

# In A Moment

## INAM-13 "WE ARE NOT APPOINTED TO WRATH"

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### "THE DOCTRINE OF THE RAPTURE OF THE SAINTS"

1 THESS 5:9-10 "For **God has not destined us for wrath**, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,<sup>10</sup> who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him.

1 THESS 1:9-10 "For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God,<sup>10</sup> and **to wait for his Son** from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, **JESUS who delivers us from the wrath to come.**

Throughout our study of the Rapture, we have mentioned "The Tribulation." This is a time of incredible devastation upon the earth; of intense warfare between Nations; of unrelenting assaults from evil supernatural beings; of plagues and famines; of unprecedented natural disasters; and of death like has never been imagined. THIS is a "7 Year" period of called The Tribulation... THE DAY OF GOD'S WRATH.

Questions arise: *Will the Saints go through the Tribulation? When will the Church be "Raptured?" Where will the Believers be during this time?*

### WHEN WILL THE TRIBULATION OCCUR?

This is some controversy as to when the Rapture will occur in relation to the Tribulation. In REVELATION 6 the beginning of the Tribulation follows *The Breaking of the Seals by The Lamb... the one who alone has the authority*. This begins a series of events that will occur over a 7-year period that occupies REV 6-19.

There are **4 opinions** offered as to "when" the Rapture occurs. They are:

- **PRE-TRIBULATION** - The Rapture will occur before the LAMB breaks the 1<sup>st</sup> Seal...
- **MID-TRIBULATION** - The Rapture will occur after the first 3 ½ years of the Tribulation...
- **PARTIAL RAPTURE** - Only the Believers that are vibrant in their faith, and are living a sanctified lifestyle will be raptured... *the others must endure the Tribulation, or perish in it...*
- **POST-TRIBULATION** - The Rapture will occur at the End of the Tribulation, just prior to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming...

Each one has some potential support, but the Pre-Tribulation view addresses the majority of Scriptures on the subject... ones that the other positions cannot answer.

In 1 THESS 4:13-18 Paul presented the future of the Believers at the Lord's Coming: The Rapture. After encouraging the Saints with this instruction, he moves to answer the next question: "Will the Saints go through the Tribulation?" His answer is in 1 THESS 5:1-11.

### THE SAINTS VS. THE UNBELIEVERS: "YOU ARE NOT THEY"

The Rapture has been the emphasis of our study thus far. But what then? What happens after the Saints are removed from the earth? Paul said in 1 THESS 1:10 that the Believers were, "to wait for His Son from Heaven, the One who is our deliverer from the wrath to come." This "wrath" is revealed in what is called, "THE TRIBULATION."

**1 THESS 5:1-11** presents a clear picture of the “destiny” of the **Believers** versus the **Unbelievers**. The distinction is most readily seen in Paul’s use of the pronouns referring to each individual group. These pronouns are consistent throughout the entire passage.

**YOU / WE...** refers to the **Believers** / the **Saints** to whom he is writing. (The **THESSALONIANS**, and all who have believed in **JESUS CHRIST** .

**THEY / THEM / OTHERS...** refer to **Unbelievers**, those who have NOT accepted **JESUS CHRIST** as **SAVIOR**.

**You... They...**

**1 THESS 5:** *But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you.*

“**But / Now**” indicates that Paul is continuing with the same thought which he ended in **4:18**. This would be their natural next question, “*When will this happen?*” His answer can be seen as somewhat vague.

- It must be something he has already addressed in his teachings to them...
- “**Times [Chronos] and Seasons [Kairos]**” are imprecise “*measures / indicators.*” The words have similar meaning referring to time. “**Chronos**” is time as measured by a succession of events. “**Kairos**” is time as recognized by specific accomplishments. “*Chronos can be seen as a series of Kairoi*”
- The important thing here is that there is a “**time**” when all of these “**events**” will be accomplished.

**2 For you yourselves know perfectly that THE DAY OF THE LORD so comes as a thief in the night.**

- The Day of the Lord is the title given to a number of events seen as One unit or Individually...
- The **Tribulation**; The **2<sup>nd</sup> Coming**; The **Millennium**; and the **Great White Throne**

**3 For when they say, “Peace and safety!” then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape.**

- These verses enlarge upon the issue of time but present the “**expectation of an imprecise**” event.
- This is what is known as the “**Doctrine of Imminence**” - *The expectation of something that could happen at any time without warning or prior announcement.*
- “**YOU / WE**” know this WILL happen even if we cannot identify the exact hour...
- “**THEY**” are taken completely by surprise having ignored any kind of preparation...
- “**THEY**” are oblivious, deluded, and unconcerned...
- “**THEY**” are facing “unexpected divine punishment” ... **YET IT IS CERTAIN!**

**4 But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief. 5 You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness.**

- **WE** are unaffected by this “Day of God’s Wrath” because “*immediately prior to it we are “Raptured!”*”
- We may NOT know the “*exact hour*”, but we are aware of the “*events that are taking place*”
- Believers SHOULD be aware of this if they have been “hearing” the words of God’s messengers...
- There is no “*dark veil*” that should be clouding our vision - but not all have been taught what will come...

**6 Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober. 7 For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night.**

- The “**Sleep**” mentioned here is not the same as in **4:13; 14; 15** and **5:10** where **sleep / asleep** refers to those who are “**dead in Christ**”

○ This “Sleep” has reference to the “spiritual” condition of Unbelievers...

<sup>8</sup> But let **us** who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation.

○ **Sober** - fully aware... minds not clouded by substance / thought / passion

○ **Faith... Love... Hope...** - A common triad of characteristics of the Believer...

<sup>9</sup> For God did not appoint **us** to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>10</sup> who died for **us**, that whether **we** wake or sleep, **we** should live together with Him

○ The Unbeliever has a “fixed appointed time” to face the **WRATH OF GOD**...

○ The Believer has already “passed from death to life; and will not come unto judgment”

○ Because of this WE have a “fixed appointed time” to obtain as a reality the “full salvation - spirit, soul, and body” provided for us through the Life, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

○ THIS Salvation is secure for those who are alive at the time of the Rapture, or asleep in the Lord.

○ We WILL live together with HIM!

<sup>11</sup> Therefore comfort **each other** and edify **one another**, just as **you** also are doing.

○ This “encouragement” is NOT about the “timing” of this event... but the certainty

○ THIS is our confident HOPE

### The Believers:

**YOU** know perfectly... -

**YOU** are not in darkness... -

**YOU** are ALL sons of the light and sons of the day... -

Let **US** be putting on... -

**WE** are NOT appointed to wrath... -

**WE** are appointed to obtain salvation... -

The Lord Jesus Christ died for **US**... -

So that **WE** should live together with HIM... -

### The Unbelievers:

This Day will come upon **THEM** as a “thief in the night...” -

**THEY** say, “Peace and Safety...” -

Sudden destruction comes upon **THEM** as labor pains... -

**THEY** shall not escape... -

**THEY** are asleep... -

**THEY** are drunk... -

### **WE will NOT be present...**

1 THESS 5:9-10 “For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>10</sup> who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him.

Jesus promise to those who believed in Him, who believed in the One whom the Father had sent, who believed the words that He had spoken was: “**They will NOT see Judgment!**”

JOHN 5:24 “Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. **He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.**”

## REMEMBER THESE PROMISES:

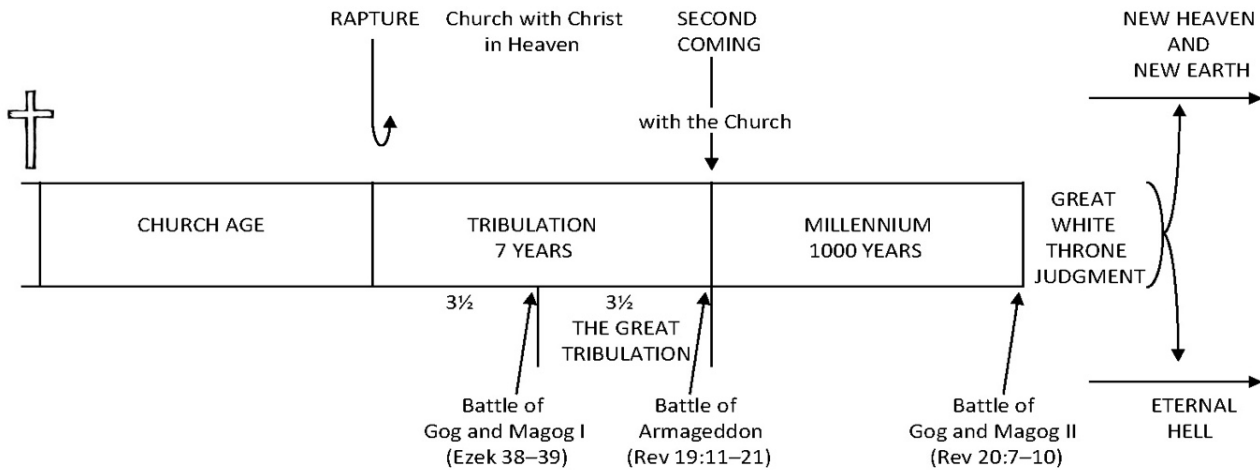
2 PETER 3:9 *The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.*

1 TIM 2:3-6 *“...This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior,<sup>4</sup> who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.<sup>5</sup> For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus,<sup>6</sup> who gave himself as a ransom for all...”*

ROM 13:11-12 *“Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed.<sup>12</sup> The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light.”*

# The End Times Chart

*"THE PRE-TRIBULATIONAL ... PRE-MILLENNIAL VIEWPOINT"*



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