

The Grace Proclamator and Promulgator (USPS Standard Mail Permit Number 876) is published monthly (subscription free) by the Central Baptist Church, PO Box 876, Grenada, MS. Postage paid at Grenada, MS 38902.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Grace Proclamator and Promulgator PO Box 876, Grenada, MS 38902-0876

Editor: Pastor Bill Lee

billleecb@gmail.com

Assistant Editor: Laurence A. Justice

PLANNING TO MOVE?

If at all possible, please notify us three weeks in advance of your change of address so that we may keep your paper coming. It costs approximately 49 cents to get your new address from the Postal Service and that may take long enough that two papers are returned at a cost of up to \$1.50 before we get the correction. This will mean you miss one or two papers.

Non-profit Org.
Presorted Standard
US Postage Paid
Grenada, MS 38901
Permit No. 876

The Grace Proclamator & Promulgator
PO Box 876
Grenada, MS 38902-0876

Address Correction Requested

(Report—continued from page 15)

visit with Bro. Villandry and Bro. Brown in November. I made my first trip to Thailand in October of 1997. Now, twenty-five years and over forty trips later, I will be making, as far as I know, my final trip to Thailand. Ricky has made many of these trips with me and I am so thankful he is able to go with me once again. I told Ricky concerning this trip, if he didn't go with me, then I couldn't go. Age and health have a way of catching up with us all. I am looking forward to seeing the work there one more time. I have many fond memories of people and places there, and I am certainly thankful the Lord has allowed me to make the trips I have made. I ask for your prayers for Ricky and me as we make this trip.

As always, I want to thank every church and every individual who faithfully supports this work of the Lord in Thailand. It is your prayers and financial support which is used of the Lord to sustain this work, and for these things we are grateful.



The Grace Proclamator and Promulgator

To testify the gospel of the grace of God.. Acts 20:24

Published as a mission project of
Central Baptist Church Grenada, Mississippi

September 2022

Page 1

WHAT LIES AHEAD FOR THE CHRISTIAN PART 2

PAUL D. JUSTICE

Rapture Before Tribulation Or Rapture After Tribulation?

SOME “UNTILS” OF SCRIPTURE

1. Christ will sit at the Father's right hand until his enemies are made his footstool. Acts 2:34-35 – “The Lord said...sit thou on my right hand, until I make thy foes thy footstool.” Christ will come in flaming fire to render vengeance on his enemies (2 Thess. 1:7-9). In Revelation 19:15 we see that Christ comes in glory to smite the nations. Christ is in heaven until his glorious coming.
2. The Jewish nation will be desolate till they shall receive Christ as Messiah and Saviour. They will receive him at His glorious coming (Zechariah 12:9-10). Matthew 23:39 – “Ye shall not see me...till ye shall say, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.”
3. The spiritual blindness now upon part of Israel will remain until the fulness of the Gentiles come in – then all Israel will be saved at Christ's glorious coming.

Romans 11:25-26 – “...blindness in part...until the fulness of the Gentiles comes in...so all Israel shall be saved...there shall come...the Deliverer...”



4. “Jerusalem then shall be trodden down of the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.” Luke 21:24

Revelation 11:2 shows that even in the tribulation the Gentiles will afflict Jerusalem. The Gentile supremacy only ends at the glorious coming (read Daniel 2, 7, and Revelation 19.) These “times of the Gentiles” run until the coming after the tribulation.

5. Christ will be with His disciples “all the days until the completion of the age.” (from the Greek) Matthew 28:20.

By considering these topics one can tell that the various lines of prophecy run to the end of the age at Christ’s glorious coming. All this points to the grand climax after the tribulation.

All is tending to this coming of our Lord and Saviour after the great tribulation.

SOME STRIKING SIMILARITIES

The Holy Spirit moved the writers of scripture to write what they wrote. We are not surprised to find similarities between their statements in the Word of God. In this section let us note some striking likenesses between the writings of Jesus, Paul, and the apostle John relating to Christ’s second coming. Please compare these scriptures, note their similarities, and see if they describe different comings of Christ or one and the same coming. Again we can only seek to encourage the reader to go on with this study where it leaves off.

1. Matthew 24:29-31 – “Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken: And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: And then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.” Note the things underlined and compare them with Paul’s account of Christ’s coming in I Thessalonians 4.

Thailand and also preached while he was here. During their time with us there was also opportunity to simply visit and fellowship with them. Every time I am with Bro. Villandry and his family, I am more and more encouraged concerning the Lord’s work in Thailand. They are truly good witnesses unto Jesus Christ.

In my last report I mentioned a special work and need in Bro. Villandry’s work in Thailand. This is the need of having sound books translated and printed in the Thai language. This work is difficult and also expensive, but would be a great help in his work there. I spoke with Bro. Villandry just last night and told him I was writing this report. He asked me to be sure and thank those who have already donated to this work. He appreciates this financial help and is very thankful for every church and every individual who has given to this printing endeavor. What has been given gives us a good start in this work, but there remains much to be done. As more funds become available, we will continue the translating and printing of these books, which will be of much help to people in Thailand.

The last time I spoke with Bro. Paul Brown he stated everything was going well in his work in Thailand. He continues to teach around thirty men in his preacher’s training classes. These men seem to have a great desire to learn more and more of God’s word. They are faithful in their attendance and diligent in their studies. One of the Apostle Paul’s instructions to Timothy was; “And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men who shall be able to teach others also”, II Timothy 2:2.

Bro. Brown, as well as Bro. Villandry, has a great burden to do the same as the apostle instructed Timothy. The missionary can only be in one place at a time. There are limitations on where the missionary can be at any given time. But, if the missionary is able to firmly ground several faithful men in the Word of God, these men can go to their home villages and churches and faithfully proclaim God’s Word. Many of these students not only go to their home villages and churches with the Word of God, they also go to other villages to preach as they have opportunity.

Now that the Covid restrictions are not as strict as they once were, Bro. Brown is now also able to go to various villages to preach and do medical work. This personal contact with the people in the villages is an important part of the work and something which is an encouragement to the people in the villages, as well as to Bro. Brown and those who might go with him.

One final note. The Lord willing, Ricky Cash and I will go to Thailand to

(Report—continued on page 16)

THAILAND MISSION REPORT

PASTOR BILL LEE

“And ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.” Acts 1:8

While these words of Jesus were spoken unto His Apostles immediately before His ascension, there is an application here for all of God’s people and churches. Some view these words as another way of stating the commission Jesus gave unto His churches. Personally, I view these words as a statement of fact, rather than a command or commission.

Being a witness unto Jesus Christ is a vital part of any true mission work. Involved in mission work there is certainly the preaching of the gospel to everyone whom God gives the missionary opportunity. There is also the systematic teaching of the Word of God. This is done at times in a formal setting, as both Bro. Brown and Bro. Villandry do with those who meet regularly with them to study the Scriptures. There are also opportunities to teach the Word of God in informal settings, as the missionary simply meets and visits with individuals from time to time. On many occasions, these informal times of teaching prove to be as valuable and useful as the more formal settings.

But there is another way in which the missionary is a witness for Jesus Christ, and that is the manner in which he and his family conduct themselves in their everyday lives. Whether it is in family affairs or business affairs relating to the mission work, people are watching and observing how the missionary conducts himself in his daily life. People closely observe and take notice of the personal life of the missionary and his family. Simply put, do they practice what they preach? Are their personal lives consistent with what they are teaching and preaching? This consistency is very important, for without it the missionary loses all credibility and trust he might have had among the people he ministers unto. Being a witness for Jesus Christ is a serious and full-time occupation for the missionary, as well as for all saints.

We were blessed recently in having Bro. Matt, Brittany, Cohen, and Lyla Villandry with us at Central Baptist Church. They were recently in the U. S. to be with their families after a long absence. During this time, they scheduled a visit with us at Central and their visit was certainly a blessing to our church, as well as to others who were in attendance. Bro. Villandry gave a very good report on his work in

2. I Thessalonians 4:16-17 – “For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God; and the dead in Christ shall rise first; then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.”

In both passages the Lord comes, clouds are mentioned, angels are involved, a trumpet is mentioned and the people of Christ are gathered.

Do these sound like the same coming? If they are, they take place “after the tribulation”. Matthew 24:29. Note the words in Matthew 24: 31 “gather together his elect.” In 2 Thess. 2:1 Paul speaks of the “rapture” as “our gathering together unto him.” In the Greek the words gather together found in both passages are related Greek words. Note this in a Greek New Testament.

3. I Corinthians 15:51 – “Behold, I shew you a mystery; we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.” Note the resurrection takes place “at the last trump.” Compare this with I Thess. 4:16-17.
4. Revelation 1:7 – “behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him...”

Compare this with Matthew 24:30. Clouds are again spoken of as attending His glorious second coming. What glory that will be!

5. Revelation 11:15 and 18 – “And the seventh angel sounded (a trumpet); and there were great voices in heaven saying, The kingdoms of his world are become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ...And the nations were angry, and thy wrath is come (Greek, “came”), and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that thou shouldest give reward unto thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear thy name, small and great...” Note the trumpet sound the seventh and last of the series. Note the resurrection is implied – reward is given to the saints.

Here are statements similar to Paul’s in Thessalonians and Corinthians. Remember the only resurrection of Christians placed at a specific time in

Revelation is after the tribulation when Christ comes in glory. Read Revelation 20:1-7. No such resurrection before the tribulation period is mentioned in Revelation.

Remember to continue this study on your own. The teaching of Jesus in Matthew 24-25 is strikingly similar to Paul's in 1 and 2 Thessalonians.

Here we must end our topical study and pass on to some questions which confront the view that the church is caught up after the tribulation.

SOME QUESTIONS AND SOME ANSWERS

Questions have been raised concerning a rapture after the great tribulation. We want to raise these questions here and seek by God's grace to give a scriptural, honest answer. All questions cannot be given, nor can one be expected to give answers which will completely satisfy everyone.

Much positive Biblical evidence has been given in the earlier part of this booklet which sets forth the coming of Christ after the tribulation to gather His people. Let us now set forth these questions and seek to give some Bible answers.

1. Question: Isn't Matthew 24 for Jews and not for Christians?

Answer: In the last two verses of Matthew 23 Jesus leaves the Jewish nation desolate. In 24:1 He departs from the temple. In 24:3 the rejected King sits on the Mount of Olives with "his disciples." To those disciples who share in His rejection He speaks of the great tribulation, the sign of his coming, the end of the age, and His glorious coming after the tribulation. These same disciples heard Jesus give the promise of the church in Matthew 16:18. They heard his upper room discourse, and they were given the great commission of Matthew 28:19-20. In each case these disciples represented Christians of the present age.

2. Question: Why did Jesus teach his disciples to pray that their flight would not be "in the winter neither on the Sabbath day" in Matthew 24:20?

OTHER BOOKS AND BOOKLETS

For more material presenting the rapture after the tribulation send to Secretary, Sovereign Grace Advent Testimony, 1 Donald Way, Chelmsford, Essex, CM2 9JB England. Ask for a catalog.

Three small booklets will be helpful.

1. Tribulation or Rapture – Which? By Oswald J. Smith
2. The Saint's Rest and Rapture: When and for Whom? By Frank H. White
3. The Second Coming of Christ by George Muller.

Inquire concerning the above books at the address given above.

A larger book, The Great Tribulation Debate, by Norman F. Douty may be obtained by writing the author. The address is Norman F. Douty, Swengel, Penn., 17880.

The Rapture When? By Arthur D. Katterjohn, 220 East Union, Wheaton, Illinois, 60187. This has a good treatment of 2 Thessalonians chapter 2.

Why I Believe the Church Will Pass Through The Tribulation. By Dave MacPherson, Jewel Book, P.O. Box 4333, Greenville, S.C., 29608

In Memorium

Orval Heath 1931-2022

Pastor of Lakeview Baptist Church of Mena, Arkansas for 40 years. Host of many Sovereign Grace Bible conferences.

Steve Montgomery 1929-2022

Longtime missionary to Japan and Brazil, Pastor of Corinth Baptist Church, Dry Prong, LA for the past 21 years.

Betty Jane Tullos 1930-2022

Married to Pastor W.L. Tullos who was pastor of Landmark Baptist Church of Anchorage, Alaska for 31 years.

I believe the church will enter it. I hope you will investigate God's Word anew to see if you agree.

One thing is sure our hope is in the coming of our blessed Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Finally, ponder the words which follow: "Are we to expect our Lord's return at ANY MOMENT, or that certain events must be fulfilled before He comes?"

This was one of nine questions answered by the late Mr. George Muller at a public meeting held on the 12th December, 1897, at Shaftesbury Hall, Toronto, Canada. His answer was: "I know that on this subject there is great diversity of judgment, and I do not wish to force on other persons the light I have myself. The subject, however, is not new to me; for having been a careful, diligent student of the Bible for nearly fifty years, my mind has long been settled on this point, and I have not the shadow of a doubt about it. The Scripture declares plainly that the Lord Jesus will not come until the Apostasy shall have taken place, and the man of sin, the 'son of perdition' (or personal Antichrist) shall have been revealed, as seen in 2 Thess. 2:1-5. Many other portions also of the Word of God distinctly teach that certain events are to be fulfilled before the return of our Lord Jesus Christ. This does not, however, alter the fact, that the coming of Christ, and not death, is the great Hope of the Church, and, if in a right state of heart, we (as the Thessalonian believers did) shall 'serve the living and true God,' and wait for His Son from Heaven." Extracted from "Missionary Tours and Labours" by Mrs. Muller, pp. 148, 149.³

³ The Saints' Rest and Rapture: When and for Whom? By Frank H. White, Stephen A. Toms, 1 Donald Way, Chelmsford, CM2 9JB Essex.

**New Testament Baptist Church Conference
October 29-30, 2022**

J.C. Settlemyre, Pastor
Cell: 317-829-4575 ♦ jcsettle3@outlook.com
301 Linville Ave. Whitestown, Indiana 46075

**Speakers: Daniel Chamberlin, Richard Collins
Cleve Morton, Steve Morton**

Answer: Apparently in Jerusalem the Jews will strictly observe the Sabbath day during the tribulation. Strict Sabbath regulations would hinder a flight to safety. The same would be true of a flight in winter. It would be more difficult to flee at such a time.

3. Question: Doesn't Luke 21:36 teach that the church will escape the tribulation?

Answer: In this same passage Jesus taught his disciples that they would see the nearness of His glorious coming by means of the signs occurring in the tribulation times. Read Luke 21:25-31. Verse 36 in its context seems to teach that Jesus' disciples should pray that they may escape these things by strong endurance so that they may stand before the Son of man – at this coming in glory (v. 27). The picture here is endurance through these things and eventual standing before Christ at His glorious coming. Remember, in these verses Jesus is talking about His glorious coming not a secret coming before the tribulation.

4. Question: Isn't the tribulation for the Jews? Isn't it the time of Jacob's trouble?

Answer: Yes, it is for the Jews; it is the time of Jacob's trouble, but it is more. The times of the Gentiles do not end until the coming after the tribulation (Luke 21:24; Daniel 2, 7 and Revelation 19). It is a time which will affect the entire earth. Saved Gentiles will come out of the great tribulation – a great multitude of them (Revelation 7:9,14). The beast makes war with the saints (Rev. 13:7). This time of trouble for Israel will affect gentiles too. God was dealing with Israel in 70 AD when Jerusalem was destroyed, yet the church was on the earth. God can deal with Israel, and the church at the same time. Christ's disciples will make, baptize the teach disciples until the end of the age. Matthew 28:19-20.

5. Question: Doesn't God love the church too much to let her go through the tribulation?

Answer: "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation...? no, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us." Romans 8:35-39. The principle stated here by Paul is that nothing can separate us from Christ's love. How then could the great

tribulation? Jesus and His apostles taught that Christians should not expect an easy road. "...In the world ye shall have tribulation". John 16:33. "...And that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God." Acts 14:22. Paul taught that suffering with Christ comes before reigning with Christ (see 2 Timothy 2:12, and Romans 8:18). Further, will not God love those servants of His who live and die for him during the tribulation? Surely He will. Even some Christians before the great tribulation die for their faith. Does God love them? Assuredly so.

6. Question: Doesn't the church escape the wrath of God and so it can't go into the tribulation?

Answer: Will those who do serve Christ in the tribulation be under the wrath of God? It certainly is possible for one to be in the midst of God's judgments upon the ungodly and not to experience "the wrath of God." What is the wrath of God to the ungodly may be a chastening or a test for God's child. Besides, the wrath which some scriptures promise deliverance from may be the wrath the Christian escapes when Christ comes in glory in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who know not God and obey not the gospel. See 2 Thessalonians 1:4-11, and in this light note 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14.

7. Question: Doesn't 2 Thessalonians 2:7-8 teach that the church must be raptured out of the world before the anti-christ is revealed?

Answer: This scripture does not use the word church. Neither does it say that the Holy Spirit is the restrainer, although He may be. One might interpret the passages as teaching that the church is removed from the world by a rapture before the coming of anti-christ, but it does not say this specifically in the passage itself. This scripture does not have a rapture before the tribulation. In the Interlinear Greek N.T. is the following translation: "...Only the one restraining just now until out of the midst it (or he) comes." ²

² The Interlinear Greek-English New Testament, by Alfred Marshall. Samuel Bagster and Sons Ltd. 2d edition, London, 1967 p. 816. Look up "taken out of the way" in Youngs Concordance and Strong's, and see that the English translation "taken out" should be translated "becomes." Study how the Greek word used here is used elsewhere in the N.T.

(Footnote continued on next page)

Through the Scofield Reference Bible it was spread until today it has taken the field among pre-millennial teachers. Surely this is partly due to the fact that the other and older view has not been given a fair hearing. May the Lord use this feeble effort to challenge further study of the question of the time of the rapture. The reader is also encouraged to study further the history of this question.

PRACTICAL CONCLUSION

Is the subject discussed in this booklet practical? The writer firmly believes that it is. If the church escapes the tribulation by being raptured out of the world, then at "any moment" Christ may come, and the Christian will be at rest. But on the other hand if the churches will enter the tribulation it is imperative that we be ready for such a conflict. It is imperative that we put on the whole armour of God so that we may stand in such an evil day as that shall be.

Entering the tribulation the church has hope for the glorious appearing of her Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ (Titus 2:13-14). The church would pray for strength to endure even to the end. She would know that whether one dies in Christ or is alive when He appears all shall share in the glorious coming. She may claim the promises of God's Word, overcome by the blood of the Lamb and the word of her testimony, and remember "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us." Romans 8:35-37.

In speaking to His disciples of the tribulation Jesus said in reference to Daniel's prophecy, "...whoso readeth let him understand: Matthew 24:15. Let us all commit ourselves to the study of God's prophetic Word, and seek the light it throws on both the present and the future.

If the Christian is raptured out before the tribulation, what a blessed thing it would be! But reader, if he is not, what a spiritual shock it would be to find that indeed the church must enter this tribulation! If you and I should be called to enter it would we have prepared ourselves spiritually for those difficult days?

the plagues of Egypt and the three Hebrews in the fiery furnace. But we are not dependent upon types to learn about the time of the rapture. We believe the scripture passages presented earlier in this booklet confirm that the coming of the Lord to gather His people and His coming in glory are one and the same coming. Yes, we believe Christ will come, and we will be caught up to meet Him in the air, and we believe this will occur "immediately after the tribulation."

HISTORY OF THIS SUBJECT

When one investigates the history of this question: "Will the church be raptured before or after the tribulation?", he discovers some interesting information. He learns first, that recorded in the writings of some of the early Christians there is found the concept that the church will go through the tribulation. This is an interesting study in itself, but one or two quotations is all we have time for here. Irenaeus (died 200 A.D.) in his treatise "Against Heresies" in chapter twenty-six, paragraph one said, in speaking of the anti-christ, "...he who is to come shall slay three, and subject the remainder to his power, and that he shall be himself the eighth among them. And they shall lay Babylon waste, and burn her with fire, and shall give their kingdom to the beast, and put the Church to flight. After that they shall be destroyed by the coming of our Lord."

Justin Martyr (100-166 A.D.) in his "Dialogue With Trypho" in chapter 110 says, "...two advents of Christ have been announced: the one, in which He is set forth as suffering, inglorious, dishonored, and crucified; but the other, in which He shall come from heaven with glory, when the man of apostasy, who speaks strange things against the most high, shall venture to do unlawful deeds on the earth against us the Christians..."

The writer has studied extensively the history of the teaching that the church will be raptured before the tribulation. The writer has found that it was only around 1830 that this view of a rapture before the tribulation began to be taught as we know it in our day. If this is the blessed hope of the church it is strange indeed that beginning only in 1830 was it taught. Some of the Plymouth Brethren in England and Ireland taught it, and apparently through J.N. Darby and others it spread to America where those who were already pre-millennial added it to their views.

Note the Greek does not say as in King James Version, "until he be taken out of the way." It literally says "until out of the midst it (he) comes." What does "it comes" or "he comes" mean? (It is 3rd person singular.) Is it the restrainer or the man of sin? Perhaps the latter. Read the passage with this in mind. Then the passage teaches that the one who retrains, perhaps the Holy Spirit, will hold back the forces of lawlessness until out of the midst the anti-christ comes.

But remember the entire tendency of this passage is to teach the readers that the coming of Christ and the day of the Lord come after the falling away and the appearance of the anti-christ.

Paul says, "Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition." He goes on to say that this man of sin is destroyed "with the brightness of his (Christ's) coming". 2 Thessalonians 2:3,8. In 2 Thessalonians 1:7 he had already said the church would rest when the Lord is revealed from heaven.

8. Question: Why isn't the word "church" used in Revelation 4-19: Doesn't this prove the church has already been raptured?

Answer: This is an argument from silence. Just because the word "church" is not used does not prove the church is absent. In I John the word "church" does not appear. No one would say it is not present in that letter. Neither is the word "church" used in Revelation 20, but surely we believe she is included when Christ reigns for 1,000 years.

9. Question: Isn't the "rapture" spoken of in Revelation 4:1-2 when John is caught up into heaven?

Answer: Where do we read in the scriptures that this pictures the rapture? Some interpret it in this way, but the Bible does not say so. Besides, it is John who is caught up, not the church. If this pictures the church going to heaven then could we say the church comes back to earth during the

² The thought seems to be not a passive catching out of the world but an arising out of its midst – a becoming – such as that of anti-christ who will come or arise out of the midst of lawlessness.

tribulation because John is seen on earth in Revelation 11:1-2? Apparently John is caught up to receive the things God wanted him to write. If the rapture before the tribulation can only be proved in Revelation from such passages as this, the evidence is not very strong.

10. Question: Don't the twenty-four elders in Revelation represent the church?

Answer: No where do we read that the elders represent the church. Even if they do, this does not prove that the rapture and resurrection have already taken place. "Twenty-four" would seem to include Old Testament saints, and Daniel 12:1-3 places their resurrection after the tribulation. (Compare Revelation 20:1-6). Certainly there are saints in heaven already, and perhaps these are represented by the elders. White robes were given to martyrs before the resurrection in 6:9-11. However some hold that the elders are angelic beings. Apparently speaking of angels Paul calls them "thrones," (Colossians 1:16). Note the elders sit on thrones. In 15:6 the seven angels are clothed in pure linen. Also note in the Greek N.T. that in Revelation 5:9-10 the elders do not say "you redeemed us" and "you made us" kings and priests. In the Greek they speak in the third person – "you made them" and "they will reign." These elders do not prove a rapture before the tribulation.

11. Question: Doesn't Revelation 3:10 say that the church will be raptured out of the world before the tribulation period? "...I also will keep thee from the hour..."

Answer: The promise is to "keep" not to take out of the world. Is it possible for Christ to keep His own from something without removing them out of the world? Read John 17:15. "I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil." Jesus indicates here through John's gospel that he can keep us without removing us from the world. Yes, this is a wonderful thought. "Kept" in the midst of judgements, trials and difficulties. Kept by our wonderful Saviour. Nothing can separate us from His love. We see that this scripture does not prove the rapture before the tribulation.

12. Question: Doesn't Paul teach that we may be caught up "any moment" and that we will escape the tribulation when he says, "Then we which are

alive and remain shall be caught up...to meet the Lord in the air" (I Thessalonians 4:17)?

Answer: Note 2 Corinthians 4:14 where Paul also says, "Knowing that he which raised up the Lord Jesus shall raise up us also by Jesus, and shall present us with you." The hope of Christians is a corporate hope. Those living at Christ's coming will share in it, and those who have died in Christ will also share in it. So Paul, whether living or dead, shall enjoy the blessings of the coming. The same is true of all believers.

13. Question: Do not the types of the O.T. teach that believers will escape the tribulation? What about Enoch? What about Lot and Noah?

Answer: We cannot build up a Bible doctrine upon types alone. Types should illustrate a doctrine clearly taught somewhere else in the Word of God. Enoch is nowhere said to be a type of a rapture before the seven-year tribulation. Apparently Enoch was translated 669 years before the flood (See Genesis 5, 9).

As for Lot's escape from Sodom being a type of the church's escape from the seven-year tribulation, one should note carefully Luke 17:30. Jesus spoke of Lot as a type but not as a type of a rapture before the seven-year tribulation. "But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all. Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed (apocalypse)". Noah is spoken of in the same way in Matthew 24:36-42. Jesus is speaking of His coming in glory after the tribulation (see vv 29-31). Although the events in the world will show His coming is near, no one will know the day or the hour. He tells us it will be as in Noah's days. The Lord says, "But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be... And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left." Noah does not picture a secret rapture before the tribulation. Jesus speaks of both Noah and Lot in a setting which concerns His coming in glory. So the rapture pictured by Noah and Lot occurs at the close of the tribulation when believers escape the wrath of the day of the Lord.

There are things in the Old Testament which could be viewed as types of believers going through the tribulation. Think of Israel protected through