

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

(Thursology Live! 10/6/22)

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

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

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

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

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

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

--I Thess 4:15-18: For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words.

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

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

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

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

- Christ _____ in the air
- The dead saints are _____
- The living saints are _____
- The Church _____ Him in the air
- The _____ Seat of Christ
- The _____ Supper of the Lamb

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

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

--He _____ with His armies to fight the Battle of Armageddon

--He _____ the armies of _____

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

--A Key Question for the Post-Trib View: Since the Peace Treaty, the Abomination, and Armageddon have specifically _____ sequencing...if the Rapture of the Church occurs simultaneously with Armageddon...then how could the church _____ know which day the Lord will _____??

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

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

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

--Post-Trib Problems:

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

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

--The greatest strength of the Pre-Trib View: In the Pre-Trib Rapture timing..._____ has to happen _____ Jesus returns for His Church...keeping perfectly intact the Doctrine of Imminency...that Christ can return at any _____ ...and that no one can _____ the Day!!!

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

--Rev 16:1: Then I heard a loud voice from the temple, saying to the seven angels, "Go and pour out on the earth the seven bowls of the wrath of God."

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

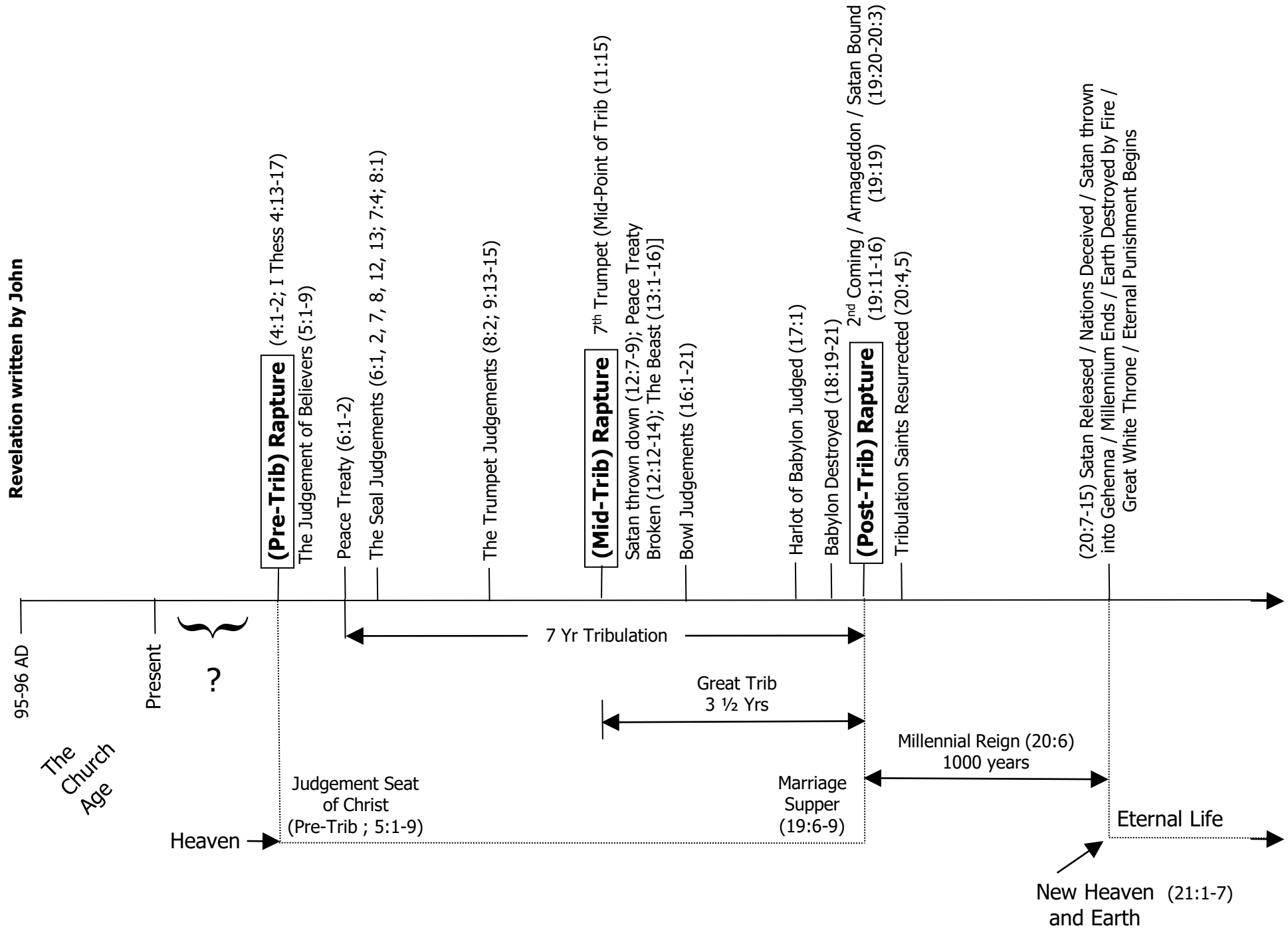
--Hebrews 4:16: Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

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

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

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

The Major Events of the Tribulation



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

(Thursology Live! 9/1/22)

--Review: The Events of the Tribulation:

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

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

--**Strength #1:** Its **SIMPLICITY**...and its natural, effortless **CONSISTENCY** with the biblical understanding of a **FIRST** coming and a **SECOND** coming of Christ

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

--Point #2: The “**GATHERING**” of the Elect clearly happens at the **END** of the Tribulation

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

--What the Post-Trib View believes the Olivet Discourse teaches about the Rapture: The gathering of the elect that occurs **SIMULTANEOUSLY** with Jesus’ Glorious Appearing...at the end of the Tribulation...is the **RAPTURE** of the Church

--Point #3: The “**ELECT**” clearly go through the **ENTIRE** Tribulation

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

--The Post-Trib understanding of the timing of the Rapture in the Olivet Discourse requires a specific interpretation: In Matthew 24...when Jesus refers to the “**ELECT**”...He means the **CHURCH**

--A fundamental principle of biblical interpretation: It’s important to carefully evaluate the **CONTEXT** of a biblical passage...and attempt to interpret the Scripture through the eyes and ears of the **ORIGINAL** listeners

--Who were the original listeners at the Olivet Discourse? The **DISCIPLES**

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

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

--Two hermeneutic facts about Matthew 24:

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

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

--The Pre-Trib interpretation of Matthew 24:

--The Olivet Discourse was spoken to **JEWS**...and is about **ISRAEL**

--Thus...when Jesus spoke of the “**ELECT**”...it was the **OLD** Testament understanding of God’s **CHOSEN** people...and was not referring to the **CHURCH**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

--The Doctrine of the Age of Accountability: **EVERY** human who has ever been conceived is under the **SAVING** grace of God...and is **COVERED** by the blood of Christ...until they come to the age when they can either **ACCEPT** or **REJECT** God's grace.

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

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