

21T07b The Great Escape (PreTrib Rapture) – Part 2

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 we are continuing our discussion of the Great Escape or the PreTrib Rapture doctrine. And why this doctrine troubles me.

Now, again, I'm not an expert on this doctrine. And please remember none of these doctrines or beliefs impact Salvation in any way. These are gray-areas in the Bible, meaning the bible does not specifically address any of these doctrines beyond a doubt. But unfortunately these doctrines do cause division and fighting which is why I'm addressing it today

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 about some ground rules we set for this discussion. First, read the bible as a child with no preconceived ideas. Just let the text speak to you. Second, I 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. 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.

Just to recap my first three reasons were,

#1 This doctrine makes me Very Sad because if we are gone prior to the tribulation, who will be shepherding the new believers that come during the tribulation.

#2 Why is the book of the Revelation of Jesus Christ in the Bible? If the Church is gone prior to the tribulation what is the purpose for the book of Revelation being an encouragement to the church

#3 How many second comings are there? I believe in one 2nd coming but the PreTrib rapture requires Jesus to come twice, at the rapture before the Tribulation and for His triumphant return.

My Reason #4. How many mass resurrections will there be? I'm not talking about past history. I'm asking in the "End Times" how many resurrections will there be.

I was always taught there would be two. First Resurrection for believers prior to the millennium and the Second Resurrection for unbelievers to face great white throne judgment prior to being cast into the lake of fire.

So how can the dead in Christ be resurrected during the Great Escape or rapture of the church prior to the Great Tribulation. Then when are the martyrs of the tribulation to be resurrected. These can't both be the first resurrection and take place at different times. One before the tribulation and one after the tribulation. Let's read what it says in Revelation 20:4-6 (NKJV) [4And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his](#)

mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. ⁵But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. ⁶Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.

If the church is not included in this “First resurrection” as it is written about in Revelation 20, then it would appear we will not have any part in the Millennium reign with Christ. Again, this made me sad when I thought about it. Or is there another first resurrection? I’m going to leave it up to you to answer that question. Here are the scriptures I think you should read and study about the future resurrections. Read the whole chapters at least to get the context. John 5:29, 6:39-40, & 11:25, Matthew 22:31, Hebrews 6:2, 1 Corinthians 15:42, and Revelation 20:6. There are others but I think if you look all at these and read at least the full chapter for context, you will get a full picture of the future resurrections according to the bible. I’d like to look further at one of these John 6:39-40 (NKJV); ³⁹This is the will of the Father who sent Me, that of all He has given Me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up at the last day. ⁴⁰And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day.”

The word translated as “last” in English comes from the Greek word “eschate”. (es ked). The Greek word means last, at the last, finally or till the end. This is the root word of eschatology which is the study of “end times”. The word is used 11 times in bible and in each case it is translated as “last.”

Last is a very final word. Last is defined as coming after all others in time or order, or final in the Websters dictionary. So, “last day” must mean the last day of some period. When someone is telling you a story and they say this is the last time I ever saw them. Do you expect that they will start up again talking how they met them again the next day for lunch? So, Last means last.

Now I have heard all the arguments on both sides. And it’s up to you what you will believe. I just don’t see two resurrections of believers in the bible. So, if the resurrection of believers is before the tribulation in a PreTrib rapture. What of the martyrs of the tribulation and Revelation 20? I’m not trying to convince you. All I’m saying is these things must be reconciled when you are considering a doctrine in the gray-areas. I’m only sharing my journey and my opinions and concerns about this particular doctrine.

My Reason #5. Who are the Revelation Martyrs.? We are told in Revelation that there will be many martyrs during the Great Tribulation, let’s read Revelation 6:9-11 (NKJV) **the Fifth Seal** ⁹When He opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they held. ¹⁰And they cried with a loud voice, saying, “How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?” ¹¹Then a white robe was given to each of them; and it was said to them that they should rest a little while longer, until both the number of their fellow servants and their brethren, who would be killed as they were, was completed.

Would a new believer really have the faith to be killed for Christ? I doubt it. You typically need time to grow as a believer before you have this kind of Faith. I know I needed a long time to reach that point. So, if there are no mature believers to support and nurture these new believers, then what. I thought to myself, if God is calling me to take care of His Sheep, I would not want to be taken early. Jesus has been preparing me, and us the church to engage the world not run away from it when we are needed most.

So, This is my first 5 reasons why I find the PreTrib Rapture doctrine or the Great Escape so very troubling.

Let me close with a prayer.

Lord Jesus thank you for this time together discussing your word. 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 know I am unworthy to even discuss these high ideas. Please 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 3 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

See you next time at the PUNLA Coffee Table. God bless.