Table of Contents:

1) Rapture Quotes Pg. 6
2) Church in the book of Revelation. Pg. 7
3) Tribulation Saints are “In the Lord” Pg. 10
4) First Resurrection Pg. 13
5) Wrath of God Pg. 16
6) Hour of God’s Wrath Pg. 21
7) Removal of the Restrainer – the Holy Spirit Pg. 24
8) Judgment Seat of Christ Pg. 26
9) The Sheep and the Goats Pg. 29
10) Repopulating the Earth Pg. 34
11) Sign-Less Event Pg. 40
12) Matthew 24 – To Israel or to the Church? Pg. 44
13) Matthew 24:31: Rapture Or Second Coming? Pg. 49
14) Daniel’s 70th Week and the 7 year Tribulation Pg. 61
15) Rapture vs. Return Pg. 92
16) Imminency Pg. 97
17) Blessed Hope Pg. 111

LEFT BEHIND? – GOD DOESN’T LEAVE HIS PEOPLE BEHIND Pg. 122

BECAUSE ALL WHO ARE LEFT BEHIND ARE DESTROYED  Luke 17:26-31
Pretribbers have presented evidence and testimony through direct examination that is supposed to validate beyond a reasonable doubt that the Rapture of the Church happens before a 7 year Great Tribulation.

This report is a cross examination of that evidence and testimony which reveals that the evidence provided by Pretribbers does not support their position.

This report also demonstrates through the scrutiny of scripture and historical fact that the Rapture of the Church occurs after the Tribulation that is described in Matthew chapter 24 and Revelation Chapter 7 and Revelation Chapter 20 and elsewhere.
A response and cross examination to Dr. Mark Hitchcock’s, Dr. John F. Walvoord’s, Dr. Thomas Ice’s and other Pre-Tribulationists’ position.

Unless otherwise noted Dr. Mark Hitchcock’s statements are taken from his YouTube video teaching on the Rapture
7 Reasons Pre-Tribulation Rapture Before Great Tribulation - Mark Hitchcock
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=32o8s8PaiM8&t=27s

Unless otherwise noted Dr. John F. Walvoord’s statements are taken from his teaching:
Fifty Arguments for Pretribulationism
50 Reasons Why The Rapture Must Happen Before The 7 Year Tribulation
Dr. John F. Walvoord
http://walvoord.com/article/67

Unless otherwise noted Dr. Thomas Ice’s statements are taken from his teaching:
Matthew 24:31: Rapture Or Second Coming?
http://www.pre-trib.org/articles/view/matthew-2431-rapture-or-second-coming
Dr. Thomas Ice’s
Pre-Trib Research Center

The term “Rapture” is used to describe Jesus coming for His Church, whereas the term “Second Coming” describes His coming to earth to execute His wrath upon His enemies and the unbelieving word and to set up His Millennial Kingdom.

The rapture is when the church is “caught up” from the earth and taken to heaven; those dead in Christ rise first and then those who are alive will be translated from mortal to immortal bodies.
John 14:1-3, 1 Cor. 15:51-58, 1Thess 4:13-18, 2 Thess 2:1-4

There four or more views on when the Rapture occurs:
Pretrib: Before the Tribulation which is the wrath of God.
Midtrib: In the middle of the Tribulation
Postrib: After the Tribulation
PreWrath: After the Tribulation begins or even ends yet before God’s wrath is poured out.

For more details on the difference in Rapture timing go to:
https://www.gotquestions.org/rapture-tribulation.html

I believe the Rapture Happens after the Tribulation because Jesus says it will happen after the Tribulation.

I, John, your brother and partner in the tribulation and kingdom and perseverance that are in Jesus, was on the island of Patmos because of the word of God and my testimony about Jesus. Rev. 1:9
In American Jurisprudence if a prosecutor or a plaintiff is unwilling to subject their testimony or evidence to cross examination than the evidence is not admissible in a court of law, it would be rendered invalid by the judge. If a person is unwilling to subject his assertions to the crucible of cross-examination than one has to call into question the validity of those assertions.

**OPINION OF THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES**

NO. 07-591

MELENDEZ-DIAZ V. MASSACHUSETTS

557 U. S. ____ (2009)

“Forensic evidence is not uniquely immune from the risk of manipulation.

Serious deficiencies have been found in the forensic evidence used in criminal trials. One commentator asserts that the legal community now concedes, with varying degrees of urgency, that our system produces erroneous convictions based on discredited forensics. One study of cases in which exonerating evidence resulted in the overturning of criminal convictions concluded that invalid forensic testimony contributed to the convictions in 60% of the cases.

“The majority of forensic evidence is produced by law enforcement where the laboratory administrator reports to the head of the law enforcement agency. Because forensic scientists often are driven in their work by a need to answer a particular question related to the issues of a particular case, they sometimes face pressure to sacrifice appropriate methodology for the sake of expediency. A forensic analyst responding to a request from a law enforcement official may feel pressure—or have an incentive—to alter the evidence in a manner favorable to the prosecution.

Confrontation is one means of assuring accurate forensic analysis. While it is true, as the dissent notes, that an honest analyst will not alter his testimony when forced to confront the defendant, the same cannot be said of the fraudulent analyst.

Confrontation is designed to weed out not only the fraudulent analyst, but the incompetent one as well.

The Sixth Amendment guarantees a defendant the right to be confronted with the witnesses against him. Respondent and the dissent may be right that there are other ways—and in some cases better ways—to challenge or verify the results of a forensic test. But the Constitution guarantees one way: confrontation.

Like expert witnesses generally, an analyst’s lack of proper training or deficiency in judgment may be disclosed in cross-examination.”  **Justice Antonin Scalia**

https://supreme.justia.com/cases/federal/us/557/305/opinion.html
1) Rapture Quotes

Pretribbers cite John 14:1-3, 1 Cor. 15:51-58, 1Thess 4:13-18, as validation of a Pre-Tribulation Rapture.

These passages do declare a rapture event however none of these passages convey a specific time when the rapture will occur in relation to the Tribulation and therefore cannot be used to validate a Pre-Tribulation rapture. To put forth these passages as a biblical basis for the Pre-tribulation Rapture is misleading and deceptive.
2) Church in the book of Revelation.

Pretrib Testimony

Dr. Walvoord states that none of the passages Revelation chapter 4 through 18 representing the Tribulation on the Tribulation mention the church.

Dr. Hitchcock states that The main part of the bible that deals with the 70th week of Daniel the tribulation period, the time of Jacob’s troubl is Rev chapter 6 through 18.

Dr. Hitchcock states that the Church is never pictured on earth during that period of time in the book of Revelation; the Church is absent from earth from Revelation chapter 6 through 18.

Pretrib Testimony

Dr. Walvoord states that terms like “elect” and “saints” apply to those saved of all ages, but that the terms “Church” and “those in Christ” refer to believers of this age only.

Dr Walvoord states that the translation of the church is pictured as a deliverance before the day of wrath, while the Second Coming is followed by the deliverance of those who have believed in Christ during the Tribulation.

Dr. Hitchcock states that the rapture will occur before the tribulation.

Dr. Hitchcock states that the only qualification to be a part of the rapture is to “be in Christ.” And to be in Christ is to put faith in the Lord Jesus.

Dr. Hitchcock states that the rapture will include all believers. All believers in this Church age, all those who are in Christ through faith in the Lord are going to be caught up to be with the Lord.

Cross Examination

Dr. Walvoord and Dr. Hitchcock state that the Church is not present on earth during the Tribulation period, the period from Rev. Ch. 6 through Rev. Ch. 18. Dr. Walvoord emphasis that the Church is not present after Ch. 4 of Revelation. They acknowledge that those people who are, “in Christ” who have put their faith in the Lord are a part of the Church.
“I heard a voice from heaven telling me to write, "Blessed are the dead—those who **die in the Lord** from this moment on." [Rev. 14:13](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Rev+14%3A13)

[Rev. 14:13](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Rev+14%3A13) identifies people who die in the Lord from that moment forward. The implication is that they were **“in the Lord”** when they were alive just before they died verifying that there are living people who are in the Lord in [Rev. ch. 14](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Rev+ch.+14).

These people who **“die in the Lord”** at Rev. 14 and from there on do so after the 7 Seals are opened, [Rev. 8:1](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Rev+8%3A1), and after the 6th Trumpet is blown, [Rev. 9:13](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Rev+9%3A13), and after the 7th Trumpet is blown, [Rev. 11:15](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Rev+11%3A15), yet before the 7 Bowls of God’s Wrath are poured out, [Rev. 16:1](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Rev+16%3A1).

Based upon their own criteria of identifying who the Church is, both Dr. Walvoord and Dr. Hitchcock have identified members of the Church living and dying during the Tribulation at Revelation Chapter 14. Obviously Dr. Hitchcock acknowledges that the Church is seen in [Rev. 19](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Rev+19) at the Marriage Supper of the Lamb in heaven [Rev. 19:1-10](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Rev+19%3A1-10).

The Church in Rev. 19 is not identified by the name, **“Church,”** or even the phrase: **“those in the Lord”** or **“those in Christ.”** The Church is identified by the name of **“bride”** [Rev. 19:7](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Rev+19%3A7) and more specifically the name, **“saints,”** in [Rev. 19:8](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Rev+19%3A8).

Just because the name **“Church”** or the phrase, **“in the Lord,”** are not used to identify members of the Church does not provide a logical rationale to prove that the Word of God is not referring to the Church; members of the body of Christ.

The other identifying characteristic used to identify the Church in [Rev. 19](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Rev+19) is the **“fine linen”** that is **“bright and pure,”** given to the Church to wear. [Rev. 19:8](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Rev+19%3A8) The clothes are also identified as being **“white.”** [Rev. 19:14](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Rev+19%3A14)

[Rev. 7:9-14](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Rev+7%3A9-14) refers to people who are dressed in **“white”** robes that have been **washed in the blood of the lamb;** people who are worshiping God before the throne of the Lamb, Jesus. One can make the argument that the two groups of people are both a part of the Church based upon wearing **“white”** clothes given to them by Jesus.

Furthermore the Martyrs in [Rev. 6:9-11](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Rev+6%3A9-11) are also identified as being given **“white”** robes and told to rest until the total number of their **“brothers”** has been completed. Not only are **“white”** clothes given to them just as those Church members are in Rev. 19 but these believers are identified as **“brothers.”**

The members of the Church in [Rev. 19:10](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Rev+19%3A10) are identified as **“brothers”** who rely on the testimony of Jesus linking them with the believers in [Rev. 6:9-11](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Rev+6%3A9-11).

Additionally these **“brothers”** in [Rev. 19:10](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Rev+19%3A10) who are a part of the Church according to Dr. Hitchcock are also brothers to those **“brothers”** in [Rev. 12:10-11](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Rev+12%3A10-11) whom Satan accuses before God and yet these **“brothers”** conquer Satan by the blood of the Lamb and their testimony. These **“brothers”** and sisters in 17 Reasons the Rapture Happens AFTER the Great Tribulation - [www.Counterfeitrapture.com](http://www.Counterfeitrapture.com)
Revelation 12 are members of the Church. In fact I have heard numerous sermons about how Satan accuses these members of the Church before God. It is clear that the Church is seen on earth in Rev. ch. 12.

According to Strong’s online Concordance the Greek word for “brothers” used in both Rev. 19:10 and Rev. 6:11 is “adelphos.” The definition is:
a brother, 
member of the same religious community, especially a fellow-Christian
http://biblehub.com/greek/80.htm

The believers in Rev. Ch. 6 are directly linked to the believers in Rev. Ch. 19 as being brothers, fellow-Christians. The believers in Rev. Ch. 7 are directly linked to the believers in Rev. Ch. 6 as being clothed in “white robes;” the believers in Rev. Ch. 7 are clearly identified as coming out of the tribulation. And then the believers in Rev. 12 are also identified as brothers to the believers in Ch. 19 who are the Church.

**Conclusion:**

The Church is identified in Revelation Ch. 14 as “those... in the Lord,” verifying that the Church is present on earth during the tribulation and between Chapters 4 and 18 of the Book of Revelation. The members of the Church in Rev. 19 are dressed in “white” clothes just like the believers in Rev. Ch. 6 and Rev. Ch. 7. The members of the Church in Rev. 19 are identified as “brothers” to those who are believers in Rev. Ch. 6 and Ch. 12.

The believers in Rev. Ch. 6 and Rev. Ch. 7 and Rev. Ch. 12 and Rev. Ch. 14 are just as much a part of the Church as those in Rev. Ch. 19.
3) Tribulation Saints are “In the Lord”
Church seen Revelation Ch. 14 between Ch. 6 and Ch. 18.

Pretribbers assert that saints mentioned in Revelation that exist during the Tribulation, the Wrath of God, are not a part of the Church, the Body of Christ. If it is proven that the Tribulation Saints are a part of the Church, the Body of Christ, then the Pretrib doctrine is false.

Pretribbers state that those people who “are in Christ,” (“in the Lord”), are believers of the Church age and will not be subjected to the Tribulation period.

Pretrib Testimony:

Dr. Hitchcock from his Youtube teaching, “When Will the Believing Be Leaving” – Dallas Theological Seminary:  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RIGlU0Jx7Ik

Dr. Hitchcock states that there is also going to be a resurrection of the bodies of dead Church age believers because the Bible says, “the dead in Christ.”

Dr. Hitchcock states that the entirety of the 7 year tribulation or the 70th week of Daniel is the wrath of God and that God’s wrath begins with the opening of the first seal judgment in Rev. ch. 6. when the Lamb initiates the opening of the seals.

Pretrib Testimony:

Dr. Walvoord asserts that the great tribulation begins in Revelation Chapter 6 long before the seventh trumpet of Revelation Chapter 11.

Dr. Hitchcock states that the wrath of God starts at the outset of the Tribulation because it begins with the opening of the seal judgments in Revelation Chapter 6.

Dr. Walvoord asserts that “those in Christ,” are the Church and refers to believers of this age only and not to believers during the Tribulation.

Dr. Hitchcock states that the rapture will occur before the tribulation and will include all believers in this Church age, all those “who are in Christ” through “faith in the Lord” are going to be caught up to be with the Lord.

Dr. Hitchcock states that the only qualification to be a part of the rapture is to be in Christ or to be ‘dead in Christ’ through faith in the Lord Jesus.

17 Reasons the Rapture Happens AFTER the Great Tribulation - www.CounterfeitRapture.com
Cross Examination:

Revelation Chapter 14 Verse 13 states: “And I heard a voice from heaven telling me to write, ‘Blessed are the dead—who die in the Lord from now on.’” Rev. 14:13

These people who “die in the Lord” at Rev. 14 and from there on do so after the 7 Seals are opened, Rev. 8:1, and after the 6th Trumpet is blown, Rev. 9:13, and after the 7th Trumpet is blown, Rev. 11:15, yet before the 7 Bowls of God’s Wrath are poured out, Rev. 16:1.

Dr. Hitchcock’s and Dr. Walvoord’s assertions are contradicted by the very clear teaching of the Bible. Either they are going to have to change their statement to maintain their Pretrib doctrine or they will have to admit that the Pretrib doctrine is not consistent with the Word of God. They either have to admit that the saints of the Tribulation are members of the Body of Christ members of the Church or they will have come up with some conjecture as to who these people are that is not based upon the Bible.

Interestingly a depiction of the harvest of the earth, Rev. 14:14-20, occurs between the 7th Trumpet and the 1st Bowl of God’s Wrath.

"And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying: "Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of His Christ. For the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, he who accuses them day and night before our God. They have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; and they did not love their lives so as to shy away from death. "Rev. 12:10-11

If the blood of the Lamb is on a person that person is in Christ and therefore is a part of the Church, the Body of Christ; the Bride of Christ.

"These are the ones who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb". Rev. 7:14

Pretrib-Testimony:

Dr. Walvoord states that the Scriptures clearly teach that all, not part, but all of the church will be raptured at the coming of Christ for the church (1 Cor. 15:51-52; 1 Thess. 4:17).

Dr. Hitchcock states that the pretrib view holds the rapture will occur before the tribulation. And will include all believers. All believers, all believers in this Church age, all those who are in Christ through faith in the Lord are going to be caught up to be with the Lord.
Cross Examination:

The Word of God identifies members of the Church, believers in Jesus Christ, “those in the Lord,” existing during the Tribulation period through and past the 7th trumpet and after the antichrist has come to power. Mr. Walvoord and Mr. Hitchcock have stated that “all believers” and “all of the Church,” will be raptured when Jesus comes; in actuality they are acknowledging that the rapture occurs after the 7th trumpet is blown at the earliest.

In Rev. 12:7-12 John describes Satan being thrown down to earth and in verse 10 identified as the “accuser of our brothers.”

The Greek word used for “brother” is: adelphos.
The definition is: a brother, member of the same religious community, especially a fellow-Christian. [http://biblehub.com/greek/80.htm](http://biblehub.com/greek/80.htm)

In the context of Rev. 12:10-12 it is clear that these brothers John is speaking about are the tribulation saints.

I have heard numerous sermons by dozens of pastors identify Satan as the accuser of Christians; members of the Body of Christ; the Church; those in Christ and those in the Lord.

John is showing that there is no difference between the Tribulation saints and the Church saints. John is showing that the Tribulation saints are brothers and sisters in the Lord; that they are brothers and sisters to the brothers and sisters who are members of the Church; who are in Christ; who are in the Lord.

Conclusion:

The Tribulation Saints are members of the Body of Christ, the Church, validated by Dr. Hitchcock’s and Dr. Walvoord’s own statements and are raptured after the 7th trumpet is blown signifying that the rapture occurs at the end of the tribulation.
4) First Resurrection

If it is proven that the Tribulation Saints participate in the first resurrection from the dead that occurs at the rapture of the Church than the Tribulation Saints are a part of the Church and therefore the rapture does not occur until sometime at the end of the Tribulation.

Facts:

1Thess 4:13-18 states clearly that at the Rapture of the Church the dead in Christ will rise first and then those who are alive, who are left, will be caught up with the resurrected dead into the clouds to meet the Lord in the air.

Since no other resurrections have occurred this must be the first resurrection of the dead which Jesus confirmed to Martha that Lazarus would rise again in the resurrection in the Last Day. Jn. 11:21-26, Jn. 11:24.

In Jn. 6:39 and Jn. 6:40 Jesus speaks of raising people from the dead on the Last Day who have been given to Him; who believe in Him.

"Then I saw the thrones, and those seated on them had been given authority to judge. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their testimony of Jesus and for the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or its image, and had not received its mark on their foreheads or hands. And they came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.

The rest of the dead did not come back to life until the thousand years were complete. This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy are those who share in the first resurrection! The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ, and will reign with Him for a thousand years." Rev. 20:4-6

These people in Rev. 20 who come to life and reign with Christ for a 1,000 years are tribulation saints signified by their coexistence with the beast, living when the Antichrist was reigning on earth, which would place them in the middle to the end of Rev. 13 which is after the 7 Seals are opened, Rev. 8:1, and after the 7th Trumpet is blown, Rev. 11:15.

Rev. 20:5 is crystal clear, it says, “The rest of the dead did not come back to life until the thousand years were complete.” This means that there is only one resurrection of the dead that occurs prior to the end of the Millennial Reign of Christ. There cannot be a second resurrection at the end of the Tribulation after the Church has been raptured. This means that the Tribulation saints who die will take part in that first resurrection; the first resurrection which occurs simultaneously with the rapture, the translation, of the Church. Since these Tribulation saints take part in the Rapture of the Church the Rapture cannot occur before 7th Trumpet is blown in Rev. 11:15 and the Antichrist comes to power in Revelation 13. Since the Tribulation saints take part in the Rapture of the Church than they must be a part of the Church.
Pretrib Testimony:

Hitchcock from his Youtube teaching, “When Will the Believing Be Leaving” – Dallas Theological Seminary:  [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RiGluOJx7Ik](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RiGluOJx7Ik)

Dr. Hitchcock states that there is going to be a resurrection of the bodies of dead Church age believers, because the Bible says, “the dead in Christ.”

Dr. Hitchcock states that Old Testament saints are not in Christ through the baptizing work of the Spirit therefore they will be resurrected at the second coming of Christ.

Cross Examination:

Dr. Hitchcock is contradicted by the Bible in [Rev. 20:4-6](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Rev+20%3A4-6&version=ESV) which states that there is only one resurrection of the dead before the end of the Christ’s Millennial reign which means there cannot be a second resurrection at Christ’s second coming as Hitchcock contends.

Pretrib Testimony:

Dr. Walvoord states that the scriptures clearly teach that all, not part, of the church will be raptured at the coming of Christ for the church (1 Cor 15:51-52; 1 Thess 4:17).

Dr. Hitchcock states that the pretrib view holds the rapture will occur before the tribulation. And will include all believers. All believers, all believers in this Church age, all those who are in Christ through faith in the Lord are going to be caught up to be with the Lord.

Cross Examination:

Both Dr. Walvoord and Dr. Hitchcock acknowledge that all of the Church; all believers; all those who are in Christ will be raptured. They are acknowledging that the Tribulation saints in [Rev. 20:4-6](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Rev+20%3A4-6&version=ESV) who live during the Great Tribulation after the 7th Trumpet is blown will be raptured with the Church as well as those who died in the Lord at [Rev. 14:13](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Rev+14%3A13&version=ESV).
Pretrib Testimony:

For clarity dismiss the part about Walvoord’s assertion combining the second coming of Christ and the rapture as simultaneous events, Posttribbers do not believe that they are the same event and this idea has been erroneously projected upon Posttribbers by Pretribbers to invalidate the Postrib doctrine.

Dr. Walvoord states that the translation of the church is never mentioned in any passage dealing with the second coming of Christ after the tribulation.

Dr. Walvoord states that the Tribulation saints are not translated at the second coming of Christ and at the Rapture the saints go to heaven, while at the Second Coming to the earth the saints who are still alive on earth remain on the earth without translation.

Dr. Hitchcock states that the Church will be ruling and reigning with Christ during the millennial kingdom but that those believers living on the earth who make it to the end of the Tribulation alive when Christ returns are going to go into the millennial kingdom in their natural bodies to repopulate the earth.

Cross Examination:

The Tribulation saints of Rev. 20:4-6 are translated into glorified bodies and reign and rule with Christ for the 1,000 years contradicting Walvoord’s and Hitchcock’s belief that they remain on earth in natural bodies. Pretribbers argue that it is only those who are martyred for Jesus during the Tribulation and come back to life will reign with Jesus and that living believers will go into the Millennium with natural bodies. There is no passage of scripture that explicitly or implicitly supports this idea. This idea is based solely upon the conjecture of Pretribbers about how they believe the Millennium world will be and needs to be populated.

Conclusion: The Tribulation saints participate in the Rapture of the Church therefore the Rapture of the Church must take place after the Tribulation.
5) Wrath of God

Pretribbers assert that the Church does not go through the tribulation because the Church is not subjected to God’s wrath for if the Church were to go through the tribulation than the Church would be subjected to God’s wrath.

_Nahum 1:2, Romans 1:18, Romans 5:9, 1 John 3:14, John 3:36, 1 Thess. 1:10, 1 Thess. 5:9, Luke 21:36, Rev. 3:10_

All Pretribbers acknowledge that many people, probably millions, will become believers during the Tribulation by placing their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

_Rev. 6:9-11, Rev. 7:9-14, Rev. 7:1-4, Rev. 9:1-4, Rev. 14:1-5, Rev. 18:4, Rev. 20:4-6_

Testimony:

From Dr. Mark Hitchcock teaching video: “_When Will the Believing Be Leaving – “_
Dallas Theological Seminary
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RIGlOJx7lk

Dr. Hitchcock states that Thessalonians conveys that the Church is exempt from wrath; _exemption from divine wrath._

Dr. Hitchcock states that God’s wrath _begins with the opening of the first seal judgment in Rev. ch. 6._ when the Lamb initiates the opening of the seals and that the _entirety of the 7 year tribulation or the 70th week of Daniel is the wrath of God._

Dr. Hitchcock states that the Church is exempt from the divine wrath that is poured out during the 7 year Tribulation.

Testimony:

Dr. Walvoord states that the church is not appointed to wrath (Rom 5:9; 1 Thess 1:9-10; 5:9 ) and therefore the church cannot enter “_the great day of their wrath_” (Rev 6:17). The church will not go through the tribulation because the church will not be subjected God’s wrath for if the church were to go through the Tribulation it would be subjected to God’s wrath.

Dr. Walvoord asserts that the church is delivered, raptured, before the day of wrath, the tribulation, whereas the believers of the tribulation will be delivered after the Second Coming.
Dr. Hitchcock states that **we in the church age are exempt from the Tribulation, from God’s wrath.**

Dr. Hitchcock states that the wrath starts at the very beginning of the tribulation so that’s when the church will be taken out of the world.

Dr. Hitchcock states that the wrath starts at the outset of the tribulation; the very beginning of the tribulation is God’s wrath because the tribulation begins in Revelation chapter 6 with the opening of the seal judgments by the Lamb, by Jesus.

Dr. Hitchcock states that the entire 7 year period is God’s wrath and since the church is exempt from that wrath then the church has to be taken out before the tribulation begins.

**Cross Examination:**

Pretribbers argue that the Church is not subjected to God’s wrath and therefore cannot go through the 7 year tribulation because according to them the 7 year tribulation is the wrath of God.

Yet Pretribbers acknowledge that hundreds of thousands, millions, of believers who have put their faith in Jesus for salvation, Christians, will live during the Tribulation period and therefore be subjected to God’s wrath contradicting their rational for removing the Church in the first place.

The same argument Pretribbers use to justify the rapture of the Church prior to the tribulation period they do not and cannot apply to the Tribulation saints.

If Pretribbers state that Tribulation saints will not subjected to God's wrath in order to be consistent with those scriptures declaring as such, then Pretribbers destroy the foundation of their rationale for the Church being raptured prior to the tribulation; that rationale being not to be subjected to God's wrath. Yet Pretribbers do not and cannot go on record stating that the Tribulation saints will be subjected to God’s wrath for if they did then they would be contradicted by the passages which state that God’s people are not subjected to God’s wrath; the very same passages they cite for the Church not being subjected to God’s wrath.

According to Pretribbers’ current doctrine these people of the Tribulation in **Rev. 7:9-14, Rev. 12:11, Rev. 15:2-4, Rev. 20:4** who place their faith in Jesus and His blood and what He did for them on the cross and rising from the dead are subjected to God’s wrath at one moment and then the next moment are standing before God and His throne worshiping God and glorifying Him are subjected to years of God’s and the Lamb’s wrath, **Rev. 6:16**, up to one day and then the next day they are reigning and ruling with Jesus for a 1,000 years.

Is it consistent with God’s character to pour out is His wrath on someone one moment and then the next that person is worshipping God and ruling with Jesus?

17 Reasons the Rapture Happens AFTER the Great Tribulation - [www.CounterfeitRapture.com](http://www.CounterfeitRapture.com)
“The LORD is a jealous and avenging God; the LORD is avenging and wrathful; the LORD takes vengeance on his adversaries and keeps wrath for his enemies.” Nahum 1:2

Romans 5:9, John 3:36, 1 Thess. 1:10 and 1 Thess. 5:9, do not state that believers will not be subjected to the Tribulation of Mathew 24 and Revelation they state that believers will not be subjected to God’s wrath.

God doesn’t say He will keep His own children, the Church, from a 7 year Tribulation, He says He will keep the Church from the hour of His wrath.

Notice what Dr. Hitchcock states:
“Now again Posttribbers maintain that believers will be on earth during the entire 7 years; the wrath will be really bad at the end and then we are going to be protected by God from that.”

Then Dr. Hitchcock states:
“A second reason there has to be a Gap in Time is that when Christ comes back at His Second Coming there are going to be people alive on earth, believers and unbelievers, The Sheep and the Goat. So where do the people come from who go into the kingdom who have children and repopulate the kingdom there can’t be any, in other words there has to be enough gap in time between the rapture when all of the believers are caught up and the Second Coming FOR MORE PEOPLE TO COME TO CHRIST; to be living on the earth to go into the millennial in those natural bodies to procreate to have children and to repopulate the kingdom.”

Dr. Hitchcock criticizes Posttribbers for asserting that believers will live through the entire Tribulation and then be raptured at the end of the Tribulation then in the next breath Dr. Hitchcock asserts that there will be believers who go through the entire Tribulation and walk into the Millennial Reign of Christ.

The only difference between Dr. Hitchcock/Pretribbers and what Posttribbers believe is that Posttribbers believe that all believers will be raptured and removed from the Hour of God’s wrath whereas Hitchcock and Pretribbers believe that only some of the believers will be removed from the Hour of God’s wrath and that many believers will be subjected to it.

Progressive Wrath

God’s wrath is poured out progressively upon the world; the intensity, magnitude and scope of the wrath increases with each successive opening of a seal and sounding of a trumpet and the pouring of a bowl of God’s wrath, Rev. 6 through Rev. 16.

Additionally God’s wrath at times is directed to specific locations and upon specific people whom it is prepared for while keeping those people whom it is not designated for “out of” and shielded from that wrath even though it is falling upon others.

17 Reasons the Rapture Happens AFTER the Great Tribulation - www.CounterfeitRapture.com
“Do not harm the land or sea or trees until we have sealed the foreheads of the servants of our God. And I heard the number of those who were sealed, one hundred forty-four thousand from all the tribes of Israel,” Rev. 7:3-4.

“And out of the smoke, locusts descended on the earth, and they were given power like that of the scorpions of the earth. They were told not to harm the grass of the earth or any plant or tree, but only those who did not have the seal of God on their foreheads,” Rev. 9:3-4.

“So the first angel went and poured out his bowl on the earth, and loathsome, malignant sores broke out on those who had the mark of the beast and worshiped its image,” Rev. 16:2

“And the fifth angel poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast, and its kingdom was plunged into darkness,” Rev. 16:10

“Then the sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up to prepare the way for the kings of the East,” Rev. 16:12.

“And when the dragon saw that he had been thrown to the earth, he pursued the woman who had given birth to the male child. But the woman was given two wings of a great eagle to fly from the presence of the serpent to her place in the wilderness, where she was nourished for a time, and times, and half a time. Then from the mouth of the serpent spewed water like a river to overtake the woman and sweep her away in the torrent. But the earth helped the woman and opened its mouth to swallow up the river that had poured from the dragon’s mouth. And the dragon was enraged at the woman, and went to make war with the rest of her children, who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus,” Rev. 12:13-17.

Following this vein of thought, Jesus says that when the Wrath of God comes the irreversible closing of the door upon those whom destruction is designated for there is no salvation for them; for those left behind once the door is closed. If you are not a part of the rapture than you’re doomed to God’s Wrath. There is no second chance salvation as the Pretribbers claim there is in their concept about those who are, “LEFT BEHIND.”

“For if God did not spare the angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell, delivering them in chains to be held in gloomy darkness until their judgment; if He did not spare the ancient world when He brought the flood on its ungodly people, but preserved Noah, a preacher of righteousness, among the eight; if He condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to destruction, reducing them to ashes as an example of what is coming on the ungodly; and if He rescued Lot, a righteous man distressed by the depraved conduct of the lawless (for that righteous man, living among them day after day, was tormented in his righteous soul by the lawless deeds he saw and heard)— if all this is so, then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials and to hold the unrighteous for punishment on the day of judgment.” 2 Pet. 2:4-9

“.if He did not spare the ancient world when He brought the flood on its ungodly people, but preserved Noah, a preacher of righteousness, among the eight;...” 2 Pet. 2:5
The Greek word phulassó: used here as "preserved" means: "to guard" or "watch."

The Word of God does not say that Noah was removed "out of" the world but was protected from God's wrath, removed out of the affects of God's wrath.

**As it was in the days of Noah, so will it be at the coming of the Son of Man.** For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark. And they were oblivious, until the flood came and swept them all away. So will be the coming of the Son of Man. Two men will be in the field: one will be taken and the other left. Two women will be grinding at the mill: one will be taken and the other left. Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day on which your Lord will come.

Mth. 24:38-42

“Just as it was in the days of Noah, so also will it be in the days of the Son of Man: People were eating and drinking, marrying and being given in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark. Then the flood came and destroyed them all. It was the same in the days of Lot: People were eating and drinking, buying and selling, planting and building. But on the day Lot left Sodom, fire and brimstone rained down from heaven and destroyed them all. It will be just like that on the day the Son of Man is revealed.” Lk. 17:26-30

Jesus says that His coming is going to be just like it was when the Flood came. The righteous are removed from the wrath of God and everyone who is not removed from that wrath are destroyed. It is clear that the wrath of God begins in Rev. 6:1 with the opening of the 1st seal. Believers are seen on earth right up to Rev. 14:13 which occurs after the 7 Seals are opened, Rev. 8:1, and after the 7th Trumpet is blown, Rev. 11:15, and after the Antichrist comes to power, Rev. 13:5-8, yet Believers are not seen on earth after the Harvest of the Earth at Rev. 14:14-16 which is prior to the 7 Bowls of God’s wrath being poured out, Rev. 16, and the time it takes the antichrist and kings and nations of the world to mobilize for the battle against Jesus, Rev. 16:13-16.

**Conclusion:**

It stands to reason based upon the totality of scripture that believers are “preserved” through the wrath of God from Rev. 6:1 through Rev. 11:15, all of the Seal and Trumpet judgments which equate with the Great Tribulation, Mth. 24:21 & Rev. 7:14, just as Noah was preserved through the wrath of God, 2 Pet. 2:5, and then the believers are harvested at Rev. 14:14-16 prior to the 7 Bowl judgments which equates to the Rapture of the Church, John 14:1-3, 1 Cor. 15:51-58, 1Thess 4:13-18, 2 Thess 2:1-4. From this chronology of events one can conclude that the “Hour of Trial,” Rev 3:10, which the Church is kept out of begins at Rev. 14:17-20 and Rev. 15:1.

God does not leave His people behind. The only ones left behind after the door is shut are those doomed to receive God’s Wrath. There is no second chance salvation as Pretrirbbers assert for those who miss the rapture of the Church.

17 Reasons the Rapture Happens AFTER the Great Tribulation - www.Counterfeitrapture.com
6) Hour of God’s Wrath

Pretrib Testimony:

Dr. Walvoord states that the church of Philadelphia was promised deliverance from “the hour of trial, that hour which is to come upon the whole world, to try them that dwell upon the earth” (Rev 3:10).

Dr. Hitchcock states that when Jesus says, I 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 in Revelation 3:10 it means that Jesus will keep the Church out of the hour of testing.

Dr. Hitchcock states that “out of” the hour of testing means that the Church is removed from the location of the testing, removed from the world signifying the rapture of the Church.

Dr. Hitchcock states that this “hour of testing” is the same as the 7 year Tribulation period.

Cross Examination:

Pretribbers assume that God’s wrath is equivalent to a Tribulation period of 7 years and that this 7 year Tribulation is equivalent to the “hour of God’s testing” in Rev 3:10. However there is no scripture anywhere that cites the Day of God’s wrath or in this instance the “hour of His Testing” as being 7 years long.

See: The Day of the Lord
https://www.gotquestions.org/day-of-the-Lord.html

Pretribbers believe in a 7 year long tribulation yet they cite Rev. 3:10 which states that “I, Jesus, will also keep you from the hour of testing that is about to come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.”

Notice it says “hour” it does not state 7 years or even the 3 ½ years the time of the antichrist’s reign.

Rev. 14:7 states: “the hour of His judgment has come.” Immediately afterword you have an angel declaring the falling of Babylon and a warning to all who worship the beast or receives its image and then the harvesting of the earth; both the saints and the sinners occurs immediately afterword, Rev. 14:6-20.

Rev. 14:7 occurs after the 7 Seals are opened, Rev. 8:1, and after the 7th Trumpet is blown, Rev. 11:15, and after the antichrist comes to power, Rev. 13:5-8, well into the tribulation of Revelation and Mth. 24.

Immediately after Rev. 14:7 the earth is harvested, Rev. 14:14-20, where the Word specifically states:
“And the angel put forth his sickle to the earth and gathered the vine of the earth, and cast them into the great winepress of the wrath of God.” *Rev. 14:19*

**Revelation 17:12** mentions the 10 kings that rule with the antichrist for “one hour.”

And that it took only “one hour” to destroy Babylon, *Rev. 18:15-19*

**Rev. 8:1** reveals that there will be silence in heaven for “half an hour” when the 7th seal is opened just before the 7 trumpets are to be blown.

“So the four angels who had been prepared for this hour and day and month and year were released to kill a third of mankind.” *Rev. 9:15*

Based upon these passages alone it could be construed that the “Hour of Trial” of Rev. 3:10 is not 7 years long or for that matter the entire duration of the Tribulation whatever length of time it is because there are several things that occur within the Tribulation that occur in an hour which is much less than 7 or 3 ½ years.

Should you want to use the “Day” of God’s wrath than the wrath of God will last a year.

See: *The Day of the Lord*
https://www.gotquestions.org/day-of-the-Lord.html

If you want to get technical by using the “day” for a “year” doctrine from which the Pretribbers get the 7 year tribulation; an hour is 1/24 of a day thus 1/24 of a year is 15 days.

An hour equals 15 days during the Tribulation. The Hour of Trial is 15 days long.

The Biblical Principle of “A Day Equals a Year”
http://www.1260-1290-days-bible-prophecy.org/day-year-principle.html

The hour of the trial is 15 days and the Day of God’s wrath is one year based upon the literal and consistent interpretation of Daniel’s 70th week comprising the length of the Tribulation as proposed by the Pretribbers.

I’m not saying that the “hour of the trial” is 15 days long; I’m just pointing out how one could interpret the “hour of the trial” to being only 15 days long based upon the Pretribber’s doctrine.
Conclusion:

it is clear that this "hour of trial" is a time duration within “Day of the Lord; it’s encompassed by the full Day of the Lord's Wrath however long that Day is, Rev. 6 through Rev. 16. That is, the Hour of Trial is shorter in duration than the full duration of God's Wrath.

So it would appear that this "hour of trial" is an amplifying and intensifying of God's Wrath upon the unbelieving world apparently within the time frame of the Day of God’s wrath.
7) Removal of the Restrainer – the Holy Spirit

Pretrib Testimony:

Like most Pretribbers both Dr. Walvoord and Dr. Hitchcock cite 2 Thess. 2:6-8 as a belief in the Holy Spirit holding back the revealing of the antichrist. They assert that when the Holy Spirit is taken out of the way then the antichrist will be revealed and subsequently unleashing the beginning of the Tribulation. They equate the removal of the Holy Spirit as synonymous as the Rapture of the Church and therefore the Rapture must take place before the antichrist is revealed and the beginning of the Tribulation.

Cross Examination:

Dr. Walvoord and Dr. Hitchcock like most Pretribbers misconstrue 2 Thess. 2:1-8 when it comes to the chronology of events. They assert that the antichrist will be revealed after the Church is raptured to Jesus, but that is not what the scriptures say.

Pretribbers assert that the rapture of the Church occurs before the antichrist is revealed.

2 Thess. 2:3 asserts that the rapture of the Church, 2 Thess. 2:1, occurs after the antichrist is revealed.

“Now concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him,” 2 Thess. 2:1

“It, (the rapture of the Church), will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness (the son of destruction) is revealed.” 2 Thess. 2:3

Pretrib Testimony:

Dr. Walvoord states that the Holy Spirit will be taken out of the world when the Church is raptured.

Dr. Hitchcock sates that the Holy Spirit will remain in the world after the Church is raptured to convict people of sin and bring them to Salvation during the Tribulation.
Cross Examination:

Contrary to Dr. Walvoord’s testimony there is nothing in 2 Thess. 2:1-8 that implies that the Holy Spirit is taken out of the world.

In fact Dr. Hitchcock confirms this in his own statement by acknowledging that the Holy Spirit will remain in the world after the rapture of the Church contradicting Dr. Walvoord.

Pretrib Testimony:

Dr. Hitchcock states that the Holy Spirit will remain in the world after the Church is raptured but that Holy Spirit’s ministry of restraint through the Church is going to be taken out of the way as a result of the Church being removed from the earth and then the man of lawlessness, the antichrist, will be revealed.

Cross Examination:

Again Dr. Hitchcock is placing the sequence of events out of chronological order. The actual order of events is as follows:

The Holy Spirit is restraining the man of lawlessness

the Holy Spirit is taken out of the midst

the man of lawlessness to be revealed

the Church is raptured to Jesus.

“Now concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you, brothers, not to be easily disconcerted or alarmed by any spirit or message or letter presuming to be from us and alleging that the day of the Lord has already come. Let no one deceive you in any way, for it will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness (the son of destruction) is revealed. He will oppose and exalt himself above every so-called god or object of worship. So he will seat himself in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God. Do you not remember that I told you these things while I was still with you? And you know what is now restraining him, so that he will be revealed at the proper time. For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work, but the one who now restrains it will continue until he is taken out of the way, and then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will slay with the breath of His mouth and abolish by the majesty of His arrival.” 2 Thess. 2:1-8

Conclusion: The Bible contradicts Dr. Hitchcock and the Pretribbers.
8) Judgment Seat of Christ

Pretrib Testimony:

Dr. Walvoord states that according to 2 Corinthians 5:10, all believers of this age must appear before the judgment seat of Christ in heaven, an event never mentioned in the detailed accounts connected with the second coming of Christ to the earth.

Dr. Walvoord states if the twenty-four elders of Revelation 4:1-5:14 are representative of the church as many expositors believe, it would necessitate the rapture and reward of the church before the Tribulation.

Dr. Hitchcock states that for the Rapture to be Pretrib there must be a time gap between the rapture and the Second Coming so that Jesus can have enough time to reward the saints at the Judgment Seat of Christ.

Dr. Hitchcock states The main part of the bible that deals with the 70th week of Daniel the tribulation period is Rev chapter 6 through ch. 18. Daniel’s 70th week must fall between the rapture of the Church and the Second Coming.

Dr. Hitchcock states that it is during this time of Daniel’s 70th week that the saints are rewarded in heaven at the Judgment Seat in Christ and therefore there needs to be gap of time between the rapture and the Second Coming to allow for the rewarding of the saints.

Dr. Hitchcock states that the Postrib view cannot be correct because it does not provide any time for Jesus to reward the saints from the moment the Church is raptured to the moment that the Church comes back with Jesus as the Second Coming.

Cross Examination:

According to Dr. Hitchcock the rapture must before or at the beginning of the 7 year Tribulation and therefore the time span for rewarding the Church must be at least 7 years long, the duration of the 7 year tribulation.

According to Pew Research there are approximately 2.3 Billion Christians in the world. [http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2017/04/05/christians-remain-worlds-largest-religious-group-but-they-are-declining-in-europe/](http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2017/04/05/christians-remain-worlds-largest-religious-group-but-they-are-declining-in-europe/)

There are approximately 630,000,000 Evangelicals in the world today. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Evangelicalism](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Evangelicalism)
There are 24 hours in a day. 360 days in a year, (Jewish Calendar). That equals 8,640 hours per year. Multiply that times 7 years and the result is 60,480 hours.

If it takes 10 minutes to reward each saint 24 hours a day 7 days a week around the clock then that would amount to 362,880 Christians being rewarded over 7 years. That’s a lot but far fewer than what most assert is the actual number of total Christians, the body of Christ, living in the world today.

If we drop the time to present rewards to 3 minutes per Christian than that number goes up to 20 per hour for a total of 172,800 over 1 year and 1,209,600 over 7 years. I don’t know about you but I think that there are more than 1.2 million Christians who have ever lived on earth.

So let’s say that the rapture actually occurs some years in advance of the beginning of the Tribulation and therefore would provide additional time to reward the saints.

Add 13 years to the 7 year tribulation and we get 3,456,000 believers rewarded over 20 total years.

Add 33 years to the 7 year tribulation and we get 6,912,000 members of the body of Christ rewarded over 40 years.

So the rapture would have to occur 33 years at a minimum prior to the start of the 7 year tribulation in order to reward 7 million Christians at 3 minutes per Christian and doing so 24 hours a day 7 days a week.

If the rapture occurred 93 years prior to the beginning of the Tribulation and 100 years prior to Jesus’ Second Coming the total number of believers would be 17,280,000 if each spent 3 minutes before the Judgment Seat of Christ.

Now that’s a significant number, yet it is still far fewer than what most believe who are saved, who are “in the Lord Jesus.” Furthermore it would kind of render the relationship between the rapture and the Second Coming meaningless. There is not much difference between a hundred year separation and a thousand year separation or for that matter 2,000 years of separation. For all we know, based upon the rationale of Pretribbers the rapture could’ve taken place in the 1st Century and we have been living in the tribulation ever since. Many people in the Church of Thessalonica had thought the day had already come 2 Thess. 2:1-5.

A Day Equals a Thousand Years:

The point of this is to demonstrate that the logic of requiring a specific duration of time between the rapture and the Second Coming cannot be based upon human perception of time.

“A day is like a thousand years to the Lord, and a thousand years is like a day.” 2 Pet. 3:8

“For a thousand years in Your sight Are like yesterday when it passes by, Or as a watch in the night.” Ps. 90:4

17 Reasons the Rapture Happens AFTER the Great Tribulation - www.CounterfeitRapture.com
“The eternal God is a dwelling place…” Num. 33:27

“…God will bring about in His own time--He who is blessed and the only Sovereign One, the King of kings and Lord of lords. He alone is immortal and dwells in unapproachable light.” 1 Tim. 6:15-16

God is eternal. God is light. A day is a thousand years and a thousand years is as day to the Lord. What will appear to the Church in heaven to be a thousand years could very well account for only one day on earth. To apply an earthly concept of time to heaven produces inaccurate conclusions.

If God is light, than He moves and exists at that speed of light.

According to Albert Einstein’s special theory of relativity-time dilation; time slows down the faster one moves; the closer one moves at the speed of light which is 186,000 miles per second.

For example: A spaceship moving at 99% of the speed of light for 1 year will result in 7 earth years transpiring. That is for every 1 year a person moves at 178,200 miles per second in space 7 years on earth will occur.
https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Time_dilation

7 Years on Earth = 1 Year in Space moving at 178,200 miles per second.

This is not to state that time will definitely move slower in heaven relative to earth, but it does point out that time is relative to the location of where one is at. Therefore Pretribbers cannot automatically assume that time is the same in heaven as it on earth in order to validate their theological position especially given that their own reasoning presents conclusions which cast serious doubt regarding the legitimacy of their position.

And what is the Pretribbers’ logic that casts doubt onto their position?

According to Pretribbers’ logic it will take 3,645 years in order to present the rewards to all 630 million saints by spending 3 minutes on each saint and doing so 24 hours a day for 7 days a week.

Or if you like it will take 1,214 years to reward each saint for 1 minute of time each.

Or if you prefer it will take 607 years to reward each saint for 30 seconds of time each.

And that’s if there are only 630 million saints there could very well be millions more.

Conclusion:

Nothing is impossible with God. God does not need 3 years or 7 years or 100 years to reward His saints. God can accomplish rewarding the saints at the Judgment seat of Christ in a single day from an earthly perspective. God can have a private and detailed conversation with 600 million people at once surely He can reward 600 million at the Judgment Seat at the same time.
9) The Sheep and the Goats

Pretrib Testimony:

Dr. Walvoord states that the judgment of the Gentiles following the Second Coming (Mth. 25:31-46) indicates that both saved and unsaved are still in their natural bodies. This would be impossible if the translation, rapture of the Church, had taken place at the Second Coming.

Dr. Hitchcock states that when the Son of Man, Jesus, comes and all the Holy Angels with Him then He is going to sit on his glorious throne and He is going to gather all the nations before Him and He is going to separate them like a Shepherd separating the sheep from the Goats.

Dr. Hitchcock states that when Jesus comes back there is going to be Sheep and Goats, Believers and Unbelievers.

Dr. Hitchcock states that if the rapture occurs at the Second Coming there wouldn’t be any sheep left on earth to separate from the goats therefore the rapture must occur before the Tribulation.

Pretrib Testimony:

Pretribbers assert that Mth. 25:31-46 is a representation of Jesus' Second Coming on His throne with His angels in which he will pour out God's wrath on the world and then separate the survivors of the Great Tribulation.

This event will be accomplished at the close of the Tribulation prior to the beginning of Jesus' Millennial Reign and therefore occurs after the rapture of the Church which would have taken place before the Great Tribulation commenced, at least 7 years earlier perhaps longer.

The separating of people from all nations is to determine who will go into Jesus' earthly kingdom and who will not. Those who are considered worthy are called the "sheep," they go into Christ's kingdom while those who are called unworthy are called "goats" and they are banished to the lake of fire.

According to Pretribbers the "sheep" are those people who placed their faith in Christ for salvation during the Tribulation which is why they were not raptured with the Church prior to the Tribulation and the "goats" are people who rejected Christ during the Tribulation.
Cross Examination:

The passage, Mth. 25:31-46, cannot be a representation of Christ's Second Coming for when Christ comes to set up His earthly kingdom He comes with the Church, the raptured saints, and this passage does not depict Christ coming with the Church but with angels. The fact that the Church is absent conveys that this event is not Christ's Second Coming but is actually a depiction of the rapture of the Church.

“When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, He will sit on His glorious throne.” Mth. 25:1

“For the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His bride has made herself ready. She was given clothing of fine linen, linen bright and pure.” For the fine linen she wears is the righteous acts of the saints. The armies of heaven, dressed in fine linen, white and pure, follow Him on white horses.” Rev. 19:7-8 & Rev. 19:14

Pretribbers contend that Mth. 25:31 is the same event as Rev. 19:7-8 & Rev. 19:14.

The words themselves make it self-evident that the two passages are not the same event.

1) Rev. 19:7-8 & Rev. 19:14 is a depiction of the Second Coming also seen in Zech. 14:3-5, where the “holy ones” come with Jesus.

2) Mth. 25:31-33 is a depiction of Jesus coming to call His sheep home, the rapture, in which Jesus sends out the angels to collect the Church as seen in Mth. 24:30-31 and Mth. 16:27.

Jesus separates the Sheep from the Goats at the rapture just as He separates the Wheat from the Tares at the same time. Rev. 14:14-20.

The Goats:

Point two: The “goats” cannot be construed to be all unbelievers because most unbelievers do not call Jesus Lord. This is a specific group of unbelievers. These are people who identify themselves as being Christians and knowing the Lord Jesus by calling Jesus Lord but whom Jesus never knew.

Read Mth. 7:21-23

17 Reasons the Rapture Happens AFTER the Great Tribulation - www.CounterfeitRapture.com
“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?’ Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you workers of lawlessness.’”

It is clear that these people thought they were saved and thought they were doing the work of Jesus, yet Jesus never knew them and ordered them to depart from his eternal presence.

Jesus uses the same phrase, "Depart from me" in the goat and sheep parable, Mth. 25:41 as he uses in Mth. 7.

Unbelievers who do not call Jesus Lord do not want to be associated with Jesus and therefore Jesus will not need to order them to depart from Him for they are not attempting to associate with Him; they have already separated themselves from Jesus on their own.

This understanding is corroborated by the two other parables of Mth. 25 all a part of one discourse by Jesus, the Olivet discourse. https://www.gotquestions.org/Olivet-discourse.html

Applying the parable of the goat and the sheep in the context of the parable of the “Ten Virgins” and the parable of "Talents" it becomes ever more clear that Jesus is referring solely to people who claim to be his people but that Jesus makes a distinction between those who truly are His sheep and those who are not but have a self deluded idea of what it means to be in the faith in Christ and know Jesus or more appropriately to be known by Jesus.

Jer. 17:9, Heb. 4:12, 2 Cor. 13:5, 1 Jn. 2:3-6,

There are unbelievers who do not call Jesus Lord. These are the tares in the parable of the tares and the wheat, Mth. 13:24-30.

Then there are unbelievers who call Jesus Lord. These are the goats in the parable of sheep and the goats, Mth. 25:31-46.

The Ten Virgins:

In the parable of the Ten Virgins, Mth. 25:1-13, Jesus points out that all ten virgins are all looking for His coming claiming that they know Jesus but that five of them had never truly received Jesus as their Lord and Savior revealed by the fact that they did not have the Holy Spirit living in them; they did not have any oil in their jars. The oil represents the Holy Spirit, true faith in Christ and God in our lives.

“God is Spirit, and His worshipers must worship Him in spirit and in truth.” Jn. 4:24

17 Reasons the Rapture Happens AFTER the Great Tribulation - www.CounterfeitRapture.com
“The natural man does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God. For they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned.” 1 Cor. 2:14

“And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ.” Rom 8:9

Info on oil: https://www.gotquestions.org/olive-oil-symbol.html

When Jesus comes and shuts the door to His kingdom, the wedding banquet, the five virgins without the Holy Spirit persist in trying to associate with Jesus, ['Lord, Lord,' they said, 'open the door for us!'] but once again Jesus says, ['Truly I tell you, I don't know you'], the same response Jesus used in Mth. 7:21-23

Again most unbelievers do not want to associate with Jesus and therefore do not call Him Lord. This parable like the goat and the sheep refers to people who attempt to associate with Jesus based upon their own righteousness wrongly assuming that Jesus will accept them based upon their own works but will not and are self deceived in thinking that Jesus knows them when in fact He does not.

The Talents:

The parable of Talents, Mth. 25:14-30, also shows three people who appear to be servants of Jesus. The first two demonstrate true faith which reaps a profit for the Master, Jesus. The third man, knows who Jesus is by calling him “Master,” Mth. 25:24, and attempts to please Jesus out of his own abilities, (the false salvation of works), rather than relying on the "faith" provided to true believer which the first two servants did. As a result the third person is banished from the presence of Jesus, Mth. 25:30

The Sheep:

The people in the parable of the “Goat and the Sheep” identified as goats are not representative of all unbelievers which are identified in the parable of the “Wheat and the Tares,” as the tares. Mth. 13:36-43

See Also: https://www.gotquestions.org/parable-wheat-tares.html

The goats are only a small portion of the tares in the parable of the Wheat and Tares that are harvested at the end of the age.

Pretribbers assert that the “sheep” in Mth. 25:31-46 are not a part of the Church, but are some other entity that they have labeled “Tribulation Saints.” According Pretribbers these tribulation sheep are not a part of the Church, a part of Jesus’ flock.
Jesus Himself points out in John chapter 10 the “sheep” are his flock and hear his voice and follow Him, the Shepherd of the flock.

Jesus states that the Jews who believe in Him are His sheep. Jesus then states that He has “other sheep that are not a part of this fold,” not a part of Israel, not Jewish. Jesus is identifying that Gentiles are of a different fold but that he is the shepherd of Gentiles who put their faith in Him just as He is the Shepherd to Jews who put their faith in Him.

Jesus then states that both Jews and Gentiles will become one flock of Sheep, Jn. 10:16.

Who are the sheep? The sheep are the Church who follow the Shepherd, Jesus, who lays His life down for His Sheep. John chapter 10

**Conclusion:**

The Sheep are the Church and therefore will be raptured to Jesus when he comes. This means that Jesus separates the sheep from the goats at the rapture of the Church.

The unbelievers who do not call Jesus Lord are the tares in the parable of the tares and the wheat, Mth. 13:24-30.

The unbelievers who call Jesus Lord are the goats in the parable of sheep and the goats, Mth. 25:31-46.
10) Repopulating the Earth – Who Enters Millennial Kingdom in Natural Bodies?

Pretribbers assert that only living believers in Jesus Christ, believing Gentiles and believing Jews, who survive the Tribulation will enter Christ’s Millennial kingdom on earth in natural bodies. This idea originates from the belief that there needs to be tens of thousands, millions, of people to repopulate the earth at the outset of the Millennial reign. However this theory is not backed by the Bible or science.

First of all the Millennial reign will begin with a change in nature in which sickness and disease will be decreased and war will no longer exist so that most people will live very long healthy lives perhaps similar to the longevity of the time period before the flood, therefore the birthrate and population growth will be exceptional.

Jer. 30:19-20, Isa. 11:6-9, Isa. 65:20

One Bible scientist calculated that from the ONE couple of Adam and Eve the population grew from 2 people to 10 trillion over 1,656 years to the flood.

https://biblescienceguy.wordpress.com/2014/06/18/4-population-growth-how-many-died-in-noahs-flood/
https://biblescienceguy.wordpress.com/2014/06/25/5-population-growth-is-10-trillion-flood-deaths-reasonable/

If we cut that by 40% to 1,000 years we get 6 Trillion people from two people. As it is from the flood, despite a shortened life span, crime, sickness, disease, pestilence and wars the population has increased to 7 Billion people from just 8 people.

For instance if the Millennial Reign began with 1,000 married couples and each couple had 4 children by the time they were 30 years old and then those 4,000 offspring married into 2,000 couples and each couple had 4 children each by the time they were 30 years old and then so on and so forth for each successive generation where the average age of death was 90 years old the world’s population would be 449 Million in 500 years; 3.6 Billion in 600 years; 29 Billion in 690 years; 466 Billion in 810 years; 3.7 Trillion in 900 years; and 29 Trillion in 990 years.

God does not need millions or even hundreds of thousands of people to repopulate the earth during the Millennial Reign of Jesus. The fact that God started off with 2 people initially and then 8 after the flood; two incidents in which a new dispensation coincided with a change in nature sets a precedent and a pattern that would be consistent with God if He chose to use a small number of people to repopulate the earth during the Millennial Reign. Obviously there are passages that infer a much larger number of people living at the outset of the Millennium, however this number could very well be much smaller than the one that is promoted by Pretribbers to satisfy their doctrine of millions of people coming to saving faith in Jesus during the Tribulation who are not a part of the Church and therefore will not take part in the rapture. The above conclusion does not preclude that hundreds of millions of people could
enter the Millennial Kingdom in natural bodies it just proves that it is not necessary and therefore the Prescribers rationale cannot be used to support their doctrine or theories.

Additionally if there are tens of millions or hundreds of millions of believers who enter the Millennial Reign on earth where are they going to live and how are they going to survive given that all of the cities will have been destroyed along with most of the earth will be uninhabitable from the destruction of God’s Wrath?

\[2 \text{ Pet. 3:7-12, Rev.6:12-14, Rev. 8:6-11, Rev.9:13-19, Rev. 16:19}\]

The pattern set in the post flood is that God will begin anew with a small number of people from all of the nations in which the earth can support. Over time the earth will heal and become more plentiful corresponding to and meeting the needs of the ever increasing population.

See Also:


Secondarily Pretribbers argue that it is only saved people who will enter into Millennium, that no unbelievers, no unsaved people will enter. Yet it is without question that sin and unrighteousness will exist during the Millennial Reign albeit to a much lesser degree than what they exert in our current age.

\[\text{No more shall there be in it an infant who lives but a few days, or an old man who does not fill out his days, for the young man shall die a hundred years old, and the sinner a hundred years old shall be accursed. Isa. 65:20}\]

\[\text{He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear, but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Isa. 11:3-5}\]

At the end of the Millennial Reign when the earth has been filled with a number of people comparable to the number of the sand of the sea who will be filled with sin and unrighteousness to the point of following Satan in an attempt to overthrow Jesus.

\[\text{Revelation 20:7-10}\]
We can conclude that the sinful nature will be in affect during the Millennium and punishment will be meted out accordingly.

“If any of the peoples of the earth do not go up to Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD Almighty, they will have no rain.” Zech. 14:17

If the sinful nature is not a bar to existing in the Millennium than we could conclude that the sinful nature is not a bar to enter into the Millennial kingdom.

In this article: “15. The Second Coming of Christ and the Millennial Kingdom” located at, https://bible.org/seriespage/15-second-coming-christ-and-millennial-kingdom,

Dr. Walvoord cites Matt. 25:31-46, the separation of the sheep and the goat as a reason why Gentile unbelievers are the goats in the parable who will not enter the Millennium. The simple response here is that the goats cannot represent all unbelievers because the goats call Jesus Lord and most unbelievers do not call Jesus Lord, thus this parable cannot refer to all unbelievers. For a more exhaustive explanation as to why Dr. Walvoord’s belief is not supported by scripture go to the section: Goat and the Sheep-Mth. 25.

Zechariah 14:16 states: “Then everyone who survives of all the nations that have come against Jerusalem shall go up year after year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the Feast of Booths.” Zech. 14:16

The above event occurs after Jesus has set His feet down on the Mt. of Olives and has defeated the enemies of God and Israel, Zechariah 14:1–5, thus the beginning of Jesus’ Millennial kingdom. The survivors of the nations are not Jews. Since the passage does not refer to the “survivors” as saints, the elect, the chosen, the Church it is reasonable to conclude that these survivors of the Great Tribulation and God’s Wrath are garden variety heathen who though are citizens of the nations that came against Jesus did not participate in the rebellion or worship or take the mark of the beast Rev. 14:9-11.

The precedent that supports this view is found in Genesis where Noah is found righteous and blameless and walked with God but no mention of his sons being righteous, blameless and walking with God or for that matter Noah’s Sons’ wives, Gen. 6:9-10, yet God preserved them all through His wrath Gen. 7:1, 7, 13,& 23 and Gen. 8: 18. Validity is given to this premise in Ham exhibiting sinful behavior, Gen. 9:20-25, shortly after the flood despite the fact that God had just blessed Ham and established a new covenant with him, Gen.9:1-17.

This view is further corroborated by the people of the world deliberately sinning against God and His command to fill the earth despite having direct knowledge of God’s command. Gen. 11:1-9

And then there is the example of Lot’s wife and daughters. God delivered Lot’s wife who clearly was not a believer for though being saved from God’s wrath she looked back and longed for the life of an unbeliever and therefore turned into a pillar of salt. The two daughters committed incest not long after. Gen. 19
Just as Pretribbers assert that people who are born and live during the Millennial Reign of Christ will have to put their faith in Him and what he did for them on the Cross to receive eternal life so too will these unbelievers who walk into the Millennial Kingdom in their natural bodies from the age of grace.

All of Israel will be saved not during the Tribulation but at the end of the Tribulation when Jesus returns to the Mt. of Olives and defeat’s Israel’s enemies.

Zechariah 12 and Zechariah 13

**Will all Israel be saved in the end times?**
https://www.gotquestions.org/all-Israel-saved.html

“**And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and pleas for mercy, so that, when they look on me, on him whom they have pierced, they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for an only child, and weep bitterly over him, as one weeps over a firstborn.**” Zech 12:10

“I do not want you to be ignorant of this mystery, brothers, so that you will not be conceited: A hardening in part has come to Israel, until the full number of the Gentiles has come in. And so all Israel will be saved,...” Rom. 11:25-26

It is at this time that Israel will accept Jesus as its Messiah, essentially they will have to because He will be ruling. The same goes for Gentiles who make it to the end, to the other side of the Great Tribulation, without accepting Jesus as their savior. They will have to pay homage to Jesus the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords. Phil. 2:9-11

Zechariah 14:16 states: **“Then everyone who survives of all the nations that have come against Jerusalem shall go up year after year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the Feast of Booths.”** Zech. 14:16

The people who enter the Millennial Reign of Christ in their natural bodies are both Jews and Gentiles who never accepted Jesus as their savior during the Age of Grace. The Age of Grace which continues to the end of the Tribulation.

It is reasonable to conclude that the unbelieving survivors of the Tribulation, the Wrath of God, will be children who did not reach the age of accountability.

https://www.gotquestions.org/age-of-accountability.html

And it will be these children who repopulate the earth.

The plausibility of this view is actually supported by Pretribbers who agree that there will be unbelievers who make it through the Tribulation to be judged by Jesus as goats from the parable of the “goats and the sheep,” Matthew 25:31-46. This fact is pointed out not to support the idea that the “goats and the sheep” will be judged at the end of the Tribulation and the beginning of the Millennial Reign but to show
that Pretribbers believe that some unbelievers will not be killed by God’s Wrath and make to the end of the Tribulation, the beginning of Christ’s Millennial kingdom alive.

Therefore this view of unbelievers making into the kingdom is no more unreasonable than that put forth by Pretribbers who state that millions of believers will walk into the Millenial Kingdom in their natural bodies having endured the full 7 year Tribulation, the 7 years of the wrath of God.

**Pretrib Testimony:**

Dr. Walvoord states that Tribulation saints are not translated at the second coming of Christ but carry on ordinary occupations such as farming and building houses, and they will bear children (Isa. 65:20-25).

W.B. Howard, editor of the “Despatch”: adds: “There would be no one left to go into the Millennium Kingdom of Christ on earth, if all the saved were Raptured at the second Coming.!”


Dr. Walvoord states that the Rapture concerns only the saved, while the Second Coming deals with both saved and unsaved for the judgment of the Gentiles following the Second Coming (Matt. 25:31-46) indicates that both saved and unsaved are still in their natural bodies.

Dr. Hitchcock states that when Christ comes back at His Second Coming there are going to be people alive on earth, **believers and unbelievers**, the Sheep and the Goats.

Dr. Hitchcock states They are going to be separated from one another and those who are believers living on the earth when Christ returns are going to go into the millennial kingdom and they are going to repopulate the earth and they are going to have children during this thousand year reign because they are going to be living in their natural bodies.

Dr. Hitchcock states there has to be enough gap in time between the rapture when all of the believers are caught up and the Second Coming, **FOR MORE PEOPLE TO COME TO CHRIST** so that there will be people to go into the Christ’s earthly kingdom.

Dr. Hitchcock states that if Posttributionism is true than all the believers are going to get caught up to meet the Lord and come back down to the earth however that causes a big problem in that **there wouldn’t be any Sheep, they would be all goats**. The Sheep would have all been caught to be with the Lord and done a U-turn and come back down there wouldn’t be any need to separate the Sheep from the Goats because **all that would be left are goats**.

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17 Reasons the Rapture Happens AFTER the Great Tribulation - www.CounterfeitRapture.com
Conclusion:

The above conclusion of the Pretribbers contradicts their view that God does not bring believers through the Tribulation unscathed but removes believers in Jesus from the Tribulation, see the section on the *Wrath of God.*

Pretribbers assert that God will bring believers through the Tribulation just not those believers who believed before the rapture. The only difference is whether the believer in Christ came to salvation before or after the Rapture. Posttribbers do not believe that believers are left on earth after the rapture because Posttribbers do not believe that God subjects His people to His wrath.

Pretribbers acknowledge that some unbelievers will make it through the Tribulation, through God’s wrath to the beginning of Christ’s Millennial Reign. It stands to reason that some of these unbelievers will be children who have not reached the age of accountability, Jewish custom is 13 years old, and therefore will not be destroyed as Pretribbers claim that Jesus will do to all unbelievers at this the so called “Sheep and Goat” judgment.
11) Sign-Less Event

Pretribbers assert that the rapture is sign-less event. Posttribbers assert that the rapture is an event preceded by signs.

Prerib Testimony:

Dr. Walvoord states that no unfulfilled prophecy stands between the church and the rapture, while many signs must be fulfilled before the second coming.

Dr. Hitchcock states that Jesus could come without warning and that His coming is sign-less.

Dr. Hitchcock states there is never any signs mentioned about the rapture whereas the second coming has many signs.

Cross Examination:

Pretribbers seldom cite 2 Thess 2:1-4 which describes the rapture event of the Church being gathered to the Lord Jesus Christ actually occurring after the apostasy occurring and the “man of lawlessness,” “the son of destruction” is revealed and takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God. This scripture not only provides a sign, an event, that must take place prior to the rapture of the Church but it also identifies that the rapture cannot occur prior to the antichrist revealing himself in the temple of God which most Pretribbers associate with the middle of the 7 year Tribulation.

This sign is also given by Jesus Himself in Mth. 24:15 confirming the validity of the sign occurring prior to the rapture of the Church. Jesus goes on to state this sign in Mth. 24:15 will occur prior to the Great Tribulation, Mth. 24:21 and that the Great Tribulation occurs prior to the Jesus coming for his Church, Mth. 24:29-31.

1 So when you see standing in the holy place ‘the abomination of desolation,’ described by the prophet Daniel (let the reader understand),

2 For at that time there will be great tribulation, unmatched from the beginning of the world until now, and never to be seen again

3 Immediately after the tribulation of those days:

4 The sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and all the tribes of the earth will mourn. They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven, with power and great glory. 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 the heavens to the other.

Pretribbers dispute this chronology of events by stating that information in Mathew 24 is not about nor directed towards the Church but is about Israel.

For more info on this subject go to sections: Matthew 24 – To Israel or to the Church? & Matthew 24:31: Rapture Or Second Coming?

**Pretrib Testimony:**

Dr. Walvoord states that church is to look for the coming of the Lord while believers in the Tribulation are directed to look for signs. Dr. Walvoord describes the Rapture as an immenent sign-les event in which no unfilled prophecy must occur prior whereas the Second Coming is preceded by signs and prophetic events.

Dr. Hitchcock states that at the rapture Christ gathers His own where as at the Return the angels go out gather the elect on the earth while citing and Mathew 24 as a basis.

Dr. Hitchcock states that the rapture is a sign less event as no signs are mentioned about it whereas the second coming has many signs.

**Cross Examination:**

Jesus told His disciples that no one knows the day or hour of his coming, but only the Father. Mth. 24:36

And then Jesus described how his coming will come upon the world unexpectedly just as God’s wrath came upon the world in the days of Noah. Mth. 24:36-41.

Jesus then tells His own disciples that they are to keep watch because He will return on a day they do not know and at an hour they do not expect, Mth. 24:42-44. Jesus compares this to a thief coming in to the house in the middle of the night.

The parallel to this passage is Paul’s message to members of the Church warning them that Jesus would return like a thief in the night and unbelievers would be in darkness unaware of the return but that believers would not be unaware because they would be in the light, 1 Thess. 5:2-11.

1 Thess. 5:23-24 makes it clear this is regarding the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ for His Church at the rapture and not the second coming.

And again in 2 Pet. 3:10 Peter says the day of the Lord will come like a thief, the day when the heavens will disappear dissolved by fire and the earth and its works are burned up. Verses 12 and 14 Peter says that members of the Church are to anticipate this day and these things that are to occur.
The Day that the Lord Jesus returns will happen on a day and at an hour that people do not expect even believers, Mth. 24:36-44. This day is the Day that Jesus comes for His bride, the Church, Mth. 24:31. This is the day of the rapture which occurs after many signs have been given to the world and to believers.

Pretribbers propose that Mth. 24 refers to the Second Coming of Jesus and not the rapture of the Church which previously took place. Pretribbers claim that the Second Coming is known due to the signs given, especially the signs in Mth. 24 and Revelation Chs. 6-18 and the fulfillment of Daniel’s 70th week. More Into: https://www.gotquestions.org/imminent-return-Christ.html

In fact some Pretribbers will go so far as to claim that those believers who live during the Tribulation will be able to determine to a very close approximation of Christ’s Second Coming if not the exact day based upon the time line of events that unfold during Daniel’s 70th week and the antichrist's 3 ½ year reign, Rev. 13:5.

We’ve now established that Jesus’ exhortation to His disciples that He is coming on a Day and at an hour they do not expect just like a thief in the night in Mth. 24:42-44, and this description of Jesus’ coming is representative of Jesus coming for the Church not Jesus coming to establish His Kingdom. Given this fact we can see that the passages that immediately precede this passage which place this warning into context is a list of signs regarding this coming of Jesus for His Church.

The Signs that will be evident when Jesus comes for His Church, the rapture, on a day and at an hour no one knows:

The First Set of Signs:

1. “See to it that no one deceives you. For many will come in My name, claiming, ‘I am the Christ,’ and will deceive many.

2. You will hear of wars and rumors of wars,

3. Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom.

4. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places

5. Then they will hand you over to be persecuted and killed, and you will be hated by all nations on account of My name.

6. At that time many will fall away and will betray and hate one another, and many false prophets will arise and mislead many.

7. Because of the multiplication of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold

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8. And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

The Second Set of Signs, (a parallel set of to the First Set):

1. So **when you see** standing in the holy place ‘the abomination of desolation,’ described by the prophet Daniel (let the reader understand),

2. For at that time there will be **great tribulation**, unmatched from the beginning of the world until now, and never to be seen again

3. For **false Christs** and **false prophets** will appear and **perform great signs** and **wonders** that would **deceive even the elect**, if that were possible. **See, I have told you in advance.**

4. Immediately **after the tribulation** of those days:

   The **sun** will be darkened,  
   and the **moon** will not give its light;  
   the **stars will fall from the sky**,  
   and the powers of the heavens will be shaken.’

5. At that time the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven,

6. Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its branches become tender and sprout leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, **when you see all these things**,  
   you know that **He is near**, right at the door.

Truly I tell you, this **generation will not pass away until all these things have happened.**

**Conclusion:**

1) Daniel’s 70th week has already been completed, the abomination of desolation described here in **Mth. 24:15** is not related to the abomination in **Daniel 9:27** but is related to the abomination in **Daniel 11:31** and **Daniel 12:11**. See Daniel’s 70th Week

2) The Church is still on earth through at least Ch. 14 of the book of Revelation and therefore we will see all of the signs and events on earth and in heaven that take place through that time, Rev. 1 through Rev. 14.

3) The rapture of the Church takes place after the many signs that are presented in Mathew 24.

4) The evidence submitted in this section also refutes the **Imminency** doctrine put forth by Pretribbers.
12) Matthew 24 – To Israel or to the Church?

I think Matthew chapter 24 creates more confusion and disagreement among brothers and sisters in the Lord regarding the timing of the rapture of the Church than any and all other passages combined.

At first glance there appears to be plausible justification that the message is to Israel and the Tribulation saints on the one hand and to the Church on the other hand.

Israel as a nation does not accept Jesus as its Messiah until Jesus comes in person from Heaven with the Church and defeats Israel’s enemies. Up until that time Israel is looking for a Messiah but a Messiah that is not Jesus.


Pretrib Testimony:

Pretribbers assert that Matthew chapter 24 is not about the Church but is about Israel and therefore is not a message to the Church but to Israel and Tribulation saints.

Cross Examination:

One:

A)

The best argument Pretribbers present that the message of Mt. 24 is to Israel and not the Church is Mt. 24:20 in which Jesus tells the disciples to pray that their flight out of Judea to the mountains would not occur in winter or on the Sabbath.

“Pray that your flight will not occur in the winter or on the Sabbath.” Mt. 24:20

First off we can deduce that this is but a small part of the whole message of Mt. 24, and is placed into context when read with and related to verses Mt. 24:15-22. Two this specific part of the message is for those living in Judea not the whole world. This provides a rationale to Pretribbers that the message is to Israel alone since they are the majority of people living in Judea and not the majority of the Church.

But that alone does not prove that the message is meant solely for Israel and no one else. When the end time events are taking place they are taking place worldwide and also some are directed to specific locations like Jerusalem and Judea. Jesus is providing a warning to those who are living at a specific location regarding the events that are taking place at that location.
And that warning is when the Abomination of Desolation is set up in the Temple you better get out of Jerusalem, out of Judea, ASAP in order to not get caught up in the ensuing battle and plunder, for then there will be the greatest tribulation the world has ever seen.

This is a warning to leave Judea yet all Pretribbers agree that Jews will be gathered back to their land in the end times.  
Deut. 30:3; Is. 43:6; Ezekiel 34:11-13; 36:24; 37:1-14

Why would Jesus be telling Jews to flee from Judea whom He has recently brought them there to fulfill the prophecies to re-inhabit the land?


Why would Jesus be telling the Jews to leave Judea when Jesus will save them from their enemies?

When we put the warning to flee Judea, Jerusalem in context with Rev. 13 when the antichrist comes to power and enforces a decree that anyone who refuses to receive the mark of the beast and or worship the beast shall be put to death we can see why the warning is issued as those living in Judea will be living in the beast’s headquarters. This occurs when the abomination of desolation is set up, Mth. 24:14.

The message to flee Judea, Mth. 24:16, is to both Jews and Christians and all who refuse to take the mark of the beast. The word “those” is non-specific to any identifiable group but it is specific to those living in Judea.

“then let those in Judea flee to the mountains.”

Why would Jesus warn about fleeing on the Sabbath when the Sabbath no longer applies to Jews just as it does not apply to Christians?

Romans 6:14, Rom. 9:30-33, Rom. 10:1-4, Gal. 3:10-13, Gal. 4:4-5

See also: Does God require Sabbath-keeping of Christians?  
https://www.gotquestions.org/Sabbath-keeping.html
See also: What does it mean that Christians are not under the law?  
https://www.gotquestions.org/not-under-the-law.html

“Pray that your flight will not occur in the winter or on the Sabbath.” Mth. 24:20

Why would Jesus implore his disciples, those living in Judea at this time to pray that their flight to the mountains will not be on the “Sabbath,” when the Sabbath no longer applies?

“Winter” implies greater difficulties and hardships. There is no religious, national or ethnic connotation attached to it.
Jesus would know that the Jews living at this time would be adhering to the law and therefore the prohibition of working on the Sabbath. If 90% of the people in the city where you live are not working on a day in which you need to flee the area that will make it much more difficult to do just as if you are forced to flee in the winter when it is cold and raining rather than the summer when it is dry and sunny.

Secondarily there is overlap of this message to those living in the end times as well as to those who were living in Jerusalem prior to it's destruction in AD 70. The gates of the city would have been shut on the Sabbath making even more difficult to leave the city at that time. For more on this go to section: Daniel’s 70th Week and the 7 year Tribulation.

**Conclusion:** There is no specific correlation of the word “Sabbath” being directly related and solely to the Jews or Israel anymore than the word, “winter” does. To infer that that the message of Mth. 24 is solely to Jews living in the end times based upon the warning to avoid fleeing on the Sabbath is not based upon empirical scriptural evidence and is therefore is misleading.

B)


Luke Chapter 21 is a complementary parallel to Matthew Chapter 24 of the Olivet Discourse and yet appears to present conflicting conclusions about the Abomination of Desolation and the destruction of Jerusalem in Lk. 21:20-24 and Mth. 24:15-22. For a response to this conundrum go to section: Daniel’s 70th Week and the 7 year Tribulation.

**Two:**

Jews worldwide, Israel, are still looking for the Messiah because they do not believe that Jesus is their Messiah. Jews are not looking for the return of Jesus.

1. [http://www.jewfaq.org/mashiach.htm](http://www.jewfaq.org/mashiach.htm)
3. [https://jewsforjudaism.org/knowledge/articles/messiah-the-criteria](https://jewsforjudaism.org/knowledge/articles/messiah-the-criteria)

“For many will come in My name, claiming, ‘I am the Christ,’ and will deceive many.” Mth. 24:5

“Then they will hand you over to be persecuted and killed, and you will be hated by all nations on account of My name.” Mth. 24:9

Since Jews are not looking for Jesus’ second return and don’t believe Jesus to be their Messiah they are not going to be willing to die for His Name. Therefore this message cannot be meant for unbelieving Jews.
Three:

“At that time, if anyone says to you, ‘Look, here is the Christ!’ or ‘There He is,’ do not believe it.” “For false Christs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and wonders that would deceive even the elect, if that were possible.” Mth. 24:23-24

Since Jews do not believe that Jesus is the Messiah the Christ they can be deceived into believing in and putting their faith in a false Christ and a false prophet. Christians cannot since Christians have the Holy Spirit informing them of who the true Jesus is. The inference in Mth. 24:24 is that those whom Mth. 24 is directed to cannot be deceived no matter how great the supernatural signs and wonders are. Therefore Mth. 24 cannot be a message to the Jews because they are deceived right now and will remain deceived in darkness until the day Jesus comes from heaven and rescues them from their enemies. They will not believe because Jesus comes from heaven but because they will see the nail marks in his hands and feet.

Zech. 12:9-10 and Jn. 20:25

The “elect” or NOT deceived.

Jews and Israel ARE deceived.

Hence, the “elect” cannot be the Jews; cannot be Israel.

Therefore this message in Mth. 24 cannot be to nor about Jews and Israel.

The word “elect,” (the Geek - eklektos), used 3 times in Mth. 24 to describe God’s people.


The word “elect” is used 7 times elsewhere in the New Testament to describe God’s people, the Church, that is not related to the rapture and second coming.


Four:

“For just as the lightning comes from the east and flashes as far as the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.” Mth. 24:27

“At that time the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and all the tribes of the earth will mourn. They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven, with power and great glory.” Mth. 24:30

17 Reasons the Rapture Happens AFTER the Great Tribulation - www.Counterfeitrapture.com
The Jews are not looking for a Messiah, an Anointed King from heaven; they are looking for a human being who is a priestly and military leader therefore Mth. 24 cannot be a message to Jews nor about Jews.

Further evidence is provided in the section: Matthew 24:31: Rapture Or Second Coming?

Five:

Mth. 24:42 says, “Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day on which your Lord will come.”

Jesus is addressing people who call Jesus “Lord.” These people whom Jesus is addressing are the people whom the entirely of Mth. 24 is referring to; these people who are looking for their Lord to appear again, their Lord who is Jesus. Jews do not call Jesus Lord because Jews do not believe he is Lord therefore the message of Mth. 24 cannot be to or about the end time Jews.

Conclusion:

The scriptural evidence provided here confirms that there is no scriptural basis to conclude that Matthew 24 is a message solely to or about Jews who are living during the Tribulation end times.

1) The Sabbath mentioned has no bearing on whom the message of Mth. 24 is to or about since the Sabbath is no longer in effect and therefore cannot be inferred to being related to Jews in the context of the message.

2) Jews do not suffer and die for the name of Jesus and therefore the message in Mth. 24 cannot be to Jews since it is to those people who are willing to suffer and die for the Name of Jesus.

3) Jews are deceived about who the Messiah is and will continue to be deceived until Jesus sets foot down on the Mt. of Olives. Since this message is to those who are not deceived, Christians, this message in Mth. 24 cannot be to Jews or Israel.

4) Jews are not looking for a Messiah, an Anointed King, from heaven which Jesus informs his disciples to be looking for Him coming from confirming that this message is not to Jews or Israel but to Christians, the elect.

5) The people whom Mth. 24 is directed to and about call Jesus “Lord.” Jews do not call Jesus Lord therefore Mth. 24 cannot be directed to or about the Jews.
13) Matthew 24:31: Rapture Or Second Coming?

Pretribbers argue that Matthew 24:29-31 is the collection of Israel, the “elect,” at the Second Coming of Jesus and not the rapture of the Church. Pretribbers assert that the “elect” in Mth. 24 is Israel and not the Church.

Most Posttribbers believe that Matthew 24:29-31 is a clear depiction of the rapture.

Pretrib Testimony:

Dr. Walvoord states at the time of the Rapture the saints meet Christ in the air, while at the Second Coming Christ returns to the Mount of Olives to meet the saints on earth.

Dr. Hitchcock states that there are differences between the rapture and the return.

Dr. Hitchcock states that at the rapture Christ gathers His own, the Church, whereas at the Return the angels go out and gather the elect on the earth as depicted in Mathew 24.

Cross Examination:

Matthew 24:31 states, “they will gather His elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other.” Matthew 24:31 specifically identifies the “elect” as being in the sky, the heavens, when collected by the angels, not on the earth. Though Dr. Ice of the Pre-Trib Research Center differs on who the “elect” are he does not dispute the fact that they gathered in the sky.

The Pre-Trib Research Center identifies Matthew 24:29-31 as a description of the rapture, not the Second Coming.

http://www.pre-trib.org/articles/view/matthew-2431-rapture-or-second-coming

There is nothing in Matthew 24:29-31 about Jesus or the angels coming down to earth to meet the saints or the elect or the Jews.

Pretrib Testimony:

Dr. Hitchcock states that at the rapture believers are caught up to be with the Lord but it never says in those passages that believers come right back down.

Cross Examination:
If Mth. 24:29-31 is a representation of Jesus’ Second Coming and not the rapture than those who are gathered to Jesus in the sky will be coming right back down to earth with Jesus which Dr. Hitchcock states that Jesus does not do.

Dr. Hitchcock is actually confirming that Mth. 24:29-31 is the rapture and not the Second Coming because at the Second Coming Jesus comes back to the earth and Jesus does not come back to earth in Mth. 24:29-31.

**Pretrib Testimony:**

Dr Hitchcock states that the problem with the post-trib is it really renders to him the rapture kind of meaningless because if you’ve been through the whole tribulation why get caught up just to come right back down again, why not just stay there and wait for Him, Jesus, to come to the earth. To me it really kind of makes it pointless.

**Cross Examination:**

If Mth. 24:29-31 occurs at the Second Coming as Dr. Hitchcock asserts than the elect are going to get caught up into the air to be with Jesus and then brought right back down to earth. Dr. Hitchcock is contradicted by his own statements.

**Pretrib Testimony:**

Dr. Walvoord states at the time of the Rapture the Mount of Olives is unchanged, while at the Second Coming it divides and a valley is formed to the east of Jerusalem (Zech. 14:4-5).

Dr. Hitchcock states that at the return Jesus Christ is going to come back down to the earth at His second coming and set his feet down on the Mount of Olives.

Dr. Hitchcock quotes John McArthur and says, ‘scripture suggests that the second coming occurs in two stages, first the rapture for when He comes for his saints and they are caught up to meet Him in the air and the second His return to earth when He comes with His saints to execute judgment on his enemies.’

**Cross Examination:**

The Pretribbers assert that the “elect” in Mth. 24:31 are the people of Israel, the Jews, who are gathered by the angels unto Jesus in the air, (the sky, the heavens), and that this event is a part of Jesus’ Second Coming and is not the rapture of the Church.
Zechariah 14:1–5 is a clear depiction the last battle between God and man just before the Millennial reign of Jesus begins Zech 14:9 & 16, a battle in which all the nations will be gathered at Jerusalem where the people of Israel are existing when Jesus comes to put his feet down on the Mt. of Olives. Therefore the Jews cannot be in the sky with Jesus as asserted by the Pretribbers. Zech 14:5 describes the Lord God coming with the “holy ones” when He fights against the nations of the world and stands upon the Mt. of Olives. He does not describe these people as, “angels” nor “Israel” (the people-the Jews), nor the “elect” nor the “chosen.” This distinction between the two makes it crystal clear that the “holy ones” that come with Jesus are not the Jews because they are already in Jerusalem. It appears that these “holy ones” are consistent with the armies of heaven in Rev. 19:14 coming with the Lord in Rev. 19:11-16 to strike the nations which seems to describe the events of Zechariah 14:1–5.

Dr. Thomas Ice - the Pre-Trib Research Center

Pretrib Testimony:

Dr. Thomas Ice from the Pre-Trib Research Center puts forth an argument that Mth. 24:31 is not a depiction of the rapture the Church but of the Second Coming of Jesus and of Him gathering Jews from around the world to Israel. http://www.pre-trib.org/articles/view/matthew-2431-rapture-or-second-coming

“1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, the undisputed rapture passage, as a baseline for defining the rapture.”
Dr. Ice

Dr. Ice states, “In 1 Thessalonians 4 believers are gathered in the air and taken to heaven, while in Matthew 24 they are gathered after Christ's arrival to earth.”

Cross Examination:

That’s not true.

In Mth. 24:29-31 Jesus is seen in heaven on the clouds of heaven, he is never seen coming all they way down to earth. And just to be clear in 1 Thess. 4:16 it states: “For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven” yet no one concludes that Jesus comes all the way down to earth in 1 Thess. 4 and therefore one cannot make Jesus coming all the way to earth in Mth. 24:29-31 a valid assertion anymore one can in 1 Thess. 4:16.
Pretrib Testimony:

Dr. Ice provides the following comparison of 1 Thess. 4:17 to Mth. 24:31
(To be more precise actually it’s 1 Thes. 4:16-17 and Mth. 24:29-31.)

Notice what happens when you examine both passages carefully:

A) In Matthew the Son of Man comes on the clouds,
while in 1 Thessalonians 4 the ascending believers are in them.

B) In Matthew the angels gather the elect;
in 1 Thessalonians the Lord Himself (note the emphasis) gathers the believers.

C) Thessalonians only speaks of the voice of the archangel.

D) In the Olivet Discourse nothing is said about a resurrection, while in the latter text it is the central point.

E) In the two passages the differences in what will take place prior to the appearance of Christ is striking.

F) Moreover, the order of ascent is absent from Matthew in spite of the fact that it is the central part of the epistle.

Cross Examination:

A) Dr. Ice infers that because 1 Thess. does not mention Jesus on the clouds it cannot be the same event as Mth. 24. That’s speculative reasoning. Two, in 1 Thess. it describes the believers caught into the clouds to meet Jesus. Well if the believers are in the clouds when they meet Jesus then Jesus must be in the clouds also. To declare that Jesus is not in the clouds in 1 Thess. is a baseless assumption unsupported by the Bible. Three, Jesus was caught up in a cloud, disappeared in a cloud, when he was taken up to heaven in the presence of his disciples, Acts 1:9-11. The Angels informed the disciples that Jesus would return in the same manner as they saw Him leave. The presumption that Jesus is not in the clouds in 1 Thess 4 is contradicted by God’s Word.

B & C) Dr. Ice argues that when Jesus comes for the Church it is Jesus who gathers the saints and not the angels. Rev. 14:14-16 identifies Jesus as the person who reaps the Church at the harvest and not angels. Furthermore Dr. Ice cites the voice of the archangel in 1 Thess. as indicative of Jesus coming for His Bride to rapture His Church. Rev. 14:15 mentions an angel coming out of the temple of God directing Jesus with a loud voice to reap the earth. It is clear that this harvest is of the saints, the Church for the harvest of the unbelievers takes place right after in Rev. 14:17-20. Using Dr. Ice’s own rationale of comparison one can conclude that Rev. 14:14-16 and 1 Thes. 4:16-17 are the same event. Rev. 14:14-16 occurs after the 7 Seals are opened, Rev. 8:1, and after the 7th Trumpet is blown, Rev.
11:15, and after the Antichrist comes to power, Rev. 13:5-8, well into the tribulation, into the wrath of God.

Using Dr. Ice’s own comparative reasoning, he is arguing that the rapture does not occur until Rev. 14:14-16 after the 7th trumpet is blown.

Additionally Dr. Ice conspicuously leaves out the loud trumpet call of Mth. 24:31 and the trumpet of God in 1 Thess. 4:16 intentionally concealing a similarity between the two passages.

D, E & F) Dr. Ice asserts that because Paul does not refer to all of the events of the Second Coming described in Mth. 24 in his more narrow and concise description of being caught up to the Lord of 1 Thes. 4:16-17 that the two descriptions cannot be the same event.

That would be like saying someone flying in a plane over Mt. Everest providing and overall 360 degree description of the Mountain and the clouds and the snow and the animals and a group of climbers making their way to the top is not describing the same thing that a person looking up at the mountain from one side of the mountain limited to only viewing 90 degrees of the mountain while also describing the mountain and the group of climbers making their way to the top without mentioning anything about the clouds or the snow or the animals which the person cannot see from the ground as the one can from the plane.

On the Mt. of Olives Jesus provides and overall description of the last days, the equivalent of looking at Mount Everest from above in the sky whereas Paul is providing a description of Mt. Everest from below on land focusing on a close up of the trail to the top.

Dr. Ice is basically saying that because the two scriptures are not identical in words or include everything that both descriptions provide and do so from different perspectives they cannot be describing the same event.

No one disputes that 2 Thessalonians 2:1-7 is a description of the rapture of the Church and it does not include anything that is in 1 Thess. 4:16-17 yet based upon Dr. Ice’s logic a person could conclude that they are two different events because they don’t use the same words nor describe the totality of the event while each only describes two different aspects of the same event.

Dr. Ice’s methodology does not support his conclusion; his conclusion which is contradicted by the Bible.

The actual comparison of Mth. 24 and 1 Thess. 4 and 1 Thess. 5 contradict Dr. Ice’s comparison:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statements Regarding Jesus’ Coming for the Church</th>
<th>Reference in Matthew 24</th>
<th>Reference in I Thess. 4 or 5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Christ Himself returns</td>
<td>Matthew 24:30</td>
<td>I Thess. 4:16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. From heaven</td>
<td>Matthew 24:30</td>
<td>I Thess. 4:16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. With a shout</td>
<td>Matthew 24:30</td>
<td>I Thess. 4:16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Accompanied by angels</td>
<td>Matthew 24:31</td>
<td>I Thess. 4:16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. With the trumpet of God</td>
<td>Matthew 24:31</td>
<td>I Thess. 4:16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. In clouds</td>
<td>Matthew 24:30</td>
<td>I Thess. 4:17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Believers are gathered</td>
<td>Matthew 24:31</td>
<td>I Thess. 4:17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. At an unknown time</td>
<td>Matthew 24:36</td>
<td>I Thess. 5:1-2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. He will come as a thief</td>
<td>Matthew 24:43</td>
<td>I Thess. 5:2, 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Judgment comes as travail upon an expectant mother</td>
<td>Matthew 24:8</td>
<td>I Thess. 5:3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. Believers are to watch</td>
<td>Matthew 24:42</td>
<td>I Thess. 5:4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. Warning against drunkenness</td>
<td>Matthew 24:49</td>
<td>I Thess. 5:4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Pretrib Testimony:

Dr. Ice then argues that the angelic gathering of the “elect” in Mth. 24:31 is about the re-gathering of saved Jews who need to be returned to the land of Israel in which they will live for a thousand years during Christ’s Kingdom Reign and that the Lord will use angelic carriers to transport His people back to their land. This latter rationale deduced from Mth. 24:31.

Dr. Ice cites these Old Testament passages Ezekiel 5:10, Ezekiel 5:12, Ezekiel 17:21, Zechariah 2:6, that show how Israel was scattered throughout the world and then cites Deut 30:4, Deut. 30:1-5, Isa 11:11-12, Isa. 27:13, Isa. 43:5-7, Isa. 43:10, and Isa. 43:20, which reveal the re-gathering of believing Jews back to Israel.

Dr. Ice claims that because these Old Testament passages use phrases such as “into all the winds,” “toward all winds,” “as four winds of the heavens,” “from the ends of the earth,” which are similar to phrases, “the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other,” used in Mth. 24:31 that the events described in the Old Testament are referring to the same event described in Mth. 24:31.

On the surface this appears to be a very convincing similarity however just because these phrases use the similar terminology to describe an “area,” a “location,” that does not mean that they pertain to the same subject, in this case the same people.

Everyone agrees that Believers in Jesus will be living in every nation around the world when he comes to rapture the Church. Mth. 24:14, Mark 16:15, Rev. 7:9, Gal. 3:8, Mth. 28:19

So there is no doubt that the Church will be gathered from “the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other,” and anyone who says the Church will not be gathered from this designated area is in denial. Therefore no one can claim that Mth. 24:31 cannot pertain to the Church based solely on the above quote.

In the Old Testament passages cited by Dr. Ice the scattering and gathering of Israel is done by God, see also Ezekiel 11:16-17.

In Mth. 24:31 the gathering is done by the angels.

Furthermore there is no mention of angels dispersing the Jews around the world which would lead a person to believe that the Jews can make it home they same way they were dispersed and therefore the Jews are not going to be flown back to Israel in the sky by angels.

In the Old Testament passages cited by Dr. Ice the chosen people are gathered back to the land and geographical area of Israel and Jerusalem.

In Mth. 24:31 the elect are gathered to Jesus in the sky; there is no mention of depositing them in Israel.

If the elect in Mth. 24:31 is to be construed as the gathering of the Jews back to Israel than Mth. 24:31 would state that the people gathered by the angels were to be deposited back in their homeland. And
since it does not state this it cannot be construed that the elect gathered in Mth. 24 will be deposited in land of Israel and therefore to put forth such a suggestion is pure speculation.

This premise is supported in the context of the complete chapter of Mathew 24 when Jesus refers to the Abomination of Desolation standing in the temple and the people living in Judea fleeing to the mountains in Mth. 24:15-16.

If the elect in Mth. 24:31 were to be deposited in Jerusalem/Israel then Jesus would have said so, since Jesus does not then Pretribbers should simply accept what it plainly says instead of projecting onto it what they want it to say in order to support their position.

It would also appear that Mth. 24:16 refers to Zechariah 14:2 when half of the people in Jerusalem go into exile. Simply put if half the people of Jerusalem go into exile than they cannot have ALL been gathered back to their homeland when Jesus stands on the Mount of Olives with the “holy ones” and defeats the nations of the world. Since the defeat of the nations at Jerusalem occurs after the elect are gathered to Jesus in Mth. 24:31 the elect cannot refer the Jews, the people-Israel because some of them are still dispersed.

Some might argue that these dispersed Jews are the unbelieving Jews however this raises the question as to why Jesus would be warning the unbelieving Jews who are not His own to flee from Judea to the safety of the mountains due to the great tribulation that is about to occur? If they are not His own He would not be directing them to safety.

Zechariah 14:1–5 provides a depiction of the last battle between God and man just before the Millennial reign of Jesus begins, Zech 14:9 & 16, a battle in which all the nations will be gathered at Jerusalem where the people of Israel are existing when Jesus comes to put his feet down on the Mt. of Olives. Therefore the Jews cannot be in the sky with Jesus as asserted by the Pretribbers. Zech 14:5 describes the Lord God coming with the “holy ones” when He fights against the nations of the world and stands upon the Mt. of Olives. He does not describe these people as, “angels” nor “Israel” (the people-the Jews), nor the “elect” nor the “chosen.” This distinction between the two makes it crystal clear that the “holy ones” that come with Jesus are not the Jews because they are already in Jerusalem. It appears that these “holy ones” are consistent with the armies of heaven in Rev. 19:14 coming with the Lord in Rev. 19:11-16 to strike the nations which seems to describe the events of Zechariah 14:1–5.

The Jews cannot be in the sky with Jesus because they will be looking upon the one whom they pierced when Jesus arrives in Jerusalem.

“I will pour on the house of David, and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplication; and they will look to me whom they have pierced; and they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for his only son, and will grieve bitterly for him, as one grieves for his firstborn.”

Zech. 12:10

If the Jews had been supernaturally delivered to Jerusalem by the angels of Jesus they would not be looking upon Jesus with mourning, and grief and sorrow.
Who Do the Angels Gather?

Lastly, Dr. Ice states:

“In Matthew **the angels gather the elect**; in 1 Thessalonians the **Lord Himself** (note the emphasis) **gathers the believers**.”

Dr. Ice’s assertion is that the *elect* in Mth. 24:31 are Jews whom the angels gather and transport back to Israel during the Tribulation.

Dr. Ice states the angels do not gather the Church at the rapture to Jesus but that **Jesus does it all by himself**.

In Mth. 13:37-43 Jesus points out that He will send out **His angels** to weed out all sinners, the tares, and bring all the righteous, the wheat, into the kingdom. Nobody disputes that the wheat are believers in Christ, members of the Church.

*Mth. 13:39* states: “**the harvesters are angels.**”

The orthodox Christian website “Got Questions” confirms this teaching in:

“What is the Parable of the Wheat and the Tares?”
https://www.gotquestions.org/parable-wheat-tares.html

Dr. Ice’s assertion that the angels have no part in harvesting the Church is contradicted by scripture.

Answering the Disciples’ Question:

Dr. Ice claims that this coming of the Son of Man in Mth. 24:29-31 refers to Jesus sending out His angels to gather Jews from around the world and than once gathered these angels will transport the Jews to Israel.

“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 the heavens to the other.”  
*Mth. 24:31*

*Mth. 24:31* is a part of the answer to the questions the disciples asked Jesus in Mth. 24:3:

“While Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately. ‘Tell us,’ they said, ‘when will all this happen, and what will be the sign of Your coming and of the end of the age?’”

*Mth. 24:3* is not a three part question but is a two part question.

**Part One: ‘when will all this happen,’** the disciples are asking when the temple will be destroyed as Jesus pointed out to them in Mth. 24:2.
For the answer to this question which is the Disciples asking Jesus about when the temple would be destroyed and the apparent confusion it creates in regards to how it relates to the end times and the Second Coming of Jesus see Section Matthew 24 – To Israel or to the Church?

Regarding this section this question and the answer to this question has no bearing on the understanding of Mth. 24:30-31, the gathering of the elect from the four winds of heaven.

Part Two: is “what will be the sign of Your coming” and of “the end of the age?”

The disciples already knew that Jesus’ coming was going to be at the end of the age, therefore it is one question regarding one time period that encapsulates both:

the “sign” of “your coming”
and
the “sign” of the “end of the age.”

The “sign” of Jesus’ “coming” is also the “sign” of the “end of the age.”

The answer put forth by Dr. Ice, that Jesus is going to send out his angels to transport the Jews back to Israel has nothing to do with the question put forth by the Disciples to Jesus. The Disciples asked what the sign will be of His, Jesus’, coming not the re-gathering of the Jews. The re-gathering of the Jews to Israel is related to end time events however it is not the answer to the question posed to Jesus and such an interpretation of Mth. 24:31 is contravened by the passage just prior in Mth. 24:30. This passage answers the question of the “sign” in detail as the sign of the Son of Man in heaven which all the inhabitants of the earth will see and then see Jesus coming on the clouds with great power and great glory synonymous with the “end of the age.” Jesus then with the angels gathers the “elect” to Himself into the heavens to always be with the Lord which is consistent with the rapture passages of 1 Thess. 4:17 and Jn. 14:3.

There is no mention of Jesus sending the elect to Israel. There is no mention of Jesus descending to earth onto the Mt. of Olives to set up His earthly kingdom. Not one passage of scripture supports Dr. Ice’s idea that angels transport the Jews back to Israel. It demonstrates just how far afield the Pretribbers must go to maintain their doctrine.

The “elect” is the Church and the angels gather the “elect,” the Church in Mth. 24:31 therefore Mth. 24:31 is the Rapture. For more on how the “elect” cannot be solely be Israel, the Jews, go to sections: Matthew 24 and Imminency.
Pretribbers
Believe that
this is NOT the same as this:

At that time the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and all the tribes of the earth will mourn. They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven, with power and great glory. 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 the heavens to the other.

Mth. 24:29-31

For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a loud command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will be the first to rise. After that, we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will always be with the Lord.

1 Thess. 4:16-17

Pretribbers
Believe that
this is the SAME as this:

Then I saw heaven standing open, and there before me was a white horse. And its rider is called Faithful and True. ...He has eyes like blazing fire, and many royal crowns on His head. He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and His name is The Word of God. The armies of heaven, dressed in fine linen, white and pure, follow Him on white horses. And from His mouth proceeds a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations.

Rev. 19:11-15

For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a loud command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will be the first to rise. After that, we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will always be with the Lord.

1 Thess. 4:16-17
Pretribbers Believe that
This occurs at the SAME time this happens:

Then I saw heaven standing open, and there before me was a white horse. And its rider is called Faithful and True. ...He has eyes like blazing fire, and many royal crowns on His head. He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and His name is The Word of God. The armies of heaven, dressed in fine linen, white and pure, follow Him on white horses. And from His mouth proceeds a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations.

Rev. 19:11-15

For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a loud command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will be the first to rise. After that, we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will always be with the Lord.

1 Thess. 4:16-17

The Bible proves the Pretrib Rapture to be in error.

17 Reasons the Rapture Happens AFTER the Great Tribulation - www.CounterfeitRapture.com
14) Daniel’s 70th Week and the 7 year Tribulation

A) Daniel 9:24

The Pretribulation Rapture doctrine is dependent upon interpreting the Prophecy of Daniel’s 70 weeks in a future context. That is, Pretribbers believe that only 69 weeks of Daniel’s prophecy were fulfilled 2,000 years ago and that there has been an almost 2,000 year gap in time between the 69th week and the commencement of the 70th week. Pretribbers assert that the 70th week of Daniel’s prophecy is the Great Tribulation period of time of Rev Ch. 6 through Rev. Ch. 18 and Mth. Ch.24 and that all of the events of Daniel’s prophecy that have not been fulfilled will be fulfilled during this time.

The Pretribbers generally agree that the rapture of the Church initiates the beginning of this 7 year tribulation, Daniel’s 70th week, and the end of this week coincides with the Second Coming of Jesus to establish His Millennial Reign on Earth.

There are dozens of differing interpretations of Daniel’s prophecy, Dan. 9:24-27, within the Pretribulation rapture group in addition to the mid and post-tribulation advocates that break up the time line to best fit their doctrine of the End Times. We don’t need to go into those details now to prove one very important fact about Daniel’s prophecy, and that is the time in which the events designated in the 70 weeks and or for that matter the last, 70th week, can or cannot be fulfilled.

Daniel 9:24 states:

"Seventy weeks have been decreed for your people and your holy city,

1) to finish the transgression,

2) to make an end of sin,

3) to make atonement for iniquity,

4) to bring in everlasting righteousness,

5) to seal up vision and prophecy and

6) to anoint the most holy.”

According to the Pretribbers’ position this means all of these events will be completed by the end of the 70 weeks and therefore all of the events must be fulfilled at the close of this age before the beginning of Jesus’ Millennial Reign.

Question, will sin continue into and during the entirety of the Millennial Reign of Jesus?

The answer is yes.

Question, will unrighteousness exist during the Millennial Reign of Jesus?

The answer is yes.

Though to a much less degree than what they exert in this age, sin and unrighteousness will still exist in a small amount throughout the Millennial kingdom because the sinful nature will still be present in all born during the Millennium.

Based upon the visible and physical world that exists now and to the end of the Millennium these two events of making and end of sin and bringing in everlasting righteousness will not have been established and therefore Daniel’s 70th week cannot conclude with the Second Coming of Jesus and the establishment of His earthly kingdom. Based upon the spiritual world, God’s kingdom, these events were completed 2,000 years ago in and through the work of Jesus.

When Jesus comes back at the Second Coming will he make atonement for sin at that time? No he won’t, because He has already done it. In fact all six events have been completed. If they have been completed than it stands to reason that the 70th week of Daniel has been completed since there is nothing left to complete.

The prophecy is clear, at the completion of 70 weeks the prophetic events of Daniel 9:24 would be completed. It does not say the events would be completed in the 69 weeks and then there would be a gap of time of some indeterminate length like 2,000 years and then the prophecy would resume by finishing the 70th week even though all of the events had already been completed.

Let’s take a look.

1) to finish the transgression,

Jesus put an end of the transgressions of Israel and all people.


2) to make an end of sin,

Jesus has made an end of sin by becoming sin on the cross and able to cleanse all from sin who come to Him.

Jn. 1:29, 1 Jn. 3:5, 1 Cor. 15:3, 1 Jn. 2:2, Hebrews 9:28, 2 Cor. 5:21, 1 Jn. 3:5
3) to make atonement for iniquity,

Jesus made atonement and reconciled people to God the Father through Himself, to all who call on Jesus.


4) to bring in everlasting righteousness,

Jesus is the everlasting righteousness of God whom he bestows upon those who receive Him by faith.

Rom. 3:21-22, Phil. 3:9, 2 Cor. 5:21, Rom. 5:17-21, James 2:23, 2 Tim. 4:8, Rom. 10:4, Gal. 3:6

5) to seal up vision and prophecy,

Jesus fulfilled the visions and prophecies of the Old Testament prophets.


6) to anoint the most holy,"

Jesus is the Most Holy who was anointed by John and has entered the tabernacle in heaven as the eternal High Priest who forever makes intercession for those who call upon Him.


“Then the high priest said to Him, “I charge You under oath by the living God: Tell us if You are the Christ, the Son of God.” “You have said it yourself,” Jesus answered. “But I say to all of you, from now on you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven.”

Mth. 26:63-64

All six were completed by the end of Jesus’ ministry. Since there is nothing left to complete than Daniel’s 70th week must have been completed 2,000 years ago.

### Sin and Unrighteousness into the Millennium Kingdom

“No more shall there be in it an infant who lives but a few days, or an old man who does not fill out his days, for the young man shall die a hundred years old, and the sinner a hundred years old shall be accursed.” Isa. 65:20

“He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear, but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall
strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.” Isa. 11:3-5

Zechariah 14:16 states: “Then everyone who survives of all the nations that have come against Jerusalem shall go up year after year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the Feast of Booths.”

**The Millennial Kingdom will be populated by three “categories” or “types” of people**

(“As mentioned earlier, it will be the “natural” people who will make up the nations. Because they will still be “natural,” they will be subject to the weaknesses of a mortal body, and will still be prone to sin. Therefore, even though they are living in Paradise, they will need to be ruled “with an iron scepter.” Christ will not be cruel or mean, but he will “rule with an iron scepter” by enforcing the laws so that there is no crime, and people can live in safety and security.............Psalms 2:9; Revelation 2:27; 12:5; 19:15. The application of the iron scepter can be seen in the following verses: Isaiah 11:4; 14:2; 49:22 and 23; 60:10–14; 61:5 and 6; 66:12; Micah 7:14–17; and Zechariah 14:16–19.”

“The need for the iron scepter is due to the fact that these “natural people” still have a sin nature that causes them to be selfish and sinful. Although they will live in Paradise, surrounded by bounty, many of them will still find reasons to complain......The presence of these “natural” people in the Millennial Kingdom explains in large part why there will be disputes in the Millennial Kingdom (Isa. 2:4; Micah 4:3).”

http://www.truthortradition.com/articles/the-millennial-kingdom-will-be-populated-by-three-categories-or-types-of-people

Sin and unrighteousness will exist in the Millennial kingdom therefore Daniel’s 70th week cannot be completed at the end of the Tribulation; at the Second Coming of Jesus. The sin and unrighteousness becomes prevalent for a short time at the end when Satan is loosed and leads the whole world against God and God’s people attempting to overthrow Jesus once again. This could not happen if sin and unrighteousness had been eradicated from earth.

“When the thousand years are complete, Satan will be released from his prison, and will go out to deceive the nations in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to assemble them for battle. Their number is like the sand of the seashore. And they marched across the broad expanse of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. But fire came down from heaven and consumed them.” Rev. 20:7-10

**Daniel’s 70 Weeks of Years**

**When did it start?**

**Has it ended, or is there a gap in it?**

By Dr. David R. Reagan

“One puzzle remains about Daniel’s prophecy. What about the 70th week? Is it past or future? I believe there is no doubt whatsoever that it is future. The reason for that conclusion is simple. The prophecy begins by stating that the 490 years will produce six consequences among the Jewish people.
I began this article by outlining those six prophetic events in detail. If you will look back at them, you will readily see that they are still unfulfilled.

The Jews are still in rebellion against God,
they are still caught up in their sins,
they are still refusing to accept the atonement for their iniquity,
everlasting righteousness has not come to the earth,
all prophecy concerning the Messiah has not yet been fulfilled, and
“the most holy” has not been anointed.”

http://christinprophecy.org/articles/daniels-70-weeks-of-years/

Contrary to Dr. Reagan’s assertions all six of the prophetic events were fulfilled in and through Jesus and made affect in the lives of the Apostles and the Jewish disciples first and the whole world after.

Just as the prophecy of Jeremiah instructed the Jewish nation to serve Babylon the Jewish nation chose not to fulfill that prophecy, so they were exiled to Babylon resulting in the destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple unnecessarily. The same rebellious act repeated itself under a different prophecy and different instruction with similar yet much more severe results when the Jewish nation refused to implement Daniel’s prophecy by accepting Jesus as the Messiah.

Dr. Reagan states, “all prophecy concerning the Messiah has not yet been fulfilled,” as being one of the prophetic events that must be fulfilled. That is not what Daniel states, Daniel states that “vision and prophecy would be sealed” not that all prophecies concerning Jesus would be fulfilled.

Pretrib Testimony:

Dr. Mark Hitchcock
Teaching Video: When Will the Believing Be Leaving –
Dallas Theological Seminary
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RiGlU0Jx7Ik

Dr. Hitchcock states that the entirety of the 7 year tribulation or the 70th week of Daniel is the wrath of God.

Pretrib Testimony:

Dr. Walvoord states that at the time of the Rapture the world is unjudged and continues in sin, while at the Second Coming the world is judged and righteousness is established in the earth.

Cross Examination:

Actually sin and unrighteousness continue into the Millennium reign Jesus rules with righteousness.

17 Reasons the Rapture Happens AFTER the Great Tribulation - www.Counterfeitrapture.com
Pretrib Testimony:

Dr. Walvoord states that the unity of Daniel’s seventieth week is maintained by pretribulationists. By contrast, midtribulationism destroys the unity of Daniel’s seventieth week and confuses Israel’s program with that of the church.

Dr. Hitchcock states that the main part of the Bible that deals with the 70th week of Daniel, the tribulation period, the time of Jacob’s trouble is Rev chapter 6 through Rev. Ch. 18.

Dr. 2321 Here is what John McArthur says, Scripture suggests that the second coming occurs in two stages, first the rapture for when He comes for his saints and they are caught up to meet Him in the air and the second His return to earth when He comes with His saints to execute judgment on his enemies.

Dr. Hitchcock states that Daniel’s 70th week must fall between the Rapture of the Church and the Second Coming of Jesus.

Cross Examination:

It is physically, spiritually and scripturally impossible for Daniel’s 70th week to be completed by the Second Coming of Jesus and the beginning of Jesus Millennial Kingdom. Therefore Dr. Walvoord’s and Dr. Hitchcock’s assertion that Daniel’s 70th week will be concluded is in error.
Daniel’s 70th Week and the 7 year Tribulation

B) Daniel 9:25-27

Messiah is the Prince

Daniel chapter 9 verse 25 states:

“Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem to the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and sixty and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times.”

Suffice it to say there are many resources available that reveal Daniel’s prophecy of 70 weeks equals 490 years and therefore it is not necessary to address that issue. When we add up the 7 weeks and 62 weeks we get 69 weeks or 483 years until the appearance of Messiah the Prince.

Messiah, (Mashiach) means: anointed. Prince, (Nagid), means: a leader or a ruler or a prince.

So 483 years would transpire from the date that the commandment was issued to rebuild Jerusalem to the anointed prince would come on the scene.

This occurred when Jesus was baptized by John in AD 27, the beginning of Jesus’ ministry.

Jn. 1:32, Lk. 3:21-23, Lk. 4:16-21

Notice the designation that Jesus is given Daniel 9:25: He is given both the designation of: Messiah and Prince.

Daniel 9:26 states: “And after sixty and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and its end shall be with a flood, and to the end of the war desolations are determined.”

Both titles in Dan. 9:26 “Messiah” and “prince” used separately are the exact same titles and Hebrew words used to identify the one person “Messiah” the “Prince” in Dan. 9:25.
Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy. Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem to the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and sixty and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times. And after sixty and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and its end shall be with a flood, and to the end of the war desolations are determined. And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations, he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.

The only difference is that in 9:25 the writers capitalize the “P” in prince whereas in 9:26 they do not, yet that does not change anything regarding the word itself. The world “prince” can be capitalized or not, it does not change the meaning or designation within the context of what is written in these passages.

Hence the person identified in Dan. 9:26 as the “prince that shall come” is the same person in Dan. 9:25 identified as “Messiah the Prince” as well the person, “messiah” in same verse 9:26 who is Jesus Christ which makes perfect sense when used in the context of Daniel’s prophecy regarding the prince that shall come in 69 weeks or 483 years.

Jesus is the Prince that shall come in 483 years from the date of the commandment being issued to rebuild Jerusalem.

So Daniel 9:26 can be written like this:

“And after sixty and two weeks shall Messiah, (Jesus), be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the prince, (Jesus), that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and its end shall be with a flood, and to the end of the war desolations are determined.”

Who is Jesus? Jesus is king of the Jews.  
Mth. 2:2, Mark 15:2, Isaiah 9:6
Who was cut off, who was killed, not just the Messiah but the prince as well; the Messiah and the Prince, the King, were crucified. Jn. 19:19-22

“God exalted Him to His right hand as Prince and Savior, to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins.” Acts. 5:31

“And He has a name written on His robe and on His thigh: King of kings and Lord of lords.” Rev. 19:16

See Also: What does it mean that Jesus is the King of the Jews? https://www.gotquestions.org/King-of-the-Jews.html

“He came to His own, and His own, (people), did not receive Him” Jn. 1:11

The prince’s, Jesus’, people are the Jews; are the people of the nation of Israel.

24 Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy. 25 Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem to the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and sixty and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times. 26 And after sixty and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary, and its end shall be with a flood, and to the end of the war desolations are determined. 27 And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations, he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.
Hebrew Original Text

Dan. 9:24

Weeks
Seventy
Are determined (divide)
On
Your people
And on
City
You holy
To finish
The transgression
To make an end
Of sins
And to make atonement
For iniquity
And to bring in
Righteousness
Everlasting
And to seal up
The vision
And prophecy
And to anoint
The most holy

Dan. 9:25

And Know
Therefore and understand
From
[that] the going forth
Of the command
To restore
And to build
Jerusalem
To
The Messiah, (anointed)
The Prince
Weeks
[shall be] seven
And weeks
Sixty
And two
Again
And shall be build
The street
And the wall
And even in troublous
times

### Hebrew Original Text

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dan. 9:26</th>
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<tr>
<td>And after</td>
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<td>He shall cause the sacrifice</td>
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<td>And the sanctuary</td>
<td>And the offering</td>
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<td>And the people</td>
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<td>He shall make desolate</td>
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<td>[shall be] thereof with a flood</td>
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<td>On desolate</td>
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Covenant:

Daniel 9:27 states: “And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations, he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate”

9:27 does not state that “he” will confirm a 7 year covenant or peace treaty with Israel. 9:27 states that “he” shall confirm the covenant with many for, (the duration of) one week.

Who is the “he” making the covenant? It’s the same person being talked about who is the Messiah and the Prince.

What is the covenant He confirmed with the many?

“For this is My blood of the covenant, being poured out for many, for forgiveness of sins.” Mth. 26:28


Paul calls it a “better” covenant, Heb. 7:22.

The covenant in Daniel is the same covenant that God promised in the prophetic vision of Jeremiah 31:31-34. Hebrews 8:6-13 verifies that Jesus was the one who instituted it.

9:27 does not state that “he” will confirm a 7 year covenant or peace treaty with Israel. 9:27 states that “he” shall confirm the covenant with many for, (the duration of) one week.

On the one hand the “many” are everyone who receives Jesus as the Lord and Savior who eats his flesh and drinks his blood who believes in His name alone for salvation. Rom. 10:9, Acts 4:12, Jn. 6:52, Jn. 14:6

On the other hand the “many” could be construed as the lost sheep of Israel, Mth. 15:25. And then when the 7 years are completed the gospel goes to the entire world, Mth. 28:18-20
Abominations:

9:27 does not state that, “And on the wing of abominations shall..”
9:27 states that “And for the wing[s] of abominations shall..”

“On” implies a location whereas “for” implies a cause that results in. As such one could construe this as the spreading out, the multiplication, the covering of abominations and not a location.

The word for overspreading is “kanaph” which means: “wing” or “extremity”
The word for abominations is “shiqquts” which means: “detested thing”

So what it is saying is because of the numerous abominations that the Israelites committed, he, Jesus will make it desolate.

What is the “it”? The “it” is the “holy city.” Jerusalem and the sanctuary will become desolate because of the abominations committed by the people.

What are the abominations?


Making the Temple, the Father’s house, a house of thieves Lk. 19:46

When the Priests and leaders of Israel rejected Jesus as the Messiah they called God a liar making themselves liars.
1 Jn. 2:2, 1 Jn. 5:10, Jn. 8:55, Jn. 8:37-47

“You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out his desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, refusing to uphold the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, because he is a liar and the father of lies.” Jn. 8:44

The ultimate abomination is when the Jews crucified Jesus admitting that they reject their own God:

“At this, they shouted, “Away with Him! Away with Him! Crucify Him!” “Shall I crucify your King?” Pilate asked. “We have no king but Caesar,” replied the chief priests.” Jn. 19:15

The abominations continue with the stoning of Stephen in the presence of and approval of the High Priest: Acts 7:1-60 and to other prophets Mth. 23:34.

Desolate:
9:27 does not state that “And on the wing of abominations shall come one who makes desolate, until the decreed end is poured out on the desolator, or (on him).”
9:27 states that for the overspreading of abominations, he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.

The word for desolate is “shamem” which means to: “to be desolated” or “appalled”

What 9:27 is saying is that “he,” Jesus – God, will make Jerusalem and the sanctuary desolate.

"You are destroyed, Israel, because you are against me, against your helper."  Hosea 13:9

"Your evil will chastise you, and your apostasy will reprove you. Know and see that it is evil and bitter for you to forsake the LORD your God; the fear of me is not in you, declares the Lord GOD of hosts."  Jer. 2:19

“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who kills the prophets and stones those sent to her, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were unwilling!
Look, your house is left to you desolate.”  Mth. 23:37-38

“Moreover, I will make you a desolation and an object of reproach among the nations all around you and in the sight of all who pass by.”  Ezekiel 5:14

"but I scattered them with a storm wind among all the nations whom they have not known Thus the land is desolated behind them so that no one went back and forth, for they made the pleasant land desolate."  Zech. 7:14

“You, however, I will scatter among the nations and will draw out a sword after you, as your land becomes desolate and your cities become waste.”  Lev. 26:33

“The LORD could no longer bear your evil deeds and the abominations that you committed. Therefore your land has become a desolation and a waste and a curse, without inhabitant, as it is this day.”  Jer. 44:22

“For I will lay the land most desolate, and the pomp of her strength shall cease; and the mountains of Israel shall be desolate, that none shall pass through. Then shall they know that I am the LORD, when I have laid the land most desolate because of all their abominations which they have committed.”  Ezekiel 33:28-29

Josephus’ comments on why Jerusalem was desolated and the people dispersed.
http://www.josephus.org/causeofDestruct.htm

Again the desolation of Jerusalem was completed in AD 70 within the generation of the people living at the time of Jesus fulfilling the 70th weeks. And Jerusalem has been desolated for 2,000 years.
“But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, you will know that her desolation is near.” Lk. 21:20
“And Jerusalem will be trodden down by the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.” Lk. 21:24

The desolation of Israel was completed in AD 70 and it will be trodden down by the Gentiles until the that time comes to an end. The Gentiles’ time comes to an end when Jesus sets up his earthly kingdom, Zech. 14:1-9.

Rev. 11:2 reveals that the trampling of Jerusalem occurs to the end of the antichrist’s reign.

“But exclude the courtyard outside the temple. Do not measure it, because it has been given over to the nations, and they will trample the holy city for forty-two months.” Rev. 11:2

Who are the People of the Prince, Dan. 9:26?:

The people of the Prince are the Jews, Israelis. They destroyed their own city and their own sanctuary as a result of their own abominable actions.

“These six things doth the LORD hate: yes, seven are an abomination to him: A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood. A heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that are swift in running to mischief, A false witness that speaketh lies, and him that soweth discord among brethren.” Pv. 6:16-19

“And He said to them, "You are those justifying yourselves before men, but God knows your hearts; for that which is exalted among men is an abomination before God.” Lk 16:15

The Jews’ own actions resulted in the destruction of the Temple and City by the Babylonians so too do their sins result in the desolation of the Jerusalem and the Temple again by the Romans in AD 70.

Look at what Daniel says, “And now, O Lord our God, that hast brought thy people out of the land of Egypt with a mighty hand, and hast obtained thee renown, as at this day; we have sinned, we have done wickedly. O Lord, according to all thy righteousness, I beseech thee, let thy anger and thy fury be turned away from thy city Jerusalem, thy holy mountain: because for our sins and for the iniquities of our fathers, Jerusalem and thy people have become a reproach to all that are about us.” Dan. 9:15-16

“The scene was now set for the revolt’s final catastrophe. Outside Jerusalem, Roman troops prepared to besiege the city; inside the city, the Jews were engaged in a suicidal civil war. In later generations, the
Rabbis hyperbolically declared that the revolt’s failure, and the Temple’s destruction, was due not to Roman military superiority but to causeless hatred (sinat khinam) among the Jews (Yoma 9b).

While the Romans would have won the war in any case, the Jewish civil war both hastened their victory and immensely increased the casualties. One horrendous example: In expectation of a Roman siege, Jerusalem’s Jews had stockpiled a supply of dry food that could have fed the city for many years. But one of the warring Zealot factions burned the entire supply, apparently hoping that destroying this “security blanket” would compel everyone to participate in the revolt. The starvation resulting from this mad act caused suffering as great as any the Romans inflicted.”

Ancient Jewish History: The Great Revolt
(66 - 70 CE)
http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/the-great-revolt-66-70-ce

Confirm Covenant for 7 Years:

We know that from verse 9:26 the Messiah will be “cut off,” will be killed, but not for himself, thus killed for the benefit of others. And we know this is Jesus and that he will be killed sometime after the conclusion of 69th week. In verse 9:27 Jesus put an end to the sacrifice and offering signified by the curtain of the temple being ripped in two from top to bottom at the exact moment that Jesus died on the cross as the final sacrifice for all time for all people.

Mth. 27:51

See also: What was the significance of the temple veil being torn in two when Jesus died? https://www.gotquestions.org/temple-veil-torn.html

We know that Jesus died 3 ½ years after he was anointed by John the Baptist which correlates perfectly with Daniel’s prophecy that the continual sacrifices were put to an end in the middle of Daniel’s 70th week, the middle of 7 years.

Daniel 9:26-27 could be read as:

(“And after sixty and two weeks shall Jesus the Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of Jesus, who is the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and its end shall be with a flood, and to the end of the war desolations are determined. And he, Jesus, shall confirm the covenant with many, the Jews, for one week: and in the midst of the week Jesus shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations, Jesus shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that which has been determined shall be poured upon the desolate the city and the sanctuary.”)

483 years after the decree to rebuild Jerusalem Jesus will be anointed and will be crucified 3 ½ years later and the Jews who are the people of Jesus will bring about the destruction of their own city and sanctuary as a result of their own actions to which Jesus will make the city Jerusalem and sanctuary desolate, an appalling place, and that which is determined for the appalling city and sanctuary shall be

17 Reasons the Rapture Happens AFTER the Great Tribulation - www.CounterfeitRapture.com
accomplished. By the end of 490 years Jesus will have established the new covenant with many will have fulfilled and completed the 6 events prophesied by Daniel that will be completed by the end of 490 years, Daniel's 70th week.

So what about the destruction of the city and temple which did not take place until 70 AD at least 40 years from the crucifixion of Jesus and 36 years from what would be the end of Daniel's 70th week.

Dan. 9:26 states: "the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary." The prophecy was fulfilled on the people who were existing at the time Jesus appeared. A generation in biblical terms was signified by 40 years in Numbers 14:28-35 to which everyone 20 years and older would die in the wilderness, according to the year for a day doctrine, therefore no one would make it past the age of 60.

"So, when we read “generation” in the Bible, we have to consider the context. Usually, a generation in the Bible is roughly thirty years long or the people living during that time." [https://www.gotquestions.org/generation-in-the-Bible.html](https://www.gotquestions.org/generation-in-the-Bible.html)

We can safely say that the city and temple were destroyed within the life time of many who witnessed Jesus' miracles and who rejected Him and supported His arrest and Crucifixion.

All of the blood of the prophets that has been spilled shall be charged to the Jewish generation Jesus is speaking to.  Luke 11:50-51

Jesus fulfilled the prophecy of the destruction of the City and Temple when He said not one stone would be left standing.  Luke 21:5-6

Jesus said it will be more tolerable for Sodom and Gomorrah than for those in Israel who reject the gospel, those who witnessed and experienced the miracles of Jesus and His disciples and God with us. Mth.10:15, Jn. 15:22, Mth. 11:20-23, Lk. 10:13-16, Jn. 9:40-41

How does Jesus continue to confirm the covenant with the many for 3 ½ additional years after he died? First of all we know that he appeared to many people after the crucifixion, after He rose from the dead. These were all Jews, ("the many"). Jn. 20:19-20, Mth. 28:16-17, Acts 1:9-12, 1 Cor. 15:3-7,

"After His suffering, He presented Himself to them with many convincing proofs that He was alive. He appeared to them over a span of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God.."  Acts 1:3

Jesus' ministry continued beyond the resurrection, beyond 3 ½ years.

Jesus said that his ministry was only to the lost sheep of Israel. Mth. 15:24  
Jesus sent the disciples out to the lost sheep of Israel and forbade them from going to the Gentiles. Mth. 10:5-8
Paul said that the gospel, the new covenant, was to the Jew first and then the Gentile.

Rom. 1:16

We know that Jesus lives in us and works in us and through us. So his ministry continued through the disciples.

Mth. 16:18, Jn 14:15-26, 1 Cor. 6:19, Col. 1:2

The disciples continued the ministry of Jesus confirming the "covenant" of Daniel 9:27, to the "many," the "many" who are the lost sheep of Israel for 3 ½ years past the crucifixion of Jesus.

“He has sent this message to the people of Israel, proclaiming the gospel of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all.” Acts 10:36

The ministry of the new covenant with the many, Israel, ended with the stoning of Stephen, Acts 7:54-59, and confirmed when Peter acknowledged that Cornelius the Gentile had received the Holy Spirit Acts 10:45 and Acts 11:18 which probably happened 3 ½ years after the crucifixion of Jesus.

Up to that time the Disciples were only confirming the covenant with Jews, the "many." The Disciples continued the covenant to only Israel, the "many" of Daniel 9:27, for 3 ½ years after the crucifixion of Jesus completing the entire prophecy Daniel 9:24-27

"Seventy 'sevens' are decreed for your people and your holy city...” Dan. 9:24

Now completed the covenant goes to the whole world: Mth. 28:18-20

Conclusion:

Nowhere in Daniel's prophecy is there an indication that there is a gap in time between Daniel's 69th week and Daniel's 70 week.

The gap in time that has been inserted into Daniel's prophecy by many end times prognosticators is based on conjecture and speculation and not what Daniel actually says.
Pretrib Testimony:

Pretribbers assert that Daniel’s 70th week has not been completed and is a future event. Pretribbers assert that Daniel’s 70th week is the Great Tribulation that will last exactly 7 years.

Dr. Walvoord states that the unity of Daniel’s seventieth week is maintained by pretribulationists. By contrast, posttribulationism and midtribulationists destroy the unity of Daniel’s seventieth week.

Dr. Hitchcock states that the main part of the bible that deals with the 70th week of Daniel the tribulation period, the time of Jacob’s trouble is Rev chapter 6 through Rev. chapter 18.

Dr. Hitchcock states that Daniel’s 70th week falls between the rapture of the Church and the Second Coming of Jesus and it is during this time when Jesus will complete the unfulfilled signs.’

Dr. Mark Hitchcock
When Will the Believing Be Leaving –
Dallas Theological Seminary
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RiGi0Jx7iK

Dr. Hitchcock states that the entirety of the 7 year tribulation or the 70th week of Daniel is the wrath of God.

Daniel’s 70 Weeks of Years
When did it start?
Has it ended, or is there a gap in it?
By Dr. David R. Reagan
“One puzzle remains about Daniel’s prophecy. What about the 70th week? Is it past or future? I believe there is no doubt whatsoever that it is future. The reason for that conclusion is simple.
http://christinprophecy.org/articles/daniels-70-weeks-of-years/

Last Week of Daniel 70 weeks: – Great Tribulation Period
http://www.christiantruthcenter.com/last-week-of-daniel-70-weeks/

15. The Second Coming of Christ and the Millennial Kingdom
Article contributed by www.walvoord.com

17 Reasons the Rapture Happens AFTER the Great Tribulation - www.CounterfeitRapture.com
Cross Examination:

Nowhere in Daniel chapter 9 does it say that there will be great tribulation attached to Daniel's 70th week of Daniel's prophecy.

Nowhere in Daniel's prophecy does it state that there will be a 7 year tribulation.

Nowhere in the prophecy of Daniel chapter 9 do we see an Abomination of Desolation standing in the holy place as described by Jesus in Mth. 24:15.

The connotation of abominations in Dan. 9:27 is plural as if many abominable acts have been committed.

In Mth. 24:15 it is clear that Jesus is referring to a “thing” standing in the Holy Place. The Holy Place is a location in the Temple. As previously noted there is no such reference to the abominations in Dan. 9:27 being limited to a specific location.

Mth. 24:15 pertains to Dan. 11:31 and Dan 12:11 both passages which refer to the abomination as some, thing, that is set up and is done so at the end of the age, Dan 12:1-4 and Dan. 11:40-45.

What is the 70 week prophecy of Daniel 9:24-27?

Daniel 9 – A True Biblical Interpretation
A brief explanation of Daniel Chapter 9
http://jewsforjudaism.org/knowledge/articles/daniel-9-a-true-biblical-interpretation/

Daniel’s 70 weeks Prophecy A very abused prophecy
http://www.daniels70weeks.com/Daniels70weeks.pdf
http://www.daniels70weeks.com/

Credit has to been given where credit is due. Though the 7th Day Adventists and others have postulated similar interpretations of Daniel’s prophecy for years which influenced this presentation to some degree away from the traditional viewpoint held within the Evangelical community the above interpretation has been crystallized by the teaching of the AoC Network (Ambassadors of Christ). The video of the teaching can be found here:
Amazing Bible Prophecy Everyone Must See! (70 Weeks of Daniel Revealed)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PuLc3H2eC_M
AoC Network’s website is here:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PuLc3H2eC_M

Once it is realized that the Daniel 9:24-27 is referring to the same person, Messiah, throughout the prophecy it becomes clear instead of confusing.

Daniel’s 70th week has already been completed therefore Pretribbers cannot use the 70th week to justify a 7 year literal tribulation in the future.
Addendum:


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When we look at these two sections side by side we see some similarities between the two and yet some striking differences as well. Before we delve into the differences and similarities let’s address two separate questions.
In Luke there are 2 questions regarding 1 event. The Disciples ask 1, when the temple will be destroyed and 2, what will be the sign that its destruction is about to take place.

In Matthew there are 3 questions regarding 3 events. The Disciples ask 1, when the temple will be destroyed; 2, the sign of Jesus’ coming and 3, the sign of the end of the age. One could argue that the sign of Jesus’ coming and the end of the age are one event and that is true in the greater context however there is a difference between Jesus’ coming for the Church and the destruction of His enemies and setting up His kingdom on earth.

Jesus then elaborates about the world wide calamities and signs; the false prophets and deceptions to come; the persecutions of Christians during this time and the preaching of the gospel to whole world, Mth. 24:4-14 and Lk. 21:10-19.

Now this is where things get interesting. In Luke Lk. 21:20-24 there is a straight forward description of the future destruction of Jerusalem and the desolation of Jerusalem until the time of the Gentiles comes to an end.
It is self evident that Lk. 21:20-24 is the fulfillment of Dan. 9:26-27. There are no end time references within this section of Lk. 21:20-24.

Jesus answered the Disciples’ question. 
**Question:** When will and what is the sign that the temple is about to be destroyed? 
**Answer:** When you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, you will know that her desolation is near.

Jesus then elaborates in Luke21:25-28 about his coming that was not a part of the question posed to him.

Now the question is, does Mth. 24:15-22, also fulfill the prophecy of Dan. 9:26-27?
If we did not have Luke’s account to supplement Matthew’s I think we would be hard pressed to conclude that Mth. 24:15-22 fulfills the prophecy of Dan. 9:26-27 based solely on its own account. Obviously when understood in the context of Luke’s account and the similarities of some of the passages one cannot deny that Mth. 24:15-22 must in part pertain to the destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70. But there is a lot more to Mth. 24:15-22 that is not a part of Lk. 21:20-24 and given the fact that Jesus was answering two more questions in Matthew 24 than he was in Luke it is reasonable to believe that Jesus was providing additional information about the sign of His coming throughout his response.

About the only info in Matthew that would give an idea that it pertains to Daniel’s prophecy is “the abomination of desolation” that is seen standing in the holy place that will be seen before the great tribulation and the warning to evacuate Jerusalem.
Mth. 24:15

So when you see

**standing in the holy place**

‘the abomination of desolation,’

described by the prophet Daniel (let the reader understand),

Mth. 24:15

---

Dan. 9:27

for the **overspreading of abominations,**

**he shall make it desolate,**

even until the consummation, and that determined
shall be poured upon the desolate.

Dan. 9:27

Mth. 24:15 doesn’t really match Dan. 9:27 a hundred percent. Mth. 24:15 the Abomination is seen “standing” in the holy place and in Dan. 9:27 the abomination is not seen standing nor is it in the holy place. Dan. 9:27 states that for the overspreading abominations, “he,” the prince, shall make, “it,” Jerusalem, desolate.

The Hebrew word for overspreading is: *kanaph* which means: wing, extremity. There is nothing in Dan. 9:27 about seeing some “thing” or some “person” which is an abomination standing in the holy place. **Mth. 24:15 and Dan. 9:27 do not match.**
Mth. 24:15

So when you see standing in the holy place ‘the abomination of desolation,’

described by the prophet Daniel (let the reader understand),

Mth. 24:15

Dan. 11:31

they shall pollute the sanctuary of strength, and shall take away the daily sacrifice,

and they shall place the abomination that maketh desolate.

Dan. 11:31

Dan. 12:11

And from the time that the daily sacrifice shall be taken away,

and the abomination that maketh desolate set up,

there shall be a thousand two hundred and ninety days.

Dan. 12:11

Mth. 24:15 You See Standing

Dan. 11:31 Shall Place

Dan. 12:11 Set Up

Dan. 9:27 overspreading wing extremity

Mth. 24:15 correlates to Dan. 11:31 and Dan. 12:11 and not to Dan. 9:27.
Let’s go a step further. Suppose Mth. 24:15 equates to the destruction of the Jerusalem in AD 70 fulfilling Dan. 9:27. What was the “Abomination of Desolation” set up in the holy place that could be seen by the Disciples? And two, when was it set up?

Whatever or whomever the Abomination is it could not have occurred prior to Jesus’ death, for Jesus said it was a future event. This rules out Antiochus IV Epiphanes who in 168 B.C. devastated Jerusalem and defiled the Temple by offering a pig on its altar and erecting an altar to Jupiter, while prohibiting Temple worship in the process.


What about the Roman legions themselves and the standards they carried. That is a possibility however by the time the Roman legions would have set up an Abomination of Desolation in the Holy Place it would have been too late to heed Jesus’ warning to evacuate the city. The Abomination of Desolation could not have been the Roman Legions because the Abomination would have needed to have been set up prior to their siege of the city in order to warn the Disciples to evacuate. There is no historical documentation of an Abomination of Desolation being erected in the holy place, the temple, after Jesus gave this warning and then before the destruction of the City in AD 70.

Now what is interesting is that in Luke the warning is: “But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, you will know that her desolation is near.” Lk. 21:20

In 66 AD the Roman General Gaius Cestius Gallus marched to Judea with a force of over 30,000 men to squash a Jewish revolt. He did not succeed. The Jews continued to rebel against Rome until Vespasian completely destroyed Jerusalem in AD 70.


This fits perfectly with the warning in Luke 21:20-21.

“But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, you will know that her desolation is near. Then let those in Judea flee to the mountains, let those in the city get out, and let those in the country stay out of the city.” Lk. 21:20-21

Make note of the distinct difference in Luke’s warning compared to Matthew’s. In Luke the warning is to leave the city after seeing the armies surrounding the city not the abomination of desolation as in Matthew. And two the warning is to leave to the mountains and not to come back to the city. There is no sense of immediacy as implied in Matthew’s warning.
The sign of the warning in Luke comes on *slowly*.

The sign of the warning in Matthew comes on *suddenly*.

In Luke there appears to be a period of *time to prepare* to leave.

In Matthew there is *no time to prepare* to leave as people are told to leave without their cloak so as not to get caught up in the destruction.

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In Luke it says, “*For there will be great distress upon the land and wrath against this people.*”

In Mth. It says “*For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now, and never shall be.*”

*Great distress* upon the land of Israel is applicable to AD 70 however *great tribulation* is not applicable as there have been numerous tribulations greater than what occurred in AD 70 the tribulation of WWII be just one that far surpasses that of the destruction of Jerusalem. Furthermore an even greater tribulation is coming in Rev. 6 through Rev. 19. A fourth of mankind, as of today that’s 1.9 billion people, will be killed at the opening of the 4th seal alone, *Rev. 6:8*. And then another third of mankind, 2 Billion people, will be killed at the 6th trumpet, *Rev. 9:15*. That is a total of almost 4 Billion people killed by violence. You cannot honestly say that the destruction of Jerusalem is the greatest tribulation.

17 Reasons the Rapture Happens AFTER the Great Tribulation - [www.Counterfeitrapture.com](http://www.Counterfeitrapture.com)
Next in Luke it says, “They will fall by the edge of the sword and be led captive into all the nations. And Jerusalem will be trodden down by the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.”

Next in Matthew it says, “And unless those days had been shortened, no flesh would have been saved; but because of the elect, those days will be shortened.”

Luke talks about how the Jews will be killed and led captive into the nations of the world until the time of the end of the Gentiles. Time and life go on as normal; there is no implication that the world and all living things are vulnerable to becoming extinct as indicated in Matthew.

Matthew talks about God having to cut those days short, God must intervene expeditiously; otherwise all living things, all flesh, would become extinct.

Those are all differences that cannot be reconciled.

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Technically speaking there are only two identical passages from both Luke and Matthew. If those two were removed it would be difficult to determine that the two passages were speaking about the same event.

Luke is explicit to the destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70 and Matthew pertains to the End Times in which similar events will be played out yet with some significant differences. Jesus was answering two questions with one answer in Matthew knowing that the answer would be interpreted as such. It appears that Jesus was showing how in the future Satan will counterfeit the same events that occurred 2,000 years ago including the putting an end to the daily sacrifice as Jesus did.

Jesus put an end to the daily sacrifice by offering himself up as the payment for all sins of all mankind so that all might have eternal life. This occurred around AD 30 to AD 33. Jesus proved this to be true by rising from the dead and ascending to the Father. Jesus fulfilled the prophecy of putting an end to the sacrifice and offering of Dan. 9:27.

Satan will counterfeit this act of Jesus putting an end to the sacrifice and offering when his son, “the son of destruction” - 2 Thess. 2:3, who is the antichrist is mortally wounded and yet lives deceiving the world into believing that he has power over death, Rev. 13:3 and Rev. 13:14 and then sets himself up in the Temple of God declaring himself to be God killing all who refuse to worship him as God.


Jesus fulfilled the prophecy of Dan. 9:27 and the antichrist will fulfill the prophecy of Dan. 8:11, Dan. 11:31 and Dan. 12:11 by counterfeiting the cessation of the sacrifice and offering.

Luke does not contain the warning of the great deception but Matthew does further corroborating the difference between the two messages.

“At that time, if anyone says to you, ‘Look, here is the Christ!’ or ‘There He is,’ do not believe it. For false Christs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and wonders that would deceive even the elect, if that were possible. See, I have told you in advance.” Mth. 24:23-25

“The coming of the lawless one will be accompanied by the working of Satan, with every kind of power, sign, and false wonder, and with every wicked deception directed against those who are perishing, because they refused the love of the truth that would have saved them.” 2 Thess. 2:9-10

“For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, masquerading as apostles of Christ. And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. It is not surprising, then, if his servants masquerade as servants of righteousness.” 2 Cor. 11:13-15
Here is some more information on how Satan masquerades as an angel of light through servants of righteousness by counterfeiting the works and words of God in order to deceive the world into following him:

**Don Stewart :: How Does Satan Counterfeit Jesus?**
https://www.blueletterbible.org/faq/don_stewart/don_stewart_71.cfm

**Satan – The Master Counterfeiter**
John Hoole – February 21, 2010

**Satan's Counterfeit Christianity**
https://www.tomorrowsworld.org/booklets/satans-counterfeit-christianity/content

**The Devil as the Counterfeiter of God**

**What does the Bible say about demonic/satanic miracles?**
https://www.gotquestions.org/demonic-satanic-miracles.html
15) Rapture vs. Return

erroneously assert that Posttribbers believe that the Rapture and the Second Coming of Christ are the same event or happen so close in time to one another so as to render their differences meaningless.

Posttribbers do not believe that the Rapture and the Second Coming are one event but are two distinct events separated by enough time for God to accomplish all that He says He will do regarding the End-Times.

Pretribbers conflate these two events and ascribe this distortion to the Post tribulation viewpoint in an attempt to undermine the Post Tribulation doctrine.

Pretrib Testimony:

Dr. Walvoord states that at the time of the translation of the church, all believers go to the Father’s house in heaven, and do not remain on the earth as taught by posttribulationists (John 14:3).

Dr. Walvoord states that the godly remnant of the tribulation are pictured as Israelites, not members of the church as maintained by the posttribulationists.

Dr. Walvoord states that The rapture concerns only the saved, while the second coming deals with both saved and unsaved.

Dr. Hitchcock states that the Posttribbers believe the Church is going to go through the whole 7 year tribulation but they would say the really bad stuff, the wrath of God is going to be focused right at the end of the tribulation but the Church is going to be preserved through that period of time.

Dr Hitchcock states that the Postrib position states that when Christ comes back at his second coming we, the church, are going to get caught up and meet Him, Jesus, in the air as He is coming down to earth and then the Church is going to make a quick u-turn in the air and come right back down to the earth with Jesus.

Dr. Hitchcock cites Tommy Ice’s label for this and calls this the idea the “yo-yo rapture.”

Dr. Hitchcock states that at the rapture believers are caught up to be with the Lord but it never says in those passages that believers come right back down.
Cross Examination:

Actually Pretribbers are the ones who believe that there will be saints, believers in Christ, left on earth at the second coming of Christ, not Posttribbers.

The Pretribbers contradict themselves with their own words:

Dr. Walvoord states that all of the Church, not part, of the church will be raptured at the coming of Christ for the church (1 Cor 15:51-52; 1 Thess 4:17).

Dr. Walvoord states that the translation of the church is pictured as a deliverance before the day of wrath, while the second coming is followed by the deliverance of those who have believed in Christ during the tribulation.

Dr. Walvoord states that rapture concerns only the saved, while the second coming deals with both saved and unsaved.

Dr. Hitchcock states that when Christ comes back at His Second Coming there are going to be people alive on earth, believers and unbelievers.

Dr. Hitchcock states there has to be believers left on earth during the Tribulation, people who put their faith in Jesus Christ for salvation during the Tribulation, up the Second Coming of Christ so that they will go into the millennial with natural bodies in order to procreate to have children and to repopulate the kingdom.

I really don’t know how Pretribbers can say this without realizing how contradictory it is. On the one hand they say all “Believers” will be raptured before the Tribulation, yet in the next breath they mention the “Believers” in Christ who go through the Tribulation to meet Jesus when He comes at His second coming.

See Sections on Noah and Lot for further explanation

Pretrib Testimony

Dr. Walvoord states that the coming of Christ for His bride must take place before the Second Coming to the earth for the wedding feast (Rev. 19:7-10).

Dr. Walvoord states that at the time of the Rapture the saints meet Christ in the air, while at the Second Coming Christ returns to the Mount of Olives to meet the saints on earth.

Dr. Hitchcock states at the rapture believers are caught up to be with the Lord but it never says in those passages that believers come right back down
Dr. Hitchcock states at the rapture Christ comes in the air where at the return He actually comes back to the earth.

Dr. Hitchcock states at that if the rapture occurs at the end of the tribulation forcing the Church to go through the whole tribulation than it makes the rapture meaningless and pointless.

Cross Examination:

Postrubationalism does not teach that the Rapture and the Second Coming happen at the same time as Pretribbers insinuate.

Pretribbers believe the gap in time between the rapture and the second coming covers the 7 year tribulation period.

Postrubbers believe the gap in time between the rapture and the Second Coming occurs after the Tribulation.

The solid scriptural evidence that supports this position is found in Rev. 14:14-20 which is the harvest of the saints and correlates to the harvest at the end of the age found in Mth. 13:37-43.

When the 7th Bowl of God’s Wrath is poured out a voice from heaven says, “It is done!” Rev. 16:17 That is the end of the Tribulation but the battle of Armageddon has not occurred. After the Tribulation there is a gap in time between the 7th Bowl of God’s wrath, which is the very end of the Tribulation Rev. 16:17-21 and the final battle of Armageddon, Rev. 19:11-21. During this gap in time the demonic spirits from the antichrist, the false prophet and Satan go out to gather all of the kings of the earth together for the battle against God, the Almighty. Rev. 16:13-16 and Rev. 19:19.

The marriage super of the Lamb, Rev. 19:6-9, also takes place during this gap of time after the 7th Bowl of God’s Wrath has been poured out and before the last battle of Armageddon takes place.

For Pretribbers to purport that Postrubbers believe that the rapture and the Second Coming are the same event or occur at the same time is misleading and deceptive.

More scriptural evidence that supports this position is located in section: Judgment Seat of Christ

Parables of Noah and Lot

The fact is the doctrine of the Pre-Tribulation Rapture promoted by Pretribbers renders the Rapture meaningless and the parables that describe the coming of Jesus of being valueless.
Pretribbbers state that millions of people will come to faith in Christ after the rapture has occurred; after Jesus comes for the Church.

But Jesus says that after He comes for the Church; after the rapture there is no chance for salvation, only the judgment of God’s wrath.

Here is the example that Jesus gives about the day he comes for the Church:

“Just as it was in the days of Noah, so also will it be in the days of the Son of Man: People were eating and drinking, marrying and being given in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark. Then the flood came and destroyed them all. It was the same in the days of Lot: People were eating and drinking, buying and selling, planting and building. But on the day Lot left Sodom, fire and brimstone rained down from heaven and destroyed them all. It will be just like that on the day the Son of Man is revealed. On that day, let no one on the housetop come down to retrieve his possessions. Likewise, let no one in the field return for anything he has left behind. Remember Lot’s wife! Whoever tries to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life will preserve it. I tell you, on that night two people will be in one bed: One will be taken and the other left. Two women will be grinding grain together: One will be taken and the other left.” Lk. 17:26-35 See also Mth. 24:36-44

Jesus says that when He comes it will be just like when the flood came in Noah’s day and fire and brimstone rained down on Sodom.

The people who were not looking for Jesus were oblivious of what was about to happen. Mth. 24:39

The people who were looking for Jesus were aware of what was about to happen.

Jesus is going to come on a day and at an hour that both believers and unbelievers do not expect and therefore admonishes His disciples to keep watch and to be ready. Mth. 24:42-44

When that day happens the people of God, Jesus’ disciples, will be sealed and delivered from God’s wrath. And just as it was in Noah’s and Lot’s day everyone left behind will be destroyed.

In Noah’s day everyone were destroyed who were LEFT BEHIND.

In Lot’s day everyone in Sodom were destroyed who were LEFT BEHIND.

Jesus points out Lot’s wife and how she looked back at what she left behind and turned into a pillar of salt and then informs the disciples that they too should not attempt to retrieve anything that is LEFT BEHIND. Why? Because everything that is LEFT BEHIND will be destroyed including those who have any longing for this sinful world.
If you are LEFT BEHIND than you’re a cooked goose. There is no second chance salvation as Pretribbes content.

The Parable of the Ten Virgins

In the parable of the ten virgins Jesus comes for His bride, the Church. Mth. 25:1-13

Ten of ten, 100%, of the members looked and acted and outwardly appeared to be true believers in Jesus; to know Jesus and be known by Him but only 5 of the ten, 50%, actually did. When Jesus came the 5 who knew Jesus and were known by Him were ready and were allowed into the wedding feast and then the door was shut.

That is the rapture folks.

After the rapture the 5 who missed it because that had not truly put their faith in Jesus attempted to enter, attempted to accept Jesus as their savior afterwards but Jesus said it was too late and door remained shut. All that was left was judgment.

Pretribbers contravene this truth by claiming that people left on earth after the rapture will be able to accept Jesus as their savior and avoid the judgment of God’s wrath because they did not believe before the rapture.

“For this reason, God will send them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie, in order that judgment will come upon all who have disbelieved the truth and delighted in wickedness.” 2 Thess. 2:11-12

The repeated warning given by Jesus to keep watch and to be ready for His appearing loses its implication of consequences that result for not being ready.

“Behold, I am coming like a thief. Blessed is the one who remains awake and clothed, so that he will not go naked and let his shame be exposed.” Rev. 16:15

“.for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night.” 1 Thess. 5:2

The Second Coming, (the day that Jesus comes with the Church to earth to defeat Israel’s enemies and set up His earthly kingdom), does not come like a thief in the night.

The rapture comes like a thief in the night.

“While people are saying, ‘Peace and security,’ destruction will come upon them suddenly, like labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.” 1 Thess. 5:3
16) Imminency

“He answered, “See to it that you are not deceived. For many will come in My name, claiming, ‘I am He,’ and, ‘The time is near.’ Do not follow them.”

“When you hear of wars and rebellions, do not be alarmed. These things must happen first, but the end is not imminent.” Lk 21:8-9

The Prophecy and Signs of Apostasy and the Antichrist

“First, imminency means that the rapture could take place at any moment. While other events may take place before the rapture, no event must precede it. If prior events are required before the rapture, then the rapture could not be described as imminent. Thus, if any event were required to occur before the rapture, then the concept of imminency would be destroyed.”

“Second, since the rapture is imminent and could happen at any moment, then it follows that one must be prepared for it to occur at any time, without sign or warning.” Dr. Thomas Ice, Pre-Trib Research Center

Imminency And The Any-Moment Rapture

Pretrib Testimony

Dr. Walvoord states that the exhortation to look for “the glorious appearing” of Christ to His own (Titus 2:13) loses its significance if the Tribulation must intervene first. Believers in that case should look for signs.

Dr. Walvoord states that the church is uniformly exhorted to look for the coming of the Lord, while believers in the Tribulation are directed to look for signs.

Dr. Walvoord states that the Rapture is described as imminent, while the Second Coming is preceded by definite signs.

Dr. Walvoord states that no unfulfilled prophecy stands between the church and the Rapture, while many signs must be fulfilled before the Second Coming.

Dr. Hitchcock states that imminency means that Christ could come at any time; He could come at any moment come and without warning.

Dr. Hitchcock states Jesus’ coming, the rapture of the church comes without any signs; it’s sign less.

Dr. Hitchcock states that no prophetic event must happen before the rapture can come.

17 Reasons the Rapture Happens AFTER the Great Tribulation - www.Counterfeitrapture.com
Dr. Hitchcock states that Titus 2:13 says we are to be looking for the blessed hope; the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus. Why be looking for Him all the time if it can't happen, (without requiring any other event or sign preceding it).

Dr. Gerald Stanton of the Pre-Trib Research Center states:

“The Rapture is signless, and will be unannounced and largely unexpected.”

“No clearly prophesied event must transpire prior to the Rapture, for this might date the time of His coming.”

The Doctrine of Imminency: Is It Biblical?
http://www.pre-trib.org/articles/view/doctrine-of-imminency-is-it-biblical

Cross Examination:

Dr. Hitchcock, Dr. Walvoord, Dr. Ice and Dr. Stanton all state that the rapture of the Church will occur without any signs or prophetic events preceding it and that if any prophetic event must occur prior than the doctrine of Imminency, (at least how constructed by Pretribbers), is destroyed.

2 Thessalonians 2:1-5 states:

1) Now we implore you, brothers, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together unto Him,

2) for you not quickly to be shaken in mind, nor to be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as if by us, as that day of the Lord is present.

3) No one should deceive you in any way, because it is not until the apostasy shall have come first, and the man of lawlessness shall have been revealed—the son of destruction,

4) the one opposing and exalting himself above every so-called god or object of worship—so as for him to sit down in the temple of God, setting forth that he himself is God.

5) Do you not remember that, being yet with you, I was saying these things to you?

2 Thess. 2:1-5

One) Paul is talking to the Church. He is not talking to Jews who will be living during the Tribulation. What Paul is saying is directed at the Church for the Church.

Two) Paul is talking about the rapture of the Church to Jesus.

17 Reasons the Rapture Happens AFTER the Great Tribulation - www.Counterfeitrapture.com
Three) Paul is talking about how some of the believers in Thessalonica had been mislead and deceived by other teachers that the Day of the Lord had already come and or was at hand when in fact Jesus had not come and was not had hand. Paul was saying that Jesus’ coming for the Church WAS NOT IMMINENT at that time; that is that Jesus could NOT return that very day because something else had to happen first.

Four) Paul told the believers in Thessalonica, the Church, that the rapture would not occur prior to the apostasy occurring. Paul is stating that the apostasy, a sign and an event, will occur prior to the rapture of the Church; prior to Jesus returning for the Church.

Five) Paul states that the antichrist, the man of lawlessness will be revealed before the rapture of the Church. Paul states that antichrist will be revealed by sitting down in the temple of God declaring himself to be God and that this must happen before Jesus will come for His Church.

This sign and event of the antichrist being revealed is corroborated by Jesus Himself in Mth. 24:15 when Jesus talks about the abomination of desolation standing in the Holy Place.

The apostasy and the revealing of the antichrist are two signs and two events that must take place before the rapture of the Church contradicting Pretrib teachers Dr. Hitchcock, Dr. Walvoord, Dr. Ice and Dr. Stanton. There is no ambiguity here in which a person could misconstrue the meaning of what Paul saying. The Scripture is clear and concise and precise.

Dr. Thomas Ice, Pre-Trib Research Center states:
“..., if any event were required to occur before the rapture, then the concept of imminency would be destroyed.” Dr. Thomas Ice, Pre-Trib Research Center

Imminency And The Any-Moment Rapture

Contrary to Dr. Ice’s assertion, the Doctrine of Imminency is not destroyed by the necessity of certain events occurring prior to the Rapture. These facts do not negate the dozens of other scriptures which talk about Jesus coming soon for His Church on a day and at an hour that is unexpected and that we are to hasten His return waiting in anticipation for Him to take us home, 2 Pet. 3:12.
No man knows the day or hour – Like a Thief:

Pretrib Testimony:

Dr. Walvoord states that none of the New Testament passages on the Tribulation mention the church (Matt….; 24:15-31; 1 Thess. 1:9-10, 5:4-9; 2 Thess. 2:1-11; Rev. 4-18).

Dr. Walvoord states that the exhortation to look for “the glorious appearing” of Christ to His own (Titus 2:13) loses its significance if the Tribulation must intervene first. Believers in that case should look for signs.

Dr. Walvoord states that the church is uniformly exhorted to look for the coming of the Lord, while believers in the Tribulation are directed to look for signs.

Dr. Hitchcock states that Christ could come at any time, He could come at any moment; He could come without warning; His coming is signless.

Dr. Hitchcock states that the rapture is spoken of in this idea of immanency, and what immanency means is it can happen at any moment it’ signless, and that nothing can happen before it can occur.

INTERPRETIVE FLAWS IN THE OLIVET DISCOURSE
Larry D. Pettegrew
Professor of Theology
The Master’s Seminary Journal
https://www.tms.edu/m/tmsj13f.pdf

Does Matthew 24 Refer to the Rapture or to Jesus’ Second Coming?
By: The John Ankerberg Show
https://www.jashow.org/articles/prophecy/biblical-prophecy/does-matthew-24-refer-to-the-rapture-or-to-jesus%E2%80%99-second-coming/

Dr. Thomas Ice, Pre-Trib Research Center states: 
“..., if any event were required to occur before the rapture, then the concept of imminency would be destroyed.”
Dr. Ice also states: “Third, imminency eliminates any attempt at date setting. Date setting is impossible since the rapture is signless (i.e., providing no basis for date setting) and if imminency is really true, the moment a date was fixed then Christ could not come at any moment, destroying imminency.”

Imminency And The Any-Moment Rapture

Dr. Gerald Stanton of the Pre-Trib Research Center states:
“The Rapture is signless, and will be unannounced and largely unexpected.”
“no clearly prophesied event must transpire prior to the Rapture, for this might date the time of His coming.”

The Doctrine of Imminency: Is It Biblical?
http://www.pre-trib.org/articles/view/doctrine-of-imminency-is-it-biblical

17 Reasons the Rapture Happens AFTER the Great Tribulation - www.CounterfeitRapture.com
Cross Examination:

Virtually all Pre-Trib teachers hold to the position that Matthew Chapter 24 is not to the Church but to Israel and is not about the Rapture of the Church but is about the Second Coming of Jesus, the re-gathering of Israel during the end times and the Tribulation.

Furthermore they argue that the rapture is a sign-less event that can occur at any moment like a thief in the night on a day and at an hour we do not expect and that the Second Coming of Jesus cannot occur like a thief in the night because many signs must precede it. Many of these signs are detailed in Mth. 24 corroborating their position that the message of Mth. 24 is not for the Church but for Israel and is not a message that validates the doctrine of Imminency but of Signs.

More info on this concept at: “Can the return of Christ truly be said to be imminent?”
Got Question
https://www.gotquestions.org/imminent-return-Christ.html

Pretribbers believe that:

1. The Rapture is sign-less.
2. The Second Coming has signs.
3. The Day and Hour of the Rapture no one knows; its occurrence is Imminent.
4. The Day and Hour of the Second Coming is known; it’s occurrence is not Imminent.
5. Imminency equals Rapture
6. Imminency is opposed to Second Coming
7. Signs equals Second Coming
8. Mth. 24 equals Signs
9. Mth. 24 equals Second Coming
10. Mth 24 is opposed to Rapture

Conclusion: Pretribbers state that Mth. 24 does not contain the doctrine of Imminency.

Based upon what the Pretribbers believe Mth. 24 states, Pretribbers teach that it cannot be conveying a message to the Church nor about the Rapture of the Church.

The question is; does Mth. 24 actually state what the Pretribbers testify it does. The evidence below will demonstrate Mth. 24 does not state what Pretribbers believe it does. The scriptures below will show that Mth. 24 does contain the doctrine of Imminency and that it is applied to Mth. 24:30-31, Jesus’ return for His Church, the Rapture.
Mth. 24:36-44 states:

1) vs. 36-37 & 42 “No one knows the day or hour....when the Son of Man comes.”

2) vs. 38-41 “The world is oblivious to His coming.”

3) vs. 43-44 “Jesus comes at an hour when we do not expect Him.”

4) vs. 43 “Jesus comes like a thief in the night.”

5) vs. 42-44 “We are exhorted to keep watching, looking for and preparing for His, (Imminent), coming; to be ‘ready at all times,” vigilant.”

1) This passage cannot refer to the Second Coming of Jesus when Jesus sets His feet down on the Mt. of Olives and destroys Israel’s enemies because that day and hour does not come upon the world unexpectedly in which no one knows. For in fact the world will know what day and hour that Jesus comes because the world will be preparing for that battle with Jesus.


2) The world is oblivious to His, (the Son of Man’s), coming but Christians are not for Christians see the signs, Mth. 24:33.

3) Christians know when His coming is soon, the season that it will occur based upon the signs, but it will still occur on a day and hour when Christians do not expect Him and will still be surprised. It will not be a surprise when Jesus comes to destroy Israel’s enemies at His Second Coming.

4) Jesus comes in a moment of time, quickly; at any possible moment in time; His coming is Imminent when we do not expect Him just like a thief sneaking into a house. See the parallels to “coming like a thief” in 1 Thess. 5:1-8 and 2 Peter 3:10-12.

“But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar, the elements will be dissolved in the fire, and the earth and its works will not be found. Since everything will be dissolved in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to conduct yourselves in holiness and godliness as you anticipate and hasten the coming of the day of God, when the heavens will be dissolved by fire and the elements will melt in the heat.” 2 Peter 3:10-12.

The first thing we can derive from this passage is that it is directed to the Church. The Church is still on the earth anticipating and hastening the coming of the day of the Lord/God; the day that will come like a thief when the heavens will disappear by fire. Secondarily that means everyone in the world is going to
see this event of the heavens dissolved with fire when the Church is still on the earth. This event correlates to the events in Rev. 6:12-17. The Church is on earth when the heavens dissolve with fire. From that day forward the element of surprise, and unexpected day, no longer exists.

Since the Coming of Jesus in Mth. 24:30-31 comes like a thief on a day and hour we do not know nor expect Mth. 24:36-44, therefore Mth. 24:30-31 cannot be the Second Coming because the Second Coming occurs after 2 Peter 3:10-12 and is no longer an event that comes like a thief when we do not know or do not expect.

5) Christians are exhorted to keeping watching for Jesus’ coming which must be the Rapture because it is unnecessary to keep watching for Jesus’ Second Coming when He defeats Israel’s enemies and sets up his kingdom on earth. Furthermore Jews are not looking for, not watching and waiting for Jesus at any time therefore these passages cannot be directed to inform the unbelieving Jews and Israel and can only be information for the Church.

If the Passages of Mth. 24:36-44 are not referring to the Second Coming then what could they be referring to?

Just prior to providing the description of his imminent return Jesus says, “So also you, when you see all these things, know that He is, (or ‘it is’), near, at the doors.” Mth. 24:33

Jesus is answering the question posed to Him by the Disciples in Mth. 24:3, “.....what will be the sign of Your coming and of the end of the age?”

The answer that Jesus provides is all of the signs detailed in verses 4 through 29 of Mth. 24.

Based upon the chronology of events in Mth. 24 Jesus is saying that His imminent return for the Church, the rapture, will be preceded by many signs and events that we, the Church, look for as an indicator, a warning light, that His coming is soon, Mth. 24:32, the lesson of the Fig Tree.

The lesson of the Fig Tree describes a time frame in the spring when the new growth appears on the tree. So we could say, “when we see the fig tree put forth the new growth of short tender branches and the sprouting of new green leaves the coming of Jesus will occur in the very near future.” The coming of Jesus cannot occur prior to the fig tree putting forth the new branches and new green leaves and yet He will come before the appearance of the new growth disappears with the summer heat.

Luke chapter 21 is a parallel chapter to Matthew 24. In Luke 21:28 Jesus says, “When these things begin to happen, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.” He is telling us, the Church, to look up for Him because “our” redemption is “near.” It is near after the signs appear and not before. Our redemption, our rapture is imminent after the signs have appeared.

Immediately after Jesus provides these signs and description of his near appearance He says, “Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have happened,” Mth. 24:34
We can conclude that “all” these things up to that point in Mth. 24 including the coming of Jesus will occur before summer fully sets in and most definitely before late summer and early fall.

The time frame that Jesus will come is after the early spring and before the late summer. Despite knowing this time frame of his appearance we will still do not know the day or hour that he does come for the day and hour that He comes will be on a day that we do not expect. His coming is imminent within the time frame set forth in Mth. 24.

Once again these passages cannot be speaking about the Second Coming because the Second Coming does not come like a thief when we do not expect, the world is expecting Jesus preparing to go to battle against Him.

**Conclusion:**

*Mth. 24:36-44* is a complete description of the doctrine of Imminency. This doctrine is applied to the coming of Jesus in *Mth. 24:30-31*, validating that *Mth. 24:31* is the Rapture of the Church and is not the Second Coming nor the re-gathering of Israel.

The imminent return of Jesus for his Church, the Rapture, occurs after many signs become visible and after specific events take place just as if it must occur after the spring sun and rain produces then new growth of a fig tree.

The fact many signs and prophetic events must occur prior to the Rapture of the Church does not destroy the doctrine of Imminency as constructed by Jesus Himself in *Mth. 24*.

Since the passage of *Mth. 24:36-44* is not related to the Second Coming, deduction would dictate that it must be referring to the Rapture of the Church.

**Early Christian Fathers and Saints:**

**Pretrib Testimony:**

Pretribbers contend that the Rapture is Imminent because the early Christians spent more time looking for the return of Jesus than anything else.

Dr. Hitchcock states that the great preacher Alexander McClaren wrote “the primitive church thought more about the second coming of Jesus Christ than about death or about heaven. The early Christians
were not looking for a cleft in the ground called a grave but for a cleavage in the sky called glory. They were not watching for the undertaker but for the upper taker. “

Cross Examination:

The early Christians thought that Jesus would return in their lifetime because they thought they were living during the tribulation and would see the antichrist rise to power.

“I John, your brother and fellow-partaker in the tribulation and kingdom and perseverance in Jesus, was in the island called Patmos on account of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus.” Rev. 1:9

The Greek Word: thlipsis: tribulation
Definition: persecution, affliction, distress, tribulation.
http://biblehub.com/greek/2347.htm

The Apostle John thought he was in the tribulation.

“Children, it is the last hour; and just as you have heard that the antichrist is coming, so now many antichrists have appeared. This is how we know it is the last hour.” 1 Jn. 2:18

What hour is John thinking about? He is thinking about Rev. 3:10, “the hour of trial that is coming on the whole world, to try those who dwell on the earth,” which Jesus will keep the Church from.

John not only thought he was in the tribulation but was in the last hour of the tribulation. One could surely understand that given the persecution of the early Church and John being boiled in oil.

John was looking for the antichrist to appear just as much as he was looking for Jesus to appear soon after, 2 Thess. 2:1-4.

And yet John like all the other Christians believed in the Imminent return of Jesus but just not before the antichrist was revealed which is why in 2 Thess. 2:1-4 Paul cleared up their confusion in falsely assuming that Christ had already come.

Keep in mind that John did not pen 1 John and Revelation until AD 85 at the earliest and therefore the prophecies of Revelation could not have been fulfilled before that date. And therefore the return of Jesus could not have occurred before that date even though many Christians falsely believed that it would based upon a partial and incomplete understanding of End Times.

1 Thessalonians was written in A.D. 50 and 2 Thessalonians was written in A.D. 51 or A.D. 52. Most Bible scholars believe that the Book of Revelation was written in A.D. 80 to 96 though some have pushed the date up to A.D. 68. Either way the Rapture of the Church could not have occurred before John penned the Book. So for at least 18 years of the early Christian Church Jesus could NOT have come for the
Church on any day. And more likely Jesus could not have returned for the Church for 30 or 40 years. Yet despite this fact the truth of Imminency is not diminished. The fact that certain events must occur first places the doctrine of Imminency in the proper context and that context is when the it’s in season according to Mth.

“Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its branches become tender and sprout leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see all these things, you know that He is near, right at the door. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have happened.” Mth. 24:32-34

Here you will find some writings of early Christian fathers who believed that the antichrist would come before the rapture of the Church and that the church would be persecuted by the antichrist.

“Chapter 16. Watchfulness; the Coming of the Lord. Watch for your life's sake. Let not your lamps be quenched, nor your loins unloosed; but be ready, for you know not the hour in which our Lord will come. But come together often, seeking the things which are befitting to your souls: for the whole time of your faith will not profit you, if you are not made perfect in the last time. For in the last days false prophets and corrupters shall be multiplied, and the sheep shall be turned into wolves, and love shall be turned into hate; for when lawlessness increases, they shall hate and persecute and betray one another, and then shall appear the world-deceiver as Son of God, and shall do signs and wonders, and the earth shall be delivered into his hands, and he shall do iniquitous things which have never yet come to pass since the beginning. Then shall the creation of men come into the fire of trial, and many shall be made to stumble and shall perish; but those who endure in their faith shall be saved from under the curse itself. And then shall appear the signs of the truth: first, the sign of an outspreading in heaven, then the sign of the sound of the trumpet. And third, the resurrection of the dead -- yet not of all, but as it is said: "The Lord shall come and all His saints with Him." Then shall the world see the Lord coming upon the clouds of heaven. The Didache - The Lord's Teaching Through the Twelve Apostles to the Nations. http://www.earlychristianwritings.com/text/didache-roberts.html

“O unreasoning men! understanding not what has been proved by all these passages, that two advents of Christ have been announced: the one, in which He is set forth as suffering, inglorious, dishonoured, and crucified; but the other, in which He shall come from heaven with glory, when the man of apostasy, who speaks strange things against the Most High, shall venture to do unlawful deeds on the earth against us the Christians, who, having learned the true worship of God from the law, and the word which went forth from Jerusalem by means of the apostles of Jesus…” Dialogue with Trypho Justin Martyr https://www.theologynetwork.org/Media/PDF/Justin_Martyr-Dialogue_with_Trypho.pdf

“These men, therefore, ought to learn [what really is the state of the case], and go back to the true number of the name, that they be not reckoned among false prophets. But, knowing the sure number declared by Scripture, that is, six hundred sixty and six, let them await, in the first place, the division of the kingdom into ten; then, in the next place, when these kings are reigning, and beginning to set their affairs in order, and advance their kingdom, [let them learn] to acknowledge that he who shall come claiming the kingdom for himself, and shall terrify those men of whom we have been speaking, having a name containing the aforesaid number, is truly the abomination of desolation. This, too, the apostle affirms: "When they shall say, Peace and safety, then sudden...” 17 Reasons the Rapture Happens AFTER the Great Tribulation - www.Counterfeitrapture.com
And Jeremiah does not merely point out his sudden coming, but he even indicates the tribe from which he shall come, where he says, "We shall hear the voice of his swift horses from Dan; the whole earth shall be moved by the voice of the neighing of his galloping horses: he shall also come and devour the earth, and the fulness thereof, the city also, and they that dwell therein." (2) This, too, is the reason that this tribe is not reckoned in the Apocalypse along with those which are saved. (4)

3. It is therefore more certain, and less hazardous, to await the fulfilment of the prophecy, than to be making surmises, and casting about for any names that may present themselves, insomuch as many names can be found possessing the number mentioned; and the same question will, after all, remain unsolved........ But he indicates the number of the name now, that when this man comes we may avoid him, being aware who he is: the name, however, is suppressed, because it is not worthy of being proclaimed by the Holy Spirit. For if it had been declared by Him, he (Antichrist) might perhaps continue for a long period.”

Irenaeus: Against Heresies BOOK V.
http://gnosis.org/library/advh5.htm

“In the Revelation of John, again, the order of these times is spread out to view, which "the souls of the martyrs" are taught to wait for beneath the altar, whilst they earnestly pray to be avenged and judged: (taught, I say, to wait), in order that the world may first drink to the dregs the plagues that await it out of the vials of the angels, and that the city of fornication may receive from the ten kings its deserved doom, and that the beast Antichrist with his false prophet may wage war on the Church of God; and that, after the casting of the devil into the bottomless pit for a while, the blessed prerogative of the first resurrection may be ordained from the thrones; and then again, after the consignment of him to the fire, that the judgment of the final and universal resurrection may be determined out of the books. Since, then, the Scriptures both indicate the stages of the last times, and concentrate the harvest of the Christian hope in the very end of the world, it is evident, either that all which God promises to us receives its accomplishment then...”

TERTULLIAN
ON THE RESURRECTION OF THE FLESH.

“Who are the ravening wolves but those deceitful senses and spirits which are lurking within to waste the flock of Christ? Who are the false prophets but deceptive predictors of the future? Who are the false apostles but the preachers of a spurious gospel? Who also are the Antichrists, both now and evermore, but the men who rebel against Christ? Heresies, at the present time, will no less rend the church by their perversion of doctrine, than will Antichrist persecute her at that day by the cruelty of his attacks, except that persecution makes even martyrs (but) heresy only apostates. And therefore "heresies must needs be in order that they which are approved might be made manifest, both those who remained stedfast under persecution, and those who did not wander out of their way into heresy.”

TERTULLIAN
THE PRESCRIPTION AGAINST HERETIC

“When the times are fulfilled, and the ten horns spring from the beast in the last (times), then Antichrist will appear among them. When he makes war against the saints, and persecutes them, then may we expect the manifestation of the Lord from heaven.”

HIPPOLYTUS OF ROME
THE EXTANT WORKS AND FRAGMENTS OF HIPPOLYTUS. [TRANSLATED BY THE REV. S. D. F. SALMONT.]
“Look therefore to thyself, O man, and make safe thy soul. The Church now charges thee before the Living God; she declares to thee the things concerning Antichrist before they arrive. Whether they will happen in thy time we know not, or whether they will happen after thee we know not; but it is well that, knowing these things, thou shouldest make thyself secure beforehand. The true Christ, the Only-begotten Son of God, comes no more from the earth. If any come making false shows in the wilderness, go not forth; if they say, Lo, here is the Christ, Lo, there, believe it not. Look no longer downwards and to the earth; for the Lord descends from heaven; not alone as before, but with many, escorted by tens of thousands of Angels; nor secretly as the dew on the fleece; but shining forth openly as the lightning. But this aforesaid Antichrist is to come when the times of the Roman empire shall have been fulfilled, and the end of the world is now drawing near. There shall rise up together ten kings of the Romans, reigning in different parts perhaps, but all about the same time; and after these an eleventh, the Antichrist, who by his magical craft shall seize upon the Roman power; and of the kings who reigned before him, three he shall humble, and the remaining seven he shall keep in subjection to himself. At first indeed he will put on a show of mildness (as though he were a learned and discreet person), and of soberness and benevolence: and by the lying signs and wonders of his magical deceit having beguiled the Jews, as though he were the expected Christ, he shall afterwards be characterized by all kinds of crimes of inhumanity and lawlessness, so as to outdo all unrighteous and ungodly men who have gone before him; displaying against all men, but especially against us Christians, a spirit murderous and most cruel, merciless and crafty. And after perpetrating such things for three years and six months only, he shall be destroyed by the glorious second advent from heaven of the only-begotten Son of God, our Lord and Saviour Jesus, the true Christ, who shall slay Antichrist with the breath of His mouth, and shall deliver him over to the fire of hell.”

Cyril of Jerusalem, Gregory Nazianzen
By St. Cyril of Jerusalem
NPNF2-07.

See Also: 1.2. NERO THE JEW – THE ANTICHRIST
http://reasonandreligion.org/index.php/nero-jew-antichrist/

See Also: Nero as the Antichrist
http://penelope.uchicago.edu/~grout/encyclopaedia_romana/gladiators/nero.html

Other Signs - that Will Occur Prior to the Rapture:

“But understand this: in the last days terrible times will come. For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, without love of good, traitorous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power.” 2 Tim. 3:1-5
“First of all, you must understand that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires. “Where is the promise of His coming?” they will ask. “Ever since our fathers fell asleep, everything continues as it has from the beginning of creation.” But they deliberately overlook the fact that long ago by God’s word the heavens existed and the earth was formed out of water and by water, through which the world of that time perished in the flood. And by that same word, the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men.” 2 Pet. 3:3-7

Knowing the Day and Hour:

Pretribbers argue that if the rapture occurs after the beginning of the Tribulation, the Great Tribulation. That is, after the antichrist is revealed the possibility of knowing the day and hour when Jesus returns for the Church could be known destroying the doctrine of the Imminency and contradicting many passages that show Jesus coming on day we do not expect. However this presupposition is based upon the erroneous belief that the Tribulation is exactly 7 years long and that Jesus will come back for the Church precisely 3 ½ years after the antichrist sets himself up in the temple of God. Contrary to this premise no such passage of scripture provides validity for such an interpretation. There is no scripture that proves that the Tribulation is specifically 7 years long. See: Daniel’s 70th Week and the 7 Year Tribulation

Supportive Scriptures Not:

Dr. Walvoord states that the exhortation to be comforted by the coming of the Lord (1 Thess. 4:18) is very significant in the pretribulational view and is especially contradicted by most posttribulationists.

Dr. Walvoord states that the exhortation to look for “the glorious appearing” of Christ to His own (Titus 2:13) loses its significance if the Tribulation must intervene first. Believers in that case should look for signs.

Dr. Walvoord states that the exhortation to purify ourselves in view of the Lord’s return has most significance if His coming is imminent (1 John 3:2-3).

Dr. Walvoord states that the church is uniformly exhorted to look for the coming of the Lord, while believers in the Tribulation are directed to look for signs.

Dr. Hitchcock states the Imminency of Christ’s return and rapture of the Church means that Christ could come at any time, He could come at any moment, without warning and without any signs.

Dr Hitchcock states this idea comes from 1 Thessalonians chapter 1 verse 10.
Dr. Hitchcock states that the Pretribber’s concept of Imminency is derived in part from Titus 2:13 which says we are to be looking for the blessed hope and the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus.

Cross Examination:

Dr. Walvoord and Dr. Hitchcock provide 4 passages of scripture to support their doctrine of Imminency, 1 Thess. 1:10, 1 Thess. 4:18, Titus 2:13 and 1 Jn. 3:2-3.

1) “to await His Son from the heavens, whom He raised out from the dead--Jesus, the one delivering us from the coming wrath.” 1 Thess. 1:10,

2) “Therefore encourage one another with these words.” 1 Thess. 4:18,

3) “awaiting the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ,..” Titus 2:13,

4) “Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is. And everyone having this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.” 1 Jn. 3:2-3,

Not one of the scriptures used by Dr. Walvoord or Dr. Hitchcock supports the doctrine of Imminency that Jesus could return at this very moment without requiring other signs and events occurring prior such as those detailed in 2 Thess. 2:1-5 and for that matter Matthew chapter 24.

Dr. Thomas Ice of the Pre-Trib Research Center provides approximately 15 more passages to support this idea and again not one passage of scripture he uses individually or collectively with the others refutes the fact that the sign and prophetic events of the apostasy and the revealing of the antichrist must occur prior to the rapture of the Church to Jesus, 2 Thess. 2:1-5.

Dr. Thomas Ice, Pre-Trib Research Center

17) Blessed Hope

Pretrib-Testimony:

Dr. Walvoord states that the exhortation to be comforted by the coming of the Lord (1 Thess. 4:18) is very significant in the pretribulational view and is especially contradicted by most posttribulationists.

Dr. Walvoord states that the exhortation to look for “the glorious appearing” of Christ to His own (Titus 2:13) loses its significance if the Tribulation must intervene first.

Dr. Hitchcock states that The rapture is called the blessed hope in Titus 2:13 and therefore the rapture must be pretrib because if the rapture occurs 3 ½ or 5 or 7 years into the Tribulation than the rapture no longer can be called the blessed hope.

“as we await the blessed hope and glorious appearance of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ.” Titus 2:13

Dr. Hitchcock states that words of 1 Thessalonians 4:18, “comfort one another with this words,” conveys a doctrine of the rapture that is a soothing balm for troubled hearts, it’s a blessing and a consolation to God’s people.

Dr. Hitchcock interprets this doctrine by implying that the Church will not go through the Tribulation because if the Church were to go through the Tribulation then the words of 1 Thess. 4:18 would not be a comfort.

Dr. Hitchcock quotes Tim Lahaye who says that if the rapture occurs during or after the Tribulation then it changes from the blessed hope to the blasted hope.

From Dr. Tim Lahaye’s book, “Rapture Under Attack,” “If Christ does not Rapture His church before the Tribulation begins, much of the hope is destroyed, and thus it becomes a ‘blasted hope’.” Is our hope “blessed hope or blasted hope?” (Lahaye, 69). From Zero Hour

Cross Examination:

So what Dr. Hitchcock and Dr. Walvoord are saying is that Jesus is not a blessed hope for the Tribulation saints.

Like Tim Lahaye, Dr. Hitchcock is saying that Jesus is the blasted hope for the Tribulation saints who were not raptured with the Church.

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I really don’t think I need to say much other than if Jesus is not a “blessed hope” for the Tribulation saints than their faith in Jesus is in vain and meaningless and would render the words of God to the Tribulation saints to be a lie.

“I heard a voice out of heaven, saying "Write, 'Blessed are the dead dying in the Lord from now on.'" "Yes," says the Spirit, "so that they will rest from their labors; for their works follow with them." Rev. 14:13
Rev 6:9-11, Rev. 7:9-11, Rev. 12:10-11, Rev. 20:4

Pretribbers infer that the coming of Jesus to the Tribulation saints is the blasted hope.

God’s word says the coming of Jesus to the Tribulation saints is the blessed hope.

**Pretrib-Testimony:**

Dr. Hitchcock says the doctrine of the rapture is a soothing balm for troubled hearts, it’s a blessing and a consolation to God’s people.

Dr. Hitchcock cites 1 Thes.s 4:18 about how Paul is telling the Church to comfort one another with these words regarding the coming of Jesus to rapture the Church referencing Jn. 14:1 when Jesus says,” “Do not let your hearts be troubled,” just before Jesus tells us that he will come again for us to receive us to Himself, Jn. 14:1-3.

Dr. Hitchcock then states that if we have to face the tribulation before Jesus comes Jesus would have to change those words. “Let not your hearts be troubled,” to “let your hearts be troubled, right”

Dr. Walvoord states that the comfort of 1 Thes.s 4:18 provided to believers is contradicted by theposttibulationists.

**Cross Examination:**

*Acts 14:22* states: “strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying that through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God.”

*Jn. 16:33* states: “I have spoken these things to you so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation. But take courage; I have overcome the world.”

The Word of God contradicts Dr. Hitchcock’s assertions:
Pretrib-Testimony:

According to Dr. Walvoord and Dr. Walvoord the comfort of the blessed hope, the appearing of Jesus loses its significance if believers must go through the tribulation before the rapture.

Cross Examination:

Based upon the logic of Dr. Walvoord and Dr. Walvoord the comfort of the blessed hope, the appearing of Jesus is meaningless to the tens of thousands of Christians who are being persecuted for their faith right now in the world.

*Christian Persecution and Genocide Is Worse Now Than “Any Time in History,” Report Says*

By Cristina Maza On 1/4/18 at 11:42 AM Newsweek

*Christian Persecution*

Open Doors
https://www.opendoorsusa.org/christian-persecution/

*The Voice of the Martyrs.*

https://www.persecution.com/

*The Most Persecuted Religion in the World*

But Christians in the U.S. are rank amateurs compared to the Muslim persecution of Christians in the Middle East.

By Kelly James Clark - HuffPost
https://www.huffingtonpost.com/kelly-james-clark/christianity-most-persecuted-
religion_b_2402644.html

*Dying for Christianity: millions at risk amid rise in persecution across the globe*

Increase in murder, as well as rape, torture and discrimination, has led the pope to warn of a ‘form of genocide’ The Guardian
Pretrib Testimony:

From Dr. Mark Hitchcock teaching video: “Pre-Trib Rapture Justified? Dr. Mark Hitchcock”
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D7hanjOlzpo

Dr. Hitchcock states that if the rapture is at the end of the tribulation you have the bride of Jesus Christ here on earth bloodied and beat up and then all of sudden Christ is going to come back for this bride.

Cross Examination:

Dr. Hitchcock believes that the believers of the Tribulation will be bloodied and beat up by God just before they enter heaven to glorify, praise and worship God.

Rev. 7:9-17 and Rev. 15:2-4

Pretrib Testimony:

According to Dr. Walvoord and Dr. Walvoord the comfort of the blessed hope, the appearing of Jesus loses its significance if believers must go through the tribulation before the rapture.

Cross Examination:

The first and second century Christians suffered great persecution at times and did not experience the Rapture. In fact the very Church in Thessalonica that Paul addressed the letter to in which he encourages them to “comfort one another with these words,” 1 Thess. 4:18, about the blessed hope of Jesus and the rapture of the Church were suffering great persecution and never experienced the rapture.

Based upon Dr. Walvoord’s and Dr. Hitchcock’s logic they are saying that these words about Jesus being the blessed hope and a comfort had no significance and had no benefit to these Christians in Thessalonica in the 1st Century.

“Therefore, enduring no longer, we thought it best to be left in Athens alone, and we sent Timothy, our brother and fellow worker of God in the gospel of Christ, in order to strengthen and to encourage you concerning your faith, that no one be moved in these tribulations. For you yourselves know that we are destined for this. And indeed, when we were with you, we were telling you beforehand that we are about to suffer affliction, just as also it came to pass, and you know. Because of this I also, enduring no longer, sent in order to know your faith, lest somehow the one tempting had tempted you, and our labor would be in vain.” 1 Thess. 3:1-5
“The Christians in Thessalonica were being persecuted. Property was being seized. Workers were stopped from practicing their trades. Those who found a new faith were shunned by their families. Some were insulted, some beaten, and some put to death. They were experiencing suffering of the worst kind. Paul is deeply concerned for these young Christians going through such severe trials all on their own.”

In the Hardest of Times – 1 Thessalonians 3:1-5
By: Northern Seminary

Thousands, perhaps tens of thousands of 1st and 2nd and 3rd Century Christians suffered great persecution of an intensity that is equal to that which Satan and the antichrist and world will subject Christians to during the Great Tribulation. The duration, scope and scale of the persecution during the first three centuries of the Church are not that of the world wide persecution coming in the Great Tribulation however to the early Christians who had their property seized; who were ostracized by the communities; who were burned alive, crucified, eaten by lions along with enumerable other atrocities they would not know much difference between what they suffered and what will come to the end time Christians at the hands of the antichrist and the God hating world during the Great Tribulation.

Dr. Walvoord and Dr. Hitchcock are stating that the comfort and blessed hope of Jesus had neither meaning nor any help to the 1st and 2nd and 3rd Century Christians who suffered great persecution.

“Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and for ten days you will have tribulation. Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life” Rev. 2:10

Persecution in the Early Church:
Beginning as a despised, illicit religious sect, Christianity endured 300 years of hostility to emerge as the dominant force in the Roman Empire.
Everett Ferguson

Second Century: Persecution and Faith
CBN 700 CLUB

The First Persecution, Under Nero, A.D. 67

The Second Persecution, Under Domitian, A.D. 81

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**FOX'S BOOK OF MARTYRS**

Stephen was stoned to death at about the time that 2,000 other Christians were martyred.

James was beheaded in about A.D. 44. His accuser guilt ridden fell down and repented of his betrayal taking upon himself the martyrdom with James.

Philip was scourged and crucified about A.D. 54 in Heliopolis.

Matthew was slain with a halberd in Ethiopia about A.D. 60.

James the Less beaten, stoned and clubbed to death by Jews at the age of 94.

Matthias was stoned and beheaded.

Andrew was crucified on an “x” shaped cross.

Mark was dragged to pieces by the people of Alexandria.

Peter was crucified upside down in Rome by Nero.

Paul was beheaded by Nero.

Jude commonly called Thaddeus was crucified at Edessa in A.D. 72.

Bartholomew was beaten and crucified by idolaters.

Thomas was speared to death while in India by pagan priests.

Luke was hung from a tree by the idolatrous priests of Greece.

Simon was crucified in Britain about A.D. 74.

John was cast in to a cauldron of boiling oil but survived.

Barnabas was martyred about A.D. 73.

Timothy publicly and powerfully condemned the pagan festival and feast Catagogion and its adherents who then turned on Timothy and beat him to such extent that he died two days later.

Ignatius was torn apart by wild beats during the reign of Trajan about A.D. 108.

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Euistachius, a Roman commander was martyred with his entire family for refusing to join in an idolatrous sacrifice.
Germanicus was delivered to the wild beasts about A.D. 162.
Polycaup was burned alive and then pierced with a sword for the flames had no effect.
The seven sons of Felicitatis were glorified in martyrdom; Januarrius being scourged and crushed to death, Felix and Philip clubbed to death, Silvanus was thrown from a precipice and the three youngest, Alexander, Vitalis, and Martial were beheaded prior to their mother.
Victor suffered martyrdom in A.D. 201 and was quickly followed by Leonidus who was beheaded.
Perpetua a married lady of twenty-years of age and Felicitas, a married lady in the late stages of pregnancy were forced to run the gauntlet then gored by a bull ultimately slain with a sword in A.D. 205.
A Roman officer who led two Christians to their beheading himself converted to Christianity and received the same fate in A.D. 222.

Fabian, the bishop of Rome was beheaded.
Chrysostom was bound in a bag full of serpents and scorpions and thrown into the sea.
Lucian and Marcian, former hermits, preached with such authority that upon refusing to renounce their faith were burnt alive.
Agatha, a beautiful Sicilian lady refused the Governor Quintian's advances to convert her to be his prostitute. Upon her repeated refusals due to her Christian faith and chastity Quintian had her scourged, burned with red-hot irons, torn with sharp hooks, placed upon live coals and shards of glass and then placed in prison where she died of her injuries on February 5, 251. In Antioch forty virgins were scourged and burned.
Theodora of Antioch refused to sacrifice to the Roman idols and Didymus who attempted to help her escape her persecution were beheaded and burned.
Saturninus, the bishop of Toulouse, after refusing to sacrifice to idols was tied about his feet to the tail of a bull and drug down the steps of the temple crushing his skull causing his brains to spill out. This took place about A.D. 257.
Thousands were martyred in Africa for their faith in Christ around A.D. 275.
In A.D. 286 the Thebian Legion of Six-thousand,
Six-hundred and sixty-six men refused to sacrifice to pagan gods nor take the oath to exterminate Christians in Gaul the orders of which were given to the entire army. As a result the entire Legion of Christians were put to death by the sword. Faith, a Christian female, was broiled upon a gridiron and then beheaded in Acquitain, France about A.D. 287.

In A.D. 303 Diocletian ordered the destruction of all Christian churches and books and decreed Christians of all denominations outlaws. The name of Christian became so obnoxious to the pagans that the pagans targeted all ages and sexes. Houses were set on fire with whole families inside while others were thrown into the sea attached to stones. Racks, scourges, swords, daggers, crosses, poison and famine were all used to exterminate Christians. Those not put to death had their ears cut off, their noses slit, their right eyes put out, their limbs dislocated rendering them useless and their flesh seared with red-hot irons.

The city of Phrygia, whose residents were entirely made up of Christians, was set on fire in which every person perished in the flames. Sebastian, an officer in the emperor's guard in Rome refused to be a pagan as he was a devout Christian. Upon the emperor's edict, Sebastian was shot to death with arrows. Thought to be dead Sebastian was revived by some fellow Christians and nursed back to health to prepare him for a second martyrdom. This took place shortly after Sebastian placed himself in the path of Diocletian and criticized the emperor for his brutal and unjust treatment of Christians.

The Christians, around A.D. 303, after careful and prayerful consideration, declared it unlawful for Christians to bear arms on behalf of a heathen emperor. The son of Fabius Victor, Maximilian, was the first to be beheaded under this regulation.

Susanna was pressured by Emperor Diocletian to marry a noble pagan. She refused and was summarily beheaded.

Dorotheus, the high chamberlain of the household of Emperor Diocletian, was a Christian who zealously worked to win converts to the faith. He and Gorgonius, who also worked in the palace were tortured and then strangled.

Peter was a eunuch who belonged to the emperor. For his allegiance to Lord Jesus and his display of modesty.
and humility Peter was sent to martyrdom by being broiled to death over a slow fire. Victorius, Carpophorus, Severus and Severianus, were brothers whom all four were employed in places of great trust and honor in the city of Rome. Having exclaimed against the worship of idols they were apprehended and scourged with the plumbetae, a whip in which lead balls were fastened to. This punishment resulted in the pious brothers falling dead as martyrs. Eustatius was the secretary to the governor of Armina who was thrown into a fiery furnace for exhorting some Christians who had been apprehended for their faith to persevere. Agnes, a thirteen year old virgin was beheaded for being a Christian. Serene, the empress of Diocletian, was beheaded for her faith in Jesus. St. George was a courageous soldier in Emperor Diocletian's army who had been promoted for displaying his attributes in the performance of his duties. Yet during the persecution, St. George gave up his command and boldly walked into the senate house declaring his faith and pointing out the absurdity of worshiping idols. Upon the emperor’s orders St. George was seized, tortured and dragged through the streets ultimately brought to his end by being beheaded.

Despite these and untold numerous other persecutions the Church increased daily rooted in the truth watered with the blood of the saints. The above martyrs are documented in Fox's Book of Martyrs.


I have told you these things so that you will not fall away. They will put you out of the synagogues. In fact, a time is coming when anyone who kills you will think he is offering a service to God. Jn. 16:1-2

I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.” Jn. 16:33

We sent Timothy, our brother and God’s coworker in the gospel of Christ, to strengthen and encourage you concerning your faith, so that none of you would be shaken by these tribulations. For you know that we are destined for this. Indeed, when we were with you, we kept warning you that we would suffer persecution; and as you know, it has come to pass 1 Thess. 3:2-4
Because of this reason, brothers, we have been encouraged about you in all our distress and persecution, because of your faith. 1 Thess. 3:2-4

And Saul was there, giving approval to Stephen’s death. On that day a great persecution broke out against the church in Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria. God-fearing men buried Stephen and mourned deeply over him. But Saul began to destroy the church. Going from house to house, he dragged off men and women and put them in prison. Acts 8:1-3

We are pressed on all sides, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed. 2 Cor. 4:8-9

We do not want you to be unaware, brothers, of the hardships we encountered in the province of Asia. We were under a burden far beyond our ability to endure, so as for us to despair even the desire to live. Indeed, we felt we were under the sentence of death, in order that we would not trust in ourselves, but in God, who raises the dead. 2 Cor. 1:8-9

They were stoned, they were sawed in two they were put to death by the sword. They went around in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, oppressed, and mistreated. The world was not worthy of them. They wandered in deserts and mountains, and hid in caves and holes in the ground. Heb. 11:37-38

Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, 2 Tim. 3:13

We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies. For we who live are always being given over to death for Jesus’ sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. So death is at work in us, but life in you. 2 Cor. 4:8-12

If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. Jn. 15:19

I, John, your brother and partner in the tribulation and the kingdom and the patient endurance that are in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos on account of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. Rev. 1:9

Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and for ten days you will have tribulation. Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life. Rev. 2:10

“’I know where you dwell, where Satan’s throne is. Yet you hold fast my name, and you did not deny my faith even in the days of Antipas my faithful witness, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells. Rev. 2:13

Strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying that through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God. Acts 14:22
Indeed, all who desire to live godly lives in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, 2 Tim. 3:12

“If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. Remember the word that I said to you: ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. Jn. 15:18:20

And you will be hated by all for my name’s sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. Mark 13:13
LEFT BEHIND?

LEFT BEHIND? – GOD DOESN’T LEAVE HIS PEOPLE BEHIND
BECAUSE ALL WHO ARE LEFT BEHIND ARE DESTROYED  
*Lk. 17:26-31*

Out of Chronological Order:

Pretribbers claim that many people will come to saving faith in Jesus after the rapture of the Church. And then when Jesus comes to establish His Kingdom at His Second Coming He will render the Sheep and Goats judgment to all who are still living on earth. The sheep were saved during the 7 year Tribulation after the rapture of the Church.

Essentially Pretribbers are stating that people can be saved right up to the day that Jesus comes back with the Church at His Second Coming.

Let’s suppose that Jesus comes back to establish His Earthly Kingdom on October 3, 2033 the Jewish Feast of Yom Kippur, or the Day of Atonement, *Zech. 14:1-9*.

According to Pretribbers that means that the Tribulation, the wrath of God, was dispensed for 7 years from September 12, 2026 to October 3, 2033. This would mean that the Church was raptured on or some time before September 12, 2026.

According to the rationale of Pretribbers a person such as John or Sally can survive God’s wrath for 6 years and 359 days and then ask for salvation and receive it on October 2, 2033 one day before Jesus comes back with the Church.

There is just one major problem with this belief and that is it is contradicted by what Jesus says in *Luke Ch. 17:26-32* and *Mth. Ch. 24:36-42*.

Jesus says His coming will be just like it was in the days of Noah and Lot. In those two cases God delivers His people from the coming wrath FIRST, then God’s wrath falls on all who were not delivered and destroys ALL of them. Not some of them but all of them. Pretribbers don’t believe that God’s wrath is going to fall on all who were left behind only some.

**God Says:**  
Deliverance and then Wrath of God/Destruction  
Deliverance for the Sheep and Destruction for the Goats

**Pretribbers say:**  
Deliverance for some and then Wrath of God/Destruction falls on some and the a second deliverance for some others and then a third destruction and deliverance

Nowhere in *Luke 17* or *Matthew 24* or anywhere else in the Bible does God say that there are two deliverances from God’s destruction and a second opportunity of salvation after the rapture of the church; after God’s wrath has been poured out.

*Lk. 17:27 & 29*  
God “destroyed them all.” All who were Left Behind, *Lk. 17:31*.
“On that day, let no one on the housetop come down to retrieve his possessions. Likewise, let no one in the field return for anything he has left behind.”
“Remember Lot’s wife!” Lk. 17:31-32

On the DAY that Noah entered the ark and on the day that Lot left Sodom ALL who were LEFT BEHIND were destroyed. Jesus’ warning to His followers is that if a person is left behind like missing the boat in Noah’s day or like failing to follow the angels out of the Sodom in Lot’s day or even like Lot’s wife longing for the sinful world on the way will result in destruction. No one left behind was saved and there was no opportunity for a second chance.

Pretribbers state that millions who are LEFT BEHIND after the Rapture will be saved.
That is false.

LEFT BEHIND?
GOD DOESN’T LEAVE HIS OWN BEHIND.
BECAUSE ALL WHO ARE LEFT BEHIND ARE DESTROYED.

DON’T BE LEFT BEHIND!