

## [Why I Believe in a Pre-Tribulation Rapture: Part 3](#)



By [Nathan Jones](#)

In [Part 1](#), I covered what I call the "bedrock" foundational tenets about the Bible and its interpretation that provide the foundation in which to analyze the reasons for why I believe the Bible teaches a Pre-Tribulation Rapture of the Church. The following are three more reasons.

### **3) The Rapture and the removal of the "Restrainer" occur at the same time.**

In 2 Thessalonians, the church at Thessalonica was afraid due to a false report that they had entered the Day of the Lord (Tribulation) and had somehow missed the Rapture. The Apostle Paul assured them that the Antichrist would not be revealed until a restraining force would be taken away so that the Man of Lawlessness could be revealed.

Because the revealing of the Antichrist coincides with the beginning of the 7-year Tribulation starting with his peace treaty with Israel ([Dan. 9:27](#)), then the Restrainer has to be removed before the Tribulation. As the Holy Spirit also works in salvation ([Jn. 16:8-11](#); [1 Jn. 5:7](#)) during the Tribulation, then it is the Church that must be the Restrainer that is removed. Therefore, the Rapture and the removal of the Church must coincide, and at the beginning of the seven years.

### **4) The Tribulation is for Israel's redemption.**

[Jeremiah 30:7](#) describes the Tribulation as the "time of Jacob's trouble" — *"How awful that day will be! None will be like it. It will be a time of trouble for Jacob, but he will be saved out of it."*

In the Book of Matthew, whose primary audience is the Jews, Jesus explains to his Jewish followers what life will be like during the Tribulation. Also, Revelation 12 describes picturesquely a woman who gives birth and has to flee due to persecution during the Tribulation. The context shows the woman is Israel. And again, the Battle of Armageddon is the world against Israel. Two-thirds of the Jewish people will be killed from these battles. These texts and others show that the Tribulation is meant for the redemption of the Jewish people.

Why are the Jews the object of persecution during the Tribulation? For one, Satan hates the Jewish people for giving the world the Scriptures and the Messiah, as well as he wishes to thwart God's promises to the Jews (see Bedrock #4). Secondly, the Jews have to be so desperately brought low that they finally call out to their Messiah "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord" ([Mat. 23:39](#); [Lk. 13:35](#)). The Tribulation, then, is used for Israel's redemption which also results in the punishment of the wicked. The Church does not fit into this scenario, and are left out of the purposes of the Tribulation. They would need to be removed — caught up — before the Tribulation begins.

## 5) The Tribulation is not for the Church.

The Tribulation is God's wrath upon the unbelieving world, and not for those who are saved from Christ's resurrection to the Rapture — called the Church. Yes believers have suffered all throughout human history, but there is a special time (just like the Flood) set apart called the Day of the Lord for God's wrath. Christians suffering and the Tribulation/Day of the Lord are different.

True believers in Christ during the Church Age, represented by the Church of Philadelphia, are promised in [Revelation 3:10](#), *"Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come upon the whole world to test those who live on the earth."* Paul states in [1 Thessalonians 1:10](#), *"and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath."* He also states in [1 Thessalonians 5:9](#), *"For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ."* [Romans 5:9](#) states, *"Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him!"* [Ephesians 5:6](#) states, *"Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient."* [Colossians 3:4](#) states, *"When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory."* Again and again, Scripture states the Church is not meant to endure God's wrath.

I will continue posting more reasons why I believe in a Pre-Tribulation Rapture in [Part 4](#).