

The background of the book cover is a wood-grain pattern with swirling, concentric lines in shades of red, orange, and yellow. The pattern is dense and textured, resembling natural wood grain.

SNATCHED

BEFORE THE STORM!

A Case for Pretribulationism

Richard L. Mayhue

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Executive Vice President of
The Master's College and Seminary

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INTRODUCTION

Someone has said, "The best defense is the strongest offense." Wise is the pretribulationist who understands and incorporates this kind of strategy into his doctrinal explanation of pre-tribulationism. For this reason, many of the frequently used arguments for pretribulationism have been deleted. These reasons are either erroneous or so weak that they prove ineffective.

Interaction with other positions in this discussion is minimal. Our purpose is not to defensively neutralize another possibility and then erroneously conclude that pretribulationism must be right. Perhaps both are wrong? But, I think not!

THE HISTORICAL ARGUMENTS

Early Church History

Was pretribulationism predominantly taught by the early church? If it was not, would this historical fact tarnish the luster of pretribulationism?

The closest patristic passage which possibly teaches pretribulationism is found in the Fourth Vision of the *The Shepherd of Hermas*.¹ A careful and frequent reading of the passage by the unbiased student will lead to an inconclusive end.

Imminency

Much has been written about imminency in support of pretribulationism.² The question remains, however, "Does the Bible teach imminency and thus pretribulationism as a logical result?" Or "Is imminency a logical corollary to pretribulationism, if in fact pretribulationism can be demonstrated to be biblical?"

In this writer's judgment, there is no New Testament passage in which the *imminent* return of our Lord is clearly, demand-

This booklet is ideal for the pastor teaching a class or preparing a sermon on the rapture of the church. It will also prove helpful for anyone seeking a concise, yet clear, explanation of pretribulationism.

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