

Will the Church Go Through The Tribulation?

Hebrews 12:27

27 And this word, Yet once more, signifieth the removing of those things that are shaken, as of things that are made, that those things which cannot be shaken may remain.

In the last of the last days, there will be a culmination and a climax to reach God's end goal of preparing His people for His Son to receive us.

John 14:1-3

1 Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. 2 In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

Ephesians 5:25-27

25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; 26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, 27 That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

Matthew 24:35-42

35 Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away. 36 But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only. 37 But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. 38 For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, 39 And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. 40 Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left. 41 Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left. 42 Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 (KJV Strong's) 13 But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. 15 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. 16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: 17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. 18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

Titus 2:13

13 Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ.

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

1 But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. 2 For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. 3 For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape. 4 But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. 5 Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness. 6 Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober. 7 For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night. 8 But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation. 9 For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ, 10 Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him. 11 **Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do.**

Vs. 4 "But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief."

[because] 2 Thessalonians 2:7 "For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only **he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way**"

Rev 2-3: is all about the church and God's mercy toward His people.

What happens in Revelation 4:1. Everything changes...

Ten Proofs the Rapture Takes Place in Rev. Chapter 4 Verse 1:

Greek: meta (G3326) tauta (tow-ta) (G5023), ***after these things*** (note a, Jn. 5:1). This Greek phrase is used at the beginning and at end of this verse thus: "After these things (after writing the things concerning the churches of Rev. 2--Rev. 3) I looked ... a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice ... said, *Come up hither*, and I will show thee things which must be **after these things**," that is, after the dispensation of the church.

It was prophesied to the Jews: Hosea 6:1-2 Come, and let us return unto the LORD: for he hath torn, and he will heal us; he hath smitten, and he will bind us up. 2 After two days will he revive us: in the third day he will raise us up, and we shall live in his sight.

This confirms and settles the question as to the time of the fulfillment of all the events of Rev. 4:2--Rev. 22. They must be after these things of the churches, or after the rapture of the church. The church is no longer on earth when the events of Rev. 4--Rev. 22 take place.

1. Christ said the things of Rev. 4--Rev. 22 **"must be hereafter,"** that is, after the churches. Revelation 1:19 "Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter."

If this is true, then the church is raptured before these things of Rev. 4--Rev. 22, and after the things of the churches of Rev. 2--Rev. 3. If the **things which are** (Rev. 2--Rev. 3) concern the church, then the "things which must be" after "the things which are" must concern events **after the churches**. The church must be here during the time of the fulfillment of the things concerning the churches, and it must not be here during the fulfillment of the things after the churches. The church then is raptured in Rev. 4:1 between "the things which are" (Rev. 2--Rev. 3) and "the things which must be hereafter," that is, after the churches (Rev. 4--Rev. 22).

2. The word "church" is found 19 times in Rev. 1--Rev. 3 but not once in the third division of the book which contains "the things which must be" after the churches (Rev. 4:1--Rev. 22:5). The church is found again in the conclusion of the book (Rev. 22:6-21), but only after "the things which must be" are fully revealed. **If the church were on earth during the fulfillment of Rev. 4--Rev. 22 it certainly would be mentioned.**
3. The enthroned elders are representative of the raptured saints and they are always seen in heaven after Rev. 4:1.
4. The 70th week (7 days/7 years) of Daniel will be the last seven years of this age, during which time all of Rev. 4--Rev. 19; Mt. 24--Mt. 25 will be fulfilled. This week concerns Israel, not the church. Therefore, the church must be raptured before this week begins.
5. There is no place for the rapture of the church and the Old Testament saints other than in Rev. 4:1. The man-child (Jewish People) and the great tribulation saints (2nd 1/2 years) are the only ones to be saved and raptured during Daniel's 70th week, and these are distinct groups from the church and the Old Testament saints. Therefore, the church is either caught up in Rev. 4:1--after the churches of Rev. 2--Rev. 3 and before the events coming after the churches of Rev. 4--Rev. 22--or it is never mentioned in Revelation as to its rapture and there is nothing to be comforted in. If it were to be caught up anytime during this 70th week of Daniel from Rev 4-Rev 19, it surely would have been mentioned. The **church** could not be the man-child or the tribulation saints, as proved in Rev. 7; Rev. 12; & Rev. 14.
6. Luke 21:34-36 And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares. 35 For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth. 36 Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.
 - Here we have the promise of Jesus that the saved will be accounted worthy to escape all these things, and to stand before the Son of Man. The things they will escape are those of Mt. 24:4-26 Lk. 21:4-19 and Rev. 6--Rev. 19.
7. In 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 we have another definite promise assuring us that saints will escape the wrath of God (of Rev. 6-19). God has not appointed us to this wrath, but to obtain deliverance through Jesus Christ so we can live with Christ. How could saints

comfort one another, if the only hope they had was the coming wrath of God in the future tribulation?

8. 2 Thessalonians 2:6-7 (KJV Strong's) 6 And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time. 7 For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way.

- Here, it is definitely shown that the rapture takes place before the revelation of the Antichrist and before the 70th week of Daniel. The events of Rev. 4--Rev. 19 will take place during this week, so the rapture must take place in Rev. 4:1.

9. There is a marked change in God's attitude toward humanity in general, from that of mercy (Rev. 1--Rev. 3) to that of judgment (Rev. 4--Rev. 19). The seals, trumpets, and vials all picture judgment throughout Daniel's 70th week. If the church does not go through any of these things, as proved already, then the rapture must take place in Rev. 4:1.

- Romans 12:19 Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.

10. An individual or a body of individuals can be identified by peculiarities and characteristics. If the church is to be on earth and is the subject of Rev. 4--Rev. 19, then its earmarks should be seen. But such are not to be found. On the other hand, earmarks of Israel are seen throughout the book after Rev. 4:1. The earmarks of the church are seen **up to this point only**. This proves that two different institutions are dealt with in different parts of the book:

- first, the church until its rapture in Rev. 4:1
- second, Israel after the rapture of the church to the second coming of Christ (Rev. 4--Rev. 19).

Hebrews 12:12-13

Wherefore lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees; 13 And make straight paths for your feet, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way; but let it rather be healed.

Make straight paths, lest you get into rough and stoney ways, become lame, and be prevented from reaching the goal.

Philippians 3:7-21

7 But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. 8 Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ, 9 And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith: 10 That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death; 11 If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead. 12 Not as though

I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. 13 Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, 14 I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. 15 Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded: and if in any thing ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you. 16 Nevertheless, whereto we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us mind the same thing. 17 Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample. 18 (For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: 19 Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.) 20 For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: 21 Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.