

Parson to Person

1 Corinthians 15

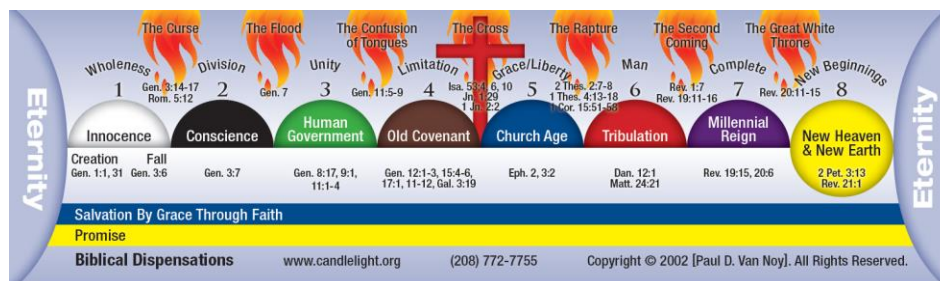
(The Resurrection) – Part 10

As mentioned earlier, over the next few weeks we will briefly look at the following:

- Dispensational Theology and Why It is Important to Biblical Understanding
- The Church as Distinct from Israel and the Redeemed from Other Dispensations
- Purpose of the Tribulation
- The Rapture—What is it?
- Purpose of the Rapture
- Timing of the Rapture
- The Second Coming of Jesus
- The Millennial Kingdom—A Literal Physical Reign of Christ
- And whatever otherwise I want to share... LOL

Today I want to start the journey with the first two points:

Dispensational Theology



Contrary to many opinions, the 7-year Tribulation is a distinct dispensation. It is a dispensation of wrath, a time like no other, a consequence for the unrepentant sins of Israel, and a worldwide judgment on a Christ-rejecting world. These facts are clear to the careful bible student. Below is a briefing...

1) The Tribulation is a Dispensation of Wrath

- a. **Unbelievers will be left behind:** John recorded, *“And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains, and said to the mountains and rocks, ‘Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?’”* (Revelation 6:15–17).
- b. **Believers will not be left behind:** Paul wrote, *“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).

“For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him. Therefore, comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing” (1 Thessalonians 5:9–11).

2) The Tribulation is a Time Like No Other

Jeremiah wrote, *“The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD, saying, ‘Thus speaks the LORD God of Israel, saying: “Write*

in a book for yourself all the words that I have spoken to you. For behold, the days are coming,” says the LORD, “that I will bring back from captivity My people Israel and Judah,” says the LORD. “And I will cause them to return to the land that I gave to their fathers, and they shall possess it.” Now, these are the words that the LORD spoke concerning Israel and Judah. ‘For thus says the LORD: “We have heard a voice of trembling, of fear, and not of peace. Ask now, and see, whether a man is ever in labor with child? So why do I see every man with his hands on his loins like a woman in labor, and all faces turned pale? Alas! For that day is great, so that none is like it; and it is the time of Jacob’s trouble, but he shall be saved out of it. “For it shall come to pass in that day,” Says the LORD of hosts, “That I will break his yoke from your neck, and will burst your bonds; foreigners shall no more enslave them. But they shall serve the LORD their God, and David their king, whom I will raise up for them. “Therefore do not fear, O My servant Jacob,” says the LORD, “Nor be dismayed, O Israel; for behold, I will save you from afar, and your seed from the land of their captivity. Jacob shall return, have rest and be quiet, and no one shall make him afraid. For I am with you,” says the LORD, “to save you; though I make a full end of all nations where I have scattered you, yet I will not make a complete end of you. But I will correct you in justice, and will not let you go altogether unpunished””’ (Jeremiah 30:1–11).

Daniel wrote, “At that time Michael shall stand up, the great prince who stands watch over the sons of your people; And there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation, even to that time. And at that time your people shall be delivered, every one who is found written in the book” (Daniel 12:1).

Jesus said, “For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever

shall be. And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened" (Matthew 24:21–22).

3) The Tribulation is a Consequence for the Unrepentant Sins of Israel and Judah (Israel)

a. **Idolatry:** Ezekiel recorded, *"They shall repay you for your lewdness, and you shall pay for your idolatrous sins. Then you shall know that I am the Lord GOD"* (Ezekiel 23:49).

(Read all of Ezekiel 23 as it relates to Israel and Judah buy The Parable of the Two Sisters: Oholah and Oholibah. These two sisters represented the capital cities of Israel and Judah: Samaria and Jerusalem.)

b. **Neglect of the Sabbath:** Moses recorded, *"Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: 'When you come into the land which I give you, then the land shall keep a Sabbath to the LORD. Six years you shall sow your field, and six years you shall prune your vineyard, and gather its fruit..."* (Leviticus 25:2–4).

God warned Israel, *"I will scatter you among the nations and draw out a sword after you; your land shall be desolate and your cities waste. Then the land shall enjoy its Sabbaths as long as it lies desolate and you are in your enemies' land; then the land shall rest and enjoy its Sabbaths. As long as it lies desolate it shall rest; for the time it did not rest on your Sabbaths when you dwelt in it"* (Leviticus 26:33–35).

As the result of Israel's rebellion and persistent disobedience, God scattered the northern tribes of Israel and sent Judah into Babylon. To date, the northern tribes remain scattered—but will be reunited again in the future. However, God exiled the southern tribes to Babylon and following a 70-year disciplinary exile returned

them to the land—but with additional future disciplinary measures as forewarned in the law:

God told the children of Israel, *“And after all this, if you do not obey Me, but walk contrary to Me, then I also will walk contrary to you in fury; and I, even I, will chastise you seven times for your sins”* (Leviticus 26:27–28).

The above passage is the reason behind “Daniel’s 70 weeks:

- c. **In Babylon Israel Refused to Repent:** Daniel recorded, *“As it is written in the Law of Moses, all this disaster has come upon us; yet we have not made our prayer before the LORD our God, that we might turn from our iniquities and understand Your truth. Therefore, the LORD has kept the disaster in mind, and brought it upon us; for the LORD our God is righteous in all the works which He does, though we have not obeyed His voice. And now, O Lord our God, who brought Your people out of the land of Egypt with a mighty hand, and made Yourself a name, as it is this day—we have sinned, we have done wickedly. O Lord, according to all Your righteousness, I pray, let Your anger and Your fury be turned away from Your city Jerusalem, Your holy mountain; because for our sins, and for the iniquities of our fathers, Jerusalem and Your people are a reproach to all those around us. Now therefore, our God, hear the prayer of Your servant, and his supplications, and for the Lord’s sake cause Your face to shine on Your sanctuary, which is desolate. O my God, incline Your ear and hear; open Your eyes and see our desolations, and the city which is called by Your name; for we do not present our supplications before You because of our righteous deeds, but because of Your great mercies. O Lord, hear! O Lord, forgive! O Lord, listen and act! Do not delay for Your own sake, my God, for Your city and Your people are called by Your name.”* Now while I was speaking, praying, and

confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel, and presenting my supplication before the LORD my God for the holy mountain of my God, yes, while I was speaking in prayer, the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the beginning, being caused to fly swiftly, reached me about the time of the evening offering. And he informed me, and talked with me, and said, 'O Daniel, I have now come forth to give you skill to understand. At the beginning of your supplications the command went out, and I have come to tell you, for you are greatly beloved; therefore, consider the matter, and understand the vision: "Seventy weeks are determined for your people and for your holy city, to finish the transgression, to make an end of sins, to make reconciliation for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy, and to anoint the Most Holy. Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the command to restore and build Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince, there shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublesome times. And after the sixty-two weeks Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself; and the people of the prince who is to come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end of it shall be with a flood, and till the end of the war desolations are determined. Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week; but in the middle of the week he shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate, even until the consummation, which is determined, is poured out on the desolate'" (Daniel 9:13–27).

Therefore, the Tribulation is a judgment on all of Israel as the result of their lack of repentance: idolatry, failure to keep the Sabbath, and rejection of Jesus the Messiah.

4) The Tribulation is a Worldwide Judgment on a Christ-Rejecting World

“For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains will do so until He is taken out of the way. And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming. The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness” (2 Thessalonians 2:7–12).

With the above in mind, we know the timing of the Rapture is before the Tribulation.

I love you all,
Pastor Paul