

Christ- Centered



Biblical Training

Matthew 6:33; 1 John 2:6;
2 Chronicles 16:9

**THE PATTERN VIEW OF PROPHECY:
THE MANY DOCTRINES OF PROPHECY
SHOW CLEARLY THE RAPTURE WILL COME
POST-TRIBULATIONAL AND THE 1000 YEARS
DURING CHRIST'S SECOND COMING**

PART THREE: RAPTURE DOCTRINES

John M. Stephenson
Biblical Worldview Ministries
Updated May 3, 2006

THE TIMING SEQUENCE OF THE RAPTURE

This section presents many doctrines that define the timing of the Rapture. It shows the events of Revelation come just before Christ comes, meaning a future endtimes Tribulation. ***The Rapture comes at Christ's Coming after this Tribulation but before the time of the bowls which contains God's wrath.***

All the doctrines of Scripture teach a Post-Tribulation Rapture. It could be called a Pre-Wrath Rapture View. This section will present these doctrines. There is "no Scripture" that teaches a Pre-Tribulation Rapture. This Pre-Tribulation Rapture view is based on several unverifiable assertions whose Scriptures have alternative meanings. These alternative meanings teach or imply a Post-Tribulation Rapture. When there are alternative meanings in verses, we must find two or three other verses that teach the same thing. There are none for the Pre-Tribulation Rapture interpretation, but there are several for the Post-Tribulation Rapture understanding.

The Post-Tribulation Rapture view is based on many direct teachings and those that verify this view. These will be discussed. The tenets of the Pre-Tribulation Rapture view will also be discussed showing the Bible does not teach them.

The doctrines are now presented.

The Rapture will come after the endtimes Tribulation at Christ's single Second Coming when His angels gather all of the elect from all ends of heaven and from all ends of the earth to meet Christ in the clouds (the meeting in the air). He comes WITH and FOR His saints at the same time at His Second Coming.

Mark 13:27 "- And then He will send forth the angels, and will gather together His elect from the four winds, from the farthest end of the earth (for His saints), to the farthest end of heaven (with His saints). (Comments: Mine)

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 - For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout (The Second Coming of Christ), with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet of God; and the dead in Christ shall rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together (for the saints) with them (with the saints) in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and thus we shall always be with the Lord. (Comments: Mine.)

This happens after all the people who will ever live, have lived, and will have made formal decisions in life or by death to accept or deny Christ's Gospel. It is a time when after this gathering the angels

destroy (kill) all the unbelievers. There are no people left after these happenings to have any future periods on earth. There will be no believers afterward on the earth to have any millennial kingdom. **No one is born or saved after the Rapture.**

The Three Greek Words that Refer to Christ's Single Second Coming - The three Greek Words that refer to Christ's Single Second Coming are used with the article implying "The" single Coming, "The" single Appearance, and "The" single Revelation of Christ, not multiple ones. For example, the Greek word for the Coming is used with the article in both the 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 passage for the Rapture and also in 1 Thessalonians 3:13, 2 Thessalonians 2:1-8 for the time when Christ gathers the saints when He kills the man of lawlessness. Thus, the Rapture occurs when Christ comes to destroy the man of lawlessness. The man of lawlessness is in the Great Tribulation. This is verified because there are many saints on earth who die during the Mark-of-the-Beast period that occurs just before Christ comes (See Revelation 7:9-14).

*1 Thessalonians 4:15-17 - 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, shall 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 shall rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and thus we shall always be with the Lord.*

*1 Thessalonians 3:13 - so that He may establish your hearts unblamable in holiness before our God and Father at **THE coming** of our Lord Jesus with all His saints.*

*2 Thessalonians 2:1 - Now we request you, brethren, with regard to **THE coming** of our Lord Jesus Christ, and our gathering together [the Rapture] to Him, (Comment: Mine)*

*2 Thessalonians 2:8 - And then that lawless one will be revealed whom the Lord will slay with the breath of His mouth and bring to an end by **THE appearance** of His **[THE] coming**; (Comment: mine from the Greek)*

Resting in Christ - The Rapture - Second Thessalonians 1 teaches that we are given rest (the Rapture) when Christ and the angels come to destroy (kill) all unbelievers.

2 Thessalonians 1:7-10 and to give relief [the Rapture] to you who are afflicted and to us as well when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire, dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. And these will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, when He comes to be glorified in His saints on that day, and to be marveled at among all who have believed-- for our testimony to you was believed. (Comment: mine)

Wheat and the Tares - The wheat (believers) are not separated, in rapture, from the tares (unbelievers) until all the tares are bundled for the fire. This bundling is completed when unbelievers take the Mark of the Beast in the Great Tribulation. This means that the Rapture of the Church (the wheat) will not occur until all people have lived and all unbelievers have officially denied the Gospel (thus being bundled). The Rapture cannot occur until after the Tribulation. (If there were to be a future Millennium with unbelievers, the Rapture could not occur until after the Millennium. This doctrine precludes any future Millenniums.)

*Matthew 13:27-30 - "And the slaves of the landowner came and said to him, 'Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have tares?' "And he said to them, 'An enemy has done this!' And the slaves said to him, 'Do you want us, then, to go and gather them up?' "But he said, 'No; lest while you are gathering up the tares, you may root up the wheat with them. 'Allow both to grow together until the harvest (the Rapture); and in the time of the harvest I will say to the reapers, "**First** gather up the*

tares and bind them in bundles to burn them up; but gather the wheat into my barn." " (Bolding and comment: Mine.)

Conditions in Earth When Christ Comes - When He comes, the Lord said will I find faith on the earth and that the days will be similar to those at the time of Noah's flood. The meaning is that when Christ returns He will find very few believers, those who remain, on the earth. At this time of the flood, only a small number of saints were delivered and all the rest (being unbelievers) were killed. The rest were killed because they were in great apostasy and no longer could be saved. Thus, when Christ comes, He will deliver His saints, the few that are left alive, via the Rapture and will kill all the rest. ***The earth will definitely not be Christianized when Christ comes. It will be in almost complete apostasy (people are in the spiritual condition where they can no longer be saved).***

Luke 18:8 - "I tell you that He will bring about justice for them speedily. However, when the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth?" (Meaning very little. Comment: Mine)

Matthew 24:37-39 - "For the coming of the Son of Man will be just like the days of Noah. "For as in those days which were before the flood they were eating and drinking, they were 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 shall the coming of the Son of Man be.

Marriage of the Lamb (Christ) - At Christ's Second Coming, the marriage of the Lamb occurs according to the oriental marriage custom. Previous to this time, the Church, at the time when one believes in Christ as Savior, is betrothed legally to Christ, but does not yet live with Him. At the marriage of the Lamb, the Church, as presented by the Father to Christ, joins with Christ to live with Him at the time of His Second Coming after He has received back the Kingdom of God (this is the Rapture). At the time of His Second Coming, Christ and the angels kill all the remaining unbelievers in the Rod of Iron and Wine Press operations. (Revelation 19)

Revelation 19:7 - "Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride has made herself ready."

Revelation 19:15 - And from His mouth comes a sharp sword, so that with it He may smite 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. (See Revelation 2:27; 14:19-20.) With these operations, all unbelievers living are killed, all believers were raptured just previously. Comments: mine.)

The Rapture is directly taught to be Post-Tribulational in the Olivet Discourse when the Bible teaches that, after the Tribulation, the saints are gathered from every end of heaven and every end of the earth at Christ's Second Coming. **Thus, Christ comes "with" and "for" His saints at the same time.** These saints include both Jews and Gentiles.

Mark 13:26-27 - "And then they will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. "And then He will send forth the angels, and will gather together His elect from the four winds, from the farthest end of the earth [Rapture - the alive saints], to the farthest end of heaven [the dead saints]. (Comment: mine.)

1 Thessalonians 4:13-14 teaches the same thing that Christ comes for and with His saints at the same time. Note the Scripture:

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 - But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve, as do the rest who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus (with His saints). 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, shall 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 shall rise first (with His saints). Then we who are alive and remain (for His saints) shall be caught up together with them (with His saints) in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words. (Comments: Mine.)

*Luke 21:25-28 - "And there will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and upon the earth dismay among nations, in perplexity at the roaring of the sea and the waves, men fainting from fear and the expectation of the things which are coming upon the world; for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. "And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. "But when these things begin to take place, straighten up and lift up your heads, **because your redemption is drawing near.**" (Bolding: Mine.)*

The Thessalonian 4:13-18 passage teaches that the those alive and remain will be caught up to meet the Lord, and the dead saints He brings with Him, in the clouds. Thus, Christ comes with and for His saints at the same time. The meaning in the Greek for **remain** means a small left over quantity. This small number of believes occurs only at the end of the Great Tribulation. The Greek work for **descend** means to go to a specific place (without teaching about any return to the beginning place from where Christ came). The Greek word for **meet** (actually: meeting) in the passage carries the idea of going out to meet (have a meeting with) a coming dignitary and then returning to the starting place. It is used elsewhere in Scripture (Matthew 25:6; Acts 28:15) with this meaning. Thus, the Church goes up to "meet" Christ in the clouds and them returns to the earth. **The passage speaks to a war cry and the sound of the trumpet. This occurred in the Old Testament when the Jews went to war.** The concept is that at this time the Church goes up to meet Christ in the clouds and then returns to earth with Christ to make war against the unbelievers (both Jews and Gentiles) and kill them.

The believer has comfort in the 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 passage because he will be always with the Lord. The comfort has nothing to do with whether or not he will miss the endtimes Tribulation. Some wrongly teach that the Rapture must occur before the Tribulation in order to have this comfort.

1 Thessalonians 4:17-18 - Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words.

Sitting at the Right Hand of God -The Lord Jesus Christ, after His Ascension, remains sitting in heaven at the right hand of God the Father (at the right hand of Power) until all His enemies formally become His footstool or under His authority. His enemies do not become His footstool or under His authority, until the end of the Tribulation as most take the Mark-of-the-Beast when all people will have made formal decisions to deny the Christ, and thus, formally become His enemies. They do not formally come under His authority until the heavenly court at the time of the seventh trumpet awards Him the Kingdom of God taken from the Kingdom of the World that was ruled by Satan. This award allows Him to reward the Church and bring the final judgments. This means He does not come to the earth in the clouds to rapture His Church until after the end of the Tribulation. (This doctrine precludes a future Millennium because there would be unbelievers in this period. The Rapture would have to come after this Millennium.)

Acts 2:34-35 - "For it was not David who ascended into heaven, but he himself says: 'The Lord said to my Lord," Sit at My right hand, Until I make Thine enemies a footstool for Thy feet. "'

Hebrews 1:13 - But to which of the angels has He ever said, "Sit at My right hand, Until I make Thine enemies A footstool for Thy feet"?

The Church is Found in Revelation's Tribulation - The Greek word for a believer is the word **saint**

that is used throughout the New Testament Epistles for the Church. **The same word saint (hagios) is also used for believers in Revelation's Tribulation period showing that the Church is found in Revelation's Tribulation. This is true even though the word Church itself is not used after Revelation Chapter Three.** Examples are:

*Revelation 13:7 - And it was 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.*

*Revelation 17:6 - And I saw the woman drunk with the blood of the **saints**, and with the blood of the witnesses of Jesus. And when I saw her, I wondered greatly. (Bolding emphasis: mine.)*

See also Revelation 5:8; 8:3-4; 13:7; 11:18; 13:10; 14:12; 16:6; 17:6:18:20, 24; 19:8; 20:9;

One cannot be a saint without being saved and in the Church. All saved people, all the saints, are in the Church.

The Tribulation is All Nations, not Jewish, in Characteristic - The endtimes Tribulation is all-nations in characteristic (Revelation 7:7-14). It is not exclusively Jewish that would be required for Daniel's all exclusive Jewish seventieth week to be equal to the Tribulation which would in turn require the all-nations Church to be raptured before the Tribulation begins.

The Tribulation is not Jewish in characteristic because the Cross broke down the barrier of the dividing wall between the Jew and the Gentile. Both Jews and Gentiles, as believers, are now equal in Christ, without distinction, in one new man, with Christ now being the only one who can have any preeminence and first place. There are no ethnic divisions in Christ. Thus, there cannot be a future exclusive Jewish Tribulation. Thus, there cannot be a future Jewish Period of any kind. This includes the Tribulation.

The Jews will never again be spiritually prominent over anyone, specially including over the Gentiles as they were in Old Testament Times. Examining Revelation 7:9-14, we find it is all nations, not Jewish is character. The Tribulation does not qualify to be equal to the all exclusive Jewish seventieth week. ***Indeed there are 144000 Israelites called out in Revelation 7. They are only called bond servants of God, meaning they are believers - Christians. The passage does not say what they do. They are no doubt included in the large number of people from all nations that come out of the Great Tribulation. The existence of the 144000 does not demand or determine the Tribulation to be a Jewish period, even though they are again mentioned in Revelation 14:1-5.***

Colossians 1:18 - He [Christ] is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the first-born from the dead; so that He Himself might come to have first place in everything. (Emphasis: mine.)

Romans 10:12 - For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, abounding in riches for all who call upon Him;

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.

*Ephesians 2:11-16 - Therefore remember, that formerly you, the Gentiles in the flesh, who are called "Uncircumcision" by the so-called "Circumcision," which is performed in the flesh by human hands—remember that you were at that time separate from Christ, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. **For He Himself is our peace, who made both groups into one, and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall, by abolishing in His flesh the enmity, which is the Law of commandments contained in***

ordinances, that in Himself **He might make the two into one new man**, thus establishing peace, and might **reconcile them both in one body to God through the cross, by it having put to death the enmity.** (Bolding mine.)

Colossians 3:11 - --a renewal in which there is no distinction between Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and freeman, but Christ is all, and in all.

Revelation 7:3 - saying, "Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees, until we have sealed the **bond-servants** of our God on their foreheads." And I heard the number of those who were sealed, one hundred and forty-four thousand sealed from every tribe of the sons of Israel: (Comment: mine. These of Israel are bond servants of God. The Scripture does not say what Israel does, such as evangelizing.)

Revelation 7:9 - After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude, which no one could count, from every nation and all tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, and palm branches were in their hands;

Revelation 7:13-14 - And one of the elders answered, saying to me, "These who are clothed in the white robes, who are they, and from where have they come?" And I said to him, "My lord, you know." And he said to me, "These are the ones who come out [are coming out] of the great tribulation, and they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. (Comment: mine.)

No More Physical Temples and Animal Sacrifices - The Cross forever set aside physical temples and animal sacrifices for all time periods - forever. Thus, in God's program (although there might be in Satan's), there will not be a Tribulation temple (or a millennial temple if there were to be a millennium) with or without animal sacrifices. The Church is now the sanctuary of God and is to be living sacrifices. The spiritual in relationships has now replaced the natural.

2 Corinthians 6:16 - . For we are the temple of the living God; just as God said, "I will dwell in them and walk among them; And I will be their God, and they shall be My people.

Ephesians 2:19-22 - So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household, having been built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together is growing into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.

Romans 12:1 - I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.

Hebrews 10:4-10 - For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins. Therefore, when He comes into the world, He says, "Sacrifice and offering Thou hast not desired, But a body Thou hast prepared for Me; In whole burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin Thou hast taken no pleasure. "Then I said, 'Behold, I have come (In the roll of the book it is written of Me) To do Thy will, O God.'" After saying above, "Sacrifices and offerings and whole burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin Thou hast not desired, nor hast Thou taken pleasure in them" (which are offered according to the Law), then He said, "Behold, I have come to do Thy will." **He takes away the first in order to establish the second. By this will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.** (Bolding: Mine.)

Daniel's Seventy Weeks - This prophecy has been a stumbling block to biblical interpreters over the years. They have come up with alternative views with many incorrectly (our perception) having made the last week equal to the endtimes Tribulation.

One needs to look carefully at the many details and the context to find the correct interpretation. (See *Watchman Warning*¹ or Anstey's *Chronology of the Old Testament* for detailed development and a most scholarly work.)

The seventy weeks (490 years) were decreed on Daniel's people of the *Southern Kingdom* (Daniel 9:24-27) as the means to restore the Jews in Babylonian captivity to fellowship with God, first to the land (natural), and then to Christ (spiritual), via the New Covenant. ***The weeks are an exclusive Jewish period when God only dealt with the "Southern" Kingdom of Judah.***

The *Northern Kingdom* had been divorced by God at the time the prophecy was given (Jeremiah 3:8). The Southern Kingdom consisted of only two tribes: Judah and Benjamin. Revelation calls out many more than these two tribes (Revelation 7:1-8). ***Thus, Daniel's seventieth week does not match the conditions in Revelation, or vice versa, and thus, does not refer to the Tribulation making it an all Jewish period.***

Daniel's seventy weeks now are all history and do not refer to the endtimes Tribulation or to the program of the anti-Christ. They were for the purpose to tell us when the Messiah the Prince would come to bring the New Covenant for salvation via His Cross. The last (seventieth) week was fulfilled in the ministry of Christ for the first three and one half years and the second three and one half years were fulfilled in the first and early part of the Church Period before the Gospel went to the Gentiles. The Gospel, going out in the sequence of Acts 1:8, did not leave the Jews of the Southern Kingdom and Jerusalem until after this period of the last three and one-half years of Daniel's seventieth week (first three and one-half years in the Church period) was completed. Only then did the Gospel go to the Gentiles - beginning with Cornelius and Paul taking the Gospel to the Gentiles.

Two of the purposes for the seventy weeks were the atonement for iniquity and to bring in everlasting righteousness. These purposes happened at the Cross. Christ was anointed the Messiah the Prince at the exact end of the sixty-nine weeks and cut off (crucified) ***after*** the sixty nine weeks. The exact end of the sixty nine weeks was the starting point of His three and one-half years ministry. Thus, He was crucified in the middle of the seventieth week. The Cross cannot occur between the sixty ninth and the seventieth weeks, as required for the last week to be future and equal to the endtimes Tribulation, because this would place the Cross and the purposes of the weeks outside the period of the seventy weeks. Such a conclusion is the result of a faulty interpretation technique.

There is no preposition in the Hebrew in Daniel 9:27 that demands the covenant be made "for" one week. The translation can be equally that "during" the week or "in one" week a covenant was made. Note these translations:

Daniel 9:27 (Septuagint) - And one week shall establish the covenant with many.

Daniel 9:27 (Berkeley Bible) - In a week, He shall make the covenant to prevail for the many .

The Hebrew in Daniel 9:27 does not state that He initiated the covenant in the last week as a new idea. But instead He made a known covenant (e.g. Jeremiah 31:31-33 for the New Covenant) to become active or make it prevail. There are many references to the New Covenant. ***There are no references anywhere in the Bible that teach the anti-Christ makes a covenant with the Jews.***

There is no reference to any anti-Christ covenant that was known prior to the time of our passage. There is no reference to the anti-Christ or to the endtimes Tribulation in the passage. They are not in the

1. *Watchman Warning* has a 25 page appendix on the development of the seventy weeks. There are many-many aspects to consider. They are not all included in this report.

context of the passage. This has been an assertion by interpreters. ***There is no Scripture that teaches the anti-christ makes a covenant with the Jews.*** One to make the covenant to be one of the anti-Christ, one would have to find two other places in Scripture that teach the same thing. But there are none. There are many Scriptures that teach that Christ makes a New Covenant with the Jews (and with the Gentiles - all people). One for two or three witnesses is:

Deuteronomy 19:15 - ". on the evidence of two or three witnesses a matter shall be confirmed.

It is to be observed that Cyrus the Great, according to the Bible, gave the decree to return the Jews to Israel directly after the 70 year captivity. The decree that many use in their analysis of the seventy weeks is one of Artaxerxes Longamimus in the 20th year of his reign.² This Artaxerxes Longamimus so called decree was given 91 years after the end of the 70 year captivity. ***But this cannot be correct because this would extend the 70 year captivity another 91 years.*** See *Chronology of the Old Testament* by Martin Anstey and/or *Watchman Warning* for details on the dates, chronology, and for a detailed analysis and presentation of the prophecy.

Ezra 1:1-3 - Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, in order to fulfill the word of the Lord by the mouth of Jeremiah, the Lord stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, so that he sent a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and also put it in writing, saying, "Thus says Cyrus king of Persia, 'The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth, and He has appointed me to build Him a house in Jerusalem, which is in Judah. 'Whoever there is among you of all His people, may his God be with him! Let him go up to Jerusalem which is in Judah, and rebuild the house of the Lord, the God of Israel; He is the God who is in Jerusalem.

2 Chronicles 36:22 - Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia-- in order to fulfill the word of the Lord by the mouth of Jeremiah-- the Lord stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, so that he sent a proclamation throughout his kingdom, and also put it in writing, saying, "Thus says Cyrus king of Persia, 'The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth, and He has appointed me to build Him a house in Jerusalem, which is in Judah. Whoever there is among you of all His people, may the Lord his God be with him, and let him go up!'"

Isaiah 44:28 - "It is I who says of Cyrus, 'He is My shepherd! And he will perform all My desire.' And he declares of Jerusalem, 'She will be built,' And of the temple, 'Your foundation will be laid.'"

The decree of Artaxerxes is not valid for two other reasons:

1. The Jews were already back in the land rebuilding the temple and Jerusalem before the decree of Artaxerxes Longamimus was given. See Ezra 3:8; 4:11-12; 23-24; 5:1-2; 6:14.
2. The decree of Artaxerxes was not a decree at all for the initial return to the land. It only a letter given permission to rebuild or repair the city walls after there was a war that had destroyed much of them by fire (Nehemiah 2:1-8). The book of Nehemiah shows that the city had already been rebuilt and the Jews were already living in their rebuilt homes at the time the letter was given. See Nehemiah chapters 4 & 5.

It is to be observed that because Daniel's seventieth week does not refer to the endtimes Tribulation, the Tribulation is not constrained to last only seven years. It can last much longer. Equivalent times for the first part with the Jews (both northern and southern kingdoms) in their pattern sequences was 20

2. The decree of Artaxerxes is chosen because of the chronology difficulties to go from the Old Testament return to get to the time of Christ. Anstey shows the errors. His book is must reading. Although *Watchman Warning* has captured much of his analysis.

years. Because the last part of the Tribulation is declared to be 42 months (3 ½ years), the Tribulation could last from 20 to 25 years (e.g. 23 ½ years). Only God knows the duration. ³

Because the seventieth week does not refer to the Tribulation, it forms no basis to force a Rapture of the all-nations Church to occur before the Tribulation. Instead, it prevents or precludes such a Rapture to occur.

Discussion of Revelation 12 - Satan goes after the offspring (believers only in Israel) of the woman (Israel) for 1260 days (time, times, and half a time) or three and one-half years. This three and one half years is the second part of Daniel's seventieth week, starting from the Day of Pentecost and does not refer to the endtimes Tribulation. It is the first part of the Church Period. It is a time when the Gospel only went to Israel. It only went to the Gentiles after the end of the seventieth week of three and one half years.

Definition of the Church - If we are to understand prophecy, one must understand what is the Church. The Church consists of *all* believers from all time periods. No exceptions. ***The Church is defined as those who having believed in Christ's Cross, have been delivered from (called out from) the Dominion of Satan, the Jurisdiction of the Law, and the Power of Death into the Kingdom of God, under Grace, and freedom from the Law to eternal life. The Church consist of all believers from all time periods and is not limited to include only those believers in the Church period as defined wrongly by Dispensational Theology.***

Acts 26:18 - to open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the dominion of Satan to [the Kingdom of] God, in order that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me.' (Comment: Mine.)

Colossians 1:13-14 - For He delivered us from the domain of darkness [Dominion of Satan], and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son [God], in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. (Comments: Mine.)

Christ only has one body - the Church. His body is never divided such as part before the Tribulation in Rapture and part in the Tribulation after the Rapture. At the Rapture Christ's entire body is raptured at one time when Christ comes with and for His saints at the same time of His Second Coming.

In Christ, Freedom from the Law and Under Grace

Romans 6:14 - For sin shall not be master over you, for you are not under law, but under grace.

3. The number of man is six or its multiples. This makes the duration of man on the earth to be 6000 years. The number of divine division is three. This makes the time of man on the earth to be in three 2000 year periods - the Gentile, the Jewish, and the Church. Dr Anstey shows in his book, *The Chronology of the Old Testament*, that were about 2000 years from Adam to Abraham (Gentile Dispensation) and about 2000 years from Abraham to Christ (Jewish Dispensation).

If the Church period lasts 2000 years and began in AD 30 (Some say AD 33), it will end in 2030. This would make the Tribulation, if our calculations and calendars are correct (we are not predicting or setting dates), to begin in about 2006 to 2010. This time could be in error by many years. We do not know the accuracy of our prime data. This is true especially if the 1000 years as a day after the Tribulation is contained within the Church Period. Only God knows the true timing. But it does give us a potential estimate. It certainly is not 50-100 years away.

Romans 10:4 - For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.

Galatians 3:13 - Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law, having become a curse for us-- for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree"--

Galatians 5:18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the Law.⁴

We are no longer under law because we have been justified before God by the Cross. We do not in our divine nature, received at salvation, put us back under law, because it does not sin. The law was used as a tutor to show one needed a Savior.

The Church includes all people from all biblical time periods where Christ's Satisfied Justice for sin has been applied directly to them.

Only One Resurrection of the Just; One Resurrection of the Unjust - *The Bible teaches only "one" resurrection of the Just (the Church as one group of believers), and this occurs at Christ's Second Coming.* (For a Pre-Tribulation Rapture, one would have to have a minimum of two resurrections (two groups of believers); one before the Tribulation and one afterward. If there were to be a Millennial Kingdom after the Tribulation there would need to have yet another resurrection, making three total (three groups of believers.)) ***The Bible teaches that "all" the Church will be changed in resurrection at the same time - one resurrection (only one group of believers) - in the twinkling of an eye.***

*Luke 14:14 - and you will be blessed, since they do not have the means to repay you; for you will be repaid at **THE** resurrection of the righteous. " (Emphasis: Mine.)*

John 5:28-29 - "Do not marvel at this; for an hour is coming, in which all who are in the tombs shall hear His voice, and shall come forth; those who did the good deeds to a resurrection of life, those who committed the evil deeds to a resurrection of judgment.

1 Corinthians 15:51-52 - Behold I tell you a mystery; we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we all shall be changed.

(The last trumpet sound recorded in the Bible is the one in 1 Thessalonians 4:16 at the time of the Rapture which occurs **after** the sounding of Revelation's seventh trumpet. Christ has the authority to rapture the Church after the court award in Revelation 11:15 just after the time of the seventh trumpet.)

In summary, Christ has but one group of the elect, not multiple groups of the elect. No one is born or saved after the Rapture. (For example, God does not have one group of the Church before the Tribulation, another in the Tribulation, and yet another in a Jewish Golden-Age Millennium. The Bible does not teach this.)

No Partiality with God - God is no respecter of people. He shows no partiality. He would not allow some believers to miss the Tribulation and then place a very large number of believers in the Tribulation to experience disciplinary times. What did these believers do that was so wrong to be in the Tribulation and have the others miss it? What did the first group that was so good that they would miss the

4. When we follow the leading of the Holy Spirit, we use our divine natures and we do not sin. When we follow our own leading using our depraved natures, we place ourselves back under the Law. And when we do, our actions are judged against the Law, and we sin. Thus, we use 1 John 1:9 to be cleansed by the blood of Christ and have fellowship with God restored.

Tribulation?

Acts 10:34 - And opening his mouth, Peter said: "I most certainly understand now that God is not one to show partiality,

Romans 2:11 - For there is no partiality with God.

The Tribulation is disciplinary in nature, not penal for punishment. God's people can experience disciplinary times. These disciplinary times are part of the endtimes Pattern Sequence that is used to terminate history. God disciplines all of those who are His own (Hebrews 12:5).

Legal Authority - The Rapture can only occur after Christ is given the legal authority to do so, according to God's Plan for the spiritual warfare. The heavenly court gives this authority as it awards the Lord and His Christ (and to the saints at the time of the Rapture) the Kingdom of the World as it now becomes the Kingdom of God. It also awards the Title Deed of the Earth as it is taken from Satan.⁵ These awards by the heavenly court occur after the Great Tribulation at the time of the seventh trumpet (before the bowl period) when it determines, by opening the Books of Life and of Works (and others), that Christ has won the spiritual warfare over Satan. This award allows Christ legally, according to the rules of the spiritual warfare, to rapture and reward the Church and bring judgment on all the rest, including on Satan and the evil angels.⁶

Daniel 7:9-14 - "I kept looking Until thrones were set up, And the Ancient of Days took His seat; . The court sat, And the books were opened [including the books of life and of works]. "Then I kept looking because of the sound of the boastful words which the horn was speaking; I kept looking until the beast was slain, and its body was destroyed and given to the burning fire. "As for the rest of the beasts, their dominion was taken away, but an extension of life was granted to them for an appointed period of time. "I kept looking in the night visions, And behold, with the clouds of heaven One like a Son of Man was coming, And He came up to the Ancient of Days And was presented before Him. "And to Him was given dominion, Glory and a kingdom, That all the peoples, nations, and men of every language Might serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion Which will not pass away; And His kingdom is one Which will not be destroyed. (Comment: Mine.)

Daniel 7:26-27 - 'But the court will sit for judgment, and his dominion (the anti-Christ called here the little horn) will be taken away, annihilated and destroyed forever. 'Then the sovereignty, the dominion, and the greatness of all the kingdoms under the whole heaven will be given to the people of the saints of the

5. With the fall of man in the Garden of Eden, Satan usurps the Kingdom of God (that becomes the Kingdom of the World) and the Title Deed of the Earth from Christ. Man now receives a depraved nature and is now transferred into the Dominion of Satan. Henceforth all people are born with depraved natures in the Dominion Satan under his eternal control. For man to be saved and for Christ to win the warfare, He must satisfy God's Justice for sin and transfer **all** believers into the Kingdom of God to be under His eternal control from the Dominion of Satan. Christ wins this authority to transfer believers into the Kingdom of God after the Cross at His Ascension by the heavenly court. But He does not receive the authority to rapture the Church until after **all** believers are translated into the Kingdom of God and until after **all** the unbelievers have made formal rejection of the Gospel. This authority is granted after the Tribulation at the time of the Seventh Trumpet.

6. God has the Book of Life and the Book of Works. All people who will ever live were initially listed in the Book of Life. If they formally deny the Cross in life or by death, their name is erased from the Book. All peoples' works are recorded in the Book of Works. God wrote in other books who the elect are and what works they would do. All of these books are examined by the court at the seventh trumpet and again at the Great White Throne Judgment. If all the elect believe and accomplish all of God's work, Christ wins the warfare. The Church is rewarded based on the works accomplished. Unbelievers are judged and punished based on their works because their names were not found in the Book of Life.

Highest One; His kingdom will be an everlasting kingdom, and all the dominions will serve and obey Him.' (Comment: Mine.)

Revelation 11:15-18 - And the seventh angel sounded; and there arose loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord, and of His Christ; and He will reign forever and ever." And the twenty-four elders, who sit on their thrones before God, fell on their faces and worshiped God, saying, "We give Thee thanks, O Lord God, the Almighty, who art and who wast, because Thou hast taken Thy great power and hast begun to reign. "And the nations were enraged, and Thy wrath came, and the time came for the dead to be judged, and the time to give their reward to Thy bond-servants the prophets and to the saints and to those who fear Thy name, the small and the great, and to destroy those who destroy the earth."

Imminent Rapture - The coming of Christ and our being gathered to be with Him at the Rapture appears to be imminent as described in Scripture (e.g. 1 Thessalonians 1:10).

1 Thessalonians 1:10 - and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, that is Jesus, who delivers us from the wrath to come.

However, since the Rapture has not occurred for 2000 years, there is no way to force the imminence to occur just before or at the time the Tribulation begins. It can be imminent as the Tribulation is ending.

The Rapture could not be imminent in any time period after the day of Pentecost because there are several prophesied events that had to occur first. These include the deaths of Peter and Paul, the destruction of Jerusalem and temple in AD 70, the completion of the Canon of Scripture in AD 96, the preaching of the Gospel to the entire world, the tares being bundled for the fire, and all the elect believing and doing all of God's chosen works. Thus, it is very likely that the imminence can only occur at the end of the Tribulation.

Fulness of the Gentiles - The Deliverer (Christ), bringing the Rapture, will not come until the fulness of the Gentiles has occurred. This is finished by the end of the Great Tribulation.

Romans 11:25-26 - . that a partial hardening has happened to Israel until the fulness of the Gentiles has come in; and thus all Israel will be saved; just as it is written, "The Deliverer will come from Zion, He will remove ungodliness from Jacob."

Wrath - The Church will not experience God's wrath as recorded in John 3:36; 1 Thessalonians 1:10; 5:9 and Romans 2:5; 5:9. When these passages are examined, their period of wrath occurs after Christ's Second Coming and after the Rapture. This is the wrath of the eternal punishment in the bowl period and in the Lake of Fire. None of these periods of wrath refer to the endtimes Tribulation when the Church is on the earth as Pre-Tribulation Rapture interpreters teach. Their argument is that if this wrath refers to the Tribulation, then the Church must be raptured before the Tribulation begins.

One must realize that the Old Testament Jews experienced God's wrath in discipline, and the Old Testament calls it wrath. The Church will experience God's wrath in discipline coming in the seals and first six trumpets. ***Revelation teaches that there are saints (the Church) on the earth during these time periods. Thus, the Church will not miss them.***

But the Church will not experience God's penal wrath in the time of Revelation's bowls or vials and in the Lake of Fire. They occur after the Rapture. The Rapture occurs at Christ's Second Coming that occurs before the content of the bowls are poured out.

The wrath referred to in the following Scriptures is the wrath of the Lake of Fire, not the wrath of the Tribulation. The Church will not experience this wrath by salvation in Christ as is in the context of these

Scriptures.

John 3:36 - "He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."

Romans 2:5 - But because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart, you are storing wrath for yourself in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God.

Romans 5:9 - Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him.

1 Thessalonians 1:10 - and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, that is Jesus, who delivers us from the wrath to come.

1 Thessalonians 5:9 - For God has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,

Day of the Lord - The Church will not experience the Day of the Lord found in 1 Thessalonians 5:1-9 (and in Acts 2:20). This day of the Lord occurs during the time of Revelation's bowls or vials that occur after Christ's Second Coming, after the Rapture, and after the endtimes Tribulation. **The endtimes Day of the Lord is not equal to the entire endtimes Tribulation.** It occurs when God destroys a powerful nation such as Babylon in Isaiah 13. The final and great one in Revelation 16:14 at the time of the sixth bowl happening occurs at the last battles at the battle of Armageddon when all the remaining nations are destroyed after Christ's Second Coming and after the Rapture. (Revelation 16:12-16.)

Revelation 16:14 - .the great day of God, the Almighty.

The Jews themselves experienced a day of the Lord at their devastating calamity by Babylon. Such a day of the Lord comes at the time of the first six trumpets. This occurs as a devastating calamity in Revelation's endtimes as part of the Pattern Sequence.

Revelation 3:10 - Pre-Tribulation Rapture interpreters teach that Revelation 3:10 implies the Church will be raptured before the hour of trial (the Tribulation) begins (without proving the hour of trial is equal to the Tribulation).

Revelation 3:10 - 'Because you have kept the word of My perseverance, I also will keep you from [ek out of] the hour of testing, that hour which is about to come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell upon the earth.

Revelation 3:10 in the Greek can mean that believers go through the hour of trial but are kept from its effects (are preserved from harm or its effects by God). The Greek word or preposition *ek* used in this passage is used elsewhere in John 17:15 with this meaning (even though not an exact match).

John 17:15 - "I do not ask Thee to take them out of [ek] the world, but to keep them from the evil one.

The believers are preserved in the Tribulation from the evil one because they have eternal security in Christ. God preserves them. The passage, according to the Greek, does not require removal of the Church before the period begins. It teaches just the opposite. An alternative legitimate translation or interpretation is:

Revelation 3:10 - 'Because you have kept the word of My perseverance, I also will keep you from [implied separated from but still in the presence of] the hour of testing, that hour which is about to come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell upon the earth.

Also one has to prove that the hour of Trial refers to the Tribulation. It could occur during the bowls.

2 Thessalonians 2:7 - Pre-Tribulation Rapture interpreters teach that 2 Thessalonians 2:7 teaches the Church will miss the Tribulation because she is taken out with the Holy Spirit before the man of lawlessness can be revealed. However, 2 Thessalonians 2:7 in the Greek can mean that the man of lawlessness is restrained from coming out of the midst of mankind until God releases the constraint. This is the context of the passage. The passage, nor its context, does not teach that the man of lawless cannot be revealed until the Holy Spirit in the Church is removed from the scene. The taking away of the Holy Spirit is not in the context of the passage. Nor is the Church being taken out with the Holy Spirit. These are assertions by interpreters that the Bible does not teach. **(We know that the Holy Spirit is not removed because there are many believers in the Tribulation.)**

Standard Translation - 2 Thessalonians 2:7 - *For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only he who now restrains will do so until he is taken out of the way.*

Alternative Translation - 2 Thessalonians 2:7 - *For the mystery of [the] lawless [one] is operating now and will do so until he [man of lawlessness] comes out from the midst of mankind or from among them.*

The man of lawlessness is revealed as God allows him because of the great apostasy of the Church and of the people, not because the Holy Spirit removes the Church in rapture.

The Tribulation is Future Occurring Just Before Christ's Coming - When Christ comes the Second Time, He casts the **individuals** (persons) of Revelation's Beast and False Prophet into the Lake of Fire (Revelation 19:20; 20:10). They were in Revelation's endtimes Great Tribulation. Daniel also speaks of a little horn, a person, (the Beast of Revelation 13) that rules for three and one half years (time, times, and half a time) and his dominion is taken away by the coming of Christ (Daniel 7:9-14; 26-27).⁷

This shows that Revelation's Tribulation occurs just before Christ comes the Second Time. This Beast Period therefore is not historical in the Church Period as in the preterist view. (This makes the Preterist, Post-Millennial, and Reconstructions Views invalid.)

Daniel 7:24-27 - 'As for the ten horns, out of this kingdom ten kings will arise; and another will arise after them, and he will be different from the previous ones and will subdue three kings. 'And he will speak out against the Most High and wear down the saints of the Highest One, and he will intend to make alterations in times and in law; and they will be given into his hand for a time, times, and half a time. 'But the court will sit for judgment, and his dominion will be taken away, annihilated and destroyed forever. 'Then the sovereignty, the dominion, and the greatness of all the kingdoms under the whole heaven will be given to the people of the saints of the Highest One; His kingdom will be an everlasting kingdom, and all the dominions will serve and obey Him.'

(Comment: There is a time gap in this Daniel 7 Scripture from the time of Rome [the kingdom] to the time of the ten kings and to this man of sin we call the anti-Christ. The gap is the Church period because it was held as a mystery - revealed after Pentecost but not before. (Ephesians 5:32)

Revelation 19:20 - [As Christ comes the Second Time] 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.

Also the great multitude appears in heaven as the individuals of this multitude are coming out of (dying

7. The Beast is given a three and one year reign as our Lord was given during the Gospel period.

in) the Great Tribulation. This is a unique Tribulation and not just any tribulation because the Greek article is used with Tribulation. Note:

*Revelation 7:13-14 - And one of the elders answered, saying to me, "These who are clothed in the white robes, who are they, and from where have they come?" And I said to him, "My lord, you know." And he said to me, "These are the ones who come out [are coming out] of **THE** great tribulation, and they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. (Comments: mine.)*

The Greek has it THE Tribulation, THE great one.

Kenneth Wuest in his translation of *The New Testament* has it:

*Revelation 7:14 - These are the ones that come out of **the** great tribulation, **the** great one.*

Olivet Discourse - It is to be understood that the Great Tribulation or days of Vengeance in the Olivet Discourse (such as in Matthew 24:15-21; Luke 21:20-24) occurred at AD 70 with the destruction of the then existing temple by the Romans armies. We know this because this destruction answers the disciple's question as to when all the stones of the existing temple would be thrown down (Luke 21:5-7), and it is a result of the Romans armies surrounding the city as described in Luke 21:20-24). (See *A Harmony of the Gospels* that places the Scriptures of the Gospels side by side.) The Great Tribulation of Revelation is a different Tribulation and occurs just before Christ comes. The Tribulation of those days as described in Matthew 24:29 at the time of Christ's coming is the endtimes Tribulation; not the one in AD 70.

Many believe that because of the Great Tribulation mentioned in Matthew 24:21 that will not be repeated that this Tribulation must refer to the endtimes Tribulation. But this is not so, It is an idiom that God uses every time He brings judgment against the Jews. Compare these Scriptures.

Matthew 24:21 - for then there will be a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever shall.

Ezekiel 5:9 - 'And because of all your abominations, I will do among you what I have not done, and the like of which I will never do again.

The Church period is not per se written in this passage because the Church period was held as a mystery until after the day of Pentecost (Ephesians 5:32). So the endtimes Tribulation is indirectly, not directly, called out in Matthew 24:23-28. The transition and jump to the endtimes begins with verse 23. The sequence in Revelation that precedes Christ's return begins the series of events that terminates history according to the Pattern Sequence that was already discussed. (*Watchman Warning* has a detailed Scriptural development and discussion of the Olivet Discourse.)

The Pre-Tribulation and Pre-Wrath (Mid-Tribulation) Rapture Views of the Church Are Not Viable

The Pre-Tribulation Rapture (and a Mid-Tribulation or Pre-Wrath Rapture) is not viable. After an assumed Pre-Tribulation Rapture, a number of believers from all nations come out (die and go to heaven) of Revelation's Great Tribulation of such a large number that no one can count them (Revelation 7:9-14). These die over a time period, continuously coming out of Great Tribulation.

Revelation 7:9 - After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude, which no one could count, from every nation and all tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, and palm branches were in their hands;

Revelation 7:14 - And I said to him, "My lord, you know." And he said to me, "These are the ones who come (are coming) out of the great tribulation, and they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. (Comment: Mine.)

In order to have a Pre-Tribulation Rapture to occur, this large number of people from all nations would have to be saved in three and one-half to seven years, based on Daniel's seventieth week being equal to the Tribulation, when after the assumed Rapture: (1) there are no believers to preach the Gospel (which the Bible requires; Romans 10:13-15); (2) no unbeliever seeks after God (Romans 3:11); (3) the government is making war against the Church, not allowing any open evangelism and killing most believers (Revelation 6:9-11); and (4) the world's people are in extreme apostasy, believing in anything but the Cross of Christ. Just before the Tribulation begins, the Church has been falling away and doing much less evangelism. (It should be pointed out that the 144,000 Jews probably had but little, if anything, to do with the salvation of the large number of people from all nations that die in the Great Tribulation. The Bible does not teach that they evangelized anyone. They were only called bond servants of God.)

God said that unless He leaves a few believers, the people would become like Sodom and Gomorrah (in complete apostasy) and then no longer could be saved.

Isaiah 1:9 - Unless the Lord of hosts Had left us a few survivors, We would be like Sodom, We would be like Gomorrah.

Thus, after a Pre-Tribulation Rapture, all the people remaining would be killed by God because none can any longer be saved. Their spiritual condition will not allow them to be saved. They are in unbelief. They would be in complete apostasy as the people were in the days of Sodom and Gomorrah and in the days of Noah. (This is the situation at Christ's Second Coming.)

The situation of this great number being saved is viable if this great number of believers are saved before the Tribulation begins, and die in the Tribulation. And after the Post-Tribulation Rapture that occurs at Christ's Second Coming, all the unbelievers are indeed killed. Being in great apostasy, they have taken the Mark of the Beast and no longer can be saved.

Summary: Purposes for the Tribulation

The purposes of the endtimes Tribulation are threefold:

1. Formally and bindingly polarize the beliefs of all who would live to accept or deny the Gospel.
2. How Christ gains back the Title Deed of the earth from Satan. Revelation's events unfold according to a scroll. God uses scrolls for how one wins back their property.
3. For God to bring divine discipline on the Church and nations as they fall away from Him in the endtimes special sequence. He establishes an endtimes sequence and the United States as a favored nation for this to occur. This is God's method for how He terminates history.

Should Know God's Criteria For Events (Repeated for Emphasis)

If we are to know prophecy, we need to know God's criteria that He has planned that must be fulfilled in order to know when He will bring the Rapture, the tribulation, and the 1000 years by His established Plan.

There is an engineering idiom that helps us to stay on course by doing more work and being more thorough than we might otherwise be.

"Do not think what you want to think until you know what you should know."

The Rapture can only come after Christ is awarded full and legal authority by the heavenly court after it has determined that He has won the spiritual warfare over Satan. This determination is made after all people have lived and have made formal decisions in life or by death to accept or deny the Gospel. This award is based on the fact, that at that time, all the elect did actually believe and the elect did actually accomplish all of God's work. The court decision is made at Revelation's seventh trumpet that occurs after the Great Tribulation.

The Tribulation can only begin after the endtimes Pattern Sequence has been started or initiated by God and the sin of the Church and the rest of the people has increased to the point that it crosses God's allowable threshold. Signs and conditions in the world, according to the Pattern sequence, signal and warn us when this might occur, even though only God knows the timing. These signs are now all around us. Only God knows how mature the signs must become before He brings the Tribulation.

Wrongly Assumed Teachings For a Pre-Tribulation Rapture

In order to have a Pre-Tribulation **all** of the following must be true (The Bible does not teach any of them):

- The Rapture can be imminent at any time and will occur just before the Tribulation begins.
- Daniel's seventieth is equal to the endtimes Tribulation.
- God will return physical temples and animal sacrifices.
- The Church is composed of only those believers in the Church Period.
- The Church, composed of only believers, goes to heaven and Israel, composed of both believers and unbelievers, goes into the Land.
- God shows partiality allowing some believers to be raptured before the Tribulation and put other believers in the Tribulation.
- The wrath of God the Church is to miss is in the Tribulation.
- Christ does not come for and with His saints at the same time. He comes for His saints before the Tribulation and with His saints after the Tribulation.
- At the Rapture, the Church is not resurrected because there is only one resurrection of the Just.
- There are multiple resurrections of the Just.
- The last Great Day of the Lord is equal to the endtimes Tribulation.
- Jewish and Gentiles believers are not now one new man in Christ without distinction.
- Maturity in Christ is not essential.
- God is married to both Israel and to the Church at the same time.
- The tares are bundled for the fire before the Tribulation begins so the wheat can be separated from

the tares in Rapture before the Tribulation.

- The enemies of Christ become His footstool before the Tribulation begins.
- The Bible does not use the oriental marriage concept so the Church can be raptured before Christ's Second Coming.
- The three Greek words for the coming, the appearance, and the revelation of Christ can refer to more than one event such as one before the Tribulation and one after the Tribulation.
- The Kingdom of God is ruled from the earth and is equal to a future kingdom of Israel on earth after Christ's Second Coming.
- One has to return to worship God in physical temples in Jerusalem instead of in spirit and in truth everywhere. (For people from world wide to worship God in a Jerusalem temple is not even practical.)

Conclusion

Without ambiguity, we conclude that "all" Bible doctrine teaches a Post-Tribulation Rapture (the Rapture comes at Christ's Second Coming) and the Tribulation occurs just before Christ comes at His Second Coming, but before the bowl period. All unbelievers are killed, after God's people are delivered to Christ in the Rapture. This occurs during Christ's Second Coming and leaves no one to enter a Millennium. As will be shown, the 1000 years occurs during the Second Coming of Christ as He with the Church evaluates whether or not those who remain after the Rapture can be saved. None repent to be saved.

The Bible does not teach a Pre- or a Mid-Tribulation Rapture. It does not teach a preterist view.

Impacts of Our Prophetic Rapture Views

The impacts of believing otherwise than a Post-Tribulation Rapture (Pre-Wrath Rapture) can be as follows ***if*** one does not train their people adequately to become mature in Christ and to help do area-wide evangelism:

1. Those believing in Preterist view of history (Revelation's Tribulation is history in the Church Period and does not occur as the endtimes come) and/or Pre-Tribulation Rapture View (and those who believe in a Post-Tribulation Rapture View but who do not see the signs of the impending Tribulation) have little incentive from a prophetic viewpoint to warn their people of coming Tribulation disciplinary action. This can be most dangerous for their people.

As a result, they can be guilty of the people's blood and allow them to be caught unaware and blind sided by the calamity that comes as the Tribulation begins. Those who hold this view by believing times are normal right up to the Second Coming, have no clue as the fact they will go through a most devastating Tribulation. They see no need to give extra training how to respond in terrible and persecution times.

2. Those believing in any Rapture View who do not mature their people in Christ, do their people a most terrible injustice for when the Tribulation comes and when their people enter eternity. They will not know and be able to relate to God as much in eternity, and they will not send as much wealth on a head or receive as many rewards in eternity as God wants to give. They bring harm to Christ's ministry when they do not do adequate evangelism. **Leaders not doing the training can expect judgment.** (Are any of us really free from endtimes judgment? It appears it will be a matter of degree.)