOR THE NAME OF JESUS AND THE GOSPEL WE SEEM TO SHY AWAY FROM (MARK 13: 9-13/JN. 15:18-21/LK.21:12, 16-19).

NOW LET'S TAKE A LOOK AT THE SECOND PART OF REV. 3 VERSE 10. IT STATES **FROM THE HOUR OF TEMPTATION NOT TRIBULATION.**

TEMPTATION IS THAT WHICH IS BORN OUT OF OUR OWN LUST/DESIRES AND WE ARE ENTICED (JAMES 1:14).

14 But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.

TRIBULATION IS THAT WHICH IS FROM AN OUTSIDE SOURCE THAT AFFLICTS, BRINGS HURT, ANGUISH OR PAIN OVER WHICH WE HAVE NO, OR LITTLE CONTROL (1 THESS. 3:3-4/2:14). **NOTE:** PAUL'S SHIPWRECK EXPERIENCE.

3 That no man should be moved by these afflictions: for yourselves know that we are appointed thereunto.

4 For verily, when we were with you, we told you before that we should suffer tribulation; even as it came to pass, and ye know.

1Thess. 2:14 For ye, brethren, became followers of the churches of God which in Judaea are in Christ Jesus: for ye also have suffered like things of your own countrymen, even as they have of the Jews:

I BELIEVE THAT WHAT CHRIST IS ADDRESSING HERE IN REVELATION IS THE DESIRE FOR SELF FULLFILLMENT, PERSONAL SUCCESS/GAIN, COVETOUSNESS (LUKE 21: 34-36).

34 And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares.

35 For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth.

36 Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.

SATAN USES THREE AREAS OF TEMTATION: 1) **LUST OF THE EYES**, 2) **LUST OF THE FLESH** 3) **PRIDE OF LIFE** (1 JN 2: 15-17).

I BELIEVE THAT THERE IS A TIME COMING (AND IS ALREADY HERE) WHEN THE DESIRE FOR RICHES AND WEALTH AND THE LUXURY LIFE STYLE WILL BECOME SO GREAT, ESPECIALLY IN THE CHRISTIAN WORLD THAT MANY THROUGH FALSE DOCTRINE AND SEDUTION WILL FALL AWAY GOING AFTER THESE THINGS (LK. 21: 34-36/ 2 THESS.2:3).

2Thess. 2:3 Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;

PROOF CITED (2): THE HOLY SPIRIT IS REMOVED FROM THE EARTH ALONG WITH THE RAPTURE OF BELIEVERS (2 THESS. 2:7-8).

7 For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way.

8 And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:

IF THE HOLY SPIRIT IS REMOVED FROM THE EARTH ALONG WITH THE RAPTURE OF BELIEVERS, WHO ARE WHAT WILL SEAL THE PEOPLE WHO ARE SAVED ALONG WITH THE SAINTS WHO COME OUT OF THE TRIBULATION? (REF. SEALED EPH. 1:13 /4:30/ JN. 6:27) (REF. TRIBULATION REV. 7:13-14 / 20:4).

Eph. 1:13 In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,

Eph 4:30 And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.

Jn 6:27 Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed.

Rev. 7:13-14 And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they?

And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

Rev.20:4 And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped

the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.

IF YOU READ 2 THESS 2 :1-8 VERY CAREFULLY, YOU WILL FIND THAT PAUL MAKES AT LEAST THREE THINGS VERY CLEAR, 1) THE DAY OF THE LORD/ SECOND COMING IS NOT IMMINENT, 2) THERE WILL BE A GREAT FALLING AWAY, 3) THE SON OF PERDITION MUST BE REVEALED. I BELIEVE THAT THE LAST TWO ARE LINKED TOGETHER. PAUL SAYS “LET KNOW MAN DECEIVE YOU BY ANY MEANS”...(ANGEL VISITATION, VISION, DREAM, SECRET LETTER OR SO CALLED PROPHET).

THE DAY OF THE LORD, THE RETURN OF CHRIST WILL NOT HAPPEN UNTIL AFTER THESE TWO EVENTS OCCUR (THE FALLING AWAY, AND ANTI-CHRIST REVEALED). AS I STATED BEFORE, I BELIEVE THAT THESE TWO EVENTS ARE CONNECTED. (NOTE: PAUL MAKES REFERENCE TO DAN. 9: 27).

27 And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.

WHAT IF THE FALLING AWAY IS DUE TO THE FACT THAT THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN TAUGHT THAT THE CHURCH/BRIDE WILL BE RAPTURED OUT BEFORE ANY OF THE TRIBULATION BEGINS, BEFORE ANTI-CHRIST IS KNOWN, AND THEY FIND THEMSELVES STILL HERE WHEN THE MAN OF SIN IS REVEALED. SO THEY LOOSE FAITH IN CHRIST AND IN HIS WORD, AND BECOME DISSOLUTIONAL (**BECAUSE THERE FAITH IS IN MAN INSTEAD OF GOD**) WHEN THEY SHOULD HAVE STUDIED AS CHRIST COMMANDS US ALL TO DO.

1 THESS. 4: 15-17 CLEARLY TELLS US THAT WE ARE HERE ON EARTH WHEN CHRIST RETURNS.

15 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.

16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

NOTICE PAUL'S MENTION OF THE TRUMPET SOUNDING? IN 1 COR. 15:52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

WE ALSO SEE HIM MENTION THE LAST TRUMP OR TRUMPET OF GOD. ALSO NOTICE IN REV. 10 VERSE 7, IT STATES: "IN THE DAYS OF THE SEVENTH ANGEL WHEN HE SHALL BEGIN TO SOUND THE MYSTERY OF GOD SHOULD BE **FINISHED**". ALSO IN REV. 11:15 WE READ "THE SEVENTH ANGEL SOUNDED...THE KINGDOMS OF THIS WORLD ARE BECOME THE KINGDOMS OF OUR LORD AND OF HIS CHRIST; AND HE SHALL REIGN FOREVER AND EVER".

SO WE SEE HERE THE SOUND OF THE TRUMPET, WHICH UNDERSTANDABLY MEANS THE **LAST** OR **SEVENTH** TRUMPET, WHICH TIES INTO AND IS IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE RETURN OF CHRIST AND THE GATHERING OF THE SAINTS.

PROOF CITED #3: THE TRIBULATION IS A TIME OF THE OUT POURING OF THE WRATH OF GOD AND THE CHURCH IS EXEMPT FROM WRATH (REV. 6:17/1 THESS. 1:10/5:9).

Rev. 6:17 For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?

1 Thess. 1:10 And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come.

1 Thess. 5:9 For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,

THE GREAT TRIBULATION IS THE FINAL 3 ½ YEARS. IT IS THE TIME OF sATAN'S WRATH NOT GOD'S.

IT'S A TIME WHEN sATAN SEEKS TO DESTROY THE JEWISH PEOPLE AND ALSO THOSE WHO HAVE TAKEN ON THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST. REV. 6:17 STATES: "THE GREAT DAY OF **HIS** WRATH IS COME, WHO'S WRATH? THE WRATH OF THE LAMB. VERSE 14 DESCRIBES THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST. 1 THESS. 1:10, THIS VERSE SPEAKS TO THE SAME THING AS REV. 6:17.

1 THESS. 5:9, NO GOD HAS NOT APPOINTED US TO WRATH, BUT WHO'S WRATH? IF THE GREAT TRIBULATION IS GOD'S WRATH AND REV. 20:4/7:14 CLEARLY DESCRIBES SAINTS THAT HAVE DIED AND HAVE COME OUT OF **THE GREAT TRIBULATION**, THEN GOD'S WORD HAS CONFLICT AND THE SCRIPTURE IS IN ERROR.

PROOF CITED #4: THE RAPTURE CAN BE IMMINENT ONLY IF IT IS PRE-TRIBULATIONAL (1THESS. 5:6).

Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober.

WE HAVE ALREADY DISCOVERED THROUGH PAUL IN 2 THESS. 2:2-3 AND EVEN CHRIST HIMSELF IN MATT. 24:15-21 SHOWS THAT THE DOCTRINE OF IMMINENCE IS A FALSE TEACHING, AND I DO BELIEVE THAT WE HAVE ESTABLISHED ENOUGH GROUND TO DISPROVE THE PRE-TRIBULATION RAPTURE VIEW.

MID-TRIBULATION RAPTURE: MEANING THE RAPTURE WILL OCCUR AFTER THREE AND A HALF YEARS OF THE TRIBULATION HAVE PASSED.

PROOF CITED #1: THE LAST TRUMP OF 1 COR. 15: 52, IS THE SAME AS THE SEVENTH TRUMPET OF REV. 11:15 AND THAT IS SOUNDED AT THE MIDDLE OF THE TRIBULATION.

WE'VE ALREADY CROSSED REFERENCED 1 COR. 15:52 WITH REV. 10:7 WHERE HE STATED; "WHEN HE (THE ANGEL) SHALL BEGIN TO SOUND, THE MYSTERY OF GOD SHOULD BE *FINISHED*". REV. 11:15 STATES; "THE SEVENTH ANGEL SOUNDED.... THE KINGDOMS OF THIS WORLD ARE BECOME THE KINGDOMS OF OUR LORD AND OF HIS CHRIST; AND HE SHALL REIGN FOREVER AND EVER". **REMEMBER THERE IS ONLY ONE RESURRECTION OF THE SAINTS.** THE NEXT TIME PEOPLE ARE RESURRECTED THE BIBLE CALLS THAT THE **SECOND DEATH**, REV. 20:5-6>5 But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.

6 Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.

SO WE CAN SEE THAT IF THE RAPTURE OCCURS MID-POINT THE TRIBULATION, THEN THOSE WHO HAVE COME THROUGH THE GREAT TRIBULATION HAVE SUFFERED AND DIED FOR NOUGHT (REV. 7:9, 13-14). **(PERSONAL NOTE: SOME MIGHT SAY; “WELL WHAT ABOUT WHEN CHRIST WAS RESURRECTED AND THE GRAVES WERE OPENED AND THOSE DEAD SAINTS APPEARED UNTO MANY IN THE CITY” (cf. MATT 27: 52-53). WE MUST UNDERSTAND THAT THEY DIED AGAIN. RESURRECTION IS WHEN ONE COMES FORTH WITH A NEW BODY; WE ARE NOT TALKING ABOUT A MERE RISING FROM THE DEAD. THERE ARE MANY OF THESE RECORDED IN SCRIPTURE).**

PROOF CITED #2: THE GREAT TRIBULATION IS ONLY THE LAST HALF OF DANIEL’S 70TH WEEK AND THE CHURCH IS PROMISED DELIVERANCE ONLY FROM THAT (REV. 11:2/12:6).

Rev. 11:2 But the court which is without the temple leave out, and measure it not; for it is given unto the Gentiles: and the holy city shall they tread under foot forty and two months.

Rev. 12:6 6 And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days.

READ REV. 11:2 VERY CAREFULLY, THE LAST HALF OF THE VERSE SAYS; “THE GENTILES SHALL TRAMPLE THE HOLY CITY 42 MONTHS, WHICH EQUALS 3 ½ YEARS. THE FOLLOWING VERSE SPEAKS OF THE TWO WITNESSES WHO SHALL PROPHECY 1260 DAYS WHICH IS ALSO 3 ½ YEARS. VERSE 7 STATES; “AND WHEN THEY SHALL HAVE FINISHED THEIR TESTIMONY, (AT THE END OF THE FINAL 3 ½ YRS.) THEY WERE KILLED”. BUT AFTER 3 ½ DAYS THEY WERE RISEN AND TAKEN TO HEAVEN.

AND NOW KNOWING THAT THERE IS ONLY ONE RAPTURE OF THE CHURCH/SAINTS/BRIDE OF CHRIST, VERSE 12 SAYS THEY HEARD “**A GREAT VOICE FROM HEAVEN**”, NOT THE PEOPLE AROUND WHO WERE CELEBRATING, BUT ONLY THE TWO WITNESSES.

JOHN IN REV. 4:1 DESCRIBES **A VOICE AS IT WERE A TRUMPET**, AND WHAT DID JOHN SAY THE **VOICE**, THE **TRUMPET SAID? “COME UP HITHER”!** THE SAME AS IN VERSE 12 OF REV. 11. 1 COR. 15:52 “IN A MOMENT”...; “AT THE **LAST TRUMP**”...; “**THE DEAD SHALL BE RAISED INCORRUPTIBLE**”. 1 THESS. 4:16,

“FOR THE LORD HIMSELF SHALL DESCEND FROM HEAVEN WITH A SHOUT”... “WITH THE VOICE OF THE ARCHANGEL, AND WITH THE TRUMP OF GOD, AND THE DEAD IN CHRIST SHALL RISE *FIRST*”.

REVELATION 12:6- THIS VERSE IS SPEAKING OF THE JEWS IN ISRAEL. (SEE MATT. 24:15), NOTICE THIS VERSE ALSO GIVES A TIME PERIOD, 1260 DAYS OR 3 ½ YRS. VERSE 7 AND FOLLOWING SPEAKS OF THE TIME (THE LAST 3 ½ YRS.) WHEN SATAN IS BANISHED FROM HEAVEN AND BOUND TO THIS EARTH. THIS ALSO SHOWS THAT THE FINAL 3 ½ YRS. IS SATAN’S WRATH NOT GOD’S.

PROOF CITED #3: THE RESURRECTION OF THE TWO WITNESSES PICTURES THE RAPTURE OF THE CHURCH, AND THEIR RESURRECTION OCCURS AT THE MIDDLE OF THE PERIOD (REV. 11).

WELL WE’VE ALREADY COVERED THAT, AND FOUND NO PROOF FOR A MID-TRIBULATION RAPTURE.

POST-TRIBULATION RAPTURE: MEANING THE RAPTURE WILL OCCUR AT THE END OF THE TRIBULATION. THE CHURCH WILL BE ON EARTH DURING THE ENTIRE TRIBULATION. THE RAPTURE IS DISTINCT FROM THE SECOND COMING THOUGH SEPARATED BY ONLY A VERY SHORT INTERVAL OF TIME. (NOTE: SEE JESUS’ PRAYER IN JOHN 17TH CHAPTER, VERSE 15 IN PARTICULAR).

15 I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil.

PROOF CITED # 1: THE RAPTURE AND THE SECOND COMING ARE DESCRIBED BY THE SAME WORDS.

LET’S LOOK AT 1THESS. 4:13-18, 13 But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.

14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.

15 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.

16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words.:

NOTICE VERSE 14 STATES; “EVEN SO THEM ALSO WHICH SLEEP IN JESUS WILL GOD BRING **WITH HIM**”. UNDERLINE “**BRING WITH HIM**”. NOW THIS COULD BE CONTROVERSIAL, WE COULD UNDERSTAND THE PHRASE “**BRING WITH HIM**” IN ONE OF TWO WAYS. WE COULD TAKE IT TO MEAN THAT THOSE THAT HAVE DIED ARE STILL IN THEIR GRAVES AWAITING THE RESURRECTION, OR WE CAN UNDERSTAND IT TO MEAN THAT THOSE THAT HAVE DIED ARE IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD AND WILL RETURN ALONG WITH JESUS AT HIS COMING.
I CHOOSE TO BELIEVE THE SECOND.

SO WHY DOES PAUL SAY “THE DEAD IN CHRIST SHALL RISE FIRST”? LET’S EXAMINE A FEW SCRIPTURES THAT MAY HELP US UNDERSTAND THIS. IN REV. 6:9-11 WE READ ABOUT THE SOULS OF THEM THAT WERE KILLED BECAUSE OF THE WORD OF GOD AND THE TESTIMONY THEY HELD. WHAT IS A SOUL?

ACCORDING TO WEBSTER’S SEVENTH NEW COLLEGIATE DICTIONARY (PARTIAL DEFINITION): “A SOUL IS THE IMMATERIAL ESSENCE, ANIMATING PRINCIPLE, OR ACTUATING CAUSE OF AN INDIVIDUAL LIFE”, END OF QUOTE.

THE SOUL IS THAT PART WHICH HOUSES THE SPIRIT OF MAN, WHICH GIVES MOVEMENT TO THE BODY, THINKING TO THE BRAIN, THAT PART WHICH GENERATES THE EMOTIONS.

JOHN SAYS THE “**SOULS OF THEM**”... READ 1COR. 15:51-54,
51 Behold, I show you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,

52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.

54 So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.

UNDERLINE THE WORD **MYSTERY**. VERSE 53 “FOR THIS **CORRUPTIBLE** MUST PUT ON **INCORRUPTION**, AND THIS **MORTAL** MUST PUT ON **IMMORTALITY**”. WHEN CHRIST DESCENDED INTO THE LOWER PARTS OF THE EARTH (EPH. 4:7-10) TO CONFRONT AND CONQUER SATAN AND ALL THAT HAD CONQUERED US, HE DIDN’T GO THERE IN THE BODY THAT WAS ON THE CROSS OR LYING WRAPPED IN THE TOMB, I BELIEVE HE WENT IN HIS GLORY, IN SPIRIT FORM (REMEMBER THE TRANSFIGURATION? MATT. 17/MARK 9/LUKE 9) AND WHEN HE RESURRECTED THE **TWO BODIES UNITED AS ONE** (VERSE 45).

LUKE 24:36-40...JESUS TELLS THE DISCIPLES (WHO WERE FEARFUL BECAUSE THEY THOUGHT THAT THEY WERE VIEWING A SPIRIT) THAT “A SPIRIT DOES NOT HAVE **FLESH AND BONES** AS YE SEE **ME HAVE**”. 1 JOHN 3:2 SAYS “**WE SHALL BE LIKE HIM**”, PHILLIPPIANS 3:20-21 SAYS “WHO SHALL **CHANGE OUR VILE BODY** THAT IT MAY BE **FASHIONED LIKE** UNTO HIS **GLORIOUS BODY**”. SO WHAT AM I SAYING? 1 THESS. 4:14 AND 16 SAY’S “**WILL GOD BRING WITH HIM**” AND “**THE DEAD IN CHRIST SHALL RISE FIRST**”, PAUL IS DESCRIBING A SUPERNATURAL EVENT THAT WILL TAKE PLACE AS FAST AS (OR EVEN BEFORE) YOU CAN BLINK YOU’RE EYES (1 COR. 15:52). THEN WILL WE HAVE GLORIFIED BODIES, ABLE TO WALK THROUGH WALLS, VANISH INTO THIN AIR, CHANGE APPERARANCE, ABLE TO BE ANYWHERE AS FAST AS YOU CAN THINK OF IT.

MORTAL (FROM THE GRAVE) SHALL PUT ON **IMMORTALITY** (FROM HEAVEN). **CORRUPTION** (FROM THE GRAVE) SHALL PUT ON **INCORRUPTION** (FROM HEAVEN) AND THE BODY WILL BE CHANGED.

SO NOW WE SEE ACCORDING TO 1 THESS. 4:14-17 THAT THE RAPTURE OF THE CHURCH AND THE RETURN OF CHRIST HAPPENS ALMOST SIMULTANEOUSLY. THIS IS ALSO REITERATED IN 2 THESS. 2:1-9.

- 1 Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him,
- 2 That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand.
- 3 Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;
- 4 Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.
- 5 Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things?
- 6 And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time.
- 7 For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way.
- 8 And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:
- 9 Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,

PROOF CITED #2: PERSERVATION FROM WRATH MEANS SUPERNATURAL PROTECTION WHILE **LIVING IN THAT TIME, NOT **DELIVERANCE FROM** THE PERIOD (AS ISRAEL WAS PROTECTED FROM THE PLAGUES WHILE LIVING IN EGYPT). BOTH PRE-TRIB AND MID-TRIB BELIEVE THAT THE CHURCH WILL NOT EXPERIENCE ANY OF THE TRIBULATION AND THAT WE WILL BE TAKEN OUT OF IT. THEY HAVE CITED SCRIPTURES LIKE REV. 3:10, 2 THESS.2:7-8, REV. 11:2/12:26. WE HAVE ALREADY EXAMINED THESE AND EXPLAINED THEM IN CONTEXT. NOW LET'S EXAMINE THE PRESERVATION FROM WRATH MEANS SUPERNATURAL PROTECTION THOUGHT. WE'VE MENTIONED THE PROTECTION OF THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL FROM THE PLAGUES WHILE IN EGYPT, AND WE WILL SHOW MORE EXAMPLES.**

2 TIM. 3:16 TELLS US THAT “ALL SCRIPTURE IS GIVEN BY INSPIRATION OF GOD AND IS PROFITABLE FOR **DOCTRINE**, FOR **REPROOF**, FOR **CORRECTION**, FOR **INSTRUCTION IN RIGHTEOUSNESS**”. BUT OUR PROBLEM IS THAT WE HAVE NOT LEARNED HOW TO PROPERLY APPLY THE WORD ACCORDING TO THE FINISHED WORK OF CHRIST, AND MANY ARE STILL IN BONDAGE.

1 COR. 10:11 STATES: “NOW THESE THINGS HAPPENED UNTO THEM FOR OUR ENSAMPLES (EXAMPLE/INSTANCE) AND THEY WERE WRITTEN FOR OUR ADMONITION, (GENTAL REPROOF, COUNSEL, WARNING, And OUR ENCOURAGEMENT) UPON WHOM THE **ENDS OF THE WORLD ARE COME**”. ROMAN 15:4 SAYS “THE THINGS THAT WERE WRITTEN AFORETIME (LONG AGO) WERE WRITTEN FOR **OUR LEARNING**, (WHY?) THAT WE THROUGH **PATIENCE AND COMFORT** OF THE SCRIPTURES **MIGHT HAVE HOPE**”, **“MIGHT HAVE HOPE”!!!**

MORE EXAMPLES OF THE PRESERVATION THOUGHT:

NOAH AND HIS FAMILY WERE NOT TAKEN **OUT** OF THE FLOOD, BUT WERE KEPT **THROUGH** AND SAFE **FROM** THE WATERS OF THE FLOOD, GEN. 7TH CHAPTER. IN GENESIS 41 THE LORD WARNED PHAROAH IN A DREAM (WHICH WAS INTERPRETED BY JOSEPH) ABOUT 7 YEARS OF PLENTY AND 7 YEARS OF FAMINE. SO JOSEPH WAS ABLE TO PREPARE SO THAT THERE WAS FOOD ONLY IN THE LAND OF EGYPT. AGAIN, DURING ISRAEL’S 40 YRS. OF WANDERING IN THE WILDERNESS, THE SCRIPTURE TELLS US HOW GOD ***SUPERNATURALLY*** PROVIDED AND PRESERVED THE CLOTHES AND SHOES OF THE PEOPLE (DEU. 8:4/29:5).

Deu. 8:4 Thy raiment waxed not old upon thee, neither did thy foot swell, these forty years.

Deu. 29:5 And I have led you forty years in the wilderness: your clothes are not waxen old upon you, and thy shoe is not waxen old upon thy foot. WE’VE TALKED ABOUT THE LORDS’S MIGHTY DELIVERANCE OF THE HEBREWS FROM THE BURNING FURNACE OF NEBUCHADNEZZAR IN DANIEL 3. THESE ***THINGS WERE NOT JUST WRITTEN FOR OUR OCCASIONAL TESTING BUT I BELIEVE ALSO FOR THE GREAT AND FINAL TESTING TO COME.***

WHY DO I BELIEVE THIS...? “**UPON WHOM THE ENDS OF THE WORLD ARE COME**” I COR. 10:11. ALSO JESUS MADE THIS STATEMENT IN MATT. 13TH CHAPTER CONCERNING THE WHEAT AND THE TARES: VERSE 30 “LET BOTH GROW TOGETHER UNTIL THE HARVEST”.... COULD THE LAST HALF OF THE FINAL SEVEN YEARS BE THE HARVEST TIME?

SO NOW WE HAVE SEEN HOW GOD SUPERNATURALLY PROTECTS AND PROVIDES FOR HIS PEOPLE.

PROOF CITED #3: SAINTS ARE SEEN ON EARTH DURING THE TRIBULATION (MATT. 24:22-24).

- 22 And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.
- 23 Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not.
- 24 For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.

AS YOU READ THIS SCRIPTURE ASK THE QUESTIONS; **WHAT DAYS?** /AND **WHO ARE THE ELECT?** THE ELECT ARE CERTAINLY NOT THE WICKED NOR THE UNSAVED, BUT **SAINTS**, THESE ARE JESUS' OWN WORDS. EXCEPT THE TIME SHOULD BE SHORTENED, (THOSE DAYS SHORTENED REV. 8:12 COMPARE WITH MATT. 24:22-24). SOME INTERPRETE MATT. 24:22-24 AS MEANING THE SHORTINING OF THE 12 HOUR DAY AS IN REV. 8:12 RATHER THAN A SHORTENING OF TIME AS A WHOLE. NEVERTHELESS WE KNOW THAT ANY AND ALL WHO DIE IN CHRIST SHALL BE SAVED, THAT'S NOT WHAT JESUS IS TALKING ABOUT WHEN HE MAKES REFERENCE TO THE ELECT. THE ELECT ARE THOSE THAT ARE ENDURING AND EVEN MARTYRED DURING THE TRIBULATION. THE PULL TO SELL OUT, TO DENY CHRIST, TO RECEIVE THE MARK WILL BE SO GREAT, BECAUSE MANY WILL HAVE GOTTEN USE TO LIVING A LIFE OF LUXURY AND PLENTY AND THEY WILL NOT BE WILLING TO GIVE THAT UP, THAT IS WHY JESUS' WARNING IN LUKE 21:34-36 IS SO CLEAR AND URGENT.

**ARE YOU PREPARING YOURSELF SPIRITUALLY, KEEPING
THE SIN OUT SO THAT THERE WILL BE A CLEAR CHANNEL
OF COMMUNICATION BETWEEN YOU AND THE LORD?
HEBREWS 10:38 SAYS; “THE JUST SHALL LIVE BY (HIS) FAITH”.
ROMANS 8:14 SAYS; “FOR AS MANY AS ARE LED BY THE
SPIRIT OF GOD, THEY ARE THE SONS OF GOD”**

I BELIEVE THAT WE ARE ENTERING AN HOUR WHEN WE MUST
HAVE TOTAL AND COMPLETE RELIANCE UPON THE LORD FOR
EVERYTHING. I THINK THAT IT WOULD BE WISE TO TRAIN
YOUR SELF NOW, SO THAT YOU WANT BE FORCED TO THEN.
MAY THE FATHER RICHLY BLESS YOU;

MY PRAYER TO GOD IS THAT THIS STUDY HAS BEEN A HELP TO
YOU AND HAS OPENED YOUR EYES TO OTHER POSSIBILITIES
CONCERNING THE RAPTURE AND THE END TIME. IF YOU HAVE
ANY QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS, PLEASE CONTACT ME AT:
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YOUR BROTHER IN CHRIST,
MICHAEL C. WILLIAMS SR.