

## THE PRE-WRATH RAPTURE: ITS STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES

CHARLES COOPER SAYS THE PRE-WRATH VIEW IS A SYNTHESIS BETWEEN THE PRE-TRIB AND POST-TRIB VIEW, TAKING THE STRENGTHS FROM BOTH. WHILE THE PRE-WRATH VIEW MITIGATES SEVERAL OF THE PROBLEMS WITH PRE-TRIBULATIONISM, HOWEVER, IT ALSO RETAINS SOME OF THE PROBLEMS OF PRE-TRIBULATIONISM.

### I. STRENGTHS OF PRE-WRATH

- A. It addresses the sixth seal and the cosmic signs.
  - 1) in [Revelation 6](#), it is at the 6th seal when the cosmic signs happen. In Jesus' sermon on the end times ([Matthew 24](#)), He says the Son of Man will come and gather His elect *after* the cosmic signs
- B. It addresses the “[not appointed to wrath](#)” matter and makes a distinction between the persecution of Satan and the wrath of God.
  - 1) the tribulation is persecution from Satan; the trumpets and bowls (which take place after the 6<sup>th</sup> seal) are the wrath of God, which are poured out after the tribulation and subsequent rapture
- C. It answers “[no man knows the day or the hour.](#)”
  - 1) the reality is there are too many variables to be able to figure out exactly which day Jesus will return
- D. It acknowledges the complexity of the return of Jesus.
  - 1) most Christians view [Revelation 19](#) as the quintessential picture of the return of Jesus. However, the Biblical narrative lays out a complex series of events that unfolds over a period of time
    - a) refer to Joel's book *Sinai to Zion* and his series *The Return of Jesus* for more on this

### II. PROBLEMS WITH PRE-WRATH

- A. It supports two second comings of Jesus.
  - 1) the pre-wrath view says that, after the “[abomination of desolation](#)” is set up (within the final 3 ½ years), the return of Jesus can happen at anytime. Similar to pre-trib, they say Jesus comes back and raptures the believers to heaven, goes back up

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with them to heaven, and then comes back to Earth for Armageddon. Thus, [Revelation 19](#) is the coming back of Jesus from heaven after He had already returned. In the pre-wrath perspective, [Revelation 19](#) is not the return of Jesus; it is a second coming of Jesus from heaven

2) [Hebrews 9:27-28](#)

a) “will appear a second time for [salvation](#)”

3) [Acts 2:32-35](#)

a) ““sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your footstool”” Jesus will sit at the Father’s right hand until it is time for Him to crush His enemies like grapes

- i. the pre-wrath view says that Jesus will return 1-3 years before it is time for Him to crush His enemies, then go back to heaven, then come back some time later for Armageddon and make His enemies His footstool

4) [Acts 3:19-21](#)

a) “Jesus, whom heaven must receive until the time for restoring all the things” the pre-wrath view holds that Jesus could return as much as a year or more before the time comes for Him to restore all things

B. [Matthew 25](#) says that when Jesus returns, He will reestablish the throne of David. The pre-wrath view says that He comes back, then turns around and goes back to heaven for as much as a couple years, then comes back again and establishes David’s throne.

1) [Matthew 25:31](#)

a) “then” (*tote*: at that time)

C. Three times, we are told the rapture happens at the last trumpet. Pre-wrath says that after the last trumpet, there are seven more trumpets.

- 1) something can be a judgement and a deliverance event simultaneously
- 2) the primary focus of the New Testament is that the resurrection happens at the coming of the Lord, at the last trumpet

D. [Acts 1](#) says Jesus will come back in the same way they saw Him go up. Pre-wrath, like pre-trib, violates this, saying that Jesus comes partially down then goes back up to heaven, then comes back down again.

E. The Parable of the Foolish and Wise Virgins portrays them going out to meet Him and accompanying Him back to *where they were*, not to *where He was*. The triumphal entry gives the same picture. Pre-Wrath says we meet him and He takes us back to heaven for a few years.

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- F. Scripture says the Antichrist will wear down the saints, trample Jerusalem, and reign for 3 ½ years and that Jesus will kill Antichrist with the splendor of His coming when He comes back. Pre-Wrath has Jesus killing Antichrist as much as a few years after Jesus returns.
- G. Pre-wrath is forced to say that the “saints of the highest one” is NOT referring to Christians, but only Israel.
  - 1) Daniel 7:25
- H. These are things worth talking but not arguing about. The main thing is that we are prepared for the test that is to come.