

Trending: Rapture and Second Coming, Teaching Outline

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1. Eschatology: study of the last things
 - a. Personal, individual soul and spirit
 - b. Prophetic, end times
2. Millennial Theological Systems of Prophetic Eschatology (Rev. 20:1-7)
 - a. Amillennialism, no literal 1,000 year reign of Christ on earth, allegorizes and spiritualizes this prophecy, no good Bible basis to do so, dominant view throughout church history
 - b. Postmillennialism, Christ returns after an extended period of time of spiritual revival on earth (some hold 1,000 years, some not), constitutes the millennium, relies on Matthew 13:31-33 and sees 1 Corinthians 15:22-26 as death destroyed at Second Coming of Christ, does not account for the state of the earth and events recorded in Matthew 24 and Revelation 6-18
 - c. Premillennialism, great apostasy in the last days, 7-year Tribulation, literal 1,000 year Millennial Kingdom of Christ to follow, only position that takes a literal reading of all the Scripture into account, 3 views
 - i. Post Tribulation, no Rapture of the church, sees that as the same event as the Second Coming
 - ii. Mid-Tribulation, Rapture in the middle of the Tribulation, Second Coming at the end of the 7-years
 - iii. Pre-Tribulation, Second coming in two installments, Rapture is the coming for the church, Second Coming is the coming with the church
3. Dispensationalism (Eph. 1:10)
 - a. God works in different ways throughout human history, divides human history into different periods on that basis for the purpose of theological framework, for our purposes we consider the Law, Church, Tribulation, and Millennial Kingdom.
4. Theological Construct
 - a. Scriptures generally held to refer to the Second Coming seem to be contradictory, so we have 3 options.
 - i. Spiritualize or allegorize, Amill and Postmill positions do this
 - ii. Reconcile all the passages to one event
 - iii. If they cannot be reconciled, they have to refer to different events, this position is the one I take, evidence follows
5. Rapture Passages
 - a. John 14:1-3, coming for the church
 - b. 1 Thes. 4:13-18, resurrection of dead NT saints, translation of living NT saints, in the air, not on earth, not seen by all
 - c. 1 Cor. 15:51-52, instant change of the saints
 - d. 1 Thes. 1:9-10, 5:2, 5:9-10, Rev. 3:10, indicates that the NT church does not go through the Tribulation

- e. Absence of the church in Revelation 6-18
 - f. Absence of God the Holy Spirit as Restrainer of sin in the Tribulation period (2 Thes. 2:7-8), Cf. John 16:8-10
 - g. Matthew 24:29-31, 36-42, two events, one very public, and another very private
6. Second Coming Passages
- a. 1 Thes. 3:13; Jude 14-15, coming with the church
 - b. Isaiah 63:1-6
 - c. Zechariah 14:4-11
 - d. Matthew 26:63-64
 - e. Revelation 19:11-16
 - f. 7 years, 1260 days, Second Coming, Armageddon, removal of idolatry, regathering of Israel (Daniel 12:11-12; Deut. 30:1-10), taking another 75 days, then the Millennial Kingdom on earth will be established (Rev 20:1-7), after 1,000 years eternal state (Rev 21-22).
7. Additional notes on the Tribulation
- a. 7-year period divided into two parts (Daniel 9:24-27)
 - b. Begins with signing of the covenant, not the Rapture
 - c. Called by various names in Scripture (Jer. 30:7; 1 Thes. 5:2), denoting wrath
 - d. Purpose, that men may repent (2 Peter 3:9), this is God's desire, though many will not
8. Question, Is the last trumpet in 1 Cor. 15:52 the same as that in Rev. 11:15-18?
- a. No. This is the mid-trib position, and of some post-tribs. Here are reasons why:
 - i. Correlation of this trumpet is with 1 Thes. 4:16 and the saints of God, not judgment of wrath upon unbelievers.
 - ii. The trumpet in Rev. 11 is not the last trumpet chronologically, Matthew 24:31 records a trumpet blast in the context of the regathering.
 - iii. The last "eschatos" trumpet can mean the last in a sequence of blasts. This implies that there will be a series of blasts in anticipation of the Rapture, and the last in the series results in the Rapture.
 - iv. There are many different trumpet blasts in the Bible, and it is better to simply accept that each event involves trumpet blasts.
 - v. The 7th trumpet judgment in Rev. 11 occurs before the fleeing of Israel on earth in the Great Tribulation, and before the bowl judgments, which all occur before the Second Coming.
 - vi. The totality of the Scripture teachings are in favor of the Pre-mill, Pre-trib view presented here. We ought not to disregard all Scripture evidences of that based on a questionable correlation.