

Thursology 94: Super Confident With YOUR Rapture View?
News Flash...MANY Believers Disagree With You!!! (#17)

(Thursology Live! 12/1/22)

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

--**Why God left this incredibly important issue open to so much debate:** Because
this is _____ how He _____ to leave it!!!

--**God's Purpose in the Ambiguity:**

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

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

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

--**An interesting possibility that few authors and teachers acknowledge:** A
perfectly reasonable conclusion that emerges from centuries of _____
debate about the timing of the Rapture...is that the debate is _____
_____ until _____ Christ returns!!!

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

--**APPLICATION #2:** The Post-Trib View emphasizes that... _____ is the time to
be _____ and to _____ !!!

--**Rev 13:1, 3-4, 7, 11, 14-18:** And the dragon stood on the sand of the seashore. Then I saw a
beast coming up out of the sea...And the whole earth was amazed and followed after the
beast; they worshiped the dragon because he gave his authority to the beast; and they
worshiped the beast, saying, “Who is like the beast, and who is able to wage war with
him?”...It was also given to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them, and
authority over every tribe and people and tongue and nation was given to him...Then I saw
another beast...And he deceives those who dwell on the earth because of the signs which it
was given him to perform in the presence of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to
make an image to the beast...And it was given to him to give breath to the image of the beast,
so that the image of the beast would even speak and cause as many as do not worship the
image of the beast to be killed. And he causes all, the small and the great, and the rich and the
poor, and the free men and the slaves, to be given a mark on their right hand or on their
forehead, and he provides that no one will be able to buy or to sell, except the one who has the
mark, either the name of the beast or the number of his name. Here is wisdom. Let him who
has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for the number is that of a man; and his
number is six hundred and sixty-six.

--**Why God would want the Post-Trib view taught:** He wants us to be prepared to
remain _____ to the _____...even if it means going
_____ horrible tribulation!!!

--**A universal precept:** (Luke 9:24): “For whoever wishes to _____
his life will _____ it, but whoever _____ his life for My
sake...will _____ it.”

--Acts 21:8-13: On the next day we left and came to Caesarea, and entering the house of Philip the evangelist, who was one of the seven, we stayed with him. Now this man had four virgin daughters who were prophetesses. As we were staying there for some days, a prophet named Agabus came down from Judea. And coming to us, he took Paul's belt and bound his own feet and hands, and said, "This is what the Holy Spirit says: 'In this way the Jews at Jerusalem will bind the man who owns this belt and deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles.'" When we had heard this, we as well as the local residents began begging him not to go up to Jerusalem. Then Paul answered, "What are you doing, weeping and breaking my heart? For I am ready not only to be bound, but even to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus."

--An example of Luke 9:24 being lived out: "For I am ready not only to be _____, but even to _____ at Jerusalem for the _____ of the Lord Jesus."

--Matt 24:9-13: Then they will deliver you to tribulation, and will kill you, and you will be hated by all nations because of My name. At that time many will fall away and will betray one another and hate one another. Many false prophets will arise and will mislead many. Because lawlessness is increased, most people's love will grow cold. But the one who endures to the end, he will be saved.

--Key Question: How can _____ be prepared to _____ the persecution that could be coming _____ way???

--Luke 17:28-31: It was the same as happened in the days of Lot: they were eating, they were drinking, they were buying, they were selling, they were planting, they were building; but on the day that Lot went out from Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all. It will be just the same on the day that the Son of Man is revealed. On that day, the one who is on the housetop and whose goods are in the house must not go down to take them out; and likewise the one who is in the field must not turn back.

--V. 33: Whoever seeks to keep his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life will preserve it.

--The message: We must be _____ to _____ for The Faith!!!

--V. 31: On that day, the one who is on the housetop and whose goods are in the house must not go down to take them out; and likewise the one who is in the field must not turn back.

--V. 33: Whoever seeks to keep his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life will preserve it.

--V. 32: Remember Lot's wife. (???)

--What's the answer to being ready for tribulation and even martyrdom???

--Remember... _____ !!!

--Gen 19:12-26: Then the two men said to Lot, "Whom else have you here? A son-in-law, and your sons, and your daughters, and whomever you have in the city, bring them out of the place; for we are about to destroy this place, because their outcry has become so great before the Lord that the Lord has sent us to destroy it." Lot went out and spoke to his sons-in-law, who were to marry his daughters, and said, "Up, get out of this place, for the Lord will destroy the city." But he appeared to his sons-in-law to be jesting. When morning dawned, the angels urged Lot, saying, "Up, take your wife and your two daughters who are here, or you will be swept away in the punishment of the city." But he hesitated. So the men seized his hand and the hand of his wife and the hands of his two daughters, for the compassion of the Lord was upon him; and they brought him out, and put him outside the city. When they had brought them outside, one said, "Escape for your life! Do not look behind you, and do not stay anywhere in

the valley; escape to the mountains, or you will be swept away.” But Lot said to them, “Oh no, my lords! Now behold, your servant has found favor in your sight, and you have magnified your lovingkindness, which you have shown me by saving my life; but I cannot escape to the mountains, for the disaster will overtake me and I will die; now behold, this town is near enough to flee to, and it is small. Please, let me escape there (is it not small?) that my life may be saved.” He said to him, “Behold, I grant you this request also, not to overthrow the town of which you have spoken. Hurry, escape there, for I cannot do anything until you arrive there.” Therefore the name of the town was called Zoar. The sun had risen over the earth when Lot came to Zoar. Then the Lord rained on Sodom and Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the Lord out of heaven, and He overthrew those cities, and all the valley, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and what grew on the ground. But his wife, from behind him, looked back, and she became a pillar of salt.

--Key Concept: Jesus’ command to “Remember Lot’s wife” means...if you want to be truly _____ for the persecution and tribulation that are coming...then _____ look _____!!!

--Heb 11:32-38a: And what more shall I say? For time will fail me if I tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets, who by faith conquered kingdoms, performed acts of righteousness, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, from weakness were made strong, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received back their dead by resurrection; and others were tortured, not accepting their release, so that they might obtain a better resurrection; and others experienced mockings and scourgings, yes, also chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were tempted, they were put to death with the sword; they went about in sheepskins, in goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, ill-treated, people of whom the world was not worthy...”

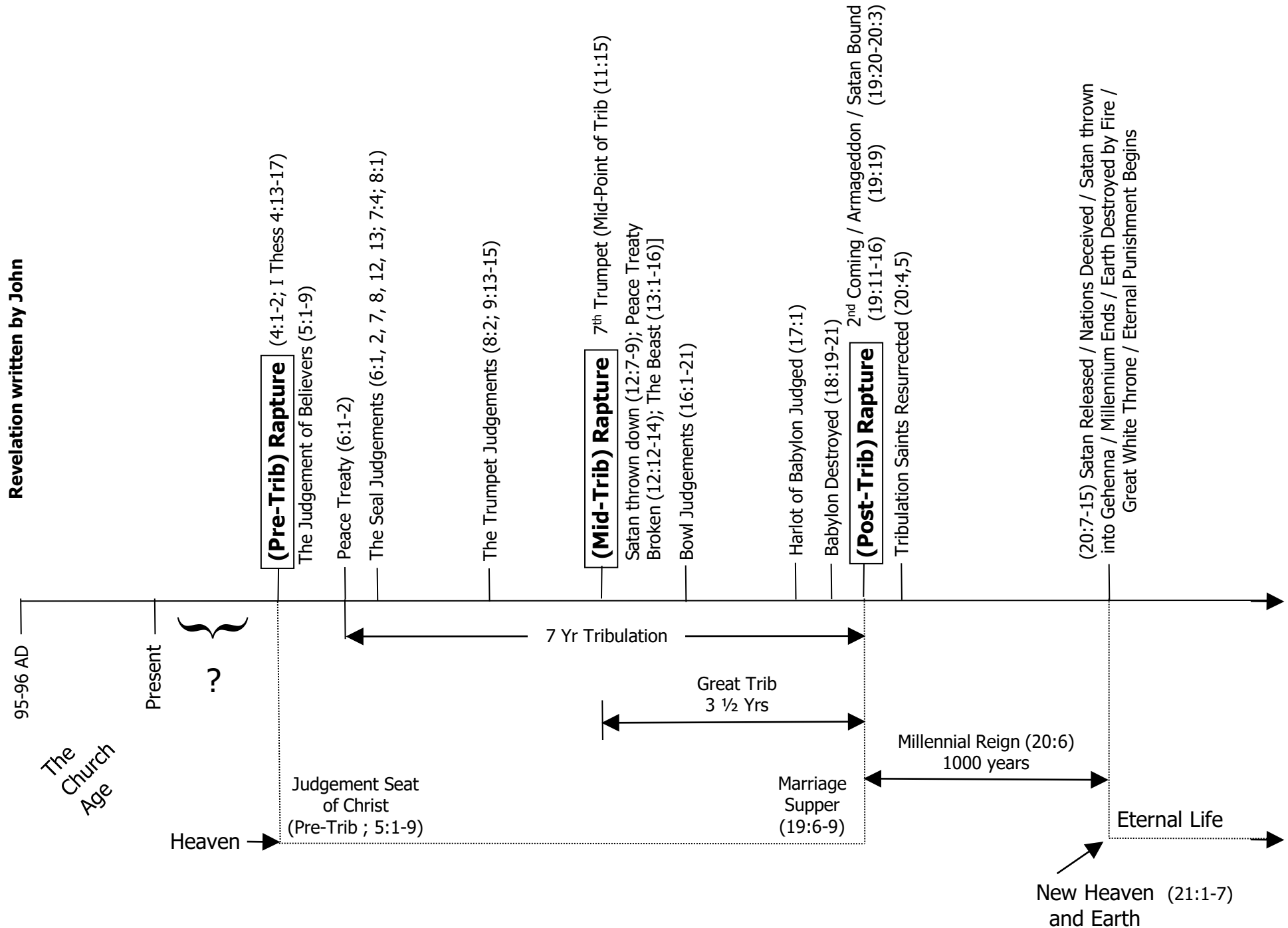
--Heb 12:1-3: Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

--Key Concept: The only way to never look back is to..._____ our _____ on _____!!!

--Two great things about tribulation:

1. We have a faithful cloud of witnesses _____ us on...who know _____ what it’s like to make it through the _____!!!
2. As we keep looking _____...and as we don’t look _____... we’re preparing to _____ the great cloud of witnesses someday!!!

The Major Events of the Tribulation



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

(Thursology Live! 11/3/22)

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

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

--Matt 24:30-31: “...and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky with power and great glory. And He will send forth His angels with a great trumpet and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other.”

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

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

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

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

--Because this is **EXACTLY** how He **WANTED** to leave it!!!

--God's Purpose in the Ambiguity:

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

--Answer: To emphasize the importance of being **READY** for Jesus to **RETURN**...at any **MOMENT**

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

--The bottom line of the Pre-Trib View: →

--Be **READY** to be...**SURPRISED**!!!

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

--The repeated biblical warning: Never allow yourself to **THINK**...or **LIVE**...as if...“my Master is not coming for a **LONG** time!!!

--The Appropriate Response: Be about the **MASTER'S** business...**ALL** the **TIME**!!!

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

--Answer: To emphasize the importance of **ENDURANCE**...and being **READY** to **SUFFER** for Christ...and even to **DIE**

--Matt 24:6-13: You will be hearing of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not frightened, for those things must take place, but that is not yet the end. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and in various places there will be famines and earthquakes. But all these things are merely the beginning of birth pangs. *Then they will deliver you to tribulation, and will kill you, and you will be hated by all nations because of My name. At that time many will fall away and will betray one another and hate one another.* Many false prophets will arise and will mislead many. Because lawlessness is increased, most people's love will grow cold. 13 *But the one who endures to the end, he will be saved.*

--The bottom line of the POST-Trib View: Be **READY** to be...**PERSECUTED**!!!

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

--The Appropriate Response: Be prepared to **ENDURE**...be prepared for **TRIBULATION**...and do not **WEARY** of sharing in Christ's **SUFFERINGS**!!!

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

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

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

--Key Concept: The Scriptural “ambiguity” **DEMANDS** that we be ready for **PERSECUTION**...and...that we be ready for...**HIM**!!!

--**APPLICATION #1: The Pre-Trib View emphasizes that...DECISION time...is NOW!!!**

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

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

--Key Concept #2: When Jesus returns...EVERYONE will have ALREADY made their FINAL decision

--A Biblical Warning to God's People: When we hear God's CALL...the tendency is to DELAY making a DECISION!!!

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

--What does this passage mean?

--The opportunity to RESPOND doesn't remain available INDEFINITELY!!!

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

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

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

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

1. They had the LAW and the PROPHETS
2. They heard the truth from the greatest TEACHER in all of history
3. The truth had been announced to them for YEARS
4. They saw PROPHECY fulfilled with their own EYES
5. They actually SAW Jesus perform MIRACLES...in person
6. They heard the TESTIMONY of those who saw Him raise the DEAD!!!

--The corollary to the Pre-Trib View and the Parable of the 10 Virgins: Only the FOOL believes there will always be another CHANCE to RESPOND!!!