


Eschatology


Introduction To Eschatology

Pastor Eric Douma
Twin City Fellowship



What Is Eschatology?

Eschatology is the study of “last things” pertaining to the rapture of the church, resurrection of the dead, 2nd coming of Christ, the kingdom coming to Israel, the eternal state of both the lost and the saved, and the eternal reign of God.



Why This Study Now?

- Recent interest by friends and colleagues in the Pre-wrath tribulation camp “sparked” my interest to reexamine eschatology.
- We felt the need to present the truth about the perseverance of the saints and the plausibility of the Pretribulational view.



Why This Debate Matters

"Someone's Eschatology Does Not Affect Their Soul" Or So They Say...

"If anyone worships the beast and its image and receives a mark on his forehead or on his hand, he also will drink the wine of God's wrath, poured full strength into the cup of his anger, and he will be tormented with fire and sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. And the smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever, and they have no rest, day or night, these worshipers of the beast and its image, and whoever receives the mark of its name." (Rev 14:9-11).

http://www.prewrathrapture.com/2009/10/someones_eschatology_does_not_affect_the.php



Why This Debate Matters

Question: who will be more *prepared* for this test? the person who is taught that this test will be applied to the Church and thus must have faith to endure; or, the person who is taught that the Church will be swept away in bed's of ease before the Antichrist uses the mark as a test of loyalty?

Alan Kurschner

http://www.prewrathrapture.com/2009/10/someones_eschatology_does_not_affect_the.php



Why This Debate Matters

In other words, I do not believe that a pretribulational believer who affirms that we will be raptured out of here in bed's of ease will be "*just as prepared*" for the Antichrist's Great Tribulation as a prewrather who prepares his body, mind, and soul, and has studied and taken heed to Jesus' teaching in the Olivet Discourse.

Alan Kurschner

http://www.prewrathrapture.com/2009/11/pastor_bob_dewaay_critiqued_the.php



Who Saves Us?

John 10:27-29 My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. And I give to them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall **anyone** snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and **no one** is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand.



God Does Use Means

God uses *Biblical teaching and exhortation on this subject as a means* to prepare believers if God calls them to be that generation. Not to mention, it spiritually prepares them in the present trials.

Alan Kurschner

http://www.prewrathrapture.com/2009/11/pastor_bob_dewaay_critiqued_the.php



Who Should We Be Prepared To Meet?

Matthew 10:28 And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

Pretribulation: We meet Jesus first

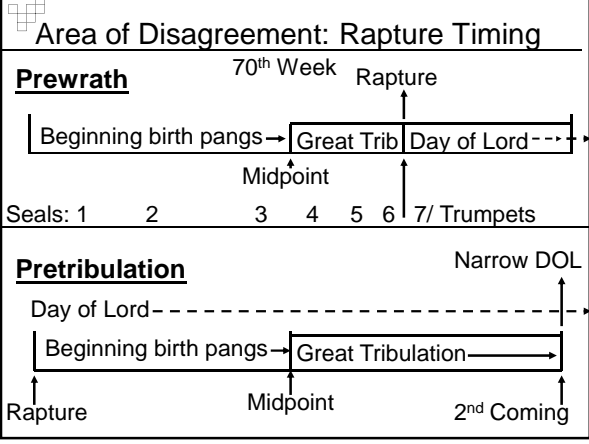
Prewrath: We meet tribulation of men and Satan first.


Believe The Promises of God
 Hebrews 11:24-27 By faith Moses when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt; **for he looked to the reward**. By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king; for he endured as seeing Him who is invisible.

Pretribulation and Prewrath Agreement

1. Rapture of the church
2. Bodily return of Christ
3. Bodily resurrection of believers- glory
4. Bodily resurrection of unbelievers – eternal lake of fire
5. Millennial reign of Christ on earth (Israel)
6. New heavens, earth, Jerusalem


SO WHY DIVIDE?
 WE BELIEVE IN THE SAME REWARDS!



 **1. Four Prewrath Contradictions**

Problems with “Parousia”

“Christ’s coming (parousia) will be seen in the heavens (that is, His glory – not His bodily form), and there will be continuous presence for the purpose of rapturing the church and judging the wicked. When men today speak of Christ’s first coming, it is not restricted to His birth alone. Rather, it includes the annunciation to Mary, the incarnation...His growth before men and God...His crucifixion, resurrection, an ascension. All of this comprises His first coming” (Marvin Rosenthal, *The Pre-Wrath Rapture of The Church*, pp 217-218).


 **1. Prewrath Equivocation**

Equivocation: Using a term with two different definitions.

Prewrath’s Parousia Analogy:

1st Coming – Jesus comes bodily, remains bodily, and does many wondrous things.

2nd Coming – Jesus comes bodily, remains spiritually, and does many wondrous things.

 **1. Prewrath Equivocation**

Parousia semantic range: (coming, presence)
Usage: Sometimes parousia emphasizes only the coming and sometimes only the presence.

2nd Corinthians 10:10 For they say, “His letters are weighty and strong, but his bodily presence is weak, and his speech contemptible.

Philippians 2:12 ...just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling

1. Prewrath Equivocation

Parousia where coming is emphasized:
Matthew 24:3 "...Tell us, when will this be, and what will be the sign of your coming and the end of the age?"
1 Thessalonians 4:15-16 "...we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first."

1. Prewrath Equivocation

"I list 20 reasons why Jesus and Paul teach on the **same, singular** future **Parousia** (Coming). This is the position of the Prewrath Rapture."

Alan Kurschner
http://www.prewrathrapture.com/2006/09/consistency_between_jesus_and_paul.php

"It means a coming and continued presence. That would be contradicted by the concept of a coming at the beginning of the 70th week and another at its end, as pretribulation has often taught" (Marv Rosenthal, *Pre-wrath*, 221-222)

1. Prewrath Equivocation

The diagram is a horizontal timeline with several key points marked by vertical lines and arrows. From left to right:

- A vertical line labeled "parousia" with a downward arrow.
- A vertical line labeled "Spiritually Present" with a downward arrow.
- A horizontal double-headed arrow labeled "Last 3 1/2 Years" spanning between the "parousia" and "Spiritually Present" lines.
- A vertical line labeled "Midpoint" with a downward arrow.
- A vertical line labeled "Jesus Receives Rule" with a downward arrow.
- A vertical line labeled "Israel Saved" with a downward arrow.
- A vertical line labeled "Armageddon" with a downward arrow.
- A vertical line with a downward arrow at the far right end.

 Dashed lines connect "parousia" to "Israel Saved" and "Armageddon". A dashed line also connects "Israel Saved" to the final vertical line.

2nd Thess. 2:8 And then that lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will slay with the breath of his mouth and bring to an end by the **appearance** of his coming.

1 John 3:2b We know that when He **appears**, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is.

2. Four Prewrath Contradictions

Revelation 6:10-11 Martyrs
 Revelation 7:14 Prewrath rapture
 Revelation 20:4 Tribulation saints raised

- If the prewrath rapture is true, then there can't be martyrs after Revelation 7:14.
- Revelation 20:4 proves there are martyrs after Revelation 7:14.
- Therefore, the prewrath rapture is not true!

2. Prewrath Contradictions

5th seal martyrs petition Rapture Revelation 20:4 Tribulation Saints Raised

6th 7th seals **DOL Wrath**

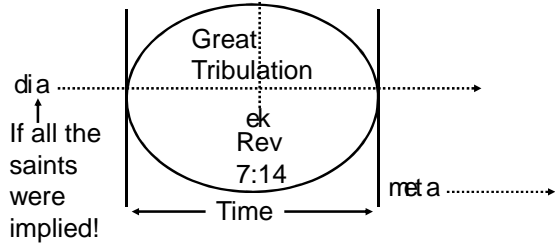
(5th seal Rev. 6:9-11) "The divine response is that once the last martyr gives his life, **the Lord will begin His systematic fiery wrath upon the wicked world**" (Ryan Habben, *Parable of The Fig Tree*, pp. 65-66).

3. Prewrath Contradictions

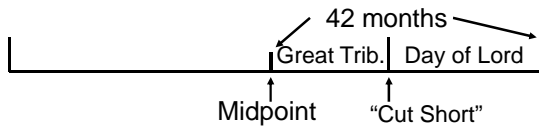
Contradiction in usage of Revelation 7:14

Revelation 7:13-14 Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, "These who are clothed in the white robes, who are they, and where have they come from?" I said to him, "My lord, you know." And he said to me, "These are the ones who come out of the **great tribulation**, and they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb."

Matthew 24:29,30 "But immediately after the tribulation of those days THE SUN WILL BE DARKENED, AND THE MOON WILL NOT GIVE ITS LIGHT... And then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky..."



4. The Fallacy Of The False Dilemma



Matthew 24:21-22 For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever will. Unless those days had been cut short, no life would have been saved...

4. The Fallacy Of The False Dilemma

Daniel 7:25 He will speak out against the Most High and wear down the saints of the Highest One, and he will intend to make alterations in times and in law; and they will be given into his hand for a time, times, and half a time.

Revelation 13:5 There was given to him to a mouth speaking arrogant words and blasphemies, and authority to act for forty-two months was given to him.



Our Goal In This Study

1. We want to help you put together the theological framework so that you can understand God's eternal promises on a deeper level.
2. We want to help you become aware of the exegetical issues involved in the various "eschatological texts."
3. We want to show the plausibility of the premillennial, pretribulational viewpoint.



Next Time:

- The Promise of The Davidic Kingdom
- The Inclusion of Gentiles
- Implications For Matthew 24 and Revelation
- Daniel Chapters 2, 7, 9
- Implications For Matthew 24 and Revelation
