

The Rapture Debate in the Book of Revelation

□ Introduction

- Review of various rapture views
- Areas not to be covered
- Areas to be covered

□ Revelation 3:10

- Can the time of testing be some _____ for the Philadelphian church?
- Reasons for a _____ future time of tribulation/testing
 - ✓ Context – the future tribulation begins in the next chapter
 - ✓ The language is _____ involving the _____ not just the Philadelphia scene
- Who are the _____ for the time of testing?
 - ✓ The _____
 - ✓ This appears to be a _____ for unbelievers in the Apocalypse (see 8:13; 11:10; 13:12, 14)
 - ✓ Does not rule out those who come to faith during the tribulation being forced to _____ the time of testing
- Can “keep from” be translated “guard through?” (a post-trib gambit)
 - ✓ Lexical information
 - ✓ Argument from John 17:15 – Problems with this view...
 - It _____ that “keep from” in John 17:15 must be a reference to _____ or _____ since it is impossible to be removed from Satan’s influence & presence entirely
 - Two strategies for response
 1. Understand John 17:15 as kept from the realm or domain of Satan in an ultimate sense
 2. Note the differences between John 17:15 and Rev. 3:10 (using Robert Thomas)
 - (1) In John 17:15 the protection is from evil, but in Rev. 3:10, the protection is from a _____ in which judgment will fall on the earth
 - (2) In John 17:15 the disciples were already in the midst of evil, but in Rev. 3:10 the time of trouble is still _____
 - (3) In John 17:15 the spiritual realm of the evil one (_____) is in view
 - ✓ Problems with “guard through”
 - What is the content of “guard though” in the trib? How can you describe it?
 - ✓ _____?
 - ✓ Protected from _____?
 - ✓ Kept from _____?
 - How does the promise of exemption apply to the Philadelphians (_____)?
 - ✓ If believers go through the tribulation, the passage is an _____ to the church at Philadelphia since they did not live to see the tribulation

□ Prewrath and Mid-Trib Arguments from Rev 6

- Note diagrams from Mid-Trib & Prewrath Views
- Implication: Both 1prewrath and mid-trib views teach that the seals in Revelation 6 are not the wrath of God
- How do we respond?

1. Chapter 4 is part of the introduction to the tribulation period and is dominated by _____ from the throne of God
 2. All seven seals are broken by the _____ (note chapter 5)
 3. The Four Horsemen (first four seals) are introduced by the words of the _____ by the throne of God in heaven (6:1–7)
 4. The four plagues in the fourth seal (6:8) are described with language from _____ which is clearly the _____
 5. People appear to be _____ from the wrath of God (6:15-17)
- Argument about Cosmic Signs in Rev. 6:12-14 (correlation to Joel 2:30-31 & Matt. 24:29)
1. There are _____ cosmic signs in various eschatological passages that occur at _____ (e.g., Isa. 13:10; Joel 2:30-31, 3:14-15; Eze. 32:7-8; Matt. 24:29; Rev. 6:12, 8:12, 9:1-2, 16:8)
 2. Moon like _____ (Rev. 6:12) is not the same as “the moon will not give its _____” (Matt. 24:29)
 3. Some passages like Joel 2:10 cite cosmic signs which appear to be part of a _____ and not an event like Matt. 24:29
 4. If there is a _____ between the rapture and the start of the tribulation, there is no _____ of events before the tribulation (especially see Joel 2:30-31)
- Buswell – Rapture in Revelation 11:12
- ✓ Picture of the ascension of the Two Witnesses points to the _____ of the Church
 - ✓ Correlates with the _____ in the book of Revelation (cp. 1 Cor. 15:52; Matt. 24:31)
 - ✓ Responses
 - You cannot assume that the last trumpet in Revelation is the last trumpet in _____
 - The trumpet in Matt. 24:31 is _____ and thus later in time than Buswell’s view
- Archer – Rapture in Revelation 14:14
- ✓ The 144,000 in 14:1-5 represents _____
 - ✓ The blessing of 14:13 suggests a positive end for the saints which may make what follows (v. 14) a potential _____ passage
 - ✓ Responses
 - The 144,000 are clearly _____ based on Rev. 7:5-8
 - Rev. 14:14 begins a section on the gathering of people for the _____ (v. 19)
- **Post-Trib View and Revelation 19-20**
- The description of the Second Coming in Rev. 19:11-16 _____ with the rapture
 - The event following the associated judgments is the establishment of the _____ (Rev. 20)
 - Response
 - ✓ There is no rapture _____ in Rev 19
 - ✓ The immediate establishment of the kingdom on earth following the rapture contradicts _____
- **Conclusion**
- The rapture of the Church is not the _____ of the book of Revelation
 - However, the Apocalypse supports a _____ understanding of the timing of the rapture of the Church