



THE ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM

FEBRUARY 4, 2024

HEY, WHERE'S THE RAPTURE?

ROMANS 11:25-26; 1 THESSALONIANS 4:13-5:5; 2 THESSALONIANS 2:1-8;

The SECOND COMING OF CHRIST will occur in two stages:

- ① The Rapture: When Christ comes for the saints and we are _____ to meet Him in the air.

— Daniel's 70th Week, Time of Jacob's Trouble, Tribulation —

- ② His Return to Earth: When Christ comes with His saints to _____ and destroy His enemies.

The Post-Trib theory is rooted in a fundamental misunderstanding of the difference between persecution (from the _____) and wrath (from _____ against those who oppose Him).

REVELATION 3:10-11a; 1 THESSALONIANS 5:9-11

The consistent teaching of the New Testament is that we (Church-Age saints) should be looking for the _____ return of Jesus Christ for His Bride, the Church (this is the Rapture).

PHILIPPIANS 4:5; JAMES 5:8-9; 1 PETER 4:7; HEBREWS 10:24-25;
REVELATION 1:3 & 22:20; ROMANS 13:11-12a

PARALLELS BETWEEN OLIVET DISCOURSE AND SEAL JUDGMENTS (REVELATION)			
CONDITIONS/EVENTS	MATTHEW 24	LUKE 21	REVELATION 6
False Messiahs/Prophets	vv. 5, 11	v. 8	v. 2
Wars/Rumors of Wars	6	9	3-4, 8
International Discord	7	10	3-4
Famines	7	11	5-8
Pestilences		11	8
Persecution/Martyrdom	9	12-17	9-11
Earthquakes	7	11	12a

MATTHEW 24:4-14; LUKE 21:8-17; REVELATION 6:1-12a

THE MEANING OF BIRTH PANGS

MATTHEW 24:8; 1 THESSALONIANS 5:1-3; JEREMIAH 30:6-7; LUKE 21:29-31

As a pregnant woman's _____ pains indicate a general sense of when her child will be born, so the conflicts and tragedies of Matthew 24:4-14 indicate that a much more _____ labor and a _____ are soon to come.

FOR FURTHER STUDY:

1. Why do you think so many people are fascinated with prophecy—biblical and otherwise?
2. Read Matthew 24:4-14. Jesus warns his disciples throughout the discourse about being deceived. What are some of the marks of a deceiver (see Matthew 7:15-20; 1 John 4:1-6)?
3. Jesus sees the first half of the Tribulation as being very unstable (see vv. 6-8). What signs of instability does he mention? How are these signs like "the beginning of birth pains"?
4. Read Revelation 6:2-8. From the descriptions John gives, what do you think each of the four horsemen represents? What do the judgments wrought by the four horsemen have in common with Jesus' words in Matthew 24:4-8?
5. What is the difference in reaction to God's wrath in these two chapters: from those who do belong to God (see Revelation 6:15-17) and those who belong to God (see Revelation 7:11-15)?
6. Imagine that you find out you will be persecuted for your faith tomorrow (remembering that persecution comes from the enemy). Write down the changes you need to make today. What could you do to encourage or help others?