

THE ULTIMATE
SCRIPTURE STUDY GUIDE

AGAINST THE
PRE-TRIB RAPTURE

*Tribulation, Wrath, the Coming of Christ, and the
Gathering of the Elect*

BY FLAWED CHRISTIAN™

FLAWED CHRISTIAN MINISTRY

The Ultimate Scripture Study Guide Against the Pre-Trib Rapture

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INTRODUCTION

The pre-tribulation rapture says Jesus secretly removes believers before the tribulation begins, then returns later in glory after the tribulation. The problem is that Jesus never says that. Paul never says that. Revelation never lays it out that way. What Scripture does say is this:

- Jesus says he comes after the tribulation.
- Jesus says after the tribulation he gathers his elect.
- Paul says our gathering to Christ does not happen until after the man of lawlessness is revealed.
- Revelation shows saints on earth during beast persecution.
- Believers are promised deliverance from God's wrath, but not escape from tribulation.

That means tribulation and wrath must be distinguished. If they are not distinguished, the whole end-times sequence gets confused.

I. THE FOUNDATION: TRIBULATION IS NOT THE SAME AS GOD'S WRATH

This is the first major error in pre-trib doctrine. It treats the whole end-time trouble as if it is all God's wrath. But the Bible does not speak that way.

A. BELIEVERS ARE PROMISED TRIBULATION

John 16:33

Jesus says, "In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."

Acts 14:22

Paul says believers enter the kingdom "through many tribulations."

Romans 12:12

Believers are told to be "patient in tribulation." These verses alone prove tribulation is not automatically the wrath of God, because Christians experience tribulation throughout history.

B. TRIBULATION IN THE LAST DAYS IS LARGELY SATANIC AND BEASTLY PERSECUTION

Matthew 24:9

Jesus says, "Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and put you to death."

Revelation 12:17

The dragon goes off "to make war on the rest of her offspring, on those who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus."

Revelation 13:7

The beast is allowed "to make war on the saints and to conquer them." That is not God pouring out wrath on his own people. That is Satan raging through the beast against God's people.

C. BELIEVERS ARE NOT APPOINTED TO WRATH

Romans 5:9

Believers are "saved by him from the wrath of God."

1 Thessalonians 1:10

Jesus "delivers us from the wrath to come."

1 Thessalonians 5:9

"God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ." So the biblical picture is simple:

- Tribulation: believers endure it.
- Wrath: believers are spared from it.

Those are not the same thing.

2. JESUS EXPLICITLY SAYS HE COMES AFTER THE TRIBULATION

This should end the debate for anyone willing to let Jesus speak plainly.

Matthew 24:29 to 31

Jesus gives the sequence:

- "Immediately after the tribulation of those days"
- the sun is darkened,
- the moon will not give its light,
- the stars fall,
- the powers of the heavens are shaken,
- then the sign of the Son of Man appears,
- then all the tribes of the earth mourn,
- then they see the Son of Man coming on the clouds,
- then he sends out his angels with a loud trumpet call,
- then they gather his elect from the four winds.

That order is direct and unmistakable.

- Not before tribulation.
- Not in the middle of tribulation.
- Immediately after the tribulation.

Mark 13:24 to 27 says the same thing. "But in those days, after that tribulation" the heavenly signs occur, then the Son of Man comes, then he gathers his elect. So when does Jesus gather the elect? After the tribulation. That means the elect are present through the tribulation.

3. JESUS TAUGHT ENDURANCE THROUGH TRIBULATION, NOT ESCAPE FROM IT

When the disciples ask Jesus about the end, he does not say, "Do not worry, you will be gone before this begins." He says the opposite.

Matthew 24:9

"Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and put you to death."

Matthew 24:13

"But the one who endures to the end will be saved."

Matthew 24:21 to 22

"For then there will be great tribulation... And if those days had not been cut short, no human being would be saved. But for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short." That is crucial. The days are cut short for the sake of the elect. Why would tribulation days need to be cut short for the elect if the elect are already gone? They would not. The elect are present. That is why the days are cut short.

4. THE ELECT AND THE 144,000

A. JESUS SAYS THE ELECT ARE PRESENT DURING GREAT TRIBULATION

Matthew 24:22

"For the sake of the elect those days will be cut short."

Matthew 24:24

False christs and false prophets arise "so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect."

Matthew 24:31

Jesus sends his angels to "gather his elect from the four winds." So the elect are:

- present during the tribulation,
- targeted by deception,
- and gathered by Jesus after tribulation.

B. REVELATION IDENTIFIES A DISTINCT SEALED END-TIME REMNANT

Revelation 7:4

John hears the number of the sealed, 144,000, sealed from every tribe of the sons of Israel.

Revelation 14:1 to 5

The 144,000 stand with the Lamb. They have his name and his Father's name on their foreheads. They are described as virgins. They are redeemed from mankind as firstfruits. This gives a distinct elect remnant, sealed and preserved.

C. WHY CONNECT THE ELECT OF MATTHEW 24 WITH THE 144,000?

Matthew 24 is centered on Judea, the abomination of desolation, the holy place, Sabbath flight, and a distinctly Jewish end-time setting. In that same end-time context, Revelation shows a numbered, sealed remnant from Israel. So the case is this:

- Jesus speaks of elect preserved through tribulation and gathered at his coming.
- Revelation identifies a specific sealed Jewish remnant, the 144,000.
- Therefore the elect gathered by Jesus can be understood as that sealed Jewish remnant.

D. REVELATION 14 SUPPORTS THEIR PURITY AND SET-APART STATUS

Revelation 14:4

“These have not defiled themselves with women, for they are virgins.”

E. THE ELECT CAN BE TARGETED BY DECEPTION

Matthew 24:24

False signs are strong enough that, “if possible,” even the elect would be deceived. That does not mean the elect actually will be fully lost. It means the deception is so powerful it would reach even them if God did not preserve and shorten the days.

5. PAUL DESTROYS THE PRE-TRIB SEQUENCE IN 2 THESSALONIANS 2

This is one of the strongest chapters in the entire debate.

2 Thessalonians 2:1 to 3

Paul says he is speaking "concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to him." That is the subject:

- the coming of Christ
- and our gathering to him

Then Paul says: "That day will not come, unless the rebellion comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed." That is devastating to pre-trib doctrine. Paul does not say: Jesus gathers us before the man of lawlessness appears. He says: that day will not come unless the rebellion comes first and the man of lawlessness is revealed. So the sequence is:

- 1. Rebellion
- 2. Man of lawlessness revealed
- 3. Then the coming and gathering

That is not pre-trib. That is plainly post-revelation-of-Antichrist.

6. THE MAN OF LAWLESSNESS, THE BEAST, AND THE WAR ON THE SAINTS

Daniel, Jesus, Paul, and Revelation all line up.

A. DANIEL

Daniel 7:21

The horn made war with the saints and prevailed over them.

Daniel 7:25

He shall speak words against the Most High and "shall wear out the saints of the Most High."

B. JESUS

Matthew 24:15

The abomination of desolation stands in the holy place.

Matthew 24:21

Then there is great tribulation.

Matthew 24:22

The days are cut short for the sake of the elect.

C. PAUL

2 Thessalonians 2:3 to 4

The man of lawlessness is revealed and takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God.

D. REVELATION

Revelation 13:7

The beast is allowed to make war on the saints.

Revelation 13:10

"Here is a call for the endurance and faith of the saints."

Revelation 14:12

"Here is a call for the endurance of the saints." This all fits one picture:

- Antichrist rises,
- persecution intensifies,
- saints are present,
- endurance is required,
- Jesus returns after tribulation.

7. REVELATION SHOWS TRIBULATION BEFORE WRATH

The seals are key.

A. FIFTH SEAL: MARTYRS

Revelation 6:9 to 11

John sees souls under the altar who had been slain for the word of God and for their testimony. These are persecuted faithful people. This is tribulation.

B. SIXTH SEAL: COSMIC SIGNS

Revelation 6:12 to 14

There is a great earthquake.

The sun becomes black. The moon becomes like blood. The stars fall. The sky vanishes like a scroll. This matches Matthew 24:29 and Mark 13:24 to 25.

C. THEN WRATH IS ANNOUNCED

Revelation 6:16 to 17

The kings and great men cry out because "the great day of their wrath has come." Notice that carefully. It does not say the entire prior tribulation period was already the full outpouring of God's wrath. It says the great day of wrath has come. That means the martyrdom and persecution shown earlier are not the same as the final day of wrath now arriving. That is one of the strongest biblical distinctions in the whole debate.

8. THE GREAT MULTITUDE COMES OUT OF THE GREAT TRIBULATION

Revelation 7:9 to 14 describes a great multitude before the throne. One of the elders explains them: "These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation." Again, that does not sound like everybody vanished before tribulation began. It sounds like God's people come through it. This is entirely consistent with Jesus saying endurance is required and that he comes after tribulation.

9. THE TRUMPET, THE COMING, AND THE GATHERING ARE ONE PUBLIC EVENT

Pre-trib doctrine often tries to separate Christ's coming into two different events:

- one secret coming for the church
- then another visible coming later

But Scripture repeatedly presents one climactic public event.

A. JESUS

Matthew 24:30 to 31

The Son of Man appears. He comes on the clouds. A loud trumpet sounds. The elect are gathered.

B. PAUL

1 Thessalonians 4:16 to 17

The Lord descends from heaven. There is a cry of command. The voice of an archangel is heard. The trumpet of God sounds. The dead in Christ rise. The living are caught up to meet the Lord. That is not secret language. That is public, loud, climactic, royal language.

C. PAUL AGAIN

1 Corinthians 15:51 to 52

The resurrection and transformation happen "at the last trumpet." If it is the last trumpet, it cannot easily be a secret earlier trumpet separated by years from the visible end. These passages naturally fit the same event: the post-trib

coming of Christ.

10. THE DAY OF THE LORD AND WRATH FOLLOW THE COMING OF CHRIST

1 Thessalonians 5 continues directly from chapter 4. Paul moves from the coming, resurrection, and gathering into the Day of the Lord.

1 Thessalonians 5:2 to 3

The Day of the Lord comes like a thief in the night upon the unsuspecting world, and sudden destruction comes upon them.

1 Thessalonians 5:4

Believers are not in darkness that the day should surprise them like a thief.

1 Thessalonians 5:9

Believers are not appointed to wrath. So believers are watching and ready. The wicked are caught off guard. Wrath falls on them. Believers are spared from wrath. But again, spared from wrath does not mean absent from all prior tribulation.

II. JESUS' "AFTER TRIBULATION" ORDER MATCHES REVELATION'S SEAL ORDER

Watch how tightly this fits. Matthew 24 order:

- 1. Great tribulation
- 2. Sun darkened and moon affected
- 3. Son of Man appears
- 4. Gathering of the elect
- 5. Judgment follows

Revelation order:

- 1. Persecution and martyrdom
- 2. Cosmic disturbances in the sixth seal
- 3. Announcement that wrath has come
- 4. Sealing and preservation
- 5. Trumpets and bowls of judgment unfold

The flow is the same:

- tribulation first
- then heavenly signs
- then arrival of wrath

That destroys the idea that tribulation itself is already God's wrath.

12. MAIN PRE-TRIB ARGUMENTS ANSWERED

A. “WE ARE NOT APPOINTED TO WRATH”

Correct. But tribulation is not identical to wrath. 1 Thessalonians 5:9 does not say believers are removed before tribulation.

It says they are not appointed to wrath.

B. “JESUS COMES LIKE A THIEF”

Yes, for the world. But 1 Thessalonians 5:4 says believers are not in darkness that the day should surprise them like a thief. The point is readiness, not a secret two-stage return.

C. “REVELATION 3:10 SAYS KEEP FROM THE HOUR OF TRIAL”

Revelation 3:10 says Jesus will keep the faithful from the hour of trial. But that does not have to mean removal before it starts. It can mean preservation through it. John 17:15 is the best parallel. Jesus says, “I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one.” Kept from does not mean removed from the world.

D. “THE CHURCH IS NOT MENTIONED AFTER REVELATION 4”

That argument proves too much. Saints are mentioned. Those who keep the commandments of God are mentioned. Those who hold to the testimony of Jesus are mentioned. The absence of the English word “church” in certain chapters does not prove

believers are gone.

E. “ONE TAKEN, ONE LEFT”

Matthew 24:37 to 41 is in the context of Noah. In Noah’s day, those taken were taken in judgment by the flood, while Noah remained alive. That passage is not a clean pre-trib proof text at all.

13. THE DAYS ARE CUT SHORT FOR THE SAKE OF THE ELECT

This deserves special emphasis because it is fatal to pre-trib doctrine.

Matthew 24:21 to 22

Jesus says there will be great tribulation, and if those days were not cut short, no flesh would survive. But for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short. That means:

- the elect are on earth during that tribulation
- the elect need divine intervention
- the tribulation is shortened for their survival

If the elect were already removed before tribulation, that verse would make no sense.

14. IF POSSIBLE, EVEN THE ELECT

Matthew 24:24 says the false christs and false prophets perform great signs and wonders "so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect." This shows:

- the deception is end-time and intense
- the elect are in the environment where deception is happening
- the elect are the target of the deception
- God's preservation is what keeps them

This fits perfectly with the idea that the elect are still present during the tribulation and preserved by God.

15. THE ANTICHRIST WOULD OVERWHELM HUMANITY IF THE DAYS WERE NOT SHORTENED

Matthew 24:22 says that if those days had not been cut short, no human being would be saved. That means the tribulation is so severe that it threatens total devastation. It is not cut short because the elect are absent. It is cut short because the elect are present and God intervenes for their sake.

16. CLEAR SCRIPTURAL ORDER OF EVENTS

Here is the cleanest sequence that can be taught.

- 1. The gospel continues to go out

Matthew 24:14

- 2. Rising deception, wars, famines, earthquakes, and persecution

Matthew 24:4 to 13

- 3. The abomination of desolation stands in the holy place

Matthew 24:15

Daniel 9:27

Daniel 11:31

Daniel 12:11

- 4. The man of lawlessness is revealed

2 Thessalonians 2:3 to 4

- 5. The beast wages war on the saints

Daniel 7:21, 25

Revelation 13:7

- 6. Great tribulation occurs

Matthew 24:21

Revelation 7:14

- 7. Those days are cut short for the sake of the elect

Matthew 24:22

- 8. False signs and deception intensify

Matthew 24:24

- 9. Cosmic signs occur after the tribulation

Matthew 24:29

Mark 13:24 to 25

Revelation 6:12 to 14

- 10. Jesus appears in glory

Matthew 24:30

Mark 13:26

2 Thessalonians 2:8

- 11. Jesus sends out angels with a loud trumpet

Matthew 24:31

1 Thessalonians 4:16

1 Corinthians 15:52

- 12. The elect are gathered from the four winds

Matthew 24:31

Mark 13:27

- 13. The dead are raised and the living transformed

1 Thessalonians 4:16 to 17

1 Corinthians 15:51 to 52

- 14. The Day of the Lord and wrath fall on the wicked

1 Thessalonians 5:2 to 3

Revelation 6:17

Revelation 8 to 16

17. THE SIMPLEST ARGUMENT IN ONE PARAGRAPH

Jesus said he comes "immediately after the tribulation" and then gathers his elect with a loud trumpet from the four winds (Matthew 24:29 to 31). Paul said our gathering to Christ will not happen until after the rebellion comes and the man of lawlessness is revealed (2 Thessalonians 2:1 to 3). Revelation shows saints being persecuted by the beast and martyrs crying out before the great day of God's wrath is announced as having arrived (Revelation 6:9 to 17; 13:7). Therefore tribulation is not the same as wrath, the people of God are present during tribulation, and Christ gathers his elect after the tribulation, not before it.

18. DIRECT ANSWERS TO COMMON QUESTIONS

Does Jesus come before tribulation? No. He says he comes after tribulation in Matthew 24:29 to 31 and Mark 13:24 to 27. Are believers promised escape from tribulation? No. They are promised tribulation, endurance, and victory through Christ. John 16:33, Matthew 24:9 to 13, Revelation 13:10, Revelation 14:12. Are believers spared from God's wrath? Yes. Romans 5:9, 1 Thessalonians 1:10, 1 Thessalonians 5:9. Are tribulation and wrath the same event? No. Tribulation is persecution and distress. Wrath is God's judicial outpouring. Revelation 6 shows persecution first, then wrath arriving. Can the elect be present during the tribulation? Yes. Matthew 24:22, 24, and 31 explicitly place the elect in that period. Is the gathering before or after Antichrist is revealed? After. 2 Thessalonians 2:1 to 3.

FINAL CONCLUSION

The pre-trib rapture is not taught by the plain words of Jesus. Jesus says he comes after the tribulation. Jesus says after the tribulation he gathers his elect. Paul says our gathering does not happen until the man of lawlessness is revealed. Revelation shows saints enduring beast persecution before the day of wrath arrives. Believers are delivered from wrath, not from all tribulation. So the biblical pattern is not: tribulation equals wrath, therefore believers must be gone first. The biblical pattern is:

- tribulation comes through Satan, the beast, and a hostile world,
- the elect endure and are preserved,
- Jesus returns after the tribulation,
- he gathers his elect,
- then the day of the Lord and God's wrath fall on the wicked.

That is the scriptural order.