

Are you waiting for the Rapture?

By Rabbi Samuel P Thompson

For many years I believed in what some call the rapture, in other words Messiah Yahshua would rapture or take his people off the earth just before the great Tribulation into Heaven for seven years, to return back to the Earth at the end of the Great Tribulation to rule and reign with Him a thousand years.

However in these past few years I believe that Messiah Yahshua has revealed to me the truth of this great and wonderful event that is to take place in the not too distant future.

The following scriptures from the Word of Yahweh will undoubtedly as it did me reveal to you the reader that the catching away of the elect will be immediately after the Great Tribulation and not prior or before or in the middle of the Tribulation as some may believe this is known also as the First Resurrection **Revelation 20:4-6**.

Revelation 20:5-6

4 And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and mishpat (judgement) was given to them: and I saw the beings of them that were beheaded for the witness of Yahshua, and for the word of Yahshua, and who had not worshipped the beast, or his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Moshiach a thousand years.

5 This is the first resurrection. (But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished.)

6 Blessed and kadosh (Set Apart) is he that has part in the first resurrection: on such the second death has no power, but they shall be Kohanim (Priests) of Yahweh and of Moshiach and shall reign with Him a thousand years.

Introduction:

There are three basic Rapture theories that are out there today they are as follows:

1) Pre-Tribulation Rapture:

These believers teach that Messiah Yahshua will Rapture or catch away his Followers (Saints) Immediately before the seven years of tribulation they will dwell in heaven to come back with Messiah Yahshua at the end of the Tribulation.

2) Mid-Tribulation Rapture:

These believers teach that Messiah Yahshua will Rapture or catch away his Followers (Saints) in the middle of the Great Tribulation before all the terrible things really start to begin on earth.

3) Post-Tribulation Rapture:

These believers teach that Messiah Yahshua will Rapture his Followers (Saints) immediately after the Great Tribulation they will meet Messiah Yahshua in the air to come back to Jerusalem to Rule and reign With him for One Thousand years known as the Millennial reign of Messiah Yahshua.

You may ask which one of these is correct? My answer is simply the one that is supported by Scripture from the word of Yahweh.

There are also several other Rapture theories that many falsely believe however, the ones I have just described are the three most believed by many.

The Prophet Daniel saw a vision that the first resurrection would take place after the Great Tribulation, Yahshua taught that the first resurrection would also take place immediately after the Tribulation and the disciples also believed and taught it the Apostle John also saw a vision and Prophetised these things that would come to pass.

The word Rapture is not found anywhere in the scriptures however the scriptures speak of the First Resurrection which takes place immediately after the Tribulation in **Revelation 20:5**.

So which is correct?

None of the above there is No Rapture

There is only what is known as the First Resurrection as described in the above scriptures therefore not one of the three basic rapture theories are correct or biblical whatsoever and I intend on bringing out scripture to back up my statement of belief.

Please note that scriptures come from "Restoration Scriptures True Name Edition" (RSTNE) and other translations as required.

Proverbs 10:30

30 The tzadik (Righteous) shall never be shaken: but the wicked shall not inhabit the earth

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The Word of the Yahweh tells us from Proverbs that the righteous will never be shaken or in other translations “removed” in my understanding, never means never, it doesn't say may not which gives us a reason to think otherwise however it says **THE RIGHTOUS WILL NEVER BE REMOVED.**

Proverbs 3:25 -26

25 *Be not afraid of sudden fear, neither of the desolation of the wicked, when it Comes.*

26 *For Yahweh shall be your confidence, and shall guard your foot from being taken.*

Yahweh tells us again in Proverbs that we must not be afraid when these times come He will be our confidence and will keep us from being taken.

If Yahweh is going to keep us from being taken if this refers to rapture then it doesn't sound to me that Yahweh is in it because Yahweh is going to keep us from being taken.

Note: The word taken throughout these next few scriptures does not refer to being taken in the rapture as some have wrongly believed and taught, but when the wicked and unrighteous are taken through death.

Matthew 13:37-51:

37 *He answered and said to them, He that sows the tov (good) zera(seed) is the Ben Ahdahm (Son of Man);*

38 *The field is the olam hazeh (World); the tov (good) zera (seed) are the children of the malchut (Kingdom); but the tares are the children of the wicked one;*

39 *The enemy that sowed them is s.a.tan; the harvest is the end of the olam hazeh (world); and the reapers are the heavenly malachim (messengers).*

40 *As the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it be at the end of the olam hazeh (world).*

41 *The Ben Ahdahm (Son of Man) shall send forth His heavenly malachim (Messengers), and they shall gather out of His malchut (Kingdom) all things that offend, and those who do Torah-less-ness;*

42 *And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: where there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.*

43 *Then shall the tzadikim (righteous) shine forth as the sun in the malchut (Kingdom) of their Abba. He, who has ears to hear, let him hear.*

44 *Again, the malchut ha shamayim(Kingdom of Heaven) is like a treasure hidden in a field; which when a man has found, he hides, and because of simcha goes and sells all that he has, and buys that single field.*

45 *Again, the malchut ha shamayim (Kingdom of Heaven) is like a merchant, seeking precious pearls:*

46 *Who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it.*

47 *Again, the malchut ha shamayim (Kingdom of Heaven) is like a net that was cast into the sea, and gathered in every kind:*

48 *Which, when it was full, they drew to shore, and sat down, and gathered the tov (good) into vessels, but took the bad away.*

49 *So shall it be at the end of the olam hazeh (world): the heavenly malachim (messengers) shall come forth, and separate the wicked from among the tzadikim (righteous),*

50 *And shall cast them into the furnace of fire: where there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.*

51 *Yahshua said to them, have you understood all these things? They said to Him, Oh yes, Master.*

So you can see clearly by this parable that Messiah Yahshua gave his disciples that he will not take his people to heaven, but he will take the unrighteous and evil out from amongst his people.

Luke 17:34 "I say to you, in that night there shall be two in one bed, the one shall be taken and the other shall be left.

Luke 17:35 "Two shall be grinding together, the one shall be taken and the other shall be left.

Luke 17:36 "Two shall be in the field, the one shall be taken and the other shall be left."

Luke 17:37 And they answering, said to Him, "Where, Master?" And He said to them, "Where the body is, there also the eagles shall be gathered together."

The above scriptures tell us one will be left and the other taken, in verse thirty seven the disciples asked Messiah Yahshua where these will be taken.

Messiah Yahshua replies where ever you see the dead bodies gathered you will see the eagles flying in other words they will be taken through death and not as most have believed the rapture.

Psalms 37:7-11

7 *Rest in YHWH, and wait patiently for Him: do not be moved because of him who prospers in his halacha, because of the man who brings wicked plans to pass.*

8 Cease from anger, and forsake anger: do not be moved by any means to do evil.

9 For evildoers shall be cut off; but those that wait upon YHWH, they shall inherit the earth.

10 For yet a little while, and the wicked shall be no more: yes, you shall diligently consider his place, and it shall not be.

11 But the meek shall inherit the earth; and shall delight themselves in the abundance of shalom.

It is very clear in the above passage of scriptures the wicked will be cut off from the earth and the righteous will inherit the earth.

2 Corinthians 11:3-4

3 But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Chavah (Eve) through his tricks, so your minds should also be corrupted a way from the simplicity that is in Moshiach.

4 For when someone comes and proclaims another Yahshua, whom we have not proclaimed, or if you receive another ruach, which you have not before received, or another Besorah, which you have not before accepted, sometimes you still put up with it

Rabbi Sha'ul tells us here that we must not be like Eve, whom s.a.tan fooled and tricked into believing something she was not allowed to do that it was alright to do it, just like in the days of the Great Tribulation the Anti Messiah will persuade and trick people into believing he is the true Messiah and will even try to fool the very elect **Matthew 24:24.**

Proverbs 2:21-22

21 For the upright shall dwell on the earth, and the perfect shall remain in it.

22 But the wicked shall be cut off from the earth, and the transgressors shall be rooted out of it.

The Bible tells us that the straight or up right will dwell in the earth and the perfect will be left in it, however the wicked and wrong shall be cut off from the earth and sinners will be removed.

So the children of Yahweh will not be removed (raptured) out of the earth before the Great Tribulation in the middle of the tribulation or even after as some would think but the wicked will be removed through death.

10 Because you have kept the word of my endurance, I also will shomer (Keep) you in the hour of testing, which shall come upon all of the olam hazeh, to test them that dwell in the olam (earth).

11 see I come quickly: hold fast to what you have, that no man takes your keter.

12 Him that overcomes will I make a pillar in the Mishkan of My Eloah, and he shall go out no more: and I will write upon him the Name of My Eloah, and the name of the city of My Eloah, which is the Renewed Yahrushalayim, which comes down out of the shamayim from My Eloah: and I will write upon him My renewed Name.

Some people that believe in the Pre-Tribulation theory of the rapture use **Revelation 3:10** as their main scripture of support saying that Messiah Yahshua will keep us from that hour of temptation and say that this refers to being taken in the rapture before the Tribulation begins this is in fact very far from truth.

Notice it says He will keep us from that hour meaning he will help us and protect us through that hour⁴ it does not say he will remove us from the earth and take us to heaven before that hour. Just like the scripture we read earlier in **Proverbs 3:26** which says:

Proverbs 3:26

26 For YHWH shall be your confidence, and shall guard your foot from being taken.

When Messiah Yahshua says he will keep His Followers at Philadelphia from that hour of temptation it is not referring to rapture out the Followers but keeping them from the punishment that the wicked would receive.

Footnote: ⁴Matthew 24:5 & 23-24, John 5:43. ⁴ Restoration Scriptures True Name Edition (RSTNE) Page 963 Footnote 5 says: Divine protection during the Great Tribulation, and the "Day of YHWH" and certainly not a reference to the so-called "rapture"

If we then look at verse 11 & 12 it says that he "I come quickly" so it is anticipated that he is coming so we are waiting not coming with him in that sense.

If we notice he that overcometh, overcometh what? The Great Tribulation and the mark of the beast etc. **2 Thessalonians 2:1-4**,

1 Now we urge you, Yisraelite brothers, by the coming of our Master Yahshua ha Moshiach, and by our gathering together to Him,

2 That you be not soon shaken in mind, or troubled, neither by any ruach, nor by man's word, nor by letter as from us, that the Yom of Moshiach's coming is at hand.

3 Let no man deceive you by any means: for that Yom shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin will be revealed, the son of perdition;

4 Who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called Eloah, or that is worshipped; so that he showing himself as Eloah sits in the Hekel of Eloah, declaring himself to be Eloah.

We firstly see in verse one about the coming of our Messiah Yahshua this refers to the second coming after the seven year tribulation period the gathering together of the people of Yahweh is at the last trump also known as the first resurrection or in other words the Dead in Messiah will be resurrected and we which are alive and remain will be caught up together with them to meet Messiah Yahshua in the air.

That day or the Great & terrible day of the Yahweh or in other words that day will be great for Yahweh and His people but terrible for the unrighteous which refers to that day when the Messiah Yahshua comes in the clouds and the whole earth will see Him and he shall gather his elect (All twelve Tribes of Israel) from the four corners of the earth **Matthew 24:31** this day will not come until the Anti Messiah is revealed and sits in the Temple in Jerusalem and claims to be Yahweh, now we know that from the Scriptures that this will happen in the last three and a half year period of the Great Tribulation.

Revelation 13:7 *And it was given to him to make war with the Yisraelite kidushim, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all tribes and tongues and nations.*

Revelation 13:8 *And all that dwell in the olam shall worship him, whose names are not written in the Scroll of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the olam.*

We can see here from these two verses that the Anti Messiah will be given power to make war with the Saints (The Followers of Yahshua or all twelve tribes of Israel) so this means the Followers or the Saints will be on earth at the time of the Great Tribulation.

Footnote: Some texts read sin instead of lawlessness. This man might be the same one we read of in the prophecy in Isaiah. 14:12 – Hēlēl (“Heileil”), means “the shining one,” the sovereign of Babel. Whoever it may be it will be s.a.tan possessed.

Notice how it says that all those that dwell on the earth will worship the Anti Messiah as Yahweh who is not written in the Lambs book of life this is because the Saints or the Followers will know who this man is and that he is not Yahweh and refuse to worship him.

Revelation 7:10-17

10 *And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our Eloah who sits upon the kesay, and to the Lamb.*

11 *And all the heavenly malachim stood around the kesay, and the zechanim and the four creatures, and fell before the kesay on their faces, and worshipped YHWH,*

12 *Saying, Amein! Blessing and tifereth and hodu and honor and power and might, be to our Eloah le-olam-va-ed. Amein.*

13 *And one of the zechanim answered, saying to me, Who are these who are arrayed in white robes? And where did they come from?*

14 *And I said to him, Sir, you know. And he said to me, These are those who came out of the Great Tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the dahm of the Lamb.*

15 *Therefore are they before the kesay of YHWH, and serve Him day and night in His Mishkan: and He that sits on the kesay shall dwell among them.*

16 *They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat.*

17 *For the Lamb who is in the midst of the kesay shall feed them, and shall lead them to living fountains of mayim: and YHWH shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.*

The Multitudes are the Saints or the Followers of Messiah Yahshua that will come out of the Great Tribulation, that remained faithful to the one true Elohim of Israel our Messiah Yahshua who is fully Yahweh.

They shall worship before His throne forever, they will no more hunger or thirst and all the tears he shall wipe away from their eyes, because believe you me there will be allot of tears from the Saints throughout the Great Tribulation not forgetting the tears of Joy when we finally see our Messiah Yahshua in the air.

Acts 14:22 Exhorting the talmidim, and reminding them to continue in the emunah, and that we must through great tribulation enter into the malchut of YHWH.

The Apostles believed that the Coming of the Messiah Yahshua would happen in their day and that they would through much tribulation enter the Kingdom of Elohim that Messiah Yahshua would establish here on earth.

Footnote: 6 **RSTNE Revelation 7:9 Pages 965 footnote 8**-Believers that were martyred-not raptured-during the Great Tribulation.

1 Corinthians 15:50-58

50 *Now this I say, Yisraelite brothers, that flesh and dahm cannot inherit the malchut of YHWH; neither does corruption inherit incorruption.*

51 *Behold, I show you a sod mystery; we shall not all die, but we shall all be changed,*

52 *In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last shofar: for the shofar shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.*

53 *For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.*

54 So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.

55 O death, where is your sting? O Sheol, where is your victory?

56 The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the Torah violations.

57 But thanks be to YHWH, who gives us the victory through our Master Yahshua ha Moshiach.

58 Therefore, my beloved Yisraelite brothers, be steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the mitzvot and assignments of the Master YHWH, for you must know that your labor is not in vain in Him.

First of all verse fifty says that flesh and blood and corruption cannot inherit the Kingdom of Elohim.

We need to be changed into immortal and pure vessels in order to enter in we first must do this here on earth by being born again of the water and of the Spirit as recorded in **John 3:3-7, and Acts 2:38**.

After we have fulfilled this and live a kadosh life, and being completely submissive to the will of Yahweh and His Torah and go through the Great Tribulation without spot or wrinkle, and without taking the mark of the beast or worshipping the End time Islamic Beast then Messiah Yahshua will change us to be like how he was when he was resurrected over two thousand years ago.

We will have a glorified body meaning that it will not need to sleep eat or drink and we can be with the Messiah Yahshua wherever he is because while we are mortal beings we are limited to where we can be not only by distance but also time.

No more will Death ever have dominion over the people of Yahweh HalleluYah!

1 And I saw a heavenly malach come down from the shamayim, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.

2 And he laid hold of the dragon, that old serpent, who is s.a.tan, and bound him a thousand years,

3 And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, until the thousand years are fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed for a short season.

4 And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and mishpat was given to them: and I saw the beings of them that were beheaded for the witness of Yahshua, and for the word of YHWH, and who had not worshipped the beast, or his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Moshiach a thousand years.

5 This is the first resurrection. (But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished.)

6 Blessed and kadosh is he that has part in the first resurrection: on such the second death has no power, but they shall be Kohanim of YHWH and of Moshiach and shall Reign with Him a thousand years.

The above scriptures refer to the first resurrection this is after the Great Tribulation in other word's this is the catching up of the Followers as recorded in **1Thessalonians 4: 13-17.**

13 But I would not have you to be ignorant, Yisraelite brothers, concerning those who are dead, that you sorrow not, even as unbelievers who have no tikvah.

14 For if we believe that Yahshua died and rose again, even them also who have died believing in Yahshua will Eloah bring with Him.

15 For this we say to you by the word of YHWH, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Master shall not be resurrected before those who are already dead in the emunah.

16 For the Master Himself shall descend from the shamayim with a shout, with the voice of the chief heavenly malach, and with His shofar and with the tekiyah-ge-dolah of YHWH: and the dead in Moshiach shall rise first:

17 Then we who are alive and remain at His return shall be caught up together with them onto the clouds, to meet the Master in the air:

Messiah Yahshua will descend from heaven with a shout the Chief Messenger will sound the Last Shofar as found in **1Corinthians 15:52** the dead in Messiah Yahshua will rise first.

This is all those who died leading up to Messiah Yahshua's return including those who die throughout the Great Tribulation that have received the born again experience of **John 3:1-5 & Acts2:38 etc.**

Then we which are alive and remain at the time of His coming to earth will be also caught up together with them to meet Messiah Yahshua in the air.

Then proceed to Jerusalem to be with Messiah Yahshua forever we will welcome him and come into his Kingdom with him from the air.

1 Thessalonians 1:7-10

7 And to you who are undergoing tribulation rest with us, when the Master Yahshua shall be revealed from the shamayim with His mighty heavenly malachim,

8 In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not YHWH, and that obey not the Besorah of our Master Yahshua ha Moshiach:

9 *Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction away from the presence of YHWH, and from the tifereth of His power;*

10 *When He shall come to be esteemed in His Yisraelite kidushim, and to be admired by all those who believe in that Yom, because our testimony among you was believed.*

Firstly notice verse five it tells us that we would suffer for the Kingdom of Elohim and also in verse six it says about tribulation would be upon those that trouble us.

Verse seven tells us that we who are troubled so Rav Shaul is making reference to trouble which I believe refers to the Great Tribulation that will be here on earth.

Notice how the verse says after this that the Messiah Yahshua would be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels so in other words, Messiah Yahshua along with his mighty angels nothing at all is mentioned with regards to the saints or the Elect being with him at this point, this is because the saints will be waiting along with the rest of the world here on earth for Messiah Yahshua to be revealed or seen in the sky.

Then the Shofar will sound the angels will gather the Elect up the Dead in Messiah would rise first and then we which are alive and remain will be caught up together with them to meet Messiah Yahshua in the air, then all those that do not know that Messiah Yahshua is Yahweh and that have not obeyed the Gospel of the Messiah Yahshua (**1 Corinthians 15:1-4, John 3:1-8 & Acts 2:38**) will be taken by way of death and cut off from the presence of the Yahweh forever.

Verse ten tells us when He shall come to be glorified in his saints so he has to come to earth to be glorified in his saints and to those that believe in that Day what is that Day referring to the Great and Terrible day of the Yahweh.

Matthew 24:1 *And going out, went away from the Set-apart Place, and His taught ones came near to point out to Him the buildings of the Set-apart Place.*

Matthew 24:2 *And said to them, "Do you not see all these? Truly, I say to you, not one stone shall be left here upon another, at all, which shall not be thrown down."*

Matthew 24:3 *And as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the taught ones came to Him separately, saying, "Say to us, when shall this be, and what is the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?"*

Matthew 24:4 *And answering, said to them, "Take heed that no one leads you astray.*

Footnote: Today people by the millions still do not know the true EL of Israel Yahweh and call Him by pagan titles and names of pagan deities. The two houses of restored Yisrael, or All twelve tribes of Yisrael.

Matthew 24:5 *“For many shall come in My Name, saying, „I am the Messiah, “ and they shall lead many astray.*

Matthew 24:6 *“And you shall begin to hear of fighting “s and reports of fighting “s. See that you are not troubled, for these have to take place, but the end is not yet.*

Matthew 24:7 *“For nation shall rise against nation, and reign against reign. And there shall be scarcities of food, and deadly diseases, and earthquakes in places.*

Matthew 24:8 *“And all these are the beginning of birth pains.*

Matthew 24:9 *“Then they shall deliver you up to affliction and kill you, and you shall be hated by all nations for My Name “s sake.*

Matthew 24:10 *“And then many shall stumble, and they shall deliver up one another, and shall hate one another.*

Matthew 24:11 *“And many false prophets shall rise up and lead many astray.*

Matthew 24:12 *“And because of the increase in lawlessness, the love of many shall become cold.*

Matthew 24:13 *“But he who shall have endured to the end shall be saved.*

Matthew 24:14 *“And this Good News of the reign shall be proclaimed in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end shall come.*

Matthew 24:15 *“So when you see the „abomination that lays waste, “spoken of by Daniel the prophet, set up in the set-apart place” – he who reads, let him understand*

Matthew 24:16 *“then let those who are in Yehudah flee to the mountains.*

Matthew 24:17 *“Let him who is on the house-top not come down to take whatever out of his house.*

Matthew 24:18 *“And let him who is in the field not turn back to get his garments.*

Matthew 24:19 *“And woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing children in those days!*

Matthew 24:20 *“And pray that your flight does not take place in winter or on the Sabbath.*

Matthew 24:21 *“For then there shall be great distress, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be.*

Footnote: 9 Footnote: See Matthew 10:22-And you shall be hated by all for My Name’s sake. But he who shall have endured to the end shall be saved 10

RSTNE: Page 738 footnote 5-How can the believers see the “abomination of

desolation” if they are no longer on earth? The believers will be reading the Book of Daniel during the Great Tribulation. There is no rapture here, for if there were, why would we need the book of Daniel, or any other book, if there was a pre-tribulation rapture? For more details see:

<http://restorationscriptures.org/link24.htm>

Matthew 24:22 *“And if those days were not shortened, no flesh would be saved, but for the sake of the chosen ones those days shall be shortened.*

Matthew 24:23 *“If anyone then says to you, „Look, here is the Messiah! “ or „There! “ do not believe.*

Matthew 24:24 *“For false messiahs and false prophets shall arise, and they shall show great signs and wonders, so as to lead astray, if possible, even the chosen ones.*

Matthew 24:25 *“See, I have fore warned you.*

Matthew 24:26 *“So if they say to you, „Look, He is in the desert! “ do not go out; or “Look, He is in the inner rooms! “ do not believe.*

Matthew 24:27 *“For as the lightning comes from the east and shines to the west, so also shall the coming of the Son of Adam be.*

Matthew 24:28 *“For wherever the dead body is, there the eagles shall be gathered together.*

Matthew 24:29 *“And immediately after the distress of those days the sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall not give its light, and the stars shall fall from the heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken.*

Matthew 24:30 *“And then the sign of the Son of Adam shall appear in the heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth shall mourn, and they shall see the Son of Adam coming on the clouds of the heaven with power and much esteem.*

Matthew 24:31 *“And He shall send His messengers with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together His chosen ones from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other.*

Matthew 24:32 *“And learn this parable from the fig tree: When its branch has already become tender and puts forth leaves, you know that the summer is near.*

Matthew 24:33 *“So you also, when you see all these, know that He is near, at the doors.*

Matthew 24:34 *“Truly, I say to you, this generation shall by no means pass away until all this takes place.*

Matthew 24:35 *"The heaven and the earth shall pass away, but My words shall by no means pass away.*

Matthew 24:36 *"But concerning that day and the hour no one knows, not even the messengers of the heavens, but My Father only.*

Matthew 24:37 *"And as the days of Noah, so also shall the coming of the Son of Adam be.*

Foot Note: Or great pressure, or great affliction. 12See Luke 17:37

Matthew 24:38 *"For as they were in the days before the flood, eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark,*

Matthew 24:39 *and they did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also shall the coming of the Son of Adam be.*

Matthew 24:40 *"Then two shall be in the field, the one is taken and the one is left.*

Matthew 24:41 *"Two shall be grinding at the mill, one is taken and one is left.*

Matthew 24:42 *"Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Master is coming.*

Verse one to twenty eight tells us what the signs leading up to the coming of the Messiah Yahshua will be also throughout the Tribulation. Some of these signs are also known in modern translations as birth pains:

- 1) Wars & Rumours of wars**
- 2) Famines & pestilences**
- 3) Earthquakes in diverse places**
- 4) Love of many will wax worse and worse**
- 5) Many will betray one another & hate one another**
- 6) False Messiah and False prophets will arise and deceive many**
- 7) The abomination of desolation spoken of by Daniel the Prophet**
- 8) The Anti Messiah will try and fool the very elect**
- 9) There will be Dead bodies throughout the whole earth and we will see this by the eagles flying over the dead and eating their flesh.**

All these things must come to pass before Messiah Yahshua comes and resurrects the dead in Messiah and we who are alive and remain will be caught up with them to meet the Messiah Yahshua in the air. So shall we ever be with the Yahweh.

When we see these signs they are signs of the Messiahs return now note verses twenty nine to thirty one.

Matthew 24:29 *"And immediately after the distress (**Tribulation**) of those days the sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall not give its light, and the stars shall fall from the heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken.*

Matthew 24:30 “And then the sign of the Son of Adam shall appear in the heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth shall mourn, and they shall see the Son of Adam coming on the clouds of the heaven with power and much esteem.

24:31 “And He shall send His messengers with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together His chosen ones from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other.

So we can see that the First Resurrection and the catching away of the Followers of Messiah Yahshua will take place immediately after the tribulation and not before as some have thought it was to be.

Titus 2:13 looking for the blessed expectation and esteemed appearance of the great Elohim and our Saviour Messiah,

That blessed hope is when Messiah Yahshua will appear in the air and call his elect (All twelve tribes of Israel) up and we shall rule and reign in his Kingdom with him forever and ever Amein.

There are some that use examples of Noah and the Ark, Sodom and Gomorrah as a Pre- Tribulation Rapture what they say is that as Yahweh took Noah and his family into the Ark and when Abraham, Sarah and Lot and his wife left Sodom and Gomorrah they were taken out prior to the wrath of Yahweh being rained down by the flood with Noah's case where Yahweh flooded the world or when he rained down fire and brimstone in the example of Sodom and Gomorrah.
Noah and the Ark:

7:1 *And יהוה said unto Noah, Come thou and all thy house into the ark; for thee have I seen righteous before me in this generation.*

7:2 *Of every clean beast thou shalt take to thee by sevens, the male and his female: and of beasts that are not clean by two, the male and his female.*

7:3 *Of fowls also of the air by sevens, the male and the female; to keep seed alive upon the face of all the earth.*

7:4 *For yet seven days, and I will cause it to rain upon the earth forty days and forty nights; and every living substance that I have made will I destroy from off the face of the earth.*

7:5 *And Noah did according unto all that יהוה commanded him.*

7:6 *And Noah was six hundred years old when the flood of waters was upon the earth.*

7:7 *And Noah went in, and his sons, and his wife, and his sons' wives with him, into the ark, because of the waters of the flood.*

7:8 Of clean beasts, and of beasts that are not clean, and of fowls, and of every thing that creepeth upon the earth,

7:9 There went in two and two unto Noah into the ark, the male and the female, as Elohim had commanded Noah.

7:10 And it came to pass after seven days, that the waters of the flood were upon the earth.

7:11 In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, the seventeenth day of the month, the same day were all the fountains of the great deep broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened.

7:12 And the rain was upon the earth forty days and forty nights.

7:13 In the selfsame day entered Noah, and Shem, and Ham, and Japheth, the sons of Noah, and Noah's wife, and the three wives of his sons with them, into the ark;

7:14 They, and every beast after his kind, and all the cattle after their kind, and every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth after his kind, and every fowl after his kind, every bird of every sort.

7:15 And they went in unto Noah into the ark, two and two of all flesh, wherein is the breath of life.

7:16 And they that went in, went in male and female of all flesh, as Elohim had commanded him: and יהוה shut him in.

7:17 And the flood was forty days upon the earth; and the waters increased, and bare up the ark, and it was lift up above the earth.

7:18 And the waters prevailed, and were increased greatly upon the earth; and the ark went upon the face of the waters.

7:19 And the waters prevailed exceedingly upon the earth; and all the high hills, that were under the whole heaven, were covered.

7:20 Fifteen cubits upward did the waters prevail; and the mountains were covered.

7:21 And all flesh died that moved upon the earth, both of fowl, and of cattle, and of beast, and of every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth, and every man:

7:22 All in whose nostrils was the breath of life, of all that was in the dry land, died.

7:23 And every living substance was destroyed which was upon the face of the ground, both man, and cattle, and the creeping things, and the fowl of the heaven; and they were destroyed from the earth: and Noah only remained alive, and they that were with him in the ark.

7:24 And the waters prevailed upon the earth an hundred and fifty days.

The first few points I wish to outline

- 1) They were never removed from the earth.**
- 2) They all saw what was happening around about them.**
- 3) Yahweh however kept them by way of the Ark, both man, and cattle, and the creeping things, and the fowl of the heaven; and they were not destroyed.**

Noah was warned by Yahweh that this would take place Noah was obedient to Yahweh and made the Ark as Yahweh had commanded him Noah was in the midst of all this destruction however Yahweh kept Noah and his family.

Sodom & Gomorrah

Genesis 19:19-26

19:19 Behold now, thy servant hath found favour in thy sight, and thou hast magnified thy mercy, which thou hast shewed unto me in saving my life; and I cannot escape to the mountain, lest some evil take me, and I die:

19:20 Behold now, this city is near to flee unto, and it is a little one: Oh, let me escape thither, (is it not a little one?) and my soul shall live.

19:21 And he said unto him, See, I have accepted thee concerning this thing also, that I will not overthrow this city, for the which thou hast spoken.

19:22 Haste thee, escape thither; for I cannot do anything till thou become thither. Therefore the name of the city was called Zoar.

19:23 The sun was risen upon the earth when Lot entered into Zoar.

19:24 Then YHWH rained upon Sodom and upon Gomorrah brimstone and fire from יְהוָה out of heaven;

19:25 And he overthrew those cities, and all the plain, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and that which grew upon the ground.

19:26 But his wife looked back from behind him, and she became a pillar of salt.

- 1. Yahweh commanded them to leave**
- 2. They were obedient and left**
- 3. They saw what was happening around about them**
- 4. Lots wife looked back and became a pillar of salt**

Abomination of Desolation

Daniel 9:24 *“Seventy weeks are decreed for your people and for your set-apart city, to put an end to the transgression, and to seal up sins, and to cover crookedness, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up vision and prophet, and to anoint the Most Set-apart.*

Daniel 9:25 *“Know, then, and understand: from the going forth of the command to restore and build Yerushalayim until Messiah the Prince is seven weeks and sixty-two weeks. It shall be built again, with streets and a trench, but in times of affliction.*

Daniel 9:26 *“And after the sixty-two weeks Messiah shall be cut off and have naught. And the people of a coming prince shall destroy the city and the set-apart place. And the end of it is with a flood. And wastes are decreed and fighting until the end.*

Daniel 9:27 *“And he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week. And in the middle of the week he shall put an end to slaughtering and meal offering. And on the wing of abominations he shall lay waste, even until the complete end and that which is decreed is poured out on the one who lays waste.”*

The Anti Messiah will make a covenant with Israel for the seven year period of the Great Tribulation.

At this time the Temple in Jerusalem will be re-built and the Old system of Temple sacrifice will again be established.

However in the Middle of the Great Tribulation or after three and a half years the Anti Messiah will set himself up as Elohim and turn against the Israelites and blaspheme anything to do with Yahweh and Torah and also he will put down Messiah Yahshua and persecute all Israelites.

And also those who will not accept his way of worship.

The Saints in the Great Tribulation:

Daniel 7:24 *„And the ten horns are ten sovereigns from this reign. They shall rise, and another shall rise after them, and it is different from the first ones, and it humbles three sovereigns,*

Daniel 7:25 *and it speaks words against the Most High, and it wears out the set-apart ones of the Most High, and it intends to change appointed times and law¹⁴, and they are given into its hand for a time and times and half a time.*

Daniel 7:26 *But the Judgement shall sit, and they shall take away its rule, to cut off and to destroy, until the end.*

Foot Notes: Matthew 24:15- “So when you see the ‘abomination that lays waste, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, set up in the set-apart place” – he who reads, let him understand.

Footnotes: 1This is another word for festivals. 2Changing Torah amounts to Torahlessness (lawlessness). Read in 2 Thessalonians. 2:3-12 about “the lawless one” and the “lawlessness” which would take over (indeed, it has already taken over!) in the set-apart place, and also about Messiah’s judgment upon the lawless “prophets” in Matthew.7:23 and the lawless “believers” in Matthew. 13:41!

***Daniel 7:27** „and the reign, and the rulership, and the greatness of the reigns under all the heavens, shall be given to the people, the set-apart ones of the Most High. His reign is an everlasting reign, and all rulerships shall serve and obey Him. “*

***Daniel 7:28** “This is the end of the matter. As for me, Daniel, my thoughts greatly alarmed me, and my colour changed. And I kept the matter in my heart.”*

We can see here that in verse twenty-five that the Anti Messiah will wear out the saints of the most High.

However for those who believe in a Pre-Tribulation Rapture this would be contrary to Yahweh’s Word as according to these Pre-Tribulation Rapture believers the Saints would not be here during this time.

A little more about the First and Second Resurrection.

"What is the first resurrection? What is the second resurrection?"

***Daniel 12:1** “Now at that time Michael shall stand up, the great head who is standing over the sons of your people. And there shall be a time of distress; such as never was since there was a nation, until that time. And at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone who is found written in the book,*

***Daniel 12:2** and many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth wake up, some to everlasting life, and some to reproaches, everlasting abhorrence.*

***Daniel 12:3** “And those who have insight shall shine like the brightness of the expanse, and those who lead many to righteousness like the stars forever and ever.*

***Daniel 12:4** “But you, Daniel, hide the words, and seal the book until the time of the end¹. Many shall diligently search and knowledge shall increase.”*

Footnote: 1See v. 9.

***Daniel 12:5** Then I, Daniel, looked and saw two others standing, one on this bank of the river and the other on that bank.*

***Daniel 12:6** and one said to the man dressed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, “How long until the end of these wonders?”*

Daniel 12:7 *And I heard the man dressed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, and he held up his right hand and his left hand to the heavens, and swore by Him who lives forever, that it would be for a time, times, and half a time. And when they have ended scattering the power of the set-apart people, then all these shall be completed.*

Daniel 12:8 *And I heard, but I did not understand, so I said, “My master, what is the latter end of these matters?”*

Daniel 12:9 *And he said, “Go, Daniel, for the words are hidden and sealed till the time of the end¹. **Footnote: 1**See v. 4*

Footnote: **RSTNE: Page 470. Footnote13**-The Man is Yahshua, and the two banks symbolizes Yahshua standing in His ministry to both houses of Yisrael, and using those like Daniel, gifted as latter-day prophets with the end-time knowledge of the kingdom of restored Yisrael.

Daniel 12:10 *“Many shall be cleansed and made white, and refined. But the wrong shall do wrong – and none of the wrong shall understand, but those who have insight shall understand.*

Daniel 12:11 *“And from the time that which is continual is taken away, and the abomination that lays waste is set up, is one thousand two hundred and ninety days.*

Daniel 12:12 *“Blessed is he who is waiting earnestly, and comes to the one thousand three hundred and thirty-five days.*

Daniel 12:13 *“But you, go your way till the end. And rest, and arise to your lot at the end of the days.”*

Daniel 12:2 summarizes the two very different fates facing mankind: “Many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.”

Everyone will be raised from the dead, but not everyone will share the same destiny.

The Brit Chadashah reveals the further detail of separate resurrections for the just and the unjust.

Revelation 20:4-6 mentions the “first resurrection” and identifies those involved as “blessed and holy.” The second death (**the lake of fire, Revelation 20:14**) has no power over these individuals.

The first resurrection, then, is the raising of all believers. It corresponds with Yahshua’s teaching of the “resurrection of the just” (**Luke 14:14**) and the “resurrection of life” (**John 5:29**).

The first resurrection takes place in various stages. Messiah Yahshua Himself (**the “first fruit,” 1 Corinthians 15:20**), paved the way for the resurrection of all who believe in Him.

There was a resurrection of the first covenant saints (**Matthew 27:52-53**) which should be included in our consideration of the first resurrection.

Still to come are the resurrection of “the dead in Messiah” at Yahshua’s return (1 Thessalonians 4:16) and the resurrection of the martyrs at the end of the Tribulation (Revelation 20:4).

Revelation 20:12-13 identifies those comprising the second resurrection as the wicked judged by Yahweh prior to being cast into the lake of fire.

The second resurrection, then, is the raising of all unbelievers; the second resurrection is connected to the second death. It corresponds with teaching of the “resurrection of damnation” (**John 5:29**).

The event which divides the first and second resurrections seems to be the millennial kingdom.

The last of the righteous are raised to reign “with Messiah a thousand years” (**Revelation 20:4**), but the “rest of the dead [that is, the wicked] lived not again until the thousand years were finished” (**Revelation 20:5**).

What great rejoicing will attend the first resurrection! What great anguish at the second! What a responsibility we have to share the gospel! “And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire” (**Jude 23**).

Conclusion

It is very clear what Daniel the Prophet saw and also what Messiah Yahshua spoke about in the book of Matthew twenty four that the Saints would in fact be here throughout the Great Tribulation and that proceeding this Event as Messiah Yahshua told us in **Matthew 24:29-31** Immediately after the Tribulation of those days the last Shofar (trumpet) would sound, and the angels will gather His elect from the four corners of the earth the Dead in Messiah would rise first and then those that are alive and remain shall be caught up together to meet Messiah Yahshua in the air and so shall we ever be with Messiah Yahshua.

We the elect would then descend with the Messiah Yahshua to the Mount of Olives to take over this World and set up the Kingdom of Yahweh here on earth with the Headquarters being in Jerusalem with Messiah Yahshua sitting as King Kings and Master of all Masters there would be one thousand years of peace known as the Millennial reign of Messiah Yahshua.

The origins of the Rapture Doctrine

While reading THE RAPTURE CULT by Robert L. Pierce (Signal Point Press, 138 Cunningham Lane, Signal Mountain TN 37377; \$3.00ea), I found missing pieces of this puzzling doctrine.

Following is a brief explanation, summarized from the book, describing how we got the doctrine.

To understand, we must return to the 19th century British Isles. In 1830 in Port Glasgow, Scotland, Margaret Macdonald expressed her belief that scripture taught that Christians would be raptured, or translated, from the earth before the Great Tribulation. This is the first time that anyone in Christian history had distinguished two stages of the Second Coming: the first stage, in which Christians are taken out, and the second stage, in which Yahshua returns to earth.

Two religious sects in Britain took up Margaret's idea. One was the Catholic Apostolic Church headed by Edward Irving (1792-1834). This sect believed that because the Second Coming was imminent, they had the gifts of the spirit, such as prophecy and speaking in tongues, as the apostles did.

The other group that adopted Margaret Macdonald's idea was the Brethren or Plymouth Brethren organized by John Nelson Darby (1800-1882). Darby was educated as a lawyer, became an Anglican priest in 1826, but went on to found the Brethren in 1830. Darby visited the Macdonald home in 1830 and first presented the new pre-tribulation rapture doctrine soon thereafter. The new doctrine was not received unanimously.

"The Roots of Fundamentalism," by Ernest R. Sandeen, in discussing the history of the Brethren, says that Darby introduced the idea of a secret rapture of the church and a gap in prophetic fulfilment between the 69th and 70th weeks of Daniel. These beliefs became basic to the system of theology known as dispensationalism.

From 1862 to 1877, Darby lived in and travelled throughout the United States and Canada, spreading his message. He was a very appealing speaker and also intolerant to criticism. At first he tried to win members of existing Protestant congregations to his sect, but met with little success. He then spread his end-times message to influential clergymen and laymen in churches in major cities without insisting they leave their denominations.

Two of his converts were James Hall Brookes, pastor of the Walnut Street Presbyterian Church in St. Louis and Adoniram Judson Gordon, pastor of Clarendon St. Baptist Church in Boston. These two men became leaders of the movement which spread the doctrine throughout the northeast and Midwest during the last quarter of the 19th century. Dwight L. Moody also accepted the doctrine.

From 1883-1897, each summer at Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario, James H. Brookes led conferences which spread the doctrine very successfully to conservative church leaders of America who were concerned about the liberal influence of "higher

criticism" that was making inroads into churches. The new message spread from the leaders down to the local congregations.

In 1897 there was a split of conference participants into two groups: a pro-Darby faction led by Arno C. Gaebelin and Cyrus I. Scofield, and an anti-Darby faction led by Robert Cameron. A five-year "paper war," in which each side wrote articles blasting the other side, ended in a win by the pro-Darby forces.

Many of the anti-Darby forces simply retired from the scene to avoid controversy or died of old age without a new line of advocates to replace them.

The pro-Darby force was aggressive at organizing new conferences and publicizing their message, which appealed to the wishful thinking of the masses. The foundation of the Darbyite message was that when evil is seen in society, Christians are to rejoice because that is a sign of the imminent return of Christ. To illustrate, there was even some concern that at the outset of the United States' involvement in WWI that Americans would not respond because they might think they were fighting against the evil which was needed to bring Yahshua back. A paralyzing **religious neutralism** had set in.

Contrary to the time of the Revolutionary War when pastors strongly preached that citizens should battle the evil British oppression, 19th century pastors refrained from preaching topics drawn from current events and ceased to teach their flocks to be the light of the world. Rather, Christians withdrew into the four walls of the church building and let society and government run its Torahless course.

The Darby doctrine can be seen, for example, in a 1933 issue of the fundamentalist *Moody Monthly*, which said that Christians did not need to take a stand on a hot topic at the time, whether or not to recognize atheistic Communist USSR, because the Second Coming might quickly solve the problem.

Religious neutralism became the norm for Christian churches until the late 20th century when many Christians began taking a stand against evils in society like abortion and immorality in government leaders.

The pre-trib rapture doctrine was further spread by Cyrus Scofield's Reference Bible. Began in 1903 with unusually generous funding from wealthy businessmen, it was completed in 1909 and published and promoted by the very prestigious Oxford University Press. It is basically a King James Version with extensive footnote commentaries by Cyrus Scofield and consulting editors.

In every passage that could possibly be related to end-times, the pre-trib rapture doctrine is espoused. Many readers throughout the years have been unaware of the difference between words of scriptura and opinions of Scofield. This version of the Bible has been so promoted that its views have affected every church and town in America.

Geographically, the doctrine moved from its original foothold in the large cities of New York, Boston, Chicago, and St. Louis to the northeast and Midwest. Later it spread to the West and South, where it is very strong still. The doctrine is not taught

in the liberal Protestant denominations but is taught in independent nondenominational and full-gospel churches and in some evangelical churches. Fundamentalist churches do not realize how relatively new the doctrines are.

The Scofieldian doctrine is promoted unceasingly in the print media, radio, and TV, while more traditional views are hard to find. These media present the doctrine with a mindset that takes for granted that the entire audience believes it unquestioningly.

In addition, Christian and secular bookstores have carried many titles promoting this view, an early example of which is Hal Lindsay's *Late Great Planet Earth*, first published in 1970, tying in the Second Coming with the formation of the state of Israel. As the millennium nears, hundreds of nonfiction and fiction end-times books appear. In fact, most national fundamental Christian leaders have a book or tape series on the Scofieldian view of the end-times.

Also, most Christian TV and radio programs are produced by those with this point of view. Any given program is peppered with catch-phrases about the impending rapture and the Second Coming.

Parallels are drawn between biblical prophecy of end-times and current events. However, this kind of thinking is not new. Repeatedly throughout world history, people have looked about them at conditions far worse than what we see today and have thought the end must surely be near. But it wasn't. Incidentally, those who read the Bible in one hand and the *Newsweek* in the other should know that historically, many have believed that the book of Revelation was John's message of warning to the Christians of his day of horrible impending persecution from Nero (whose name in Hebrew is 666) and the destruction of Jerusalem in 70A.D. and has therefore largely been fulfilled.

There are more than two sides to a question.

If one side says that the Bible is myth and the second side says that the Bible is the Word of Yahweh that teaches that the Second Coming is imminent, is there no other point of view possible?

There is at least one more side.

Millions of Christians in America and the world historically and presently believe a third view — that the Bible is the Word of Yahweh which teaches that only Yahweh knows when the Second Coming will occur. Meanwhile, Christians are to carry on with joy in the real world, living lives that glorify Yahweh. This encompasses the crux of Protestant beliefs prior to 1830.