June 1, 2025

Greeting to all . . .

The Lord blessing to you and your family. I hope this letter finds you in good health and spirit. As summer has begun and some of you are planning your vacation with family, friends, or maybe just by yourself, don’t forget, there is no vacation from the word of God. Locate a Bible believing church at your destination prior to leaving home and don’t forget your Bible.

This month **BSL** will be on the Second of 3 End Times timeline views, May 1st **BSL** being the first. The topic will be Midtribulationism views its Strength’s and Weakness.

Lastly, if you would like to read or print any previous **Bible Scripture Letters** from years past, go to [https://the-rock-house.org](https://the-rock-house.org/about) Select “about the teachers” and Scroll down to my name.

So, let’s get started.

Your Brother in Christ, Tony Gonzalez

**1 Peter 3:15**

but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, **always being prepared to make a defense** to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect,

**What are the Strengths and Weakness of the Midtribulational view of the Rapture (Midtribulationism)**

**Bible Scripture Letter #60**

Midtribulationism teaches that the rapture occurs at the midpoint of the tribulation. At that time, the seventh trumpet sounds - **Revelation 11:15**,

* Then the seventh angel blew his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, “The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever.”

the church will meet Christ in the air, and then the bowl judgments are poured upon the earth ([Revelation 15—16](https://www.bibleref.com/Revelation/15/Revelation-chapter-15.html)) in a time known as the great tribulation. In other words, the rapture and Christ’s second coming (to set up His kingdom) are separated by a period of three and a half years. According to this view, the church goes through the first half of the tribulation but is spared the worst of the tribulation in the last three and a half years. Very close to midtribulationism is the belief in a “pre-wrath” rapture, i.e., a belief that the church is caught up to heaven before the “great day of … wrath” comes - **Revelation 6:17**.

* **17** for the great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand?”

In support of their view, midtribulationists point to the chronology given in -**2 Thessalonians 2:1-3.**

* **1** Now concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to him, we ask you, brothers,
* **2** not to be quickly shaken in mind or alarmed, either by a spirit or a spoken word, or a letter seeming to be from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come.
* **3** Let no one deceive you in any way. For that day will not come, unless the rebellion comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction,

The order of events is as follows: 1) apostasy, 2) the revelation of the Antichrist, and 3) the day of Christ. The midtribulational view teaches that the Antichrist will not be decisively revealed **until** “the abomination that causes desolation” - **Matthew 24:15**,

* **15** “So when you see the abomination of desolation spoken of by the prophet Daniel, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand),

which occurs at the midpoint of the tribulation - **Daniel 9:27**.

* **27** And he shall make a strong covenant with many for one week, and for half of the week he shall put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall come one who makes desolate, until the decreed end is poured out on the desolator.”

Midtribulationists use **Daniel 7:25**,

* **25** He shall speak words against the Most High, and shall wear out the saints of the Most High,
and shall think to change the times and the law; and they shall be given into his hand
for a time, times, and half a time.

which says the Antichrist will have power over the “saints” for three and a half years, to bolster their point—they assume this is the first half of the tribulation and that the saints spoken of are the church. Also, they interpret “the day of Christ” as the rapture; therefore, the church will not be caught up to heaven until after the Antichrist is revealed.
 Another foundational teaching of midtribulationism is that the trumpet of - **1 Corinthians 15:52**

* **52** in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed.

is the same trumpet mentioned in **Revelation 11:15**. The trumpet of [Revelation 11](https://www.bibleref.com/Revelation/11/Revelation-chapter-11.html) is the final in a series of trumpets; therefore, it makes sense that it would be “the last trumpet” of [1 Corinthians 15](https://www.bibleref.com/1-Corinthians/15/1-Corinthians-chapter-15.html). This logic fails, however, in view of the trumpets’ objectives. The trumpet that sounds at the rapture is “t**he trumpet call of God” - 1 Thessalonians 4:1-16,**

* **16** For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

but the one in [Revelation 11](https://www.bibleref.com/Revelation/11/Revelation-chapter-11.html) is a harbinger of judgment. One trumpet is a call of grace to God’s elect; the other is a pronouncement of doom on the wicked. Further, the seventh trumpet in Revelation is not the “last” trumpet chronologically - **Matthew 24:31**

* **31** And he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

speaks of a later trumpet that sounds at the commencement of Christ’s kingdom. **1 Thessalonians 5:9**

* **9**  For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,

says that the church has not been appointed “to suffer wrath but to receive salvation.” This would seem to indicate that believers will not experience the tribulation. However, midtribulationism interprets “wrath” as only referring to the second half of the tribulation—specifically, the bowl judgments. Limiting the word in such a way seems unwarranted, however. Surely the terrible judgments contained in the seals and trumpets—including famine, poisoned rivers, a darkened moon, bloodshed, earthquakes, and torment—could also be considered the wrath of God.

 Midtribulationism places the rapture in [Revelation 11](https://www.bibleref.com/Revelation/11/Revelation-chapter-11.html), prior to the start of the great tribulation. There are two problems with this placement in the chronology of Revelation. First, the only occurrence of the term “great tribulation” in the entire book of **Revelation 7:14**,

* **14**  I said to him, “Sir, you know.” And he said to me, “These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

before the opening of the seventh seal. Second, the only reference to a “great day of wrath” is in [Revelation 6:17](https://www.bibleref.com/Revelation/6/Revelation-6-17.html), during the events of the sixth seal. Both of these references come too early for a midtribulational rapture, which is timed according to the seventh trumpet.

And a final weakness of the midtribulational view is shared by the other two theories: namely, the Bible does not give an explicit timeline concerning future events. Scripture does not expressly teach one view over another, and that is why we have diversity of opinion concerning the end times and some variety on how the related prophecies should be harmonized.

*Source : gotquestions.org*