

Tribulation and the Rapture

Introduction

The word “Tribulation” is in the Bible. The word “Great Tribulation” is also in the Bible. But the word “Rapture” is non-existent. But the evidence of a “Taking Away” where one stays, and another is taken away, is a biblical reality. Evidence of where one group of people are forced to go through global destruction, judgment, and wrath, while another group of people are totally shielded from the worst of what is to come, is also a biblical reality.

Bridegroom and Bride Perspective

The way I see it, is that when God created Adam and Eve, it was all for Family reasons. He created Family, and He Himself was in search of a Family. And when Jesus the Bridegroom shows up, He’s now in search of a Bride, — again it’s all about Family. And at the very end, Heavenly Father adopts a very large Family.

So now when it comes to the “ Tribulation ”, and the coming “ Rapture ” as mentioned in the Book of Revelation, — it’s really about the Bride of Christ, the enemies against the Bride of Christ, and the False Bride of Christ. And then at the end of Revelation, prior to the millennium, — Jesus then marries this amazing Bride.

The Bridegroom, taking His Bride through the refining times of “ Tribulation ”, is not only a way of waking her up from her religious sleep, but it’s also a time where she can prepare herself and make herself ready. But to purposely toss her in times of wrath makes no sense. What does it profit a Bridegroom if He tosses His Bride in a destructive environment, a Bride that absolutely loves Him, a Bride that is powerfully testifying of Him, — that part makes no sense.

Based on biblical evidence, (an array of evidence that helps paint a much bigger picture) along with my many years of following this one called “ The Bridegroom “, — here’s my take.

Timeline History Leading to Tribulation

1) God created everything in 7 days, on the 7th day He rested. This is where we originally get our “ Week ” on the Calendar. This is also where we get our “ One-Day ” of Rest.

2) But the original Hebrew Calendar did not go by months, but by 50-year increments called “The Year of Jubilee” (7yrs. x 7 = 49yrs.) and then the 1 Year of “ Rest “ completes the 50 Year Cycle of Jubilee. So when you look at an Old Testament Ancient Hebrew Calendar, all you see are the 50 Year Cycles throughout.

3) God says very clearly that He is the “Beginning and the End”, that He is the “Alpha and Omega”. In that statement, God is also stating that mankind’s life here on Earth has a beginning and an end. In other words everyone will experience a death, and that the human race now has a specific timeline.

4) God says that a thousand years is like a day and that a day is like a thousand years. God also says that man will only live 120 years. But many in the Old Testament lived much longer. Meaning that the 120 years must have a much deeper meaning.

5) So if you take 120 Years x 50 Jubilees, that equals to 6000 years and when you throw in the 1000 Year Millennium Rest you get 7000 Years. You turn 7000 years into a 7 days, you now get the original seven day week of Gods seven days of creation.

6) But prior to the 6000 years coming to an end, there will be a time of Tribulation, ending with the Battle of Armageddon. So if the creation of Adam and Eve was 3970 BC (according to the Hebrew calendar), and Jesus shows up around 33 AD on the Calendar, and now that its 2024 AD, it looks like this thing called “Tribulation”, along with the “Rapture”, could very well be at the front doors. (*Just a Research Guesstimate*)

Scriptural Evidence

1) **Matthew 24:19** - **Everything Coming to an End**

Immediately after the tribulation, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken.

(Life as we know it has ceased to exist on this old earth.)

2) **1 Thessalonians 4:16-17** - **Rapture / Resurrection**

For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air.

(There seems to be a time span between the two – one group rises up first, some time goes by, and another group joins.)

Revelation 21:1 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more.

Revelation 20:4 And those who had the testimony of Jesus, who did not take the mark of the beast, will reign with Jesus for a thousand years. (millennium)

The 1000 Year Millennium Reign was designed so that we may live as originally intended to live, — as in the Garden of Eden. God recreates the original environment so that we can experience life as to Gods original design, as to how our earthly environment was always meant to be. For those who have been risen with Him, they now get to experience Gods original creative intentions for the next 1000 years.

Revelation 20:5 The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended. *(unbelievers and the false bride)*

3) Luke 17:34-36 - One Taken / One Left

That night two men will be asleep, one will be taken away, the other left. Two women will be working together, one will be taken, the other left. And so it will be with two men working side by side in the field, the one will be taken, and the other left.

(Scripture makes reference of a taking away that is not only all inclusive, but also includes an event that is partial.)

4) Revelation 20:1-15 - 1000 Year Reign

(Condensed abbreviated version)

“ I saw a large White Throne and the One who sat on it. I also saw the souls of those who had testified about Jesus and the word of God. They came to life and reigned with Him for a 1000 years.

Blessed and holy are those who take part in the first resurrection, they will be priests of God and of Christ, and they will reign with Him for a 1000 years.

The rest of the dead did not come to life until the 1000 years were finished. After 1000 years, during the next resurrection, I then I saw the dead standing before the throne.

Then the books were opened, and the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to their deeds. Anyone’s name was not found written in the book of life, — that person was thrown into the eternal lake of fire.”

(This clearly defines what will be happening during the 1000 years, and what will not be happening during the 1000 years.)

Mid-Tribulation vs Post-Tribulation

1) Mid-tribulationism affirms the clear scriptural teaching that believers will not suffer the wrath of God: **Luke 21:36, Romans. 5:9, 1st Thess. 1:10, 5:9.**

2) Post-tribulationists affirm that believers will suffer, but what scripture simply reveals is that believers will undergo “Tribulation” simply because of being a Christian. **John 16:33**.

3) The word “Wrath” is used 9 times in the Book of Revelation. In each case, nonbelievers and the false bride, the false church, were the objects of this wrath, — not believers.

Revelation 14:8, Revelation 14:19, Revelation 15:1, Revelation 15:7, Revelation 16:1, Revelation 19:15.

4) Likewise, the word “Wrath” is used 27 times throughout the New Testament, and in no case are believers the object of this wrath.

5) However, of 55 times the word “Tribulation” is used, 47 times this is an experience to be endured by believers. Scripture draws a clear distinction between “Tribulation” and “Wrath”. Post-tribulationism do not account for the distinction. A Mid-tribulation view offers a better account of the scriptural division, and evidence of the events having two halves.

6) Post-tribulationists, like Pre-tribulationists, gloss over the language that separates these two distinct periods. There is “Tribulation” from **Revelation Chapter 4 - Chapter 12**. Then there is “Great Tribulation” from **Chapter 12 - Chapter 18**.

7) Mid-tribulationists take the rapture in **1st Thessalonians 4** as a distinctive event, while Post-tribulationists view it as the convergence of two events being one. Since Scripture affirms that believers will not suffer the wrath of God, the rapture is a logical necessity, as well as a scriptural promise.

8) Mid-tribulationists claim the promise of **Revelation 3:10** “Because you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will keep you from the hour of trial which is coming on the whole world, to try those who dwell upon the earth.”

9) Furthermore, **Revelation 7:14** speaks of saints “Coming out of the Great Tribulation.” Believers coming “Out of the Trial” of the great tribulation. A purification of the false bride making her religious robes white to become the True Bride.

10) What could these passages possibly mean, if not to suggest that believers will be taken out of this world, before and after, the time of great tribulation? The return of Christ in scripture is not only **for** the Saints, but also **with** the Saints. **Jude 14-15, Revelation 19:11-16** This would suggest that some Saints were already with Him in heaven.

11) A Mid-tribulation view adequately takes into account the sharp division in time as emphasized in all the major passages, (as harmonized throughout the gospels). On this basis, a “ Mid-tribulation / Taking away ” rapture of true believers appears to be most consistent interpretation for these accounts.

12) However, none of us knows the day or the hour of the Lord’s return, and so the most important thing of all is to be ready for His return.

Defining the Two Halves

1) **Revelation 11** and **Revelation 12** gives reference to the second half known as the 3.5 years (in the **Book of Daniel** and in the **Book of Revelation**) as the last part of the tribulation season, also known as the times of “**Abomination and Desolation** ” and also described as the times of “ **Destruction and Wrath** ”.

2) This is the time of abomination and abominable sacrifices made in the Temple towards the worshipping of the antichrist. and when complete destruction comes upon the earth, all these events will eventually lead to the “**Battle of Armageddon**”

3) The phrase “**Time, Times, and Half a Time**” mentioned in **Daniel 7:25**, **Daniel 12:7**, and **Revelation 12:14** is understood to mean 3.5 years. The 42 months in **Revelation 11:2** is also 3.5 years. The 1,290 days in **Daniel 12:11** is also 3.5 years.

4) The woman that is described **Revelation 12:14** is emblematic of the Bride of Christ, where flying above all circumstances finds a safe place where she is taken care of through the 3.5 year season of wrath and destruction that is being manipulated by the serpent Satan.

Revelation 12:14 “ The woman was given the two wings of a great eagle, so that she might fly to the place prepared for her in the wilderness, where she would be taken care of for a time, times and half a time, out of the serpent’s reach.”

The Number 7

1) It is a fact that the number “**7**” is not mentioned when it comes to the “ 7 Year Tribulation ”. **No where does the Bible directly mention a 7 Year Tribulation** even though indirectly it is prophetically suggested in both **Daniel** and **Revelation**.

2) But if the “ **Great Tribulation** ” as clearly mentioned in Daniel, is **3.5 Years**, then its quite possible that the “ **Tribulation** ” part that comes prior to the Great Tribulation, may also be **3.5 Years**. It seems that Gods overall favorite number is “**7**”, — so why would it not apply here.

3) **The number “7” plays a big part when it comes to Gods timelines.** God created everything in **7** days. There are **7** days in a week. In a Shemitah there are **7** years. In a Jubilee there are **7** years times **7**. On the **7th** month is the Day of Atonement.

4) **The number 7 continues to have priority** as there are 7 pieces of Gods Armor. There are 7 colors in the rainbow. There are the 7 Spirits of God. There are 7 things that God hates. 7 trumpets blew 7 times around the city of Jericho before it fell. There are 7 Churches receiving 7 Messages in the Book of Revelation. 7 lambs are sacrificed on the Day of Atonement. There are 7 mountains that surround Jerusalem. Inside Gods Holy Temple is a candlestick that represents the anointing and the light of God with 7 branches.

5) So for me, — I would have to believe that when it comes to the last days timeline on “Tribulation”, based on the fact that there are two parts to that tribulation, (Great Tribulation / Tribulation) that this timeline may also have a 7 year timeline, as prophetically mentioned in the Book of Daniel.

Harvesting and Trampling

Revelation 14:14-16

(**Harvesting**) I looked, and there before me was a white cloud, and seated on the cloud was one like a son of man with a crown of gold on his head and a sharp sickle in his hand. Then another angel came out of the temple and called in a loud voice to him who was sitting on the cloud, “ Take your sickle and reap, because the time to reap has come, for the harvest of the earth is ripe.” So he who was seated on the cloud swung his sickle over the earth, and the earth was harvested.

“ . . . and the earth **was harvested** ”, suggest that a “ **taking away** ” has taken place, — in other words the rapture.

Revelation 14:17-20

(**Wrath**) Another angel came out of the temple in heaven, and he too had a sharp sickle. Still another angel, who had charge of the fire, came from the altar and called in a loud voice to him who had the sharp sickle, "Take your sharp sickle and gather the clusters of grapes from the earth's vine, because its grapes are ripe." The angel swung his sickle on the earth, gathered its grapes and threw them into the great winepress of God's wrath. They were trampled in the winepress outside the city, and blood flowed out of the press, rising as high as the horses' bridles.

Closing

After the Great Tribulation, Jesus will come again to establish His millennial reign, perform the final judgment, and usher in the eternal destinies for both heaven and hell.

Jesus instructed His Bride that even He did not know the exact hour of His return, that only the Father knows. — Matt. 24:36, Mark 13:32.

The focus of the Bride should be to prepare herself for the return of the Bridegroom, rather than speculate when that event may happen. — Matt. 24:36-25:46, Mark 13:32-37, Luke 21:34-36

However, Christians are determined to search out the scriptures to try and discern the timing of His coming, and what the Tribulation / Rapture season may look like. And so we all share of our pre-tribulation, mid-tribulation, and post-tribulation findings.

Again, this is my guesstimation and it seems that most of the evidence has pointed me towards a mid-tribulation perspective.

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