

REVELATION 3:10

A PRECIOUS PROMISE

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WHAT is the Rapture?

The rescue and catching away of the church prior to the start of the 7-year tribulation period. Yes, the word is in the Bible.

- Greek word for “caught up” is harpazo.
- Latin word for “caught up” is rapiemur.

1 Thessalonians 4:17 deinde nos qui vivimus qui relinquimur simul **rapiemur** cum illis in nubibus obviam Domino in aera et sic semper cum Domino erimus (Latin Vulgate)

rapi.emur - Verb FUTURE PASSIVE INDICATIVE 1ST PERSON PLURAL

rapio, rapere, rapui, raptus, **rapturo-** dative singular masculine future active participle

drag off; snatch; destroy; seize, carry off; pillage; hurry; Where we get raptor bird group.

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The HOW of the Rapture?

The method and description- **1 Thessalonians 4:13-17.**

¹³ But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope.

¹⁴ For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep.

¹⁵ For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep.

¹⁶ For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

¹⁷ Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord.

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WHY are we Raptured?

The church has received a special promise not to endure the coming eschatological wrath of God which is poured out during the 7-year tribulation period (the 70th week of Daniel).

- **1 Thessalonians 1:9-10**

For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, ¹⁰ and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

- **1 Thessalonians 5:9-10** (Context is the Day of the Lord)

For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰ who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him.

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*Not all rescues are the rapture,
but the rapture is a rescue.*

Luke 17:22-37

- Noah (and family) were rescued PRIOR to judgment
- Lot (and daughters) were rescued PRIOR to judgment
- Jesus specifically ties His 2nd coming to these events

REVELATION 3:10

A RAPTURE PASSAGE

OR

A RESCUE PASSAGE?

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Sources for this Revelation 3:10 study:

- Jeffrey L. Townsend, “The Rapture in Revelation 3:10,” *Bibliotheca Sacra* 137 (1980): 252-262.
- David G. Winfrey, “The Great Tribulation: Kept ‘Out Of’ or ‘Through’?,” *Grace Theological Journal* 3, no. 1 (1982): 1–18.
- Thomas R. Edgar. “Robert H. Gundry and Revelation 3:10,” *Grace Theological Journal* 3, no 1 (1982): 19-50.
- John Niemelä, “For You Have Kept My Word: The Grammar of Revelation 3:10,” *Chafer Theological Seminary Journal Volume 6* 6, no. 1 (2000): 14-38.
- John Niemelä, “For You Have Kept My Word: The Theology of Revelation 3:10 (Part 2 of 2),” *Chafer Theological Seminary Journal Volume 6* 6, no. 4 (2000): 52-67.
- Andy Woods YouTube videos on Revelation 3:10

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Revelation 3:9-11 “Behold, I will make those of the synagogue of Satan who say that they are Jews and are not, but lie-- behold, I will make them come and bow down before your feet, and they will learn that I have loved you Because you have kept my word about patient endurance;

And I will keep you from the hour of trial that is about to come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.

Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown.”

(Originally all capitals. Chapter divisions were added around 1225 AD and verses around 1551 AD)

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Primary rule for Bible study- CONTEXT

- Who is this letter written to? (**Philadelphia** and all the other churches)

A) **Revelation 3:13** “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.” (used 7 times in chapters 2-3)

B) Revelation 2-3 also contain 7 promises to the overcomers of the churches.

- Who are the overcomers?

1 John 5:4-5 For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world-- our faith. ⁵ Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

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The seven promises to the 7 churches...

To the church at **Ephesus**

“He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God.” (Revelation 2:7)

To the church at **Smyrna**

“He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes shall not be hurt by the second death.” (Revelation 2:11)

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The seven promises to the 7 churches...

To the church at **Pergamum**

“He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give some of the hidden manna to eat. And I will give him a white stone, and on the stone a new name written which no one knows except him who receives it.” (Revelation 2:17)

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The seven promises to the 7 churches...

To the church at **Thyatira**

“And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations--

‘He shall rule them with a rod of iron; They shall be dashed to pieces like the potter's vessels '-- as I also have received from My Father; and I will give him the morning star. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.” (Revelation 2:26-29)

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The seven promises to the 7 churches...

To the church at **Sardis**

“He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.

He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”
(Revelation 3:5-6)

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The seven promises to the 7 churches...

To the church at **Philadelphia**

“He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more. And I will write on him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God.

And I will write on him My new name.

He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”

(Revelation 3:12-13)

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The seven promises to the 7 churches...

To the church at **Laodicea**

“To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.

He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”
(Revelation 3:21-22)

REVELATION 3:10 – A PRECIOUS PROMISE

- 1) What is the immediate promise for 1st century church?*
- 2) To whom is the promise given?*
- 3) How does the promise become fulfilled?*
- 4) Did Jesus keep His promise to the Philadelphians?*
- 5) What does it mean to “keep from” ?*
- 6) What is the hour of trial?*
- 7) What does “about to come” mean?*
- 8) What is the whole world?*
- 9) What is the testing of those who dwell on the earth?*

REVELATION 3:10 – A PRECIOUS PROMISE

1) What is the immediate promise for 1st century church?

“And I will keep you from the hour of the trial that is about to come upon the whole earth to test those who dwell on the earth.”

2) To whom is the promise given?

To the church at Philadelphia and all churches for all time.

3) How does the promise become fulfilled?

Either through the death of saints or a rescue of living saints before the trial begins.

4) Did Jesus keep His promise to the Philadelphians?

Yes, he did. None of them entered into the hour of trial.

REVELATION 3:10 – A PRECIOUS PROMISE

“And I will keep you from the hour of trial that is about to come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.”

And I will keep you from:

Time

1) THE hour

Testing

2) THE trial / testing

Type

3) THE one about to come

Location

4) THE whole earth

People

5) THE earth dwellers

REVELATION 3:10 – A PRECIOUS PROMISE

“And I will keep you from the hour of trial that is about to come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.”

5) What does it mean to “keep from” ?

Option 1- (Post-tribulational position)- it really means protected through the tribulation.

Response: what kind of protection?

Spiritual? (There is not protection from the 5 categories)

Physical? (Revelation 6:9; 7:14; 13:7; 17:6)

It doesn't say THROUGH it says FROM.

REVELATION 3:10 – A PRECIOUS PROMISE

“And I will keep you from the hour of trial that is about to come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.”

5) What does it mean to “keep from” ?

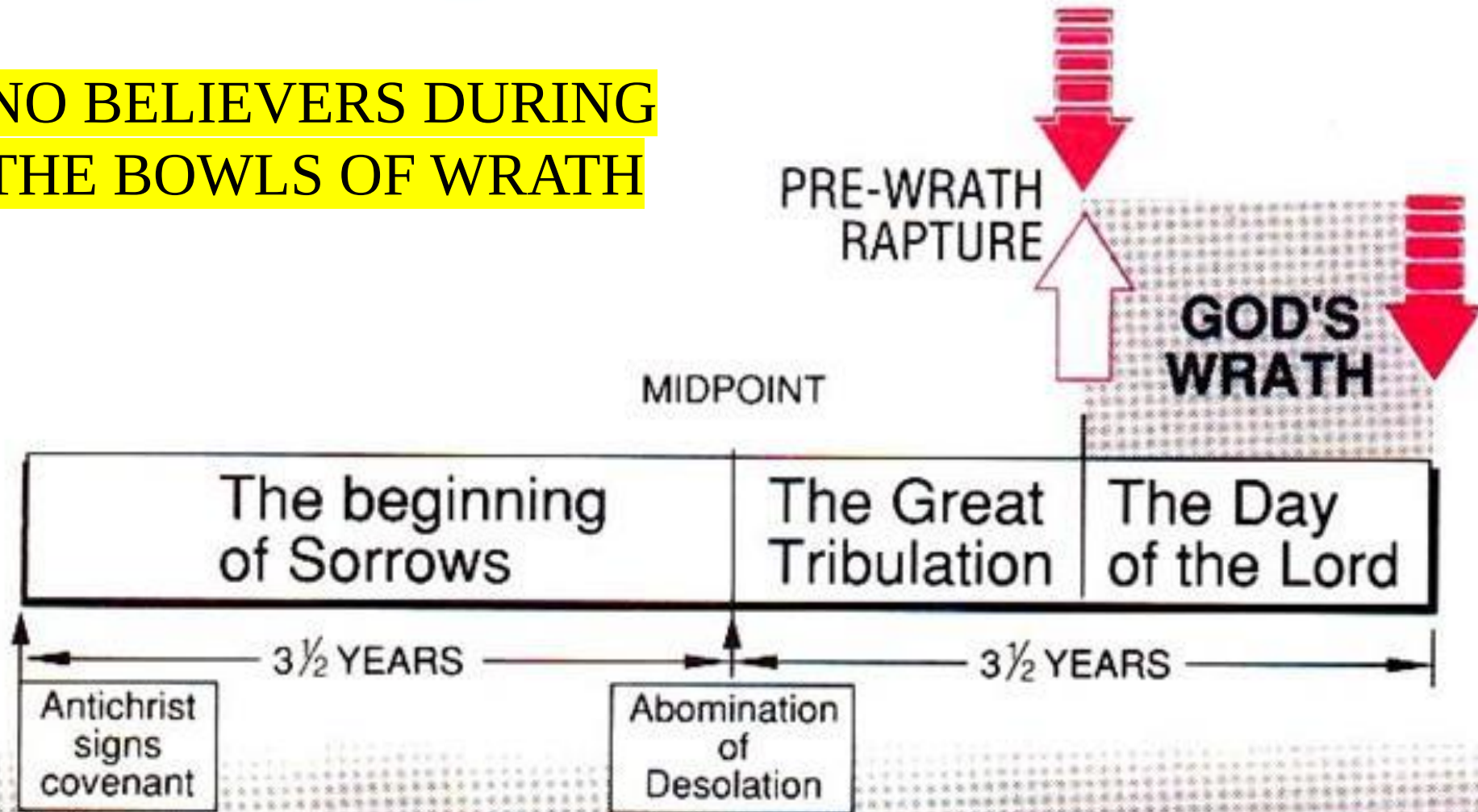
Option 2- (Mid-trib / Prewrath position)- only applies to Philadelphia.

But there are no believers in the bowls of the wrath of God anyway.

PRE-WRATH RAPTURE

Daniel's 70th Week

NO BELIEVERS DURING
THE BOWLS OF WRATH



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Option 2- (Mid-trib / Prewrath position)- only applies to Philadelphia.

“The fourth angel poured out his bowl on the sun, and it was allowed to scorch people with fire.

They were scorched by the fierce heat, and they cursed the name of God who had power over these plagues. They did not repent and give him glory.” (Rev. 16:8-9)

“These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They 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 who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence.

They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat.” (Revelation 7:14-16)

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“And I will keep you from the hour of trial that is about to come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.”

5) What does it mean to “keep from” ? Summary:

It means to be kept FROM or OUT of the time of trial...

Other prepositions used with “kept” (Greek *tereo*):

Eis- in (Acts 25:4, “Paul was kept in Caesarea”)

Apo- from (James 1:27, “to keep oneself unstained from the world”)

En- in (John 17:11, “keep them in your name”)

Ek- from (John 17:15, “keep them from the evil one”)

Dia- through (easily could have been chosen by John)

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“And I will keep you from the hour of trial that is about to come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.”

5) What does it mean to “keep from” ? Objection:

“I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.” (John 17:15-16)

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“And I will keep you from the hour of trial that is coming on the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.”

6) What is the hour of trial?

It refers to the time of trial during the 7-year tribulation

And Jesus said to her, “Woman, what does this have to do with me? My hour has not yet come.” (John 2:4)

“So they were seeking to arrest him, but no one laid a hand on him, because his hour had not yet come.” (John 7:30)

“For in those days there will be such tribulation as has not been from the beginning of the creation that God created until now, and never will be. And if the Lord had not cut short the days, no human being would be saved. But for the sake of the elect, whom he chose, he shortened the days.” (Mark 13:19-20)

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“And I will keep you from the hour of trial that is about to come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.”

7) What does “*about to come*” mean?

- This is the Greek word *mello* used as a participle.
- Used 53 times in the New Testament and 52 are used with the sense of IMMINENCY.
- This means that this hour of testing will arrive at an unknown time, but with swiftness and surprise.

“For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. While people are saying, ‘There is peace and security,’ then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.” (1 Thessalonians 5:2-3)

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“And I will keep you from the hour of trial that is about to come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.”

8) What is the whole world? Objection:

The whole world or just Roman Empire? Greek *Oikoumene holos*

“And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world-- he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.” (Revelation 12:9)

“For they are demonic spirits, performing signs, who go abroad to the kings of the whole world, to assemble them for battle on the great day of God the Almighty.” (Revelation 16:14)

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“And I will keep you from the hour of trial that is about to come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.”

8) What is the whole world?

The time of trouble brings judgment to the whole earth.

“But watch yourselves lest your hearts be weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and cares of this life, and that day come upon you suddenly like a trap. For it will come upon all who dwell on the face of the whole earth. But stay awake at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are going to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.” (Luke 21:34-36)

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“And I will keep you from the hour of trial that is about to come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.”

9) What is the testing of those who dwell on the earth?

Martyrdom and testing of those left behind.

“Then I saw another angel flying directly overhead, with an eternal gospel to proclaim to those who dwell on earth, to every nation and tribe and language and people. And he said with a loud voice, "Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come, and worship him who made heaven and earth, the sea and the springs of water.” (Rev 14:6-7)

DON'T TAKE THE MARK!

Revelation 14:9-11

REVELATION 3:10 – A PRECIOUS PROMISE

“And I will keep you from the hour of trial that is about to come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.”

And I will keep you from:

Time

1) THE hour

Testing

2) THE trial / testing

Type

3) THE one about to come

Location

4) THE whole earth

People

5) THE earth dwellers

The Pre-trib Rapture fulfills
all of these.