



ARTICLE

Pre-Trib

Over the past year, many have questioned how we could go from believing in a post-tribulation resurrection back to the pre-tribulation view. However, to make things clear, our view of the pre-tribulation resurrection is not the common understanding that most all have grown up within the church. The purpose of this article is to give our understanding of the timing of the first resurrection. If you desire to know what we believe regarding what happens at the first resurrection, please see our teachings [Armageddon and the Parousia](#) and [Satan's Greatest Masquerade & Part 2](#) along with various other teachings we have. (Click on the text of the titles for the links)

Some have mocked us in ridicule saying there is no foundation for the resurrection to happen before the Tribulation. Others have thrown out challenges for people to provide just one verse for "proof" of such a belief. However, we all know "Proof Texts" themselves are dependent on how one interprets them. For example, I used to believe Rev. 20:4 was a proof text in favor of the post-tribulation view. It says.

Revelation 20:4

I saw thrones on which were seated those who had been given authority to judge. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony for Jesus and because of the word of God. They had not worshiped the beast or his image and had not received his mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ a thousand years. 5 (The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended.) This is the first resurrection.



Verse four makes it “clear” that those who are in the first resurrection went through the tribulation. How is that? This is because they didn’t worship the beast or receive the mark. So, therefore, those who participated in the first resurrection had to go through the tribulation. Right? I mean, there it is. There’s just no other way to interpret that. Right? Well, wrong.

We first see in verse four those who are given authority to judge. So, who is that? We see it includes the 12 disciples.

Matthew 19:28

Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, in the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man sits on His glorious throne, you who have followed Me **will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.**

Then Paul says it will be the saints.

1 Corinthians 6:2

Do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if you are to judge the world, are you not competent to judge trivial cases?

The next part of Revelation 20:4 is what seems to be what seals the deal for many on a post-trib resurrection.

Revelation 20:4

... “And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony for Jesus and because of the word of God. They had not worshiped the beast or his image and had not received his mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ a thousand years.”

Our initial response is “See? They died because they didn’t worship the beast or take his mark. That only happens in the tribulation.” Our mindset is that there is only one beast system. One anti-christ. One mark. But is that true? Consider

1 John 2:18

Dear children, this is the last hour; and as you have heard that the antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come. This is how we know it is the last hour.

John said many have already come. So if many had already come, did they do things similar to what the last will do? Consider also what Revelation 17 says.

Revelation 17:9

“This calls for a mind with wisdom. The seven heads are seven hills on which the woman sits. 10 They are also seven kings(thus kingdoms). Five have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come; but when he does come, he must remain for a little while. 11 The beast who once was, and now is not, is an eighth king. He belongs to the seven and is going to his destruction.

This seems to imply this is a system of Kingdoms led by kings throughout history. Thus, John's words “as you have heard that the antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come.”

Doesn't this resonate with what we see in Ecclesiastes 1:9?

Ecclesiastes 1:9

What has been will be again, what has been done will be done again; there is nothing new under the sun.

Does this not explain what we see in Isaiah 46:10?

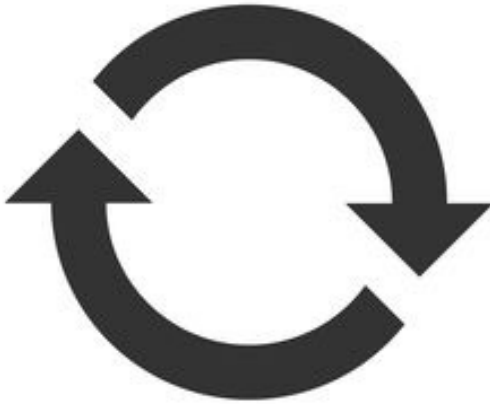
Isaiah 46:10

I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come. I say: My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please.

This all being said, consider what we read in Hebrews chapter 11. This chapter is often referred to as the “Hall of Faith” of the Old Testament believers.

Hebrews 11:35-38

Women received back their dead, raised to life again. Others were tortured and refused to be released so that they might gain a better resurrection. 36 Some faced jeers and flogging, while still others were chained and put in prison. 37 They were stoned; they were sawed in two; they were put to death by the sword. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, persecuted and mistreated — 38 the world was not worthy of them. They wandered in deserts and mountains, and in caves and holes in the ground.





Who were these people persecuted and martyred by? Are we to believe the other kings and kingdoms mentioned in Rev.17 were not similar to the last? And remember, these people being referred to in Hebrews 11 are most all Old Testament believers.

What about Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the book of Daniel? Could that not have been considered a similarity to a beast system they refused to submit to?

Daniel 3:16-18

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego replied to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. 17 If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to save us from it, and he will rescue us from your hand, O king. 18 But even if he does not, we want you to know, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up."

Revelation 13 mentions nothing of the AntiMessiah beheading believers. Can he? Absolutely! But it's not necessarily the only way it will be done. It's assumed this is the only means by which believers will die in the tribulation. Yet, that could be because we are referencing Rev. 20:4. A verse that may not be discussing those in the great tribulation at all.

The point being here is we are assuming those mentioned in Rev. 20:4 can only be those of the last beast system. When in reality, these are most likely from the beast systems before the last one.

Please understand my goal here is not to convince anyone of what I believe. However, I do believe there is far more evidence that points to the Pre-trib view than what many are wanting to consider in conjunction with what they believe. Some believe the Pre-trib view overlooks or even denies, the prophesied second exodus.(Jeremiah 16:14,15) However, I believe it all flows in perfect harmony together.

Many verses refer to believers going through the tribulation. We agree. However, what believers? We believe these are the "rest of her offspring" as mentioned in Revelation 12.



Evidence



Revelation 12:17

Then the dragon was enraged at the woman and went off to make war against the rest of her offspring — those who obey God's commandments and hold to the testimony of Jesus.

This will be the other churches in Revelation chapter two and three who do not receive the promise to escape the time of trial. The five virgins who weren't ready. This will be those who go through a time of purification. Quite possibly the purification mentioned by Daniel.



Daniel 11:35

Some of the wise will stumble, so that they may be refined, purified and made spotless until the time of the end, for it will still come at the appointed time.

Daniel 12:10

Many will be purified, made spotless and refined, but the wicked will continue to be wicked. None of the wicked will understand, but those who are wise will understand.

These are the survivors that come back at the end. These are the ones for whom Yeshua cuts the days short. They begin their exodus to the land of Israel from all the nations to where they were taken captive as mentioned in Revelation.

Revelation 13:9,10

He who has an ear, let him hear. 10 If anyone is to go into captivity, into captivity he will go. If anyone is to be killed with the sword, with the sword he will be killed. This calls for patient endurance and faithfulness on the part of the saints.

That all being said, why do we believe in the pre-tribulation view of the resurrection? Though we believe there are verses that point straight to it in the Prophets, we also see many other verses that flow in harmony with those verses. Verses that we believe are even founded from the prophets. Verses like Revelation 3:10.



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.

So this church is told they will be kept from the trial that is coming on the whole world. This is most likely the same ones who are mentioned in Revelation 7.



Revelation 7:3,4

“Do not harm the land or the sea or the trees until we put a seal on the foreheads of the servants of our God.” 4 Then I heard the number of those who were sealed: 144,000 from all the tribes of Israel.

And most likely the same ones mentioned in Revelation 18.

Revelation 18:4,5

Then I heard another voice from heaven say: “Come out of her, my people, so that you will not share in her sins, so that you will not receive any of her plagues; 5 for her sins are piled up to heaven, and God has remembered her crimes.

The prophets seem to imply these are all one and the same group. Consider.

Malachi. 3:16

Then those who feared YHWH talked with each other, and YHWH listened and heard. A scroll of remembrance was written in his presence concerning **those who feared YHWH and honored his name.**

Please notice how this verse parallels with what is said to Philadelphia in Revelation 3:8

Revelation 3:8

I know your deeds. See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut. I know that you have little strength, yet **you have kept my word and have not denied my name.**

Continuing on in Malachi 3.



Malachi 3:17,18

“They will be mine,” says YHWH Almighty, “in the day when I make up my treasured possession. **I will spare them**, just as in compassion a man spares his son who serves him. 18 And you will again see the distinction between the righteous and the wicked, between those who serve God and those who do not.

So YHWH spares them. But notice that it’s only one group that is spared. It’s those who feared YHWH and honored his name. It’s a group that sounds strikingly similar to the Church of Philadelphia. So we see two groups mentioned in these verses. The righteous, who are spared and the wicked, who are not spared. To understand who YHWH calls wicked or evil, please see our teaching [Evil People](#). Now, look at what Ezekiel says about a similar group.

Ezekiel 20:36-38

As I judged your fathers in the desert of the land of Egypt, so I will judge you, declares the Sovereign YHWH. 37 I will take note of you as you pass under my rod, and **I will bring you into the bond of the covenant**. 38 I will **purge** you **of** those who revolt and rebel against me. Although I will bring them out of the land where they are living, yet they will not enter the land of Israel. Then you will know that I am YHWH.

First, please know that the Hebrew word for “of” in verse 28 carries the meaning “from.” Second, please know that the Hebrew word for “purge” in that same verse also carries the meaning of “to choose” or “select.” So the first part of verse 38 can easily read as follows.

Ezekiel 20:38

38 “I will **select** you **from** those who revolt and rebel against me.”

This interpretation is actually supported when we look at the previous verse.

Ezekiel 20:37

37 I will take note of you as you pass under my rod,”

Passing under the rod is only mentioned one other time to my understanding. It’s found in Leviticus 27.



Leviticus 27:32

The entire tithe of the herd and flock — every tenth animal that passes under the shepherd's rod — will be holy to the YHWH.

Every tenth animal was removed. They were selected from the others just as we see in Ezekiel 20.

We believe the latter part of Ezekiel 20:37 is equally important. It says the following.

Ezekiel 20:37

“and I will bring you into the bond of the covenant.”

These people are chosen out from the rebellious to be brought into the bond of the covenant. The reason for being taken out is for the marriage. So we see two groups in these verses just the same. Those who are chosen for the covenant from those who will be judged.

This parallels what we see with those in Rev. 18.

Revelation 18:4,5

Then I heard another voice from heaven say: “Come out of her, my people, so that you will not share in her sins, so that you will not receive any of her plagues; 5 for her sins are piled up to heaven, and God has remembered her crimes.

Let's look at the beginning of Revelation 19 just after the judgment had fallen on Babylon. The judgment that the people were taken out from in Revelation 18:4.

Revelation 19:7-9

Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready. 8 Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear.” (Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of the saints.) 9 Then the angel said to me, “Write: ‘Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!’” And he added, “These are the true words of God.”

We see Ezekiel saying they are taken out to be brought into covenant and Rev. 18 & 19 showing them taken out and then see the marriage of the Lamb, it all seems to fit together. One group is left for judgement, and the other is taken for the marriage covenant.



This is the marriage where Yeshua has to be with His bride for one year before going off to war.

Deuteronomy 24:5

If a man has recently married, he must not be sent to war or have any other duty laid on him. For one year he is to be free to stay at home and bring happiness to the wife he has married.

We also see the Children of Israel entered into a marriage contract after leaving Egypt. So they also were first taken out from the world and then brought into covenant. See the Parallel? The same happens in the end times. He takes his people out and brings them into covenant.

This shows Isaiah 46:10 all the more.

Isaiah 46:10

I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come. I say: My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please.

So Revelation 18 and 19 implies the same as we see in Malachi 3:17,18 and Ezekiel 20:36-38. In these accounts, we see people being taken out and spared from a time of judgment and they are taken to be entered into a covenant with. The New Covenant.

Is there any other prophet that implies something similar? Actually, yes. It even identifies the escape as the resurrection. Please consider Isaiah 26.

Isaiah 26:19-21

But your dead will live; their bodies will rise. You who dwell in the dust, wake up and shout for joy. (the resurrection) Your dew is like the dew of the morning; **the earth will give birth to her dead.** 20 Go, my people, enter your rooms and shut the doors behind you; hide yourselves for a little while until his wrath has passed by. 21 See, YHWH is coming out of his dwelling to punish the people of the earth for their sins. The earth will disclose the blood shed upon her; she will conceal her slain no longer.

Maybe it's just me, but this is what we see in Malachi 3 and Ezekiel 20 along with Revelation 18 and 19. We see a people taken out by way of the resurrection and protected from a time of judgment. This could very easily be in conjunction with what we see in Hosea 2 regarding the New Covenant.

Hosea 2:14-17



“Therefore I am now going to allure her; I will lead her into the desert and speak tenderly to her. 15 There I will give her back her vineyards, and will make the Valley of Achor a door of hope. There she will sing as in the days of her youth, as in the day she came up out of Egypt. 16 “In that day,” declares YHWH, “you will call me ‘my husband’; you will no longer call me ‘my master.’ 17 I will remove the names of the Baals from her lips; no longer will their names be invoked. 18 **In that day I will make a covenant** for them with the beasts of the field and the birds of the air and the creatures that move along the ground. (please see Acts 10:9-20) Bow and sword and battle I will abolish from the land, so that all may lie down in safety. 19 **I will betroth you to me forever; I will betroth you in righteousness and justice, in love and compassion. 20 I will betroth you in faithfulness, and you will acknowledge YHWH.**

This all ties Yeshua’s words together in Luke 21:36.

Luke 21:36

Be always on the watch, and pray that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man.”

Yeshua is telling us to pray we escape the coming judgment and to stand before Him. To stand before Him is marriage language. Yeshua is saying the same thing the prophets are saying.

So we should pray we are of the Church of Philadelphia who is promised to not see the time of trial. This is also why we see Yeshua say this in Luke 21:28

Luke 21:28

When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

When what things begin to take place?

Luke 21:20

“When you see Jerusalem being surrounded by armies, you will know that its desolation is near.

Exactly how that will look and work out is yet to be seen, but something tells me when we see it, we’ll know.

Lastly, when reading this account in Luke 21 and the similar accounts in Mark 13 and Matthew 24, many like to say how we should be watching for that which Yeshua called the “birth pains.”

Matthew 24:7,8

Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. 8 All these are the beginning of birth pains.

If you think about it, these are things Yeshua said we should pray we escape. Why would He tell us what the birth pains are and then also tell us we should pray we escape them? This is because that’s what Isaiah said would happen. Isaiah said **the birth takes place before the birth pains**. That’s right.

Isaiah 66: 7,8

“Before she goes into labor, she gives birth; before the pains come upon her, she delivers a son. 8 Who has ever heard of such a thing? Who has ever seen such things? Can a country be born in a day or a nation be brought forth in a moment? Yet no sooner is Zion in labor than she gives birth to her children.

And this is what we see in parallel with what Isaiah said in chapter 26.

Isaiah 26:19-21

But your dead will live; their bodies will rise. You who dwell in the dust, wake up and shout for joy. (the resurrection) Your dew is like the dew of the morning; **the earth will give birth to her dead.** 20 Go, my people, enter your rooms and shut the doors behind you; **hide yourselves for a little while until his wrath has passed by.** 21 See, YHWH is coming out of his dwelling to punish the people of the earth for their sins. The earth will disclose the blood shed upon her; she will conceal her slain no longer.



This also parallels with the woman giving birth in Revelation 12 and the dragon pursuing the rest of her offspring during the time of the tribulation.

Revelation 12:5

She gave birth to a son, a male child, who will rule all the nations with an iron scepter. And her child was snatched up to God and to his throne.

The Greek word for “to” here also carries the meaning of “for.” For more info on that, please see our teaching [The Church of Philadelphia](#).

Revelation 12:17

Then the dragon was enraged at the woman and went off to make war against the rest of her offspring — those who obey God’s commandments and hold to the testimony of Jesus.

While I believe there is more to point to the pre-tribulation resurrection view, I believe there is plenty here to at least show there **is** scripture that can point to this view. The prophets and New Testament authors are saying the same things regarding those who are selected and brought into covenant while others go through a time of refinement.



May we always be praying for His understanding and insight on this topic with a humble heart. May pride be far from us as we pursue His ways and long for that day.

We hope you have enjoyed this teaching. Now it's up to you to be a Berean and study it for yourself. That's the only way to grow. Shalom!

Steve Moutria

