

Why the Pre-Tribulation Rapture is Biblical

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The work and ministry of the Holy Spirit necessitates that **the Rapture must occur before the Tribulation Period**. The book of Thessalonians is a doctrinal book that places much emphasis on the return of the Lord. It is here (II Thessalonians) where it is emphatically taught that the Holy Spirit will take all believers to heaven before the Antichrist is revealed.

The Ministry of the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit was promised in all 4 gospels and the book of Acts

Matthew 3:11 I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me... he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and *with* fire:

Mark 1:8 I...have baptized you with water: but he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost.

Luke 3:16 I indeed baptize you with water; but...he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire:

John 1:33 he that sent me to baptize with water...said unto me, Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending... the same is he which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost.

Acts 1:5 John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost...

The Coming of the Holy Spirit was Fulfilled in the book of Acts:

He came and indwelt Jews (Acts 2:1-4), Samaritans (Acts 8:14-17), Gentiles (Acts 10:44-45), and the Uttermost (Acts 19:1-6).

The Holy Spirit is a Gift for all Believers in the N.T.:

Acts 2:38 Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

Romans 8:9 But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.

The Holy Spirit's Ministry in the N.T. is one of Indwelling

John 14:17 Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.

This Indwelling will be Forever:

John 14:16 And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever...

The ministry of the Holy Spirit coming to earth started after Jesus was glorified:

John 7:38-39 He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. ³⁹ (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)

The ministry of the Holy Spirit leaving earth will occur just before the Antichrist is revealed:

2 Thessalonians 2:3 Let no man deceive you by any means: for *that day shall not come*, except there come a falling away first, and that **man of sin be revealed**, the son of perdition; ⁴ Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God. ⁵ Remember ye not, that, when

I was yet with you, I told you these things? 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.** ⁸ And **then** shall that **Wicked be revealed**, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming: ⁹ *Even him*, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders...

“**He** who now letteth *will let*, until **he** be taken out of the way.” Who is this “he?” It is the Holy Spirit. He hinders the work of iniquity (through believers as the salt of the earth) – until he be taken out of the way – and then that Wicked (the wicked one / the lawless one) be revealed.

If the Holy Spirit leaves the earth, those whom He indwells forever must also leave.

II Thessalonians chapter 2 could be titled, “The Revelation of Antichrist.”

And then shall that Wicked be revealed:

- That man of sin
- The son of perdition
- Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped;
- So that he as God sitteth in the Temple of God, shewing himself that he is God
- Whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming
- Whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,

Rapture 1st
II The. 2:6-7
Rev. 4:1

And Then

Antichrist
II The. 2:8
Rev. 6:1-2

The Tribulation period starts when:

In Heaven – when Jesus opens the 1st seal, then the Antichrist is revealed:

Revelation 6:1 And I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals..... ² And I saw, and behold a white horse: and he that sat on him had a bow; and a crown was given unto him: and he went forth conquering, and to conquer.

On Earth – when Antichrist signs a one-week covenant, the Tribulation Period begins:

Daniel 9:27 And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease...

Why the Rapture Must occur Before the 7-Year Tribulation Period

The Holy Spirit leaves the earth and all believers go up with Him --
Then the Antichrist is revealed.

The Tribulation Period begins when Antichrist signs a 7-year covenant. The Holy Spirit leaves before the Antichrist is revealed.

Therefore, the Rapture occurs first, and **then** the Tribulation period begins with the Antichrist signing a covenant. Thus, we will not know who the Antichrist is.

To fully understand this Bible truth, one must be able to grasp what Daniel teaches concerning the 70 weeks in Daniel 9:24-27.

Below is a brief analysis of the 70th week of Daniel which teaches that the Tribulation Period is a seven year period and that those seven years begin with a covenant signed by the Antichrist.

The 70TH Week of Daniel

Daniel 9:24-27 **Seventy weeks** are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy. Know therefore and understand, *that* from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince *shall be* seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times. And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof *shall be* with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined. And **he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week**: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make *it* desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.

When Daniel refers to the word *weeks*, he is referring to a seven-year timeframe. The word in the Hebrew is the word 'shabuwa.' The definition of this word is: "1. *period of seven days, week; of marriage feast.* 2. *heptad or seven of years.*"¹ This means that the seventy 'weeks' can be either seventy 'seven-day periods' or seventy 'seven-year periods.' The context will determine which one to use.

This principle of time measurement is not new. One day stood for a year in the following verse:

Numbers 14:34 "After the number of the days in which ye searched the land, *even* forty days, each day for a year, shall ye bear your iniquities, *even* forty years, and ye shall know my breach of promise."

And one-week meant one 'seven-year period' in these verses:

Genesis 29:27 "Fulfil her week, and we will give thee this also for the service which thou shalt serve with me yet seven other years. ²⁸ And Jacob did so, and fulfilled her week: and he gave him Rachel his daughter to wife also."

This approach of seven-years for one-week will be applied to Daniel 9:24-27. The following is a word-for-word reading of the Scriptures except for the notes added by this author which are in parenthesis.

Daniel 9:24-27:

"Seventy weeks are determined

(70 weeks = 70 x 7's which totals 490 – in this case **490 years**)

upon thy people and upon thy holy city, (Israelites and Jerusalem)

¹ Bible Works 4.0 Whittaker's Revised BDB Lexicon p. 988

to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins (For Israel – Rom. 11:26)
and to make reconciliation for iniquity (The sin of Israel's rejection of Messiah)
and to bring in everlasting righteousness (King Jesus reigns in righteousness)
and to seal up the vision and prophecy (End of need for vision & prophecy)
and to anoint the most Holy (Most Holy Place in Millennial Temple)

Know therefore and understand, that from
the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem **unto**
the Messiah the Prince **shall be**

seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks
(7+62 = 69 weeks or 69 x 7 = **483 years**)

the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times.

And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off
(This has happened – thus 69 weeks have been already fulfilled), but not for himself: and

the people (Rome) of the prince that shall come (Antichrist)

shall destroy the city and the sanctuary (Titus and Romans destroyed Jerusalem in 70 A.D.)

and the end thereof *shall be* with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined.

And he (Antichrist)

shall confirm the covenant with many for **one week** (yet unfulfilled)
(**This is the last week – the 70th week** – one week of years = **7 years**)

and in the midst of the week (3 ½ year mark)

he (Antichrist)

shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease (in the Jewish Temple)

and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make *it* desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.”

Thus, the first sixty-nine weeks of Daniel have been fulfilled. The seventieth week of Daniel is unfulfilled. In the midst of the week (the 3 ½ year mark), he shall cause the sacrifice and oblation to cease – as the Antichrist sits in the Temple as God (II The. 2:4).

It is imperative that one understands that this seven-year timeframe is yet future, as it is the Tribulation Period's timeframe.

Thus:

The Coming of the Holy Spirit Prophesied

All 4 gospels and Acts 1:5

The Coming of the Holy Spirit Fulfilled

To all peoples in the book of Acts

The Leaving of the Holy Spirit Prophesied

II The. 2:6-8 When He is taken out of the way

The Leaving of the Holy Spirit Fulfilled

At the Rapture – a future event

The Coming of Antichrist Prophesied

Dan. 9:27 To sign a covenant with many for one week.

The Coming of the Antichrist Fulfilled

Just after the Rapture – a future event

Only God can see a future event as if it is already done:

1 Thessalonians 1:10 And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, *even* Jesus, **which delivered us from the wrath to come.**

God foresees / decrees the saved to avoid the wrath of God.

1 Thessalonians 5:9 For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,

The saved will miss the events of the Tribulation Period such as:

Revelation 6:16-17 And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?

The Rapture:

1 Thessalonians 4:15-18 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. 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: 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. Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

1 Corinthians 15:51-53 Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal *must* put on immortality.

Philippians 3:20-21 For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: 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.