

Why We Will NOT Be Raptured

(cf. Piper, McClain, Schwertley, Hoekema, Storms)

“Let me stress that the disagreement over pre- and post-tribulationism is not one that I think should threaten our fellowship. It should not be divisive. The things on which we agree are so stupendous as to overwhelm our hearts in common love for the Lord and his appearing. Let us not make the second coming a center of controversy, but a cause for worship and earnest hope and liberating confidence for the ministry before us!” – John Piper

1. The word for “meeting” the Lord in the air in **1 Thessalonians 4:17** is used in two other places in the New Testament: **Matthew 25:6** and **Acts 28:15**. In both places it refers to a meeting in which people go out to meet a dignitary and then accompany him in to the place from which they came out.
2. The wording of **2 Thessalonians 1:5-7**, when read carefully, shows that Paul expects to attain rest from suffering at the same time and in the same event that he expects the unbelievers to receive punishment, namely, at the revelation of Jesus with mighty angels in flaming fire.
3. The wording of **2 Thessalonians 2:1-2** suggests that the “assembling to meet him” is the same as “the day of the Lord.”
4. If Paul were a pre-tribulationist why did he not simply say in **2 Thessalonians 2:3** that the Christians don’t need to worry that the day of the Lord is here because all the Christians are still here?
5. If **2 Thessalonians 2:6-7** teaches that the Holy Spirit is removed with the church’s rapture, it creates a theological impossibility.
6. **1 Thessalonians 5:9** does not promise removal (rapture) to heaven during the time of God’s future wrath, because we as believers do not suffer his wrath.
7. When you read **Matthew 24** or **Mark 13** or **Luke 21**, which are Jesus’ descriptions of the end times, there is no mention of a rapture removing believers from the events of the end.
8. Going through tribulation, even when it is appointed by God, is not contrary to Biblical teaching.
9. The commands to “watch” do not lose their meaning if the second coming is not an any-moment one.
10. The strongest pre-tribulational text, **Revelation 3:10**, is open to another interpretation without any twisting.
11. **Revelation 4:1** is not the departure of the church at the rapture.
12. The second coming does not lose its moral power if we deny a pre-tribulation rapture.