

Biblical Forensics©

“Deliverance before Judgment” Part 21

Dr. Andy Woods was one of the main speakers at the 2015 Compass International **Steeling the Mind Bible Conference** in Denver, CO. Dr. Woods is pastor of Sugar Land Bible Church and professor at Houston Bible College. He is one of a new group of scholars who has come along to take up the mantle of well-known and respected scholars who were taken home to be with the Lord.

Dr. Woods has two Baccalaureate degrees from the University of the Redlands; a Juris Doctor (Doctor of Law) degree from Whittier Law School; a Masters in Theology and a PhD from Dallas Theological Seminary. He has received High Honors in all of his academic work, not to mention numerous awards. His rise to recognition in the scholarly community has not gone unnoticed among Bible Prophecy groups as well. Having listened to his presentation on **“Seven Reasons for the Pre-Tribulation Rapture”**.⁽¹⁾ I believe it is something worth listening to. Take a moment to watch his 45 min. presentation. It is posted under **Notes** in this segment. In 2016, Dr. Woods book, *‘The Middle East Meltdown’* was published and his book, *The Coming Kingdom’* was just released. He is a welcomed voice speaking on behalf of the Pre-Tribulation Rapture doctrine, which is under heavy attack by vehement critics and those who oppose this doctrine. In the past twenty years, from so-called academic intellectuals in the secular world to church leaders across the gamut of Christian leadership, unfounded attacks on the Pre-Tribulation Rapture doctrine is on the rise and increasing.

In my focus on “Biblical Typology” presenting God’s “Deliverance before Judgment”, I thought I would introduce readers of this series to Dr. Woods and share his **“Seven Reasons for the Pre-Tribulation Rapture”**. I particularly appreciate Dr. Woods’ style and sound logical reasoning. His gifted, rational, logical analysis and his command of the Word of God permit him to speak with believability and credibility on the prophetic nature of the Word of God. His video address at the “Steeling the Mind Conference” is 45-minutes long, but I have no doubt that he could have spoken longer on additional points. Anyone who would like to obtain a copy of his presentation can contact *Compass International*, at www.compass.org or Dr. Woods at his website for ordering information here: <http://andywoodsministries.org/contact-us/> “*Compass International*” is an international ministry based in Coeur d’Alene, ID, and offers abundant resources on the Dispensational view of studying the Bible and the teaching on the Pre-Tribulation Rapture teaching.

Following are the “seven” key points of Dr. Woods presentation with the appropriate Scriptures. His “short list” was determined by the allotted time permitted for each conference speaker’s presentation. Note that the YouTube link below is also his YouTube Channel. You can subscribe and view a number of

his teachings at this Channel. Dr. Wood's comes to the academic and theological world after a recent string of deaths of foremost scholars in the past decade who carried the mantle for Dispensationalism, like Dr. John Walvoord, Dr. Tim LaHaye, Grant Jeffrey, Dr. David Breese, Dr. J.R. Church, and others.

“Seven Reasons for the Pre-Tribulation Doctrine”

1. The Tribulation's purpose concerns Israel. -(Jeremiah 30:7; Daniel 9:24).
2. No Biblical reference to the Church during the Tribulation Period. - (Revelation 4-22).
3. The Church is promised an exemption from Divine Wrath -(1st Thessalonians 1:10; 5:9; Romans 5:9; Revelation 3:10; 6:17).
4. The Rapture is imminent. -(1st Corinthians 15:51; 1st Thessalonians 4:15).
5. The Rapture is a comfort. -(1st Thessalonians 4:18).
6. The Antichrist cannot come to power until the Restrainer is removed. -(2nd Thessalonians 2:6-7).
7. Symbolic Parallels. -(2nd Peter 2:5-9).

Dr. Woods was spot-on in his use of the key passages identifying the Pre-Tribulation Rapture doctrine. They are not the only ones but he delivered a great presentation on important truths of the Bible.

The following are passages about the Rapture in the KJV Bible:

- ***“Then we which are alive [and] remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air; and so shall we ever be with the Lord.”*** -(1st Thessalonians 4:17). The word Rapture, which we use to describe this first phase of the Lord's return, is derived from the verb used here in the Latin Bible meaning caught up. A “rapture” is a snatching away or a catching up. It is used of Philip in Act 8:39, of Paul in 2nd Corinthians 12:2; 2nd Corinthians 12:4; and of the male Child in Revelation 12:5.

The air is Satan's sphere -(Ephesians 2:2), so this is a triumphal gathering in open defiance of the devil right in his own stronghold.^(b)

- ***“I tell you, in that night there shall be two [men] in one bed; the one shall be taken, and the other shall be left.”*** -(Luke 17:34-37). The Lord's coming will be a time of separation. Two men will be sleeping in one bed. One will be taken away in judgment. The other, a believer, will be spared to enter Christ's kingdom. Two women will be grinding together; the one, an unbeliever, will be taken away in the storm of God's wrath; the other, a child of God, will be spared to enjoy millennial blessings with Christ.

Incidentally, verses 34 and 35 accord with the rotundity of the earth. The fact that **it will be night in one part of the earth and day in another**, as indicated by the activities mentioned, displays scientific knowledge not discovered until many years later.^(b)

- ***“For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first.”*** -(1st Thessalonians 4:16). The exact order of events at Christ's coming for His saints is now given. The Lord Himself will descend from heaven. **He will not send an angel, but will come Himself! At the Rapture, the Lord's feet DO NOT touch the earth which will occur at His Second Coming.**

It will be with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. Several explanations have been offered as to the significance of these commanding sounds, but frankly it is almost impossible to speak with finality about them:

1. Some feel that the shout is the voice of the Lord Jesus Himself which raises the dead -(John 5:25; John 11:43-44) and changes the living. Others, like Hogg and Vine, say that the shout is the archangel's voice.
2. The voice of Michael, the archangel, is commonly understood as an assembling command for the Old Testament saints, since he is so closely associated with Israel -(Dan 12:1; Jude 1:9; Revelation 12:4-7). Others think its purpose is to revive Israel nationally. And still others suggest the voice of an archangel summons the angels as a military escort to accompany the Lord and His saints through enemy territory back to heaven -(cf. Luke 16:22).
3. The trumpet of God is the same as the last trumpet of 1st Corinthians 15:52, which has to do with the resurrection of believers at the time of the Rapture. It calls the saints to eternal blessing. It is not to be confused with the seventh trumpet of Revelation 11:15-18, which signals the final outpouring of judgment on the world during the Tribulation. **The last trumpet here is the last for the church.** The seventh trumpet of Revelation is the last for the unbelieving world (though it is never specifically called the “last trumpet”).

The bodies of the dead in Christ will rise first. Whether this includes the Old Testament saints is debatable. Those who think it does point out that the archangel's voice is heard at this time, and that he is closely linked with the destinies of Israel -(Daniel 12:1). Those who think that the Old Testament saints will not be raised at the Rapture remind us that the phrase in Christ (the dead in Christ) is never applied to believers who lived before the Church Age; these believers will probably be raised at the end of the Tribulation -(Daniel 12:2). In any case it is clear that this is **definitely not a general resurrection**. Not all the dead are raised at this time, but only

the dead in Christ.^(b) The Bible does not ignore or forget the fact that many have perished in the depths of a watery grave. Revelation 20:13 notes that in the case of those who died by drowning, God has measures to bring them back as well.

- ***“Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.”*** -(Revelation 3:10). This is a key verse for those who subscribe to the Pre-Tribulation-Rapture theory—that believers will be kept from this time of testing because they will not be on the earth then, having been taken to heaven in what is called the “Rapture” -(based on 1st Corinthians 15:51-53; 1st Thessalonians 4:15-17). Others believe that the verse refers to times of great distress in general, the church’s suffering through the ages. Others interpret the protection to mean that the church will go through the time of tribulation and that God will keep them strong during it, providing spiritual protection from the forces of evil -(Revelation 7:3). The verb “protect” is the same Greek verb in the Lord’s Prayer (“Deliver us from the evil one,” Matthew 6:13). As Jesus said before his death, ***“I’m not asking you to take them out of the world, but to keep them safe from the evil one”*** -(John 17:15).

This “great time of testing” is also described as the Great Tribulation or Day of the Lord, mentioned also in Daniel 12:2; Mark 13:19; and 2nd Thessalonians 2:1-12. All the judgments recorded in the remainder of the book of Revelation take place during this time of tribulation. While believers may have to face difficulty and suffering, **they will certainly be protected from God’s wrath and judgment.**^(a)

- ***“But of that day and [that] hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, and neither the Son, but the Father.”*** - (Mark 13:32). While Jesus had given general “signs” to observe regarding the coming of the end, he clearly explained to the disciples that the exact day or hour was not known by the angels or the Son (Jesus himself). When Jesus said that even he did not know the time of the end, He was affirming His humanity -(see Philipians 2:5-8). Of course, God the Father knows the time, and Jesus and the Father are one. But when Jesus became a man, He voluntarily gave up the unlimited use of his divine attributes. On earth, Jesus laid aside His divine prerogatives and submitted to the Father’s will. Thus, only the Father knows the exact time of Jesus’ return. The emphasis of this verse is not on Jesus’ lack of knowledge, but rather on the fact that no one knows. It is God the Father’s secret to be revealed when He wills. No one can predict by Scripture or science the exact day of Jesus’ return. **Jesus was teaching that continual preparation, not calculation, was needed.**^(a)
- ***“And He laid hold of the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years.”*** -(Revelation 20:2-5). Although this is not a direct reference to the Rapture per se, it

corroborates the future Millennium of Christ Jesus' reign and rule on earth associated with the Dispensational view.

- ***“In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.”*** -(1st Corinthians 15:52). The change will take place instantly, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. The last trumpet here does not mean the end of the world, or even the last trumpet mentioned in Revelation. Rather, it refers to the trumpet of God which will sound when Christ comes into the air for His saints -(1st Thessalonians 4:16). When the trumpet sounds, the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. What a tremendous moment that will be, when the earth and the sea will yield up the dust of all those who have died trusting in Christ down through the centuries! It is almost impossible for the human mind to take in the magnitude of such an event; yet the humble believer can accept it by faith.^(b)
- ***“For God has not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,”*** -(1st Thessalonians 5:9). The Rapture has two aspects, salvation and wrath. For the believer it means the consummation of his salvation in heaven. For the unbeliever, it means the ushering in of a time of wrath on earth. God did not appoint believers to the wrath which He will pour out during the Tribulation Period, but rather to salvation in its fullest sense—**freedom forever from the very presence of sin.**

Some understand wrath here to refer to the punishment which unbelievers will suffer in hell. Of course it is true that God has not appointed us to that, but it is uncalled for to introduce that thought here. Paul is not talking about hell, but about future events on earth. The context deals with the Day of the Lord - the greatest period of wrath in the history of man on earth -(Matthew 24:21). We do not have an appointment with the executioner but with the Savior.

Some say that the Tribulation is the time of Satan's wrath -(Revelation 12:12), not the wrath of God. They say that the church will experience the wrath of Satan, but will be delivered from the wrath of God at the Second Coming of Christ. However, the following verses speak of the wrath of God and of the Lamb, and their setting is during the Tribulation Period: Revelation 6:16-17; 14:9-10; 14:19; 15:1; 15:7; 16:1; 16:19.^(b)

- ***“And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation [even] to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book.”*** -(Daniel 12:1-2).
- ***“Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon not give her light, and the stars shall fall***

from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken.” - (Matthew 24:29-31). See Deliverance before Judgment Part 19 for a discussion on this passage.^(d)

- **“Watch therefore: for ye know not hour your Lord doth come.”** - (Matthew 24:42). Believers must be on guard and alert, constantly ready for him to come at any time. Christ’s second coming will be swift and sudden. There will be no time for last-minute repenting or bargaining. The choice that people have already made will determine their eternal destiny.^(a)
- **“And He shall send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.”** -(Matthew 24:31). See Deliverance before Judgment Part 19 for a discussion on this passage.^(d)
- **“Be ye therefore ready also: for the Son of Man cometh at an hour when ye think not.”** -(Luke 12:40). Christ’s return at an unexpected time is not a trick by which God hopes to catch His people off guard. In fact, God is apparently delaying His return so that more people will have the opportunity to follow Him -(see 2nd Peter 3:9). Before Christ’s return, believers have time to live out their beliefs and to reflect Jesus’ love as they relate to others. **Christians have time to bring more people with them into the Kingdom.**^(a)
- **“For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of Man be.”** -(Matthew 24:27). Christ's Advent will be unmistakable—it will be sudden, public, universal, and glorious. Like the lightning, it will be instantly and clearly visible to all.^(b) There will not be a secret Rapture as many critics infer Pre-Tribulation teaches. Quite to the contrary!
- **“But of that day and [that] hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father.”** -(Mark 13:32-37). Regarding the “when,” of his Second Coming, Jesus’ answer was blunt. He then pointed out that the mark of a disciple was not having inside information, but serving Christ faithfully. Spiritual vigilance becomes the essential theme of the entire chapter. Jesus’ servants must be so busy that they have no time to speculate about his schedule.

Jesus’ followers would not want to be found spiritually lax, but instead conscientiously going about the work given by God for them to do. Each of us has enough assigned work to do that we **shouldn’t be neutralized or paralyzed by fear or doubt**. We do not need to worry about how other employees compare to us; instead, but rather we should **devote ourselves to doing what God has given us to do**.

Jesus had spoken this discourse to only four of his disciples -(Mark 13:3). Here he instructed them to carry these words to the rest of the disciples, for

their truth was of vital importance. By extension, the words were meant for all believers. Even today, we do well to watch for his return—watching out for false teaching and watching expectantly for Christ’s return as we do his work in the world.^(a)

- ***“That if thou confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart Jesus Christ that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.”*** -(Romans 10:9). The word is near—as near as your lips and heart -(Romans 10:8; Deuteronomy 30:14). To confess means to ***“give verbal affirmation,”***—in this case to acknowledge with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and was raised for you. When we confess that Jesus is Lord, ***we are acknowledging his rank or supreme place.*** We are pledging our obedience and worship; we are placing our life under his protection for safekeeping. We are pledging ourselves and our resources to his control for direction and service.

Anyone can say he or she believes something, but God knows each person’s heart. In this confession, it is not enough to merely utter the words; **they must be declared, professed, proclaimed from the heart, expressing our full conviction.** The gospel message in a nutshell is confess and believe and you will be saved. There is **no reference to works or rituals.**
(a)

- ***“And to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, [even] Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come.”*** - (1st Thessalonians 1:10). Jesus’ resurrection was the advance installment of the resurrection of all the righteous dead at the end of the age (which figured prominently in Jewish teaching from Daniel 12:1-2 onward); Jesus will thus deliver the Thessalonians from wrath at the time of their resurrection. The Old Testament often applied the term “wrath” to God’s judgments within history, but this term was often extended, as nearly always in Paul and the New Testament, to the outpouring of God’s wrath in the final day of the Lord, the day of judgment when, according to the New Testament, Christ returns to punish the wicked (e.g., Isaiah 13:9; 13:13; 26:20; 30:27; Zephaniah 1:18; Romans 2:5).^(c)
- ***“For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.”*** -(1st Thessalonians 5:2). The expression ***“day of the Lord”*** is believed by many scholars to refer to the simultaneous event of both the Rapture and the beginning of the Tribulation.
- ***“Let no man deceive you by any means: for [that day shall not come], except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;”***-(2nd Thessalonians 2:3-7). See Deliverance before Judgment Part 8, Item 22 and reference under Notes for a complete discussion referencing the use of the words “falling away”. ^(2, 3)

- ***“And Jesus said, I am: and ye shall see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven.”*** -(Mark 14:62). This is another passage that corroborates a distinction between the Rapture and the Second Coming as two separate events. Critics of the Pre-Tribulation Rapture ignore such a passage because of the differentiation made which weakens the case for any view other than a Pre-Tribulation Rapture. Jesus’ statement is a claim to be not only a mortal Messiah but the cosmic ruler of Daniel 7:13-14, the embodiment of Israel’s call, who would come in glory and reign forever. (The seating may allude to Psalm 110:1.)^(c)
- ***“And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven saying, The kingdoms of this world are become [the kingdoms] of our Lord, and of His Christ; and He shall reign for ever and ever.”*** -(Revelation 11:15-19). The context of the text is a reference to the beginning of the second half of the Great Tribulation, acknowledging the end of the 70th Week of Daniel 9:24-27. Critics of the Pre-Tribulation Rapture ignore this passage because it undermines a case for any view other than a Pre-Tribulation Rapture.

The seventh angel blew his trumpet, in essence announcing the arrival of the King. There was now no turning back. The coming judgments were no longer partial but complete in their destruction. **God unleashed his full wrath on the evil world that refused to turn to him** (Rev 9:20-21). When his wrath would begin, there would be no escape.

The song of triumph by the heavenly hosts introduces the great themes of the following chapters. The end times had begun. When Christ first came, he brought in the Kingdom, yet his fulfilled Kingdom was still to come. The Kingdom is with God’s people spiritually but has not been fulfilled historically. **This verse refers to that final consummation.** This is a worship pageant, portraying in heaven what will be unfolded on earth.^(a)

Before closing, it is important to understand that whatever doctrine one looks at in the Bible, it is most obvious that doctrine can only be established by a systematic overview of the Scriptures. Biblical doctrine is not always precisely and clearly stated, but rather must be gleaned by an exhaustive study of the whole counsel of God. The importance of a comprehensive thorough analysis emphasizes this matter. Scripture itself plainly explains at Isaiah 28:10 reads: ***“For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept, line upon line, line upon line, here a little, there a little.”*** This lesson is repeated with greater clarity at Isaiah 28:13: ***“But the word of the LORD was unto them precept upon precept, precept upon precept, line upon line, line upon line, here a little, there a little;....”*** Critics of the Dispensational school presumptively draw inaccurate conclusions about Biblical doctrine, particularly with regards to the Pre-Tribulation Rapture doctrine without thoroughly doing their homework. The high requirement to obtain accurate truth involves scholarship and hours of **prayerful study** leading to increased insights and discernment. Such are the words of 2nd

Timothy 2:15: ***“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth”.***

In coming segments we will look at more aspects of God’s Master Plan of “Deliverance before Judgment”.

Pastor Bob

Notes:

1. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pZBoSaG4-KY>
2. <http://www.fivedoves.com/letters/apr2015/pastorbob45-2.htm>
3. www.nhunderground.com/jesus/PastorBob/Deliverance%20before%20Judgment%208.pdf
4. <http://www.nhunderground.com/jesus/PastorBob/Deliverance%20before%20Judgment%20-%2019.pdf>

Commentaries:

- a. Life Application New Testament Commentary
- b. Believer’s Bible Commentary
- c. IVP Bible Background Commentary