



RAPTURE FORENSICS: PROOFS THAT THE MARTYRS TELL – PART II

By Wilfred Hahn



We continue with the proofs that the martyrs of the Tribulation period tell us. In Part I, we stated that ALL Christians in the Tribulation will die. However, the view that ALL tribulational Christians will be martyred is problematic for many. For one, it nullifies the case for a Rapture occurring any other time than before the Tribulation. If, for example, there were no Christians alive on earth as of the early stages of the second half of the Tribulation, there could be no mid- or post-tribulational Rapture. What would be the point? There is no one—or perhaps only an insignificant number—to be raptured.

Or, let’s assume that the Rapture naysayers are right that there is no Rapture of any kind. To take this position means that ALL Christians will go into the Tribulation period. And, more Christians may be added to their number through conversions during the earlier stages of the Tribulation (though this is immaterial to the issue here). However, the question then arises: Why would God allow that ALL Christians in

the world be killed during the Tribulation?

Critically, why would God allow some non-Christians and Jews to survive ... but no Christians? This makes no sense. The Tribulation is the manifestation of God’s wrath. There is no debate on this point. This incongruity is highlighted in 1 Thessalonians 5:9, which states that “[...] God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation

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through our Lord Jesus Christ.” Therefore, if ALL Christians (from before and during the Tribulation) will be annihilated on earth, this is a “wrath” of a different gospel. Again, this view does not make sense.

Also, not accepting this view denies any positional distinctions between Tribulation and Church-era living Christians. Moreover, it endorses a very nonsensical sequence of events. The Bible clearly says that only those Christians who are slain during the Tribulation will experience the First Resurrection. No other group is promised this transformation from death to life in order to populate the Millennium period.

So, to take the Rapture Naysayer’s perspective, then, ALL Christians must go into the Tribulation, so that ALL first be slain, so that they ALL can be given a resurrected physical body, so ALL can come back to life in the Millennium.

Does this sequence of events make sense? These couldn’t be the actions of a LORD that says, “My reward is with me” (Revelation 22:12). What about the Saints that have died before the Tribulation period? The Rapture naysayer must take the position that they must wait another thousand years for the Second Resurrection, as they will not be eligible for the First Resurrection. Scripture doesn’t support these confused perspectives.

A pre-tribulation Rapture is the clearest and most sensible view.

However, one fact to note is that all who do receive the First Resurrection will not face the First (physical) Death twice. Why? The Bible says that “[...] it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment” (Hebrew 9:27). No human is appointed to die twice (contrary to the claims of those who say they have died and have returned from heaven). All must face the First Death (physical death) once, with the exception of Christians that are alive at the time of the Rapture.

Tribulation Christians therefore are destined to live and reign with Christ through the whole millennium until the time of the Second Resurrection (Revelation 20:4).

Arguments from the Dead

We next present some proofs (though not a conclusive list by any means) as to the tales being told by dead Christians in Revelation. We will not here divert our attention to the debates about the veracity and literal integrity of the Bible’s



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apocalyptic texts (New or Old Testament). We firmly believe that God the Creator knows how to communicate.

He is not a Father that “[...] if [his] son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion?” (Luke 11:11-12). So, let us proceed in our proofs and literally and plainly examine a few Scriptures.

1. There are additional statements that prove all Tribulational Christian will be martyred. It is the apparent policy of the Dragon. The Second Beast only offers one of two options. No other option is available. Therefore, “[...] all who refused to worship the image [are] to be killed” (Revelation 13:15). There is no allowance for exceptions. (Again, see Revelation 20:4.) Here is what the Bible says about these Tribulation saints: “They triumphed over him [the Dragon] by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death” (Revelation 12:11).

2. Practically considered, it will not be possible to live without the mark in that future tribulational world. If one is not able to “buy nor sell,” at a time of pervasive global crisis and a closed worldwide financial system, one cannot obtain food nor shelter. A Christian will die of starvation if not first murdered.

3. At the 5th trumpet blow (1st Woe, Revelation 9:1-6), this being perhaps mid-way into the second half of the Tribulation, only those that did not have the seal of God were allowed to be tormented. The only group that has a seal placed upon them at this point are

the 144,000 servants. As such, were Christians still on earth at the time of this judgment, they would be expressly allowed by God to be tortured. We see here that while God can and does exclude one group to be protected from His wrath (the 144,000), He would choose not to do so with His Children. Does that make sense? No. Again, “[...] what father gives his son a scorpion?” Thus, we conclude that there are no Christians or servants on earth at that time other than the 144,000.

4. At the call of the 6th trumpet, one third of the world’s population is wiped out; two-thirds remain, who then ALL curse God. Clearly, there can be no Christian survivors at this point upon earth. It would be absurd to believe that God in His wrath would wipe out ALL remaining Christians at this juncture, favoring instead other earth dwellers. Also absurd is that any so-called Christians would curse God and refuse to repent. After all, salvation is impossible without repentance. Conclusion: There are most certainly no Christians on earth at the time of the 5th and 6th trumpet judgments.

5. Following the sixth seal, the topics of “saints” or “servants,” “Christians,” “God’s people” or “multitudes,” is never mentioned again in Revelation’s time-line. Crucially, no mention or picture is made of any more Christians having arrived in front of the heavenly altar during the Tribulation period, for any other reason than of being slain by anti-Christian forces or agendas.

Those who are raptured while alive are a unique and small group. They face neither the First nor the Second Death (physical death nor spiritual damnation), but a translation to a new body. What a wonderful reward to the Christians of the apostate, hostile world that exists at the time of the Rapture!



The aforementioned arguments (as well as others made elsewhere in this article series), we believe conclusively prove that no Christians will survive the Tribulation period ... all becoming martyrs. That brings us back to the forensic proofs that the dead tell us supporting the Rapture.

Who Left to Populate the Millennium?

A number of readers have argued that not all Christians could be killed in the Tribulation, as there would be no people left on earth to populate the Millennium. This is incorrect. Why? The Bible states that the First Resurrection occurs at this point, and moreover, specifically applies only to Tribulation martyrs and no one else. All those who become Christians during the Tribulation are resurrected at the beginning of the Millennium.

“They came to life and reigned with Christ a thousand years” (Revelation 20:4) upon earth.

There will also be a surviving number of people on earth (both Jews and Gentiles) ... though a greatly decimated number. In conclusion, resurrected tribulation saints and surviving Jews and Gentiles will populate the Millennium.

We briefly again review the significant positional differences between those Christians who are raptured, and those who later become Christians during the Tribulation. Firstly, those who are raptured while alive are a unique and small group. They face neither the First nor the Second Death (physical death nor spiritual damnation), but a translation to a new body. What a wonderful reward to the Christians of the apostate, hostile world that exists at the time of the Rapture!



The Pre-tribulation Rapture view, as we have shown, is the most consistent with Scripture. There is no incentive to survive the Tribulation for Christians, since all will be killed and all are then resurrected at the start of the Millennium. Why prolong physical suffering if one can look forward to a resurrection after the Tribulation?

The only other “first fruit” group that is given a similar special dispensation (in part) is the 144,000 prophets. They are sealed, being already redeemed first-fruits (what we take to mean resurrected with eternal bodies), and therefore will not perish during the Tribulation. They possibly may also enter into the Millennial period and also not taste the Second Death [though we must disclose that the Bible is actually silent on these points].

Thoughts to Ponder: Great Rewards to All Saints

Glorious is the fact that raptured Christians are spared the First and Second Death, and are also spared “the hour of trial” (Revelation 3:10). They will be in heaven with the Lord while the Tribulation takes place upon earth.

Raptured Saints “[...] will be with the Lord forever” (1 Thessalonians 4:17) in their translated, resurrected, incorruptible bodies. Whether on earth or in heaven, wherever Jesus will be, that is where the raptured Christians will be. They “[...] will be with the Lord forever.”

Surely, the Tribulation is a terrible period ... as none ever before in mankind’s history. Nevertheless, there is good news to celebrate: For ALL Christians, there will be no Second Death. We will all be given eternal life.

Wonderfully, after the Tribulation, the Lord, “[...] will wipe every tear from

their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away” (Revelation 21:4).

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Therefore, whether among the raptured or those saved during the Tribulation, there are no physical preparations to be made ... nothing to buy ... or escape. There is no need to pay for survival supplies, nor to build an underground bunker.

For now, given that the Rapture still lies ahead, we remain part of the generation that “[...] continue in him, so that when he appears we may be confident and unashamed before him at his coming” (1 John 2:28).

“Look, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to each person according to what they have done” (Revelation 22:12).

Maranatha! (MC)

(A recent 3-part series, “Anxiety Merchants and False Prophets,” specifically deals with the promotion of survivalist goods to Christians.)