

The Rapture Dilemma A

Eschatology: Study of God
Developing People in His Image

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Inexorably Linked Together

Rapture



Great Tribulation



Failure of Applied Hermeneutics

- Failure to apply normative hermeneutics occur most frequently with these Scriptures:
 - Creation
 - Cataclysm (Flood)
 - Prophecy concerning eschatology (end times)
 - Revelation

Failure Occurs Due To Lack of Context

- As discussed, most views of eschatology have little or no historical context
- Events are
 - Ignored
 - Assigned to the past
 - Discussed in wild flights of fantasy – NO CONTEXT

We Must Understand the Great Tribulation to Understand the Rapture

- The usual view of the Great Tribulation is one of God “pouring” out His wrath on lost man for seven years to *force* repentance
 - Small God
 - Large man
 - No context

Great Tribulation Overview

- God will remove the restraining influence of His Holy Spirit so Satan, and man, can realize the success of their Gnostic, secular humanistic philosophy in its full *context* (2Th 2:1-12)
- The Antichrist, will be revealed as the *Guide* to lead man to spiritual truth and realization

Biblical Basis for This Context

- Tower of Babel (Ziggurat) (Gen 11:1-9)
 - Government and religion are fused to provide basis of morality
 - The Head of Government is the **mediator** between the people and the spiritual forces
 - People unify with the **Mediator's** belief system

Persecution for Unbelievers Mark of God

- Those who reject **his** context will be persecuted as impediments to man's spiritual destiny
 - These are those *sovereignly chosen* to be saved, to receive God's mark
 - God sustains them less they too fall away

Mark of the Beast

- Those who follow their own understanding (free will) receive the mark of the beast showing their allegiance to **his** spiritual goal
- The realization of their "actualization" results in a more violent, destructive society rather than the peaceful utopia envisioned

Utopian Hell

- The crisis occurs when their utopian society cannot control all elements of mankind or adjust to the cataclysmic changes occurring
- Persecution reaches a fever pitch against God's people as the cause of their societal failure: Kill the haters to reach utopia

God's Intervention

- God intervened in mercy and longsuffering at Babel to prevent man from realizing the foolishness of his own fantasy
- God will intervene to confront man with the foolishness of his own fantasy during the Great Tribulation, calling them to repentance

Three Sevens of the Mercy of God



Seven Seals of the Scroll of Christ

- The first four seals show the result of man implementing his utopian unity
 - Political unification of the Greco-Roman world
 - War against those elements that resist
 - Famine due to societal disruption
 - Pestilence and death due to societal disruption

Seven Seals of the Scroll of Christ

- Last three seals show the true nature of man's utopian society
 - Persecution of those who reject their utopia
 - God's demonstration of His power over nature showing their absolute impotence
 - God's call to repentance

Seven Trumpets of Christ

- Feast of Trumpets proceed Yom Kippur, Day of Atonement; thus, each trumpet is a call to repentance
- This demonstrates their utter insignificant control over nature while God demonstrates His absolute control, despite their unbelief

Seven Trumpets of Christ

- First four trumpets deal with natural phenomenon
- Next two trumpets deal with the unleashing of spiritual forces
 - If they cannot control the physical, how can they hope to corral the spiritual forces they desire

Seven Trumpets of Christ

- The unleashing of these spiritual forces are those the people consider their “allies”
 - These forces actually attack those that worship them causing even greater society violence and disruption (Rev 1:18-32)
 - Their “free will” will not repent, emulating Satan

Seven Trumpets of Christ

- The last trumpet reveals the final mystery of Christ resulting in the vials of cleansing
- Throughout this period there are missionaries
 - Great revivals world-wide
 - Great persecutions world-wide

Seven Vials of Christ

- These are cleansing vials Christ uses to prepare for His Parousia (Return) and the inauguration of His Millennial Kingdom
- The result of these vials clearly show the two divisions of men

Seven Vials of Christ

- These vials, like the latter plagues of Egypt, only affect those who reject Christ's mercy and longsuffering
- God is also reshaping the earth before the eyes of all mankind, returning it to its condition before the Cataclysm

Terra Forming – God's Way

- Since man believes the Cataclysm did not exist and that the earth, and all life, was formed over billions of years. God will show everyone how He shapes and reshapes the earth quickly
- All mountains and islands disappear, except for the mountains of Jerusalem

Har Megiddo (Armageddon)

- The armies meet to settle the question of total world domination
 - Antichrist with his Greco-Roman coalition
 - Gog/Magog armies from the North
 - Oriental armies that cross the Euphrates
 - African armies that swing up from the South

Har Megiddo (Armageddon)

- Once they enter this valley, Christ returns
- They quickly unite to resist Him
- Christ simply speaks, neutralizing them
- Christ enters Jerusalem
- Christ *judges* those still alive on the earth
- Millennial Kingdom begins

How Does the Rapture Fit?

- Next week we will discuss the three major views of the Rapture in the Great Tribulation
 - Pre Tribulation
 - Mid Tribulation
 - Post Tribulation