

## 21T07c The Great Escape (PreTrib Rapture) Part 3

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 doctrine of the PreTrib Rapture. And why this doctrine troubles me.

Just to recap My first 5 reasons,

- [#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 2<sup>nd</sup> coming but the PreTrib rapture requires Jesus to come twice, at the rapture before the Tribulation and for His triumphant return.
- [#4 How many mass resurrections will there be?](#) I believe in a First Resurrection for Believers to Glory and Second resurrection for non-believers to judgment. Pre-Trib Rapture doctrine requires another resurrection for the rapture prior to the First Resurrection of Revelation 20.
- [#5 Who are the Revelation Martyrs.?](#) These must be Believers but if we are raptured where do they come from and how do they get such strong faith to be martyred.

I'm not an expert on PreTrib Rapture doctrine. I don't expect you to change your mind because of what I say. I'm not trying to convince you.

So let's pick up our conversation with my next reason I don't believe the Great Escape doctrine.

My Reason #6. What is the origin of PreTrib Rapture doctrine? I was surprised to learn that this doctrine of the Great Escape was a modern Christian doctrine. What I mean is there is no evidence this doctrine was taught in church history prior to 1857. Most attribute JN Darby as the first to talk about this. Some believe Darby was influenced by Margaret Macdonald who as a teen-ager had a dream in 1830. But latter Macdonald claimed not to believe in pretrib rapture but in fact she believed in a post-trib, pre-wrath rapture. Now people will argue about the exact origins of this doctrine which is sometimes referred to as dispensational pretribulation rapture. But, regardless of its exact origin, this doctrine was not taught in churches prior to 1857 when Darby began preaching about it. By all historical accounts it appears this doctrine was not widely accepted until the Scofield Reference Bible was published in 1909. The Scofield bible was one of the first study Bibles with commentary footnotes and references. The Scofield Bible promoted dispensationalism, PreTrib Rapture as well as the Gap Theory of Creation and other doctrines which were not widely accepted prior to 1909. Do your own research. When someone references a source, go find the source and so on. Don't just take someone's word for it. Test it for yourself.

So, regardless of your belief on this topic, it appears the doctrine of PreTrib Rapture is a modern concept not a teaching that can be traced back to early church fathers.

My Reason #7. The PreTrib Rapture doctrine appears to be a Western concept. If you look at churches around the world, this concept is mostly taught in protestant evangelical churches originated from the US or Europe, or influenced by them. It is not a popular doctrine in countries where Christians are facing Trials today. What about the people when John wrote Revelation? They were being killed for their faith. The concept of the Great Escape would not be encouraging to these Christians because they were already facing tribulation and dying for Christ. Future Christians be spare such trials might have been discouraging.

The real question you need to be asking is. Is the American Church, the western church ready to die for Christ.? Or do the people expect to be spared hardships if they are Christian. If so why, when so many around the world face persecution and death for their belief in Jesus. Why would we in the west believe we will not face hardships for our beliefs. I am sadly convinced this is appealing to us because we don't like the idea of facing trials and tribulations for Christ. We like our comforts, we have been living in societies where we are not threatened. But that does not seem to match what Jesus told us in John 16:33 (NKJV) ***33These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.***"

To be a Christian, a follower of Jesus Christ, you have to do something or you are not following. It's not just a mental exercise. It's an action. I fear this doctrine and others like it encourage Christians to be complacent. Don't rock the boat, so to speak. Don't engage and God will protect us from harm. And in the end we will be part of the Great Escape from trials and tribulations. And what if The Great Tribulation comes and the Great Escape doesn't. Are we preparing Christians for the troubles and trials and persecution which is coming, or are we preparing them to fail the tests at the end? If the Great Escape happens great, but we still should be focused on preparation and engagement until the end, NOT a rescue from troubles. This is just my opinion but to me right or wrong, this seems like a doctrine that does not help to build Christians. It does not help me to follow Christ or do what He asks. It does not encourage me to engage the world in ways that might result in my loss of comfort or even my loss of life, liberty or freedoms. Just think about it. I'm not saying I'm right or wrong. Only what should be our focus, this doctrine or what Christ wants us to do. I leave it up to you.

So, This is my first 7 reasons why I find the PreTrib Rapture doctrine or the Great Escape very troubling.

***Let me close with a prayer.***

***Lord Jesus thank you for your revelation about end times to encourage us to be prepared and engage. I know only you know the truth about these future events. I will read your word and ask you to reveal to us your message.***

***Be merciful father and guide my words to be in line with your will and your words. 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 4 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.