

Biblical Arguments for the Pre-Tribulational Rapture

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1. The natural chronological reading of 1 Thess 4:13-5:11 presents the rapture before the “Day of the Lord.”

Matthew 24:36 “Now concerning that day and hour no one knows — neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son — except the Father only. 37 As the days of Noah were, so the coming of the Son of Man will be. 38 For in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah boarded the ark.

Matthew 24:39 They didn't know until the flood came and swept them all away. So this is the way the coming of the Son of Man will be: 40 Then two men will be in the field: one will be taken and one left. 41 Two women will be grinding at the mill: one will be taken and one left. 42 Therefore be alert, since you don't know what day your Lord is coming.

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1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 (HCSB) For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the archangel's voice, and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then **we who are still alive 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.

1 Thessalonians 5:1-2 (HCSB) About the times and the seasons: Brothers, you do not need anything to be written to you. 2 For you yourselves know very well that **the Day of the Lord will come just like a thief in the night**

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2. 1 Thess 5:9 teaches that believers are not destined for wrath. Some might say this refers to the wrath of hell and eternal judgment. However, the context of that promise is the wrath of the —Day of the Lord.

1 Thessalonians 5:9 (HCSB) 9 For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,

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3. The restrainer of sin who is taken out in 2 Thess 2:6-7 is best understood as referring to the restraining ministry of the Holy Spirit as embodied in His presence in the Church.

2 Thessalonians 2:6-7 (HCSB) 6 And you know what currently restrains him, so that he will be revealed in his time. 7 For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work, but the one now restraining will do so until he is out of the way,

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4. Rev 3:10 promises that the church will be —kept from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world.

Revelation 3:10 (HCSB) Because you have kept My command to endure, I will also keep you from the hour of testing that is going to come over the whole world to test those who live on the earth.

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5. Israel, the people with whom God made an eternal covenant, becomes prominent and the focal point of much that occurs at the end of the age (Rom 11; Rev 7). The Church, in contrast, appears diminished or absent.

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6. The doctrine of imminency (that Jesus could return at any moment) is the crucial and decisive argument, and the pretribulational rapture view is the best doctrinal position to maintain imminency.

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7. To argue against the post-tribulation rapture - why would believers be taken up in the air after the tribulation only to do an immediate u-turn and immediately come back down to the earth?

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8. After Revelation chapter 3, there is a noticeable absence of God addressing the churches.

(There is a shift from “Let he who has ears to hear listen to what the spirit says to the churches” to “let him who has ears to hear listen”)

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9. Revelation 19 does not mention a Rapture even though that is where a posttribulational Rapture (if true) would logically occur. Thus, one can conclude that the Rapture will have already occurred.

[John MacArthur (2013). MacArthur New Testament Commentary, The. Moody Press. Retrieved from <https://app.wordsearchbible.lifeway.com>]

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10. The purity of the church is best maintained though a doctrine of imminency - best preserved through a view of the rapture. 1 John 3:2-3

1 John 3:2-3 (HCSB) 2 Dear friends, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet been revealed. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him because we will see Him as He is. 3 And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself just as He is pure.

Biblical Arguments for the Pre-Tribulational Rapture:

11. God has a pattern in the Old Testament of delivering the righteous from destruction.

Old Testament Examples of Deliverance before Judgment: Noah, Lot, The Remnant, and Rahab. (Read Genesis 18:22-33 and Ezekiel 14:12-23 for more)

Genesis 18:22-23 (HCSB) 22 The men turned from there and went toward Sodom while Abraham remained standing before the Lord. 23 Abraham stepped forward and said, “Will You really sweep away the righteous with the wicked?”

Genesis 18:23-25 (HCSB) 24 What if there are 50 righteous people in the city? Will You really sweep it away instead of sparing the place for the sake of the 50 righteous people who are in it? 25 You could not possibly do such a thing: to kill the righteous with the wicked, treating the righteous and the wicked alike. You could not possibly do that! Won't the Judge of all the earth do what is just?"

Genesis 18:26-28 (HCSB) 26 The Lord said, “If I find 50 righteous people in the city of Sodom, I will spare the whole place for their sake.”

27 Then Abraham answered, “Since I have ventured to speak to the Lord — even though I am dust and ashes — 28 suppose the 50 righteous lack five. Will you destroy the whole city for lack of five?”

He replied, “I will not destroy it if I find 45 there.”

Genesis 18:29-30 (HCSB) 29 Then he spoke to Him again, “Suppose 40 are found there?”

He answered, “I will not do it on account of 40.”

30 Then he said, “Let the Lord not be angry, and I will speak further. Suppose 30 are found there?”

He answered, “I will not do it if I find 30 there.”

Genesis 18:31-33 (HCSB) 31 Then he said, “Since I have ventured to speak to the Lord, suppose 20 are found there?”

He replied, “I will not destroy it on account of 20.”

32 Then he said, “Let the Lord not be angry, and I will speak one more time. Suppose 10 are found there?”

He answered, “I will not destroy it on account of 10.” 33 When the Lord had finished speaking with Abraham, He departed, and Abraham returned to his place.

Ezekiel 14:21 (HCSB) 21 “For this is what the Lord God says: How much worse will it be when I send My four devastating judgments against Jerusalem — **sword, famine, dangerous animals, and plague** — in order to wipe out both man and animal from it!

Revelation 6:8 (HCSB) And I looked, and there was a pale green horse. The horseman on it was named Death, and Hades was following after him. Authority was given to them over a fourth of the earth, to kill by the **sword, by famine, by plague, and by the wild animals of the earth.**

Ezekiel 14:12-14 (HCSB) 12 The word of the Lord came to me: 13 “Son of man, if a land sins against Me by acting faithlessly, and I stretch out My hand against it to cut off its supply of bread, to send famine through it, and to wipe out both man and animal from it, **14 even if these three men — Noah, Daniel, and Job — were in it, they would deliver only themselves by their righteousness.**” This is the declaration of the Lord God.

Ezekiel 14:15-16 (HCSB) 15 “If I allow dangerous animals to pass through the land and depopulate it so that it becomes desolate, with no one passing through it for fear of the animals, 16 even if these three men were in it, as I live” — the declaration of the Lord God — “they could not deliver their sons or daughters. **They alone would be delivered**, but the land would be desolate.

Ezekiel 14:17-18 (HCSB) 17 “Or if I bring a sword against that land and say: Let a sword pass through it, so that I wipe out both man and animal from it, 18 even if these three men were in it, as I live” — the declaration of the Lord God — “they could not deliver their sons or daughters, **but they alone would be delivered.**

Ezekiel 14:19-20 (HCSB) 19 “Or if I send a plague into that land and pour out My wrath on it with bloodshed to wipe out both man and animal from it, 20 even if Noah, Daniel, and Job were in it, as I live” — the declaration of the Lord God — “they could not deliver their son or daughter. **They would deliver only themselves by their righteousness.**

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12. There are a few Old Testament examples of people being raptured - Enoch and Elijah.

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Genesis 5:24 (HCSB) Enoch walked with God; then he was not there because God took him.

2 Kings 2:11 (HCSB) 11 As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire with horses of fire suddenly appeared and separated the two of them. Then Elijah went up into heaven in the whirlwind.

10 Biblical Signs that Jesus can Return at Any Time

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1) Global Travel



Daniel 12:4: "But as for you, Daniel, conceal these words and seal up the book until the end of time; many will go back and forth, and knowledge will increase."

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2) An increase in Knowledge



Daniel 12:4 - "But as for you, Daniel, conceal these words and seal up the book until the end of time; many will go back and forth, and knowledge will increase."

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3) Immorality like in the Days of Noah and Lot -
Matthew 24:37

"For the coming of the Son of Man will be just
like the days of Noah."



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4) Violent Weather



Luke 21:25 "There will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth dismay among nations, in perplexity at the roaring of the sea and the waves.

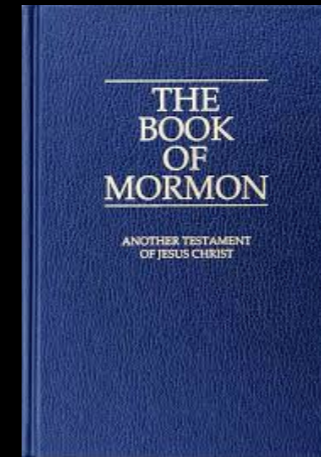
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5) Global Television



Revelation 11:9-10 For three and a half days **men from every people, tribe, language and nation will gaze on their bodies** and refuse them burial. 10 The inhabitants of the earth will gloat over them and will celebrate by sending each other gifts, because these two prophets had tormented those who live on the earth. (NIV)

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6) False Christs will arise.

"For false Christs and false prophets will arise and will show great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect. Matthew 24:24

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7) Technology capable of the Mark of the Beast

Revelation 13:16-17 And he causes all, the small and the great, and the rich and the poor, and the free men and the slaves, to be given a mark on their right hand or on their forehead,¹⁷ and he provides that no one will be able to buy or to sell, except the one who has the mark, either the name of the beast or the number of his name.

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8) An army of 200 million -



Revelation 9:16 - The number of the armies of the horsemen was two hundred million; I heard the number of them.

10 Biblical Signs that Jesus can Return at Any Time

9) Nuclear weapons capable of killing all flesh

Matthew 24:22 And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.



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10) The Gospel will be carried to the ends of the earth.

Matthew 24:14 "This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come.

