

The Rapture is Before the Tribulation

by Robert Hall

PART ONE: Description of the Rapture

A. John 14:1-3

1. Which of the following is correct for believers? – multiple choice:
 - a. Christ will come from heaven and take us to be with Him and then prepare a place for us.
 - b. Christ will go to heaven, prepare a place for us, and then come back and take us with Him.
 - c. Christ will take us to be with Him and then will go to heaven and prepare a place for us.
 - d. Heaven is not a place but a wonderful state of mind that Jesus has prepared for us.

2. The practical result of this passage for believers should be – multiple choice:
 - a. To study hard so we will know when Christ is returning
 - b. To enjoy life while we can because when Christ comes there will be no more enjoyment
 - c. To be good enough to be saved.
 - d. To learn to trust both God and Christ and not to worry.

B. 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

1. When Christ descends from heaven, who will rise first? – multiple choice:
 - a. All those who are in Christ
 - b. Only those who are in Christ and who have lived a godly life.
 - c. Those who are in Christ and have died
 - d. Those who are in Christ and have died plus lived a godly life.

2. Those who are in Christ and who are still living – multiple choice:
 - a. will be caught up with them to meet Jesus in the air
 - b. will have to remain on earth until Jesus returns
 - c. will already be in heaven before Jesus returns
 - d. will have to wait until they die in order to be caught up with Jesus

3. The practical results of this passage are – multiple choice:
 - a. We will mourn when a fellow-Christian dies just like anyone else.
 - b. We will mourn when a fellow-Christian dies but not like the unsaved world mourns.
 - c. We are to encourage or comfort one another with the words of this passage.
 - d. both b and c.

C. 1 Corinthians 15:50-58

1. 15:51 - Those who have trusted Christ – multiple choice:
 - a. will all be changed but will not all sleep, i.e. die
 - b. will not all be changed and will not all sleep, i.e. die
 - c. will all be changed and will all sleep, i.e. die
 - d. will not all be changed but will all sleep, i.e. die

2. 15:52 – This event will occur – multiple choice:
 - a. will occur over a period of a lifetime
 - b. will occur over a period of 1000 years
 - c. will occur over a period of 7 years
 - d. will occur in an instant

3. 15:52– According to this – multiple choice:
 - a. Those believers who have died will be raised with a perishable body and those believers who are living will be changed.
 - b. Those believers who have died will be raised with a perishable body and those believers who are living will not be changed
 - c. Those believers who have died will be raised with an imperishable body and those believers who are living will not be changed
 - d. Those believers who have died will be raised with an imperishable body and those believers who are living will be changed.

4. 15:53 – The bodies of the dead will be raised and the bodies of the living will be changed – multiple choice:
 - a. so that they are perishable but immortal, i.e. incapable of dying.
 - b. so that they are imperishable but mortal, i.e. capable of dying
 - c. so that they are still perishable and mortal, i.e. capable of dying
 - d. so that they are imperishable and immortal, i.e. incapable of dying

5. Cp. Philippians 3:21 – Christ will transform our lowly _____ so that they will be like His glorious, i.e. resurrection, _____.

6. 15:58 – How are these truths to change our lives – multiple choice:
 - a. We are to stand firm or be steadfast.
 - b. We are let nothing move us.
 - c. We are to abound in or give ourselves fully to the work of the Lord
 - d. All of the above

D. 1 Corinthians 3:10-15

1. 3:10, 11 – Trusting Christ for salvation is like – multiple choice:
 - a. building on top of the foundation of the building
 - b. laying the foundation of the building
 - c. both a and b
 - d. choosing our building materials

2. 3:12, 13 – The works or deeds we do after we have trusted Christ for salvation are like – multiple choice:
 - a. building on top of the foundation of the building
 - b. laying the foundation of the building
 - c. both a and b
 - d. building a fire

3. 3:13 – The fire will test– multiple choice:
 - a. whether we go to heaven or hell
 - b. what sort or quality of works we have
 - c. how many or what quantity of works we have
 - d. what kind of foundation we have.

4. 3:14 – The works of the believer which last will receive - multiple choice:
 - a. salvation
 - b. a reward
 - c. riches
 - d. will be burned up

5. 3:15 – The works of the believer which do not last – multiple choice:
 - a. will be burned up and the believer will be burned up with them
 - b. will be burned up but the believer will himself be saved
 - c. will also be rewarded
 - d. will also cause us to lose the foundation of the building which is salvation.

6. 3:15 – The believer who has works burned up at the judgment seat of Christ – multiple choice:
 - a. will find himself burning in hell
 - b. will still be rewarded
 - c. will enjoy loss of reward
 - d. will suffer loss of reward

7. cp. Luke 14:14 – This judgment in 1 Corinthians 3:10-15 will take place at the time of the _____ of the saved (i.e. righteous or just).

8. cp. Colossians 3:22-24 – The practical result of this is to help our good works to be done – multiple choice:
- a. to impress others
 - b. with the right motive
 - c. for reward
 - d. both b and c.

PART TWO: There are Four Positions Regarding the Rapture

A. The Partial Rapture View

Faithful church –age believers will be raptured prior to the 7 year tribulation and carnal believers will have to live through the tribulation and be raptured following the 7 year tribulation

B. The Post-tribulation Rapture View

All church-age believers will be raptured at the end of the 7 year tribulation.

C. The Mid-tribulation Rapture View

All church-age believers will be raptured in the middle of the 7 year tribulation.

D. The Pre-tribulation Rapture View

All church-age believers will be raptured prior to the 7 year tribulation. This is what the scriptures teach.

PART THREE: The Day of the Lord

A. 2 Thessalonians 2:1, 2

1. There was a prophecy, report or letter falsely attributed to Paul which stated that the Day of the Lord (Christ in the K.J.V. and N.K.J.V. should be translated “Lord”) – multiple choice:
 - a. stating that the Day of the Lord was coming soon.
 - b. stating that the Day of the Lord was not going to come at all.
 - c. stating that the Day of the Lord had already come.
 - d. stating that the Day of the Lord was not coming for a long time.
2. Understanding this detail of prophecy is important so that believers living then and now – multiple choice:
 - a. might realize that this is not settled.
 - b. would not become easily unsettled or alarmed.
 - c. would realize that this is not important.
 - d. would not learn the facts of prophecy revealed in scripture.

B. Events and Signs **Before** the Beginning of the Day of the Lord

Match the following sets of scripture passages with the event or sign listed by putting the first scripture reference of each set of references by the numbered item.

item:

Joel 2:31 cp. Revelation 6:12-17

Malachi 4:5, 6; Revelation 11:2-6; 2 Kings 1:10-12

2 Thessalonians 2:3; 1 Timothy 4:1-5; 2 Timothy 3:1-5

2 Thessalonians 2:3; Daniel 9:27; Revelation 6:1, 2

#	1 st scripture reference of the set	Event or Sign before the Day of the Lord
1.		The falling away or apostasy
2.		The revealing of the Antichrist when he signs the 7 year treaty with the many of Israel
3.		The 2 nd coming of Elijah the prophet as one of the two witnesses
4.		The sun will be turned into darkness and the moon to blood.

C. The time periods covered by the Day of the Lord

Match the following sets of scripture passages with the event listed by putting the first scripture reference of each set of references by the numbered item.

item:

2 Peter 3:10-13

Zechariah 14:1-16

Isaiah 2:12-21; Revelation 6:12-17

Isaiah 34:1-8; Revelation 19:19-21

#	1 st scripture reference of the set	The events listed in order
1.		The Day of the Lord begins during the first half of the tribulation as evidenced by the earthquake and men hiding in the caves.
2.		The Day of the Lord continues through the Battle of Armageddon at the close of the tribulation when the world's armies gather for battle and are killed.
3.		The Day of the Lord also includes Christ's 2 nd advent and His reign over the entire earth.
4.		The Day of the Lord ends with the dissolution of the present earth and heavens by fire and the formation of the new heavens and earth.

D. 2 Peter 3:11, 14 - What kind of lives should be live in light of this?

PART FOUR: Scriptures which Support a Pre-tribulation Rapture

A. 2 Thessalonians 2:1-11

1. Number the following events 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 to show in which order they occur:

#	Event
	Revealing of the Antichrist
	Apostasy or falling away
	Removal of the restrainer which requires the rapture of the church
	The coming of the Day of the Lord
	The working of the mystery of lawlessness or iniquity

2. The identity of the restrainer of evil – consider the different views:

a. Is it Satan?

- (1) John 8:44 – Satan was _____ from the beginning and the source or father of _____.
- (2) 1 John 3:8 – The devil has been _____ from the beginning.
- (3) Matthew 12:24-26 – For Satan to restrain evil – multiple choice:
 - (a) would be perfectly logical
 - (b) would be a way to deceive us
 - (c) would be for him to fight against himself
 - (d) is his assigned role from God

b. Is it human government?

- (1) Romans 13:3, 4 – Human government - multiple choice:
 - (a) is not used by God to restrain evil.
 - (b) is used by God to restrain evil.
 - (c) cannot restrain evil because it is totally in league with Satan
 - (d) both (a) and (c)
- (2) Revelation 13:2, 7; 16:13, 14 – During this part of the tribulation which will be long after the restrainer is taken out of the way, - multiple choice:
 - (a) Human government will still exist.
 - (b) Human government will have been done away with.
 - (c) There will be no type of authority at all.
 - (d) All human government will have moved to heaven.

c. Is it the Holy Spirit?

(1) cp. Genesis 6:3 - The Holy Spirit – multiple choice:

- (a) does not strive or contend with man to restrain evil.
- (b) will strive or contend with man forever to restrain evil.
- (c) will strive or contend with man to restrain evil but not forever.
- (d) only restrains evil among the angels

(2) cp. 2 Thessalonians 2:6, 7 – The restrainer – multiple choice:

- (a) is a “what” (neuter) in v. 6 and a “what” (neuter) in v. 7
- (b) is a “he” (masculine) in v. 6 and a “he” (masculine) in v. 7
- (c) is a “he” (masculine) in v. 6 and a “what” (neuter) in v. 7
- (d) is a “what” (neuter) in v. 6 and a “he” (masculine) in v. 7

Note: The Holy Spirit uses the neuter pronoun in Romans 8:16, 26 and the masculine pronoun in John 14:16, 17, 26. This can be clearly seen in the Old King James Version. No other choice for the restrainer uses the masculine and neuter pronouns. The Holy Spirit is therefore the identity of the restrainer.

(3) Romans 8:9; John 14:16, 17 – Whom does the Holy Spirit indwell? – multiple choice:

- (a) every believer in Christ temporarily.
- (b) every person whether or not they are a believer in Christ.
- (c) Only believers in Christ who speak in tongues
- (d) every believer in Christ permanently

(4) Since the restrainer in 2 Thessalonians 2:6, 7 is the Holy Spirit and since he permanently indwells every believer, who is going to be taken out of the way with Him when He is removed? – multiple choice:

- (a) every believer in Christ
- (b) every person in the world
- (c) every person in the nation of Israel
- (d) only godly believers while carnal believers are left behind

3. Application

a. Acts 17:1-10 – We know that Paul was in Thessolonica for about three weeks because he only was able to reason with them for three _____ days in the synagogue.

b. cp. 2 Thessalonians 2:5 – Paul indicates that in those three weeks:

- (1) he did not share these details of prophecy with these new believers.
- (2) that prophecy was not important.
- (3) he shared details of prophecy with these new believers
- (4) he told them he would share any details of prophecy with them after they were grounded in the word.

B. Revelation 3:10

NAS Translation – use this translation to answer the questions on this specific verse –
“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 upon the earth.”

1. cp. 1 John 2:4, 5, 29; John 17:6 – Those who keep the word of Christ which is here called “the word of My perseverance” – multiple choice:

- a. are just the spiritual believers and not the carnal believers
- b. are those who have done sufficiently good works to earn this promise
- c. cp. John 1:12, 13 - are those who have been born of God by faith in Christ and show this new birth by living a life that is characteristically obedient to God’s word.
- d. are those who study God’s word a lot.

2. The future tribulation period is called the _____ of _____ which is about to come upon the whole _____.

3. Believers are promised – multiple choice:

- a. to be kept from this tribulation testing
- b. to be kept from the hour or time of this tribulation testing
- c. to be kept through the hour or time of this tribulation testing
- d. to be kept through this tribulation testing

4. Application: Revelation 3:11 cp. Philippians 3:16 – Because the rapture and time of rewards could be at any moment, we believers need to – multiple choice:

- a. Not worry about our spiritual level because everything is going to turn out all right in the end.
- b. hold fast the spiritual level we have attained so that we do not put our salvation in danger.
- c. hold fast the spiritual level we have attained so that we do not lose rewards.
- d. hold fast the spiritual level we have attained so that we do not miss the rapture and have to go through the tribulation.

C. 1 Thessalonians 1:10; 5:9-11 cp with Revelation 6:16, 17

1. Revelation 6:16, 17 – This passage concerning the tribulation calls it the great _____ or time of their (God the Father’s and Christ’s) _____.

2. 1 Thessalonians 1:10 – When Christ comes for us believers, He - multiple choice:

- a. rescues or delivers us from past wrath
- b. rescues or delivers us from present wrath
- c. rescues or delivers us from future wrath
- d. will decide whether or not we need to experience wrath

3. 1 Thessalonians 5:9-11

a. 5:9 – In addition to salvation from the presence of sin when Christ comes for us, God’s plan is for us church age believers to experience – multiple choice:

- (1) the wrath of the tribulation but not eternal wrath
- (2) wrath if there are some sins in our life and no wrath if there is no sin in our life.
- (3) the wrath of the tribulation for carnal believers and no wrath for spiritual believers.
- (4) no wrath.

b. 5:10

Greek word for awake or alive	Greek word for sleep or asleep
“Gregorio” = alert or awake in 1 Thes. 5:6, 10	“katheudo” = sleep or asleep in 1 Thes. 5:6, 7, 10 – speaks of indifference
“zoe” = alive in 1 Thes. 4:15, 17 and live in 1 Thes. 5:10	“koimeo” = sleep or asleep in 1 Thes. 4:13-15 – speaks of death

Based on the chart above, this promises – multiple choice:

- (1) Believers will live with Christ whether they are physically alive or dead when Christ comes.
- (2) Believers will live with Christ whether they are spiritually alert or spiritually indifferent when Christ comes.
- (3) Believers will live with Christ if they are spiritually alert but will not live with Christ if they are spiritually indifferent when Christ comes.
- (4) Believers will live with Christ if they are physically alive but not if they are physically dead when Christ comes.

c. The conclusion is – multiple choice:

- (1) Some church-age believers will experience the future tribulation.
- (2) All church-age believers will experience the future tribulation.
- (3) Carnal church age believers will experience the future tribulation and spiritual church-age believers will not experience the future tribulation.
- (4) Church-age believers will not experience God’s wrath and since the tribulation is a time of God’s wrath, they will not experience the future tribulation period.

d. Practical application: Since we as church-age believers are not going to experience God’s wrath – multiple choice:

- (1) We should encourage or exhort one another.
- (2) We should build one another up to greater Christ-likeness.
- (3) Both (1) and (2).
- (4) We are free to live as we please.

D. Revelation 4:4 – The Identity of the 24 Elders

1. They are clothed dressed in _____ colored garments.
2. Revelation 19:8 – The linen garments stand for the _____
_____ of saints (i.e. believers).
3. They are seated on _____ which shows that they have authority.
4. cp. 1 Corinthians 6:2, 3 – In addition to judging angels, believers are going to judge the _____.
5. These 24 elders have _____ (Greek “stefanos”) on their heads.
6. cp. 1 Thessalonians 2:19, 20; James 1:12; 2 Timothy 4:8; 1 Peter 5:4 – Crowns (Greek “stefanos”) are given to – multiple choice:
 - a. believers for faithful service to God.
 - b. angels for faithful service to God.
 - c. people who were rulers on earth.
 - d. some other category of being.
7. Luke 14:14 – When are believers rewarded?
 - a. After the lost people are raised from the dead.
 - b. In this life
 - c. At the resurrection of the righteous or just, i.e. believers.
 - d. The verse does not say.
8. Conclusion: Based on the previous questions, who do the 24 elders appear to represent?
 - a. All men
 - b. Angels
 - c. Earthly leaders
 - d. Church-age believers
9. Since Revelation chapter 6 begins the 7 year tribulation period, what is the best understanding of Revelation 4:4?
 - a. The church-age believers will go through the tribulation on earth.
 - b. The church-age believers will be rewarded, given their position of authority and be safely in heaven.
 - c. The angels will have been rewarded, given their positions of authority and be safely in heaven.
 - d. The church age believers will go through the last half of the 7 year tribulation only.

10. cp. Revelation 4:10, 11 - Practical application: The _____ (Greek “stefanos”) which are our rewards will be used to praise God in heaven by throwing or laying them before His _____.

PART FIVE: Scriptures Which Refute those Views that Contradict the Pre-Tribulation Rapture View

A. The Contrast Between the Rapture and 2nd Advent

1. 1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17 – At the rapture who will meet Christ in the air? – multiple choice:

- a. All people living and dead.
- b. Those who have not trusted Christ for salvation living and dead.
- c. Those people who are in Christ, the dead first then the living.
- d. Those who are spiritual believers – both living and dead. However, carnal believers will not be included.

2. 1 Corinthians 15:23 – After Christ’s resurrection which has already taken place, who are the first people to be raised from the dead? – multiple choice:

- a. All physically dead people
- b. Those physically dead people who do not belong to Christ.
- c. Those physically dead people who belong to Christ.
- d. Those physically dead people who belong to Christ and have lived a spiritual life. However, carnal believers will not be included.

3. Based on your answers to questions 1 and 2, at the rapture – multiple choice:

- a. The saved will be taken out from among the unsaved.
- b. The unsaved will be taken out from among the saved.
- c. The saved and unsaved will be taken out at the same time.
- d. Only the saved, who have been living a spiritual life, will be taken out from among the unsaved and from among believers who have led a carnal life.

4. Matthew 13:41-43, 48-50 – At the 2nd coming of Christ – multiple choice:

- a. The saved will be taken out from among the unsaved.
- b. The unsaved will be taken out from among the saved.
- c. The saved and unsaved will be taken out at the same time.
- d. Only the saved, who have been living a spiritual life, will be taken out from among the unsaved and from among believers who have led a carnal life.

5. Comparing your answers to questions 3 and 4 - multiple choice:

- a. The rapture and 2nd coming of Christ to earth are the same event.
- b. The rapture and 2nd coming of Christ to earth are separate events.
- c. The rapture has to do only with spiritual believers and the 2nd advent

has to do only with carnal believers.

- d. The rapture deals only with physically dead believers and the 2nd advent deals only with physically dead believers.

6. Matthew 24:40,41 cp. Luke 17:34-36 – When the disciples asked Jesus where the people who had been taken will be brought, His answer in Luke 17:37 indicates that they will be taken – multiple choice:

- a. to a place of peace and rest
- b. to a place of testing to be fitted for heaven
- c. to a place of judgment and death
- d. both a and b.

7. Matthew 24:40, 41 cp. 24:38-40 – The people taken away at the time of the flood were taken away – multiple choice:

- a. for salvation
- b. for judgment
- c. for a second chance
- d. on the ark

8. Matthew 24:40, 41 cp. 24:38-40 – It would logically follow that the people taken away in Matthew 24:40, 41 will be taken away – multiple choice:

- a. for salvation
- b. for judgment
- c. for a second chance
- d. testing

9. Application – 1 Thessalonians 4:13, 18 – To not grieve for dead believers like those who have no _____ and to _____ one another with these words.

B. The Hebrew Marriage Custom

1. Ephesians 5:25-32 – The bride of Christ is – multiple choice:

- a. the nation of Israel
- b. the church consisting of all believers
- c. those who are members of a local church
- d. all people – Christian and non-Christian

Match the following scripture references with the Hebrew Marriage custom:

Revelation 19:7-9

1 Thessalonians 4:16-18

2 Corinthians 11:2

Ltr.	Scripture reference	Stages of the Hebrew Marriage
a.		Betrothal or engagement
b.		The coming for the bride
c.		The coming with the bride and marriage supper or feast

C. Zechariah 14:1-5 cp. Daniel 12:1

1. Zechariah 14:5 cp. Acts 1:9-12 – To where will Jesus return at His second coming? – multiple choice:

- a. in the air
- b. to Armageddon
- c. to Hell itself
- d. to the Mount of Olives

2. 1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17– To where will Jesus return at the rapture? – multiple choice:

- a. in the air
- b. to Armageddon
- c. to Hell itself
- d. to the Mount of Olives

3. 14:4, 5 - The believing people under siege in Jerusalem (14:2) will flee – multiple choice:

- a. by being caught up to meet the Lord in the air.
- b. through a valley formed by the split of the Mount of Olives.
- c. through a system of underground tunnels built by Hezekiah.
- d. and be killed because their ancestors rejected Christ.

4. 14:5 cp. 1 Thessalonians 3:13 cp. Daniel 12:1 – They will be rescued – multiple choice:

- a. by a large army either from the United States or from Western Europe.
- b. by being raptured to meet the Lord in the air.
- c. when the Lord Jesus Christ returns with all His saints/holy ones.
- d. by dying and going to heaven.

5. Conclusion: The fact that the return of the Lord Jesus with His saints/holy ones rescues the besieged believers of Jerusalem would show us that the rapture to meet Him in the air and the return to earth are:

- a. the same event
- b. separate events
- c. evidence that Israel will never come to Christ.
- d. evidence that no one will be saved during the tribulation

6. Practical application: Match the following by putting the scripture reference from Zechariah in front of the application that it teaches:

14:2

14:3

14:4, 5

Ltr.	Scripture reference from Zechariah	Practical applications
a.		God makes a way of escape for His people in their trials.
b.		God lets bad things and injustices happen to His people.
c.		God fights for His people.

D. Christ's Return Could be at Any Moment

1. Matthew 24:42 – What did Jesus state about His second coming? – multiple choice:

- a. We would know it was 7 years after the beginning of the tribulation.
- b. We would know it was 3 ½ years after the beginning of the tribulation.
- c. We would know it was 7 years after the spiritual believers have been raptured and the carnal believers left behind.
- d. No one knows the day that He is returning.

2. James 5:8, 9; Philippians 4:5 – These verses indicate that – multiple choice:

- a. The rapture could come at any moment.
- b. The rapture can only come after certain signs are fulfilled.
- c. The beginning of the tribulation and not the appearing of Christ could be at any moment.
- d. There will certainly be warning before Jesus comes for believers.

3. Application

a. Matthew 24:42 – In regard to Christ's return – multiple choice:

- (1) We are to not think about it.
- (2) We are to be alert or watchful.
- (3) We are just to live as we would like since we are forgiven.
- (4) There's no use being watchful since we don't know when it will be.

- b. James 5:8, 9 – In regard to the fact that Jesus may return any moment we are to be – multiple choice:
- (1) patient
 - (2) strengthened in our heart or thought life.
 - (3) uncomplaining toward one another
 - (4) All the above.
- c. Philippians 4:5 – What character quality is called for in view of the fact that Jesus may return at any moment? _____.

E. No Scripture Passage Regarding the Tribulation Mentions the Church

1. Match the following scriptures with the statement listed below:

Revelation 13:7

1 Corinthians 1:2

Revelation 20:9 (NIV “God’s people = saints)

Psalm 34:9

Ltr.	Scripture reference	Type of saint or believer in view
a.		Old Testament saints
b.		Present church-age saints
c.		Tribulation saints
d.		Millennial saints

2. Considering the chart in question 1, Matthew 24:22 proves – multiple choice:
- a. Church-age believers will be experiencing the tribulation.
 - b. All believers of all ages will be experiencing the tribulation.
 - c. There will be saints or believers during the tribulation and they do not necessarily have to be church age believers.
 - d. The saints are obviously Old Testament saints.
3. Revelation 13:7 – The saints of the tribulation will be _____ by the beast, i.e. Antichrist.
4. Matthew 16:18 – Jesus promised the church would be – multiple choice:
- a. overcome by the forces of evil.
 - b. not overcome by the forces of evil.
 - c. defeated by the Antichrist.
 - d. both a and c.