Seven Proofs Of A Post Tribulation Rapture

By Evangelist Gary Reckart
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1.) Jesus said his followers would suffer tribulation and predicted the post tribulation rapture.
2.) The Apostle Paul predicted the appearance of the man of sin before the rapture.
3.) The rapture will not take place before the first resurrection which takes place after the great tribulation.
4.) Jesus has not come back like a thief just prior to the battle of Armageddon.
5.) The rapture takes place at the sound of the last trump which is the seventh trumpet.
6.) The saints in Revelation 7:14 came through the great tribulation and washed their robes in the blood of the Lamb.
7.) The day of the Lord and the rapture are the same event which takes place after the tribulation.

1.) Jesus said his followers would suffer tribulation and predicted the post tribulation rapture.

“These things have I spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world” (John 16:33).

“Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of heaven shall be shaken. And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory” (Matthew 24:29-30).

This past week I attended an Apostolic church in Clearwater, Florida where the pre-tribulation rapture was being taught by UPC minister Brother Stevens. I asked him about Matthew 24:29-30 and he said two things that shocked me. First, he said Matthew 24 was not for the Church it was only for the Jews. Second, he said if the Church must go through tribulation it is the same as Jesus beating his bride and making her all bloody before he will receive her.

I want to start off my presentation on the Seven Proofs Of The Post Tribulation Rapture by saying both of his statements were not true.

Matthew 24 does concern the Church. And the idea that if members of the Church suffer persecution, abuse, torture, and even death, that this will void a person being in the Bride of Christ is insane. I have studied early Church history and it is filled with violence against the Church and the people of God. What can possibly happen in the endtimes and the coming great tribulation that has not already happened to saints in previous centuries?
Consider the killing of James the brother of John. The killing of Stephen. The persecution of Christians so that in Acts 8:4 with the rampage of Saul, they were scattered and had fled and were in hiding. Paul tells how he shut up many in prison and gave witness against them when they were put to death. Saul was an antichrist then. No one can read the book of Acts and not see the tribulation that was upon the Church. To say these cannot be in the Bride of Christ because they suffered is insane. There is nothing that will happen during the coming great tribulation that has not already happened to many hundreds and thousands of Christians.

The first proof of a post tribulation rapture is given by Jesus himself. He will not come back until after the tribulation mentioned in the previous verses. At his coming after the tribulation, when the sign of his appearing is seen in the heavens the tribes of the earth will mourn. The angels will come with the great sound of the trumpet. They will gather the elect which is the Church up to Jesus in the air. This is the rapture. And it takes place after the tribulation.

2.) The Apostle Paul predicted the appearance of the man of sin before the rapture.

"Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition" (2Thes 2:3).

This man of sin, the son of perdition, is the coming antichrist world ruler. He is the second beast of Revelation chapter 13. It is he who will be worshipped as a false christ. He will be a false Jewish messiah. He will deceive the Jews and the world. An image of him will be made and many will worship it. His name will be great and many will receive his name. His name will equal 666 by some numerology calculation. And many may even take this number as the mark of the beast.

Paul warned the Christians that this day will not come, the day this man of sin will be revealed, until there is first a falling away. And then the man of sin will be revealed. Therefore, the Church will be here during the coming and rise to power of the antichrist. The falling away here must be many Apostolics as well as other denominations joining with this antichrist and departing from Jesus. Some how, Jesus will become rejected. We do not know right now how. But we know the falling away must be from Jesus. Paul mentions about those who falling away in Hebrews 6:4-6. I believe we will see all this happen sometime in the future. The Apostolic churches will change drastically and backslide. They will be ready for the antichrist when he comes. And many will deny Jesus and accept this new world messiah.

The fact the Church is still here and the falling away from it to the antichrist, is my second proof of the rapture after the tribulation.

3.) The rapture will not take place before the first resurrection which takes place after the great tribulation.

One of the things that shocked me by Brother Stevens was his claim that the first resurrection was divided up into sections or parts. He said the first part are the Christians who will be resurrected before the tribulation at the rapture. And then the second part will be the Jews who will be resurrected after
the tribulation. He said this is what is meant by the words: “Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection” (Revelation 20:6).

This interpretation cannot be any thing but a perversion of this text. The “part” here has to do with a person being included, and by being in the resurrection takes part in the resurrection with other resurrected believers. To use “part” to cut up the first resurrection into two different resurrections is false.

There will be no rapture until the first resurrection takes place. And the first resurrection does not take place until after the coming tribulation. The reason I am so confident in the post tribulation resurrection is because of some who are in this event. John says in chapter 20:4:

“I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark in their foreheads, or in their hands.”

These are in the first resurrection. And if these are in the first resurrection, the rapture and resurrection cannot take place until after they die. This means proof number three shows us the rapture is not until after the reign of the antichrist.

4.) Jesus has not come back like a thief just prior to the battle of Armageddon.

Brother Stevens kept going on and on about the rapture and Jesus coming as a thief. His intention was the secret rapture. He said the rapture could take place any second. I have heard this all my life. He said all of prophecy that needs to be fulfilled has already been fulfilled and there is nothing holding back the coming of Jesus except the hour he chooses to come. Of course many were instantly in great fear. The trumpet blast could happen before we got home. But it didn’t.

I remember a few weeks back when I was studying about the coming of Jesus like a thief. I did a check of the concordance and found Revelation 16:15:

“Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepest his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame.”

How many times will Jesus come as a thief?

What shocked me about his not coming yet as a thief, was the fact this was just prior to the battle of Armageddon. I knew then, the rapture would not take place before the tribulation. I knew then Jesus coming back like a thief was not a secret rapture before the tribulation. Sure, as of now I do not have all the answers, but I do know there is no secret rapture before the tribulation.

5.) The rapture takes place at the sound of the last trump which is the seventh trumpet.

“In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed” (1Cor 15:52).
The exact place in prophecy when Jesus will come back is locked into the last trump. This is the same trumpet sound Jesus spoke about in Matthew 24:31. The trumpet that signals the coming of Jesus after the tribulation is the LAST TRUMPET to sound before he comes back. Therefore, the last trump of Paul and the great trumpet Jesus spoke about, are the one and same trumpet.

There cannot be a last trump before the tribulation and then another last trumpet after the tribulation. There can only be one last trump or trumpet. And it is after the tribulation.

It was then I found Revelation 10:7:

“But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God should be finished, as he hath declared to his servants the prophets.”

The last trump is the seventh trumpet.

Now what is this mystery that is now ended? Paul tells us about it in 1Cor 15:51 and it is the resurrection. There is an additional mystery associated here and it is found in Col 1:27:

“To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentile; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory”

The hope of glory can only be realized at the rapture and resurrection. And this mystery is guaranteed to end when Jesus comes and the last trump is sounded.

6.) The saints in Revelation 7:14 came through the great tribulation and washed their robes in the blood of the Lamb.

In the pre-tribulation theory the rapture ends New Testament salvation. All who are saved during the great tribulation will be saved by joining the Jews and law-keeping. I have heard it said over and over, if you miss the rapture your only hope is to join with the Jews. This was said to reinforce the doctrine that salvation by grace, Calvary, and Acts 2:38 ceases with the rapture.

But there is a big problem here with this doctrine. In Revelation 7:14, those who are saved who came through the great tribulation are said to have washed their robes in the blood of the Lamb. For we Apostolics the washing by the blood of the Lamb takes place at water baptism. And if there is a great multitude from all nations who have been blood washed, it means they were baptized in Jesus name.

These who were baptized in Jesus name during the tribulation time are not Jews. They are not left-behind Gentiles who missed the rapture. The verse says they were from all nations:

“And after this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, and palms in their hands” (Rev 7:9).

Please notice these were given white robes, and the ones in verse 13 have white robes, proving they are the same people.
This proves the theory salvation ends at the pre-tribulation rapture and there is no more any who are saved by the blood of Jesus is false. And it proves it is false that only Jews and Gentiles converted to law-keeping after the rapture are saved.

Those who come through the great tribulation will be in the Church and have been baptized in Jesus name. They are then blood washed in their baptism. And this proves the rapture is after the tribulation. This is why they “CAME THROUGH THE GREAT TRIBULATION” and were not save out of it before it began.

7.) The day of the Lord and the rapture are the same event which takes place after the tribulation.

“The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before that great and notable day of the Lord come” (Acts 2:20).

This is Peter quoting from the prophecy of Joel. He tells us that from the time of the outpouring of the Holy Ghost began there in Jerusalem, it will continue until the day of the Lord.

We know the day of the Lord comes as a thief in the night (1Thes 5:2). The day of the Lord shall not come until there is a falling away first and the antichrist is revealed (2Thes 2:2-4).

The day of the Lord and the rapture are the same day. And this is proven to be after the great tribulation. The day of the Lord cannot be before the tribulation. Otherwise the sun turning dark would take place before the tribulation. The sun does not turn dark until after the tribulation:

“Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened” (Matthew 24:29a).

The day of the Lord is at the end of the tribulation. It is the very time of the resurrection. Before there will be a rapture there will be a resurrection.

As I write this and prepare to send it out to many of you Pastors and Ministers, I pray that the truth of the post-tribulation rapture becomes more and more clear. I was once a pre-tribulation believer. I was raised in this doctrine. I never heard of a post-tribulation rapture. I know many of you have not as well. I know if Jesus can show this to me, he can show it to you.

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The above address is no longer good.
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