

### Discussion Guide

1. Explain what you have understood about the timing of the rapture before today's sermon. See the five theories at the beginning of the sermon notes.
2. It's important that we stay humble and charitable regarding the different beliefs on the timing of the rapture. What two truths do we all agree on that we can be thankful for?
3. Review the four reasons why the first half of the tribulation period includes tribulation and why it demonstrates God's wrath.

Why is this important and how does clarity on this truth help determine which rapture position seems to fit best.

4. Reread Revelation 3:10 and share how it clarifies a Pre-Trib rapture. How does it's position in the book of Revelation suggest a Pre-Trib rapture.
5. How does a right understanding of 2 Thess. 2:1-3 discredit the Mid-Trib and Pre-wrath positions?

How does it support a Pre-Trib rapture?

6. What possible reason(s) would God have for having the church go through any part of the Tribulation?
7. Has today's sermon clarified the timing of God's rapture?

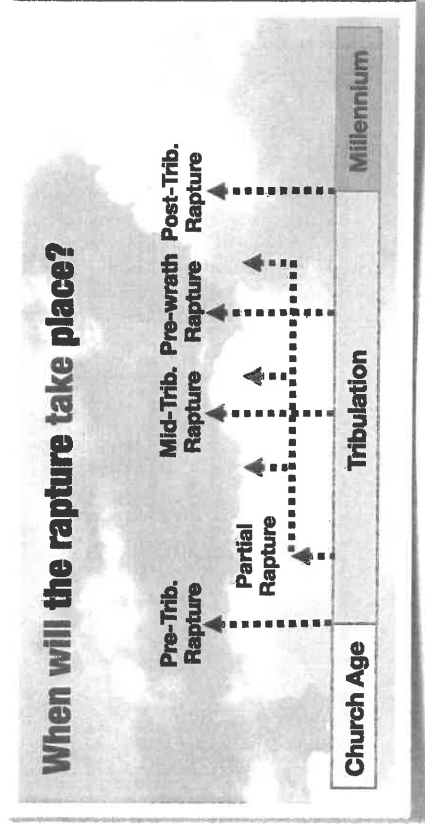
**ANSWERS:** timing, keep safe, out from, Pre-Trib, purpose, Israel, judge, imminence, Present, Future



**Lesson:** Two-hundred thirty-four  
**Series:** Signs of the End  
**Title:** The Rapture, Part 2  
**Text:** Rev. 3:10; 1 Cor.15:51-52  
**Date:** October 18, 2020

### When will the rapture take place?

There are five different views:



### Three important issues:

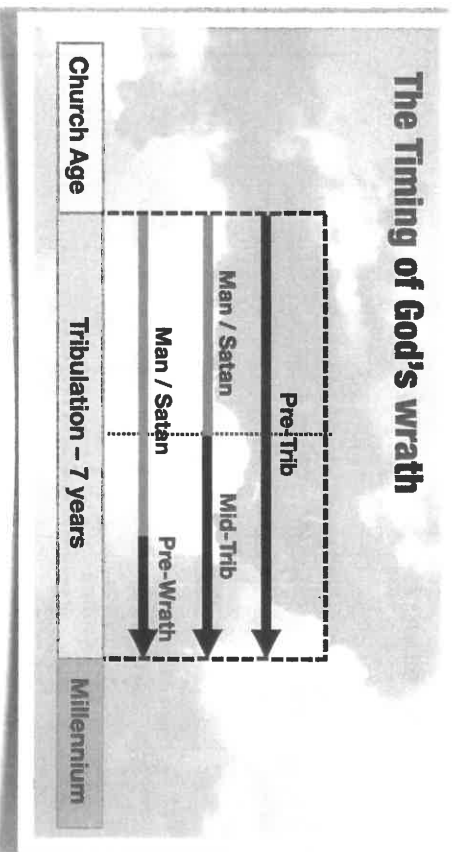
1. The timing of God's wrath.
2. The purpose of the Tribulation
3. The imminency of Christ's return.

The \_\_\_\_\_ of God's wrath.

Pre-Trib., Mid-Trib., Pre-wrath

**All positions agree on two truths:**

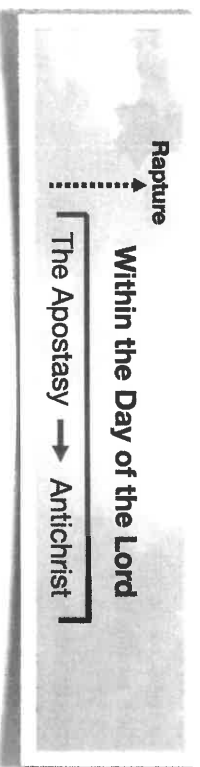
- All agree the rapture is true and important.
- All agree the church won't endure the day of the Lord's wrath.



Mid-Trib / Pre-wrath say the word "Tribulation" [thlipsis] does not appear in the first 3 1/2 years (seal judgments).

**Conclusion** - The first half of the Tribulation does not include God's wrath. The first time it's used in Rev. 7:14.

**What Pre-Trib advocates believe.**



**How is this as it relates to the rapture?**

Paul's answer supports the doctrine of imminency, therefore, it supports a Pre-Trib rapture.

It also eliminates any contradiction of what Paul taught in 1 Thess. 5:2.

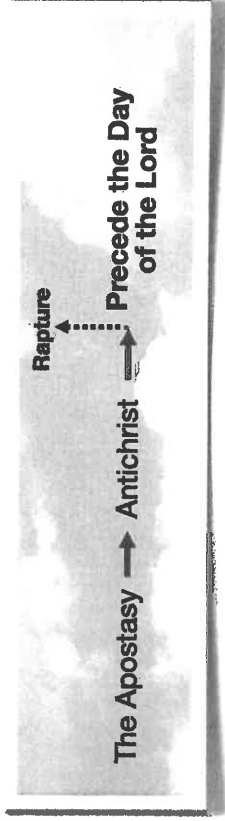
1 Thessalonians 5:2 For you yourselves know full well that the day of the Lord will come just like a thief in the night.

Thieves come without advance notice or precursors. They come completely unexpected.

Christ will come like a thief in the night in the rapture with no prophetic signs that precede it.

3 Let no one in any way deceive you, for *it will not come* unless the apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction,

#### What Mid-Trib / Pre-wrath advocates believe



#### The problem

***“will not come”*** - *Italics indicate this is a supplied verb*

(2) “has come” - \_\_\_\_\_ reality

(3) “will not come” - \_\_\_\_\_ reality

Paul is not explaining the signs that preceded the day of the Lord. He is explaining why the day of the Lord has not yet arrived.

**The focus matches the concern with the correct verb tense.**

3 Let no one in any way deceive you, for it **HAS NOT COME** unless the apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction,

#### Three reasons why the first half of Tribulation includes God's wrath.

1. The saints in the Tribulation will experience tribulation.

Matthew 24:9 “Then they will deliver you to **tribulation**, and will kill you, and you will be hated by all nations because of My name.

“**tribulation**” [thlipsis]- Same word used in Rev. 7:14 to speak of the Great Tribulation

2. Jesus uses the metaphor of birth pangs.

“Birth pains” = tribulation / God's wrath

Jeremiah 6:24 We have heard the report of it; Our hands are limp. **Anguish** has seized us, Pain as of a **woman in childbirth**.

“**Anguish**” [isarah] - It means Tribulation

Septuagint (Greek trans of Hebrew) translates [tsarah] as [thlipsis] - Same as Rev 7:14

Isaiah 13:6–9 Wail, for the **day of the Lord** is near! It will come as destruction **from the Almighty**. 7 Therefore all hands will fall limp, And every man's heart will melt.

8 They will be terrified, Pains and anguish (**labor pains**) will take hold of them; They will writhe **like a woman in labor**, They will look at one another in astonishment, Their faces aflame. 9 Behold, the day of the Lord is coming, Cruel, with fury and burning anger, To make the land a desolation; And He will exterminate its sinners from it.

John 16:21 “Whenever a woman is in labor she has pain, because her hour has come; but when she gives birth to the child, she no longer remembers the **anguish** because of the joy that a child has been born into the world.

“**anguish**” [thilipsis] - Same word as Rev. 7:14

3. The signs that will occur in the first half of the Tribulation are attributed to God, not to man.

Ezekiel 14:21 For thus says the Lord God, “How much more when I send My four severe judgments against Jerusalem: **sword (war)**, **famine**, wild beasts and **plague (pestilence)** to cut off man and beast from it!

Numbers 16:30–33 “But if the Lord brings about an entirely new thing and the **ground opens its mouth (Earthquakes)** and swallows them up with all that is theirs, and they descend alive into Sheol, then you will understand that these men have **spurned the Lord.**”

“**the Lord brings this about**”

The purpose of both parables is to teach the unexpected nature of Christ's return.

- Jesus used historical events of the flood in Noah's day (Matt. 24:37–39) and Lot's day (Lk 17: 28–30)

- Olivet Discourse - Five parables

Fig tree, Thief, Slave, Virgins, Talents,

#### **A key verse on the debate of imminency:**

2 Thessalonians 2:1–3 Now we request you, brethren, with regard to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, **2** that you not be quickly shaken from your composure or be disturbed either by a spirit or a message or a letter as if from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come. **3** Let no one in any way deceive you, for *it will not come* unless the apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction,

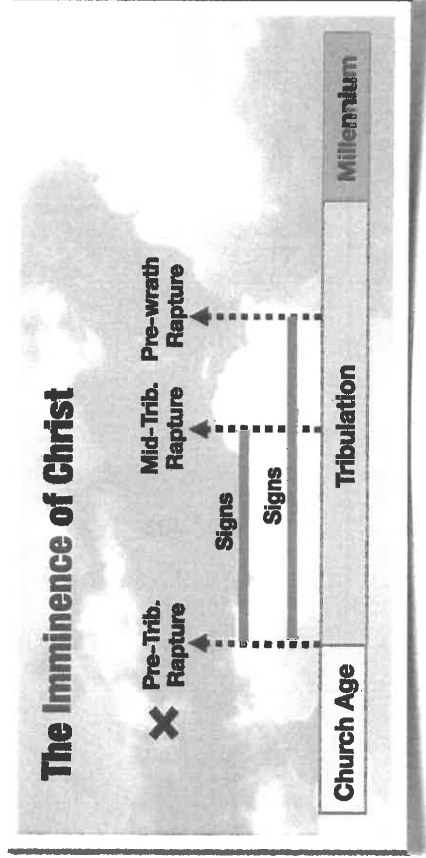
“**the day of the Lord**” (Final judgment of the Trib.)

“**has come**”

They were shaken in composure and disturbed because they the day of the Lord had come and that they had missed the rapture.

“**their gathering together with Him**” = Rapture

The \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ's return.



Jesus established the doctrine of imminence.

Matthew 24:36 "But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone.

Jesus used parabolic imagery (parables)

Two became vital in Christian thinking

- Parable of the master standing and the door and knocking (Lk. 12:36)
- Parable of the unexpected thief (Lk. 12:39)

4. Jesus is the one who breaks the seals.

Revelation 5:9 And they sang a new song, saying, "Worthy are **You (Christ)** to take the book and to **break its seals**; for **You** were slain, and purchased for God with Your blood men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation.

Only Jesus has the authority and power to break the seals and to unleash judgments on the earth.

**Conclusion** - If the entire seven years of the Tribulation includes God's wrath, and the church is not destined for wrath, then the church won't be in the Tribulation.

Revelation 3:10 'Because you have kept the word of My perseverance, I also will keep you from **the hour of testing**, that hour which is about to come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.

"keep you from" [tereo ek]

[tereo] - to \_\_\_\_\_

[ek] - \_\_\_\_\_

1 Thessalonians 5:9 For God has **not destined us for wrath**, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,

The only position on the rapture that satisfies the facts of Scriptures is the \_\_\_\_\_ rapture.

The \_\_\_\_\_ of the Tribulation

1. To save \_\_\_\_\_ and fulfill her covenants.

Daniel 9:24 "Seventy weeks have been decreed for your people and your holy city,

"your people" (Israel)  
"your holy city" (Jerusalem)

to finish the transgression, to make an end of sin, to make atonement for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the most holy place.

**Will the church need to be tested?**

Revelation 3:10 'Because you have kept the word of My perseverance, **I also will keep you from the hour of testing**, that hour which is about to come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.

**"Because you have kept the word"**

2. To \_\_\_\_\_ the unbelieving world.

