

WHERE IS THE PRE-TRIB RAPTURE?

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In the verses below will show how there is a pre-tribulation rapture of the church without a resurrection in the Pre-freak eschatological view.

Eschatology	Luke 17	1 Thes 4
Dispensational	Post-Trib	Pre-Trib
Non-dispensational	Pre-Trib	Pre-Trib
Pre-wrath	Post-Mid-Trib	Post-Mid-Trib
Pre-freak	Pre-Trib	Post-Trib

Event Attributes	Luke 17	1 Thes 4
Prosperity	YES	
Lightning Flash	YES	
Loud, Trumpet		YES
Saints following		YES
Resurrection	NO	YES

1 Thessalonians 4

14 For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, we also believe that **God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in Him.** **15** By the word of the Lord, we declare to you that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who have fallen asleep. **16** For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a **loud command**, with the voice of an archangel, and with the **trumpet** of God, and the **dead in Christ will be the first to rise.** **17** After that, **we who are alive and remain** will be **caught up together** with them in the clouds to **meet** the Lord in the air. And so we will always be with the Lord. **18** Therefore encourage one another with these words.

Those who teach the pre-trib rapture usually start with 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18. In verse 13 we see saints that have departed earth before any rapture are following Jesus. Their destination is earth's atmosphere from heaven noted in verse 16a. A resurrection is clearly seen in the phrase "the dead in Christ will rise first." These verses do not have a timing clue in relation to the great tribulation. We are not explicitly told when this event will happen.

1 Corinthians 15:50-52

50 Now this is what I am saying, brothers and sisters: Flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. **51** Listen, I will tell you a **mystery**: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed – **52** in a moment, in the blinking of an eye, at the **last trumpet**. For the trumpet will sound, and **the dead will be raised imperishable**, and we will be changed.

1 Thess. 4:16 is commonly tied to 1 Cor. 15:52 because there is a resurrection in the "dead in Christ will be the first to rise" phrase. There is a timing clue in verse 52 with the phrase "the last trumpet" which implies it is a singular one-time event. Many teach the

“mystery” is the timing of the event. I would say the mystery is how our body will change. The debate is when the “last” trumpet is sounds. Some who argue 1 Thes 4 is a pre-trib event claim there are a series of resurrections in the last days. But if another trumpet sounds after the “last” trumpet, how can it be the “last” trumpet?

Luke 17

24 For as the lightning flashes and lights up the sky from one side to the other, so will the Son of Man be in his day. 26 Just as it was in the days of Noah, so will it be in the days of the Son of Man. 27 They were eating and drinking and marrying and being given in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all. 28 Likewise, just as it was in the days of Lot—they were eating and drinking, buying and selling, planting and building, 29 but on the day when Lot went out from Sodom, fire and sulfur rained from heaven and destroyed them all— 30 so will it be on the day when the Son of Man is revealed. 34 I tell you, in that night there will be two in one bed. One will be taken and the other left. 35 There will be two women grinding together. One will be taken and the other left.” 37 And they said to him, “Where, Lord?” He said to them, “Where the corpse is, there the vultures will gather.”

Some teach this text is about the second coming and the judgment of the wicked at the end of the age. There is confusion over the verb definition of take. They believe the wicked are moved and taken away to punishment and the righteous are left in place. I think the confusion starts some English translations write “the flood came and took them all away” in Matthew 24:39. The root word in English for taken and took is take. Therefore the reader concludes that those that “will be taken” are taken away to punishment. The problem with that interpretation is that the Greek word (Strong’s 3880) for “taken” in verse 41 means to take and receive, not take and destroy.

1417 [e]	229 [e]	1722 [e]	3588 [e]	3458 [e]	1520 [e]	3880 [e]	2532 [e]	1520 [e]	863 [e]
dyo	alēthousai	en	tō	mylō	mia	paralambanetai	kai	mia	aphietai
41 δύο	ἀλήθουσai	ἐν	τῷ	μύλῳ	μία	παραλαμβάνεται			
Two [women]	will be grinding	at	the	mill	one	is taken	and	one	is left
Adj-NFP	V-PPA-NFP	Prep	Art-DMS	N-DMS	Adj-NFS	V-PIM/P-3S	Conj	Adj-NFS	V-PIM/P-3S

paralambanetai: From para and lambano; to receive near,

Another reason the one taken event is often referred to as the second coming is because of the dead bodies in verse 37. On the surface that does not sound like the blessed hope! No, that sounds like a judgment and not a rescue. Many think if there is pre-tribulation rapture there must be a resurrection (outer body change). That is questionable logic. What happens when a Christian dies before the pre-trib rapture? Do we not leave our flesh on earth? Is it possible Jesus is only taking our soul and spirit in the one taken event?

For me, the most convincing argument this event happens before the second coming is Lord’s mention of eating, drinking, buying, selling, planting, building and getting married. These activities occur in prosperous times. However, Jesus told us events leading up to His return will be the most troublesome time in human history in Matthew 24:21. At the end of the age, everybody is well aware of what is happening and is hiding in a cave or in the rocks of a mountain (Revelation 6:15-17) and freaking out (Luke 21:26). If you are hiding in a cave and freaking out I doubt you will be doing a lot of buying, selling, planting and building.

Matthew 24

39 and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away

In Matthew 24:39 Jesus claims many will be unaware, oblivious, not realizing what is about to happen after the one taken event.

John 14

2 In My Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I am coming again and will take you to Myself, so that where I am, there you also will be.

John 14:3 does not have any timing clue but it does use the same root Greek verb for “take” (paralambano, παραλαμβάνω) as used in Luke’s and Matthew’s one taken verses. Most translations use the word “receive” instead take. The direction we are taken is to heaven because that is where the Father’s house resides.

Matthew 24

30 And then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the

SON OF MAN COMING ON THE CLOUDS OF THE SKY with power and great glory. **31** And He will send forth His angels with A GREAT TRUMPET BLAST, and THEY WILL GATHER TOGETHER His elect from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other.

Pre-wrath teaches these passages are a rapture and resurrection before the second coming and after the middle of Daniel's 70th week. They teach 1 Thes 4:13-17 and the one taken, one left verses are a rapture and resurrection before the second coming when Jesus comes to stay on the earth for the millennium in Revelation 20.

THE RESURRECTION

John 6

39 And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that I shall lose none of those He has given Me, but raise them up at the last day. **40** For it is My Father's will that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in Him shall have eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day." **44** "No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him, and I will raise him up at the last day. **54** Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day.

Jesus said four times the resurrection is on the last day (singular), not in the last days (plural).

John 11

23 "Your brother will rise again," Jesus told her. **24** Martha replied, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day."

Jesus does not correct Martha. There is one resurrection for the righteous and it is on the last day (singular, not plural); i.e., the second coming.

Revelation 20

4 Then I saw the thrones, and those seated on them had been given authority to judge. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their testimony of Jesus and for the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or its image, and had not received its mark on their foreheads or hands. And they came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. **5** The rest of the dead did not come back to life until the thousand years were complete. This is the first resurrection. **6** Blessed and holy are those who share in the first resurrection! The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ, and will reign with Him for a thousand years.

Here we have more confusion over the meaning of words. We see the words "first" and "second" used which appear to define a chronological order. However, in the text you won't find a "second resurrection." You will only find a "second death." I doubt those who are brought to life at the great white throne judgment are given an immortal, glorified body. There is only one resurrection for the righteous.

The Greek for "first" in the "first resurrection" phrase is πρώτη prōtē which can also mean before, principal, or most important. Since a second resurrection is not mentioned, perhaps a better translation could be the "most important resurrection" or "principal resurrection."

2 Corinthians 5

2 For indeed, in this body we groan, longing to be clothed with our body from heaven, **3** since in fact after putting it on, we will not be found naked. **8** but we are of good courage and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord.

Paul tells us we will have a heavenly body in heaven because our spirit/soul will not be naked. We will have a body that fits the environment in which our spirit/soul will reside.

1 Corinthians 15

35 But someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?" **36** You foolish person! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. **37** And what you sow is not the body that is to be, but a bare kernel, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. **38** But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body. **39** For not all flesh is the same, but there is one kind for humans, another for animals, another for birds, and another for fish. **40** There are heavenly bodies and earthly bodies. But the splendor of the heavenly bodies is of one degree, and the splendor of the earthly bodies is of another.

What is the heavenly body like? Is it made out of carbon, water and salts like our corruptible, material body? The resurrection involves a transformation of our outer body. When we die before the pre-trib rapture, we leave our flesh on earth. Perhaps the same process happens at the pre-trib rapture. Our soul and spirit is taken to heaven and we receive a heavenly body. Heaven cannot be seen with a telescope or any other man-made device. I doubt it is made of material that is in our chemical chart of elements. The heavenly body will not be made of carbon, water and salts. There is a flash of light and we leave our material, corruptible body on earth. At the second coming, when the saints are following Jesus back to earth, that is when the saints will exchange their heavenly body for an incorruptible, glorified earthly body in Revelation 20. I suspect the glorified earthly body will be carbon based but will also have a God-given energy that our mortal bodies do not have.

Revelation 6

15 Then the kings of the earth, the nobles, the commanders, the rich, the mighty, and every slave and free man hid in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains. 16 And they said to the mountains and the rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of the One seated on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb. 17 For the great day of Their wrath has come, and who is able to withstand it?"

Everybody knows when the end is near. Eating, drinking, buying, selling, planting, building and getting married will be greatly diminished as the last seven years progress.

Matthew 24

42 "Therefore be on the alert, for you do not know which day your Lord is coming. **43** But be sure of this, that if the head of the house had known at what time of the night the thief was coming, he would have been on the alert and would not have allowed his house to be broken into. **44** For this reason you must be ready as well; for the Son of Man is coming at an hour when you do not think He will.

A good thief does not announce when they will strike. The pre-tribulation rapture will take many by surprise. The second coming will not be a surprise.