



Slide 1

THE RAPTURE

What and When? – Part 16




by Dr. Andy Woods



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Slide 2

What is the Rapture?




1. An important doctrine
2. Distinct from the Second Advent
3. Catching away of all living believers (1 Thess 4:17)
4. Reunion (1 Thess 4:14-16)
5. Resurrection (1 Cor 15:50-54)
6. Exemption from death (1 Cor 15:51, 54-56)
7. Instantaneous (1 Cor 15:52)
8. Mystery (1 Cor 15:51)
9. Imminent (1 Cor 15:51; 1 Thess 4:15)
10. Traditional doctrine now being recovered

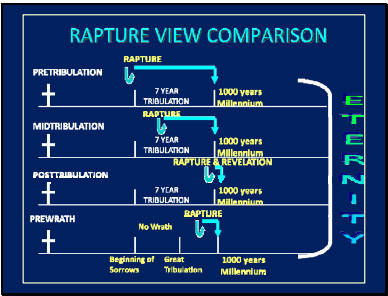
Slide 3

When Will the Rapture Take Place Relative to the Tribulation Period?

- Pre-tribulation rapture theory
- Mid-tribulation rapture theory
- Post-tribulation rapture theory
- Pre-wrath rapture theory
- Partial rapture theory



Slide 4



Slide 5

When is the Rapture?

7 Arguments Favoring the Pre-Tribulation View

1. Tribulation's purpose concerns Israel (Jer 30:7; Dan 9:24)
2. No biblical reference to the church on earth during the Tribulation period (Rev 4-22)
3. Church is promised an exemption from divine wrath (1 Thess 1:10; 5:9; Rom 5:9; Rev 3:10; 6:17)
4. Rapture is imminent (1 Cor 15:51; 1 Thess 4:15)
5. Rapture is a comfort (1 Thess 4:18)
6. Antichrist cannot come to power until the restrainer is removed (2 Thess 2:6-7)
7. Symbolic parallels (2 Peter 2:5-9)

Slide 6

Strengthening the Pre-Tribulation Case

1. John 14:1-4
2. Revelation 3:10
3. First Thessalonians 4-5
4. Second Thessalonians 2:3a
5. Matthew 24-25



Slide 7

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Slide 8

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Slide 9

Revelation 3:10


Because you have kept the word of My perseverance, I also will keep you from the hour of testing, that *hour* which is about to come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.



Slide 10

Does Revelation 3:10 Teach the Pre-Tribulation Rapture?


1. Are there easier ways to convey "protection through"?
2. Will God protect believers during the Tribulation?
3. What is the meaning of "keep you from"?
4. What is the meaning of "the hour"?
5. What is the meaning of the "whole world"?
6. What is the meaning of "testing/to test"?



Slide 11

Does Revelation 3:10 Teach the Pre-Tribulation Rapture?


1. Are there easier ways to convey "protection through"? YES
2. Will God protect believers during the Tribulation? NO
3. What is the meaning of "keep you from"? Kept out of the Time Period Completely
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Slide 12

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7. Who are the "earth-dwellers"?
8. What is the meaning of "about to come"?
9. How will Christ keep His promise?
10. Is this promise for Philadelphia only?
11. How does the Pre-Trib. View of Rev. 3:10 harmonize with the rest of the Book of Revelation?



Slide 13

Revelation 3:10


'Because you have kept the word of My perseverance, I also will keep you from the hour of testing, that *hour* which is about to come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth *[katoikeō epi gē]*



Slide 14

Revelation 13:8


"All who dwell on the earth *[katoikeō epi gē]* will worship him, everyone whose name has not been written from the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who has been slain."



Slide 15

Revelation 17:8

"⁸The beast that you saw was, and is not, and is about to come up out of the abyss and go to destruction. And those who dwell on the earth *[katoikeō epi gē]*, whose name has not been written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, will wonder when they see the beast, that he was and is not and will come."



Slide 16

Thomas Ice

Thomas Ice, "Kept From the Hour," online: www.pre-trib.org, accessed 4 September 2014, 2.

"This phrase 'earth dwellers' is used eleven times in nine verses in Revelation (3:10; 6:10; 8:13; 11:10 2xs; 13:8, 12, 14 2xs; 14:6; 17:8). As you examine each individual use, except 3:10, you will see that all refer to a special class of stubborn sinners who are set in their rebellion against the God of heaven. You will also find that the phrase is *only* used to refer to those during the tribulation period. Therefore, since the future hour spoken of in 3:10 is set in contrast with the present set of believers in the church age, and the future 'earth dwellers' will be active during the time period in which believers are said to be kept from, it is clear that John speaks of the time or hour of the tribulation. This is why 3:10 is a clear promise that Christ will keep believers from the time of the seven year tribulation."

Slide 17

Revelation 3:10

'Because you have kept the word of My perseverance, I also will keep you from the hour of testing [peirasmós], that *hour* which is about to come upon the whole world, to test [peirázō] those who dwell on the earth.



Slide 18


6. Test
(Revelation 3:10)

1) Peirasmós / peirázō

a. To demonstrate the quality of something rather than to purify its contents

b. A Test for the purpose of exposing someone's true character typically with the negative intent to demonstrate a failure

2) Examples (Jas. 1:13-14; Rev. 2:2)



Slide 19

Revelation 2:2

'I know your deeds and your toil and perseverance, and that you cannot tolerate evil men, and you put to the **test** **[peirázō]** those who call themselves apostles, and they are not, and you found them to be false;

THE CHURCHES OF REVELATION

PHILADELPHIA

THAT FAITHFUL CHURCH

Slide 20

James 1:13-14

"¹³ Let no one say when he is tempted **[peirázō]**, 'I am being tempted **[peirázō]** by God'; for God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt **[peirázō]** anyone. ¹⁴ But each one is tempted **[peirázō]** when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust."

THE CHURCHES OF REVELATION

PHILADELPHIA

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Slide 21

Revelation 9:20-21

²⁰ "The rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, **did not repent** of the works of their hands, so as not to worship demons, and the idols of gold and of silver and of brass and of stone and of wood, which can neither see nor hear nor walk; ²¹ and they **did not repent** of their murders nor of their sorceries nor of their immorality nor of their thefts."

Slide 22


Pretribulationism **IS NOT** Escapism

- Trials (John 16:33)
- Man's wrath (2 Tim. 3:12)
- Satan's wrath (Eph. 6:11-12)
- World's wrath (John 15:18-19)


Slide 23

Revelation 3:10

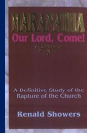
'Because you have kept the word of My perseverance, I also will keep you from the hour of testing, that *hour* which is about to come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.'



Slide 24

 **Renald Showers**

Renald Showers, *Maranatha Our Lord, Come!* (Bellmawr, NJ: Friends of Israel, 1995), 212.

 "Christ based His promise on the fact that the church saints had already passed their test. In light of that, it appears that because they had already passed their test, Christ promised that He would not put them into the period that...will have the purpose of testing a very different group of people."

Slide 25

Does Revelation 3:10 Teach the Pre-Tribulation Rapture?


7. Who are the "earth-dwellers"?

8. What is the meaning of "about to come"?

9. How will Christ keep His promise?

10. Is this promise for Philadelphia only?


11. How does the Pre-Trib. View of Rev. 3:10 harmonize with the rest of the Book of Revelation?



Slide 26

Revelation 3:10

'Because you have kept the word of My perseverance, I also will keep you from the hour of testing, that *hour* which is about to come [mellō] upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.



Slide 27

Imminency


Méllō: "and one who will share in the glory to be [mellō] revealed" (1 Pet 5:1)



Slide 28

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Slide 29

Revelation 3:11

"I am coming quickly; hold fast what you have, so that no one will take your crown."



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Slide 32

1 Corinthians 4:5


" Therefore do not go on passing judgment before the time, *but wait* until the Lord comes who will both bring to light the things hidden in the darkness and disclose the motives of *men's* hearts; and then each man's praise will come to him from God."



Slide 33

2 Timothy 4:8

"In the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing."



Slide 34

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TO PERSEVERE
THE SHALL OBEY
THE WILL OF
THE LORD
REVELATION 14:12

Slide 35

Revelation 3:7

"And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: He who is holy, who is true, who has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, and who shuts and no one opens, says this:"

THE CHURCHES OF REVELATION
PHILADELPHIA
THE FAITHFUL CHURCH


Slide 36

The 7 Churches in Revelation
Rev. 1:11

Slide 37

Promised Exemption from Divine Wrath

- The promise (1 Thess. 1:10; 5:9; Rom 5:9; 8:1; Rev 3:10)
- Tribulation = divine wrath (Rev 6:16-17; 11:18; 15:1, 7; 16:19)



Slide 38

Revelation 3:13

EXHORTATION TO LISTEN


"He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."



Slide 39

Revelation 3:11-12

"¹¹ I am coming quickly; hold fast what you have, so that no one will take your crown. ¹² He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he will not go out from it anymore; and I will write on him the name of My God, and the name of the city of My God, the new Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God, and My new name."



Slide 40

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TO PERSEVERE, YOU SHALL OBTAIN THE PROMISE OF THE RAPTURE

Slide 41

Revelation 1:19

"Therefore write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after these things [*meta tauta*]."

Revelation

Slide 42

Revelation 1:19

■ Seen (Chapter 1)


■ Are (Chapters 2–3)

■ After these things (Chapters 4–22)

Slide 43

Revelation 1:19

- Seen (Chapter 1)
- Are (Chapters 2–3)
- After these things (Chapters 4–22)



Slide 44

The Missing Church

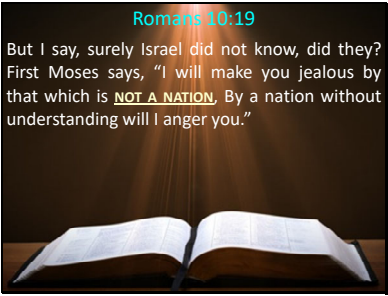
- Rev 4-19
- Rev 13:9
- Revelation's Jewish nature



Slide 45

Romans 10:19


But I say, surely Israel did not know, did they?
First Moses says, "I will make you jealous by
that which is NOT A NATION, By a nation without
understanding will I anger you."



Slide 46

Galatians 3:28


There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.



Slide 47

Ephesians 2:14

For He Himself is our peace, who made both groups into one and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall.



Slide 48

God's Work Through Israel

- Revelation 7 – 144,000 Jews
- Revelation 11 – Two Jewish witnesses
- Revelation 12 – Israel flees



Slide 49

CAST OF 3 CHARACTERS
Revelation 12:1-5

1. SON = Messiah (v.5)

2. DRAGON = Satan (v. 3)


3. WOMAN = Israel (v.1)



Slide 50

Genesis 37:9


Now he had still another dream, and related it to his brothers, and said, "Lo, I have had still another dream; and behold, the sun and the moon and eleven stars were bowing down to me.



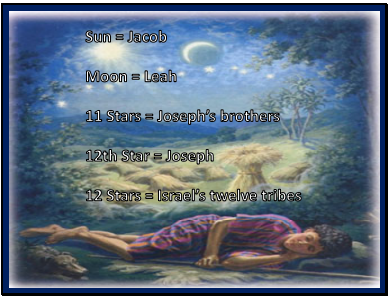
Slide 51

Genesis 37:10

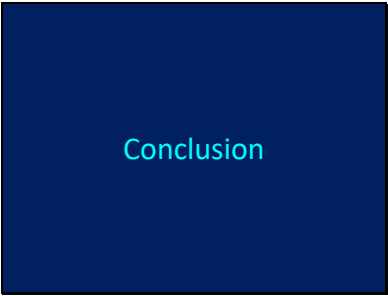
He related it to his father and to his brothers; and his father rebuked him and said to him, "What is this dream that you have had? Shall I and your mother and your brothers actually come to bow ourselves down before you to the ground?"



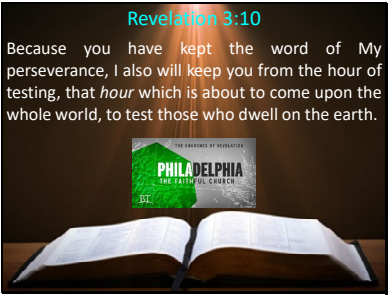
Slide 52



Slide 53



Slide 54



Slide 55

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Slide 56

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7. Who are the "earth-dwellers"? **Tribulation Unbelievers**

8. What is the meaning of "about to come"? **Imminency**

9. How will Christ keep His promise? **His Coming in the Rapture**

10. Is this promise for Philadelphia only? **NO**

11. Does the Pre-Trib. View of Rev. 3:10 harmonize with the rest of the Book of Revelation? **YES**

Slide 57

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