

## Bearing fruit (the second coming)

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### This message covers

- How to bear lasting fruit – until Jesus' second coming.
- How our generation can become wise in matters about the second coming of Jesus.

### Information notice board

- 1) **About me.** Before I became a devoted Christian, I spent 20 years of my life being a hedonist – one who seeks pleasure for the sake of it. My money fruitful for God's purposes and I was fearful about the Lord's second coming and instead of repenting, I didn't care about God (all the time) – after all, my career and life was going well! Since God humbled me to turn me into his servant and I got baptized in May 2017, he has now overhauled my life to run after Him and to live by the Holy Spirit rather than the Flesh. You can read my full testimony [here](#):
- 2) **About these series.** The Lord Jesus gave me a single word "Blossom" as I was praying for a word for this season and series. This word will define a series of 12 topics he has also given me to tell his church about and build Christian character in his Holy Spirit. This lesson is one of those messages, but what does it mean to blossom?
- 3) **Pray for us!** Without the Lord, our effort is in vain. Pray that we remain faithful, humble servants.
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- 5) **Looking for a ministry to partner with (pray, volunteer, give, subscribe to)? Consider supporting:**  
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Patricia King presents "Supernatural life". Patricia and her many guests share their experiences regarding signs and wonders, supernatural provision, time travel, the angelic realm and more!

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## Part 1: Basics

So, we are in a series called "Blossom" in which the Holy Spirit is teaching us how to bear Fruit. To understand the process, we use an example of an orange tree.

For an orange tree to bear fruit, there is a period of about 5 years in which it goes through a number of stages:

1. Planting;
2. Sprouting;
3. Growing;
4. Blossoming (flowering);
5. Pollination; and
6. Bearing fruit.



So, when I was receiving the word of the Lord for this Blossom series, I was really surprised that the Lord wanted me to cover his second coming again, particularly in a season about blossoming!

You see in 2017, I had already covered the end times in a message I even recorded in two parts here: <https://www.shaweleroad.com/holding-onto-christ>

And then COVID-19 struck and now the world is in panic and the church is starting to wake up from its slumber – it would seem our Lord is much closer than we think, but he also wanted me to remind the Church and God fearers about what he told them.

Well so, in obedience to our King, I am presenting the message of his second coming – but with a different angle – the connection with bearing fruit.

**So, the final stage of a tree is that it bears fruit not just in the first season after it matures BUT that it continues bearing fruit – in and out of season. For a Christian this is until that person's end of days or Jesus comes back – his second coming.**

But let us go back to the beginning to understand the connection between fruit, the Spirit and the end of days.

First, in the Old Testament before Jesus came, the Spirit speaking through the psalmist explains the fruit giving life this as follows:

*Blessed is the one  
who does not walk in step with the wicked  
or stand in the way that sinners take  
or sit in the company of mockers,  
<sup>2</sup>but whose delight is in the law of the LORD,  
and who meditates on his law day and night.  
<sup>3</sup>That person is like a tree planted by streams of water,  
which yields its fruit in season  
and whose leaf does not wither—  
whatever they do prospers.*

Psalms 1: 1-3 (NIV)

Next, when Jesus was on earth, he opened the eyes of his disciples to what the Scriptures, which in his day was the Old Testament, meant by a tree bearing fruit in all seasons. He showed that this “man tree” in feeding on the word of God was actually receiving “streams of water” that enable it produce fruit.

He then shows us what these “streams” or “Living waters” are:

*On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, “Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them.” By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.*

John 7: 37-38 (NIV)

Finally, after he ascended Jesus tells us that he expects us to CONTINUE bearing fruit until his return because he warns one of the Churches in the book of Revelation:

*These are the words of him who holds the seven spirits<sup>h</sup> of God and the seven stars. I know your deeds; you have a reputation of being alive, but you are dead. Wake up! Strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have found your deeds unfinished in the sight of my God. Remember, therefore, what you have received and heard; hold it fast, and repent. But if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what time I will come to you. Revelation 3: 1-3 (NIV).*

What the three bible passages clearly show us is this:

1. To produce fruit that last – like the bible says, we need to continue reading the Word day and night.
2. The Spirit who is living waters uses this word to produce fruit – whether times are good or bad (in good and dry season).
3. Our generation and our churches however risk being like a fruit tree that is dying and there is one reason: We are not receiving the Living waters.
4. Where are these living waters? They are in the word of God.
5. In our generation, we have great music services, great entertainment, great discussions about “health and wealth” and we can speak about how the COVID-19 vaccine will have a chip, which will be the mark of the beast etc BUT are we focussing on secondary issues chasing after every teaching, every new theory and missing the Mark of Christ? (pun intended)?

Jesus warns us:

- **Remember**, therefore, what you have received and heard [meaning, go back to the basics.
- hold it fast. Meaning keep doing the work, remain planted in his word, being watered by the Spirit]
- **Repent** – if you have fallen asleep [You are therefore no longer fruitful].
- But if you do not **wake up**, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what time I will come to you [Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire<sup>i</sup>, where there is gnashing and weeping of teeth].

## The Foolish generation

“You foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? Before your very eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed as crucified.” Galatians 3: 1

Is this our generation? We are foolish – because we know all about Jesus, we grew up in Christian homes or heard of all the great preachers – AND YET still we don’t Understand God or know his ways.

Our generation has online resources of all sorts. We have bible apps, bible in Greek, bible commentaries of all sorts. We have audio bibles and we have all the different translations on our phones – yet we still do not know the basics of Jesus’ second coming – and so we are tossed and turned about on every conspiracy theory, set in fear by every person who claims to speak for God. As a result, when we read the book of revelation, instead of finding Hope – as the early Christians, being persecuted did, we find fear.

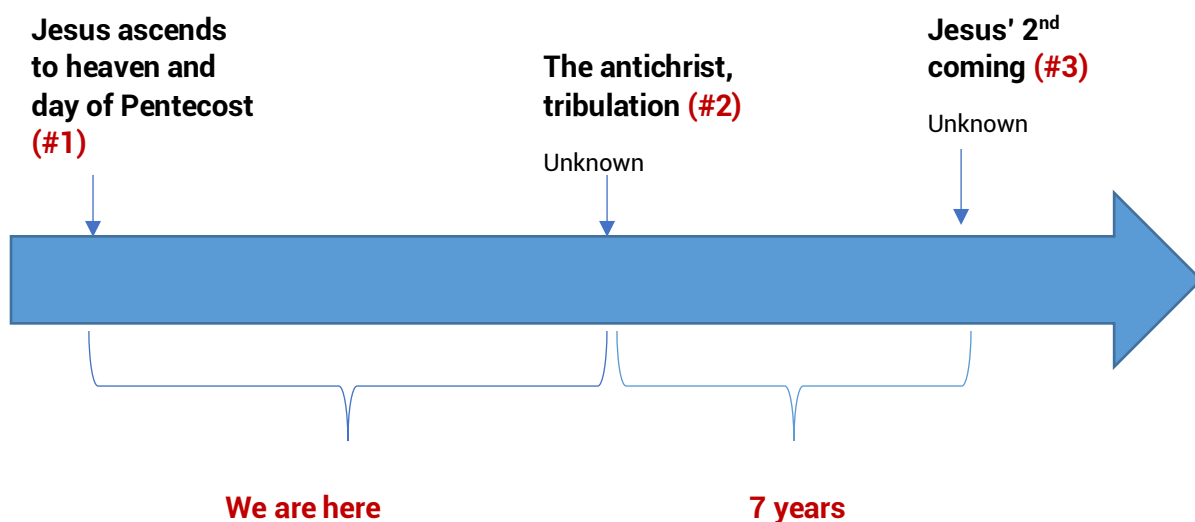
Was Paul's frustration the same as his Lord Jesus felt after his resurrection when he was walking with the 2 disciples to Emmaus:

*He said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! <sup>26</sup> Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?" <sup>27</sup> And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself. Luke 24: 25 – 27 (NIV).*

**Come friends let us discuss this matter together – let us take a long walk.**

So, beginning with what the Spirit has revealed to the Church, let's examine in a Question and Answer (Q&A) all the basics of the Lord's second coming. As I said the first time I covered this topic, The study of end times ("eschatology" it is called) is important for a Christian (new or old) "SO YOU MAY KNOW with a FACT the Hope of your belief. "

**Qn#1: So, where are we now in end times matter?**



Three closely interconnected things must happen before Jesus comes back a second time, these are (in no particular order):

- The **man of lawlessness must be revealed** (the anti-Christ, the beast, 666, the abomination of desolation.
- **A time of great tribulation.**
- The **rapture must take place.** "Rapture" is derived from the Greek word "harpazo" which means to "snatch away" or "seize" and then from the Latin "rapiemur" <sup>ii</sup>. Christians believe those who are alive at the time of Jesus' coming will be "caught up" in the clouds to meet him.

## Qn #2. Who is the antichrist/beast? Is the Anti-Christ So and So [e.g. Trump, Obama? Bill Gates? The Pope]?

This anti-Christ, also called “the man of lawlessness” or “the abomination of desolation”, “the beast” or “666” is dealt with in many prophetic books and the various names are generally believed to refer to the same person. A man who will be given Satan’s powers to perform deceitful miracles. He is described in one account as below:

*“Now, dear brothers and sisters, let us clarify some things about the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and how we will be gathered to meet him. Don’t be so easily shaken or alarmed by those who say that the day of the Lord has already begun. Don’t believe them, even if they claim to have had a spiritual vision, a revelation, or a letter supposedly from us. Don’t be fooled by what they say. For that day will not come until there is a great rebellion against God and the man of lawlessness is revealed—the one who brings destruction. He will exalt himself and defy everything that people call god and every object of worship. He will even sit in the temple of God, claiming that he himself is God.”*

*Don’t you remember that I told you about all this when I was with you? And you know what is holding him back, for he can be revealed only when his time comes. For this lawlessness is already at work secretly, and it will remain secret until the one who is holding it back steps out of the way. Then the man of lawlessness will be revealed, but the Lord Jesus will slay him with the breath of his mouth and destroy him by the splendor of his coming.” 2 Thessalonians 2: 2-8*

### What the above passage and other related passages tell us is this:

1. The “foundation work” for the emergence of this “Anti-Christ” is already taking place since over 2,000 years ago and right to even today – but it is still taking place secretly.
2. We should however not be alarmed to believe Jesus’ second coming has begun. Why?
  - i. First – a great rebellion against God will take place, during this rebellion, the man of lawlessness will be revealed.
  - ii. He will be a man who performs miracles, and claims he is God.
  - iii. This means this man will not be just a great leader but will also be a miracle worker. This means many of the people accused of being the “anti-Christ” do not fit this description. It doesn’t mean his “foundation” cannot be laid by agents – but we shouldn’t call anyone the anti-Christ as the evidence will be clear for all – this person will call himself GOD and back it up with miracles!
3. The “Anti Christ” will be a copycat seeking to mimic Jesus our Great God. How?
  - Christ is God (John 1:1-2; John 10:36), and the antichrist will claim to be God (2 Thessalonians 2:4).
  - Christ did miracles (Matthew 9:32-33; Mark 6:2); the antichrist will mimic such miracles (Matthew 24:24; 2 Thessalonians 2:9).
  - Christ is crowned with many crowns (Revelation 19:12); the antichrist is crowned with ten crowns (Revelation 13:1).
  - Christ rides a white horse (Revelation 19:11) as does the antichrist (Revelation 6:2).
  - Christ was resurrected (Matthew 28:6); the antichrist will appear to be resurrected (Revelation 13:3-14).

- Christ is a member of the holy Trinity—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (2 Corinthians 13:14), but the antichrist is a member of an unholy trinity—Satan, the antichrist, and the false prophet (Revelation 13).<sup>iii</sup>

**Qn #3. Is the Anti-Christ coming in our generation? Aren't all these pestilences - forest fires, famine, locusts, COVID-19) evidence?**

In truth, **we do not know with certainty**. The bible explains these matters as follows:

*Jesus said to them: "Watch out that no one deceives you. Many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am he,' and will deceive many. When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed. Such things must happen, **but the end is still to come**. Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be earthquakes in various places, and famines. These are the beginning of birth pains. Mark 13: 5-8 (NIV).*

He then explained what the "real sign" of the end was:

*"When you see 'the abomination that causes desolation'[a] standing where it[b] does not belong—let the reader understand—**then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains**. Mark 13: 14 (NIV).*

What Jesus was showing us is that, many things will take place – just like early labour pains for a woman, at this point, let us not think it's the end. But the REAL SIGN is when the Anti-Christ is revealed – during the great rebellion against God. This is the real time when real trouble will begin – this is when people should flee!

**Qn #4. What is the rapture? When is it taking place? Doesn't it come before or after the Great tribulation?**

In truth, **we are not sure**. I explain all these.

First an explanation of this "Great tribulation".

Christians have endured tribulation throughout the ages, but the bible says that there is a tribulation coming when God will "judge the unbelieving, godless inhabitants of the earth" (Revelation 6 – 18).

Jesus said about this period:

*"For then there will be a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever shall." (Matthew 24: 21).*

It is this tribulation differentiated from all others that is called "the Great Tribulation."

The general picture of this great tribulation is this<sup>iv</sup>:

- The length of this tribulation will be 7 years (Daniel 9: 24 – 27);
- In this period, a man called the "Anti-Christ" will make a peace pact with the world (Daniel 9: 24 – 27);
- Half way through this 7 year period (3 and a half years), this Anti-Christ ("the Beast") will break the Peace Pact. (Daniel 9: 24 – 27, Revelation 13: 5).
- This Beast will therefore be in power for these latter 3 and half years. During this period there will be a great rebellion against God (apostasy) and his worshippers will receive the "mark of

the beast” (commonly called “666”) where no one can buy or sell unless they have this mark on their forehead or hand (revelation 13: 15 – 18).

- Jesus will destroy this Anti-Christ with his breath and brightness at his second coming (2 Thessalonians 2: 8).

Second, about the rapture, Truly truly, I tell you, **again we are not sure** when it will take place.

The bible, does describe it as follows in 1 Thessalonians 4: 15

*We tell you this directly from the Lord: We who are still living when the Lord returns will not meet him ahead of those who have died. For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a commanding shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet call of God. First, the believers who have died will rise from their graves. Then, together with them, we who are still alive and remain on the earth will be caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Then we will be with the Lord forever.*

There is some confusion or disagreement among Christian scholars about the timing of this rapture.

Some say ALL believers will go through this tribulation period – These are called “post tribulationists” while others say the “rapture” will take place before this tribulation period – These are called “pre tribulationists”. [Homework: *Appendix 1* covers these two views and explains their strengths and weaknesses]

**What this calls for is tolerance of the different views of the “opposite camps”. Jesus expects his disciples to be united – even when they might not disagree on every point.**

#### **Qn #5. Is a microchip e.g in the COVID or other vaccine the “mark of the beast”?**

In truth, **we are not sure, only God knows.**

The bible doesn’t tell us what form the “mark of the beast” will be. What we know is this:

- there will be no buying and selling without this mark ((revelation 13: 15 – 18).

Christians reasonably speculate from watching advances in science and technology that we are heading towards a “one world order” – as the beast will unite the world and as part of this convergence, we expect through some form of technology, he will be able to keep track of everyone.

Advances in technology – such as the fact that our mobile phones now contain a significant amount of information on us, e.g our bank/card/mobile money details, our location with GPS and increasingly use bio security (e.g finger prints) means as the bible says, the work of “*this lawlessness is already at work secretly*”. Such advances, the Christians watching end times conclude will inevitably result in technology on/in our bodies, the Internet of People – a requirement from the beast as part of the peace pact, hence the “mark of the beast”.

#### **Qn #6 Why is Revelation, Daniel and all such bible prophecy full of weird scary stuff?**

About the “weird” stuff - God is a God of mystery. The bible says this about him:

- It is the glory of God to conceal a matter; to search out a matter is the glory of kings. Proverbs 25:2

- He did not say anything to them without using a parable. But when he was alone with his own disciples, he explained everything. Mark 4:34, NIV:

God in his divine wisdom leaves us certain information using symbols and such metaphors – so that perhaps we might seek him, with all their hearts and find him – even if he is not far from us<sup>v</sup>. When we seek him and find him and become his disciples, he will explain everything to us – by means of his Holy Spirit, who guides us in all truth<sup>vi</sup>.

As for the stuff being scary – it shouldn't be.

After Paul called the Galatians “Foolish” he ended up giving them such amazing insight and this is no different in this topic. This topic on the end times and Jesus' second coming, scary as it seems should still be seen within the framework of the fruit of the Holy Spirit to all disciples and where the Spirit is, there is no fear – but hope, but love which overcomes fear<sup>vii</sup>. In fact our anchor verse about the fruit says this:

But the fruit of the Spirit is **love**, joy, **peace**, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Galatians 5: 22-23 (NIV).

If the fruit is love and peace – it means God removes fear and gives us love and peace. He further assures us:

*He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, “He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.” Surely he will save you from...the deadly pestilence...You will not fear the terror of night...nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness, nor the plague that destroys at midday. A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand, but it will not come near you ... (Psalm 91:1,2,5-7)*

**So to overcome fear, simply return to what the Lord said – spend time in his word. There you will find love and peace and assurance for this life and the next and before you know it, out of your belly flow living waters (the Holy Spirit) who guides you – including in bearing lasting fruit until Jesus' second coming.**

### **Qn #7 What is the second coming of Christ, why is it so critical?**

The second coming of Jesus Christ is the hope of believers that God is in control of all things, and is faithful to the promises and prophecies in His Word. Jesus fulfilled many of the prophecies of the Messiah during His birth, life, ministry, death, and resurrection. However, there are some prophecies regarding the Messiah that Jesus has not yet fulfilled. The second coming of Christ will be the return of Christ to fulfill these remaining prophecies. In His first coming, Jesus was the suffering Servant. In His second coming, Jesus will be the conquering King. In His first coming, Jesus arrived in the most humble of circumstances. In His second coming, Jesus will arrive with the armies of heaven at His side.<sup>viii</sup>



## Next steps

When the revelation of Christ, including about the terrifying end times is presented to us. Everyone of us has a decision to make. We can choose to believe, obey and therefore find peace in a saviour who offers comfort to those who love him or we can choose to reject the message – call it a “myth” and then risk finding out that it was true ALL ALONG.

The Lord says: This day I call the heavens and the earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live<sup>ix</sup>

Some of your next steps should be:

1. Ask yourself. What is it I am really afraid of?
2. Next Ask yourself. What must I do to get saved? This might mean researching some more about the Truth of God. This might mean speaking to someone else you believe to be filled with the Spirit of God. Who will share with you God’s wisdom.
3. Finally – get saved. In God alone is there rest. God will never forsake you if you put your trust in Him. He will see you safely over to the other side.

The Spirit and the Bride say Amen!

**Appendix 1: The chronology of end time events (from the bible)**

(Two views)

	<b>Pre tribulation view<sup>x</sup></b>		<b>Post tribulation view<sup>xi</sup></b>
1	<b>The rapture of the church</b>	1.	The rise of the antichrist
2	The rise of the <b>anti-Christ</b> (as the church is taken “out of the way”)	2.	The tribulation
3	The <b>tribulation</b> . A 7 year period of God’s wrath as described in Revelations. During this period, the following 3 things also happen: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) The <i>battle of Gog and Magog</i> – a great army attacks Israel. They are defeated by God’s supernatural intervention (Ezekiel 38 – 39)</li> <li>b) The <i>abomination of desolation</i>. The half-way point during the 7 years when the Anti-Christ breaks covenant with Israel and show his “true colours”. The Jews turn to Jesus, realising he is their saviour. Great persecution of Christians.</li> <li>c) The <i>battle of Armageddon</i>. Jesus returns with Heaven’s armies at the end of the tribulation and saves Jerusalem. The Anti-Christ and his prophet are captured and thrown into the lake of fire.</li> </ul>	3.	<b>The rapture of the church (resurrection of the righteous rapture and Christ’s 2<sup>nd</sup> return are all simultaneous – “in the twinkling of an eye”)</b>
4	The <b>judgment of nations</b> . Christ will judge the survivors of the tribulation, separating the righteous from the wicked as “sheep” and “goats”.		Generally similar views held at this stage onwards with the Pre Tribulation view.
5	The <b>binding of Satan</b> . Satan will be bound and held in a bottomless pit for the next 1,000 years ( <a href="#">Revelation 20:1–3</a> ).		
6	<b>The millennial kingdom</b> . Jesus Himself will rule the world, and Jerusalem will be the capital. This will be a 1,000-year period of peace and prosperity on earth ( <a href="#">Revelation 20</a> ; <a href="#">Isaiah 60–62</a> ). Memorial sacrifices will be offered in a <a href="#">rebuilt temple</a> in Jerusalem ( <a href="#">Ezekiel 40–48</a> ).		
7	<b>The last battle</b> . At the end of the 1,000 years, Satan will be released from his prison for a short time. He will deceive the nations once again, and there will be a rebellion against the Lord that will be quickly defeated ( <a href="#">Revelation 20:7–10</a> ). Satan will be cast into the lake of fire, never to reappear.		
8	The <b>great white throne judgement</b> . All those in hell will be brought forth, and all the wicked from all eras of history will be resurrected to stand before God in a <a href="#">final judgment</a> ( <a href="#">Revelation 20:11–15</a> ). The verdicts are read, and all of sinful humanity is cast into the lake of fire.		

9	The <b>new creation</b> . God completely remakes the heavens and the earth. It is at this time that God wipes away all tears and there will be no more pain, death, or sorrow. The <a href="#">New Jerusalem</a> descends from heaven, and the children of God will enjoy eternity with Him ( <a href="#">Revelation 21–22</a> ).		
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**Pre tribulation strengths and weaknesses** are explained in summary thus<sup>xii</sup>:

*Strengths of this view:*

- The church is not appointed to wrath ([1 Thessalonians 1:9-10](#), [5:9](#))
- Believers will not be overtaken by the Day of the Lord ([1 Thessalonians 5:1-9](#)).
- The church of Philadelphia was promised to be kept from “the hour of trial that is going to come upon the whole world” ([Revelation 3:10](#)). Note that the promise is not preservation through the trial but deliverance from the hour, that is, from the time period of the trial.

*Weaknesses of this view.*

- One perceived weakness of pretribulationism is its relatively recent development as a church doctrine, not having been formulated in detail until the early 1800s.
- pretribulationism splits the return of Jesus Christ into two “phases”—the Rapture and the Second Coming—whereas the Bible does not clearly delineate any such phases.

**Post tribulation’s strength and weakness is explained in summary as follows:**<sup>xiii</sup>

*Strengths of this view:*

- Jesus, in His extended discourse on the end times, says He will return after a “great tribulation” ([Matthew 24:21](#), [29](#)). Also, the book of Revelation, with all its various prophecies, mentions only one coming of the Lord—and that occurs after the Tribulation ([Revelation 19-20](#)).
- Passages such as [Revelation 13:7](#) and [20:9](#) also lend support to posttribulationism in that there will obviously be saints in the Tribulation.
- The resurrection of the dead in [Revelation 20:5](#) is called “the first resurrection.” Posttribulationists assert that, since this “first” resurrection takes place after the Tribulation, the resurrection associated with the Rapture in [1 Thessalonians 4:16](#) cannot occur until then.

*Weaknesses of this view.*

- The clear teaching of Scripture that those who are in Christ are not under condemnation and will never experience the wrath of God ([Romans 8:1](#)). While some judgments during the Tribulation specifically target the unsaved, many other judgments, such as the earthquakes, falling stars, and famines, will affect the saved and unsaved equally. Thus, if believers go through the Tribulation, they will experience the wrath of God, in contradiction of [Romans 8:1](#).

## Notes

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<sup>i</sup> Matthew 7: 19

<sup>ii</sup> <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rapture>

<sup>iii</sup> <https://www.biblestudytools.com/bible-study/topical-studies/the-rise-of-the-antichrist.html>

<sup>iv</sup> <https://www.gotquestions.org/Great-Tribulation.html>

<sup>v</sup> Acts 17: 27

<sup>vi</sup> John 16: 13

<sup>vii</sup> See 1 John 4: 18

<sup>viii</sup> See <https://www.gotquestions.org/second-coming-Jesus-Christ.html>

<sup>ix</sup> Deuteronomy 30: 19

<sup>x</sup>Timeline/Explanation of this view: <https://www.gotquestions.org/end-times-timeline.html>. Criticism of this view/weakness can be found here: <https://www.gotquestions.org/pretribulationism.html>

<sup>xi</sup> <https://www.gotquestions.org/posttribulationism.html>

<sup>xii</sup> <https://www.gotquestions.org/pretribulationism.html>

<sup>xiii</sup> <https://www.gotquestions.org/posttribulationism.html>