

Questions About the Rapture, Pre-Tribulation, the Great Falling Away

By Pastor Ed Anderson

Good Evening Pastor Anderson!

I see a lot of people watching and telling people the “rapture” is upon us. I know in the last days we are witnessing false prophets. (Just like the guy from South Africa I believe it was said that the rapture was going to happen September 22-24 then changed it to October). How do we explain to people in a loving way that Pre-Tribulation is not biblical? People love to use the 2nd Peter 3:10 which says " But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare." Also do you believe that this is apart of the great falling away? In reality they are being deceived by this false teaching.

Answer:

Good evening and thank you for your heartfelt and thoughtful message. You’re asking an *extremely* important question that speaks right into the heart of Bible prophecy, deception, and how to lovingly guide people into truth — especially in these confusing times. Let’s break this down clearly and biblically.

Is the “Pre-Tribulation Rapture” Biblical?

No — it is not.

The idea that Christians will be secretly “raptured” away *before* the time of trouble and the mark of the beast is **not found anywhere in Scripture** when studied carefully and in context. It is a **man-made teaching** that gives a **false sense of security**.

Let’s clarify with Scripture:

1. No Secret Rapture — Jesus’ Return Is Visible, Loud, and Global

“For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a **shout**, with the **voice of the archangel**, and with the **trumpet of God**. And the dead in Christ will rise first.”

— 1 Thessalonians 4:16

- No one misses this! This is not quiet.
- There's a **shout**, a **trumpet**, and a **resurrection**!
- This is **after** the tribulation — not before.

2. Matthew 24 Says Jesus Comes After the Tribulation

"Immediately **after the tribulation** of those days... they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory."

— *Matthew 24:29–30*

- Jesus Himself says the Second Coming is **after** the tribulation.
- Then the **elect are gathered** (v. 31) — not secretly taken before.

3. What About "Like a Thief in the Night"?

"But the day of the Lord will come like a thief..."

— *2 Peter 3:10*

This does **not** mean *secretly* — it means **suddenly** and **unexpectedly** for the unprepared.

Paul clarifies:

"But you, brethren, are not in darkness so that this day should overtake you as a thief."

— *1 Thessalonians 5:4*

In other words:



For the world, it will be a surprise.



For God's people, it will be anticipated.

Is This Teaching Part of the Great Falling Away?

Yes. Absolutely.

The Bible warns:

"Let no one deceive you by any means; for **that Day will not come** unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed..."

— *2 Thessalonians 2:3*

- The **rapture teaching** helps *millions* avoid preparing for the **Mark of the Beast**, the **plagues**, and the **real test of loyalty**.
- When tribulation hits and they're *not* raptured away, many will **lose faith** — this is the **great falling away**.
- It's a **deception** that teaches comfort instead of commitment and escape instead of endurance.

How Do We Lovingly Explain This?

Great question. Here are a few tips:

1. Affirm Their Faith

Say something like:

"I love that you're passionate about Jesus coming soon. That's our hope too!"

2. Appeal to Scripture

Invite them to study **Matthew 24**, **1 Thessalonians 4**, and **Revelation 6–8** together.

3. Ask Loving Questions

"Can I ask — where does the Bible say we escape the tribulation? Could it be that Jesus actually walks with us *through* it?"

4. Show the Glory of Truth

Help them see that the *real truth* is even more powerful:

"Jesus doesn't evacuate us — He strengthens us to stand and shine when the world is dark. What a testimony that will be!"

Final Thoughts

Yes — we are living in a time of **false prophets**, **confusion**, and **emotional end-time predictions** (like those failed rapture dates).

But we don't need fear or fiction — we need **faith and the Word**.

People need to see the **truth of Revelation**:

- The **mark of the beast** is coming
- The **tribulation** is real
- But so is the **victory of God's remnant people**