

What's New on Prewrathministries.org?

Apologies...

I have been pastor at First Baptist Church in Citronelle, Alabama for two and a half years now. After being here a year, I sold my house in Tennessee and last summer began construction on a new home here in Citronelle. I did a lot of the work myself and so it has occupied way too much of my time. My church has been so gracious to us. And the result is that I have had even less time to devote to Prewrath and the website. I have been slower answering questions and this is the first newsletter I have written in a year. But, I have now been in my house for a month and I should be able to get back to my passion for the Prewrath view of the return of Christ. I ask you forgiveness for being slower and pre-occupied.

I have updated our FAQ page with a new look and the latest version of the software. Be sure to give it a look.

The screenshot shows the PreWrath Ministries FAQ page. It includes a search bar, navigation links for Home, Pre-wrath, Information, and Judgment, and a list of FAQ categories. The 'Most popular FAQs' section is visible, listing questions about the timing of the rapture and the 144,000 mentioned in Revelation.

Send Me Your Church Info

Again, I am still getting many requests from all over the country asking if I know of churches teaching the prewrath position. I have only had a few pastors respond to my plea to build a list of prewrath churches. Please send me your church information so I may include it in a prewrath list. Email me at elbert@prewrathministries.org.

Feature Article: Almost Prewrath

By Elbert Charpie

I have had a lot of questions and comments regarding the timing of the rapture according to the Prewrath view in light of the “last trump” of 1 Cor. 15:52 and the “first resurrection” of Revelation 20:5. I have addressed both of these topics and how I interpret these passages in other newsletters, but I wanted to take some time looking at these issues specifically how they affect the timing of the rapture.

There are those who see the “last trump” as having to be the 7th trumpet of Revelation 11:15 and because Revelation 20:5 uses the term “first” resurrection that the rapture must happen after the battle of Armageddon. Both of these opinions are based on a single adjective and have the result of a post-tribulational view of end-time events. At first glance, these ideas may seem correct and seem to provide a more literal rendering of the passages. But when you take this possible timing and stack it up against prophecy it is impossible.

In the book of Revelation, this timing would mean that God’s people go through all of the trumpet judgments and possibly even the bowl judgments which are undeniably God’s wrath. Yet, we are promised not to undergo God’s wrath in passages such as:

Rev 3:10 (NIV) Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come upon the whole world to test those who live on the earth.

1The 5:9 (NIV) For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.

There is another problem in connecting the rapture with the “last trump” and the “First resurrection.” Assuming that this connection is true, there is absolutely no prophetic passage that gives us this timing outside of these two passages.

On the contrary, Matthew 24 tells us that it will happen “immediately” after the distress of those days and that those days will be cut short for the sake of the elect. It also ignores the warnings of Matthew 24 and Luke 17 about the days of Noah and Lot. Here Noah and Lot were rescued before the judgment came.

Luke 17:26 (NIV) "Just as it was in the days of Noah, so also will it be in the days of the Son of Man. 27 People were eating, drinking, marrying and being given in marriage up to the day Noah entered the ark. Then the flood came and destroyed them all. 28 "It was the same in the days of Lot. People were eating and drinking, buying and selling, planting and building. 29 But the day Lot left Sodom, fire and sulfur rained down from heaven and destroyed them all. 30 "It will be just like this on the day the Son of Man is revealed.

How does this compare if the rapture happens after everything is over? The last argument, I believe is the most powerful. The Prewrath view has it’s foundation in the doctrine of the Day of the Lord and the sign of the Day of the Lord. The sign is that the sun will be darkened, the moon turned to blood, and the stars fall from the sky. This happens in Matthew 24 just before Jesus gathers His elect, in Revelation just after the sixth seal, and just before the multitude that no one can number appears in heaven. It is also in Acts 2:20 where the sign appears and “everyone who calls on the name of

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the Lord will be saved.”

The interpretation that the rapture happens at the last trump or when the martyrs are resurrected destroys the entire concept of the Day of the Lord. You have to ask what, then, is the meaning of the sign. What is the Day of the Lord, and what is the significance of the days of Noah and Lot.

There is also the issue that 1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:2 where the Day of the Lord is directly identified with the rapture, and therefore, the rapture has to happen when the sign appears.

Furthermore, you have to go back to Matthew 24 and Revelation and find out then how the time line fits together. The bottom – line is that you are left doing the same scriptural calisthenics that we have had to do to make the pre-tribulation rapture work—a lot of assumption and ignoring of what is plain and clear. These views are almost Prewrath, but not quite!

The Great White Throne?

I want to re-visit a passage I dealt with in my April 2008 newsletter entitled “The First Resurrection.”

Rev 20:4 (NIV) I saw thrones on which were seated those who had been given authority to judge. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony for Jesus and because of the word of God. They had not worshiped the beast or his image and had not received his mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ a thousand years. 5 (The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended.) This is the first resurrection. 6 Blessed and holy are those who have part in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him for a thousand years. 7 When the thousand years are over, Satan will be released from his prison 8 and will go out to deceive the nations in the four corners of the earth--Gog and Magog--to gather them for battle. In number they are like the sand on the seashore. 9 They marched across the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of God's people, the city he loves. But fire came down from heaven and devoured them.

Many have tried to imply that the first resurrection is the Rapture. I had already addressed that I believe that those who are seated and given authority to judge are the raptured saints. The martyrs are those who had given their lives after the rapture refusing to take the Mark of the Beast or worship his image. The scripture tells us that this is the first resurrection and the Second Death has no power over them. There are two other groups of people to consider in this picture. First, are those who are alive and survived the 70th Week of Daniel. These will enter into the Millennial Reign of Christ in their human bodies and be subject to the deception of Satan at the end of the Millennium.

The last group are those who are called “the rest of the dead.” We are told that they did not come to life until after the 1,000 years are ended. Then the Bible tells us...

Rev 20:11 (NIV) Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. Earth and sky fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. 12 And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. 13 The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what he had done.

I have heard it preached that we will all stand before the Great White Throne on Judgment Day. But this is not scriptural. There will be two groups of people that will stand in judgment on that day. First, are “the rest of the dead” and second, those who lived during the Millennium. It is important to note the condition for judgment. Twice we are told that they are judged according to “what they had done.” This is a judgment of works. Jesus told his followers about the judgment we face that the condition was “knowing Him,” or rather “Him knowing us.”

Matt 7:22 (NIV) Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?’ 23 Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!’

At the end of the Millennium, Satan will be loosed for a “little season” to deceive the nations. Those alive, and along with them “the rest of the dead,” will come to life. At the great White throne, the judgment will be “what have you done?” There will be no faith to contend with—the faithful will have been in the first resurrection. Will there be any righteous at the Great White Throne? It is possible that there will be those who survived the 70th Week, entered into the Millennium, and were not deceived by Satan—that chose to be in the “camp of God’s people.” But again, what they have done will speak for them.