

Tribulation Concepts

POST-TRIBULATION

In essence, the post-tribulation system decrees that the rapture occurs after the tribulation period - the natural consequence being that the Church must endure it.

The flaw in this logic, however, is that the tribulation period is not a time of persecution. Rather, it is a time of God's wrath being outpoured on the earth. During this time people shall cry to the mountains and the rocks, *"Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! For the great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand?"* – Revelation 6:16-17. When Christ returns, "He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty" (Revelation 19:15)

MID-TRIBULATION

The mid-tribulation view of the rapture is that it will take place midway through the tribulation period.

Such a view is a curious exposition of scripture, for the Antichrist makes a covenant with the Jewish people and then breaks it three and a half years into the tribulation (Daniel 9:27). Even if the mid-tribulation rapture occurs earlier than this time, it still must take place after the Antichrist has been revealed, which can only happen after the "restrainer" is removed (II Thessalonians 2:7-8).

PRE-TRIBULATION

The pre-tribulation view may be summarized as follows:

It was held that the return of Christ would take place in two stages. First there would be a quiet appearance of Christ, when all true Christians would be taken from the earth – the 'rapture' of the saints. After this, Antichrist's reign would continue, but be brought to an end by the appearing of Christ in glory and the introduction of a 1000-year reign of Christ on earth from Jerusalem (Humphreys & Ward, 1995, p. 128-9).

If the book of Revelation is to be taken as a chronological work, which most futurists would agree, there is great significance in the similarities between I Thessalonians 4:16-17 above, and Revelation 4:1-2 – again a voice like a trumpet is heard and John is transported instantly through a door in heaven to the very throne-room of God.