

**THE
TIMING
OF THE
RAPTURE!**

Tony Warren

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Compliments:

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one thing we can know for sure, that any two verses that "seem" to contradict each other, must be reconciled in order to come to Truth. They're "both" true, so let no teacher use one to make the other null and void! That's the first rule of Biblical Hermeneutics. You cannot use one verse to nullify another. If you're going to follow one verse, and throw the other out the window, then it's a sure recipe for being Seduced/Deceived by Satan.

Many have, and will fall in the hour of temptation that tries the world because they refuse to receive the word of truth. But by the strength of our merciful God, some will keep the Word of God patiently, and these God will Keep from the time of temptation (Trial), and no one will take their crown. They will escape out of temptations, for God has given them eyes to see it, ears to hear it, strength to bear up under it, and wisdom to escape it. The Great Tribulation period will come upon the world, as a trial of our faith, and then when things seem their darkest, the Lord will return on the clouds of Glory. Immediately after this Tribulation! And He will gather together His Chosen, the Children of God, from among the tares, (one taken, the other left) and all the world shall behold His Glory. And the wicked shall be judged. All on one day, the Last day, at the Last Trumpet, immediately after the Tribulation. If we follow scripture carefully, there can be no question but that "The Timing of the Rapture" is at the Last day. At the second advent of the lord Jesus Christ!

*"He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith
unto the Churches..."*
-Revelation 2:7

Peace.

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The Timing of the Rapture!

by Tony Warren

There is a popular train of thought in some Christian circles that the Church must somehow be taken out of the world before the "Great Tribulation" period occurs. Though this belief has lately grown to be the prevailing view, it is not supported by the facts of scripture, but rather by the private interpretations of scripture. It is a product of dogma being taught relentlessly, repeated over and over again, until many actually believe that the scriptures "actually" say this. It clearly does not! This doctrine is an interpretation of certain scriptures which say other things, but are assumed to "mean" this anyway. The undeniable proof of this is that if you were to ask these Theologians to give you the exact chapter and verse of scripture which says that the Church will be taken out of the world before the Great Tribulation, they cannot do it, and are forced to provide some scriptures which they declare alludes to this, even though it doesn't say this! I.e., it's their own interpretation of the verse. Sadly, this fact doesn't deter those who choose to believe these private interpretation, because the age old adage applies, which states,

"if you repeat something enough times, though it be tried and found untrue, many people will believe it simply by indoctrination".

-WiseManSay

This is what has happened in the tradition of the teaching of the Church removal before the Great Tribulation Period. No one can give you a single solitary scripture which actually says it, nor which unambiguously even alludes to it, but somehow that is not important to them. A fundamental truth of correct biblical exegesis is that the scriptures are not subject to private interpretation. Which means that if God doesn't say it in some part of the scriptures, or if there is no unambiguous scripture which supports it, then it's not God's interpretation, but man's interpretation. Because as righteous Joseph knew, "it is not in us, interpretations belong to God -Gen 40:8, Gen. 41:16". Unless God is talking to us through the burning Bush, or from the smoke on the Mountain, then His Revelation is in His Word, the scriptures, and the interpretations will be found there, not privately, but in that word revealed by the Spirit of Truth. Scripture is not subject to us privately interpreting Ezekiel's wheel as an automobile, or the 7 candlesticks as 7 nuclear bombs, or the 10 horns as a collection of utilities to help us put our

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shoes on. Interpretations belong to God, not man's private thoughts on a matter!

The Pre-tribulation rapture theory is based not on the Word of God, but upon teachers repeating their dogma "as if" it was the Word of God. Let's take a careful look at this teaching to see if it is in any way in agreement with the scriptures. We will compare scripture with scripture and if it is, then it will be made manifest, and if it is not, then by God's Spirit the truth will be revealed to His people.

First of all, there are some Christians who object to the use of the word Rapture. Just why, I don't claim to be able to understand, but I'm sure they probably have some idea in their minds of what a rapture is which they think is unbiblical (perhaps they associate it with premillennialism). The word rapture is derived from a Latin term meaning "caught away" and is merely used by myself to avoid repeating great chunks of scripture. So let me be clear that when "I" use the word rapture, I am simply speaking about nothing more and nothing less than what scriptures "themselves" define as,

when the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and when the dead in Christ shall rise first, and we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air, and so shall we forever be with the Lord.
-1st Thess. 4:17

This is our being caught up together to be with Christ in the air at His second advent. In order not to have to type all that out every time we refer to this event, we simplify it by calling it "The Rapture!" Why anyone would object to that is a mystery. Nevertheless, when we use this word rapture, this is what we are referring to.

The first obvious question to ask about this alleged removal of the Church would be, "Why would God want to take the believers out of the world before the a great tribulation?" The most common responses are,

1. "because God does not want his believers to go through the Tribulation of that time"
2. "He has not appointed the Church to wrath"
3. "He has said He would keep us from the hour of temptation."

Let's be as the faithful stewards and try/test these reasons by what the Word of God has to say. Does God say that He won't let the believers go through tribulation? And that includes any tribulation, Great or Small? The Only Biblical answer is, No! It is an absolutely fact that God nowhere in scripture says believers will not go through Great Tribulation. So we've established that Biblical fact right from the onset. God never "ever" uses that word tribulation to either say, imply, indicate, or even allude that we won't go

precious to them than God's Word, evidenced by their holding onto it, instead of forsaking it for what God said.

Not one Christian can give you one scripture that says we won't go through the tribulation. We can give scripture after scripture which says we will have tribulation in the world, and near the end there will be Great Tribulation, and we will be right there in the midst of it. We have given scripture that shows that the wrath that we are not appointed to, has nothing to do with going through tribulation. It is God's Wrath upon the unrighteous. His judgment for their sin. No scripture has been given to show the "last" day is not the last day. No scripture is given to show the "last" Trumpet, is the next to the last trumpet. No scripture has been given to show that the Wheat comes out of the field and the tares remain in the field for many years thereafter. The question is, shall we believe the Words of the Bible, or the words of men. That's always been the question, and how we answer it may determine our spiritual well being. Because it is a good indicator of "who" our authority is. If the Word of God is your authority, then you serve God. If the word of man is your authority, then you serve man. But you can't serve two masters. But if we serve the lawless man (man forsaking God's laws), it's for sure that we're not serving God.

It's not a question of how many people will revile you, or call you a false prophet, or hate you, or gainsay, or say you're not nice. The only question worth anything here is, Is this truly what God says (not man) or is it all man made? Did it truly come from God's Book, or is someone speculating or manipulating it. Did they use slight of hand, or did they quote the scripture Word for Word. Is this doctrine of pre-tribulation rapture substantiated in scripture, or is it a house built upon straw and earth that will fall when tried by the Word! Remember this, "when your foundation is the Word of God, then you know you've built on something solid". When your foundation is the word of men, you don't know what you've got, and when the winds blow (Rev 7:1-2) you will find yourself where you don't want to be. And it very well may not be as inconsequential as you might think.

...He that hath ears to hear let him hear.

You cannot be deceived by Satan if you keep the word of God. You know the difference because one is verifiable in scripture, and the other is based on assumption, subjection, traditions, slight of hand, subterfuge, and private interpretation. Try or test your teachers, for the unfaithful ones all have one thing in common. They never reconcile or consider "all" of scripture, because they can't! For God's word doesn't contradict God's Word. So they will Ignore one verse, in favor of their pet verse. I.e., ask them about one verse, and instead of answering you about that verse, they'll write back, "what about this other verse.." You see, they won't reconcile the two verses because they don't really want the truth. They want to be justified. Their is

no resemblance to what God has said. I've had Theologians tell me, God really didn't mean the last trumpet, He really meant "next to the last". Why would they do this to scripture? The answer is, because God's Word of this last trumpet being the Rapture conflicts with their word that the Matthew 24 trumpet actually occurs "after" this rapture Trumpet, which is called the Last!

It's as if they toss God's Word behind their back, seating their teachers as the authority. Their understanding of the Matthew 24 trumpet is that it takes place "after" the rapture trumpet in 1st Corinthians. And so (believe it or not), they actually claim the trumpet God said was the last, is not really the last at all. In this, they deny God's Word, then wipe their mouths and say, "...What evil hath we done?" It's the age old story that started in the garden of Eden with the serpent's question of "...hath God said?" If the Matthew 24:31 trumpet, is the last Trumpet (as Pre-Tribulation Rapture theorists rightly confess), then it is abundantly clear that both the rapture and the judgment is on the last day. For clearly 1st Cor. 15:52 plainly tells us the Rapture is at the last trumpet. That means, there "Cannot" be a trumpet after that one. And Matthew 24:29 clearly tells us this is immediately "after the Tribulation" ...Case Closed right? Not for the indoctrinated! For they will not receive the love of the truth of God's Word, but will wrest these scriptures in order to cling to false teachings of man that the rapture is not at the last day, and the Matthew 24 Last trumpet is after the Corinthians last trumpet. They cling to the tradition of their church or teachers as if it were some sort of security blanket. But this Contradiction is self evident!

This is the difference between those who keep God's Word faithfully, and those who have no conscience and will change the Word of God to fit their doctrines or traditions? Anything they have been taught is their authority, therefore anything that God says, they figure it has to be manipulated in order to conform to that. It's a matter of the will of man, wherein they they don't want to believe what God's word says, and so they rationalize it away. After all (they reason), their teachers can't be wrong, so God must not have meant what He said. They've been taught that the trumpet in Matthew is the last one, and that the rapture has already taken place before this, so they "will not" receive the scriptures about the last trumpet in 1st Corinthians being the rapture and the last trumpet. ...Oh, they won't use the words "God is wrong," but they in practice make that their conclusion none-the-less. They do this by simply ignoring His Word about the rapture at the last Trumpet! And when faithful Christians bear testimony to this obvious contradiction, they retort, "No way, that's just your interpretation." Because they really serve man when they should be serving God. Man's Word that was taught them is more

through it. On the contrary, when we search scripture (correct Biblical hermeneutics) and we see the places where that word is used, we see believers are indeed there! God tells us all through scripture that we will have tribulation in this world and we will have trial in this world, but we will overcome it because we are in Christ, who is our strength. He has overcome for us. God tells us "Plainly" that tribulation is normal for the believer, not something that we fear or are to be taken away from. The Great Tribulation will simply be more of it. Of course, these Theologians see this contradiction, and so they try and make an artificial distinction by claiming,

"...Yes, True, but in this time, it will be Different tribulation, and so God will be merciful and not let us go through that, for he is not going to beat up on His bride".

As faithful Christians, the first obvious question is, "Where is the scriptural support for such a claim that God won't allow His believers to go through Great tribulation?" Second, "Where is scriptural support that this tribulation will be different?" Simply put, in what scripture does God say, "I'll let my Church go through horrible tribulation, but not if I add the word Great to it?" The answer of course is there is no such scripture! That is nothing more than the rationalization, in self justification, for believing this theory. There is not one scripture anywhere in which God (not man) tells us that He will not let the Church go through Great Tribulation!

Something that we need to understand here is that this Greek word Great [megale] means big or large amounts of it. It doesn't mean a new kind. In other words, greater tribulation, not different tribulation. The way some teachers speak on this, you'd think that there is going to be new ways invented to persecute Christians. Not at all! Christians have been persecuted in every imaginable way, and had tribulations which are unthinkable. The word Great, is used to denote that the tribulation of this period will be more widespread, greater than it has ever been. For example, this is just as if I would say, "Noah was in a Great flood". It doesn't denote there was a new kind of Water, of flood, it simply denotes that this flood was greater than all the rest! The water is the same, there was simply "more" of it. Likewise, that is how the word great is used to describe this period. At this time Christ speaks about, there will be so much more reviling and persecution of anyone holding to the truth of scripture, and thus more tribulation for them than has ever been. But nowhere does God say we won't go through it. Indeed, we are the very ones in tribulation, in this trial, in this persecution.

Christians have been burned at the stake, Stretched on the rack, Stoned to death, Sawn asunder, fed to the lions, crucified, tortured and severely beaten, etc., etc., and God allowed it! Has God said we are better than these who went before us, that we won't go through the same things? No, man says that,

but God says, "pick up your cross and follow Me." God says, if they've done it to me, expect that they'll do it to you, for the servant is not greater than his Master. These are the things God says. he doesn't say, "you poor Church, I'll not let you have Great Tribulation!" That is an exact opposite of what is written. That is the doctrines of men, not of God! Indeed it is through these things in which we learn to grow Closer to the Lord! In weakness is His strength made Perfect!

Stephen was stoned to death. What a horrible way to die. Did he have tribulation and persecution in this world? Indeed he did. So where does this idea come from that "God won't let His believers go through any great tribulation?" It didn't come from the Bible. Tribulation in fact is normative for the believers. But don't take my word for it,

John 16:33

- "These things have I spoken unto you, that in Me, ye might have Peace, in the world **ye shall have Tribulation**: but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."

We've all heard what these teachers tell us about tribulation, but here is what God Himself tells us. God didn't promise us any Peace in the world. Where does this idea come from that when Great tribulation comes, God wants us to have peace, so He'll take us out of the world to avoid it? This is not a Biblical idea, on the contrary, Jesus says we shall have tribulation in this world, and He didn't say anything about, "unless it is Great tribulation!" That idea is a product wishful worldly thinking by some, and humanism by others. The unsaved hate us and revile us and persecute us. God isn't going to take us out of the world so we can have peace. As the scripture above says, our Peace is in Christ, that is all we need! Yes, in the world we shall have tribulation, but His Grace is sufficient for us!

You will note that whenever these Theologians make this claim that we won't be in the tribulation period, the verse they will give you as (*supposed*) Biblical support for this theory will "Never Ever" have this actual word "Tribulation" in it. Mark that down in indelible ink because it's a faithful truth! When they explain about how we won't go through the Tribulation, any verse they give to supposedly confirm this, will never actually have the word tribulation in it. ...Amazingly!

Can you discern the truth of why that is? It's Because God never says we won't go through the tribulation, and "therefore" they can't give you a verse where he uses it. Think about that! They will give you a verse and tell you they interpret it as the Great Tribulation period that Jesus spoke of, or they will give you a verse and tell you God "means" tribulation when He says this, but they can never give you a verse where the actual word is there. That's no small fact to brush aside. It's very telling when we consider wisely what that means. It means God didn't actually say that, they did! I have given

John 6:39

- "And this is the Father's will which hath sent Me, that all which He hath given Me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at **The Last Day!**"

John 6:40

- "And this is the will of Him that sent Me, that every one which seeth the son and believeth on Him may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at **The Last Day!**"

John 6:44

- "No man can come to Me except the Father which hath sent Me draw him; and I will raise him up at **The Last Day!**"

John 6:54

- "Whoso eateth My flesh and drinketh My blood hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at **The Last Day!**"

John 11:24

- "Martha saith unto him, I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at **The Last Day!**"

And God makes it plain that not only the resurrection is on The last day, but also the Judgment of the unjust is also on the last day. Totally consistent with all that God says, and contradicted by the Pre-tribulation Rapture theory.

John 7:37

- "He that rejecteth Me, and receiveth not My words hath one that judgeth him; the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in **The Last Day!**"

In a court of law, I think they'd call that an open and shut case. As we see above in the quotes, both the judgment, and the Resurrection will come on the very same "Last Day." Not 7 years before the the last day, and not 7 years before the Word of the Lord will judge men, but God says they both occur at the same time. At "The Last Day". Totally consistent with what God said about the wheat and the tares. Totally consistent with what God says in Matthew 24, about Immediately after the tribulation. Totally consistent with all of scripture. Man can retort, "...but what Last day?" But God is not mocked!

Likewise, God says both the Resurrection and the Judgment is also at the "Last" Trumpet. as usual, total Biblical consistency because it's true!

1st Corinthians 15:52

- "In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at **The Last Trumpet**: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed."

Seriously ask yourself, "Could God have made it any Clearer?" And yet, the unrighteous take God's clear scripture and twist it and turn it and till it bears

enduring! It speaks of those blessed who being tried in time of temptation and enduring, receive a crown of life. Compare that with the Revelation chapter 3 verse. That's the same promise he has given here to the Church of Philadelphia, and to us, and to all who keep His Word patiently.

Revelation 3:11

- "Because thou hast kept the word of My patience, I will also keep thee from the hour of **Temptation**, which shall come upon all the world, to **Try** them that dwell upon the earth. Behold I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy **Crown**."

We will never fall or become apostate, we are safe that no man can take our crown if we endure (keep) the Word patiently. We endure the temptation, when we are tried, and God promises the faithful of the Church Philadelphia from 2000 years ago, to now, he will keep them from this hour of trial and temptation that shall come upon all the world, if they keep the Word patiently.

Note again: God says, "Hold fast that no one takes their crown". He's talking to the Church there! If they were going to be taken out of the world at this time (as some claim), no one could take their crown because they'd be in heaven in this time of temptation. So obviously, they are not taken out of the world, but are in the midst of those trying to take their crown by falsehoods and deception. Just like James clearly says, Blessed is he who "Endures Temptation" for when He is tried he receives a crown of life. The crown is the Kingdom, and Everlasting Life. No question, they are here and must endure, that no one take the crown promised them who endure.

Notice also God says, **Because** you keep My word! That's what we're trying to get across here. The Church is kept from temptation because they keep the Word of God's patience, or in the Literal, "The Word of Endurance, of God." In other words, to endure in the Word of God, or to Keep God's Word patiently. There is nothing here, or anywhere else that says one single word about the Church being raptured before the tribulation. Just because this verse says, Because we keep the word of God's patience, God will keep us from the hour of temptation, does not mean that we can arbitrarily re-interpret that to read, "We won't go through the Great tribulation period." God simply does not say that. ...Man does.

Yes, the Church will be raptured. But it will be the time that God says, not man. It will not be before the Great Tribulation, it will be immediately after. The Last day of the world is when Jesus will return. And as we saw in the parable of the tares, it will be to raise up both the Believers to everlasting life, and the unbelievers to judgment. The last day, not a minute before. But don't take my word for it. Let Our Lord tell us,

you a direct verse, direct from scripture that says, in the world you shall have tribulation. Moreover, the very chapter of Matthew 24 which speaks of the Great Tribulation Period says believers are there, and they are being warned of Christ! Now who do we think is right, God's Word or these men. Will believers have tribulation in the world as God says, or will God take us all out of the world so we won't have great tribulation as man says? According to what scripture says about this great tribulation, and persecution, and the people who will be trying to deceive us (believers) at the time, we will be here. So it comes down to the same age old question. Are we going to believe man, or believe God's Word?

The fact is, this ruse of making a artificial distinction between the tribulation and of Great tribulation (as something different where God won't allow it for us), does a great disservice to the great Christians who went before us. The logic is extremely flawed. Tribulation "IS" tribulation. Whether great, or small it's still the same thing. We need to understand, the word does not change, only the amount changes as a mathematical equation. In other words, the difference between Tribulation, and Great Tribulation, is the amount of it. It's not a completely different thing. It's a qualified word! It's just a description of a time when there is so much more of it. All of this rationalizing of "it being different," is a diversion from the contradictions and lack of biblical support for the theory. It's only different (as God's description of it demonstrates), in that there is just a greater amount of it. Let's make it simple. We simply define Tribulation (as the Bible defines it), then we define Great Tribulation.

Tribulation:

- *a time of persecution, hatred, offences, revilings, betrayal, and affliction.*

Great Tribulation:

- *a time of great persecution, great hatred, great offences, great revilings, great betrayals, and great afflictions.*

Where is the mystery? It is very simply a time when tribulation is multiplied greatly.

More than that, all we have to do is look where the Tribulation is spoken about in scripture, and we see clearly that believers are still here in the world. Unlike those who teach this theory of a pre-tribulation rapture, "we" can look at the places where the actual word Tribulation is found, and get our understanding direct from these scriptures. That's the way to come to real Truth. Compare scripture with scripture that we know what God says. For

example, speaking of the Great Tribulation, and talking "to" believers, Jesus says,

Matthew 24:9

- "Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and you shall be hated of all nations for My name's sake"
Sounds very consistent with what Jesus said before doesn't it? In the world, ye shall have Tribulation. Note that these are Christians. I.e., People who are being afflicted for Christ's name sake. Note also the language, hated for the name of Christ! It's the Church who takes the name of Christ, we are the Christians! It's Christians who are hated because of the name of Christ. Not Non Christians. The body of Christ! In the literal, that verse says ". being hated by all the nations because of the name of Me!"
These are being hated because of the name of Christ. These are Christians. Those who take the name of Christ are the ones He says is hated, and they are "obviously" here. No one takes the name of Christ, and are persecuted and hated because of it, "but" Christians.

Verse 13

- "But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be Saved."
There is no one going to be Saved but believers. If there are those here who will endure this Great Tribulation for Christ Name sake (Christians), and be Saved, then obviously the believers are still on the earth when this is happening. It's the Church that is persecuted for Christ's name sake. There is only one group that takes the name of Christ, and that is the body of Christ. As Paul asks in the Corinthians, "Is Christ Divided?" And the answer of course is, No! There is only one body who takes the name of Christ. The Christ Church. And scripture tells us, it's still here and being persecuted, reviled hated, because of his name!
Think about something else for a minute. If God doesn't want his believers to go through this horrible Tribulation (as these Claim) then what are these believers that Jesus is talking about, doing going through the Great tribulation for Christ's sake? It makes no sense, because it is Not True! It's man's wrested Theology! God is not going to say, "I'm taking My believers out of the world because I don't want them to go through this horrible tribulation," and then turn right around and have a whole 'nother group of His believers go through the very same Tribulation. That is just plain ridiculous! It's unsound doctrine! God is not the author of confusion, and this is totally contradictory to God's Word.

Verse 14

- "And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations, and then shall the End come!"
Who is this preaching the gospel to all nations if the Church has been taken out of the world? That's the Church's job! That's what Acts tells us is our

of this temptation (testing) will endure. God will provide a way of escape, that we are able to endure. AMEN! It's not unlike what we read in,

1st Samuel 26:24

- "And, behold, as thy life was much set by this day in mine eyes, so let my life be much set by in the eyes of the LORD, and let him deliver me out of all tribulation".
Does that verse mean that this was a prayer that God would take him out of the world? No, it's a prayer that when all tribulation comes, God will make a way for us to escape it. Just like the verse we read in 1st Corinthians chapter 10. It's the exact same principle.

If we are going to listen to what God says, we have to compare scripture with scripture to surrender to what God says, not what our teachers told us about this. Then it becomes abundantly clear that God has promised to deliver us from the hour or [hora] time of temptation, by keeping us when we are tried. Not delivering us out of the world, but by keeping us in time of Trial that we do not fall. This is a fundamental principle of Christianity which seems to have gotten lost somewhere in these changing times. There is no reason to be delivered out of the world. We are here for a reason, and that reason is to spread the gospel, and that mission is not complete for us until the "Last" day. Our prayer is to "...bring us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil". It is not to "...take us out of the world of temptation". It's not OUR prayer, and it's not our Lord's Prayer for us..

John 17:15

- "I pray *Not* that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from evil. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world."

I ask you plainly, how much clearer can it get? Christ's prayer is not that we'll be delivered from the world of evil, but kept from it. And just as kept from evil doesn't mean we are delivered out of a world of evil, neither does kept from the hour of temptation mean we are delivered out of a world of temptation. We are tried by it! God knows what he wants for us, and He's said it. But don't take my word for it (Because you shouldn't) Compare Revelation 3:11 with James 1:11 and see if we are delivered from the world in order to get the crown, or if we are delivered in time of trial "in" the world. Compare these things carefully, and let the Holy Spirit of God reveal truth.

James:1:12

- "Blessed is the man that *Endureth Temptation*: for when he is *Tried*, he shall receive the *Crown* of Life, which the Lord hath promised to them that Love Him."

Look at that Verse carefully! It speaks of being tried, it speaks of being tried in the time of temptation. It speaks of being tried in time of temptation, and

Question! Look at that scripture above. It says, when the temptation comes, God provides a way of "Escape" out of it. That's what that verse says! Notice carefully, it's out of the temptation, but not out of the world. And that's what Revelation says. He'll keep us from the hour of temptation. He'll make a way of escape out of it, but nowhere does it say, allude or imply that it will be by taking us out of the world!

Notice also the verse clearly says there isn't "any" temptation taken the Church but is common to man. That's an important fact that many Theologians just ignore "as if" it's not even there! Consider what it says wisely and with understanding. God is telling us that there is,

"no temptation on this earth but that is common to man, and that He will with that temptation make a way for us to escape it".

And God further defines that "escape" as, "being able to bear it!" There is no temptation too great for the Church to bear that God will take it out of the world. God says there isn't any temptation greater than that He will provide that we'll be able to bear.

The Pre-tribulation Rapture theorists claim, "look at revelation 3, it's temptation so great, that the Lord will take His Church out of the world". Never mind that God never said it, it also blatantly contradicts God's very own Word? That's man's logic, not God's Word. It's contrary to God's Word. We're going to escape the hour of temptation alright. But it will be as God declares, not man! God will provide that we shall endure to the end. He will provide a way of escape, that we will be able to bear it. Jesus taught this lesson of endurance when He spoke of the parable of the sower, that the seeds that fell on rocky soil were those who would not endure?

Luke 8:13

- "...and these have no root, which for a while believe, and in Time of Temptation fall away."

This is the same word [*peirasmos*]. These are those who were not really Saved. These are those who hear the Word, but have no root in themselves (which is Christ), and so they are not kept by God to escape the hour or time of temptation or trial and they fall away. Why? They have no faith to patiently keep the Word of God. But with true belief there is the keeping of God's Word, and when the time of temptation comes (whenever it comes), there is a way of escape made, that we are able to "endure" or bear up under it. Whether this Church in Philadelphia, or our Church today, we are kept from the hour of temptation. Not plucked out of the world, but escape out of the temptations in the world. That's what we just read in 1st Corinthians 10:13. And that is why revelation 3 says it's "those who keep the Word of His patience." That's the key. Those who keep the Word patiently in the face

commission! To be a witness unto all nations in the name of Christ. It's one of the very last things Jesus told the Church as He ascended back to heaven, **Acts 1:8**

- "...and ye shall be witnesses unto Me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost parts of the earth."

Now, if Matthew 24:14 is not the Church, are we to assume that the Church failed in it's commission to do this? Perish the thought! No, they did not fail, because they are here, and they are the ones doing it as they have since the commission. And when they are done, God says, "...and then shall the end come." It's totally consistent with verse 31 which says, "immediately after" the Tribulation, Christ will return, and gather the chosen. It's very clear. The gospel is preached "by the Church" to all the world, then there will be a short period of Great tribulation as satan is loosed (Rev 20), and then the end will come, as Christ returns. It only becomes unclear when people go to the scriptures with preconceived ideas of a "Pre-tribulation Rapture". Then they have to make God's Word unclear and confused so their own word will stand. But in order for the Church to be preaching the gospel to the whole world, it has to be here in the world. And there are not two separate bodies of Christ! Christ is not Divided!

Matthew 24:21-23

- "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 say unto you, Lo here is Christ, or there, believe it not."

How much clearer can it get. We are still here, and there are false Prophets and false Christs abounding, trying to deceive us. And God warns us, follow them not! Don't Believe them! Why would God warn the Church if the Church was not present at this time? Of course, the Truth is, "He wouldn't!" He warns the Church not to be deceived because they are still here. they are those who Watch!

If we were to listen to all the voices telling us that we would be taken out of the world before this Great Tribulation occurs, we'd have to ignore great blocks of scripture altogether. Not once or twice, but continually and consistently. But many seem to have no conscience in doing just that. It's just amazing what man will believe without one shred of Biblical validation because he's indoctrinated or just too dependent upon others to check it out in the scriptures for himself. How can someone say to the Church, Lo here is Christ, or lo there is Christ, trying to deceive them, if the Church isn't even there? How could it almost deceive even the very chosen (elect), if it were possible, if the chosen are not here? The Chosen are the Church.

1st Peter 2:9

- "But ye are a Chosen generation, a royal Priesthood, an Holy nation, a peculiar people, that ye should shew forth the praise of Him who hath called you out of darkness into His marvelous light."

Note the word Chosen there. It's the exact same word as you read in Matthew chapter 24. Elect and Chosen are the exact same word. You want God's definition of the elect, read that verse above and stop listening to the traditions of man. In the old testament, the old Testament Congregation was the chosen, and in the New testament, the new testament congregation are the Chosen! We are the Elect (Eph. 1:4, Romans 9:11) that the false Christs will be trying to deceive, but who they cannot deceive, because we are The Children of God, who having been born from above, endure to the end. But they will deceive the unfaithful of the churches.

Again, how is it that these Theologians claim the Church was raptured, and yet no one on earth knows that Christ had come and taken them? Are we to believe that Christ will come and gather the elect and no one will notice, or that they'll notice, but go about their merry business as usual? That quite frankly is Ludicrous! I've heard that all the believers will be secretly raptured before the tribulation! That theory doesn't hold water either, because God says the rapture is with the Sound of a great trumpet and the Lord descending with a **SHOUT** and the voice of the Chief Messenger! Along comes man teaching people that no, "He comes in secret (as a thief in the night) so the world doesn't notice the Church is gone". Totally anti-Biblical. That verse that speaks about coming as a thief in the night talks about the unbelievers not knowing anything until they see Christ in the air, it doesn't mean they won't see Him at all. In other words, it means it sneaks up on them! But this is just another example of how they use scripture unsoundly and in many cases, unrighteously. He comes as a thief in the night to the unsaved because they're not Watching like the believers are. But to believers, we're not caught off guard like the unbelievers. He doesn't come as a thief to us! But again, don't take my word for it. . . .

1st Thessalonians 5:2

- "For yourselves know perfectly that the DAY of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.

1st Thessalonians 5:4

- "but ye brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a Thief.

It's the "day of the Lord", The Day of Judgment, and notice they are both here. The Church as well as the unrighteous. For the unsaved, that Day overtakes them as a thief in the night because they live in darkness they won't see it coming, and Judgment will come on them quickly as they are subject to the wrath of God. But notice God says "That Day" shall not

in Christ's name, Christ is in the midst of them. I.e, that is the Church! So again, the bible illustrates that the Church is still here. They are the ones being "tried" to see if they will remain faithful in the face of the false teachings and Apostasy.

As I said, this message to the Church of Philadelphia (nearly 2000 years ago) was a promise to them, and it is a promise to the Church today as well. It's a promise to all of us no matter if we lived from the cross until today. If we keep God's Word, He will deliver us out of the hour of trial. It doesn't matter whether it's in Great temptations today, yesterday, 500 years ago, or 1000 years ago. The promise remains un-abrogated. God promises to deliver the Church out of trial if they keep His word. Whether we realize it or not, it's the prayer we pray every day. The Lord's Prayer.

Matthew 6:13

- "And bring us not into **temptation**, but deliver us from evil: for thine is the Kingdom"

The word Temptation there is the same word [*peirasmos*]. We are praying here for the same thing God is promising the believers in that Church at Philadelphia in Revelation 3. The Promise is that in trial, testing, or temptation (all are the same Greek Word), we'll be delivered out of the evil or brought not into it as judgment. We pray not to be taken "out of the world", but that God will "deliver" us out of this temptation. In other words, bring us safely out of a time of temptation, or trial. In Contrast to the world, when the world is tried by evil, it falls headlong into it. It's deceived by it like a bird snared in a trap, and it is not delivered out of it. Our prayer is that we will not be brought into this trap of temptation, but delivered out of it. That's our prayer. That's the temptation or trial that Revelation 3 says we are keep from the hour of. When the time of trial or tempting comes upon the world. The Lord's prayer we pray, is that, God will deliver us from it. Not out of the world. And to be sure, "God will see to it."

1st Corinthians 10:13

- "There is **no temptation** taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with that temptation also make a way to **escape** that you may be able to bear it."

There it is again, the time of temptation (same word, *peirasmos*) that God will keep "The Church" from who keeps His Word patiently. Note that God says it is not greater than we can bear. That's an Important Point! There is **No Temptation** taken the Church which is Greater than we can bear, and that logically, Biblically and rationally would include the temptation in spoken of in revelation chapter 3. That is to say, if God's Word is True! So why are these people talking about the temptation of Revelation 3 that is so bad and uncommon that we have to be taken out of the world to be kept from? . . . Good

Another verse that is often used to make the claim that the Church won't go through the tribulation is Revelation 3:10. But once again note carefully (As Usual) the word tribulation is "Nowhere" to be found in that verse. Revelation 3:10...the hour of temptation to come on the world

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NOTE: Does Not Say Tribulation

Then they say, "this is talking about the Great Tribulation Period!" And indeed ultimately, as a representation spiritually, it may be, but again, it says nothing about a Great Tribulation Period and it applies to us all. It's speaking to the Church in Philadelphia which has been faithful, and says God will keep them from the hour of temptation. Did that Church in Philadelphia go through the Great Tribulation period? No, not at all, and yet this message was to them! Yes it's to the Churches after them, as well as to the Church today, we are all kept from the hour of trial or temptation. But that in no way means that we are "taken out of the world!" And that is where the problem lies. The assuming that the wording "kept from" means taken out of the World. It does not, it never has, and we can show that by scripture. First of all, the word temptation there is the Greek word [*peirasmos*], meaning "Trial or Testing" and is never translated Tribulation. They are two entirely different words. The word Tribulation is [*thlipsis*] meaning "Persecution or Affliction", and is never translated temptation. We cannot simply take the word temptation or trial (which is used liberally throughout the scriptures) and make the claim that it is the Great Tribulation period. That would be sloppy and unsound exegesis. Temptations or trial "can" be by evil or deceivings, but that does not give licence to say that where this word is found, it means the Great Tribulation period. If that were true, we'd have all sorts of verses made ridiculous by the use of that word.

Revelation 3:10

- "Because thou hast kept the word of My patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of **temptation**, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth. Behold I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown."

Note again they use this verse to try and prove that the Church is not here, and yet we see the language of the earth being tried and those who overcome in this time of trial being made a pillar in God's Temple. He who overcomes is he who is in Christ. But their theory is that the Church isn't even here during this temptation (trial) in order to be Tried. By the context we know believers are obviously here, and where two believers are gathered together

overtake us as a thief. Why not? Because we are the Children of light. We "See!" We're ready! We're as Jesus says in Matthew 24, Watching! Read that chapter carefully. It's one day, the day of Judgment, and the day of deliverance. That Day is the day of the Lord's Rapture and of His wrath upon the wicked.

1st Thessalonians 5:9

- "For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain Salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ."

That day will be a day of wrath for the unsaved, but we have been spared from it by the blood of Christ. We are not appointed to wrath as the unsaved are. There is absolutely no question that this is at the end of the world, as we see it all through scripture, the same consistency.

2nd Peter 3:10

- "But the DAY of the Lord will come as a Thief in the night; in the 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."

Does that (coming as a thief) sound like a secret Coming to you?

...*He that hath ears to hear, let him hear!*

How do most of these Theologians get past all these verses contradictory to their doctrines? ..Simple! They usually "ignore" them, and pretend that they aren't there, or they don't really mean what they say. But to the faithful it is clear that the Coming as a thief in the night refers to Christ's coming at the "last" day at the end of the world, just as the rest of scripture confirms.

Matthew 24:29-30

- "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."

We see that immediately after the tribulation Christ will return (and verse 43 says it's as a thief and the unrighteous are not watching), and that is when the Chosen will be raptured. Isn't it curious how many say that the rapture is when Christ comes as a thief in the night, but when they get to Matthew 24 they curiously claim, this speaking of coming as a thief, is not the rapture? It becomes like Alice in Wonderland, getting curious-er and curious-er. Matthew 24 says Christ will return, and verse 31 says, with the sound of a trumpet, Christ will send his angels and gather the elect (remember God's definition of the elect) from the four winds of heaven. We'll all be gathered together in the air to be with the Lord. So here we have the Word of God telling us the rapture is after the Tribulation, and we have man telling us it is

before. Nowhere does the Word of God say the rapture is before the Tribulation. On the contrary, it's immediately after. I didn't say it, God's Word said the Chosen were raised here. Immediately after the tribulation with the sound of the Trumpet, Christ will appear and send his angels to gather his chosen from the four winds. Written clearly there in Matthew 24:29-31. This is the rapture, and is exactly what's spoken of again in, **1st Thessalonians 4:16**

- "For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a SHOUT, with the voice of the Archangel, and with the Trumpet of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord."

How anyone can look at Matthew and this chapter and say, "this doesn't occur immediately after the Tribulation but before", is just beyond belief. And again note, it is with a shout, not secret! To think that the Lord will take the Church out first, before tribulation, is to ignore all of scripture that clearly say differently. But again, let's get it directly from God's Word. Take the parable of the tares for example. All parables are given by God for our learning, and there is a valuable lesson in this one.

There are wheat and tares sown in a field. The wheat is the believers and the tares are the unbelievers, the field is the world, and the harvest is the end of the world. That's what God says (Not I). Now it was said, "Shall we take the tares out of the world so they won't hurt the wheat, But God said no! The tares and the wheat remain "together" in the world until the End of the world (The harvest) and then the separation would occur. Note carefully, God didn't say, I want to take the wheat out of the world because I don't want my wheat being accosted by those bad tares! And God didn't say, I want those tares pulled up lest they hurt my Precious Wheat! No, when asked, God said leave them both in the world together until the harvest. And He says the harvest is the End of the world. Clearly, both believer and unbeliever will remain in the world "together" until the end of the world. Then the tares will be burned in the Furnace, and the wheat gathered into God's barn. This parable teaches us that the Separation is at the end of the world, and not before. Both Saved and unsaved clearly remain in the field until the end of the world. And the end of the world is immediately after the Tribulation. Just one of the many verses which some choose to ignore!

Another reason given by some that we won't go through the tribulation period, is the misinterpretation of verses like,

1st Thessalonians 5:9

- "For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain Salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ."

Carefully note, the word Tribulation is never mentioned here (As Usual). The most common error is to read the verse quickly, and then say, ". You see, the Lord has not appointed us to go through the wrath of the tribulation."

.... Wait! That's Not what it says!

This is the old slight of hand, or subterfuge. Frankly, it's deceitful handling of the scriptures where people hope you listen to them, not read the actual scripture. It's to make something appear to say something, it really doesn't say. God has a perfectly good word for tribulation, and it is not the word "Wrath." If God wanted to say, "He hath not appointed us to go through the wrath of the tribulation," He most certainly would have said it. ... He didn't! God doesn't need Man to add his private interpretations or additions to His Word.

Of Course the Lord has not appointed us to wrath. The wrath of God is his judgment. When the unsaved stand before God, they will face the wrath of God as they are Judged. That's the wrath we are not appointed to, not the tribulation period. They might have a leg to stand on if the verse said, "we are not appointed to Tribulation," but it doesn't. Do you know why it doesn't? Because God is not the author of confusion, and He's already said that in the world we shall have Tribulation! Being appointed to wrath, and going through the tribulation are two different things. For example, here is what is meant by us (believers) not appointed to the wrath of God.

John 3:36

- "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on Him."

You see, this is the wrath of God that the Church is not appointed to. It's the coming judgment of the unbeliever. Of course we are not appointed to this. But that does not say we are not appointed to go through the Tribulation. In fact, we can see this clearly explained right there in the very book of Thessalonians that they use to try and support this.

1st Thessalonians 1:9

- "For they themselves shew of us what manner of entering in we had unto you, and how ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God. And to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come."

There we have Solid Biblical proof. Christ "Has Already" delivered us from the wrath to come. Because the wrath to come is the Judgment of God for our sins, not the Great Tribulation period. Christ didn't go to the cross to deliver us from the tribulation period (in the world we shall have Tribulation), He went to deliver us from the wrath of God that would come upon us for our sins. And this verse shows that conclusively.