



Mt. Pleasant Bible Institute

Go ye therefore, and teach all nations" (Matt 28:19)

Dr. Joseph Speciale, Instructor

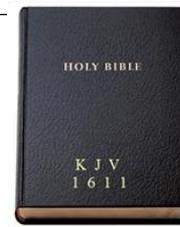
A ministry of the
Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church

Lee Swor, Pastor



Bible Prophecy

Events Before The Tribulation

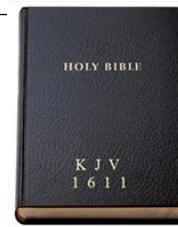


Events Before The Tribulation

- The amount of time between the Rapture and the beginning of the Tribulation is not clearly and directly stated in scripture, due in part to the doctrine of imminence related to the Rapture
- Most pre-Tribulation commentators state that the time between the Rapture and the Second Coming of Christ is seven years, implying a **VERY SHORT** amount of time between the Rapture and the beginning of the Tribulation
- There are many good reasons for believing this period of time will be very short but there is just as much evidence to suggest it might be a bit longer
- There are specific conditions in place at the beginning of the Tribulation that may require months or even years **after** the Rapture to come to fruition
- It is essential to understand that the Tribulation does not begin with the Rapture but with the confirmation of a covenant between the Antichrist and Israel (primarily or exclusively) for seven years

Dan 9:27

And **he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week**: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make *it* desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.



Events Before The Tribulation

I. The Rise Of The Antichrist

1. The Antichrist cannot be revealed until after the Rapture

2 The 2:3-4,6-8

Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;

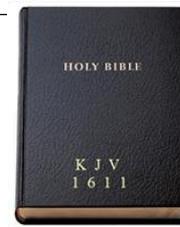
Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.

And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time.

For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way.

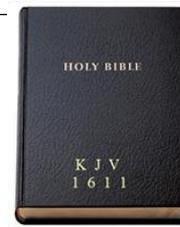
And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:

- The Tribulation (i.e.- the day of Christ) cannot come until the Antichrist is revealed first
- His revelation is restrained by a POWER that is also a PERSON
- This person must be TAKEN OUT of the way before the Antichrist can be revealed



Events Before The Tribulation

- The only person more powerful than Satan is the Lord, so this PERSON who has this powerful presence in the earth is THE HOLY SPIRIT
- How can the Holy Spirit be **“taken out of the way”** since he is omnipresent (i.e.- every where present all at the same time)?
- While his REPROVING power is manifested through his presence in the world (i.e.- his omnipresence) (John 16:8), his RESTRAINING power is manifested through his presence in the church (Matt 5:13-14)
- When the church is TAKEN OUT cf. (Gen 5:24) the restraining power of the Holy Spirit will go with it- in this regard, the Holy Spirit is taken out of the WAY, but not out of the WORLD
- Since the Rapture is an imminent event, Satan must have had AN antichrist prepared to become THE Antichrist at every stage of history since the ascension of Christ



Events Before The Tribulation

2. The Antichrist is already IN power when the Tribulation begins

Dan 9:24-27

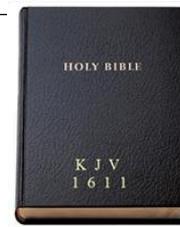
Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy.

Know therefore and understand, *that* from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince *shall be* seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times.

And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of **the prince that shall come** shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof *shall be* with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined.

And **he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week**: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make *it* desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.

- 1) He CONFIRMS the covenant, and one cannot confirm something unless they have due authority



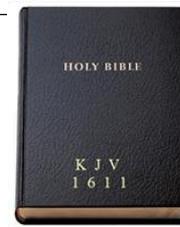
Events Before The Tribulation

- The word *confirmed* means, “to make firm or certain; to strengthen; to settle or establish; to ratify”
 - A covenant is between at least two parties; therefore, his authority must be recognized by all parties involved
- 2) He is the PRINCE (of Rome) at the time the covenant is confirmed
- A prince is a king in waiting and is usually the SON of the king
 - The Antichrist is called THE PRINCE of Tyrus (Eze 28:1-10) while Satan is called THE KING of Tyrus (Eze 28:11-19)
 - The Antichrist is called THE SON of perdition (i.e.- the son of Satan)

2 The 2:3

Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;

- A prince becomes king by virtue of the king’s death or DECREE



Events Before The Tribulation

1 Kin 1:33-35

The king also said unto them, Take with you the servants of your lord, and cause Solomon my son to ride upon mine own mule, and bring him down to Gihon:

And let Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet anoint him there king over Israel: and blow ye with the trumpet, and say, God save king Solomon.

Then ye shall come up after him, that he may come and sit upon my throne; for **he shall be king in my stead**: and I have appointed him to be ruler over Israel and over Judah.

- Satan can, and will, give his authority over all the world to whom he chooses
- The Antichrist will be given this authority and become king in the middle of the Tribulation

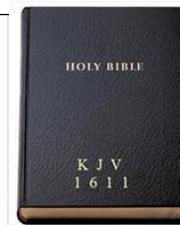
Luke 4:5-6

And the devil, taking him up into an high mountain, shewed unto him **all the kingdoms of the world** in a moment of time.

And the devil said unto him, All **this power** will I give thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and **to whomsoever I will I give it**.

Rev 13:2

And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as *the feet* of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and **the dragon gave him his power,** and **his seat,** and **great authority.**



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