

21T07a The Great Escape (PreTrib Rapture) - Part 1

Hello my friends. Thanks for joining me at the PUNLA Coffee Table. Get your coffee or tea, and Get comfortable so we can talk. If anything I say gives you wisdom, then its from God. All the nonsense is from me. I'm not claiming any special revelation. I just want to share my thoughts on the topic.

Today I want to discuss the Great Escape or the doctrine of the PreTrib Rapture.

I want to start by telling you I'm not an expert on this doctrine. There are many schools of thought on End Times or eschatology.

Some believe PreTrib Rapture, others MidTrib Rapture, others post trib, pre-wrath, and there are many others. But for today, I want to concentrate on PreTrib Rapture.

Now let's remember none of these doctrines or beliefs impact Salvation in any way. This is a gray-area in the Bible, meaning the bible does not specifically address any of these doctrines beyond a doubt. No one can be 100% sure of any of these viewpoints. And in reality it does not matter. But, if we fight about these gray-area topics and it causes us to defame each other, if it causes division in our fellowship, then it's not of God and our words and actions are unworthy of our Lord.

Full disclosure I do not personally believe in the Great Escape doctrine. I have several reasons why I do not believe the doctrine of PreTrib Rapture. And today I'm going to share these. I don't expect you to change your mind because of what I say. I'm not trying to convince you.

Before we start I want to remind everyone we should always understand who wrote the book in the bible we are reading, when was it written, to who it was written, and why was it written. As well as, what was happening historically to the writer and the people he was writing to. You need to have an understanding of history and culture when it was written to understand symbolism and word usage. You have to see it from their perspective and culture, not ours.

I also have a couple of basic principles I apply when reading and studying the bible. First, read the bible as a child with no preconceived ideas. Just let the text speak to you. I personally believe we should always start with the words of Jesus then interpret other books and verses such that they do not conflict with the words of Jesus. I believe the bible is inerrant. Meaning I don't believe there are any conflicts or contradictions. The message of the Bible is without error. Now Translations may have errors or poor word use. So we can't necessarily trust the specific words in our English translations. But we can use multiple translations and language tools to better understand the authors original intent for a sentence within the context they were writing.

So, I believe any discussion of End Times should center around the words of Jesus captured in the Gospels and the Revelation of Jesus Christ. I will leave it to you to understand the background of Revelation and the other books we will be referencing. Please take the time to do it. This way your mind can be focused on the author's intent or Jesus' intent instead of the topic you are studying. So, I'm going to follow these rules as we review my reasons I don't believe in the Great Escape doctrine.

My Reason #1. This doctrine makes me Very Sad. I was in the hospital with complications from COVID recently. I was struggling to breath and felt like I was going to die. While I was in the hospital, Jesus and I had many long conversations. I emerged from the hospital with a different perspective on life and a new purpose from God. That is to love people. I was being urged to show the light of Jesus to this dark world. I was asked to do my part to reach and grow believers into true followers of Christ. The reason I bring this up, was in the middle of this life changing exchange with Jesus. I suddenly thought about the PreTrib Rapture Doctrine and it literally made me cry. If this is true, how sad this is, I thought. At the very moment the world needs us the most, the Church will be taken away. Who will Feed the New Sheep during the tribulation if all the believers are gone? Even the thought of this makes me Very Sad. As a Christian, I believe it is not about my comfort, it is about God's plan. That's why missionaries go to remote places to reach people for Jesus. It's not about their comfort. That's why my family goes to the Philippines, to reach and grow believers in Christ. It's not easy, in fact it is often miserable but this is what God wants us to do as a family. It's not about my comfort, in fact I'd lay down my life to do what Jesus is asking me to do. I know as a Christian that it is an honor and privilege to serve my Lord. Death does not scare me because I know I have eternal life. Go ahead threaten me with heaven. I'm ready to go home to heaven. But while I'm here I'm going to live like I know what comes next. So, yes, I find the idea of the "PreTrib Rapture" or what I call the "Great Escape" at odds with what Jesus teaches us in the bible and what He urges us to do. John 21:15-17 is where Jesus tells Peter **"to take care of His sheep, to Feed His sheep."** If we are taken, then how can we do this. Who will take care of the new vulnerable Christians in the middle of these trials spoken of in the book of Revelation?

My Reason #2. Why is the book of the Revelation of Jesus Christ in the Bible? If you believe in the PreTrib Rapture, what is God's purpose for including the Revelation of Jesus in the Bible. Revelation is the only book in the bible that Jesus specifically tells us we will be blessed if we read and study. Let's read Revelation 1 (NKJV) ***¹The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants—things which must shortly take place. And He sent and signified it by His angel to His servant John, ²who bore witness to the word of God, and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, to all things that he saw. ³Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near.***

Jesus believes the contents of this book is important for believers to read and study. Why? The book of Revelation is meant to be a book of encouragement to Christians. At the time the book was written, Christians were under intense persecution and tribulation. Do you think the concept of the "Great Escape" from their trials would have been an encouragement to them.? Probably, Think about it for a second. Then why is the PreTrib Rapture not mentioned in the book of Revelation. You can look for it but it is just not there. So to me this omission seems odd, if this is truly God's plan. Why is the PreTrib Rapture omitted from His Revelation about end times?

My Reason #3. How many second comings are there? I'm an engineer and scientist. Mathematics teach us about a sequence of events and there can only be one "second". You have a first, a second, a third, a fourth and so on. I have always been taught that the return of Jesus to earth in is bodily form will be the second coming. So how many times will Jesus be coming back?

I'm going to leave it up to you to answer this question. I simply used the BibleHub tool and searched for Jesus second coming. Here are several scriptures you should read and study. Read the whole chapters at least to get the context. Revelation 1:7 & 22:12; [Matthew 16:27, 24:27, 24:42-44 & 26:64](#), [John 14:3](#), [Acts](#)

1:10-11, Hebrews 9:28, and 1Thessalonians 4:16-17. There are others but I think if you look at all of these and read at least the full chapter for context, you will get a picture of the Lord's return according to the bible. Any interpretation must agree with all of these scriptures not just a few.

I do not believe in a secret 2nd coming for the “rapture”, then after some years He will come again for the 2nd second coming that is written about in Revelation. I believe there is one second coming which is both our time to be caught up to meet him in the clouds and when He comes to begin is earthly reign and defeat the anti-christ and godless men.

So, this is my first 3 reasons why I don't believe in the Great Escape doctrine. In Part 2 of this series I will share 2 more reasons why PreTrib Rapture doctrine troubles me.

Let me close with a prayer.

Lord Jesus thank you for this time together discussing your word. We know from your Revelation studying end times should be encouraging to us. This study should energize us to be prepared and engage the world for You. I pray for everyone listening that they may read the scriptures and receive the message you intended. I know only you know the truth about these future events. I am unworthy to conjecture or speculate, so I ask you to take away my preconceived notions and let me read your word and not guess at things that are not clear. You are God and I trust you have provided us with all we need in the scriptures.

Be merciful father God, fill my lips with your words. Let your will be done. And I pray all these things to the Father in your name Jesus. Amen.

Thank you for joining me at the PUNLA Coffee Table. Please look for next episode Part 2 of this series. If you liked the message, please click like. And Please Subscribe to our channel. Leave comments here, or our website or mail me. I want your feedback so let me know what you think

Until next time at the PUNLA Coffee Table. God bless.