

TIMING OF THE 2nd COMING and RAPTURE??

Today we are told that the rapture will surprise us all and there is no preparing. Yet over and over Jesus tells us to watch and pray that we may be counted worthy to escape. One third of the bible is prophecy, most of it is still yet to happen. **Why would God spell out the events that no saint will see or experience?**

Why would Paul reassure the church that they are the children of light and so will not be caught unprepared. He actually says they know perfectly that the Day of the Lord will catch the unprepared by surprise. 1Th 5:1 But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. 1Th 5:2 For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. 1Th 5:4 **But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. 5 Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness.** Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober.

"Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man."

- Luke 21:36

God has assured us He will do nothing but first reveal it to His prophets. We are told Paul spoke of a Rapture and Jesus spoke of the 2nd coming. **So please review what Jesus said and compare it to what Paul said. It is my prayer that these events not be a mystery to you any longer.**

POST TRIB 2nd COMING OF YESHUA = Matthew 24:29-31 says:

(KJV Matt. 24:29-31) **Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven,** and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken: [30] And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and **they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven** with power and great glory. [31] And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

IS THIS A PRETRIB "RAPTURE" = 1st Thessalonians 4:16-17 says:

(KJV 1 Thess. 4:16-17) For the **YHVH himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel** and with the trumpet call of YHVH, and the **dead in Yeshua will rise first.** [17] After that, we **who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the YHVH in the air.** And so we will be with the YHVH forever.

Are these two verses speaking about the same event, or two different events?

Pre-Tribulation advocates claim that **1st Thessalonians 4:16-17 is the rapture**, and that **Matthew 24:29-31 is the "glorious appearing."**

Applying two separate terms to these verses makes you believe it's two separate events. But look at the similarities. If it's two separate events, then this event happens twice. **The word 'rapture' comes from the Latin, and means "caught up."** This word has always meant our being gathered into the clouds when Yeshua returns. **And the word was around long before Darby introduced the pre-tribulation rapture in 1830.** As we can see, the rapture happens in both of these verses. YHVH's people are "caught up" into the clouds, by the angels, at the sound of YHVH's trumpet. Another passage that is commonly referred to as a **"rapture passage" is 1 Corinthians 15:52.** Although I would agree that this is describing the same event, the rapture is not specifically mentioned here. The reason we connect the two is because similar events are mentioned.

Both passages mention a trumpet and the resurrection of believers. Because of this, we conclude that these are both the same event. **However, as I already mentioned, Matthew 24:27-31 has much more in common with the one clear rapture passage.**

Notice the similarities:

Matt. 24:27-31	1 Thess. 4:15-17	1 Cor. 15:52
1. Called <i>he parousia</i> , "the coming" (27)	1. Called <i>he parousia</i> , "the coming" (15)	1. Called <i>he parousia</i> , "the coming" (23)
2. Yeshua appears in heaven (30)	2. The YHVH descends from heaven (16)	2. ---
3. Coming on the clouds (30)	3. . . with them in the clouds (17)	3. ---
4. Angels present (31)	4. Archangel present (16)	4. ---
5. Great sound of a trumpet (31)	5. Shout and trumpet of YHVH (16)	5. At the last trumpet (52)
6. ---	6. Dead in Yeshua will rise (16)	6. Dead will be raised (52)
7. Gathering of the elect (31)	7. We are caught up to meet him (17)	7. ---

But pre-tribulation rapture advocates must believe these are separate events, because the verse in Matthew clearly states it happens after the tribulation.

Some pre-trib rapture teachers say that the rapture is like a Thief in the Night. It sounds pretty good unless you realize **that the Thief in the Night is the Day of the YHVH; the thief is NOT the rapture.**

Let's look at some passages:

Note, non-believers are living in ease and peace, they are not watching the signs, they are sleeping when the thief comes. To the contrary believers are told to watch and be sober. The thief doesn't catch believers off guard, **instead the thief finds believers faithful and watching** for him when he returns.

1 Thessalonians 5:2 "For yourselves know perfectly that the **day of the YHVH so cometh as a thief in the night.**" 1 Thessalonians 5v 3 When people say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them as travail comes upon a woman with child, and there will be no escape. (RSV) 1Th 5:4 **But you are not in darkness, brethren, for that day to surprise** you like a thief. (RSV) 1Th 5:5 **For you are all sons of light and sons of the day;** we are not of the night or of darkness. 1Th 5:6 So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. 1Th 5:7 For **those who sleep, sleep at night, and** those who get drunk are drunk at night. (RSV)

Joel 2:31/Acts 2:20 and Matthew 24:29/Mark 13:24 place the **same cosmic signs between the end of the tribulation and the beginning of the Day of the YHVH.** The two cannot overlap, otherwise these verses could not be true.

2 Peter 3:10 "But **the day of the YHVH will come as a thief in the night**; in which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up." 2Pe 3:12 **waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of YHVH**, because of which the heavens will be kindled and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire! (RSV)

No description of rapture there, only wrath and destruction?

Isaiah 34:8 "For it is the **day of the YHVH'S vengeance**, and the year of recompenses for the controversy of Zion." Joel 1:15 "Alas for the day! for the **day of the YHVH is at hand, and as a destruction from the Almighty shall it come.**"

Acts 2:20 "The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, **before** that great and notable **day of the YHVH come**"

Joel had prophesied that these same celestial signs would occur **BEFORE the Day of the YHVH:** Matthew 24 teaches that the signs in heavens **occur after the Tribulation** and usher in the Day of the Lord.

Joel 2 v 31: The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, **BEFORE** the great and the terrible day of the YHVH come

Matt 24 v 21: **For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time**, no, nor ever shall be. . . . 29: **Immediately after the tribulation of those days** shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken: (Matt. 24).

So, does the **rapture happen once or twice?** And likewise, does the **resurrection happen once or twice?**

Thess 5:2-6 2 For yourselves know perfectly that **the day of the YHVH** so cometh as a thief in the night. 3 For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, **as travail upon a woman with child**; and they shall not escape. 4 **But ye, brethren, are not in darkness**, that that day should overtake you as a thief. 5 Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness. 6 Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober.

Look at how Paul copies Yeshua in Matthew 24

Paul even says As the Lord Himself said , and Jesus only described the end times in the private briefing of Matthew 24. In 1 Thess 4 v 15 Paul refers to Yeshua, **According to the Lord's word....** Obviously, Paul was referring to Yeshua' teaching! **His reminding them of Yeshua' "thief" illustration leads to the conclusion that he was confirming the chronology Yeshua gave.**

The following table shows that Paul was using Yeshua' teaching in the Olivet Discourse as the **basis of his instructions** to the Thessalonians. He was simply repeating Yeshua' instructions to the disciples. In effect, **he was applying the teaching of Yeshua to them, connecting their "watching" for the rapture with Yeshua' instructions to be watching for His coming "immediately after the tribulation."**

Compare Yeshua's Teachings in Matt 24 and Paul's direction to Thessalonica.

Paul Referred to Yeshua' Teaching	Yeshua Matt. 24:29-31) Immediately after the tribulation....the day of the YHVH.	Paul 1 Thess. 4:16-17) For the YHVH himself will come down from heaven
Coming of the YHVH from heaven	Matt 24:30 "... they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory."	1 Thess. 4:16 "For the YHVH himself shall descend from heaven..."
Angel(s)	Matt. 24:31 "...He shall send forth His angels..."	1 Thess. 4:16 "with the voice of the archangel..."
Trumpet blast	Matt. 24:31 "...with the sound of a trumpet..."	1 Thess. 4:16 "...with the trumpet of YHVH"
Catching up of the living	Matt. 24:31 "...they shall gather together His elect..."	1 Thess. 4:17 "...shall be caught up together..."
Thief in the night	Matt. 24:43 "...if the goodman ...had know in what watch the thief would come..."	1 Thess. 5:1,2 "...so cometh as a thief in the night."
Warning against "sleeping"	Mark 13:36 "lest coming suddenly He find you sleeping."	1 Thess. 5:6 "...let us not sleep as do others"
Warning against "drunkenness"	Luke 21:34 "take heed ... lest your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting and drunkenness"	1 Thess. 5:6-8 "be sober...they that are drunken are drunken in the night. ...be sober"
"Watching" for Yeshua's coming	Mark 13:35-37 "Watch ye therefore ... What I say unto you, I say unto all, Watch."	1 Thess. 5:6 " let us watch... "

Two men were leaving Jerusalem because their concept of prophecy did not include Jesus dying. Their Messiah was to throw out the Romans and establish the Kingdom of God. We find them **in Luke 24** leaving Jerusalem in sadness on the Road to Emmaus when Jesus in disguise meets them. Lu 24:18 And the one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answering said unto him, Art thou only a stranger in Jerusalem, and hast not known the things which are come to pass there in these days? He further tells Jesus Lu 24:20 And how the chief priests and our rulers delivered him to be condemned to death, and have crucified him. 21 But **we had hoped** that it had been He which should have redeemed Israel.....Their hopes were tied to an early painless Messianic kingdom. Is your hope tied to a painless Rapture?

Lu 24:25 He said unto them, O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken: 26 Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory? He then starts with Torah and the books of Moses and gives them a complete understanding of the whole bible...and corrects their knowledge of Scripture and they run back with hearts burning.

I am concerned the Great Falling away spoken of in Thessalonians will be Christians whose understanding did not include going into the Tribulation as a witness for God.

Are there really two raptures, or is there just one?

“Assumed” Pre-Tribulation Rapture Attributes	Biblical Post-Tribulation Rapture Attributes
Occurs at a “Secret” Unknown Time. The timing relative to the tribulation is not given by Scripture	Occurs After the Tribulation Mat. 24:29 Immediately after the tribulation of those days...
Occurs at Christ’s (Parousia) Coming Mat. 24:37 But as the days of Noah were, so shall also the (Parousia) coming of the Son of man be. Mat. 24:39) And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the (Parousia) coming of the Son of man be. 2 Thess 2:1 Now we beseech you, brethren, by the (Parousia) coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him 1 Thess. 4:15 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the (Parousia) coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.	Occurs at Christ’s (Parousia) Coming Mat. 24:3 What shall be the sign of thy (Parousia) coming? Mat. 24:27 For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the (Parousia) coming of the Son of man be. 2 Thess. 2:8 And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his (Parousia) coming. 2 Thess. 2:9 Even him, whose (Parousia) coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders.
Occurs at Christ’s (Epiphaneia) Appearing Titus 2:13 Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious (Epiphaneia) appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ	Occurs at Christ’s (Epiphaneia) Appearing 2 Thess. 2:8 And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the (Ephiphaneia) brightness of his (Parousia) coming:
Occurs as a Thief in the Night Mat. 24:36 But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only. Mat. 24:43-44 But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up. Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.	Occurs as a Thief in the Night Rev. 16:15-16 Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame. And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon.
Christ Gathers His Own Assumed. Pre-tribulation rapture is for the Church.	Christ Gathers His Own Mat. 24:31 And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet , and they shall gather together (autou) his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.
Christ Gathers the Church Assumed. Pre-tribulation rapture is for the Church.	Christ Gathers the Church Mat. 24:31 And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his (eklektos) elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other. Rom 8:33-35 Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God’s (eklektos) elect ? Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Also, Rom. 11:5, Eph 1:11, Col. 3:12, 1 st Thess. 1:4, James 2:5, 1 st Pet. 1:1-2, 2:4, 2:9, 2 nd John 1:1, 1:13, and Rev. 17:14 all use eklektos for the Church.

Occurs in the Clouds 1 Thess. 4:17 After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.	Occurs in the Clouds Mat. 24:30 And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.
Occurs at the Sound of a Trumpet 1 Thess. 4:16 For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.	Occurs at the Sound of a Trumpet Mat. 24:31 And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.
Angels are Involved 1 Thess. 4:16 For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.	Angels are Involved Mat. 24:31 And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.
At the Time of the Resurrection 1 Thess. 4:16 For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.	At the Time of the Resurrection Rev. 20:4-5 And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast , neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years. But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.
Preceded by signs in the sky 1 Thess. 5:2 For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. 2 Thess. 2:1-2 Concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered to him, we ask you, brothers, not to become easily unsettled or alarmed by some prophecy, report or letter supposed to have come from us, saying that the day of the Lord has already come. Joel 2:31 The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and the terrible day of the LORD come.	Preceded by signs in the sky Mat. 24:29 Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken.
Preceded by Elijah Malachi 4:5 "See, I will send you the prophet Elijah before that great and dreadful day of the LORD comes.	Preceded by Elijah Malachi 4:5 "See, I will send you the prophet Elijah before that great and dreadful day of the LORD comes.

Revelation 20 v 4 I saw thrones on which were seated those who had been given authority to judge. I saw the souls of those who had been **beheaded because of their testimony about Jesus and because of the word of God. They had not worshipped the beast or its image** and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ a thousand years. This is the first resurrection. ⁶ Blessed and holy are those who share in the first resurrection. Have you considered who these people were – These Saints that like the prophets, like the apostles and like all the martyr's though out the ages....**The church will take casualties.**

Daniel 7 v 21-25 I kept looking, and that **horn was waging war with the saints and overpowering** them until the Ancient of Days came and judgment was passed in favor of the saints of the Highest One, and the time arrived when the saints took possession of the kingdom. He will speak against the Most High and **oppress His saints** and try to change the set times and the laws. **The saints will be handed over to him for a time, times and half a time.**

Revelation 13 v7 - And the **beast was allowed to wage war against God's holy people and to conquer them.** And he was given authority to rule over every tribe and people and language and nation.

It appears the Church and the Saints suffer at the hands of the Anti Messiah. They are not delivered.

There is no question that Paul referred his readers to the Olivet Discourse, which only teaches a post-tribulation coming of Yeshua, to answer their questions about the rapture.

Rapture Vs 2nd Coming in Revelation Comparison	Yeshua	Paul
Resurrection	John 6:39,44	1 Thess. 4:13-16
Trumpet	Matt. 24:31	1 Thess. 4:13
Angels	Matt. 24:31 Matt. 25:31	1 Thess. 4:16 2 Thess. 1:7
Gathering [elect]	Matt. 24:31	2 Thess. 2:1
Clouds	Matt. 24:30	1 Thess. 4:17
Day of the Lord is Thief in the night	Matt. 24:42-44	1 Thess. 5:2
Surprise the world	Luke 21:35	1 Thess. 5:2,3
Sleeping / watching	Mark 13:35-37	1 Thess. 5:6
Warning against drunkenness	Matt. 24:49 Luke 21:34	1 Thess. 5:7,8
Exempt from wrath	Luke 21:18,36	1 Thess. 5:9
Church to continue until end of tribulation	Matt. 24:29-31 Mark 13:14-17	2 Thess. 1:7-10 2 Thess. 2:1-3
Falling away [apostasy]	Matt. 24:9-13	2 Thess. 2:3
AntiYeshua comes first	Matt. 24:15	2 Thess. 2:1-3
Temple defiled	Matt. 24:15	3 Thess. 2:4
Warning against deception	Matt. 24:4,11,23-27	2 Thess. 2:2,3
Signs come first	Mark 13:29 Luke 21:28	1 Thess. 5:4 2 Thess. 2:1-3
Looking for the Kingdom of YHWH	Matt. 6:10 Luke 21:31	1 Cor. 15:50 2 Thess. 1:5

Chart of Pre/Post Tribulation Attributes

No pre-tribulation rapture advocate doubts there is also a post-tribulation gathering of the elect. It can be called the post-tribulation rapture. **The question is whether or not there is also a gathering of YHVH's people that happens before the tribulation.** Let's take a look at all the attributes of the assumed pre-tribulation rapture in relation to the Scripture-proven post-tribulation rapture. Are there really two raptures? Or is there just one? **The pre-trib rapture view requires the duplication of events that a post tribulation rapture position simplifies into one event.** The same event is described in both passages, so pretribulationists must explain this duplication by saying that each of these events occur twice.(2X)

Event	Pre-Tribulation Rapture	Post Tribulation Rapture	Bible Reference
Yeshua coming in the clouds	twice	once	#1Thes 4.17 #Matt 24.30
Angelic involvement at His coming	twice	once	#1Thes 4.16 #Matt 24.31
Resurrection of believers	Twice, with the second one called the "first resurrection"	once	#1Cor 15.52 #Rev 20.4-5
Last trumpet sounds	Twice - Once Pre Trib	once	#1Cor 15.52 #Rev 11.15
Saints are rewarded.	twice	once	#Rev 22.12 #Rev 11.18
Believers are told to expectantly await His coming.	twice	once	#Titus 2.13 #Matt 24.42
Yeshua's advent to initiate the day of the YHVH is illustrated as being like the coming of a thief.	twice	once	#1Thes 5.2 #Rev 16.15
The sun is darkened, the moon is turned to blood (or darkened), the stars fall from the sky, and the powers of heaven are shaken (wonders in the sky or stars lose their brightness).	three times	once	#Joel 2.30-31 #Joel 3.14-16 #Rev 6.12 #Matt 24.29

Reasons why I question the timing of the Pre –Tribulation Rapture.

- Yeshua said the wheat and the weeds (tares) are to grow up together until the harvest (Matthew 13:30). Yeshua defined the timing of the harvest as the end of the age (Matthew 13:39, 49). **He not only presented the parable, but He explained it.** I do not understand how anyone could think that this simple teaching of Yeshua can be overruled by a teaching that says **in exact opposite that the wheat and the tares do not have to grow up together until the harvest.** The wheat is not snatched away early.
- Yeshua said those of His disciples who endure **to the end will** be saved. The end He was talking about was **the end of the age**, because His disciples were asking Him what would be the sign of **His coming and of the end of the age** (Matthew 24:13).
- Notice in the passage that Yeshua comes down from heaven. Now read Acts 3:21. *He must remain in heaven **until the time comes for YHVH to restore everything, as he promised long ago through his holy prophets** (Acts 3:21).*

- He does not sneak away and then come back later with his saints. The Word of YHVH says that Yeshua must remain in heaven until it is time to restore everything. All bible students are certain that YHVH does not restore everything before the Tribulation, therefore.
- Yeshua warned His disciples that they would “**see**” the **anti-Messiah** (Matthew 24:15). He is revealed in **the middle of the 7 year time**.
- Yeshua said that “**after the tribulation of those days**”, He would gather His elect. **The elect are defined not** as natural Israel, but as the elect and chosen in Yeshua (Matthew 24:29, Romans 11:7). Elect and chosen are from the same Greek root word. So when we read of the “**elect**” and the “**chosen**” in the gospels, we are not reading about natural Israel but we are reading about the elect and chosen in Yeshua, a new creation of Jew and Gentile. And when we read of His warnings to His disciples (His elect), we know we are not reading teachings directed to natural Israel but to His elect. **A week prior they were sharing Passover with him** as his body and his bride to be.
- What then? What Israel is seeking, it has not obtained, but those who were chosen obtained it, and the rest were hardened (Romans 11:7).
- Yeshua said the **great tribulation would be cut short for the sake of the elect** --- not for the sake of Israel --- but for the sake of the elect. (Matthew 24:22). It is cut short for the elect because they are in the great tribulation.
- The harvest is presented in the book of Revelation as taking place just before the final bowls of YHVH's wrath are poured out. This agrees with Paul's teaching that **our gathering would take place at the last trumpet**, and that we would be rescued just before YHVH's wrath is poured out. The Bible says Christians are not appointed to wrath. The saints are seen in heaven **before the first bowl of wrath is poured out** (Revelation 14:14-15:2).
- Paul teaches that our gathering and rescue would take place on **the day of the YHVH, and that day would not come until after the abomination of desolation (the anti-Messiah) is revealed** (2 Thessalonians 2:1-5).
- Peter teaches that we are to look forward **to the day of the YHVH and speed its coming** (2 Peter 3:10-12).
- The church at Thyatira is told by Yeshua that those who do not repent will be **thrown into great tribulation** (Revelation 2:22). Clearly some of the church enters into great tribulation. Yeshua will not allow any other conclusion.
- Purified saints are seen coming out of Great Tribulation. Out of great tribulation comes a great multitude **who have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb** (Revelation 7:9-15). Some of these are surely members of the church at Thyatira.
- Yeshua warns His disciples that they will be **delivered into great tribulation** (Matthew 24:9).
- **Saints are encouraged to endure and persevere during the great tribulation reign of the anti-Messiah** (Revelation 13:10).
- Saints are turned over to the anti messiah system for the last 3-1/2 years of the age (Revelation 13:5-7).
- Saints overcome Satan and his anti-Messiah system by the blood of the Lamb, the **word of their testimony, and by loving not their lives unto death** (Revelation 12:11).
- The book of Revelation is written to the churches and for the churches (Revelation 1:4, 22:16). To argue that the church is not in view because the word “church” is not used is to use an argument of silence. There are plenty of people groups in view in Revelation 6 through 19 which fit the description of the church. They are identified by their relationship to Yeshua.
- The bride is not ready until Revelation 19. This is after great tribulation and after most of YHVH's wrath has already been poured out (Revelation 19:7). It has taken this long for her to get ready because some of the bride was undergoing purification in great tribulation. When these saints emerge from great tribulation with their whitened robes, then they qualify as part of the bride company.

- Regarding the great commission, Yeshua said He would be with **His disciples until the end of the age** (Matthew 28:20). Consequently the Holy Spirit will be with the disciples until the end of the age.
- Yeshua said on this earth we **would have tribulation and He counseled us to overcome through it** (John 16:33; Revelation 1:9, 2:9-10; Romans 2:9, 5:3, 12:12; 1 Thessalonians 1:6).
- Yeshua asked the The church at Philadelphia, which was promised to **be kept from the hour of testing, was not raptured**. Being kept from the hour of testing does not prove or even imply rapture (Revelation 3:10).
- The souls of those **who live during the reign of the Anti Messiah and refuse his mark and are martyred for the witness of Yeshua and the word of YHVH are raised at the first resurrection**. And that first resurrection slightly precedes the rapture of the living who joint the resurrected dead in the air.
- "Then I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was given to them. And I saw the souls of those who had **been beheaded because of their testimony of Yeshua and because of the word of YHVH, and those who had not worshiped the beast or his image**, and had not received the mark on their forehead and on their hand; and they came to life and reigned with Yeshua for a thousand years. The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were completed. **This is the first resurrection**. Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no power, **but they will be priests of YHVH and of Yeshua** and will reign with Him for a thousand years (Revelation 20:4-6)."
- The **"priests of YHVH and of Yeshua"** refers to the church, for the church is spoken of as a **"royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people."**
- And Paul says that those resurrected from the dead will precede those of us who are gathered alive when we all rise to meet Yeshua in the air (1 Thessalonians 4:17). There is no mention or evidence here of a pre-tribulation raptured group. If you're part of the church and you're raptured, **your rapture will not precede those who have died in Yeshua who rise up at the first resurrection**.
- Because if you were raptured earlier, then there **would have to have been a prior "first" resurrection**.
- John 6, Yeshua says in several verses that He will raise up those who are His on **the "last day."** The last day is the last day. **It is not seven years prior**.
- In John 11:24, Martha expresses her belief to Yeshua that her brother would be resurrected on **the last day**. In John 12:48, Yeshua said that those who reject His word would be judged by His word on the last day.

Hopefully you will all **"look at your lives and examine yourself"** whether you are in the faith? Will you be counted worthy to escape all these things? Stay alert and watch.

Richard A Volunteer.