

POST TRIBULATION RAPTURE

Our hope is that the website title will create the urge to “log on” and explore.

END TIME DECEITS ABOUND

End time deceits abound, as almost all our readers would agree. Sadly, recent years have seen a subtle emerging of “deceits” in more discerning circles where they would not be expected to manifest. Pre-tribulation rapture teachings have gained a hold on the thinking, some would suggest, of more than 90% of evangelical believers who espouse the biblical concept of a pre-millennial return of the Lord Jesus.

CESSATIONISM

Likewise, “cessationism”, in all its forms, is gaining an insidious hold and dominance in both charismatic and historic pentecostal circles. Who could deny that it is good that the filthy bathwater e.g. Toronto, Pensacola, Lakeland, Word of Faith et al should be “thrown out”, but why throw out the baby with it? The burning question is, how can we explore these and other matters without creating an “on line” book that few would have either the time or inclination to wade through. Short subjects, with a self-explanatory heading, seemed to be the answer. The following are the post tribulation topics:

1. IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE TRIBULATION
2. SEAL SIX; A DARKENED SUN
3. WHO ARE THE ELECT?
4. COMING IN THE CLOUDS
5. THE ANGELS REAPING THE HARVEST
6. THE TRUMPET SHALL SOUND
7. RAPTURE AND RESURRECTION
8. “WE’RE OUTA HERE”
9. DANIEL’S EXTRA 45 DAYS

1. IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE TRIBULATION

The Lord Jesus ministered twice in a very significant way on the Mount of Olives. The first is known as the “Sermon on the Mount”. The second, no less important, is known as “The Second Olivet Discourse”. We will begin with some verses taken from it. All of the many scriptures quoted will be taken from The King James or Authorised version of the Bible. Scriptures will be in the text to which they refer. From experience, footnote references are seldom read so have long been abandoned in all our books and booklets.

MATTHEW 24 v 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:

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.

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.

IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE TRIBULATION is how this passage of scripture begins. John Mark, in his account, says similar "After the tribulation". The scripture then details a number of events that will follow, we emphasise follow, that awful period known as the "GREAT TRIBULATION". Each of these will be considered in the order that the Gospel writers present them. Before we come to ponder these incredible awesome events, we must both establish and emphasise this one indisputable, incontrovertible fact that all the events of *MATTHEW 24 v 29 - 31* take place "AFTER THE TRIBULATION". The Oxford Dictionary definition of language, I quote, tell us that "LANGUAGE IS THE MEANS OF HUMAN COMMUNICATION CONSISTING OF WRITTEN WORDS IN A STRUCTURED WAY". So, if language means anything at all, the phrase "IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE TRIBULATION" can only mean one thing, namely, the events presented as following the tribulation can take place after, and only after, that terrible event in earth's history, namely, THE GREAT TRIBULATION.

ONLY A DENIAL OF SCRIPTURE

Only a complete denial of scripture can place these events at any time prior to the tribulation. That such a practice, that has become a settled doctrine for upwards of 90% of believers in the second coming of our beloved Lord Jesus, can only be described as a deceit. As it comes in the period that *MATTHEW 24* covers, could it not be one of the deceits that characterise the end-time period that the Lord Jesus prophesied would pose a threat, even to the very elect.

POST TRIBULATION RAPTURISTS FROM HISTORY

We must content ourselves with the briefest of looks at Church History. It is generally accepted by those who have made in depth studies of Early Church doctrine that it was expected that the Church would pass through the tribulation period as a witness and as watchmen who warn. This is hardly surprising as tribulation for Christians was the common lot of first century believers. Did they not pass through ten distinct periods of persecution before the century ended? To those believers to whom persecution, even martyrdom was not very far away, such emotive "sound bites" as "God would never pour out His wrath upon His children" were as ridiculous as they were meaningless. They were well able to distinguish and discern the difference between God's wrath being poured out on a sin sick world and the tribulation that has always been the lot of God's beloved children.

In fact, such tribulation is the door to the Kingdom of God.

ACTS 14 v 22

Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.

NOTHING CHANGED FOR EIGHTEEN HUNDRED YEARS

So, we have established that the early church, the first century believers, took the Word of God as it was presented and took for granted that the Church would be on earth as a witness throughout the entire tribulation period. Nothing changed through the next

seventeen hundred years or so, apart from the odd Roman Catholic "teacher" suggesting other rapture time points.

BRETHRENISM BECOMES A MAJOR FORCE

The first major departure from the post-tribulation rapture teaching came around the 1830s, at the time when Brethrenism as a denomination was becoming a force in the evangelical world. There were two main protagonists of these teachings. Henry Kelly, lesser known but initially more inspirational and John Nelson Derby. So much did he personify the Brethren that on Continental Europe they were known as Derbyists. Some suggest that the launch of the teachings had an inspirational source in one Marie Macdonald, whose charismatic type vision of pre-tribulation rapturism was formative and gave the teaching an appearance of a revelation from "heaven". Many consider that her prophetic gift was, in fact, occultic. Our readers can do their own researches and draw their own conclusions. One thing is certain, pre-tribulation rapturism rapidly gained a hold in spite of the misgivings, even opposition of other Brethren luminaries, including George Mueller of Bristol. Sadly, so dominant and bigoted did John Nelson Derby become, that acceptance of his rapture teaching was mandatory under pain of excommunication.

DR SCOFIELD ADDS TO THE MAELSTROM

The final means of launching this erroneous teaching in its initial phase and its exportation to the U.S.A, where it gained great acceptance, was the Scofield Reference Bible. Five million copies (and still selling) were printed in seven languages. Its notes were considered by many to be almost as inspired as the sacred page itself. It was the means to vast numbers in Christendom taking on board the pre-tribulation rapture teachings as Scofield presented them along with "dispensationism" as detailed in his notes.

WHO ELSE BELIEVED IN A POST TRIBULATION RAPTURE?

A judicious use of your computer's search engine facility will reveal the panoply of the choicest believers who held the post-tribulation rapture teachings, from John Bunyon to the Wesley brothers and a host of others. However, we draw special attention to its support by Corrie Ten Boom (The Hiding Place). She is so clear on the pernicious dangers of the pre-tribulation rapture and in her writings pulls no punches in pressing home to her readers the tragic consequences of a pre-tribulation rapture teaching.

AN END TIME SEA CHANGE

Or in modern parlance, a paradigm shift. I have been involved in debates and discussions over this aspect of end-time doctrine for more than fifty years. In the early years there seemed to be two sizeable groups on either side of the divide. However, the last decade or so has seen a sea-change of alarming proportions. For the first eighteen hundred years of Church history, post-tribulation rapturism was universally accepted. Then the launch of pre-tribulation rapture teachings engendered a considerable following. Now it is hard to find, especially in the U.K, any significant body of believers who espouse the post-tribulation rapture teachings. How could such a transformation of thinking take place?

FALSE DOCTRINES GO LIKE THE WIND

It happens because false doctrines "go like the wind". Remember our adversary is the "Prince of the power of the air". We conclude that pre-tribulation rapture teachings are a dangerous delusion that has rendered the vast majority of believers in the rapture of the

Saints totally unprepared to face the events that will lead up to the tribulation and that awful event itself. We are forced into the conclusion that it is one of the end-time deceits, capable of deceiving even the very elect of God. Note well these scriptures:

MATTHEW 24 v 21 - 24

For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.

And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.

Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there, believe it not.

For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.

A WEBSITE IS LAUNCHED

We have completed the first of our subjects beginning to detail what will take place IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE TRIBULATION. Although launched, this will be a theme in all of the subjects considered when viewing the teaching of the POST TRIBULATION RAPTURE. Some readers may be disappointed that only the first subjects appear as yet. It is because our dearest longing is to get the website launched. The rest of the post-tribulation rapture subjects will appear at frequent intervals, followed by Cessationism and much more. Each of the first nine subjects previously detailed, will close with a brief presentation which will be relevant to all of them. Here is the first.

DOES IT REALLY MATTER?

Some teachers/preachers, if only a few, have realised from their study of scripture that pre-tribulation rapturism holds no Biblical water. To the contrary, faithful Bible study, as did the noble Bereans (ACTS 17 v 11), permit only one view, namely that of a post-tribulation rapture. Tragically, these enlightened teachers remain dumb. Why? Surely because they fear offending. They fear losing numbers and reputation. They fear a lighter offering plate. If that be the case, then they are hirelings and not true shepherds. They comfort themselves with the bleat, "it is not a major doctrine so it is not of too much consequence". That is utter nonsense. There is no more important end-time doctrine than the one we are considering. The pre-tribulation rapture teaching, now so widely disseminated and accepted, has left so much of the true Church of Christ, the Elect of God, totally unprepared for the coming storm. If you believe it my brothers, then "preach it" as though your life and the lives of countless others depend on it, because it surely does.