

# The Problems With Post-Tribulationism

The strength of the pretribulation position is that it is able to harmonize the numerous end-time events because of the distinction between the rapture and the second advent. In contrast, the attempt to conflate two events separated by seven years leads to a strained interpretation and a failure to practice literal interpretation. What are some of the posttribulationist problems?

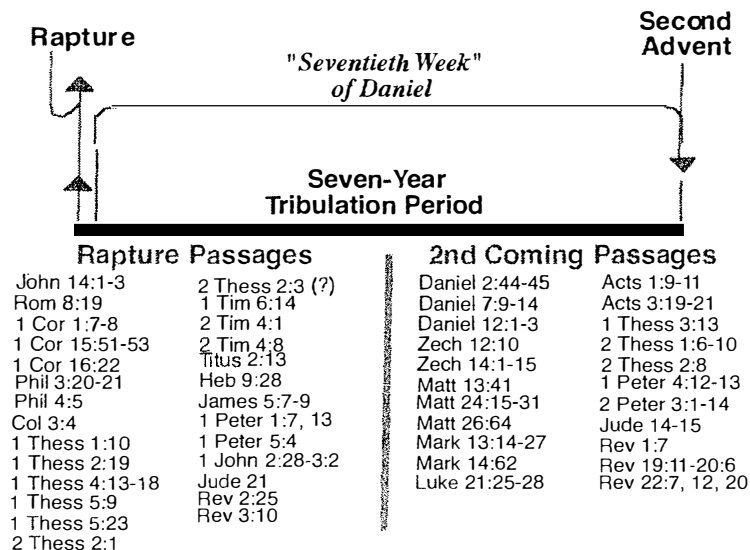
1b. The post-trib view denies the teaching of imminency—that Christ could return at any moment. The second advent can be calculated as being exactly seven years after antichrist signs a covenant with Israel (Dan. 9:26ff). Numerous signs precede the second advent.

2b. Another problem relates to the population of the millennium. Thomas Ice states the issue well:

Premillennial posttribulationism has no answer to their problem of who will populate the millennium if the rapture and second coming occur at the same time. Since all believers will be translated at the rapture and all unbelievers judged, because no unrighteous shall be allowed to enter Christ's kingdom, then no one would be left in mortal bodies to start the population base for the millennium. The pre-trib viewpoint does not have a problem at this point ("Differences between the Rapture and the Second Coming," Thomas Ice, Pre-Trib.org, 4).

3b. In Revelation 19:7-9 the church is seen in heaven at the Marriage of the Lamb, being prepared to return as the Bride with the Bridegroom to earth (Rev. 11:14). How could this be if the church is on earth awaiting the return of Christ?

4b. The final problem of posttribulationism, generally ignored in the discussion, is that if Christ has not returned for His own before the tribulation and take them to heaven, then Christ could be charged with an enormous falsehood. The night before the crucifixion, the Savior promised to go to the Father's house (John 14:1-6) where He would prepare a home for the disciples, then return and take them there. In the post-trib scheme of things, the believer never spends a single minute in the Father's house in heaven. The post-trib view is that Christ returns, the saints are raptured (1 Thess. 4:16), and together they enter the millennium. Nevertheless, the Savior did not deceive His disciples! He left them, as promised. He is preparing their eternal home, as promised. And He will return for them to summon them to their heavenly home, as promised. When the last building block is added to our home in heaven and the last believer is added to the church on earth, the Savior will come for His Bride – and that may be today!



The Two Phases of Christ's Coming  
Contrasted and Compared

	<b>Rapture</b>		<b>Second Coming</b>
1	Jesus coming <u>FOR</u> His Church. John 14:1-3, 1 Thess 4:14-17	1	Jesus coming <u>WITH</u> His Church. Col 3:4; Zech 14:5, Jude 14, Rev 19:14
2	Caught up with Him <u>in the air</u> . 1 Thess 4:13-18	2	Jesus' feet <u>touch the earth</u> . Zech 14:4, Rev 19:11-21
3	Not ever mentioned in the Old Testament. 1 Cor. 15:51 "A MYSTERY"		Numerous references to the event in the Old Testament. Zech 14, Psa 2; Dan 9
4	Christians taken first, unbelievers are left behind. 1 Thess 4:13-18	3	Wicked are taken first, the righteous (Tribulation saints) are left behind. Matt 13:28-30
4	Purpose: To present the Church to Himself and to the Father. 2 Cor 11:2, Rev. 19:6-9	4	Purpose: To execute judgment on earth and set up His Kingdom. Jude 14-15, Rev 19:11-21, Zech 14:3-4
5	<u>MARRIAGE</u> : Marriage of the Lamb <u>in heaven</u> after the Rapture.	5	<u>WAR</u> : Marriage is followed by war <u>on earth</u> at the 2 <sup>nd</sup> coming.
6	Happens in a <u>moment</u> , in the twinkling of an eye (too fast for eyes to see). 1 Cor. 15:52	6	Slow coming, people will see Him come back. Zech 12:10, Matt 24:30, Rev 1:7
7	<u>Only Christians</u> will see Him. 1 John 3:2, 1 Cor 15:52	7	<u>Every eye</u> will see Him. Rev. 1:7
8	Jesus descends with a shout. 1 Thess 4:16	8	No shout mentioned. Rev 19:11-21
9	The resurrection of Church Age believers. 1 Thess 4:13-18, 1 Cor. 15:51-54	9	OT saints and Tribulation martyrs are raised. Dan 12:1,2, Rev 20:4
10	Can happen at any time. Rev. 3:3, 1 Thess 5:4-6	10	Occurs at end of 7 years of Tribulation. Dan 9:24-27, Matt 24:29-30, 2 Thess 2:3-8
	Christ gathers the saints to Himself in the air. 1 Thess. 4:13-18		<b>A</b> ngels gather the believers to Jerusalem. Matt 24:31, 25:31
11	No angels are sent to gather (resurrected people don't need angels to help them)	11	Angels sent forth to gather people together for judgment. Matt 13:39, 41, 49, 24:31, 25:31, 2 Thess 1:7-10
12	The dead in Christ return with Jesus <u>to receive</u> their resurrected bodies. 1 Thess 4:14-16	12	Christians return with Jesus in <u>already resurrected</u> bodies riding on white horses. Rev 19:11-21
13	Jesus does not return on a white horse.	13	Jesus returns on a white horse. Rev 19:11
14	For the Church only (those <u>in Christ</u> ) 1 Thess 4:14-17	14	For redeemed Israel & Gentiles. Rom 11:25-27, Matt 25:31-46
15	A message of <u>hope and comfort</u> 1 Thess 4:18, Titus 2:13, 1 John 3:3	15	A message of <u>judgment</u> . Joel 3:12-16, Rev 19:11-21, Mal 4:5
16	The Tribulation begins. Rev. 3:10, 1 Thess 5:9	16	The Millennium begins. Rev 20:4ff