

10 REASONS FOR THE PRE-TRIBULATION RAPTURE

1. Tribulation's purpose is to bring Israel to faith, not the Church (Jeremiah 30:7; Daniel 9:24; 12:1)
2. Imminence of the Rapture (1 Corinthians 15:51; 1 Thessalonians 4:15; James 5:9; Romans 13:12; Hebrews 10:25; 1 Peter 4:7; Rev 22:6, 7, 10, 12, 20)
3. Rapture is intended to be a comfort (1 Thess 4:18, John 14:1-3)
4. Alternate interpretation of *apostasia* in 2 Thessalonians 2:3a
5. The restrainer must be removed before the Antichrist appears (2 Thessalonians 2:6-7)
6. 1 Thessalonians 4-5
7. Church exempt from divine wrath (1 Thessalonians 1:10; 5:9; Romans 5:9; Revelation 3:10)
8. No clear biblical reference to the church on earth during 7-year Tribulation period (Revelation 4-22)
9. Matthew 24-25 concerns Israel
10. Rapture Types (Noah's Ark; Sodom and Gomorrah; Nebuchadnezzar & Daniel; Jewish Wedding Analogy: The Bride of Christ)

PRE-TRIBULATIONISM IS NOT ESCAPISM

tribulation	John 16: 33 (NKJV) ³³ These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation ; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."
Man's wrath: persecution	2 Timothy 3:12 12In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted ,
Satan's wrath: Spiritual forces of evil	Ephesians 6:11-12 11Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes . 12For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.
World's wrath: hate	John 15:18-19 18 "If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. 19 If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you.

Christian Crowns Awarded at the Judgement Seat of Christ

Crown of Rejoicing	Soul winners	1 Thessalonians 2:19 19 For what is our hope, our joy, or the crown in which we will glory in the presence of our LORD Jesus when he comes? Is it not you?
Crown of Righteousness	Long for Christ's Appearing	2 Timothy 4:8 8 Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the LORD, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day-and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.
Crown of Glory	Shepherds and Servants	1 Peter 5:2-4 [synopsis] <i>To those who humbly and faithfully, teach, preach, shepherd, and are eager to serve.</i>
Incorruptible Crown	Seek to honor Christ in life	1 Corinthians 9:24-25 24 Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. 25Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do it to get a crown that will last forever.
Crown of Life	Suffer for Christ; faithful to death	Revelation 2:10 10 Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to test you, and you will suffer persecution for ten days. Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you life as your victor's crown.

OUTLINE OF THE BOOK OF REVELATION

"Write what you have seen.."
(1:19)

"...what is now..."

"...what will take place later..." →

Chapter 1	Chapters 2-3	Chapter s 4-5	Chapters 6-18	Chapter 19	Chapter 20	Chapters 21-22
Christ's revelation to John of what must take place.	Letters to the 7 churches ("ecclesia" 19 times)	Throne & church in Heaven; The scroll and Lamb	Lamb opens 7 Seals → 7 Trumpet → 7 Bowls Judgement	Wedding supper of the Lamb in Heaven	The <u>Millenial</u> Kingdom; Satan bound 1000 years	New Heaven New Earth New Jerusalem
"I have the keys of death and Hades". (v18)	7 lampstands are the 7 churches "...I will also keep you from the hour of trial..." (Rev 3:10)	Lamps are before the throne	No church ref "...that is going to come on the whole world to test the inhabitants of the earth." (Rev 3:10)	Christ returns to earth with bride as "KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS"	Great White Throne Judgement; death and Hades thrown into lake of fire.	"I, Jesus, have sent my angel to give you this testimony for the churches." (Rev 22:16a)

NEBUCHADNEZZAR and DANIEL as TYPES; Daniel 3

Image of Gold and the Fiery Furnace	End Times Tribulation
Nebuchadnezzar's gold image (60 cubits high x 6 cubits wide) (Daniel 3:1).	The beasts' number is 666. (Rev 13:18).
All peoples commanded to worship the image when they hear sound of 6 instruments or else be thrown into the fiery furnace. (Daniel 3:4-6)	"All inhabitants of the earth will worship the beast—all whose names have not been written in the Lamb's book of life." (Rev 13:8)
Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego, representing Israel, thrown into the furnace, and are protected. (Daniel 3:20-25)	Israel flees to the "desert to a place prepared for by God" for the 2 nd half of the Tribulation "where she might be taken care of" (Rev 12:6, 14).
Where is Daniel? Daniel represents the church. "The king said to Daniel, "Surely your God is the God of gods and the LORD of kings and a revealer of mysteries, for you were able to reveal this mystery." Then the king placed Daniel in a high position and lavished many gifts on him...Daniel himself remained at the royal court." (Dan 2:48a, 49b).	Where is the church during the Tribulation (Rev 6-19)? "ecclesia" mentioned 19 times before the Tribulation, 1 time after; not during. Lampstands are the churches (Rev 1:20). Lamps are seen in heaven (Rev 4:5). Rewards are given to church (Rev 22:10).

Jewish Wedding Analogy: The Bride of Christ

Step	Jewish Marriage	Church Analogy
1. Marriage Covenant	Groom initiated; Covenant established upon payment for bride; drank same cup	Christ initiated; Christ's sacrificial death (1 Cor. 6:19-20; 11:25)
2. Bride set apart	Exclusively for the groom	Church's positionally sanctified (1 Cor. 1:2; 6:9-11)
3. Bridal chamber prepared	Groom returns to his father's house to prepare bridal chamber	Christ's return to heaven to prepare a place (John 14:2 ; Acts 1:9-11)
4. Betrothal period (u r here)	Loyalty test	Reward determined by orthodoxy and orthopraxy (Jas. 4:4)
5. Bride retrieved	Groom returns at unknown time with a shout and escorts for bride	Rapture at unknown time (John 14:3 ; 1 Thess. 4:16-17)
6. Bride & groom hidden in Father's house for 7 days	Hidden in the Father's house for seven days: three following events transpire	Church hidden from world during Daniel's 70th Week (Rev 3:10)
7. Bride cleansed	Bride's ritual cleansing prior to wedding ceremony	Bema Seat Judgment (1 Cor 3:10-15; 2 Cor 5:10)
8. Wedding ceremony	Meeting with the Father's wedding guests; Private wedding ceremony	Meeting with OT saints (Rev 19:7; Lk 16:22; 23:43; 2 Cor 12:1-4)
9. Consummation	Bride and groom consummate the marriage	"and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless." Eph 5:27
10. Wedding Feast	Public presentation; Bride unveiled	"When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory." Col 3:4 (Rev 19:9)

Renald Showers, Maranatha Our Lord, Come!, 164-69

Adapted from slbc.org

NOAH'S ARK AS A TYPE

2 Peter 2:5-9; Luke 17:26-27

Noah's Generation and the Flood

Noah entered the ark **7 days** before the rains came (Gen 7:1, 4); **an opportunity for repentance** before final judgement.

Righteous Noah and his family "entered the ark to **escape the waters of the flood.**" (Gen 7:1, 4, 7; 2 Peter 2:5)

The **ark** was **above** the **floodwaters** while judgment rained "to destroy all life under the heavens" (Gen 6:17).

"Just as it was in the days of Noah...."

People were living normally, then **judgement came unexpectedly.** (Lk 17:26-27)

Church Age and the Tribulation

Daniel's 70th week lasts **7 years.** (Dan 9:24-27; Rev 6-19). **A great multitude** repent, are martyred, come out of the Tribulation, and are before the throne of God. (Rev 6:9-11; 7:9, 13-15)

"Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath" (1 Thess 1:10; 4:13-5:11; 2 Thess 2:1-3; 2 Peter 2:9; Rev 3:10).

The **church** is **"caught-up"** from judgement coming upon the "inhabitants of the earth". (1 Thess 4:13-5:11; Rev 3:10).

"....so also will it be in the days of the Son of Man." (Lk 17:26-27)

SODOM GOMORROH AS A TYPE

2 Peter 2:6-9; Luke 17:28-30

Lot, and Sodom and Gomorrah

God rescued Lot before Sodom condemned. (2 Peter 2:6-8).

He (the destroying angel) said: "But flee there quickly, because **I cannot do anything until you reach it.**" (Gen 19:22a)

God rescued Lot who was **"tormented in his righteous soul"**..."-if this is so, then the Lord knows how to **rescue the godly from trials** and to hold the **unrighteous for punishment** on the day of judgment." (2 Peter 2:8, 9)

"It was the same in the days of Lot...." People were living normally. **"But the day Lot left Sodom, fire and sulfur rained down from heaven and destroyed them all."** (Lk 17:28, 29). An example of what is going to happen to the ungodly. (2 Peter 2:6)

Church Age and the Tribulation

"Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath" (1 Thess 1:10; 4:13-5:11; 2 Thess 2:1-3; 2 Peter 2:9; Rev 3:10).

"Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come on the whole world to test the inhabitants of the earth." (Rev 3:10)

"It will be just like this the day the Son of Man is revealed." (Luke 17:30)

OUTLINE OF 1 THESSALONIANS 5:1-11 NOT APPOINTED TO SUFFER WRATH

Note the contrasts of those who are in darkness and a part of the night (unbelievers), with those who are NOT in darkness and are children of the light and the day (believers). The contrast between the darkness and the light is not easily missed in the passage; there is no gray area. That is, "They, them, others, those" of the darkness and night vs. "you, we, us" of the light and the day.

1. Regarding Times and Dates of the Day of the Lord (v1)

a. We don't need to write to you (v1)

b. Day of the Lord will come like a "thief in the **night**" (v2)

i. "Thief in the night" reference always applies to unbelievers (Matthew 24:43; Luke 12:39; 1 Thessalonians 5:2, 4; 2 Peter 3:10; Revelation. 3:3; 16:15)

ii. *(It will take them off guard)*

iii. While **they** are saying "Peace and Safety" (v3)

1. The Lamb opens the 1st Seal Judgement: Antichrist revealed (Rev 6:1-2)

2. Israel makes a deal with the devil (Isaiah 28:15, 18; Daniel 9:27a)

a. Isaiah 28:15a..." We have entered into a covenant with death..."

b. Daniel 9:27a "He will confirm a covenant with many for one 'seven.'..."

3. Destruction will come suddenly (v3)

a. The Lamb opens the 2nd Seal Judgement (Rev 6:3-4)

i. takes peace from earth

ii. war and bloodshed

4. Like a pregnant woman in labor, **they** will not escape (v3)

c. But (because) **YOU** are not in darkness

i. This day will not surprise **YOU** like a thief (there will be signs) (v4)

ii. **You** are children of light (v5)

iii. **You** are children of the day (v5)

iv. **We** do not belong to: (5)

1. Night

2. Darkness

2. Application: So then let **US** not be like others

1. Be alert (v6)

2. Be sober (v6, 7)

3. Put on faith as a breastplate (v8) (1 Cor 13, Eph 6)

4. Put on love as a breastplate (v8) (1 Cor 13, Eph 6)

5. Put on hope of salvation as a helmet (v8) (1 Cor 13, Eph 6)

3. Why not be concerned with the Day of the Lord?

a. For God did not appoint **US** to suffer wrath (v9)

b. But to receive salvation through Jesus (v9)

i. *(Salvation from what? See verse 3)*

4. Because: He died for **US**

a. Whether awake or asleep, **we** may live together with him (1 Thessalonians 4:15-17)

b. Therefore, encourage **one another** and build **each other** up (1 Thessalonians 4:18)

OUTLINE OF 1 THESSALONIANS 5:1-11 NOT APPOINTED TO SUFFER WRATH

Paraphrase

You do not need to be concerned about the dates of the Day of the Lord--a time of judgement that will catch those in darkness off guard and of which they will not escape--because you are children of the light and are therefore not appointed to suffer wrath.

Rather, concern yourself with not living like those in darkness, and live like children of the day. Jesus our Lord died for us so that whether we pass away or are still living when he comes for us, we may all live together with him forever. Therefore, encourage one another with these words.

Chronological Prophetic Outline of 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 includes several implied prophecies which are included in the description below, using the 1 Thessalonian 5 passage as the outline.

The Day of the Lord begins with a period of darkness and destruction signifying God's appointed time of wrath and judgement upon the wickedness of an unbelieving world (Isaiah 2:12-21; 13:6, 9-16; 34:1-8; Joel 1:15-2:11, 28-32; 3:9-14; Amos 5:18-20; Obadiah 15-17; Zephaniah 1:7-18). Signposts of the coming Day of the Lord will be seen as the time of the end nears (v4; Daniel 12:4, 8-10; Luke 21:28).

The Day of the Lord begins with the Lamb's opening of the Seal Judgements (Rev 6), revealing the Antichrist (Revelation 13:18) with his signing of a 7-year covenant with Israel bringing a false peace ("Peace and Safety", v3). This covenant allows Israel to rebuild the 3rd-Temple (Dan 9:27a), starting Daniel's 70th week (Daniel 9:24-27) and the time of Jacob's trouble (Jeremiah 30:7; Matthew 24-25).

Peace is suddenly taken away as additional Seal, then Trumpet (Rev 8, 9, 11) and Bowl (Rev 16) Judgements are opened. Those who belong to the night are caught in this period of darkness and will not escape. Children of the day are NOT appointed to this wrath and will escape this time-period (Rev 3:10) via the rapture (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18).

The darkness will end and the Day of the Lord will culminate after the 7-year Tribulation period when, Jesus--the bright Morning Star (Revelation 22:10)--will return triumphantly as the King of Kings and Lord of Lords (Rev 19:11-16) followed by the "armies of heaven" (i.e. believers) to save Israel (Zechariah 12:10; 13:9; Romans 11:25-32). Christ's return will usher in the Millennial Kingdom (Zechariah 14; Revelation 20), and those children of the light will live together with Him forever (1 Thessalonians 4:18; Revelation 21).

In eternity, the New Jerusalem "does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp. The nations will walk by its light..." (Revelation 21:23, 24a).

OUTLINE OF MATTHEW 24-25: THE OLIVET DISCOURSE CONCERNS ISRAEL, NOT THE CHURCH

Introduction:

Many see the rapture of the church in the Olivet Discourse (Matthew 24-25). However, by careful examination of the context, it can be demonstrated that these are not references to the church and the rapture, which Jesus did not disclose teachings about until later in the Passion Week (John 14:1-3). In the entire context, note the Jewishness throughout; the church is not in view.

For instance:

- Matthew 24:31 is not the rapture of the church but a reference to the 2nd coming of Christ to rescue Israel at the end of the Tribulation, Daniel's 70th week.
- Matthew 24:40-41 and 25:1-13 are parables regarding those Jews who are not in belief at the time of Jesus' 2nd coming. They are taken into judgement in contrast to those who are ready and watching for His return.

Various Purposes of Matthew's Gospel:

- To demonstrate that Jesus was the anticipated coming Messiah to Hebrew Christians
- To explain that the kingdom is delayed as a result of the Jewish leadership's rejection of Him
- To describe the provisional program of God while the Messianic Kingdom is in a state of postponement
- To motivate his readers to fulfill this program (i.e., Great Commission)
- To instruct what it means to be a Christ follower, and consequences of not believing

Matthew 21-25 High Level Outline:

1. The Messiah comes; "The Triumphal Entry" (21:1-11)
2. Jesus Clears the Temple (21:12-17)
3. The Messiah is Rejected by Jewish Leadership (21:23 – 23:36)
4. The Kingdom is in a State of Postponement (23:37-39)
5. Jesus Predicts the Destruction of the Temple (70AD) (24:1-2)
6. Disciples ask "When" and "Signs of Your Coming and End of the Age" (24:3)
 - a. Temple Destroyed
 - b. Signs of His Coming to Establish the Kingdom
 - c. Signs of the End of the Age
7. Jesus Answers the Temple's Destruction in Luke's Gospel (70AD) (Luke 21:20-24)
8. Jesus Describes Details of the Tribulation (Daniel's 70th Week) Leading Up to His Return (24:4-29)
 - a. First Half of Tribulation
 - b. Middle of the Tribulation
 - c. Second Half of the Tribulation
9. Jesus Describes His 2nd Coming (24:30-31)
10. Parables For Israel in the Tribulation: Watch and Be Ready for His Return (24:32 – 25:30)
 - a. Those in belief; enter the Millennial Kingdom
 - b. Those in unbelief; taken into judgment
11. Parable of the Sheep and Goat Judgement (for Gentiles) (25:31-46)
 - a. Tribulation Gentile believers demonstrate their faith by caring for the persecuted Jews and will enter the Millennial Kingdom
 - b. Gentiles who do not believe will not care and will go into judgment

OUTLINE OF MATTHEW 24-25: THE OLIVET DISCOURSE CONCERNS ISRAEL, NOT THE CHURCH

1. **The Messiah Comes; "The Triumphal Entry" (Matthew 21:1-11)**
 - a. Jesus enters Jerusalem as the Anointed One leading up to Passover in fulfillment of:
 - i. Predicted 173,880 days in advance, to the day (Daniel 9:25)
 - ii. Entering on a donkey colt (Zech 9:9)
 - iii. The Messianic Psalm "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" (Ps 118:26)

NOTE: The Messianic Kingdom could have started now, but the Jewish leadership rejected Jesus as the Messiah. (See 3. Below). However, their rejection was not a surprise to God such that the church became "plan B". No. God is omniscient, and this was all apart of God's divine plan so that the church would be grafted into the blessings of the New Covenant. (Eph 3:9-12; Rom 11:17-21; Jer 31:31-34; Gen 12:3)
2. **Jesus Clears the Temple (Matthew 21:12-17)**
 - a. "It is written," he said to them, "**My house will be called a house of prayer, but you are making it a den of robbers.**" (v13)
3. **The Messiah is Rejected by Jewish Leadership**
 - a. Chief priests and elders question Jesus' authority. (Matthew 21: 23-27)
 - b. Jesus rebukes the chief priests and elder in 3 parables. (Matthew 21:22-22:14)
 - c. The Pharisees & Sadducees separately try to trap, trick, and test Jesus in his words and fail. (Matthew 22:15-22:40)
 - d. Now Jesus questions the Pharisees and exposes their lack of understanding of the Messiah. (Matthew 22:41-46)
 - e. Jesus pronounces 7-woes against the teachers and Pharisees, referring to them as "blind guides" and "hypocrites". (Matthew 23:1-36)
4. **The Kingdom is in a State of Postponement (Matthew 23:37-39)**

NOTE: The Jewishness of the context in v37-39.

 - a. 37 "O **Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather [episunagó] your children together, as a hen gathers [episunagó] her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing. 38 Look, your house is left to you desolate. 39 For I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.'**" (v37-39)
 - a. "Jerusalem, Jerusalem"
 - b. "gather" in Hebrew is *episunagó*; which is where we get the term "synagogue", where Jews assemble to worship.
 - c. "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord", a Messianic Psalm (Ps 118:26).
 - b. Jesus will return to establish the literal Kingdom on the earth
 - a. Note the word "until".... "For I tell you, you will not see me again **until...**"
 - b. The nation of Israel needs to acknowledge that Jesus is the Messiah.
5. **Jesus Predicts the Destruction of the Temple (70AD) (Matthew 24:1-2)**
 - a. Jesus left the temple and predicts its fall, fulfilled in 70AD when the Romans destroyed Jerusalem and the temple buildings.
6. **Disciples ask "When" and "Signs of Your Coming and End of the Age" (Matthew 24:3)**
 - a. When will the Temple be destroyed (v1-2)
 - b. What will be the sign of his return in reference to his statement "You will not see me again until..." (23:39)
 - c. What will be the sign of the end of the age (i.e., when the present age would end, and the literal Messianic Kingdom would begin on the earth)

NOTE: The "return" spoken of here is Jesus' 2nd coming. The Olivet Discourse occurs on Day 3 of Passion Week. Jesus does not introduce church doctrine—beginning with the rapture—until Day 5, in John 14:1-3, the night before he

OUTLINE OF MATTHEW 24-25: THE OLIVET DISCOURSE CONCERNS ISRAEL, NOT THE CHURCH

is crucified. Recall: the rapture is a rescue of the church, and Jesus' 2nd coming is a rescue of Israel. **The 2nd coming is the return the disciples are asking about because the context is concerning Jesus' return to setup the literal Messianic Kingdom.**

7. **Jesus Answers the Temple's Destruction in Luke's Gospel (70AD)** (Luke 21:20-24)
 - a. Luke's gospel answers the question in 6a.
 - b. Matthew's gospel answers the question in 6b & c.

8. **Jesus Describes Details of the Tribulation (Daniel's 70th Week) Leading Up to His Return** (Matthew 24:4-29)
 - a. **First Half of Tribulation (v4-14)**
 - i. Seal Judgement 1: Antichrist (v4-5; Rev 6:1-2)
 - ii. Seal Judgement 2: Peace Taken; Wars & Rumors of Wars (v6-7a; Rev 6:3-4)
 - iii. Seal Judgements 3&4: Inflation & Famine (v7b; Rev 6:5-6)
 - iv. Seal Judgement 5: Martyrdom (v9-10; Rev 6:9)
 - v. Seal Judgement 6: Earthquakes (v7b; Rev 6:12-14)
 - vi. False prophets (v11; Rev 13:11)
 - b. **"And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come."**
 - i. Preached by whom?
 1. 144,000 **Jewish** evangelists (Rev 7, 14)
 2. 2 witnesses in **Jerusalem** (Rev 11)
 3. 3 Angels (Rev 14:6)
 - a. Then I saw another angel flying in midair, and he had the eternal **gospel** to proclaim to those who live on the earth—to **every nation, tribe, language and people.**
 4. Why is there a need for the 144K, 2 witnesses, and angels if the church is still on the earth? (It's not on the earth and is in heaven as a result of the rapture, hence the need.)
 5. *"This verse does not teach that the gospel of God's grace must be spread to every nation today before Jesus can return for His church (i.e., the rapture). It is the Lord's return **at the end of the age** that is in view here." Warren Wiersbe, The Bible Exposition Commentary: Matthew, pg 87*
 - c. **Middle of the Tribulation (v15-20)**

NOTE: The continued Jewish language and context.

 - i. Antichrist breaks the 7-year covenant with Israel and desecrates the temple (v15; Dan 9:27).
 - ii. 15 "So when you see standing in the **holy place** 'the abomination that causes desolation,' spoken of through the **prophet Daniel**—let the reader understand—16 then let those who are in **Judea** flee to the mountains."
 - iii. 20 Pray that your flight will not take place in winter or on the **Sabbath.**
 - d. **Second Half of the Tribulation (v21-29)**
 - i. 21 For then there will be great distress, unequalled from the beginning of the world until now—and never to be equaled again. (Jer 30:7; Daniel 12:1)
 - ii. 22 If those days had not been cut short, no one would survive, but for the sake of the **elect** those days will be shortened. (Zechariah 13:8-9)
 1. Keeping with the context, the "elect" are the Jewish remnant who in the end believe as a result of being refined by the Tribulation (Ezekiel 20:33-38; Zech 12:10; Zechariah 13:8-9)

OUTLINE OF MATTHEW 24-25: THE OLIVET DISCOURSE CONCERNS ISRAEL, NOT THE CHURCH

- a. This completes the fulfillment of the New Covenant for Israel. (Jer 31:31-34)
 2. The “elect” is not the church because:
 - a. The church is not the context (see everything above)
 - b. The elect, or chosen, are previously defined in many Old Testament passages as Israel (Deut 7:6-7; Ps 135:4; Isaiah 41:8; 44:1; 45:4; 65:9; 65:22)
 - c. The church is in heaven during the Tribulation
 - iii. Beware of false Christs and prophets (v23-26; Rev 13)
9. **Jesus Describes His 2nd Coming** (Matthew 24:30-31)
- a. Matthew 24:31 is one verse where the rapture of the church is mistakenly seen in the Olivet Discourse, because there is a reference to:
 - i. Jesus coming with the clouds (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17)
 - ii. A trumpet (1 Thessalonians 4:16; 1 Cor 15:52)
 - iii. gathering of the “elect” (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17)
 - b. Matthew 24:30-31

30 "At that time the sign of the **Son of Man** will appear in the sky, and all the nations of the earth will mourn. They will see the **Son of Man** coming on the clouds of the sky, with power and great glory.
31 And he will send his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will **gather** [*episunagō*] his **elect** from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other.
 - c. **Matthew 24:31 is the 2nd Coming, not the rapture because:**
 - i. Context; see all references above point to Israel.
 - ii. The name “Son of Man” is a dead-give-away for the 2nd coming as it is a reference to Daniel 7:13, when the Messiah returns to establish his kingdom.
 - iii. The trumpet in v31 is not the rapture trumpet, but the trumpet of Isaiah 27:13.
 - iv. Gather—pointing back to the gathering Jesus spoke of in Matthew 23:37. (see also Psalm 106:47; 147:2; Isaiah 11:11-12)
 - v. Elect—referring to the Jewish remnant (Matthew 23:37; Zech 12:10; 13:8-9)
 - vi. “...As a hen gathers her chicks under wings...”—note the imagery from Jesus in Matthew 23:37.
 1. How does a hen gather her chicks? **Horizontally**, with her wings spread out. (Deut 32:11)
 2. The rapture of the church is a **vertical** gathering.

10. Parables For Israel in the Tribulation: Watch and Be Ready for His Return

NOTE: What follows are several parables Jesus gives to warn Israel in the Tribulation to not be like the 1st century Jewish leaders who missed His 1st coming, but rather to be **watching** and **ready** for His **2nd coming** (because of the signs listed above); otherwise they will be caught off guard and be taken into judgement because there will be a breaking-off of unbelieving Israel from believing Israel. Only believing Israel will enter the Millennial Kingdom, and unbelieving Israel will be taken into judgement. (Ezek 20:33-38; Zech 12:10; 13:8-9) In contrast, **we are to wait** for Him to **rapture the church** (1 Thess 1:10; Titus 2:13; Heb 9:28), because the rapture is signless and imminent.

a. **The Parable of the Fig Tree** (Matthew 24:32-35)

- i. The **generation** that “**sees all these things**”, will **not pass away until all these things have happened.** (v33-34)
- ii. What “**generation**” will not pass away?
 1. A “dangerous” place to identify the generation in v32 is to say the generation that sees the restoration of Israel in 1948 or the recapture of Jerusalem in 1967.
 - a. Then add 70 or 80 years. (Ps 90:10)
 - b. Doing so implies date setting, which we cannot do.

OUTLINE OF MATTHEW 24-25: THE OLIVET DISCOURSE CONCERNS ISRAEL, NOT THE CHURCH

2. The correct starting point is v15: **"So when you see standing in the holy place...."**
 - a. This generation that begins by seeing the temple desecrated by the Antichrist will not pass away.
 - b. They will experience intense persecution so badly (Rev 12) that those days will be cut short, otherwise no one would survive. (v21-22)
- b. **A Parable to the Days of Noah; Rapture or Judgement?** (Matthew 24:36-42)
 - i. **"No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father."** (v36)

NOTE: *"Though the time of the coming of the Lord may be recognized as about to happen, details are not given in such clarity that one can determine the day or the hour. Needless speculation concerning the time of the coming of the Lord could be avoided if this verse were taken literally.*

Jesus of course, was referring here to His human intelligence, which was limited, not to his divine omniscience." –John Walvoord, *Every Prophecy of the Bible*, pg 381

NOTE: 2000+ years ago, Jesus—in his human limitation—did not know when the Antichrist would sign the 7-year covenant with Israel, but only the Father in heaven. In the Tribulation, the "wise" will understand (Dan 12:8-10) and be able to ascertain the approximate timing of His 2nd coming because they will have the knowledge of Daniel's 70 weeks (Daniel 9:24-27) and of the 7-year covenant Israel signs with the Antichrist.

NOTE: Many good Bible teachers suggest this parable is the rapture, however, many others do not.

ii. **Reasons this parable is not a rapture passage:**

1. Jesus has not disclosed rapture teaching until the Upper Room Discourse, Day 5 of Passion Week, in John 14.
2. In the days of Noah, those **taken in judgement** by the flood were oblivious to the coming judgement. (v37-38)
 - a. **"...and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man."** (v39)
 - b. 40 **"Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left."**
 - c. 41 **"Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left."**
 - d. Note that when comparing v40 and 41 to the Days of Noah, when the Son of Man comes (i.e., the 2nd coming at the end of the Great Tribulation) being "taken" means taken into judgement just like in the flood.
 - e. In this case, those "left behind" enter the Millennial Kingdom.
3. Reference to the Son of Man (v39) is a reference to Daniel 7:13, the 2nd coming of Christ to establish the Millennial Kingdom.
4. Luke's parallel passage 17:37:
 - a. Disciples ask "Where (are they taken)?"
 - b. Jesus answers, **"Where there is a dead body, there the vultures will gather"**, which is a euphemism for judgement.
5. Consistent with other judgements in Matthew where those "taken" are taken into judgement; those who remain inherit the kingdom
 - a. Parable of the Wheat and the Weeds (Matt 13:30, 40-43)
 - b. Parable of the Net (Matt 13:47-50)
 - c. The Sheep and Goats Judgement (Matt 25:34, 41, 46)
6. Context
 - a. See all references above point to Israel.
 - b. **All Scripture is beneficial for us, but it may not be about us.**
 - c. *"The conclusion for those living at the time of the second coming is similar to that of the time of Noah: "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come" (v42). Though the passage is talking about the second*

OUTLINE OF MATTHEW 24-25: THE OLIVET DISCOURSE CONCERNS ISRAEL, NOT THE CHURCH

coming of Christ and not the period preceding the rapture, if those living in the period before the second coming—who are able to see signs of the second coming indicating its approach—should be watching, how much more should those waiting for the rapture, which has no signs, live in constant expectation of the imminent return of Jesus for His church.” –John Walvoord, Every Prophecy of the Bible, pg 383

- c. **Parable of the Homeowner** (Matthew 24:43-44)
 - i. Jesus warns Israel to **watch** and be **ready** for his His 2nd coming so they are not caught off guard like a thief coming in the night.
- d. **Parable of the Servant Put in Charge of the Master’s House** (Matthew 24:45-50)
 - i. Jesus warns of judgement for unbelieving Israel (v51) and blessing for believing Israel (v47).
 - ii. Application is to be a **faithful servant** and be busy about the Lord’s business in preparation for His return.
 - 1. Although the context was a message for Israel, we can apply the exhortation as individual members of the church.
- e. **Parable of the Ten Virgins; the rapture?** (Matthew 25:1-13)

NOTE: Some see the rapture of the church in this parable, however, it does not fit the context.

 - i. **Reasons this parable is not the rapture:**
 - 1. Context. See all references above point to Israel; therefore, it is regarding the 2nd coming.
 - 2. Jesus has not yet disclosed teaching about the rapture until Day 5 of Passion Week, in the Upper Room Discourse, in John 14:1-3.
 - 3. There is no translation of the body or resurrection (i.e., qualities of the rapture).
 - 4. The Bridegroom comes to the earth (v10); in the rapture, Jesus comes in the air.
 - 5. The church is sometimes referred to as the bride of Christ (2 Cor 11:2).
 - a. Although this passage has the Bridegroom (Jesus), however, the subject of this parable are 10 virgins or attendants at the wedding; there is no bride.
 - i. Five of the virgins **are prepared** (in belief), having oil trimmed in their lamps
 - ii. Five **are unprepared** (in unbelief)
 - 6. Application is for Israel to be **prepared** and in belief **watching** for Lord’s 2nd coming.
 - i. Although the context is a message for Israel, we can indirectly apply the exhortation as individual members of the church to be spiritually vigilant as we wait for the blessed hope. (Titus 2:12-13)
- f. **Parable of the Talents** (Matthew 25:14-30)
 - i. Jesus warns Israel to **be in faith** and **be a good steward** of the things the Lord has given in anticipation of his return.
 - ii. Those in Israel not in faith at Jesus’ 2nd coming will be taken into judgement.
 - 1. Although contextually this message is for Israel in the Tribulation, as members of the church we can indirectly apply principles of stewardship from this passage.
 - 2. Scriptures of stewardship that apply directly to the church at the Bema Seat Judgement (1 Cor 3:10-15; 4:2; 2 Cor 5:10; Rom 14:10-12; 1 John 2:28)

NOTE: The Bema Seat Judgement applies to the church. It is not a “judgment” in the negative sense but is a judgement in the sense of rewards. Our “works” will be tested by fire and those which are done in Christ will be rewarded.

11. **Parable of the Sheep and Goat Judgement (for Gentiles)** (Matthew 25:31-46)

OUTLINE OF MATTHEW 24-25: THE OLIVET DISCOURSE CONCERNS ISRAEL, NOT THE CHURCH

- a. Jesus takes his rightful throne beginning the Millennial Kingdom in fulfillment of Davidic Covenant (2 Samuel 7:12-16)
 - i. 31 "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his throne in heavenly glory."
- b. Judgement of the Gentile nations
 - i. 32 All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.
- c. **The Sheep:** Tribulation Gentile believers demonstrate their faith by caring for the persecuted Jews during the Tribulation and will enter the Millennial Kingdom to repopulate the earth (v34-40)
 - i. 40 "The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of **these brothers of mine**, you did for me.' (Jesus' brothers are the Jews).
- d. **The Goats:** Gentiles who do not believe will not care and will go into judgment
 - i. 45 "He will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.'

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