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FWBC Sermon *- After the Tribulation -*

Pastor Steven Anderson

Sermon Foreword

The following sermon covers the often misunderstood subject of the tribulation, and its relationship to the rapture. By visiting all 22 New Testament uses of the term "tribulation", Pastor Anderson uses God's clear word to completely lay to rest the false doctrine of the so called "pre-tribulation rapture", in favour of the Biblically sound "post-tribulation rapture". Time and time again, the reader is shown that the term tribulation is a synonym for persecution, and is thus interchangeable with other terms such as affliction, trials, troubles, and suffering. In keeping with this, the reader is shown that the Bible not only repeatedly shows both the saved and unsaved undergoing tribulation, but also warns Christians they "must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God". Through readings of Mathew 24, Mark 13 and Revelation 7, Pastor Anderson illustrates that although "no man knoweth the day or the hour" of Jesus' second coming (and thus the rapture) - the scriptures do supply the knowledge that believers are to expect His coming on the clouds "immediately AFTER the tribulation", during which time "the sun (shall) be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light".

Also covered is the confusion surrounding the term "the elect". Again, using several scriptural examples, the reader is shown that the term cannot possibly refer solely to those of the Jewish faith- as is commonly thought on the subject. But rather that the phrase refers to the saved, or those who believe on Christ.

Throughout the sermon, the reader is encouraged to "be of good cheer", and to remember that with the support and love of God, there is no reason live in fear.

Alright in Mathew 24, we just read the famous passage where Jesus Christ teaches his disciples about what are going to be the signs of his coming, and of the end of the world. And what I want to preach about tonight is the tribulation, and it's a subject that's talked about in Mathew 4. This is the second time in the New Testament that the word tribulation is ever used, and this is where Jesus Christ lays out the events of the tribulation, and also the events of the rapture. Now, the key verses that I am going to hone in on tonight are starting verse number 29 where the bible reads "**Immediately AFTER the tribulation of those days, shall the sun be darkened and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken. And THEN shall appear the sign of the Son of Man in Heaven. And THEN shall all the tribes of the Earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of Man coming in the clouds of heaven, with power and great glory. And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.**" And I want to preach about tonight, the subject of the rapture and the tribulation and the fact that very clearly, in the Bible, the rapture comes AFTER the tribulation. Nothing could be more clearer than this passage, and I'm going to make it as clear as I can tonight to you and I'm going to show you alot of other scriptures. But first of all, I think that the biggest misunderstanding on this subject comes from people not understanding what the word tribulation means. **And they confuse tribulation with God's wrath, and because they confuse the tribulation with God's wrath, they say "well God's not going to pour out His wrath on His own people"**- But I'm going to show you very clearly tonight that the tribulation has nothing to do with God's wrath. And if you can just understand biblically what the word tribulation MEANS, I think the rest of it will come clear to you it will make sense to you.

"John 16:33 These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world."

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Now, not only that, but when you talk to people that believe the rapture comes before the tribulation, they can never show you a clear scripture that just comes right out and says that the rapture comes before the tribulation. They can never show you point blank- here it is. Now I can easily show right here point blank where the Bible says it is after the tribulation, but they have NO scripture that they can point to, that just very clearly points it out, so they have to really explain a lot of things to you and use a lot of logic, but they don't have a scripture that will spell it out.

Now, if you would, turn to 1 Thess chapter 4. Because before we get into Mathew 24, I want to show you the most famous rapture passage in the Bible, this is the one where the Bible goes into the most detail about the rapture. And this is THE most famous passage about the rapture. ANYONE would agree that this passage is talking about the rapture, this is the most clear teaching in the Bible about Jesus coming in the clouds and us getting caught up together to meet him. And so let's start there, let's start at 1 Thess Chapter 4, the Bible reads in verse 13 "But I would not have you to be ignorant brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others that have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him". So what He is saying here, is that he doesn't want them to be ignorant about Christians, believers that have died, those who are asleep in Jesus, those that have already gone to be with the Lord, He says I don't want you to be ignorant of this brethren, because I don't want you to mourn like those that have no hope. I want you to know that you are going to see your loved one again, that was a saved person. You are going to see them once again because the Bible says that when Jesus Christ comes back he is going to bring them with him- "the dead in Christ shall rise first" and so forth. That's why He said in verse 18 "Wherefore comfort one another with these words". That's why this is a really popular passage in here for funerals.

I've been to a lot of funerals where people comfort one another with these words, about seeing their loved ones again. So it says- for if we believe verse 14, that Jesus died and rose again, "Even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with Him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent (or come before) them which are asleep. For the Lord Himself shall descend with a shout with the voice of the archangel and the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ shall rise first, then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words". What's the comfort? That we will see our loved ones again. Now a lot of people will take this and say "See? Right there the comfort is that we are not

***“Mathew 24:29-
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tribulation of those
days shall the sun be
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and the powers of the
heavens shall be
shaken”***

going to go through the tribulation", Does this passage even mention the tribulation? Was anything about the tribulation mentioned? No. He said "Hey, you're worried about your loved ones that are asleep in Jesus; of course you want to see them again. You will see them again, because if you believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so -in the same way he is saying- them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. They are going to be resurrected. The dead in Christ shall rise first. **He says "Comfort one another with these words". He didn't say comfort one another that you are never going to go through tribulation. Comfort one another that you are not going to be persecuted. Comfort one another that there is a pre-tribulation rapture. That's not what He is saying!** And so that's taken just COMPLETELY out of context- the comfort is comforting someone who has lost someone that they loved, that it's "Hey, you're a believer and they're a believer, you'll be reunited". You say what those who aren't saved? Well there is no hope. That's why He said He didn't want believers to mourn like those who have no hope- because there are those who have no hope. It's the unsaved, it's the unbelievers.

Now notice some elements in this quintessential rapture passage. You have got Jesus coming in the clouds. You have got a trumpet sounding. And you have got those that were saved being caught up together with Him in the clouds. Now did Jesus come all the way down to the Earth in this passage? No. He's in the clouds! Did Jesus come personally come down here and pick us up and take us out? No. We are brought up to him because the Bible says

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"This we say unto you by the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God and the dead in Christ shall rise first, that we which are alive and remain shall be CAUGHT UP TOGETHER WITH THEM in the clouds, to meet the Lord"- where?? "To meet the Lord in the air". So He is not coming all the way down, He stays up in the air, He stays up in the clouds, so we are caught up by whom? By someone else, because we are caught up, which is a passive, you know... argh, I don't want to go into the grammar of it, but anyway, it's passive meaning somebody else is doing the action. We are BEING CAUGHT UP to meet him in the air, okay?

Now, keeping those elements in mind, go back to Mathew 24, and see the exact same elements in Mathew 24:29-31. **It says in Mathew 24:29 "Immediately AFTER the tribulation" - and sometimes I just want to ask people, what part of AFTER do you not understand in this passage?** But it says "Immediately AFTER the tribulation of those days, shall the sun be darkened and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from Heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken. THEN SHALL APPEAR THE SIGN OF THE SON OF MAN in Heaven. And then shall all the tribes of the Earth mourn. And they shall see the Son of Man- the "Son of Man" was something that Jesus called Himself while He was on this Earth, He said "They shall see the Son of Man coming in the clouds of Heaven, coming with power and great glory. And he shall send his angels with the great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of Heaven to the other". ALL the same elements. Jesus is coming in the clouds, a trumpet sounds. He sends the angels to gather His elect.

Now if you would keep your finger there and go to Mark 13. Now Mark 13 pretty much says all the same things that Mathew 24 says, it's what we would call a parallel passage. You find the same preaching, the same teaching in these two chapters. You could put them side by side. They say the same things. Let me just show you in that passage. It says in verse 24, "But in those days, AFTER THAT TRIBULATION, the sun shall be darkened and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars of Heaven shall fall and the powers that are in Heaven shall be shaken. And THEN SHALL THEY SEE SON OF MAN COMING IN THE CLOUDS with great power and glory. And then shall he send His angels and shall gather together His elect, from the four winds, from the uttermost part of the Earth, to the uttermost part of Heaven". Now at this point we could just pray and go home. We should just be able to close our Bible and say "there you have it folks, it's AFTER THE TRIBULATION"- just close our Bibles and go home. But oh no, we are not going to go home. Because I am going to prove to you and show you, this is talking about the rapture, and this says it is after the tribulation.

***"Matthew 13:21-
Yet hath he not root
in himself, but
dureth for a while:
for when
tribulation or
persecution ariseth
because of the
word, by and by he
is offended."***

Now those that believe in so called "pre-trib rapture", or a rapture that comes before the tribulation, "it can happen at any moment"- let's break down that term, "pre-trib rapture", it's got three elements to it right? Pre means before, "Trib", what does that stand for? Tribulation, and then you've got rapture. Well, the word rapture isn't in the Bible. The concept of the rapture is in the Bible, because we see Jesus come in the clouds, people are caught up together with Him in the air and so forth. So the CONCEPT of the rapture is there, the word rapture is not used. Is the word tribulation in the Bible? Yes. Is the word before in the Bible? Yes. Many times. I'm just testing you (to congregation). **The word tribulation is used in the Bible- well, we will talk about the New Testament, the NT uses the term tribulation 22 times. So if the NT uses the term tribulation 22 times, and everybody is going around with this doctrine called the Pre-Trib rapture, shouldn't one of those 22 verses or 22 passages or chapters teach us something about a rapture happening BEFORE the tribulation?** I mean if we can go to 22 scriptures that bring up tribulation, if there is a rapture before the tribulation, if we are going to name a doctrine after the tribulation, we call it "pre-trib rapture". What did one of those passages teach us? That the rapture comes before

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the tribulation? I have an idea. Let's look at all 22 mentions of tribulation in the NT shall we? Let's see if we can find it. I'm looking for it. I can't find it! Because I hear these people talk about "oh the Bible CLEARLY says that we are going to be taken out of here BEFORE the tribulation, and there is going to be (unintelligible) tribulation". Well let's look up every time the bible says tribulation. Let's see if we can find, let's go on a little hunt shall we?

Okay, let's go to the first time in the NT, Mathew 13. Of course Mathew is the first book in the NT, and Mathew 24 is the first time that Jesus teaches his disciples about this subject, of the tribulation, of the second coming and so forth. Look at Mathew 13, this is the first mention- and I have noticed something about the Bible, God wants us to understand the Bible, He is not trying to play tricks on us and confuse us and make things difficult. He wants us to know the truth. He loves us. So I've noticed that alot of times the first time the Bible brings something up, He defines it for us. And He helps us understand it. That way when we see it the second time, we will know what He was talking about. So let's look at the first time. This is significant as being the first time the word tribulation is used. The Bible reads in Mathew 13:21- this is the parable of the sower by the way, the bible reads "Yet hath he not rooted himself, but dureth for a while, for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended". This is talking about someone who has heard the word of God, they get excited about it, they get saved. But they don't have a root in themselves and so in tribulation or persecution arise because of the word, by and by they are offended. Now let me ask you something- do you see anything about the pre-trib rapture in this verse? Nope, I don't either. What do you see the definition of tribulation as? Persecution! He says "Tribulation or persecution that arises because of the Word"- so are these people going through tribulation because they are so bad? No, they are going through tribulation because they are standing on the Word of God, and because they have taken a stand for the word of God. And because they have received the Word of God with all gladness, they are going to go through tribulation or persecution. And He says if they are not rooted or grounded in what they believe, by and by they are going to be offended. I've seen it happen! I've seen people come into church, and as soon as they go through any kind of tribulation, they are out of there, they are offended. Their family gives them trouble, their family gives them trouble, and they are out of there. Because they are weak. Because they are not rooted and grounded.

If we are rooted and grounded in what we believe, when persecution and tribulation comes, we are going to endure, not for a little while, no, we will endure all the way. That is what the bible is teaching. That is why it is so important to be like that tree planted by the rivers of waters, that has a root down, and is rooted in love as the Bible says. So that is the first mention. No controversy here, I don't see any! People go through persecution and tribulation and it gets them out of church, it gets them out of serving God. That's what it is. Second mentions Mathew 24, let's go there. Mathew 24:21 It says "For then shall be great tribulation such as was not from the beginning of the world to this time no nor ever shall be".

Let me ask you something. Has tribulation happened before this tribulation in Mathew 24? Yes. We read about it back in chapter 13! **Christians and all believers throughout history have ALWAYS gone through tribulation.** They have ALWAYS gone through times of trouble. They have always been afflicted and persecuted. And the difference in Mathew 24, is that the tribulation that is coming in Mathew 24, talked about in verse 21, says that there is going to be such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, nor shall ever be. There have been some pretty serious tribulations in this world have there not. Think of Communist China. Think of Cambodia. Think of times throughout history when God's people have been persecuted and killed for the cause of Christ. And you probably think "oh, it was HORRIBLE in the Spanish Inquisition" or "Oh it was HORRIBLE" when they were persecuted at this time or that time throughout history. But the Bible says that there is coming tribulation such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time nor ever shall be. The tribulation is not just a time of persecution. In Mathew 24 it talks about famines. Starvation. It talks about pestilence, He talks about natural disasters. We have seen alot of those. He talks about warfare. Have

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there been some pretty bloody wars throughout history? There have been some serious bloodbaths but UNLIKE the tribulation, which will be WORSE. The famines will be worse. The pestilence will be worse. The wars will be worse, the persecution will be worse.

Now look, chapter 13 talked about believers being persecuted- they get offended. Chapter 24 said there is going to be a tribulation unlike the world has ever seen. We jump down to the third mention of tribulation, verse 29, it says "Immediately AFTER the tribulation"- then He talks about Jesus coming in the clouds. Let me ask you something. Is there "pre-trib rapture in the second and third mentions of tribulation? Do you see it? I don't see it. Let's move on to the fourth mention. Mark chapter 13. In Mark 13 is that parallel passage that we already looked at. The fourth mention. And you say "why are we turning there?" - I want to turn to all 22 with you right now. I want to leave no stone unturned with you. I want to turn to all 22 right now. Because, don't tell me "oh you didn't TURN to the page with the pre-trib rapture"- because it isn't there! And that is why we are turning to all 22- so I can prove that to you. Don't take my word for it. If you don't have a Bible, put up your hand, someone will get one to you. **But look at Mark 13:24, "But in those days, AFTER THAT TRIBULATION, the sun shall be darkened and the moon shall not give her light"** - Any pre-trib rapture there? Have we seen anything about a POST-trib rapture? Have we seen anything about AFTER the tribulation? So far we have seen two verses that said after the tribulation Jesus comes in the clouds and gathers the elect, the trumpet sounds. Haven't seen a pre-trib rapture yet.

Go to John 16. The fifth mention of the word tribulation in the NT. John 16, the Gospel of John. The word tribulation is not used in the book of Luke. Go to John 16, we are just looking at the word tribulation. You say "well you are just hung up on that word"- well you are the one that picked a word for your stupid doctrine so you are stuck with it now. We are looking at your doctrine. **John 16:33 the Bible says "These things have I spoken unto you**

"Mark 13:24- But in those days, AFTER THAT TRIBULATION, the sun shall be darkened and the moon shall not give her light"

that in me ye might have peace. In the world, ye shall have tribulation, but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world" Please don't tell me you see a pre-trib rapture in that verse. Now, go back to the beginning of John 16 because this is really interesting. What did the first mention of tribulation say in Mathew 13- that is people weren't rooted or grounded, and persecution or tribulation would arise because of the word, they would be what? OFFENDED. Look what Jesus said in this chapter that warns us of tribulation in verse 1. "These things have I spoken unto you, that ye should not be OFFENDED." He says, if I don't tell you about this, If I don't warn you about the coming tribulations and trials that you are going to go through in your life, when they come you are going to be taken by surprise, you are going to be offended. And so He says in verse 2, they shall put you out of the synagogues, "Yea, the time come that whosoever killeth you shall think that he doeth God service, and these things will they do unto you because they have not known the Father nor Me".

You say "Pastor Anderson, this isn't talking about the end times, this isn't talking about the tribulation"- I know it's not, because it is talking to all believers, because **all believers always go through various tribulations in their lives**. That is what he is talking about. And he says in verse 4- and this is the key right here, you say "why are you preaching this sermon Pastor Anderson?"- verse 1, I'm preaching this sermon that you might not be offended. You say "but this sermon offends". No, this is the sermon to stop you from being offended. Because Jesus said if you KNOW this is coming you won't be offended. Look at verse 4. But these things have I told you that when the time shall come, ye may remember that I told you of them. And these things I said to you at the beginning because I was with you". So He says there, when these things happen, you will remember, I told you so. And I'm saying the same thing tonight that Jesus said. When these things begin to happen, and you know what? It may not be in our lifetime. Maybe it will be in a hundred years from now. Maybe it will be in a couple of years from now. We don't know when the end will be. But you know what? When it happens you will remember that I told you. And more important than that, because I didn't make this stuff up, you will remember that JESUS told you. Because I am just repeating His words. I am just a voice that He can use to proclaim His word right here because this is His book. He is the author of this, I am not the author of this.

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Let's turn to the sixth mention. What did the fifth mention say? "These things that I have spoken unto you"- He is speaking to the believers, He is speaking to the disciples. He says "These things have I spoken unto you that you might have peace in the world, ye shall have tribulation, but be of good cheer I have overcome the world", did He say you are going to avoid the tribulation? Did he say you are not going to go through tribulation? Did he say I will NEVER let my people through tribulation, I love them too much? No. None of that has been seen. Has anyone seen- and listen to me, please. I won't embarrass you. If you see the pre-trib rapture in one of these verses. I want to see it. I'm not above being corrected. Honestly. Go to acts 14:22. The Bible reads "Confirming the souls of the disciples"- this is talking about when Paul and his accomplices would go back and would strengthen the souls, and look what he would tell them- Acts 14:22 **"Confirming the souls of the disciples and exhorting them to continue in the faith and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God". Did He say man alive, it's going to be great that we are gone before the tribulation. No. He said, "You better confirm them. You better firm them up on some things. You better strengthen them. Because they better know that they must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.** Any pre-trib rapture in mention six? I didn't think so.

***"Acts 14:22-
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Go to Romans chapter 2. Now Romans chapter number two is an interesting chapter. It's a chapter that people will often use to teach works salvation. Because in Romans chapter 2, God is explaining that those who keep God's laws, those who follow all of God's laws- not to just be a hearer of the law, but a doer of the law. I mean someone who kept all of God's commandments. He is explaining that they will be saved, that they will have eternal life. But then you know what he goes on to explain in chapter 3? No-one has ever done it. And nobody ever will, okay? So He is building the case by explaining that if you sin or do wrong, you are going to hell (but) if you keep all the commandments, if you do everything that is righteous and godly, if you live a sinless life you are going to be saved. But then he explains in chapter 3, He says "There is none righteous, no not one. For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God". And then He says. "Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith, without the deeds of the law". Why? Because we know that it has to be by grace through faith, because no-one could ever be good enough. Jesus said "Why callest thou me good? There is none good but one and that is God". But that was because Jesus was God. He was good. He was called good many times because He was God in the flesh. There is no other human being that is good in the sight of God. We are all sinners, none is righteous, no, not one. So let's look at that, does everybody understand that? So let's get that context going into this in Romans 2. That's what He is explaining. He is explaining salvation, later He is going to explain how no-one could live up to this standard.

He says in Romans 2:6, "Who rendered every man according to his deeds" saying God is going to render to every man according to his deeds. "To them who by patient continuance in well doing, seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life. But unto them that are contentious and do not obey the truth but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath, tribulation and anguish upon every soul of man that doeth evil. Of the Jew first and also the gentile. But glory, honour and peace unto every man that worketh good to the Jew first, and also to the gentile, for there is no respect of persons with God". So in this passage, He is saying that if you do all the right things. If you obey all of God's commandments, and you obey the truth, He is saying you are going to inherit eternal life. He is saying, if you are contentious and you don't obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, you are going to receive indignation, wrath, tribulation, and anguish upon every soul of man that doeth evil, of the Jew first and also the gentile. So, this is giving a general principle that says if you do right, good things are going to happen to you and you are going to inherit eternal life. If you do WRONG, bad things are going to happen to you, you are going to be punished by God.

Now, you say "Pastor Anderson, this is the first verse (because we have looked at seven verses so far) that uses the

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word tribulation"- This is the first one that mentioned bad people going through tribulation or unsaved people going through tribulation- is that true? (Yes) So does this verse mention bad people or unsaved people going through tribulation? It does, doesn't it? Now the first 6 was all believers. Seven mentioned here is talking about bad people going through tribulation. Now let me ask you something, does anybody believe that the bad people are going to be raptured out before the tribulation? So does the fact that bad people are going through a tribulation mean that they are the only ones going through any kind of tribulation? No. And not only that, does this verse sound like it is talking about the great tribulation of Mathew 24, or does it sound like a general principle that EVERY bad person is going to receive indignation, wrath, tribulation and anguish. Because alot of the verses that we saw previously are talking about believers going through tribulation. Were they really talking about the great tribulation? No, he was talking about all the believers, they are going to go through tribulation all the time. This is another one that is just

"Romans 8:35- Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? Nay..."

talking in general about people going through tribulation. Do you see any mention of the rapture here? Is there a pre-trib rapture in this passage? Somebody let me know. I mean is there a pre-trib rapture here? Is there any verse here that says "Hey, God will never allow the saved to go through tribulation"? No, it's not there. And so far it's the ONLY verse that even talked about anybody bad going through tribulation, every other mention was talking about believers.

Go to the eighth mention, Romans 5. Another great chapter, famous chapter. Romans 5:1. Tell me if you think this is talking about the saved or the unsaved. Romans 5:1. "Therefore being justified by faith we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we also have access by faith, into this grace wherein we stand and rejoice in the hope of the glory of God". That's talking about those who are saved, or justified by faith. But verse 3, "Not only so, **but we GLORY in TRIBULATIONS also, knowing that tribulation worketh patience**". God is saying that we as believers, we that are saved, we GLORY IN TRIBULATION, knowing that tribulation worketh patience. This is yet another verse talking about believers going through tribulation in their lives. Any pre-tribulation rapture here? No. Go to- That was mentions 8 and 9, because he used the word tribulation twice in that verse.

Go to Romans 8:35. You know I don't like it when preachers take verses out of context or, I don't like it when anybody just gives me half of the story or one side of the story. I want to give you both sides- I'm going to give you every verse that says tribulation. I'm not just trying to cherry pick verses on the tribulation that I feel like support my doctrine tonight. Instead I'm just going to show you every verse that uses the word. Why don't you decide if you see the pre-trib rapture in these verses. Look at Romans 8:35. "Who shall separate us from the love of God?"- This is a great comforting passage that gets used quite a bit. "**Who shall separate us from the love of God? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution?**" Notice the coupling of tribulation or persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or sore. "As it is written, for thy sake we are killed all the day long. We are counted as sheep for the slaughter". Tell that to Joel Osteen with his prosperity gospel, the health and wealth gospel that says if you serve Christ you are going to be wealthy and healthy and everything is going to go your way. (Does) He say "Nay, because we are not going to go through these things we are more than conquerors". No, He says "**Nay, IN ALL THESE THINGS we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.** For I am persuaded that neither death nor life nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other creature shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord". Jump up to verse 31, He says "What shall we then say to these things, with God before us, **WHO CAN BE AGAINST US? WHO shall lay anything to the charge of God's elect.** It is god that justifieth. The believers, the saved. In Rome, this is the epistle Paul to the Romans. He said, you why you are not going to be separated from the love of God? Because you are saved, you are the elect. You are God's people. Nothing will separate you from the love of God. Verse 35

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one more time, make sure you didn't miss it. "Who shall separate us from the love of God, shall tribulation separate us?" He is saying look, we are going to go through tribulation, we are going to go through stress, we are going to go through persecution, we are going to go through famine, nakedness, peril and sore, and none of it is going to separate us from the love of God. Where is the pre-trib rapture in this scripture? It's getting kind of scary because we are almost halfway through. And we haven't seen it yet. This is number ten, let's go to number eleven and be halfway through with the list.

Romans 12. The Bible reads- we are looking at verse 12 but I will start in verse 10. **"Be kindly affection one to another with brotherly love. In honour proffering one another, not slothful in business, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord, rejoicing in hope, PATIENT IN TRIBULATION, continuing instead in prayer.** Any pre-trib

***"Romans 5:3-
And not only so,
but we glory in
tribulations
also: knowing
that tribulation
worketh
patience"***

rapture there? No. Go to 2 Corinthians 1:4, let's look at mention 12. Got to make sure I number these as I go, I'd be really embarrassed if I got to the end and it didn't add up to 22, so I got to make sure that I make it add up here by not missing anything. So mention number 12, 2 Corinthians 1:4 "Who comforteth us, IN ALL OUR TRIBULATION?" Again, believers, so far out of 12 mentions, one talked about bad people going through tribulation, one talked about the unsaved going through tribulation. Hey, I'm not arguing with that. I've heard a lot of blues music, I've heard a lot of black singers singing the blues, talking about the trials and tribulations that they have been going through, and I don't know if they were all saved. And so unsaved people go through tribulations in their life too. **Tribulation just means troubles or afflictions or persecutions.** Look, the Jews have been persecuted. They don't even believe in Jesus Christ. They are not saved. And so we see so far out of 12 we only have one that talked about those who are not saved. 11 were talking about those that were saved.

2 Corinthians 7. Did I read chapter 1:4? Okay go to chapter 7:4, mention 13. "Great is my boldness of speech towards you. Great is my glorying of you. I am filled with comfort. I AM EXCEEDING JOYFUL IN ALL OUR

TRIBULATION." He didn't say "I'm exceeding joyful because I am not going through tribulation". (Impersonating apostle) "Man, I'm so joyful that we are going to be raptured before the tribulation!" That's not what he said. He said, **"I am exceeding joyful IN ALL OUR TRIBULATION"**. WHERE is the pre-trib rapture in that scripture? It isn't there. Go to Ephesians 3. We are moving forward in the NT so, it should be easy for you to just flip pages to the right in your Bible if you are not sure where these books are. Go to Ephesians 3:13. The Bible says "Wherefore I desire that ye faint not at my tribulations for you, which is your glory". Paul said, "Don't faint at my tribulations". 2 Thess 1:4- The Bible reads- I'm sorry, we skipped one- 1 Thess 3:4, sorry about that. The Bible reads "For verily" - and keep in mind folks, God is not out to confuse us, He is not trying to mess with us. MAN has been messing with you. Creatures have been messing with you. TV shows and movies have been messing with you, with "Left Behind" and all that... God is not messing with you. You know what happened in 1 Thess 4? The rapture. That's what we turned to. The quintessential rapture passage. So isn't it interesting that in the chapter right before that, just by coincidence, He happens to say in 1 Thessalonians 3:4, **"For verily when we were with you, we told you before that we should suffer tribulation, even as it came to pass and ye know."** Do you see a pre-trib rapture there? Now you say "Well that's not the tribulation, that's already happened". Of course, Tribulations have always happened to God's people, that is the point that I am trying to get across. The difference with the great tribulation is that it is worse. It is unlike anything that came before.

Go to 2 Thess 1:4, the next mention. This is going to be mentions 16 and 17, that is what we are going to see in 2 Thess 1:4. "So that we ourselves glory in you, in the churches of God. For your patience and faith, in all your persecutions and tribulations that ye endure." IN all your persecutions and tribulations that ye endure. But who is he writing it to? He says it is unto the church at Thessalonica. He is writing to the saved, he is writing to the members of the church at Thessalonica. And he says "We glory in you in the churches of God for your patience and faith, in all your persecutions and tribulations that ye endure". Let's keep reading till we get to the 17th mention. "Which is the manifest token of the righteous judgment of God, that ye may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which ye also suffer. Seeing it as a righteous thing with God, to recompense tribulation to them that trouble you.

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And to you who are troubled, rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from Heaven with his mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power, when he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and be admired in all them that believed, because our testimony among you was believed in that day".

So here we have two mentions. The first mention he says "YOU are GOING THROUGH persecutions and TRIBULATIONS"- you are enduring it. And he says in verse 6 "Seeing it as the righteous thing with God to recompense tribulation to them that trouble you." So he says right there, that you are going through tribulation. You're being persecuted. God is going to recompense, or repay, those who have troubled you with tribulation. Why? Because you reap what you sow. He that killeth with the sword, must be killed with the sword- the Bible says. He that leadeth into captivity, shall go into captivity. This is the law of sowing and reaping here. But watch this, watch carefully, because you might say "why didn't you read all the way down to verse 10. Because, watch carefully this is an important aspect of this subject that we are dealing with. It says in verse 7 "And to you who were troubled" and notice- troubled is always used in conjunction with tribulation. He uses these words together, tribulation and persecution, tribulation and trouble, tribulation and affliction- these are words that are used as synonymous back and forth. He says "And to you are troubled"- by the way can you see the connection between the two words- trouble and tribulation? Can you see how they come from similar root words? It says "To you who are troubled, rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from Heaven with his mighty angels"- get this, don't miss this, "In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God and that obey not the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ".

*"Romans 12:12-
Rejoicing in hope;
patient in
tribulation;
continuing instant
in prayer..."*

Let me ask you this- WHEN, WHEN, according to verse 7, will we be recompensed with rest? It says WE WHO HAVE BEEN TROUBLED. WE WHO HAVE BEEN THROUGH TRIBULATION, WE WHO HAVE GONE THROUGH PERSECUTION. WHEN will we be recompensed with rest? When the Lord Jesus, shall be revealed from Heaven with his mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the Gospel of our lord Jesus Christ. Did that say that when Jesus comes in the clouds to take us home to rest that is going to be a secret rapture, and everybody is going to disappear, and nobody is going to know and they are going to say "where is everybody?" And no-one is going to know what happened? He said no. When you have received rest from God, will be when He comes revealed from Heaven with His mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance..." This is a key point. I'm going to come back to it a little later in the sermon. That Jesus said, that we will go to rest, when He comes in the clouds, in glory. And this is what people will say- "Well, the rapture is different than when he comes in glory". But wait a minute, doesn't it say right here that we will receive rest from our troubles and tribulations when He comes in glory? In flaming fire taking vengeance? **So, it appears to me in this passage that Jesus coming for His people to give them rest, happens at the same time He comes in flaming fire, taking vengeance on them that know not God and obey not the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

Now, I don't see a pre-trib rapture there, I see a pre-flaming fire rapture, everybody see that? I see it. I see God's people going through tribulation in verse 4, up until the point, that they receive rest- when Jesus comes in flaming fire taking VENGEANCE on them that know not God, and that obey not the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of His power, when He shall come to be glorified in his saints, and be admired in all them that believed. Who is going up in the rapture? All that believed. Because their testimony among you was believed in that day. Couldn't be clearer folks. Him coming in flaming fire to judge the Earth, is the same coming as when he brings us to rest. Brings us home to glory. How can you say from this passage that there is a pre-trib rapture, when He has got his people going through the TRIBULATION in verse 4? Right up until they get rest. No rest until He comes in flaming fire, taking vengeance and punishing THEM with a little bit of tribulation and wrath and anguish and trouble and affliction and persecution. God will persecute the persecutor. God will slay the slayer. God is the God of justice.

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Now, let's go to where the rubber meets the road. Revelation chapter 1. Revelation because look, out of 22 mentions of tribulation, 5 of them are occur in the book of Revelation. Now, isn't the book of revelation the book that is about the end times prophecies? Isn't the book that is about the tribulation? Isn't it the book that has the most prophesy of the New Testament? I don't think anyone is going to disagree with any of those statements that I have just made. So, this is where we should really perk up. Because alot of the verses that we have heard about tribulation so far, were just talking about tribulation in general. Stuff that was going on back in Jesus' day, stuff that was going on back in the apostles day. Stuff that was going on throughout all history in regard to believers. But when we get to Revelation. We still might have some of that too, but we are getting into a book that deals with prophecy. **Now let's do a quick review before we get into this. We have seen seventeen mentions of tribulation. We haven't seen pre-trib rapture, it just wasn't there. What we did see was two places, Mathew 24 and Mark 13 that clearly said AFTER the tribulation, Jesus will come in the clouds, a trumpet will sound, He will gather the elect. We did see that twice VERY clearly. So, so far we are 2 and 0. 2 for AFTER the tribulation. Zero for before the tribulation.**

Out of those seventeen mentions, just to give you a quick recap, only two of them mentioned unsaved people going through tribulation right? I'm being honest, I'm not trying to hide from any of these passages. I'm not hiding from Romans 2, I'm not hiding from 2 Thessalonians. But I tell you right now, there is alot of people hiding from those other fifteen verses that I read to you. They see those passages and it's like you showed them a ghost (Impersonates) "Aagh! Get me out of here!" You know they will run screaming in the other direction from those other 15 verses. 15 of the verses that I showed you that are enough to strike fear and dread into the heart of anyone who believes in the pre-trib rapture. But wait a minute. 2 talked about unsaved people. So FIFTEEN said the saved are going through it, 2 said unsaved people are going through it. Hey, you are not going to get an argument from me on that one. Of course unsaved people are going to go through tribulation. The tribulation is worldwide. But did any of them say, did ANY of them say there is going to be a rapture before the tribulation or we are going to escape tribulation? No, there is warning after warning after warning- He said I am warning you, I am telling you, you are going to go through tribulation, it's going to be there, don't be offended. Get ready for it. Get psyched up for it. When it happens I want you to remember that I said it was going to happen. Don't say I didn't warn you because I did.

Let's get into the five because, get this- you say "Well these are the five that you are going to have to apologise for, Pastor Anderson"- wait a minute, these 5, guess what? It's all believers. It's all believers. So the first 17, 15 were believers, 1 were unbelievers. Now, on the final five, the five that really matter the most. Really if you think about it because they are in the book of Revelation- they are all talking about the believers. Let's look at them. Starting right out in chapter one. I mean is God trying to confuse us? I don't think so. Makes perfect sense to me. Look at Revelation 1:9. This is the author of the book of Revelation. **"I John, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation,** and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was in the isle that is called Patmos" why is he there? "For the work of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ". Why was he on Patmos? He was being persecuted, that's why. He was stuck on an island, he was in exile, he was being punished for preaching God's word. Because of the word of God, he is on Patmos experiencing what? It starts with a T- Tribulation. And by the way, he is speaking to the reader. Saying "I am your companion in tribulation". That means "I'm going through tribulation and you are going through tribulation.

Why? Because we are both saved". That's what life is going to be like when you are saved, you are going to go through trials and tribulations. Any pre-trib rapture there? He said, "No, I'm going through it. You are in it if you are reading this, hopefully if you are my companion. Otherwise you are probably not even my companion".

So, let's go to the second one. This is mention number 19, or we could call it mention number two in the book of Revelation. Revelation 2:9 he is talking to

"2 Corinthians 7:4- Great is my boldness of speech toward you, great is my glorying of you: I am filled with comfort, I am exceeding joyful in all our tribulation."

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the church in Smyrna. By the way, these aren't "church ages". These aren't "epochs of time". These are literal, physical churches that actually existed in these geographical locations. There was a church in Ephesus, there was a church in Smyrna. These aren't periods of time, these are conditions that any church could find themselves in. There could be a church that is like Ephesus, There could be a church (now) that is like Smyrna. Well, it says in verse 9, he is talking to the church in Smyrna- "I know thy works in tribulation and poverty, but thou art rich". Jesus is saying, "I know your tribulation". Did He say "I know you are not going to be here for the tribulation"? No. He said "I know thy works in tribulation and poverty, but thou art rich. And I know the blasphemy which sayeth they are Jews but are not. They are of the synagogue of Satan. Fear not those things which thou shalt suffer. **Behold the devil shall cast some of you into prison that ye may be tried. And ye shall have tribulation". YE SHALL HAVE**

***"1Thessalonians 3:4-
For verily, when we
were with you, we
told you before that
we should suffer
tribulation; even as
it came to pass, and
ye know."***

TRIBULATION. YE SHALL HAVE TRIBULATION. "Ye shall have tribulation ten days, be though FAITHFUL unto death and I will GIVE thee a crown of life". Any pre-trib rapture in that verse? Getting toward the end folks, and we haven't seen it yet.

Let's go to verse 18. The church in Thyatira. So, quick review, John, probably the greatest of the disciples, the one whom Jesus loved, the one who leaned on Jesus' breast at the least supper. The one who was part of the inner three of Peter, James and John. One of the pillars in the early church. John said "I am going through tribulation, and I am your companion in tribulation". Chapter two, we saw the church at Smyrna, and they were going through tribulation. He used the word twice with them, that was mentions two and three. Let's go to mention 4. The Bible reads "And unto the angel of the church of Thyatira write (who is he writing to? The church in Thyatira) these things sayeth the servant of God who has eyes

like unto a flame of fire and his feet are like fine brass. I know thy works in charity and service, and thy patience and thy works, and the last be more than the first." Notice he mentioned the works twice, once at the beginning of the list, once at the end of the list. And he said the last be more than the first. He is saying your works are increasing. You are bounding in works. You are doing more and more as time goes on. He says "Notwithstanding (in spite of that), I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest (or allow) that woman Jezebel, which callest herself a prophet as to teach. And to seduce my servants to commit fornication and to eat things sacrificed unto idols". So what is God upset with this church about- He has said "your works are great, your charity, your charity, your service, your faith, it's great!". In spite of that, notwithstanding, I have a few things against thee.

What is He mad about? Because there is this woman Jezebel in the church that is being allowed to teach. And what is she doing? She is being allowed to teach and to seduce His servants. So is she out seducing the heathen in bars? No, she has come into the church and is seducing who? God's servants. Is she coming in and seducing people that aren't saved? Is she coming in and seducing people that aren't serving God? Is she coming in and seducing those that are not doing anything for God? No, she wants to go into the church, and to seduce those that are actually serving God. To commit fornication and to sacrifice unto idols. And I gave her space to repent of her fornication, and she repented not. What does it mean to repent of your fornication? Quit doing it. Is that what that means? He says I gave her space to repent of her fornication and she repented not". What does it mean to repent of your fornication? Quit doing it! Is that what that means? He is saying "I gave her space to repent of her fornication and she repented not". "I gave her an opportunity to quit doing this, but she didn't take that opportunity, she is still doing it. She is still seducing my servants to commit fornication". Verse 22- "Behold, I will cast her into a bed and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation except they repent of their deeds. And I will kill her children with death, and all the churches shall know that I am He which searcheth the reins and hearts, and I will give unto every one of you according to your works. But unto you I say, and unto the rest at Thyatira as many as have not this doctrine, and which have not known the depths of Satan as they speak, I will put upon you none of the burden, but that which ye have already hold fast till I come".

Right there you see it. Saved Christians that are serving God, are being seduced by this wicked woman, and

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God says that if these servants of God- because look, let's go back to the tribulation verse and see it. "Behold I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her". Who is the "them" that commit adultery with her. God's servants. The ones that she is seducing to commit adultery with her. He said "I will cast her into a bed and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, except that they repent of their deeds". You say "wait a minute Pastor Anderson, you said all 5 times in the book of Revelation when the word tribulation is used it is talking about believers". That's right. And this passage is no exception. **Because this passage is talking about disobedient believers who are committing adultery, which is a very wicked sin, and if they don't repent of that, or stop committing adultery, He said "I will cast them into great tribulation, except they repent of their deeds"**. So here is the thing. If you are going to tell me that this teaches a pre-trib rapture, it doesn't mention the rapture. It's talking about saved people that were serving God. You would have to basically say that you could lose your salvation. I don't believe that. The Bible says "Verily, Verily I say unto you, he that believeth on Me, hath everlasting life". The Bible says "He that believeth on him is not condemned, but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God". It doesn't just say he doesn't believe right now, it says he HATH not believed. Because people that are not saved have never believed on Jesus Christ, because once you believe on Him He says "I give unto them eternal life and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand". You can't lose your salvation, because the Bible says that one day Jesus will say to the unsaved "Depart from me, I NEVER knew you". And so these people are already saved, they are already serving God, they are already part of the church. They get sucked into this horrible sin.

You say "No, no real Christian would ever commit adultery", are you talking about King David? Let him that thinketh he standeth, take heed lest he fall. You watch a bunch of adultery on your television, you watch a bunch of adultery down at the movie theatre, you fill your mind with adultery, and the music you listen to, that can have an influence on you. If you walk in the flesh, you are going to fulfill the desires of the flesh, and you may commit adultery someday. You better TAKE HEED to yourself and guard against that wicked sin. You're not above it.

Being saved doesn't automatically exempt you from committing adultery. These people were saved and this wicked woman seduced them to commit adultery. God said "If you do not repent of those deeds"- And keep in mind, these people lived two thousand years ago, are you listening to me? does anybody think that this story didn't really happen? That there wasn't really a woman named Jezebel? This is a real story! There was a woman in a real church, in a real town called Thyatira, that really was named Jezebel, and she really did teach a Sunday school class in that church, and she really did seduce God's servants to commit adultery with her. And God really said "If you don't stop committing adultery

with Jezebel, I will cast you into great tribulation, and I will kill your children with death, and all the churches shall know that I am he which searcheth the reins and hearts. And I will give unto every man according to his works". According to his what? Because you see repenting of your sins is works.

That's what it said in Jonah 3:10 "And God saw their WORKS that they repented of their evil ways, that they turned from their evil ways. And God repented of the evil that he had said that He would do to them". These people repenting of their adultery would be works. I said I know your works. I know whether you have turned from adultery or whether you are still living in it.

"2 Thessalonians 1:6- Seeing it is a righteous thing with God to recompense tribulation to them that trouble you"

See, I don't believe, if you want to tell me that this teaches a pre-trib rapture, you are saying two things. You are saying number one, a person can lose their salvation, because you are saying that these people who were already God's servants, just by committing adultery they lost their salvation. I don't believe that for a second. David didn't lose his salvation. He said "Restore to me the JOY of thy salvation". He didn't say "restore to me my salvation"- he never lost it. You can't lose it. And you also are saying another thing. You are saying that a person has to repent of their sins in order to be saved. I don't believe that for one second. "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved in thy house". It's possible for an adulterer or a drunk to be saved. Drunks like Noah. Murderers like Moses. Adulterers like David. This is Bible doctrine. Salvation by faith. And so, first of all, that's one reason why

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this isn't teaching a pre-trib rapture. Secondly it doesn't mention the rapture. Secondly, there is no Jesus coming in the clouds- "Hey if you do repent of that adultery, I am going to come in the clouds just for Thyatira. I am going to put a little cloud over Thyatira and come have a little personal rapture, just for your church". Please listen to me now. These people aren't even alive anymore, they lived 2000 years ago. You say "Well why is God telling us of all the smut of the church of Thyatira 2000 years later?" Because he is doing it as an example. These are seven churches that literally existed. They turned to dust long ago. You are not going to go to Turkey today, to modern day Turkey. You are not going to go to Turkey today and find Thyatira Baptist church. "Hey did you guys ever straighten that out with Jezebel?" "Uh, Jezebel died 1900 years ago". I mean is everybody clear on that. But it is an example to those who should after live ungodly. That if we have adultery in our church, we know what God thinks about it. We have some Jezebel coming in here and teaching people. We know what to do about it, we know how to handle it, we know how Jesus feels about it.

And last but not least. Revelation chapter 7. This is my favorite one. That's why I saved it for last, and also because I am going in chronological order. Revelation Chapter 7, so here is the deal. We have seen alot of verses that mention the word tribulation. Alot of them were talking about stuff that happens in general. Alot of them were talking about THE FINAL tribulation. Now you say "Pastor Anderson, which of these 22 do you believe are talking about THE tribulation?" I'll be honest with you I think it is very clear, I think it is very obvious which ones are talking about THE tribulation. Obviously Mathew 24, I don't think anybody will argue with that. Obviously Mark 13 is talking about THE tribulation, so there is 2- Mathew 24, Mark 13 and I believe Revelations 7. These 3 are talking about the FINAL tribulation. The other 19 are talking about various tribulation. Now some of them you could argue maybe. But I'm just talking about what we know for sure. You know you could argue about whether maybe Acts 14:22 is talking about THE tribulation when it says that we must "through much tribulation enter into the Kingdom of God". I mean that could definitely apply. But as far as just a concrete mention of going through THE tribulation, the FINAL tribulation, Mathew 24, Mark 13 and Revelation 7 I think is fair to say.

"Romans 2:9- Tribulation and anguish, upon every soul of man that doeth evil, of the Jew first, and also of the Gentile"

Let's look at Revelation 7, let's see if this teaches a pre-trib rapture. It sure better, or else the pre-trib rapture is in some trouble, because we have already looked at 21 other mentions. And I don't think anybody can really say that I am being dishonest right now, I mean I am really trying to be fair right now. Look at Revelation 7:9, it says "After this I beheld and lo a great multitude which no man could number, of all nations and kindreds and people, and tongues stood before the throne and before the lamb, clothed with white robes and palms in their hands". You say "How many were there?" The Bible says "no man could number" and the Bible numbers some pretty big numbers, it numbers hundreds of millions. It numbers some pretty big numbers. This is one that no man could number. Now, could a man number hundreds of millions? Well there places in the bible where men number- remember when Joab counted the children of Israel? That was well over a million that MAN numbered. This is a multitude that no man could number. And it say they are of all nations, all kindreds, all people- so is this the Jews? No, this is all nations ok?

He says this in verse 10 "And cried with a loud voice" He said "they stood before the lamb clothed in white robes, with palms in their hands, and cried with a loud voice saying Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne and unto the lamb. And all the angels stood round about the throne and about the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces and worshipped God saying Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honour and power and might be unto our God, forever and ever Amen." So what do we see? A great multitude, no man can number, ALL nations, ALL kindreds, ALL people- what are they doing? They are praising God. Everybody got the picture? Huge, what a great scene! This massive multitude, brought together from all backgrounds, all praising God in unison. And one of the elders, these are the four and twenty elders.

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Remember the four and twenty elders that had been there with John as he had been seeing these things and experiencing these things? One of them, "and one of the elders answered saying unto me, what are these which are arrayed in white robes, and whence came they?" Two questions, what are these which are arrayed in white robes, and whence came they? Whence means "from where?" He is saying, "what are these people, and where did they come from?" Now let me ask you this, does that mean that they just arrived? Yes, because if you didn't just arrive, you are not coming from anywhere. If I said "hey, where are you coming from?" "uh, I've been here for the last few years." Would that make any sense? No. Where are you coming from? implies motion. He says "What are these?" He has been there all along. He says "what are these and where did they come from?" Because they just showed up my friends, that's why. And I don't understand why this is the way it is, this always makes me laugh, it says, one of the elders answered saying unto me, verse 13 "What are these which are arrayed in white robes and whence came they? And I said unto him sir, thou knowest." He says "You're asking me? You are the one who is showing me everything! You know!" And he says "Yes, I know, I was just kidding". But anyway, He says "Thou knowest. And He said to me. These are they which came out of great tribulation and have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the lamb. Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple. And He that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them. They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore, neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat, for the lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes."

“Revelation 2:10- Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.”

Anybody see the pre-tribulation rapture in that verse? (Hums a few bars of funeral hymn) I mean, isn't that the just the final nail in the coffin of this doctrine? It's false. It's a lie. Go to Mathew 24, let's break it down. You say "Okay Pastor Anderson, (this is what I have heard alot of people say) well you're right, there is no clear verse that says that it's before the tribulation, but there is no clear verse that says that it is after either. So we have to, you know, do a study, make charts, we've got to go to Rockman, we got to go to Tim LeHay, we got to go to Kirk Cameron, and give us a little more insight. I have got to go to all these bible teachers that are going to explain it for us"- **And this is the craziest one that I have heard- "Oh, you need to study Jewish wedding customs. If you study Jewish wedding customs you will know it is the pre-trib rapture."** You are not going to see me at some Jewish Bah-mitzvah. You are not going to see me at a Jewish wedding. You are not going to see me eating a kosher meal on the airplane. You are not going to see me wearing a funny hat. I'm going to trim my beard to this level here. I'm not going to go to a Jewish wedding to learn about God from people who don't even believe in Jesus. I went into a church recently, they had a Jewish rabbi, so I went up to the reverend and asked him, "do you believe in Jesus? (He was SPEAKING in the Baptist church) Do you believe in Jesus?" He said no! **Wake up, the Jews don't believe in Jesus.** Now there could be people who are Jewish and yes, do believe in Jesus, but the RELIGION? JUDAISM? **It rejects Christ,** and I am going to get to that in a moment.

But, where did I return? Mathew 24. **Because people will say "Well, we don't have a clear verse that says it is before the tribulation, we don't have a clear verse that says that it is after either,** so we have to study to show ourselves approved." Yes, study to show yourselves approved, but you have got a really clear verse that says that it is AFTER. **Look at Mathew 24:29. "Immediately AFTER THE TRIBULATION** of those days, shall the sun be darkened and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from Heaven, and the powers of the Heavens shall be shaken, and then shall appear the sign of the Son of Man in Heaven"- Does it talk about him coming ALL the way to the Earth? No, it says He is in Heaven, it says "And then shall all the tribes of the Earth shall mourn"- I

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wonder if that has anything to do with the flaming fire from 2 Thessalonians 1, that's going to be falling around the same time, same day. He says "Then shall all the tribes of the Earth mourn and they shall see the Son of Man coming in the clouds of Heaven, with power and great glory"- So here we have Jesus coming in the clouds, after the tribulation. And "He shall send his angels with the great sound of the trumpet"- Does that sound familiar from 1 Thessalonians 4, the trumpet sounds? "And they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of Heaven to the other". CLEAR verse, plain as the nose on your face, CLEAR as a CRYSTAL, that it is AFTER THE TRIBULATION. Was there any comparable verse out of all the other verses we looked at, that said BEFORE the tribulation there is going to be Jesus coming in the clouds, and the trumpet? (No) Now, I am going to break down some things about this chapter, because alot of people will attack this chapter. Keep your finger in this chapter and go to Mark 13. **Alot of people will attack this chapter and say "you can't get your doctrine on this from Mathew 24, because Mathew 24 is only talking to the Jews"**. And some scholar somewhere decided that the book of Mathew is to the Jews, the book of Mark is to the Romans, the book of Luke is to the Greeks, and the book of John is to the world. Well thank you God for including us in one of the least four Gospels. But who comes up with this stuff? Now look. Maybe Mathew is geared toward to the Jews, maybe, Mark is geared toward the Romans, maybe the epistle to the Ephesians was geared to the Ephesians, do you think? Maybe the epistle Paul to the Hebrews was geared toward the Hebrews. **But every promise in the book is MINE, every chapter, every verse, every line.**

The book of Titus wasn't just for Titus. That was a short lived book. It's for every pastor to read! It's for every believer to read. It's the New Testament. It's for all of us! But wait a minute, you say "Mathew is to the Jews", okay, how about Mark? Did they say that's for the Romans? It says the same thing, "IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE TRIBULATION". **But they'll say "No, no, Pastor Anderson, you don't get it, this whole sermon was preached about the Jews to the Jews, for the Jews, God, or Jesus Christ was preaching to the Jews in the Olivet discourse** (that's the fancy theological name they give to this passage- Mathew 24, Mark 13, they call it the Olivet Discourse). "Pastor Anderson, He was talking to the Jews, don't you get it?" When he said in Mark 13:24, AFTER the tribulation, after that tribulation, and then he talked about Jesus coming in the clouds in verse 26 and gathering the elect in verse 27 from the outermost part of the earth to the outermost part of the Heaven, they will (still) say that that is talking to the Jews only. Okay, look at the last verse of Mark 13, Mark 13:37. "And what I say unto you I am only saying to the Jews. Don't let any preacher try to tell you this is for all believers, this is only for the Jews." **Is that what it says in Mark 13:37? No, it says "And when I say unto you, I say unto ALL, watch."** And yet somebody will turn around and say this is only talking to the Jews. Unbelievable isn't it? It's almost as if Jesus knew the people would say that. "Someday, people are going to say that this chapter is only talking to certain people, so I'm just going to throw it on the end, and what I say unto you, I say unto all, watch." Isn't that amazing?

So go back to Mathew 24. Now that we know that He is talking to everybody. You know I could show you this out of Mark 13. I'd like to show that in Mathew 24. You say "why do you choose Mathew 24 over Mark 13?" You know one big reason, is because this is how I learned about this doctrine. When I was 12, I decided to start reading the New Testament cover to cover. This is the first time I came across this stuff, because I started reading Mathew 1. I started reading it, I got into chapter 4, and it sparked my interest because - alot of people are fascinated by prophecy, by the end times, by rapture and tribulation. So as a young 12 year old, obviously this got my attention as I am reading this chapter that is talking about such an intense subject. And this caught my attention right away, and when I got to that part that said after the tribulation, I knew it was talking about the rapture when it talked about Jesus coming in the clouds. I knew it was talking about Jesus coming in the rapture when that trumpet sounds in Mathew 24, and He gathers the elect. And I walked away that day not believing in the pre-trib rapture, and I have never believed in it since. that was 18 years ago. Never believed in it since. Everything I've read since then just confirmed what I saw on that day. It wasn't hard to convert me. You say "who taught you this doctrine? You've been brainwashed? who converted you?" It was the holy spirit of God in my living room, in Sacramento California, with the Bible in my hand, reading the New Testament cover to

"Revelation 1:9- I John, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation"

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cover for the first time in my life at age 12. When I got to Mathew 24, that's when I was converted on this doctrine. That's why I am going to preach out of this chapter tonight, because this is the one that got me.

The people will say it is only talking to the Jews. Well I already showed you a verse that says it is talking to all- Mark 13:37. But in case that's not enough, **people will say well "the ELECT, that's talking about the Jews, God's chosen people"**, because the elect means "to choose", right? Like if we elect a president, we are choosing a president, right? So, the ELECT they say "well that's God's chosen people, the Jews"- well, I've got a list here of every time the word "elect" is used. We're not going to go through it, because we don't have time. I already went through every time tribulation was used. But I could go through every time elect is used and I could show you that every single time, it's talking about people that are saved. Just to give you a quick highlight, in **1 Thessalonians 1:4, it says, "knowing brethren beloved your election of God"- it's talking to the Thessalonians who were clearly gentiles.** We saw it in Romans 8. "Who shall lay anything to the charge of God's elect, it is god that justifieth". Out of 16 mentions of the term "elect" in the Bible, I have found 10 (which) refer to ALL believers in general. 2 of them refer to believers who are specifically gentiles. So it can't be referring to Jews. One of them refers to believers who are Jews. 2 of them refer to Jesus Christ Himself. And one refers to Jacob the person as being Gods elect, that's the character from the old testament, Jacob. I'll give you one verse that just clearly shows you that the elect does not mean Israel- because people say "the elect means Israel, the Jews". Okay, **Romans 11:7, you don't have to turn there, but it says one thing, "Israel have not obtained that which ye seeketh for, but the election hath obtained it and the rest were blinded."** So the Bible says Israel has NOT, the election has. Well, if Israel were the election, that wouldn't make any sense.

***"Ephesians 3:13-
Wherefore I desire that
ye faint not at my
tribulations for you,
which is your glory."***

So, you can look it up on your own, I don't have time to go through all the times the word elect is used. But I will go through all the times that elect is used in this chapter. In Mathew 24. Because if we jump back to verse 21, the Bible reads- and I'm proving to you that in Mathew 24, the word elect means "the saved". Not the Jews, not Israel, not Jewish believers, just the saved in general. Look at verse 21 it says " For then shall be great tribulation such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no nor ever shall be, and except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved, but for the elect's sake, those days shall be shortened." So the Bible says

here that the days of tribulation shall be shortened, and if they weren't, no flesh would be saved. why? Because the tribulation is a time of persecution where believers are killed for the cause of Christ. And if it were allowed, we'd all die, we'd all be dead, because we'd all be put to death. But thank God those days will be shortened for the elect's sake. So whoever the elect are, He is shortening it for their sake. But here is the key, look at verse 24, "For there shall arise false Christ's and false prophets and shall show great signs and wonders insomuch that if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect. So the bible says here, that at this time, **false Christ's and false prophets will arise that will be so convincing, that if it were possible, they would even deceive the very elect. You know what that means? It's not possible.**

Because Jesus said "My sheep hear my voice. A stranger will they flee from for they know not the voice of strangers." The Bible is saying here that they are going to be so slick these false prophets and false Christ's, that if it were possible, they would deceive the very elect. But you see? It's NOT possible. Now, you say, "what does that have to do with anything?" Wait a minute, the Bible is saying the elect are not going to be deceived by the false Christ's and false prophets right? That's what it says. It says if it were possible, they would, but it's not, that's the implication. Well, keep your finger there, go to 1 John 2. Who has ever heard the term "the antichrist"? Everybody has heard that term, right? You know the antichrist is a Biblical term. You will often hear the Bible talk about "the Beast" or "the beast from the sea", or the "beast with seven heads and ten horns", and it will talk about "the man of sin", the "son of perdition". You will hear these terms used. But the Bible also uses the term "antichrist". And I like to use the term antichrist, it's a term that people understand and it's a biblical term. I want to show you where the

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bible uses the term antichrist, because the Bible tells us that there is a person coming someday that is called the antichrist. I want to see who that person is. It says in verse 18 of 1 John 2, "Little children, it is the last time and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come"- Now is that singular or plural? So they have heard that antichrist (singular) shall come- "Even now are there many antichrists, whereby we know it is the last time." So there is one antichrist coming, is there not? But aren't there many antichrists, even now? That's what the verse says.

Who are these antichrists? Jump down if you would to verse 22, "**Who is a liar, but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist that denieth the father and the son.**" Now, let me just explain this to you, this is key. In order to believe that Jesus is not the Christ, you have to believe that there is a Christ, and that it is not Jesus. Does everybody understand that? These aren't just atheists who don't believe in God, don't believe in Christ, no. These are people who do not believe that Jesus is Christ. It's not saying that they don't believe that there is a Christ. It's saying that they don't believe that Jesus is the Christ. The word Christ means "Messiah". The Bible says in John chapter 1 "We have found the messiah, which is to say being interpreted, the Christ. So the Bible defines the word Christ as Messiah, the two are interchangeable. Let me ask you this. Can you think of a religion out there that says there is a Messiah coming, but it's not Jesus, Jesus wasn't him. Judaism. **The Jewish religion teaches that there is a Messiah all right, but it wasn't Jesus-** they are still waiting for the Messiah. They say Jesus was not the Messiah. It says "Whosoever denieth the Son, the same hath not the Father, but he that acknowledgeth the Son hath the Father also. So he is saying that if you don't believe in the Son of God, if you don't believe in Jesus Christ, you don't believe in the Father either.

Alot of people will say "Oh, the Jews believe in the same God we do, they just don't believe in Jesus." No. Different God. They don't believe in the Father. You can't believe in the Father without believing in the Son. Jesus said "no man cometh unto the Father but by me." They have another God, because they don't have the Father. You say "no, they have the same God!" No, they DON'T have the same God. They don't have the Father. How can you say they have the same God when the Bible says that "they hath not the Father", Because they don't have the Son? If they don't have the Father then they don't have the same God. And the Bible has a name for them- antichrist. And you say "oh, you're racist"- this is nothing to do with race! Judaism isn't a race, it's a religion. They're a people of Jewish ethnicity that are believers, that believe in Christ. There are people that are not of Jewish ethnicity, but believe in the religion of Judaism. The Bible talks about people becoming Jews, I mean, "Jew" is a religious term. It has nothing to do with ethnicity, it has nothing to do with race. All people are equal in God's sight as far as the Bible says. That all nations of the Earth are of one blood. Okay? There is no difference between the Jew and the Greek, there is no difference between Jew and gentile. We're not talking about race here, we are talking about religion. The religion that teaches that there is another messiah coming, the Bible calls that antichrist.

"2 Thessalonians 1:4- So that we ourselves glory in you in the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that ye endure"

Why does the Bible call it antichrist? Because there is a man coming called THE antichrist- singular- who is going to say that he is Jesus Christ. And **when that antichrist shows up at the tribulation and says "I am Jesus Christ", they're going to accept him as their Messiah!** Alot of people will teach that "Oh, when Jesus Christ comes in the clouds, the Jews will finally realise that He was their Messiah and they will accept Him." No, they will accept the antichrist, that's what the Bible says. **The Bible says, Jesus says "I have come in my Father's name and ye have received me not. Another will come in his own name, him you will receive."** He says if you believe that Jesus Christ- I'm getting ahead of myself- but He said here, if you don't believe Jesus is the Christ, he says you are antichrist, you believe in some other Christ. Go if you would to the next mention of antichrist, go to 1 John 4:3. 1John 4:3 says, "And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh, is not of God and this is that spirit

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of antichrist whereof ye have heard that it should come and even now already is it in the world. Same consistent theme- you don't believe that Jesus is the Christ. Go to 2 John, 1 page to the right in your Bible. In verse 7 the Bible reads "For many deceivers are entered into the world who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist." It doesn't say that they don't believe SOMEDAY the Messiah is coming. No, it says they don't believe that Jesus is the Christ, that He already came, that He already is come in the flesh- PAST TENSE. They're not going to believe Him on the second coming, folks, they didn't believe Him on the first time. They are not going to believe Him the second time. The first time they rejected Him, they nailed Him to the cross. The second time they are already going to have fallen for the antichrist hook line and sinker. They are going to have the mark of the beast in their forehead and their hand, already. Because their whole religion is called the spirit of antichrist. Their religion is antichrist, according to the Bible.

So, all that say "why did you show us that, Pastor Anderson?" Because I wanted to show you that in Mathew 24 it said that the elect will not be deceived by false Christ's and false prophets. If that's talking about the nation of Israel, let me ask you something- are they being deceived right now by false prophets and false Christ's? 99 per cent of them do not believe that Jesus is the Christ. 99 per cent of them reject the Lord Jesus Christ and therefore, they are among the most deceived people in this area. So would it make any sense for God to say it's not possible for the elect to be deceived, if it were the Jews? When they are the most deceived? You say "you don't know what you are talking about"- No, YOU don't know what you are talking about. I've been soul winning in Tempe areas that are heavily Jewish, and I'm telling you something, I try to give them the gospel, I love them, I show them what the Bible said, they don't want to hear it. They don't want to be saved. They rejected the Gospel of Jesus Christ. So you are going to tell me the elect is the Jews? No it is the saved. The saved are the ones who won't be deceived. Why? Because the Holy Spirit is living inside of them, that's why they won't be deceived.

You say "Pastor Anderson, back in Mathew 24, Jesus Christ coming at the rapture must be before the tribulation, because it can happen at any moment"- that's what people will teach. They'll say "well Jesus can come at any moment. How can it be after the tribulation? He could come tonight!" That's what they'll say. Now, I've often asked people. And I've got two more things to say tonight then I'm going to shut this thing down. I have two more scriptures that I want to show you. Two more points that I want to make. You see I have asked people many times when they tell me Jesus could come at any moment. **I ask them "Where does it say that in the Bible?"** And by the way that is a good question to get in the habit of asking when anybody tells you anything. And so I ask them that I say "where does the Bible say that He can come back at any moment?" Show me that in the Bible. I'm thinking of a conversation right now but I can think of many that would be the same way. And you ask them, and alot of them, they just can't show you, you would have to help them, to find it for them. But when they do know where to show **you they will say "well the Bible says no man knoweth the day or the hour. Therefore he can come at any moment." But wait a minute. That doesn't mean He can come at any moment just because no man knoweth the day or the hour.**

And here is what is funny. I asked the Pastor, the Pastor said "no man knoweth the day or the hour". And I said, but where does it say that in the Bible that no-man knoweth the day or the hour? And he said "Well I don't have it in front of me, I don't know the exact chapter, but I know that Jesus said that no man knoweth the day or the hour." I said let me help you. **He said it in Mathew 24:36.** Look down at your Bible. "But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no not the angels in heaven but my Father only." Well, there you go. He can come at any moment! (sarcastically) But here is the problem, **He said, "but of THAT day and hour"**. THAT day begs a question- **what day?** Which day are you talking about Jesus, when you say "of THAT day knoweth no man." Well, **the answer is found just a couple of verses up higher, where it says immediately AFTER THE TRIBULATION Jesus comes in the clouds, the trumpet sounds, He gathers His elect. Of THAT day and hour knoweth no man.** So here is the thing. We don't know the day or the hour, we know it is AFTER the tribulation. We don't know if it is October, we don't know if it is September, we don't know the day, we don't know the time, we don't know the hour, if it's going to be on a Monday or Tuesday, but ONE thing we know DEAD SURE, we KNOW it's going to be after the tribulation. Because that is what Jesus has just said.

Does He say "I'm coming at any moment?" No. He said it is after the tribulation, no man knoweth the day or the hour. That's what He said. He said in verse 40. "Then shall two be in the field, the one shall be taken and the other left"- sound like the rapture? "Two women shall be grinding at the mill, the one shall be taken and the other left."

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Watch therefore for ye know not what hour your lord doth come." (Sarcastically) "See! We don't know what hour He is coming that means he could come at any moment." But He already told you it's after the tribulation. But here's the funny thing about this. People who believe in the pre-trib rapture, they do these mental gymnastics where you will try to show them- "see! it says there after the tribulation"- (they'll say) "That's not about the rapture." And you say to them "well how do you know?"- and they say "because it says after the tribulation. And OF COURSE we know that the rapture is before the tribulation." But they will say "That's not the rapture". But then you ask them, "where does the bible say it can happen at any moment?" they say "right there, no man knoweth the day or the hour". "But you just said this wasn't about the rapture!" So (they think) when it says the rapture is after the tribulation, Mathew 24 is NOT about the rapture. But when it says that no man knoweth the day or the hour, now all of a sudden Mathew 24 is about the rapture again. And when it says "two are in the field, one is taken, the other left"- well that's about the rapture again. (it's a) Just shut up and do what you are told (kind of mentality). "Just shut up and believe in the pre-trib rapture because I said so." You say "give both sides, be fair". Okay, here is the other side- "Shut up and believe what I say, quit asking questions". "Shut up and believe it because I said so"- that's the pre-trib side. I mean it's true!! (laughs exasperatedly) They've got nothing! I've got scripture after scripture after scripture and they have got a whole lot of nothing. That is what they have got. You say "you've got a bad spirit"- you

"Revelation 2:22- Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, except they repent of their deeds."

better know I do after 18 years of listening to this garbage. For 17 years and 11 months I was ok with this. I have had enough. (Laughs) You don't believe that (do you?), you have been listening to me preach for too long (Laughs).

I wanted to say one more thing, because there is no scripture that clearly teaches the pre-trib rapture, it just isn't there, those who believe in the pre-trib rapture have to rely on some really vague verses. And they have to really stretch some things, okay? Now I want to say this. I went to a church that was an independent Fundamental Baptist church, KJV only. I went there five years, and this church believed in the pre-trib rapture. And in those five years that I went to that church, and that was a great church, you know, a lot of great soul winning. I learnt a lot of great things there. I'm not saying it was a bad church. I'm not saying that everyone who is wrong on this doctrine is a bad person, some people just haven't learnt this doctrine or are confused or mixed up. I'm not trying to be mean spirited, I'm only mean spirited toward those who are knowingly preaching a lie, and they're out there. You don't think when it is this clear that people know that they are preaching lies in this case? No, a lot of preachers are preaching this and you know, they are just confused and Pastors are wrong and maybe they will learn about it later, and get right on it. Not everyone who preaches this is a bad person. They're just mixed up they're wrong. But look. Just because you are not a bad person, you are still wrong okay?

Great church, I went there for five years, soul winning church KJV only, independent, fundamental Baptist. And the Pastor who preached unto me for those five years, he preached that the rapture was before the tribulation, and he preached it many times. And if he said it one, he must have said it forty times in those years, that the rapture could happen at any moment, and it's before the tribulation, the trumpet is going to sound. He was very big on that doctrine. And in all those five years he only ever used 2 verses to prove to me that the rapture was before the tribulation. And he would usually just bring it up in passing. I don't remember him preaching a whole sermon about the rapture. It was something that he would build into a sermon. He'd mention the fact that the rapture took place before the tribulation. And he'd bring up one or two things, or both, and when I spoke to him personally about it, years and years later, after I was no longer a member of the church, we talked about this. And I asked him about it, these are the same two things that he brought up to me when we talked about it in person. And it's the same two things he would only ever bring up in those 5 years. The first one is the one that we already looked at- no man knoweth the day or the hour. I think we pretty much put that one to bed didn't we? Well, the other one is the second and last thing I wanted to show you- 2 Thessalonians chapter 2.

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Real quickly, I will close with this. 2 Thessalonians chapter 2. Here is the second thing he showed me. And I've got up here just to help you understand where this stuff comes from. I've got the Scofield reference Bible, because this is a study bible. Does everybody know what I mean by a study Bible. It means it's a Bible which has got all kinds of helps and references built in to help you out. Well, I don't recommend. I love the Bible that Trent bought me. It's got nothing in it but God's word. I love it. It's just the text of God's word. You don't need a bunch of help. You know who is going to help me? The holy spirit. And the Pastor and the preacher and God's people, my brothers and sisters in Christ, preaching to me. I don't need to sit there and have some kind of a theologian help me along. I did pretty well in my living room as a 12 year old with just the bible. So I don't recommend study Bibles. You say "Well, you're just a smart guy". No, it's nothing to do with being smart okay? you know what it has to do with? It has to do with being saved. Because if you are saved, you can understand the Bible, okay? Does everybody get that. If you are saved, you can understand the bible and learn things on your own. Here's the thing. This study Bible, or Scofield reference Bible is one of the most popular reference Bibles that has been out through the years. And when I was growing up, everybody had one of these- I grew up with one of these. And sometimes the pastor would even say, turn to so and so, it's page ... in your Scofield Bible. So this is pretty universal. I'll tell you what. **The devil has used this tool, of the Scofield reference system of the Bible, more than anything to promote this doctrine of the pre-trib rapture.** You want to know where it comes from. This is how it got into churches. **This is where pastors are getting it. It ain't coming from the Bible, it sure didn't come from the mouth of Jesus Christ. But it came from the mouth of Scofield, some theologian. I'm not going to go into who he was at the moment. I know who he was- NOT GOD!**

"With God before us, who can be against us?"

And so, in Scofield's reference bible, we are going to go to 2 Thessalonians. Here is the second thing that my old pastor brought up. He said this is the first that proves that the rapture is before the tribulation- and I've heard this from other preachers, many times. And boy, this is crystal clear. It says in verse 6 "And now ye know what withholdeth, that He might be revealed in His time, for the mystery of iniquity doth already work, until He who now letteth, will let, until he be taken out of the way, and then shall that wicked be revealed whom the Lord shall consume with spirit of his mouth and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming. Even him whose coming is after the working of Satan" and on and on... (sarcastically) Now everybody can see RIGHT AWAY why this proves the rapture is before the tribulation right? I mean you are looking at the key verse right? The key verse is in verse seven. Don't you see it? It says in verse seven "for the mystery of iniquity doth already work, only he who now letteth will let until he be taken out of the way"- don't you see it? Look, come on guys, don't you see that that is the pre-trib rapture? Oh, I forgot, you don't have a Scofield Bible, that's why you are not seeing it. Let's get out a Scofield Bible and check it out okay? Now we can really get deep into gospel here. oh, there is a little note at the bottom, let's go down here, okay I got it. It says- everybody in verse 7?, look down at your bible in verse 7, Scofield is going to teach you what this means. "The removal of that which restrains the mystery of lawlessness, the restrainer is a person, he- talking about the "he" in verse 7" and since a mystery always implies a supernatural element, this person can be no other than the Holy Spirit in the Church to be taken out of the way, see 1 Thessalonians 4:14-17".

So he says "well obviously the he who now letteth will let until it be taken out of the way, "he" is the Holy Spirit. And the Holy Spirit is living inside believers in the church so called, and if we go to first Thessalonians 4 that's where the rapture, so when it says "until he be taken out of the way", it means the Holy Spirit is going to be taken out of the way, and since the Holy Spirit lives in believers, that means believers are going to be taken up in the rapture before the tribulation. Why didn't think of that when I read verse 7? Because it isn't there. Because it's made up. Let me teach you something about pronouns. "He" is a pronoun right? Pronouns have an antecedent. The first four letters of antecedent are ante, which means before. A word that comes before to tell us what the "he" is talking about. Guess what? The Holy Spirit is never mentioned before that? So how can the "he" be referring to the Holy Spirit? The Holy Spirit is not even mentioned in this passage whatsoever! There is no mention of the Holy Spirit. You can't just say "he" is whoever you want. "oh, he, that's the Holy Spirit!" I say that's Mickey mouse! Because we are just making stuff up, saying it's he.

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No, "he" is somebody that is mentioned in the chapter, how about that? Somebody like the man of sin? For example let's mention. And I don't have time to go into all of that. But do you see this kind of vague scriptures? They'll show you verses about wrath. The tribulation is not God's wrath. They will show you verses about "he who now letteth will let", and leave you scratching your head, (thinking), "what are you talking about?" But you see, this is what my Pastor used to preach. Five years my friends! Five years I sat in that church that was pre-trib. And I heard it over and over again- "no man knoweth the day or the hour, if you say it's after the tribulation, you're making Jesus a liar, you are calling Jesus a liar if you say it's not pre-trib, because we can't know the day or the hour." When, Jesus said it's after the tribulation and no man knoweth the day or the hour. You see he never had us turn there, he just quoted it. Because if we turned there we might have accidentally see verse 29 "after the tribulation". So the first thing was, "no man knoweth the day and the hour"- but he's not the only one, I've heard pre-trib rapture preachers say this "Hey, we're going up in the rapture before the tribulation, because when the holy spirit is taken out, we're going to be taken out. **Hey, when the Holy Spirit is gone, I'm gone, Amen.**" **But wait a minute folks, How do you take the Holy Spirit out of the way, the Holy Spirit is God!** Do you think is somebody you just take out of the way? Who is going to take GOD out of the way? God's just a little bit big for you to just take out of the way. What kind of nonsense- the Holy Spirit is not even mentioned! You don't take GOD out of the way, HE IS GOD!!! The Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost, and these three are one. It's that simple my friend.

And so I'll just say this "These things have I preached unto you that ye might not be offended, when persecution comes, when you are asked to take the mark of the beast- I didn't have time to get into it tonight. But when they are coming to you saying "you can't buy or sell without this mark IN your right hand or IN your forehead", you will remember this sermon. Maybe it won't happen in our lifetime, maybe it will, but if it does, you will remember this sermon. That's why Jesus said it, and that's why I am saying it. You say "is this to scare us?" No, the Bible says "In the world ye shall have tribulation." Get upset about it? No, He said "in the world ye shall have tribulation, but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world." Cheer up, don't be down, don't walk out of this sermon like "oh man, are you serious? beheadings? prison? famine? pestilence? are you serious?" No, be of good cheer. He has overcome the world. Maybe it will happen in our lifetime, maybe it won't but either way, you know what? With God before us, who can be against us? Praise Jesus Christ.

Let's bow our heads in prayer. Father we thank you so much for the clear truth in your word. And we thank you so much for giving us the holy spirit to guide us- I couldn't figure this stuff out on my own with all the brainwashing I received from these people lying to me and Scofield and all this stuff, but thank you for the Holy Spirit that just, in that room so many years ago, cut through all that and burned these three words into my mind, these three words, just burned into my mind from Mathew 24 as a twelve year old boy. "After the tribulation". And I pray that those words would sink into the hearts and minds of every person that is here tonight. We love you and thank you and in Jesus name we pray. Amen.

Scriptures used

Mat 13:21 Yet hath he not root in himself, but dureth for a while: for when **tribulation** or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended.

Mat 24:21 For then shall be great **tribulation**, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.

Mat 24:29 Immediately after the **tribulation** of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken:

Mar 13:24 But in those days, after that **tribulation**, the sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light,

Joh 16:33 These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have **tribulation**: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.

Act 14:22 Confirming the souls of the disciples, *and* exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much **tribulation** enter into the kingdom of God.

Rom 2:9 **Tribulation** and anguish, upon every soul of man that doeth evil, of the Jew first, and also of the Gentile;

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Rom 5:3 And not only *so*, but we glory in **tribulations** also: knowing that **tribulation** worketh patience;

Rom 8:35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? *shall* **tribulation**, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

Rom 12:12 Rejoicing in hope; patient in **tribulation**; continuing instant in prayer;

2Co 1:4 Who comforteth us in all our **tribulation**, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God.

2Co 7:4 Great *is* my boldness of speech toward you, great *is* my glorying of you: I am filled with comfort, I am exceeding joyful in all our **tribulation**.

1Th 3:4 For verily, when we were with you, we told you before that we should suffer **tribulation**; even as it came to pass, and ye know.

2Th 1:6 Seeing *it is* a righteous thing with God to recompense **tribulation** to them that trouble you;

Rev 1:9 I John, who also am your brother, and companion in **tribulation**, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was in the isle that is called Patmos, for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.

Rev 2:9 I know thy works, and **tribulation**, and poverty, (but thou art rich) and *I know* the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but *are* the synagogue of Satan.

Rev 2:10 Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast *some* of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have **tribulation** ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.

Rev 2:22 Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great **tribulation**, except they repent of their deeds.

Rev 7:14 And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great **tribulation**, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

Eph 3:13 Wherefore I desire that ye faint not at my **tribulations** for you, which is your glory.

2Th 1:4 So that we ourselves glory in you in the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and **tribulations** that ye endure

Rom 11:7 What then? Israel hath not obtained that which he seeketh for; but the election hath obtained it, and the rest were blinded

Jon 3:10 And God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God repented of the evil, that he had said that he would do unto them; and he did *it* not.

1Jn 2:18 Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time.

1Jn 2:19 They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would *no doubt* have continued with us: but *they went out*, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us.

1Jn 2:20 But ye have an unction from the Holy One, and ye know all things.

1Jn 2:21 I have not written unto you because ye know not the truth, but because ye know it, and that no lie is of the truth.

1Jn 2:22 Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist that denieth the Father and the Son.

2Jn 1:7 For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist.

2Th 2:6 And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time.

2Th 2:7 For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth *will let*, until he be taken out of the way.