

## THE PRE-TRIBULATION RAPTURE FALLACY

**The Futurist Scheme of Interpretation** insists that, for the most part, the visions of this book (Revelation) will be fulfilled toward the end and at the end of this age. (The commonly accepted scheme today.)

History: The Roman Catholic Jesuit Francisco Ribera (1537–1591) wrote a 500 page commentary on the Book of Revelation. This commentary established the futurist interpretation of Bible prophecy.

I personally hold to the: **The Spiritual Scheme of Interpretation** insists that, the book is designed to teach us the spiritual history of the Church of Christ, to warn us of those spiritual dangers to which we are exposed, to inform us of the spiritual trials to which we are liable, to describe the great contest with evil, and to comfort us with the assurance of the final victory of Christ over the powers of darkness.

**(There have always been some Biblical scholars with this view since the early church.)**

With all that said, I want to examine the doctrine which most of the "Futurist" hold to, which is based on a "Great Tribulation" mentioned in Rev 7:13-14 *Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, "These who are clothed in the white robes, who are they, and where have they come from?" 14 I said to him, "My lord, you know." And he said to me, "These are the ones who come out of the **great tribulation**, and they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. NASU*

AND IN Rev 6:9-11 *When the Lamb broke the fifth seal, I saw underneath the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God, and because of the testimony which they had maintained; 10 and they cried out with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, will You refrain from judging and avenging our blood on those who dwell on the earth?" 11 And there was given to each of them a white robe; and they were told that they should rest for a little while longer, until the number of their fellow servants and their brethren who were to be killed even as they had been, would be completed also. NASU*

I have been told that these slain in Rev 6:9 and 7:14 are **only** "martyrs" and do not include the rest of the saints? In fairness to my brethren, (most of them), who have not study the book of Revelation, but have read someone's book and or listened to someone who is suppose to know, as I did early on, have been deceived. After 25 years of looking for someone with the Futurist position, I final found a brother who would go through the book of Revelation with me, using a book he had, that used the "Futurist Scheme." We had a great time, until the 6<sup>th</sup> chapter, when he decided not to study with me anymore?

The "great tribulation" as the "Futurist" thinks of it, means there will be great distress for all that are on the earth, including the saints. They have divided the "great tribulation" into 3 segments, which are "pre-tribulation", mid-tribulation and post-tribulation. This means, to them that the church will be taken off (raptured) the earth either before the great tribulation, in the middle of it or after the great tribulation. You can choose which one you like, depending on which teacher you listen to?

Rapture = an end-time event when all Christian believers who are alive, along with resurrected believers, will rise "in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air." (from Wikipedia)

In Rev 1:9 we read that John is a fellow partaker in the tribulation.

Rev 1:9 I, John, your brother and fellow partaker in the **tribulation** and **kingdom** and **perseverance** which are in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus.

John a fellow partaker of the tribulation (same Greek word used in Rev 7:14)

**The tribulation is to come off victorious from the beast, his image and the number of his name:**

Rev 15:2 And I saw something like a sea of glass mixed with fire, and those who had been victorious over the beast and his image and the number of his name, standing on the sea of glass, holding harps of God.

Rev 13:8, 14:7

John 16:33 These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have **tribulation**, but take courage; I have overcome the world."

Acts 14:22 strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and {saying,} "Through **many tribulations** we must enter the kingdom of God."

kingdom = Rom 14:17 for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

Rev 7:14 And I said to him, "My lord, you know." And he said to me, "These are the ones who come out

of the **great tribulation**, and they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Ref: John 15:20, Rom 5:3-5, 8:18, 35, 1Cor 4:9-13, 2Tim 2:3-12, Rev 2:9-10, 22.

If, John is a fellow partaker in the tribulation, as described above, I would say that we are also part of that same tribulation! Is the "great tribulation" a different tribulation? The "Futurist's" say it is? **I SAY IT IS NOT!** Let me pose this question: Does the word "God" Rev 1:1, "Almighty God" Rev 4:8, "God of heaven" Rev 16:11, "God of Israel" Luke 1:68, "God my Savior" Luke 1:46, "Most High God" Mk 5:7, "God of Abraham" Matt 26:63 and etc. Do these identifiers mean that there are many God's or is there but one God. My point is that because the word "great" is used in one verse in Revelation, it doesn't have to be a separate "tribulation" **and I don't think it is!**

Let's take a closer look at Rev 7:13-14 Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, "These who are clothed in the white robes, who are they, and where have they come from?" 14 I said to him, "My lord, you know." And he said to me, "These are the ones who come out of the **great tribulation**, and they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. NASU

Rev 7:14 says that these saints, whether you believe they are just regular saints and not martyrs, **as I do**, came out of the "great tribulation." The "pre-tribulation" rapture (the taking out of all saints) can't happen, because these saints in Rev 7:14 have all come out of the "**great tribulation**" or there has to be more than one rapture?

One of the reasons the "pre-tribulation" saints hold to this idea is that they don't want to go through this terrible tribulation, that someone has convinced them is going to happen, before Christ's return? There is another reason, which may have some scriptural value, in that because these saints were "slain" they have to be **only** "martyrs". Martyr = one who chooses to suffer or die for ones faith. (Dictionary)

However, **we must all die**, and be born again:

John 3:3 Jesus answered and said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God." You have to die to be born again!

Gal 2:20 "I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.

Rom 6:3-11

Mark 8:35 "For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it

Rom 8:36 Just as it is written,  
"FOR YOUR SAKE WE ARE BEING PUT TO DEATH ALL DAY LONG;  
WE WERE CONSIDERED AS SHEEP TO BE SLAUGHTERED."

Rev 14:13 And I heard a voice from heaven, saying, "Write, "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on!" "Yes," says the Spirit, "so that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow with them."

Rev 16:6 for they poured out the blood of saints and prophets, and You have given them blood to drink. They deserve it."

Rev 17:6 And I saw the woman (Babylon) drunk with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the witnesses of Jesus. When I saw her, I wondered greatly.

Rev 18:24 "And in her (Babylon) was found the blood of prophets and of saints and of all who have been slain on the earth."

Jer 51:49 49 Indeed Babylon is to fall for the slain of Israel, As also for Babylon the slain of all the earth have fallen.

Rev 6:9-11. Who are these saints? Rev 1:6, 7:9, 15, 12:1,11, 14:1, 15:2,19:6-8, 20:4-6.

If, I were to conclude that those saints mentioned in Rev 7:14 were **only** martyr's as ascribed by the Futurist's, (that means they were physical put to death by someone for their faith in Christ), and the rest of the saints are not included in that group, **which I don't**, I would have to conclude that those mentioned in Rev 20:4 who had been beheaded were also **only** martyrs? This creates a real problem for the rest of the saints as they won't be part of the "first resurrection" because only the "beheaded ones" (I guess they would have to be considered martyrs also by the Futurist's) are included in the "first resurrection" and those of the "second resurrection" are part of the "second death", i.e. "the lake of fire".

Rev 20:4-6

4 Then I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was given to them. And I saw the souls of those who **had been beheaded** because of their testimony of Jesus and because of the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received the mark on their forehead and on their hand; and they came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. Rev 15:2

5 The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were completed. This is the first resurrection.  
6 Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years.

Rev 20:14-15

14 Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire.

15 And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

#### CONCLUTION:

According to scripture all saints have to die and be born again. Using the term "martyr" (one who suffers or dies for his faith) would include all saints! We all have "died" and been born again, God says. We have all been "crucified" with Christ, God says. It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; (God says) and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God (God says). My opinion, according to scripture, is that God sees us as dead to sin and alive spiritually (the finished product)! So, when the term "slain or beheaded" is used in the book of Revelation, in regards to the saints, we all have been slain (died physically) because of sin and Satan is held responsible for our blood being shed. Rev 17:6, 18:24, 19:2

I would encourage all saints to follow these two scriptures and look for what God is doing in the "spirit" realm instead of using our natural minds to draw conclusions!

Deut 29:4 "Yet to this day the LORD has not given you a heart to know, nor eyes to see, nor ears to hear.

But, now in the "New Covenant" we are given a heart to know, eyes to see and ears to hear, if we use them spiritually! John 10:27, Luke 8:10, 1Cor 2:16, Heb 10:14-17, Rev 2:11 "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

The "pre-tribulation" rapture (the taking out of all saints) can't happen, because these saints in Rev 7:14 have all come out of the "**great tribulation**" or there has to be more than one rapture?