

Q & A Series

The Great Tribulation; Pre, Mid or Post

1 Thessalonians 4: 16-18

Supporting Scripture

Question: *Is there any way to positively determine whether the Rapture of the church is pre or post Tribulation?*

Let's get our definitions straight.

What do we mean by the Rapture?

What do we mean by the Tribulation?

Why a Rapture?

- It is a _____ teaching. **1 Thes 4:18**
- Before God's wrath, he will _____. **1 Thes 5:9**

Pre, Mid or Post?

Why Pastor Bill is Pre-Rapture.

- **1 Thessalonians does not say Jesus returns to _____.**
1 Thes 4: 17
- **Jesus' return is a _____.** **1 Thes 5:2**

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Message Application:

When I was a pre-teen my mother would do the family grocery shopping on Saturday morning. This weekly chore would keep her from the house for

approximately three hours. My sister Evelyn and I also had chores to do while my mother was doing her chores. Saturday morning was reserved for us children to clean the house. Dusting, vacuuming, mopping, cleaning windows and any other work my mother added to the list was done during our mom's absence. If the chores were not completed we would be in trouble.

What my sister and I discovered was if we worked as a team, then we could get our work done within the first hour or so. This left about 2 hours or so to do _____ . You fill in the blank.

It isn't that we did terribly wrong things; it was that we did things we weren't supposed to do. Sometimes this would be going through our parents' things. One time my 16 year old sister decided it was a good day to teach her 12 year old brother how to drive the extra car. Another time we started messing with my dad's tools and broke one. Or we broke a knickknack of my mother's. The point is we knew our time frame. We knew just about the exact hour of her return. We knew when we had to clean up and get things straight or hide what was broken. We usually got away with our bad actions.

This brings me to why I believe in the Pre-Tribulation Rapture. The Mid-Tribulation Rapture shows us exactly when our Lord is coming. Three and a half years into the Tribulation we know Jesus will return. There are Scriptures that tell us differently.

2 for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. 1 Thessalonians 5:2 NIV

36 "But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Matthew 24: 36 NIV

Also check out: 2 Peter 3:10, Acts 1:17, Revelation 3:3. There are other passages that speak that we are not going to know the day and hour of Christ's return. If we knew dear friend we would act like me and my sister. We would live like the world until we needed to straighten out. What pathetic believers we would be! Many of us already acted like Jesus will never return. How worse if we knew a final countdown.

Yes, Jesus gives his church warning of his coming wrath; but he also promises to keep us from the coming wrath. Now he wants us to live in light of his wrath and in light of the unknown time of his return in order to have a sense of urgency to fulfill our commission.

The other two views do away with the unexpected element of Jesus' return for his church, his bride!

This week please meditate on this thought. *“What would I do, how would I live, who would I tell the Gospel to if I knew Jesus was coming at the end of the week?”*

Then my friend live doing the What, How and Who question all week and every week till he snatches his church from this world! Can you just imagine how we would change our world for Christ?

Grace & Peace

Wm. Lyons