

We May Never Die

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I. Introduction.

- A. We do not know when the Rapture will occur.
- B. However, we ought to know the series of events that accompany the Rapture.
- C. The Rapture will occur first, and the Tribulation and the Millennium will follow.

II. Views of the Millennium.

- A. Some believed that the world would get better until Christ returned, but this has been in decline. (Postmillennialism)
- B. Others believed that there will not be a kingdom—Christ would come and then eternity would begin. They have no real philosophy of history. (Amillennialism)
- C. Premillennialism teaches that believers will not bring a kingdom—things will get worse—however, Christ will bring His kingdom on this earth.

III. Views of the Rapture.

- A. The partial-Rapture view teaches that some Christians will be raptured and others will be left.
- B. The mid-Tribulation view teaches that Christians will be raptured during the middle of the tribulation.
- C. The Post-Tribulation view teaches that Christians will be raptured after the Tribulation.
- D. Pre-Tribulationism teaches that Christ will rapture the church before the Tribulation.
 - 1. The Rapture will be imminent—the church expected it at any moment. (I Thessalonians 4, II Thessalonians 3, James 5:7)
 - 2. The church has a promise to be delivered from wrath, which refers to the Tribulation. (I Thessalonians 5:9, Revelation 6, 14:19, 16:1, 16:19)
 - 3. The church will be delivered from the “hour” of the Tribulation. (Revelation 3:10)
 - 4. The human bodies during the Millennium necessitate a Pre-Tribulation Rapture. There has to be a space of time for the transformation of the bodies for those who dwell in the Millennium, and Post-Tribulationism does not allow for this. (Zechariah 8, Genesis 19:22)

Application questions:

1. What about modern events seem to validate Premillennialism?

2. What are the arguments for a Pre-Tribulation Rapture?

3. Why is it important to understand the order of events in the end time? Explain.
