

FAQ 36

Once Again, Please Understand Our Position Before Judging It

Q #36 Now I'm REALLY confused!! In FAQs #2 & #29 you state the *Final Trumpet Rapture Gathering (FTRG)* is emphatically NOT a mid-tribulation position. BUT in FAQ #33 you diagram a mid-trib position! The FTRG IS indeed mid-trib, IS IT NOT?

NO, it's actually **not** BECAUSE we define "tribulation" as the Word of God defines it, NOT as many contemporary end-time prophecy experts or theologians define it. Typically they define it as,

Daniel's 70th Week
The Day of the Lord
Revelation 6:1 - 19:21
The Tribulation Week
The Period of Seals, Trumpets and Bowls

But this is NOT how the Word of God defines the **eschatological** tribulation period!! Look up this word in your concordance to find out just where the Word of God uses "tribulation" in end-time settings. According to Scripture, eschatological "tribulation" (also translated "affliction" in other non-eschatological contexts) - Greek word, thlipsis - is especially addressed in Matthew 24/Mark 13 and Revelation 7:1.

So how do the passages above - passages which use the word "tribulation" - define it AND where do these passages place this tribulation period?

Revelation 7:14 reads (as it addresses the question: **From where does the great number** [from all nations, tribes, peoples and tongues who are arrayed in white robes and who stand before the throne and before the Lamb] **come?**),

These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and [who] washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb."

(Note: This occurs **BEFORE** the Seals end!)

Matthew 24 highlights the tribulation (vv. 9-14) and the great tribulation (vv. 15-22).

It's the information in these two passages which we use to define the eschatological **tribulation** period before the return of Christ.

But you'd be amazed as to how some depart from these biblical Truths. One prophecy voice says this of the end-time tribulation:

"... God's portrait of the Tribulation is a seven-year period of unspeakable horror that can only be described as hell on earth. The word tribulation is used in the Bible in a technical and non-

technical sense. ... When used in the technical sense, it refers to the seven-year period following the Rapture of the Church.” (NKJV Prophecy Bible; pp. 1182, 1183)

This same source also states,

“Sometime after the Rapture, a seven-year period will begin which is called the Tribulation. ... We know that this period will be seven years long because the Tribulation is the seventieth ‘week’ (lit. seventieth ‘seven’) prophesied by Daniel (Dan. 9:27). During this time God will pour out His wrath upon the earth in a series of judgments which are described in Revelation 6–19. The Tribulation is the beginning of ‘the day of the Lord.’” (NKJV Prophecy Bible; pg. xvii)

QUESTION: Have you read Daniel 9:27 lately? The definition above is pure supposition! This example is called *reading into the text* as opposed to allowing the text to say what it clearly says. And NO, the tribulation period as defined by Matthew 24:9-22 (hermeneutical principles tied to *progressive revelation* allow this) is not found in this Dan. 9:27 passage! “Desolation,” YES; the technical understanding of the “Tribulation Week,” NO!

This same prophetic perspective communicates this concerning the Great Tribulation:

“The Seals of Revelation 6 begin that period of time called the Great Tribulation.” (NKJV Prophecy Bible; pp.1580, 1581)

We need to STOP with all this (eisegetical) opinion and get back to the actual content of the Word whereby we faithfully offer a definition in light of the biblical text - in this case, Matt. 24 and Rev. 7:14 passages.

The “tribulation” is addressed in Matt. 24:9-22. During this time, many are killed - including those who do not take the mark of the Beast. (Rev. 13 also describes a portion of the tribulation period when it says of the beast, “And it was granted to him to make war with the saints and overcome them.” - see Rev. 13:7) Daniel makes a similar comment:

“I was watching; and the same horn was making war against the saints, and prevailing against them. ... He [the little horn of vv. 8,20] shall speak pompous words against the Most High, shall persecute the saints of the Most High, and shall intend to change times and law. Then the saints shall be given into his hand for a time, times and half a time.” (Daniel 7:21,25)

It’s REALLY crucial we use the explicit content in the Word to define our terms.

(continued)

The “tribulation” is NOT:

- ~ Daniel’s 70th Week
- ~ The Day of the Lord
- ~ The Tribulation Week
- ~ The Seals, Trumpets and Bowls
- ~ Revelation 6:1 - 19:21.

Tribulation and great tribulation are defined in Matt. 24:9-22! And please note: Days FOLLOW the tribulation period according to this Scripture! WOW!

But “**NO!**” some prophecy experts will tell you, “The Tribulation Week IS the end!” NOT SO according to Matt. 24:23. Read this next paragraph but note the events of vv. 23-28 take place AFTER the tribulation is cut short! Read Matt. 24:15-28 carefully. Read Matthew 24:15-31 carefully ... and don't neglect including Matthew 25:31 where the return of Jesus Christ TO the earth is highlighted.

AFTER the great tribulation is cut short,

- 1) heavenly signs immediately take place (vs. 29) ... “then”
- 2) the sign of the Son of Man occurs (vs. 30; cf. Rev. 6:14-17) ... “then”
- 3) the false christs and false prophets of vv. 23-28 appear.

THEN the Rapture Gathering of the elect takes place ... YES, it’s at this time the RAPTURE happens! (Mt. 24:31; cf. I Cor. 15:51,52/Rev. 10:7; I Thes. 4:13-18; Revelation 11:15ff and 14:14-16)

Therefore (because of the things mentioned above),

1. End-time events take place AFTER the great tribulation is cut short;
2. We affirm the explicit teaching of the Word (that the Rapture occurs at the “final” trumpet [of I Cor. 15 & Rev. 11]; at the gathering of the elect [in Matt. 24:31]; at the taking up His Church [in I Thes. 4]; at the first harvest of Rev. 14);

AND, because of the explicit biblical data concerning Daniel’s 70th Week and the way in which the Book of Revelation unfolds,

3. We affirm the explicit teaching that we are Raptured before the Bowls of Wrath.

Can you NOW see why we are NOT **Mid Trib** in eschatological position – both in light of the experts’ faulty definition of the word “Tribulation” and in light of Matthew 24’s correct definition of the tribulation period? While the Final Trumpet Rapture Gathering takes place AFTER the tribulation, it’s CRUCIAL you understand we are also NOT “Post-Trib” as **the position is typically defined!** Oh no, we hope you’re not CONFUSED again!!

We say this simply due to the assumptions most Post-Tribulationists include in their position. Typically the Post-Tribulationists END Daniel's 70th Week at the end of the tribulation BUT this is NOT what Matthew 24:23 teaches. Read it for yourselves. The great tribulation is cut short BUT there are things which **follow** the great tribulation period. Matthew 24:23 goes on to read, "Then ..." Perhaps it's time for a little visual aid.

For a visual chart reflecting the data above, [click here](#). [2021 Note: This chart is one we used in earlier expressions of our chronological ministry appeals. You will note that there have been changes since our earlier version (linked immediately above). While true, it is also noteworthy that our general position has not changed but has only been more fully developed. Our current 2021 chronological document is available [here](#).]

The global Gathering of the elect (according to the Final Trumpet Rapture Gathering) occurs AFTER the Matthew 24:9-22 period of tribulation. (Please remember, we must use biblical definitions to define the eschatological tribulation period.) The Rapture Gathering does NOT take place until the heavenly signs of Matthew 24:29 occur; until after the Sign of the Son of Man takes place AND until after the season of the false prophets (of Matthew 24:23-28). Because the Sign of the Son of Man takes place at the 6th Seal, it's during the time of the early Trumpet blasts when the false prophets of Matthew 24:23-28 are, with miraculous signs and wonders, doing their deceiving.

This is H U G E ! We cry out in this way for good reason: We do so toward the goal of helping Family in Christ be **ready** for the days of the end until we are gathered up to meet the Lord in the air (before the pouring out of His wrath upon the earth at the time of the Bowls of Wrath).

Even so, COME LORD JESUS !!