

## 4/27/23 Questions

### Reminders:

- Please read and consider our discussion questions on your own prior to the Gathering on Thursday.
- Bring your Bible and a copy of these questions with you on Thursday night.
- During your group discussion time, don't stress if you can't get to every question below.

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Topic: [What is the Pretribulation Rapture?](#) by Todd Strandberg

\*\*Note: Some teachers see certain verses as being related to the rapture that others do not. Since this is not a salvation issue, we are safe in reading and discussing the variety of perspectives. What we will do weekly is to use our assigned material as they present it for our discussions even though we know there may be other interpretations.

### Scriptural Evidence for the Pretribulation Rapture

#### Unknown Hour

Matthew 25:13 tells us that Jesus will return at an unknown time, while Revelation 12:6 indicates that the Jews will have to wait on the Lord 1,260 days, starting when the Antichrist stands in the Temple of God and declares himself to be God (2 Thessalonians 2:4). The only way for these two viewpoints to be true is to separate them as two distinct events.

- 1) Which event does Matthew 25:13 seem to be pointing to and why?
- 2) Can it be said of the second coming that “no man knows the day or hour” if Scripture says Jesus will come back 1,260 days after the desecration of the Temple?

#### Marriage Supper of the Lamb

In Luke 12:36, the Word states that when Christ returns, He will be returning from a wedding. Todd believes this to be a picture of the rapture. Matthew 25:1-13, the parable of the ten virgins, also represents the rapture in wedding imagery.

- 1) What are the parallels between the Jewish wedding customs and Jesus coming for His bride?
- 2) What did Jesus use to pay the “dowry” as was the wedding custom?

- 3) In the Jewish wedding tradition, what does the groom do at his father's house that Jesus says He will do in John 14:1-3?
- 4) How can you use the Jewish wedding customs to explain the rapture to others?

If you would like to learn more about Jewish wedding customs in Bible times, additional material is located on the [Rapture](#) page on the Daybreak site.

### **Know what “they” believe**

As we learn more about the rapture and how to defend our faith in a pre-tribulation rapture, it is helpful to know what others believe. In his article, Todd mentioned preterists and their view on the Book of Revelation.

- 1) What do preterists believe?
- 2) How do the following future prophecies from Revelation refute that belief?
  - A third of the trees will be burned up
  - 100-pound hailstones will fall from the sky
  - The sea will be turned into blood

### **People of the Millennium**

Only the pre-tribulation viewpoint can account for the post-tribulation problem of who will populate the earth during the millennium.

- 1) The presence of infants in Isaiah's (65:20) account of the millennium indicates that those who enter the millennial kingdom with natural bodies will reproduce, while those with glorified bodies (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18) will not. Who are these two groups?

### **No U-Turns**

In the pre-tribulation scenario, after we rise to meet the Lord in the air, we will go to heaven and abide there seven years (see John 14:1-3). At the end of that period, Christ will come down to earth, defeat the Antichrist, and cleanse the temple (Revelation 19:14). In the post-tribulation scenario, the rapture happens at the same time as His second coming.

- 1) Why do some call this the bungee cord rapture?

Todd: “If the saints of God are returning with Christ to wage war on the Antichrist, then it is not possible to have a post-tribulation rapture without us running into ourselves as we are coming and going.”

### **Missing Church**

Based on Revelation 4:1, which says, “come up hither,” many prophecy teachers see this passage as typology or imagery of the rapture.

- 1) What leads many to view the passage this way?
- 2) Who do you see as the focus of God's attention from 4:2 on in Revelation?

### **Jacob's Trouble**

- 1) What is the time of Jacob's trouble and what group of people does "Jacob" refer to?
- 2) How does this suggest no need for the church to be present?

### **Taken Out of the Way**

Before the Antichrist can be revealed, Paul said a certain "He" must be taken out of the way. According to 2 Thessalonians 2:7, the "He" that must be removed is widely thought to be the Holy Spirit.

- 1) Why does it seem likely that the removal of the church is the best explanation of this passage?

The working of the Holy Spirit will go on during the tribulation, but His influence will be diminished because of the missing Church.

### **War or Rapture**

When Jesus returns at the end of the tribulation, He will be coming for battle. For those who believe in a post-tribulation rapture, it would be strange to meet your Lord and Savior just as He's rushing into battle.

- 1) Read Revelation 19:19-21. How could war and rapture occur together, especially since they transpire at the same moment?
- 2) How do we reconcile this in light of John 14:1-3 that describes a Groom and not a King prepared for battle?

### **The Five Foolish Virgins**

Todd said, "The wedding story that Jesus gave in Matthew 25:2-13, I believe, is a parable of the rapture of the Church."

- 1) Discuss how the parable of the virgins might represent the rapture.

### **Appointed to Wrath**

Post-tribulation teachers say that God will protect Christians during the tribulation and pour out His wrath on the unbelievers only.

- 1) Read Revelation 13:7. Since the Antichrist is given power to make war with the saints and to overcome them, if this is indeed the church, what would that do to the assurance of 1 Thessalonians 5:9?

“A post-tribulation view would make God’s promise of protection from wrath into a lie.” ~ Todd Strandberg

### **Noah and Lot as Examples**

The tribulation period is compared to the times of Noah and Lot by Jesus in Luke 17:26-30.

- 1) What kind of people were removed before God’s judgment (what was their relationship to God)?
- 2) What do you see in our world that could be compared to Noah and Lot’s days?

Todd mentioned the “world test,” saying, “One way to check the soundness of a doctrine is to see how the world reacts to it.”

- 3) What do the world’s and most Christians’ reactions to the rapture in particular suggest about its soundness?