

2Ti 2:16-18

4-26-20

1. This morning we will continue the study of Second Timothy where Paul from prison writes to Timothy in Ephesus. When the clock tolled 11:30 on March the 29th, we had just completed an exegesis of 2Ti 2:14-15. We are now ready to analyze 2Ti 2:16-18.
2. For an audio presentation of this lesson go to *westbankbiblechurch.com* and *click-on streaming audio of services*.
3. Before we continue, I want to give you opportunity to use 1Jo 1:9 as may or may not be necessary.
4. I want to review some of that learned and then we will begin new material.
5. Paul was well aware that many in Asia had turned away from him. This sad desertion of friends and congregates was well known. Instead of being dispirited Paul is urging Timothy to be stimulated, refreshed and renewed by God's grace.
6. Now let's see what we can learn from 2Ti 2:16-18.

NIV

2Ti 2:16 Avoid godless chatter, because those who indulge in it will become more and more ungodly.

2Ti 2:17 Their teaching will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus,

2Ti 2:18 who have wandered away from the truth. They say that the resurrection has already taken place, and they destroy the faith of some.

1. The apostle speaks of Hymenaeus and Philetus as instances of men who were doing most serious injury to the church by their teaching, and how it affected adversely the churches early faith and morals.

1.1 The specific error of these men was that they denied that there would be any bodily resurrection. They treated all Scriptural references to such a state, as figurative or metaphorical.

1.2 They spiritualized Scripture and held that the resurrection was a thing of the past. These two men taught there would be no day when the dead would hear the voice of Christ and come forth out of the grave.

1.3 The Christian, knowing that Christ was raised from the dead, should look forward to the day when his body would be raised in the likeness of Christ's resurrection. But this faith was utterly denied by the teaching of Hymeneus and Philetus.

1.4 Paul tells us, this false teaching had overthrown the faith of some. It would also overthrow Christian faith altogether, for if the dead are not raised, neither is Christ risen from the dead, and "ye are yet in your sins."

1.5 The denial of the resurrection of the body, whether of mankind generally or of Christ, is the overthrow of the faith. It leaves nothing to cling to, no living Christ, who saves and leads and comforts His people.

1.6 The apostle proceeds to say that teaching of this kind "eats as doth a gangrene," and that it increases unto more ungodliness. As a cancer eats away the flesh, so does such teaching eat away Christian faith.

1.7 Paul is careful to say, more than once, that the teaching which denies that there will be a resurrection of the dead leads inevitably to "ungodliness" and to "iniquity."

1.8 Hymenaeus and Philetus may have believed in a nascent form of the Christian heresy now called Gnosticism.

2. I think the best way to study 2Ti 2:16-18 is to review the *Doctrine of Pre-Tribulation*.

The Doctrine of Pre-Tribulation

Introduction

1. The church of Philadelphia described in Rev 3:7-10 represents the universal church at the time of the Rapture.

NIV

Rev 3:7 "To the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: These are the words of him who is holy and true, who holds the key of David. What he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open.

Rev 3:8 I know your deeds. See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut. I know that you have little strength, yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name.

Rev 3:9 I will make those who are of the synagogue of Satan, who claim to be Jews though they are not, but are liars -- I will make them come and fall down at your feet and acknowledge that I have loved you.

Rev 3:10 Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come upon the whole world to test those who live on the earth.

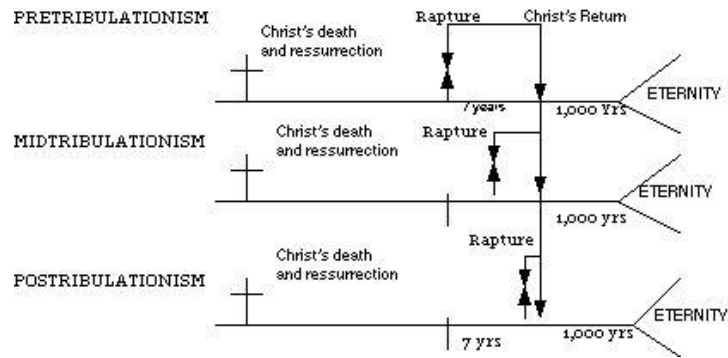
1.1 Let me provide an expanded translation of Rev 3:10.

Rev 3:10 Because you have kept my word of patience, I also will keep you from the hour of temptation--the Tribulation, which will come upon the world, it will try those left upon the earth.



2. Unlike the previous five churches preceding Philadelphia, Philadelphia represents the church that exists "punctiliously" at the time of the Rapture.

3. There are four major theories of the Rapture among Christians. Pre, Post, Mid and Partial. A chart will best explain the three theories.



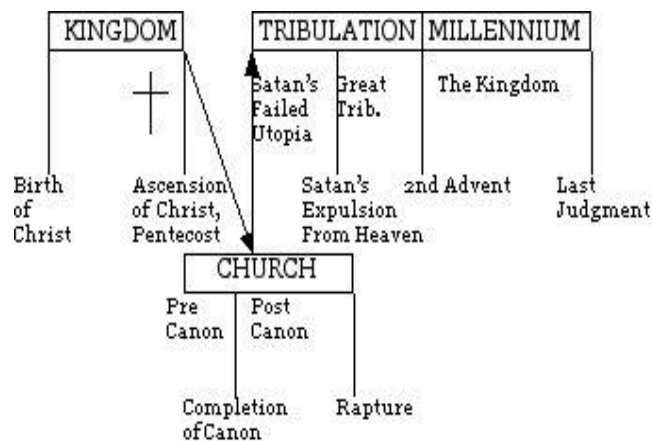
4. There is also the "Amillennialist" who allegorizes eschatological Scripture.

Reasons Why We Are Pre-Trib

1. Firstly, because of our belief that the Scripture is literal in meaning, without error and absolute.
2. We reject the false concept that the Church has replaced Israel.
3. We review Scripture from a dispensational perspective.
4. We recognize that in the Church Age God has no special ethnos ... rather God sees all believers as One in Christ. Gal 3:28 and Rom 10:12

Gal 3:28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.

Rom 10:12 For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him.



5. We also recognize God has not cast away His people Israel and in fact will reclaim a changed Israel after the Tribulation when He will establish perfect environment in the Millennium.

Rom 11:1 I say then, Hath God cast away his people? God forbid ...

Rom 11:2 God hath not cast away his people which he foreknew ...

Rom 11:26 And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob:

6. There are numerous literal promises to Israel which have not been fulfilled; particularly those related to the **Abrahamic, Palestinian, Davidic** and **New Covenants**.

7. The Second Advent is described as a different event than the Rapture.

8. The period following the Second Advent is a time of perfect environment as opposed to the events following the Rapture where we find a time of tribulation; this certainly indicates two events.

8.1 At the Rapture we meet the Lord in the air. 1Th 4:13-17

1Th 4:13 But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.

1Th 4:14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.

1Th 4:15 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.

1Th 4:16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

1Th 4:17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

8.2 At the Second Advent Jesus will return to earth at the very same place He left as opposed to meeting His saints in the air. Zec 14:3-7 compared with Acts 1:11.

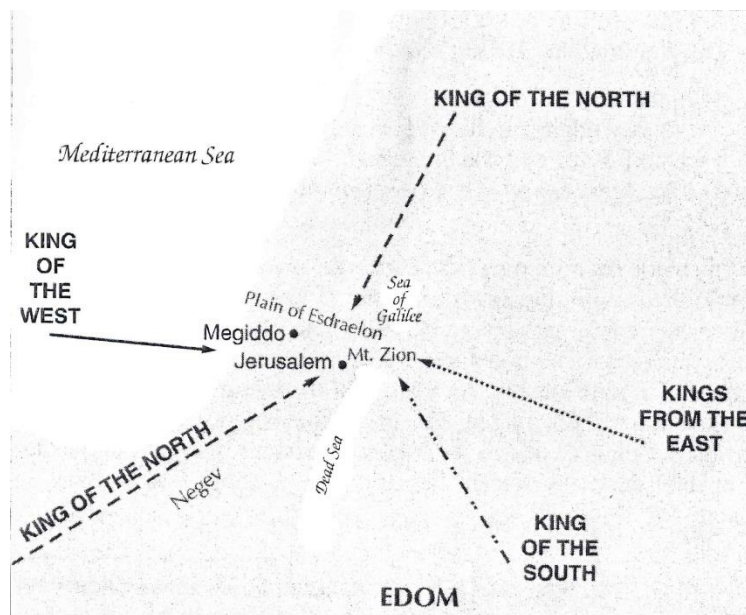
Zec 14:3 Then shall the LORD go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle.

Zec 14:4 And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south.

Zec 14:5 And ye shall flee to the valley of the mountains; for the valley of the mountains shall reach unto Azal: yea, ye shall flee, like as ye fled from before the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah: and the LORD my God shall come, and all the saints with thee.

Zec 14:6 And it shall come to pass in that day, that the light shall not be clear, nor dark:

Zec 14:7 But it shall be one day which shall be known to the LORD, not day, nor night: but it shall come to pass, that at evening time it shall be light.



Acts 1:11 Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.

8.3 The Scripture makes clear that the First Advent, Rapture and Second Advent are different not only as to role and event, but also as to timing.

9. The book of the Revelation makes a significant distinction of these events as to timing.

10. Paul's letter to the church at Thessalonica concerning the timing of the events establishes the Pre-Trib view. 2Th 2:1-10

2Th 2:1 Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him,

2Th 2:2 That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the *day of the Lord* is at hand.

2Th 2:3 Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away (*Apostasia*) first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;

2Th 2:4 Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.

2Th 2:5 Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things?

2Th 2:6 And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time.

2Th 2:7 For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way.

2Th 2:8 And then shall that Wicked One be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:

2Th 2:9 Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,

2Th 2:10 And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

11. The fact that the rapture has always been imminent even at the time of Peter and Paul's writing, and the fact that the timing is known only to God is another reason for our being Pre-Trib. The eschatological timing was also not known even to the humanity of Jesus. Let's again review our documentation of the immanency of the Rapture.

1Th 4:16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

1Th 4:17 **Then we which are alive and remain** shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

1Th 4:18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

1Pe 4:7 **But the end of all things is at hand:** be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer.

Jam 5:7 Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain.

Jam 5:8 Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: **for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh.**

1Jo 2:18 Dear children, this is the last hour; and as you have heard that the antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come. **This is how we know it is the last hour.**

1Jo 2:19 They went out from us, but they did not really belong to us. For if they had belonged to us, they would have remained with us; but their going showed that none of them belonged to us.

Heb 10:36 For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise.

Heb 10:37 **For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry.**

Joh 14:2 In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

Joh 14:3 And if **I go and prepare a place for you**, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; **that where I am, there ye may be also.**

11.1 The Day and Hour Unknown

Mat 24:36 But of that day and hour **knoweth no man, no**, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only.

12. An outline of the Book of Revelation compared with Rev 3:22 where the Church is seen for the last time on planet earth gives support to the Pre-Trib position.

Chapters 1-3 deal with the Church Age.

Chapter 4-5 deal with a scene in heaven.

Chapters 6-11 is a telling of events in the Tribulation and at least in part the Millennium with emphasis on the events themselves.

Chapters 12-20 is a telling of the events of the Tribulation and again, at least in part the Millennium with emphasis on the characters involved in the story.

Chapters 21 and 22 deal mainly with the New Jerusalem, its topographical changes occurring during the Millennium, and the new heaven and the new earth which follow the destruction of our present heaven and earth.

12.1 It is important to note that the Church is never mentioned on earth after the last verse of chapter 3 which is verse 22.

13. Revelation 2:1-3:19 list seven churches, which existed at the time of the writing in Asia Minor and give us another reason for being Pre-Trib (infra-map page three).

13.1 Of the seven churches Pentecost in his book *Things To Come* writes:

"A threefold purpose in the writing of the seven letters may be suggested:

a. John is writing to seven local congregations in order to meet the needs of these individual assemblies ...

b. These letters would reveal the various kinds of individuals and assemblies throughout the age ...

c. There is a prophetic revelation as to the course of the age in the letters ...

13.2 In the order in which they were given, they foreshadowed the successive predominant phases through which the nominal Church was to pass from the time when John saw the vision until the Lord came ...

“The seven churches, which were only seven of many which John could have chosen to address, seem to have been specifically chosen because of the significance of their names ... The names themselves suggest the succession of the development of the periods within the age.”

Footnote: Go to the internet at Westbankbiblechurch.com, Home Page, Study of Revelation for a chart designating the meaning of the seven churches by name, time period in which the universal churches will pass, and remarks concerning each and a description of the events transpiring in the various periods of time.

13.3 Given our hindsight I think there can be little doubt they are symbolic of seven distinct time periods.

13.4 The Tribulation in Scripture, is called the time of Jacob's trouble and the Philadelphia Church is "taken out" from this time when Israel is tried and proven, i.e., the Church is taken out from the time of Jacob's trouble at the Rapture.

Jer 30:7 Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob's trouble, but he shall be saved out of it.

Mal 4:5 Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD:

Mal 4:6 And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.

13.5 Again, the time period for the universal church at the time of the Rapture is symbolized by the Church at Philadelphia.

Rev 3:10 Because you have kept the Word of My patience, I also will keep you out from the time of testing of planet earth, which time of testing is designed to prove them who dwell upon the earth."

14. The Tribulation was always said to be designed for Israel and never is it related in Scripture to the Church.

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