

4 - TRIBULATION, RAPTURE & THE SECOND COMING

I. Pre-Tribulation View

- There will be a seven-year period when God's wrath is poured out on the world.
- The church will be removed or raptured before the tribulation begins.
- During the tribulation, Israel will once again be the focus of God's program.
- This will occur when the fullness of the Gentiles has come (Romans 11:25).

Scripture Romans 11:25 (ESV)

Lest you be wise in your own sight, I do not want you to be unaware of this mystery, brothers: a partial hardening has come upon Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.

II. Mid-Tribulation View

- The church will be removed in the middle of the tribulation.
- The church will endure the events of the first half of tribulation.

III. Post- Tribulation View

- The church will continue on earth until the second coming of Jesus Christ.
- The church will endure all of the judgments in the tribulation.
- This view does not necessarily see a distinction between the church and Israel.

IV. Pre-Wrath Rapture View

- The pre-wrath view sees the rapture as a combination of first three views.
- This view believes that all believers will be exempt from the wrath of God.
- This view does not believe that all believers will be exempt from the seven-year period.
- This view sees a distinction between the wrath of Satan and the wrath of God.
- This view sees the Day of the Lord coming at the end of the tribulation.
- Believers will experience the Great Tribulation but will be raptured out before God's wrath is poured out.

V. Partial Rapture View

The Prophecy Series: Introduction

- This view is not concerned with the timing of the rapture.
- This view concerns the issue of who will be raptured.
- Only those who are watching and waiting will be raptured.

VI. No Rapture View

- This view does not see the rapture as a distinct event from the second coming.
- Passages concerning the rapture are speaking of the second coming.

VII. Flexibility in Interpretation

- Don't be dogmatic about your interpretations.
- Recognize that the church has struggled to understand these books for centuries.
- Recognize that false teaching and cults have arisen from dogmatic interpretations.