

## [Why I Believe in a Pre-Tribulation Rapture: Part 1](#)



By [Nathan Jones](#)

Frequently I am asked to explain or defend the end-time view of the Pre-Tribulation Rapture of the Church. For that topic, lots of Bible verses, readings and references rattle around in my skull. I can extract each like a Powerball out of an air machine and present it to the inquiring mind, but never in a linear, comprehensive manner in which I particularly appreciate. And so, this article is my attempt to organize my brain on the Pre-Tribulation Rapture view. You're welcome to come along on the journey!

### **Taking It to the Bedrock**

My belief that there will be a Pre-Tribulation Rapture of the Church stands on the bedrock of the following foundational tenets.

#### **1) The Bible is the Word of God**

The 66-book canon called the Bible is God's inerrant, infallible message to mankind, explaining His purposes and plans for the ages ([2 Tim. 3:16-17](#); [2 Peter 1:20-21](#)). No other document can be reliably trusted, nor remotely reach the bar for the requirements of authentication that the Bible attains to so easily.

#### **2) The Bible is to be Interpreted Literally**

God means what He says and says what He means. God wants His creations to know His will plainly. While God does indulge in picturesque descriptions and parables, an explanation almost always follows or context is provided for explanation. Spiritualization of text, therefore, has no proper place in interpreting Scriptures. Any eschatological viewpoint must then be thrown out if it is based on the reader's desire to spiritualize the Bible into whatever ethereal meaning they desire. Take the Bible for its plain sense meaning.

#### **3) The Church and Israel Are Separate Entities**

Israel is not the Church and the Church is not Israel. A believer in Christ becomes a member of the Church, whether Jew or Gentile ([Rom. 1:16](#)), but a member of the Church does not become a form of spiritual Israel. God's promises to Israel as a people and nation (see next tenet) are not the same as for the Bride of Christ, the Church.

#### 4) A Literal 1000-Year Millennium

The Bible describes a future, literal 1000-year time period. The Greek word "chilias" for "one thousand" appears six times in Revelation 20, clearly marking the time period as having 1000 literal years. The purpose of this time period is for Jesus Christ to have an earthly kingdom from which to base His rule and to fulfill His promises ([Gen. 13:14-17](#); [15:5,18-21](#); [2 Sam. 7:16-19](#); [Isa. 10:21-22](#); [11:1-2](#); [Jer. 23:5-8](#); [30:22](#); [31:31-34](#); [Ezek. 11:18-20](#); [34:24](#); [36:24-28](#); [Mic. 7:19-20](#); [Hos. 3:5](#); [Rom. 11:26-29](#)).

#### 5) A Literal 7-Year Tribulation

An upcoming time period has been set aside for God to pour out His wrath upon the evil of the world, to regather Israel back into its land, to force Israel to acknowledge Jesus as their Messiah, and for the Messiah to return and fight for His believing remnant ([Deut. 4:26-31](#); [Isa. 13:6-13](#); [17:4-11](#); [Jer. 30:4-11](#); [Ezek. 20:33-38](#); [Dan. 9:27](#); [12:1](#); [Zech. 14:1-4](#); [Matt. 24:9-31](#)). This time period begins with a covenant between Israel and the Antichrist ([Dan. 9:27](#)). The length of the Tribulation is seven years long, described in a variety of ways as "one seven" year block ([Dan. 9:27](#)), "times, time and half a time" ([Rev. 12:14](#)), consisting of two "1260 days" periods ([Rev. 11:3](#)), or two "42 month" periods ([Rev. 11:2](#); [13:5](#)).

#### 6) Jesus Will Return Again to Earth

The Bible says Jesus will physically return again to earth ([Zech. 14:1-21](#); [Matt. 24:29-31](#); [Mk. 13:24-27](#); [Lk. 21:25-27](#); Rev. 19). Jesus returns is to defeat His enemies, set up His throne, restore Israel, rule with "a rod of iron" and share His authority with those who overcame in Him ([Mat. 19:28](#); [25:31](#); [Acts 1:3-6](#); [Rev. 2:26-27](#); [3:21](#)).

#### 7) The Bible Teaches About a Rapture

[1 Thessalonians 4:17](#) speaks of an event called "the Rapture", Latin "rapio," Greek "harpazo," which means "to catch up, to snatch away, or to take out." *"After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever."* Paul states that the concept of the Rapture is meant to encourage believers during this Age ([1 Thes. 4:18](#)). Other references on the Rapture are [Jn. 14:1-14](#); [1 Cor. 15:51-58](#); and [1 Thes. 4:13-18](#).

These bedrock statements about the Bible and its interpretation provide the foundation in which to analyze the reasons for why I believe the Bible teaches a Pre-Tribulation Rapture of the Church, which I will begin over the [next 5 entries](#).