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The Pre-Tribulation Rapture Teaching is False



By Steven J. Hogan

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Through the years, I have talked to many people who believe Christians are raptured at the beginning of Daniel's 70th week, before great tribulation – but they are in error. Not only is their thinking wrong, but they don't see how believing this error will have a harmful effect on their own life, family and church. But why don't people see that the Pre-tribulation rapture idea is wrong? Why don't people understand the truth? It's because they have not properly studied and understood Bible passages that speak about great tribulation and the rapture of the church. It may also be that they have been deceived and affected by false teaching on these subjects. *"See to it that no one misleads you."* Matthew 24:4. *"Let no one in any way deceive you."* 2 Thessalonians 2:3

In particular, they don't understand what Daniel 9:24-27, Matthew

24:3-36, 2 Thessalonians 2:1-10, and Revelation 6-17 say about Daniel's 70th week, this most important seven-year time frame. Clearly they don't know what end-time events take place during this period, where they fit, and when they will occur. 1 Chronicles 12:32

– They mistakenly believe tribulation and/or great tribulation lasts a full seven years, the entirety of Daniel's 70th week. They don't know what it means when the Bible says this tribulation time is cut short for the sake of the elect. Matthew 24:21-22

– They wrongly think the rapture takes place at the beginning of Daniel's 70th week. But the Bible says it takes place at the coming of Christ, which occurs after the Antichrist is revealed, after the midpoint of this week, and therefore sometime during the last 3½ years of this seven-year period. No one but God knows the day or hour of Christ's return. Matthew 24:15-36, 1 Thessalonians 4:15-17, 2 Thessalonians 2:1-9

They are in error when they think tribulation and great tribulation, spoken of in Matthew 24, are God's wrath. The truth is that Christians will experience tribulation and great tribulation, but they won't go through God's wrath. Matthew 24:9, 21-22, 29; Revelation 7:14

– They wrongly state that the rapture is imminent, that it can happen at any moment. They don't realize that many prophesied events need to occur before Christ's return and the rapture of the church. Matthew 24:4-14, 25, 32-35. (I plan to address this next week.)

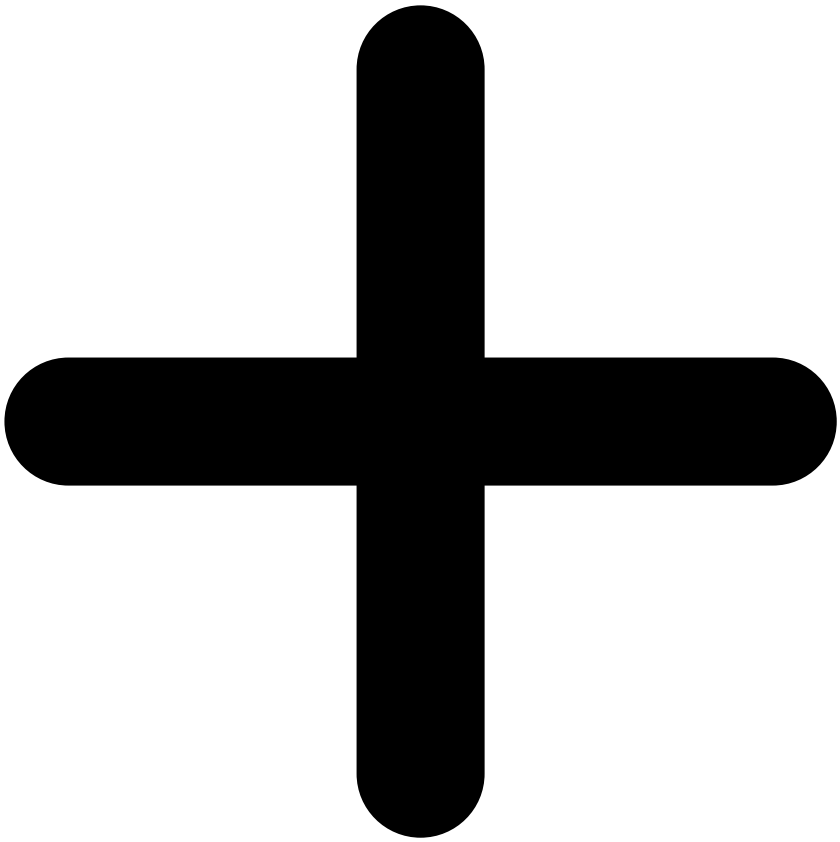
– They wrongly believe the *"birth pains"* described in Matthew 24:4-8 are part of the *"Day of the Lord"* wrath. They incorrectly think Christians will be raptured before these birth pain events – famines, wars, earthquakes and plagues. But these events only occur in *"various places"* around the world, and are to awaken and alert both believers and unbelievers about Christ's coming and the *"Day of the Lord"* wrath. Revelation 6:1-17

They fail to understand the overall chronology, the order of end-time events repeatedly stated in prophecy passages. For example, they fail to see the flow of events in Matthew 24, that there are beginning birth pains (4-8), then great tribulation affecting Jews and Christians (9, 21), signs in the heavens (29), followed by the rapture at Christ's coming (31), and finally, the Day of the Lord, God's wrath upon the earth (Acts 2:19-20). Mark 13:14-27 tells us there's tribulation, rapture and wrath. 2 Thessalonians 1:4-10 tells us there's tribulation, rapture and wrath. And Revelation 6-9 tells us there's tribulation, rapture and wrath. This is what the Bible says, and this is the way it will be.

There are other reasons why people, particularly in the United States, don't believe we will go through great tribulation. This country has been greatly blessed, and in general, people are happy and satisfied with the way things are. Many people are worldly, complacent, and taking it easy (Amos 6:1-6, Luke 12:19, 1 John 2:15-17), and sadly, some Christians are like this. They don't want to even think that life could get hard and there could be great tribulation. Many Christians can't fathom that they, and their families and friends, could go through tough times. They don't believe there will be great tribulation because they don't want to believe it! Acts 14:22, Romans 8:35, 2 Corinthians 4:17, Revelation 7:14

It's also true that many Christians in this country don't know what it means to really suffer for the Lord. The U.S. has been a relatively peaceful country, blessed with freedom of speech and religion, and for the most part, freedom from persecution. The very thought of going through great tribulation is far from the minds of most people. Yet, when Jesus taught on prophecy, He almost always spoke on suffering. (Matthew 24:9, Mark 13:9-13, Luke 21:12-19, Revelation 6:9-11). The night before Jesus suffered and died, He instructed His disciples, *"If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you"* (John 15:20). Jesus goes on to say, *"These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage, I have overcome the world"* (John 16:33). Finally, Paul encourages us, *"Fix your hope completely on the grace to be given to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ."* 1 Peter 1:13

P.S. In times of tribulation or great tribulation, it is important to set your heart and affections on Jesus Christ, our Lord, Savior and King. I encourage you to read this article that speaks about this: Thinking of Jesus Christ.



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