

7 Pre trib (rapture) problems

Part 1

Comparison of Pre-Trib and Pre-Wrath teaching

{Watch video}

Comparison of Pre-Trib and Pre-Wrath teaching.

Not necessarily about proving one view right and the other wrong.

People can have the right opinion for the wrong reason, or based on faulty exegesis.

Therefore, this study is primarily about

- Challenging our viewpoints.
 - How to credibly discuss and challenge the viewpoints of others.
- Testing our exegetical skills and integrity.
 - Checking the exegetical skills and integrity of others.

Understanding doctrine and interpretation

In analysing doctrine and interpretation, it is important to understand that we have four different thresholds of statement and standard.

Gospel – Foundational doctrine - Stated doctrine – Inferred doctrine.

- 1) Some things are true, and non-negotiable, like the Gospel.
 - The details of the gospel are the terms of the New Covenant, recorded in Scripture, which are fixed and non-negotiable.
 - The gospel is directly salvation related, so another gospel should not be tolerated.
- 2) Foundational doctrines, are doctrines which provide the basic context of the gospel, and are therefore non-negotiable.
 - Examples – God is the creator, Jesus’s Sonship, Divinity, Humanity, Man’s fallen sinful state.
 - These doctrines are inseparable from a true understanding of the gospel.
 - Any debate regarding these doctrines should hold equal weight as discussing the content/terms of the Gospel.
- 3) Stated doctrines, are doctrines based upon clear statements of Scripture, normally recorded in more than one place, and which require relatively little comprehension to grasp.
 - Examples – The Rapture, 2nd coming of Messiah, understanding of the Covenants.
 - These doctrines are known as doctrines of discipline; they are not negotiable, but recognise that they require a certain level of familiarity of Scripture to grasp fully.
 - An immature, or inadequate, grasp of stated doctrine should not be immediately considered a salvation issue and should not cause division but requires discipline.
 - If discipline is rejected, then a person is to be ‘marked’ (this does not mean they are immediately considered an unbeliever, but they are a heretic and their beliefs are not to be entertained as orthodox).
 - Example – Reformed teaching, replacement theology.
- 4) Inferred doctrines, are doctrines where something is not clearly stated in Scripture, but can be concluded (or thought to be inferred) from grouping a number of texts and doctrines together.

- Examples – When Satan fell, angels created, time of the rapture.
 - Discussion of these doctrines should not cause division unless they are promoted to be considered a Gospel fact, or Foundational doctrine, in which case the person, or persons, are challenging the integrity of the gospel.
 - Example – belief + Holy living is required to get saved.

The Emotive (controversial) problem

What makes a discussion of the timing of the Rapture an emotive (controversial and emotionally driven) subject, is that one side will say, ‘if you are wrong millions of believers could doubt their faith and not be prepared to go through persecution’, or ‘you only believe in that view because you are scared of losing your life for Jesus/facing persecution’.

However, we must be careful that we do not then decide the validity of an interpretation based upon the motive of the proponent/acceptant.

Chat through the slides

The Pre-Tribulation position

- The Rapture of The Church is the next event in God’s programme for The Church
 - The Rapture is not preceded by any ‘sign’ event, neither is it linked to any specific event in history.
 - The Rapture will probably occur before the start of Daniels 70th week; which is a period of time within God’s programme for The Jewish people.
 - Daniel’s 70th week is
 - A time of tribulation
 - The day of The Lord (pour out His wrath)
 - Divided into 2 halves, the 2nd being the great tribulation/time of Jacob’s trouble

The Pre-Wrath position

- Daniel’s 70th week should be divided into 3 parts
 - The 1st half of Daniel’s 70th week = Part 1 The beginning of birth pangs
 - The 2nd half of Daniels 70th week subdivided into Parts 2,3.
 - Part 2 - The great tribulation/time of Jacob’s trouble, Anti – Christ’s persecution of God’s people.
 - Cut short to about 21 months (630 days).
 - Part 3 – The Day of The Lord (God’s wrath)

The Pre-Wrath position is based upon recognising Joel 2:31, Matthew 24:30-31, and Rev 6:12-14 as the same cosmic event, thereby chronologically linking these passages together (and placing their contextual information into a specific chronological sequence).

Joel says the cosmic sign precedes the Day of The Lord

Matthew says the cosmic event follows the Great Tribulation + precedes the rapture (if that is what is described in Mt 24).

Revelation places this cosmic sign within the chronology of Revelation (influences how we see/interpret the rest of the book)

- Specifically placing the 5th + 6th seal after the midpoint of Daniel's 70th week.