

Tribulation – Pre, Mid, and Post

Rapture – Where does it fit (Pre, Mid, or Post)?

Before I write about the tribulation I must say the following:

Our focus is doing the things that will help save souls (led by the Holy Spirit) and vote like Christians/Americans. In the long run "souls" are all that counts.

In being a Christian it does not matter your views about the Rapture (Pre, Mid, or Post). Just being a Christian and being led by the Holy Spirit will position you for what is coming.

An individual's belief concerning the interpretation of Biblical Eschatology that does NOT violate the profession, belief, and commitment to the reality of the Trinity, the Lordship of Jesus Christ, and the sureness of his return (in whatever fashion). The view of Eschatology (study of End Times) should NEVER be used as any sort of litmus test as to an individual's salvation or commitment to Christ.

Definitions:

- Rapture – The catching away of the Church.
- Tribulation – A 7 year period. The period is divided into two 3 and ½ year parts. The Antichrist rules over both parts. There is a different understanding between the Church of when the Rapture will occur (Pre-tribulation, Mid-tribulation, or Post-tribulation). The book of Revelation focuses primarily upon the tribulation period.
- Armageddon – The final battle over Israel. Satan loses and God wins. Marks the Second Coming of our Lord (Jesus Christ).
- Second Coming – Jesus returns to Earth.
- Millennium – Jesus begins his 1,000 year reign.

The study of Biblical Eschatology is a complex subject that has been studied and written about for 4000+ years (at least since the beginning of the Bible). There are different interpretations that are held and espoused by people who are genuine, sincere, practicing Christians.

My "Eschatology" is based upon years of experience, including the local Church, TV shows based upon Bible Prophecies, and various websites. Some TV shows are: Manna-Fest (by Perry Stone), the Hal Lindsey Report (by Hal Lindsey), It's Supernatural (by Sid Roth), the John Ankerberg Show (by John Ankerberg), Jack Van Impe Presents (by Jack Van Impe), Joyce Meyer (by Joyce Meyer), the 700 Club (by Pat Robertson), In Touch (by Charles Stanley), John Hagee (by John Hagee), and the Gospel Truth (by Andrew Womack). This email represents my understanding not my desires.

Pre-tribulation

The "Definitions" above are my predications and flow in this order. Also Revelation consists of many events that happen primarily after the Rapture.

The Rapture will happen before the rise of the Antichrist, but after the Latter Rain, World-wide Revival, and the Fullness of Time (Age of the Gentile, or Age of Grace). These 3 events must happen before the Catching Away of the Church (Rapture). The Latter Rain is what begins the Ending of the Church as we know it today. The Latter Rain is out pouring of the Holy Spirit. It is my understanding that the Rapture will be Pre-tribulation.

Most of the Bible Scholars of the West believe in Pre-tribulation.

The belief in the Pre-tribulation believes the Rapture will occur before the tribulation period can happen. This belief is based upon the real Church is blocking the rise of the Antichrist.

Mid-tribulation

The second most popular view of Biblical Eschatology is Mid-tribulation. This view is based upon Moses and the plagues of Egypt. The real Church, like the Hebrew children, will go through many of the End Time trials led by the Antichrist. This will last for the first 3 and ½ years of the tribulation 7 year period. At the end of the first 3 and ½ years of the tribulation the Rapture will occur.

The belief in the Mid-tribulation believes the Rapture will occur after the two Witnesses are returned to Heaven (Home).

Post-tribulation

There are other Bible Scholars that believe that the real Church will go through all the trials of the Antichrist (first 3 and ½ years of tribulation period) and God (second 3 and ½ years of the tribulation period).

The belief in the Post-tribulation believes the Rapture will occur before the Second Coming of Christ. Like the Hebrew people, God will protect the real Church from God's judgments during the second half of the tribulation period.

In conclusion

For the record, I am, and have been for all of my Christian life been a Pre-tribulation, even before I had ever heard-of or understood these terms (Pre-tribulation, Mid-tribulation, or Post-tribulation).

But also for the record I have listened too many of the Pre-tribulation authors and often they have sounded a bit too cocksure, in my opinion. Especially in light of, what Jesus said, "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away. But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only."

I can tell you that God does not always do things as I think. What is going to be the effect on Christians if the tribulation begins, and there is NO rapture? And, if you do not believe that the tribulation as described in the Bible is already occurring in this world. Try telling that to Egyptian Christians who are being murdered and persecuted every day of the week.

In the face of all this I have only one prescription for myself and others: Study the Bible for yourself and pray and ask God to give you Holy Spirit enlightenment, keeping in mind that other sincere Christians doing the same may reach different conclusions.

Hope for the best and prepare for the worst is my view of Biblical Eschatology.

Love,
Mike