

Pastor,

As I am sure you know, many down to earth Bible believing fundamentalists subscribe to the Pre-Trib position. Are they all wrong? The modern and popular interpretation concerning the Rapture is that which was promoted a decade or more ago by Marvin Rosenthal in his book concerning the **Pre-wrath Rapture** which says that believers will go through about 2/3's of the Tribulation (*"the time of Jacob's trouble" – Israel*).

Gabelein:

There is an important difference between the **day of Christ** and the **day of the Lord**. (*Things that are different are not the same. - P.F.*) The **day of Christ** concerns the Church, the saints of God. The **day of the Lord** concerns the earth-- Israel and the nations. The day of Christ begins when He takes His saints in glory and they are with Him. The day of the Lord will bring, as stated before, the visible manifestation of the Lord from heaven. The **day of Christ** comes first and the **day of the Lord** follows at least seven years later. The following passages speak of the **day of Christ**, and it will be seen that that day is for God's people only ([1Corinthians 1:8](#); [2Corinthians 1:14](#); [Philippians 1:6-10](#); [Philippians 2:16](#)). The day of the Lord does not concern the saints at all; it falls on the world. Before the **day of the Lord** can come, His saints have to be gathered together unto Him. The promise of [1Thessalonians 4:16-18](#) needs first to be fulfilled. He uses this hope of being gathered to Christ, when He comes for His saints, as a motive why they should not listen to those who said the **day of the Lord** is present. He reminds them of the fact that their gathering unto Him had not yet taken place. How, then, could the **day of the Lord** be present? And this opens the way for still more important teaching.

[2Thessalonians 2:3-4](#)

The false teachers were deceiving them. Before the day of the Lord can come there must be the falling away first and the man of sin, the son of perdition, must be revealed. No such conditions need to be fulfilled before the Lord comes for His saints. But before the age closes with the visible manifestation of the Lord from heaven these two solemn things must be on the earth. A falling away from the God-given faith has been going on throughout this Christian age. But that is not the apostasy of which the apostle speaks. The complete apostasy means that the entire faith will be abandoned by Christendom, even as our Lord indicated when He said, "Nevertheless, when the Son of man cometh, shall He find the faith on the earth?" That this present age closes in apostasy is more than once mentioned by the Spirit of God. See [1Timothy 4:1-3](#); [2Timothy 3:1-5](#); [2Peter 2:1-22](#); Jude. Evidences to that effect are abundant in our own days. The destructive Bible criticism rejecting inspiration and revelation, the denial of the person and work of Christ and of every other article, denials which are rapidly increasing, made the way for this final apostasy. The many cults in which Satanic powers are manifested, under the garb of angels of light, such as Christian Science, Spiritism, Theosophy, etc., are also harbingers of the time of which the apostle writes. Satan is surely actively at work to bring about this

apostasy, and his ministers are transformed as the ministers of righteousness ([2Corinthians 11:15](#)), advocating reform, better living, but denying and antagonizing the doctrines of Christ. We shall hear later that this final apostasy is held back from its full manifestation by One who restraineth; only when He is taken out of the way can this predicted apostasy and renunciation of Christianity come with its leader, the man of sin.

Walvoord, Pentecost, Ryrie, Townsend, etc.

In his popular books **Things to Come** and **Every Prophecy of the Bible** Walvoord espouses the Pre-Trib position. He has been widely recognized and his teachings accepted by many believers for many years. Were all these Bible believing men wrong? Seems strange...

Thomas Ice:

The Imminent Coming of Christ The New Testament speaks of our Lord's return as imminent, meaning that it could happen at any moment. Other events may occur before an imminent event, but nothing else must take place before it happens. Imminency passages instruct believers to look, watch, and wait for His coming (1 Cor. 1:7; Phil. 3:20; 1 Thes. 1:10; Titus 2:13; Heb. 9:28; 1 Peter 1:13; Jude 21). If either the appearance of the Antichrist, the Abomination of Desolation, or the unfolding of the Tribulation must occur before the Rapture, then a command to watch for Christ's coming would not be relevant. Only pretribulationism teaches a truly imminent Rapture since it is the only view not requiring anything to happen before the Rapture. As required by the above mentioned passages, the New Testament indicates that the believer's hope is to look, watch, and wait for a person and that is Jesus. Only pretribulationism enables a believer to look for Christ and yet at the same time give full meaning to Second Coming passages and the signs that lead up to our Lord's return to the earth. Imminency is a strong argument for the pre-trib Rapture and provides the believer with a true "blessed hope."

Ruckman:

2:2 **"The Day of Christ"** gives the scholars a fit. They say it is an error and convert it to **"the day of the Lord"** in the new versions. ... Phil. 1:6,10, 2:1 this is because it is obvious that what follows in vv. 3-12 is a ref. to the Antichrist. in the Trib. But the **"day of Christ"** is a ref. in the Pauline epistles, to the Rapture of the Church and the Judgment Seat of Christ (1 Cor. 1:8, 5:5, 2 Cor.16.) The problem the Thess. had was that someone had written them, pretending to be Paul, and had told them that the Rapture had already taken place and they had missed it. Paul assures them in v. 1 and 2 Thess. 1:7 that the Rapture has not yet occurred. He is not saying in this verse that the Rapture wasn't *"at hand"* because in Rom. 13:12 he said it was. In the Bible a thing can be said to be *"at hand,"* and yet any number of events can occur before it shows up (here he gives many O.T. and N.T. refs).

The key to understanding vss 1-3 is that the "**day of Christ**" can encompass a number of events just like the "**Day of the Lord**" can...Paul told you back in 2 Thes. 1:10, that "that day" in ref. to "**the day of Christ**" (see v.3). can include the Advent as well as the Rapture (cf. 2 Tim. 1:12, 18).

Before Darby, Larkin and Scofield, et.al.:

As I mentioned previously, many men before the above, historically believed and taught the Pre-Trib position including the early church fathers (although the latter including Matthew Henry, didn't deal much with end time events since they were so far removed in time).

There is a difference between interpretation and speculation.

P.F.