

Parson to Person

1 Corinthians 15

(The Resurrection) – Part 14

(Problems with a Mid-Tribulation Rapture)

“Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed—in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: ‘Death is swallowed up in victory.’ ‘O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?’ The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord” (1 Corinthians 15:51–58).

“But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus. For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore, comfort one another with these words” (1 Thessalonians 4:13–18).

Having made a solid case for the Pre-Tribulation Rapture, we will move on to identify the various problems associated with a Mid-Tribulation Rapture. Next week we will look over the problems with the Post-Tribulation Rapture position.

We could spend a great deal of time defending our position, but for today, we will simply document 9 fundamental apologetics that answer Mid-Tribulation arguments.

They are as follows:

1. The believer would be told to look for the Antichrist—not for the Lord.
2. The Restrainer must be removed before the Antichrist is revealed.
3. The believer would find no comfort or hope for the imminent return of Jesus for His Bride.
4. A Mid-Tribulation Rapture defiles the doctrine of Imminency.
5. There is no Biblical reference placing the Church on earth found in Revelation chapters 4 through 19 wherein the Tribulation is delineated.
6. A Mid-Tribulation Rapture confuses the purpose of the 144,000 chosen Jewish men.
7. Early in the Tribulation, all who dwell on the earth desire to be hidden and protected from the wrath of the Lord.
8. A Mid-Tribulation Rapture would promise wrath THEN the Rapture.
9. The 24 Elders are seen in Heaven at the Beginning of the Tribulation – They Represent the Church Age Redeemed

As mentioned earlier, we know that the Lord is coming soon. His coming for the Church coincides with the spring harvest (ingathering) and last trumpet of the Church Age—ending the Church Age. His coming for the Jews will coincide with the fall harvest (ingathering) and last trumpet heralding the Second Coming of Jesus—ending the Tribulation.

It is my prayer that we pray for the Jew first and also for the Gentile—that they may be granted eyes to see, ears to hear, and a heart to receive the word of the Lord. An affirming response to the Gospel is the only hope we have. It is both a promise to be saved and to be rescued from the wrath to come.

Having just returned from Israel, I cannot express how dark and sad it is in the Land. The people are scared, depressed—and set up for the strong delusion God will send upon those who are in rebellion to the truth. Moreover, all we sensed in the land seemed eerily prophetic of what is unfolding in America and other parts of the world.

This is high time to trust Jesus with our lives and prepare for the coming future storm we may all face prior to the soon coming of the Lord. Look up my friends—but as with the people of Judah and Israel when returning from Babylon—we must have a trowel in one hand and a sword in the other.

Happy to be home with all of you!

I love you all,
Pastor Paul