

3/30/23

Small-group reminders:

- Bring your Bible and a copy of these questions with you on Thursday night.
- During your small group time, choose one question from each category so that you're not missing any one topic if time runs out. Then go back and choose another from each category.
- At the 15-minute warning, pause your questions and each give a personal prayer request. Then resume questions until time runs out.

The Rapture is Still Happening

Our verses: 2 Peter 3:3-4

The enemy comes to steal, kill, and destroy (John 10:10)—steal our joy, kill our hope, and destroy us.

Pastor JD said, “Once he gets us to that hopeless state, he’s got us.”

Why They Mock

2 Peter 3:3 says that mockers follow their own lusts, meaning they want to continue to follow their own evil desires. “If you remove the return of Jesus Christ, so too do you remove judgment.” ~ Pastor JD

1. a) Do you have family or friends living in current sin patterns who shut you down over the topic of the rapture? b) Among Christians, what seemingly good things are people holding onto that would prevent them from longing for the rapture?
2. Do you find yourself toning it down because of others’ critical comments?
3. Someone read 2 Timothy 4:8. Does it help you to hang onto your hope knowing what awaits you?

What They Mock

Pastor JD said, “As we get closer to the pretribulation rapture, the attacks on the pre-tribulation rapture have escalated off the charts.”

1. How can we find encouragement over the fact that only the pre-trib rapture is attacked rather than mid or post?

Kim and Lisa's observation: The reemergence of sound teaching on the pretribulation rapture came in the 1800s to prepare generations who were getting closer to its fulfillment. Then in the past decades we see how eschatology, the study of end times, has been removed from being taught in most churches.

2. Have you noticed this shift in your lifetime?
3. Did you grow up in a church that taught the pre-trib rapture?

“What they ridicule is the very thing that authenticates and validates that which they ridicule.” ~ Pastor JD

How They Mock

In our text, Peter is subtle but clear nonetheless. The fact that he speaks of the promise of His coming indicates the Lord's return is a promised certainty. When people ask, “Where is His promised coming?” they are saying that God broke His promise. “Did God really say...”

1. How have date-setters only strengthened the case of mockers and scoffers who ask, “Where is the promise of His coming?”

JD said of Satan, “But see, he's the author of confusion and the father of lies. So if he can just plant one seed of doubt, and you start getting a little bit confused, it will germinate and sprout.”

2. Look up 1 Peter 3:14-15. a) Are you able to defend your belief in the pre-tribulation rapture? b) What ways can you solidify your understanding and belief?

Closing

1. What prophetic events must happen prior to the rapture?
2. When people say that certain occurrences, such as a great revival, must happen prior to the rapture, what does that do to the doctrine of imminency?

Pastor JD: “Whoever puts his hope in the Lord will never be disappointed. Whoever puts their hope in anything or anyone but the Lord will absolutely be disappointed.”