

## My research of Scripture regarding the 'Pre-trib Secret Rapture'

Kris Springer, Jan 2012

- This is my simple Scripture research. The verses used are just a few that I've come across. I'm sure there are more. I have no presuppositions about the 'secret' rapture or pre-trib, mid-trib, post-trib events. I'm simply looking at Scripture to see what it plainly says. I want to find out what the Bible says about the subject. If the Bible support the idea, then I'll believe it. If not, then I won't.
  - I was always taught the 'secret' rapture view. Basically the same ideas promoted by the 'Left Behind' movies. I started looking into the subject to see what the Bible said and discovered that Scripture lays things out quite differently than what I was taught growing up. I've seen movies, documentaries, read books, and listened to many many hours of commentary on this subject by many respected preachers and found that all their 'pre-trib secret rapture' promotion comes from for-shadowing, simile, partial scriptures, and statements made to specific groups that are being applied differently than what the passage says, not the plain reading of entire sections of Scripture in context. It's almost as if they're going out of their way to try to convince everyone of the pre-trib secret rapture when the Bible actually says something different. Below are my brief comments and then I've pasted the actual Scripture chapters that talk about the subject. I've included the whole chapters because pasting half a sentence from an obscure verse to support a doctrine is not how it's done. Everything must be taken in context or it shouldn't be used.
1. Simple reading of Scripture says that we will not be gathered and Jesus will not come back until the 'man of lawlessness' is revealed and sits in the temple of God proclaiming to be God. This major event also spoken of in Daniel 9, Matthew 24 and Mark 13 will not be a secret. This seems to define when this will happen.
    - 2 Thessalonians 2  
**1** Now concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to him, we ask you, brothers, **2** not to be quickly shaken in mind or alarmed, either by a spirit or a spoken word, or a letter seeming to be from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come. **3** Let no one deceive you in any way. For that day will not come, unless the rebellion comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, **4** who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God. **5** Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things? **6** And you know what is restraining him now so that he may be revealed in his time. **7** For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work. Only he who now restrains it will do so until he is out of the way. **8** And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will kill with the breath of his mouth and bring to nothing by the appearance of his coming. **9** The coming of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan with all power and false signs and wonders, **10** and with all wicked deception for those who are perishing, because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. **11** Therefore God sends them a strong delusion, so that they may believe what is false, **12** in order that all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness. **13** But we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the first fruits to be saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth. **14** To this he called you through our gospel, so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. **15** So then, brothers, stand firm and hold to the traditions that you were taught by us, either by our spoken word or by our letter. **16** Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God our Father, who loved us and gave us eternal comfort and good hope through grace, **17** comfort your hearts and establish them in every good work and word.
  2. This plainly says that at the last trumpet the dead will be raised first, then those who remain will be changed. This is presumably speaking of the last trumpet judgment spoken of in Revelation 10. If this really is the last trumpet judgement, then this means that there will be saved people alive during the 'tribulation' period. This will NOT be a secret event and will NOT be quite. This seems to define when and what will happen.
    - 1 Corinthians 15  
**50** I tell you this, brothers: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. **51** Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, **52** in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. **53** For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. **54** When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory." **55** "O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?" **56** The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. **57** But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. **58** Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.
  3. This explicitly defines the details of the coming of Jesus and 'rapture'. Jesus will descend with a loud cry, and with a trumpet sound, the dead will rise first, then living saved people will be caught up with the formerly dead saved people in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. This does not define when this will happen, it just defines what will happen.
    - 1 Thessalonians 4  
**13** But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who

have no hope. **14** For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. **15** For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. **16** For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. **17** Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. **18** Therefore encourage one another with these words.

4. This says that people in darkness will be surprised on the 'day of the Lord', but the saved 'are not in darkness' and will not be surprised. Verse 9 says we are not destined for wrath. This is commonly used to support a pre-trib secret rapture view. But that's not what it says. It says we're not destined for wrath, but to obtain salvation through Jesus, that whether we're alive or dead we'll live with Him. It's talking about Hell and salvation, not end times physical earthly wrath.
  - o 1 Thessalonians 5

**1** Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. **2** For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. **3** While people are saying, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. **4** But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. **5** For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. **6** So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. **7** For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. **8** But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. **9** For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, **10** who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him. **11** Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.
5. This is the definitive explicit layout of what and when things will happen, spoken by Jesus himself. Verses 29-31 are so clear that I really can't understand how anyone can come up with any other way of looking at the issue. Jesus says that He will NOT gather the elect from the earth until AFTER the 'tribulation' and after the sun and moon are darkened and after the stars fall from the sky. This is a HUGE event that will be very unmistakable as the actual event. Verse 22 says that the elect will still be on the earth and He will shorten the tribulation times because of His mercy on them. This leads to the question of who are the elect? I'll address that below. These are not vague hints and shadows, these are explicit and specific times and events defined by Jesus himself. This same narrative is duplicated in Mark 13 and says the same thing.
  - o Matthew 24

**1** Jesus left the temple and was going away, when his disciples came to point out to him the buildings of the temple. **2** But he answered them, "You see all these, do you not? Truly, I say to you, there will not be left here one stone upon another that will not be thrown down." **3** As he sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will these things be, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?" **4** And Jesus answered them, "See that no one leads you astray. **5** For many will come in my name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and they will lead many astray. **6** And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not alarmed, for this must take place, but the end is not yet. **7** For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be famines and earthquakes in various places. **8** All these are but the beginning of the birth pains. **9** "Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and put you to death, and you will be hated by all nations for my name's sake. **10** And then many will fall away and betray one another and hate one another. **11** And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray. **12** And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold. **13** But the one who endures to the end will be saved. **14** And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come. **15** "So when you see the abomination of desolation spoken of by the prophet Daniel, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand), **16** then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. **17** Let the one who is on the housetop not go down to take what is in his house, **18** and let the one who is in the field not turn back to take his cloak. **19** And alas for women who are pregnant and for those who are nursing infants in those days! **20** Pray that your flight may not be in winter or on a Sabbath. **21** For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, and never will be. **22** And if those days had not been cut short, no human being would be saved. But for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short. **23** Then if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ!' or 'There he is!' do not believe it. **24** For false christs and false prophets will arise and perform great signs and wonders, so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect. **25** See, I have told you beforehand. **26** So, if they say to you, 'Look, he is in the wilderness,' do not go out. If they say, 'Look, he is in the inner rooms,' do not believe it. **27** For as the lightning comes from the east and shines as far as the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. **28** Wherever the corpse is, there the vultures will gather. **29** "Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. **30** Then will appear in heaven the sign of the Son of Man, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. **31** And he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other. **32** "From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts out its leaves, you know that summer is near. **33** So also, when you see all these things, you know that he is near, at the very gates. **34** Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. **35** Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. **36** "But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only. **37** For as were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. **38** For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, **39** and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. **40** Then two men will be in the field; one will be taken and one left. **41** Two women will be grinding at the mill; one

will be taken and one left. **42** Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. **43** But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. **44** Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect. **45** "Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom his master has set over his household, to give them their food at the proper time? **46** Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes. **47** Truly, I say to you, he will set him over all his possessions. **48** But if that wicked servant says to himself, 'My master is delayed,' **49** and begins to beat his fellow servants and eats and drinks with drunkards, **50** the master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he does not know **51** and will cut him in pieces and put him with the hypocrites. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

6. This is a duplicate narrative of what Jesus says in Matthew 24. Again, these are not vague hints and shadows, these are explicit and specific times and events defined by Jesus himself.

- Mark 13

**1** And as he came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, "Look, Teacher, what wonderful stones and what wonderful buildings!" **2** And Jesus said to him, "Do you see these great buildings? There will not be left here one stone upon another that will not be thrown down." **3** And as he sat on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter and James and John and Andrew asked him privately, **4** "Tell us, when will these things be, and what will be the sign when all these things are about to be accomplished?" **5** And Jesus began to say to them, "See that no one leads you astray. **6** Many will come in my name, saying, 'I am he!' and they will lead many astray. **7** And when you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed. This must take place, but the end is not yet. **8** For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. These are but the beginning of the birth pains. **9** "But be on your guard. For they will deliver you over to councils, and you will be beaten in synagogues, and you will stand before governors and kings for my sake, to bear witness before them. **10** And the gospel must first be proclaimed to all nations. **11** And when they bring you to trial and deliver you over, do not be anxious beforehand what you are to say, but say whatever is given you in that hour, for it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit. **12** And brother will deliver brother over to death, and the father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death. **13** And you will be hated by all for my name's sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. **14** "But when you see the abomination of desolation standing where he ought not to be (let the reader understand), then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. **15** Let the one who is on the housetop not go down, nor enter his house, to take anything out, **16** and let the one who is in the field not turn back to take his cloak. **17** And alas for women who are pregnant and for those who are nursing infants in those days! **18** Pray that it may not happen in winter. **19** For in those days there will be such tribulation as has not been from the beginning of the creation that God created until now, and never will be. **20** And if the Lord had not cut short the days, no human being would be saved. But for the sake of the elect, whom he chose, he shortened the days. **21** And then if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ!' or 'Look, there he is!' do not believe it. **22** For false christs and false prophets will arise and perform signs and wonders, to lead astray, if possible, the elect. **23** But be on guard; I have told you all things beforehand. **24** "But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, **25** and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. **26** And then they will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. **27** And then he will send out the angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. **28** "From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts out its leaves, you know that summer is near. **29** So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. **30** Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. **31** Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. **32** "But concerning that day or that hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. **33** Be on guard, keep awake. For you do not know when the time will come. **34** It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his servants in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to stay awake. **35** Therefore stay awake, for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or in the morning **36** lest he come suddenly and find you asleep. **37** And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake."

7. Revelation 6 talks about the seals being opened and what happens for each one. The 6th seal is when the sun and moon are darkened and the stars fall. It reads exactly the same as Matthew 24 and Mark 13 when Jesus specifies when he will gather His elect. Verses 9-11 talk about all the saved people who have been and will be killed for Christ's name during this tribulation period.

- Revelation 6

**1** Now I watched when the Lamb opened one of the seven seals, and I heard one of the four living creatures say with a voice like thunder, "Come!" **2** And I looked, and behold, a white horse! And its rider had a bow, and a crown was given to him, and he came out conquering, and to conquer. **3** When he opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature say, "Come!" **4** And out came another horse, bright red. Its rider was permitted to take peace from the earth, so that people should slay one another, and he was given a great sword. **5** When he opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, "Come!" And I looked, and behold, a black horse! And its rider had a pair of scales in his hand. **6** And I heard what seemed to be a voice in the midst of the four living creatures, saying, "A quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius, and do not harm the oil and wine!" **7** When he opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature say, "Come!" **8** And I looked, and behold, a pale horse! And its rider's name was Death, and Hades followed him. And they were given authority over a fourth of the earth, to

kill with sword and with famine and with pestilence and by wild beasts of the earth. **9** When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the witness they had borne. **10** They cried out with a loud voice, "O Sovereign Lord, holy and true, how long before you will judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?" **11** Then they were each given a white robe and told to rest a little longer, until the number of their fellow servants and their brothers should be complete, who were to be killed as they themselves had been. **12** When he opened the sixth seal, I looked, and behold, there was a great earthquake, and the sun became black as sackcloth, the full moon became like blood, **13** and the stars of the sky fell to the earth as the fig tree sheds its winter fruit when shaken by a gale. **14** The sky vanished like a scroll that is being rolled up, and every mountain and island was removed from its place. **15** Then the kings of the earth and the great ones and the generals and the rich and the powerful, and everyone, slave and free, hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains, **16** calling to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who is seated on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb, **17** for the great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand?"

8. Who are the elect? Revelation 7 speaks of 2 separate groups. The 144k sealed Jews that will not be touched, and those 'coming out of the great tribulation'. It doesn't say they're raptured. It doesn't say 'raised up' or 'caught up' or any other rapture type language. It simply means that they're getting killed on earth and they're entering heaven during the time of the tribulation. Killed by man or killed by God, it doesn't specify. This does not specify who the elect are that will be raptured at the return of Jesus.

o Revelation 7

**1** After this I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds of the earth, that no wind might blow on earth or sea or against any tree. **2** Then I saw another angel ascending from the rising of the sun, with the seal of the living God, and he called with a loud voice to the four angels who had been given power to harm earth and sea, **3** saying, "Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees, until we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads." **4** And I heard the number of the sealed, 144,000, sealed from every tribe of the sons of Israel: **5** 12,000 from the tribe of Judah were sealed, 12,000 from the tribe of Reuben, 12,000 from the tribe of Gad, **6** 12,000 from the tribe of Asher, 12,000 from the tribe of Naphtali, 12,000 from the tribe of Manasseh, **7** 12,000 from the tribe of Simeon, 12,000 from the tribe of Levi, 12,000 from the tribe of Issachar, **8** 12,000 from the tribe of Zebulun, 12,000 from the tribe of Joseph, 12,000 from the tribe of Benjamin were sealed. **9** After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, **10** and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" **11** And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, **12** saying, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen." **13** Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, clothed in white robes, and from where have they come?" **14** I said to him, "Sir, you know." And he said to me, "These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. **15** "Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence. **16** They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat. **17** For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

9. Revelation 10 speaks of the 7th trumpet blast. Jesus doesn't come back until after the 7th trumpet. Revelation 8 and 9 speak of the earth and people getting killed in all manner of ways, and the only ones not harmed are the 144k. Are they the elect that get raptured? If they are the only elect left on the earth, then that means that all other saved people have been killed, either by man or by God during the events of chapters 8 and 9. Chapter 10 does not say anything about anyone being raptured.

o Revelation 10

**1** Then I saw another mighty angel coming down from heaven, wrapped in a cloud, with a rainbow over his head, and his face was like the sun, and his legs like pillars of fire. **2** He had a little scroll open in his hand. And he set his right foot on the sea, and his left foot on the land, **3** and called out with a loud voice, like a lion roaring. When he called out, the seven thunders sounded. **4** And when the seven thunders had sounded, I was about to write, but I heard a voice from heaven saying, "Seal up what the seven thunders have said, and do not write it down." **5** And the angel whom I saw standing on the sea and on the land raised his right hand to heaven **6** and swore by him who lives forever and ever, who created heaven and what is in it, the earth and what is in it, and the sea and what is in it, that there would be no more delay, **7** but that in the days of the trumpet call to be sounded by the seventh angel, the mystery of God would be fulfilled, just as he announced to his servants the prophets.

10. Revelation 14 speaks about the 144k being on the earth. And it also speaks in verses 9-14 of those who get the mark of the beast and the endurance of the saints who are still there who are blessed if they are killed for the Lord. These are spoken of differently than the 144k spoken of in verse 3 who are redeemed from the earth. And the harvest spoken of in verses 14-20, is this a harvest of saved people?

o Revelation 14

**1** Then I looked, and behold, on Mount Zion stood the Lamb, and with him 144,000 who had his name and his Father's name written on their foreheads. **2** And I heard a voice from heaven like the roar of many waters and like the sound of loud thunder. The voice I heard was like the sound of harpists playing on their harps, **3** and they were singing a new song before the throne and

before the four living creatures and before the elders. No one could learn that song except the 144,000 who had been redeemed from the earth. **4** It is these who have not defiled themselves with women, for they are virgins. It is these who follow the Lamb wherever he goes. These have been redeemed from mankind as first fruits for God and the Lamb, **5** and in their mouth no lie was found, for they are blameless. **6** Then I saw another angel flying directly overhead, with an eternal gospel to proclaim to those who dwell on earth, to every nation and tribe and language and people. **7** And he said with a loud voice, "Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come, and worship him who made heaven and earth, the sea and the springs of water." **8** Another angel, a second, followed, saying, "Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great, she who made all nations drink the wine of the passion of her sexual immorality." **9** And another angel, a third, followed them, saying with a loud voice, "If anyone worships the beast and its image and receives a mark on his forehead or on his hand, **10** he also will drink the wine of God's wrath, poured full strength into the cup of his anger, and he will be tormented with fire and sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. **11** And the smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever, and they have no rest, day or night, these worshipers of the beast and its image, and whoever receives the mark of its name." **12** Here is a call for the endurance of the saints, those who keep the commandments of God and their faith in Jesus. **13** And I heard a voice from heaven saying, "Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on." "Blessed indeed," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them!" **14** Then I looked, and behold, a white cloud, and seated on the cloud one like a son of man, with a golden crown on his head, and a sharp sickle in his hand. **15** And another angel came out of the temple, calling with a loud voice to him who sat on the cloud, "Put in your sickle, and reap, for the hour to reap has come, for the harvest of the earth is fully ripe." **16** So he who sat on the cloud swung his sickle across the earth, and the earth was reaped. **17** Then another angel came out of the temple in heaven, and he too had a sharp sickle. **18** And another angel came out from the altar, the angel who has authority over the fire, and he called with a loud voice to the one who had the sharp sickle, "Put in your sickle and gather the clusters from the vine of the earth, for its grapes are ripe." **19** So the angel swung his sickle across the earth and gathered the grape harvest of the earth and threw it into the great wine press of the wrath of God. **20** And the wine press was trodden outside the city, and blood flowed from the wine press, as high as a horse's bridle, for 1,600 stadia.

11. Revelation 20 defines the first and second resurrection when certain dead will be brought back to life and also those who did not receive the mark of the beast. This is consistent with a timeline of events since the trumpets have all been blown and Jesus has just made His appearance at the end of Revelation 19. Is this the rapture? It sure seems like it by just reading Scripture and not trying to inject any outside theories into it.
  - Revelation 20

**1** Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding in his hand the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain. **2** And he seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years, **3** and threw him into the pit, and shut it and sealed it over him, so that he might not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were ended. After that he must be released for a little while. **4** Then I saw thrones, and seated on them were those to whom the authority to judge was committed. Also I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for the testimony of Jesus and for the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. **5** The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended. This is the first resurrection. **6** Blessed and holy is the one who shares in the first resurrection! Over such the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ, and they will reign with him for a thousand years.
  - **My Conclusions:** after a total of 4-5 hours of research and superficial reading of Scripture I've come to the conclusion that the 'pre-trib secret rapture' is not supported by the Bible. Actually it sounds like that by the time the rapture actually happens there will be very few living believers left to actually get raptured. That means that most believers don't make it all the way to the end. It's not hard to imagine what happened to them. There are multiple passages speaking of all the believers that get beheaded and killed for the name of Christ. It stands to reason that we as believers will be killed for our beliefs, not mysteriously raptured.
  - I am most interested in your comments. Please supply any Scriptural support for your thoughts. I do want to hear back from you about what you think on this subject. Please don't quote some other author or commentary, I want to hear your thoughts and your Scriptural research, not someone else's.