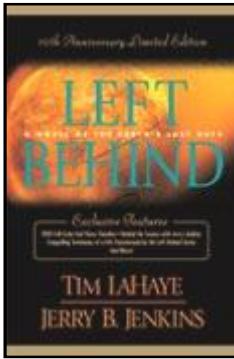


# WHAT'S WRONG WITH “The Rapture”



## Left Behind 10th Anniversary Limited Edition

A Most Popular Christian Novel  
of the Earth's Last Days

“Driverless cars careen out of control. Terrified people watch their loved ones vanish. Some say it's an alien invasion, but Rayford Steele knows that his wife's warning has come true, Christ has raptured believers and he's been left behind!”

The above is the Introduction to the novel “Left Behind” as found at [www.leftbehind.com](http://www.leftbehind.com).  
(This is Not an Endorsement)

Because of the premise espoused in this one Christian best-seller, most of the Christian world has now been indoctrinated to believe in a **“pre-Tribulation Rapture” theory**. Millions of people are expecting a miraculous “exodus” into heaven before the judgments, as found within the Book of Revelation, begin to unfold upon planet Earth.

Besides Tim LaHaye, other prominent Protestant pastors such as John Hagee, Ken Copeland, Jack Van Impe, and Pastor Pete Peters preach this theory and false hope to their flocks to gain a following, and of course, their financial support. The King James Version is quoted thru-out this study, including this quote from the Savior who spoke AGAINST a “Pre-Trib. Rapture” idea,

“I pray **NOT** that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil (one).” – John 17:15 (KJV)

## THE POPULAR “BELIEF”

One of the most popular teachings today in Evangelical and Charismatic churches is the doctrine of the “Pre-Tribulation Rapture”. It goes that *“there are two separate comings of Christ. The first coming is secret and occurs before the coming future seven-year tribulation. At this coming Jesus comes for the saints (i.e., all genuine believers) both living and dead. These saints meet the LORD in the air and then are taken to heaven to escape the horrible judgments that take place during the tribulation. At the end of the great tribulation, Jesus returns to the earth with the saints. This coming is not secret but is observed by all. At this third coming Christ crushes His opposition, judges mankind and sets up a one thousand year reign of saints upon the earth”*

Some Pre-tribulation advocates speak of two separate comings while others prefer to speak of one coming in two separate stages or phases (*phase one is the secret rapture and phase two is the visible coming in judgment*). Hal Lindsey likes to refer to the rapture as “the great snatch.” He writes: “The word for ‘caught up’ actually means to ‘snatch up,’ and that's why I like to call this marvelous coming event ‘The Great Snatch’!”

Although the *pre-tribulation rapture* doctrine is very popular and is even considered so crucial to the Church that it is made a *test* of a person's orthodoxy in some denominations, Bible colleges and seminaries, the exegetical and theological arguments used by its advocates are all classic cases of **FORCING** one's theological presuppositions onto particular texts (eisegesis).

The purpose of this brief study is to show that the *pre-tribulation rapture* belief is not directly stated any place in either “Old Covenant” or “New covenant” Scripture. It contradicts the general teaching of YHWH's Plan of Salvation regarding the Messiah's “Second Coming” and was never taught in any branch of any church prior to 1830.

Of all the false doctrines out there, the PTR is one the easiest one to disprove. False doctrines have a way of spreading like cancer, and The Remnant of YHWH is dedicated to exposing this fraud. Because Satan is still the “god of this world” (2 Cor.4:4) this lawless spiritual entity has “deceived the whole world” (Rev.12:9). These deceptions come in the form of false ideas or false doctrines which are propagandized for a false hope and usually for monetary gain, which

the author of the **Left Behind** series, Tim LaHaye, can surely attest to achieving. Because the majority of Christians don't *“study to show themselves approved”* (2 Tim.2:19), they have turned to “fables & fiction.”

Before proving the PTR as a false doctrine from the New Covenant itself, let's first look at evidence within other writings from the first and second centuries...

### The Didache

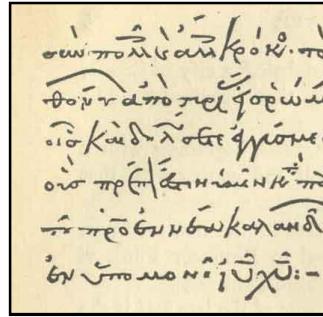
One of the earliest pieces of Nazarene literature after the New Covenant, is the “Didache”. It is a piece of Nazarene instruction dating from the first quarter of the 2nd century.

The last chapter is devoted to exhortations in view of the woes expected at the end of the world. The author urges an attitude of watching in view of the uncertainty of the time of the end.

*“Watch over your life; let your lamps be not quenched and your loins be not ungirded, but be ready, for you know not the hour in which your King cometh” (16.1).*

This language, however, cannot be assumed to mean an *“any-moment rapture”*, for the author proceeds to sketch the consummation of the age in which he warns the Body of Messiah against the peril of falling away from the Messianic Torah-based Faith **WHEN** Anti-Messiah appears

*“There shall appear the deceiver of the World as a Son of (YHWH), and shall do signs and wonders and the earth shall be given over into his hands and he shall commit iniquities which have never been since the world began. Then shall the creation of mankind come to the fiery trial and many shall be offended and be lost, but they who endure in their faith shall be saved by the curse itself. And then shall appear the signs of the truth. First the sign spread out in Heaven, then the sign of the trumpet, and thirdly the resurrection of the (righteous) dead:...but as it was said, The (Messiah) shall come and all his saints with him. Then shall the world see the (Messiah) coming on the clouds of Heaven.”*



The Didachist looked forward to the appearance of Anti-Messiah who will rule the world and inflict men with severe persecution. The many who are to be offended and be lost are professing “believers” who do NOT stand true; for only those who endure in The Faith shall be saved.

The purpose of the Didachist in writing this exhortation was to prepare the righteous for the Great Tribulation and the sufferings to be inflicted by Anti-Messiah and urge steadfastness, *“for the whole time of your faith shall not profit you except ye be found perfect at the last time.”*  
see: [www.gospelpedlar.com/articles/Last%20Things/history\\_prophecy.html](http://www.gospelpedlar.com/articles/Last%20Things/history_prophecy.html)

*“And the woman (The Whore of Babylon) which thou sawest is that great city (Rome) which reigneth over the kings of the earth.”*

**–Revelation 17:18**



Ratsinger the High Priest of Rome received by Bush - “the King of the North”, 4-08

Request the Last Days revelation,  
**The Rider of the White Horse**  
George W. Bush in Prophecy



**“The Epistle of Barnabas”**

A second piece of “Nazarene” literature which is really anonymous bears the title **“The Epistle of Barnabas.”** It stems from about the same period as the **Didache**. The author of this little tract is looking not only for the second coming of Meshiakh but also for the last time of trouble... According to this, “Barnabas” expected the true believers to go **THROUGH** the Tribulation and Meshiakh to return only at its termination. This is again asserted in **15.5**:

*"When his Son comes, he will destroy the reign of the wicked one and will judge the godless, and will change the sun and moon and the stars, and then he will truly rest on the seventh day."*

The second coming of Meshiakh **will destroy** the "wicked one" the Anti-Messiah; and if so, his appearance is expected to PRECEDE Yahsha's return! A third witness outside the New Covenant writings, Justin Martyr who himself became a martyr, felt that the sufferings to be inflicted by the "man of apostasy," the Anti-Messiah, will be little worse than what Nazarenes were already fearlessly suffering for the name of h'Meshiakh.

*"For it is plain that, though beheaded, and crucified, and thrown to wild beasts, and chains, and fire, and all other kinds of torture, we do not give up our confession."*

**-Justin Martyr**

**NOT EVEN** the "Early Church Fathers" (*the true Gnostics of Mystery Babylon*) **believed in a "Pre-Tribulation Rapture"!!** Such men include: Irenaeus, Tertullian, Lactantius, and Hippolytus. From their writings, there is agreement that the Great Tribulation purifies the believers who remain on the earth DURING the final 3-1/2 years of devastation & terror under the "Anti-Messiah". We can find NO explicit trace of *pre-tribulationism* in any of the earliest writings of the Nazarene disciples. NO modern "Pre-tribulationist" has successfully proved that this particular doctrine was held by any believers before the 19<sup>th</sup> century. PTR is a "new" false doctrine!

#### **GRASPING AT STRAWS (Eisegesis)**

*"Yahsha answered and said unto them, Ye do err, not knowing the Scriptures, nor the power of Yahweh."* -Matt.22:29

Then there are those passages which PTR teachers will present as "proof", but there is NEVER any specific reference to a resurrection from the dead, nor to the Savior's majestic return. This following excerpt was taken from the website: [www.soundchristian.com/prophecy](http://www.soundchristian.com/prophecy) which tries to establish the validity of the PTR ...

*"Another early text, the Shepherd of Hermas (or Pastor of Hermas, 110 A.D.) contained a pre-tribulation rapture concept regarding the tribulation period: 'If you then prepare your-*

*selves, and repent with all your heart, and turn to the Lord, it will be possible for you to escape'*

This PTR apologist, **Tim Osterholm**, totally *READS INTO* the passage a "pre-tribulation rapture" where NONE is explicitly stated. Notice that he specifically states that this verse "contained" this idea! I didn't see it...did you?? This line from the **Shepherd of Hermas** does NOT even vaguely refer to a rapture concept or resurrection from the dead! This is a deceitful tactic of semantic illusion, also called, "grasping at straws", yet that is the best scrap of so-called "evidence" (*presumption*) he can come up with.

#### **WHAT DOES "RAPTURE" REALLY MEAN?**

*"Take heed that no man deceive you."*

**-Matthew 24:4**

The word "rapture" is presumed to be referencing some portions of the New Covenant writings which talk of the "first resurrection". (See Rev.20:5-6). Yahweh's Plan includes two resurrections from the dead in the 7,000 year timetable for salvation. The "First" resurrection consists of only 144,000 which occurs at the return of Yahsha h'Meshiakh to reign on earth for 1,000 years. The righteous will reign WITH h'Meshiakh for 1,000 years. (Revelation 14:1-5)

The "Second" resurrection occurs AFTER that 1,000 year reign when the Devil is also released from his "prison" for a short time. This resurrection consists of all the rest of humanity who have ever lived (*billions of people, babies and old, and all races and nations, tribes, etc*) - to be judged according to the Torah - whether they were obedient unto YHWH or not. Many will receive eternal life and many will be damned for having loved the lies of the Church of Babylon.

Therefore, the question about the "Pre-Tribulation Rapture" is very important, because part of it is true, while part of it is a LIE. This word "rapture" is **NO-WHERE** found in ANY English bible or even the earliest Greek translations of the Apostolic New Covenant writings! So, here again, we have more spurious traditions by false prophets. Yes, there will be "the First Resurrection" which they are CALLING "rapture", but the origin of this word "rapture" was invented by Roman Catholic Jesuit priests and has nothing to do with the blessed resurrection to eternal life, but something quite terrifying! Behold the truth,

If we research the etymology of "rapture", it originally meant something far from righteous: **to seize by violence, rape, kidnap...** [www.etymonline.com/](http://www.etymonline.com/) shows the following...

[1600, "act of carrying off," from M.Fr. *rapture*, from M.L. *raptura* "seizure, rape, kidnapping," from L. *raptus* "a carrying off" (see *rapt*). Originally of women and cognate with **RAPE** (v.)...]

**Webster's Revised Unabridged Dictionary** –

Rapture

Rap"ture\ (r[aa]p"t[u]r; 135), n. [L. *rapere*, raptum, to carry off by force. See Rapid.]

1. A seizing by violence; a hurrying along; rapidity with violence. [Obs.]
2. A spasm, a fit, ... delirium -- *Shakespeare*

Because of this, the true Remnant refuses to use "rapture" to denote the First Resurrection from the Dead in Messiah at the Last Trumpet. This word "rapture" would be better understood if used in Zechariah 14:2, describing the judgments and distress during the great tribulation...

*"For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished (raped--"raptured"); and half of the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city."*

#### **"AT THE LAST TRUMP"**

*"Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of YHWH; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption. Behold, I show you a (secret); We shall not all sleep, but we (believers) shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, **AT THE LAST TRUMP**: for this trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed for this corruptible must put on incorruption & this mortal put on immortality."*

**-1 Corinthians 15:52**

Like no other, the Apostle Shaul gives details of the resurrection of the dead in Messiah & the new immortal body. The PTR teachers refuse to discuss the end time Trumpets of Revelation's 7<sup>th</sup> Seal! **Question:** When does this miraculous "change" occur? **Answer:** At the Last Trumpet!

...in **CONTRAST** to the "first trumpet". What set of prophetic trumpets is the Apostle Shaul referring to here? The Savior revealed it to us...

*"And when he had opened the Seventh Seal, there was silence in heaven about the space of half an hour. And I saw the seven angels which stood before YHWH; and to them were given SEVEN TRUMPETS."* - **Revelation 8:1-2**

The 7th Seal consists of 7 Trumpets which blast from heaven. Each one sounding in consecutive order - one after the other over a very short period of time. Obviously, the "last trump" of 1Cor.15:52 refers to Revelation's 7<sup>th</sup> or FINAL trumpet blast signaling the Hebrew Savior's physical appearance and final judgment upon the murderous Anti-Messiah/ "Son of Perdition" and the 200-million man military machine of Oriental hoards which unite with the UN Beast at "Har-Megiddo" or **Armageddon!** (Rev.17-19) Therefore, by the "last trumpet" of the 7<sup>th</sup> Seal, 99% of all judgments of the Great Tribulation have already taken place! This POST-tribulation Second Coming is VERIFIED in Matt. 24:29-31,

*"Immediately AFTER the tribulation of those days... then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great majesty. And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other."*

In conclusion: there is no evidence in either "Old" or New Covenants of Scripture of the First Resurrection taking place BEFORE the Great Tribulation (*which began on 9-11*). The Savior said the remnant would be protected on earth (Rev.12:17) during the judgments, just as ancient Israel was protected in ancient Egypt! *"the earth helped the woman...who keep the Torah of YHWH & have the Faith of Yahsha h'Meshiakh."*



*"only a Remnant will be saved."*  
-Romans 9:27

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