

## SUMMARY OF WHAT POST TRIBULATIONISTS DO TO TWIST THE SCRIPTURES

By Brother Mike Sutherland

Within the realms of professing Christianity among those who believe in a premillennial return of the LORD Jesus Christ there are five major rapture viewpoints as to when the rapture of the saints will take place. Those view points include: pre-tribulation, post-tribulation, mid-tribulation, pre-wrath, and partial rapture. There is also some blending of those viewpoints among some teachers and preachers. I believe in a pre-tribulation rapture for all those saints saved before the start of the tribulation. I call that the main harvest rapture. A study of the book of Revelation reveals that that there are some saints taken out during the tribulation also. That is a gleanings rapture. To be very clear , the Bible teaches that all folks who are saved, are saints.

The focus of our discussion today will be upon the post-tribulation viewpoint.

1. Posttribulationists deny that the Holy Ghost is the restrainer of *2 Thessalonians 2:7*. We would note here that some Independent Baptists, including Pastor Peter Ruckman, did not, or do not believe that the Holy Ghost is the restrainer.
2. Posttribulationists deny the Bible's distinction between the church and Israel.
3. Posttribulationists deny the absolute difference between general tribulation and THE tribulation and the "Great Tribulation". We have written a twelve page study that proves that "The Great Tribulation" is different from any other tribulation recorded in the New Testament. The proper Biblical term for "the tribulation" is either "the time of Jacob's trouble" or "Daniel's Seventieth Week".
4. Posttribulationists confuse the doctrine of the "First Resurrection". Most Posttribulationists advocate a simultaneous general resurrection of all the dead whether saved or lost.
5. Posttribulationists equate the gathering of the elect in *Matthew 24* and *Mark 13* with the Rapture when there is no resurrection of the just dead or a translation of living believers. Furthermore, the gathering of *Matthew 24* and *Mark 13* is done by the angels at the commandment of the Lord Jesus Christ. The catching up of the saints in *1 Thessalonians 4:13-18* is accomplished by the Lord Jesus Christ Himself and is proclaimed by the voice of the archangel Michael and the trump of God. There is a resurrection of dead saints and a translation of living saints in *1 Thessalonians 4:13-18* and in *1 Corinthians 15:52-58*.
6. Posttribulationists confuse the Rapture with the Revelation Of Jesus Christ. The Rapture is the Lord Jesus Christ coming for His saints in the air. The Revelation is the Lord Jesus Christ coming with His saints to the earth.
7. Many Posttribulationists in 2014 are pushing a strange brew of a "Pre Wrath/Post Tribulation Rapture" that appears to be a confused combination of two major schools of thought on the timing of the Rapture. These major views are the "Pre Wrath" and "Post Tribulation" Rapture THEORIES. The five major theological Rapture theories are the Pretribulation Rapture, the Midtribulation Rapture, the Posttribulation Rapture, the Prewrath Rapture, and the Partial Rapture. The Midtribulation Rapture is said to take place at *Revelation 11:11-12* when the two witnesses are resurrected and told to come up hither. The Prewrath Rapture

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is an invention of Marvin Rosenthal that has the church on the earth for the first 63 months of the Tribulation which under their system of interpretation includes all six seals. The Partial Rapture theory teaches that only those who are worthy will be taken up in the Rapture. It makes the Rapture a reward based upon man's works rather than upon the sure promises of God. The Partial Rapture theory finds some of its basis in *Luke 21:36* which states:

<sup>36</sup> Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man. *Luke 21:36*

The problem with using *Luke 21:36* is that it is not a Rapture passage. *Luke 21* is about the Jews in Tribulation. It has nothing to do with the church.

8. While experiencing great difficulty dealing with *1 Thessalonians 5:1-11*, many Posttribulationists have to chop up the book of Revelation to deal with the fact that God has stated that the church is not appointed to wrath. Since they hold to a Post Tribulation Rapture, this also forces them to separate the wrath of God from the tribulation. This chopping up of the book of Revelation leads those who push a Posttribulation Rapture to become spiritual contortionists when they wrest the Scriptures to the destruction of their own doctrine.
9. Posttribulationists put the church in the tribulation.
10. Posttribulationists put the church into *Matthew 24*, *Mark 13*, *Luke 17*, and *Luke 21*. The whole prophecy given in *Matthew 24*, *Mark 13*, *Luke 17*, and *Luke 21* is directed specifically to the Jew. The subject matter is Jewish in context and Jewish in nature. The warnings in these chapters are directed to the Jews and not to the church. It is very doubtful there were any Gentiles in the audience when the Lord Jesus Christ gave the address in *Luke 21* since that address was given inside the Temple where no Gentiles were allowed. The address given in *Matthew 24* and *Mark 13* was given outside the Temple on the Mount of Olives which was a Jewish gathering place. The content of these chapters would have meant nothing to a Gentile.
11. Posttribulationists deny that both Israel and the Jew are the elect. In connection with the false doctrine of Post Tribulationism, we completed a 16 page study of the use of the word "elect" in the Old Testament and the New Testament that completely refutes the anti Semitic false doctrine that both Israel and the Jew are not of the elect. When conducting this study, you must include the words elect, elected, election, and chosen to get the full picture of what the Scriptures have to say about the doctrine of election.
12. Posttribulationists deny that both Old Testament believers and New Testament believers are saints.
13. Posttribulationists twist *Revelation 6* to have their rapture to take place right before the sixth seal is opened.
14. Posttribulationists twist *Revelation 6* to have the wrath of the Lamb to start with the opening of the sixth seal in *Revelation 6:12* when *Revelation 6:1-11* taken with *Revelation 6:17*

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- clearly indicates that the wrath of the Lamb starts in *Revelation 6:1* because it is the Lamb opening each and EVERY seal.
15. Posttribulationists twist *Revelation 6* to separate the wrath of God from THE Tribulation.
  16. Posttribulationists deny the doctrine of imminency. Again, the doctrine of imminency states that the Lord Jesus Christ could return at any moment.
  17. Most Posttribulationists are open advocates of “Replacement Theology” which states that the church has replaced Israel in God’s plan.
  18. Many Posttribulationists who hold to the doctrine of Post Tribulation openly attack the Jew and Israel in a manner that puts them in tragically dangerous and open conflict with *Matthew 25:31-46* and *Genesis 12:3*.
  19. Many Posttribulationists tie the origins of Pre Tribulation doctrine to Margaret McDonald as if her wild statements formed the basis for the doctrine of the pretribulation rapture that is taught in the Scriptures. Margaret McDonald was a fifteen year old girl who experienced many WILD visions. A careful study of what she actually said proves that she was a posttribulationist who also believed in a posttribulation partial Rapture.
  20. Post Tribulation doctrine motivates and easily manipulates babes in Christ to look for the Antichrist instead of looking for the Lord Jesus Christ.
  21. The Posttribulationists deny, and must deny, the everlasting and unconditional nature of the Abrahamic Covenants. The Abrahamic Covenant is a covenant that God made with Abraham. The Abrahamic Covenant is said to be a fourfold covenant in that it involves a seed, a land, a throne, and the heart. Most of the time these covenants are treated as separate covenants apart from the Abrahamic Covenant. The Seed Covenant involves both an earthly and a spiritual seed. The Land Covenant involves the Promised Land, or Canaan Land. The Throne Covenant involves the throne of David and is generally referred to as the Davidic Covenant. The Heart Covenant is generally called the New Covenant. The Abrahamic Covenant had its roots in *Genesis 12:2-3*. It was expanded upon in *Genesis 13:14-17*. It was signed in blood when Abraham was put to sleep by God in *Genesis 15:5-21*. It was confirmed again to Abraham in *Genesis 17:2-8* when God changed his name from Abram to Abraham. The covenant promise was again given to Abraham at the offering of Isaac in *Genesis 22:15-18*.
  22. Posttribulationists openly deny the clear teaching of Romans chapters 9-11 dealing with the TEMPORARY nature of the blinding of Israel.
  23. Posttribulationists openly deny the Jewish nature and Jewish application of *Daniel 9:24-27*. In *Daniel 12:1*, it is clearly stated that Daniel’s prophecy and visions concerned Daniel’s people, the Jews. This verse says:

<sup>1</sup> And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book. *Daniel 12:1*

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24. Posttribulationists must deny the prophetic significance of the miraculous restoration of the nation of Israel to the Promised Land in 1948 in fulfillment of *Ezekiel 37:1-28*.
25. Much of Bible prophecy concerning the nation of Israel cannot be fulfilled without Israel being restored to the Promised Land. Can it be that God will not do that which He has stated over and over again in His Word? God forbid: yea, let God be true, but every man a liar; as it is written. Is God confused? Absolutely NOT!
26. Post Tribulation doctrine puts God in the position of having to practically deny all of the mass of prophecies He has given concerning the restoration of Israel. It begs the question: was God lying or insincere when he stated that he would restore Israel, or has the God that changes not changed his mind? Or, maybe God did not know that Israel and the Jewish people would break the covenant and so he did not do any contingency planning for it. Once again, God forbid!
27. Posttribulationists rely heavily on the historical argument as support for their position in dealing with the Rapture rather than solely relying on the authority of the Scriptures. What the historical argument does is take a disputed or false doctrine and use the fact that it was held to by some in the history of the church as support for it being a scriptural doctrine. Not so! For example, there were Arians in the history of the church who held to the doctrine that the Lord Jesus Christ was not God or that He was a created being. Is Arianism a scriptural doctrine. Absolutely NOT! It is heresy.
28. The Posttribulationists get some support from many apostate pretribulation Independent Baptists when the Independent Baptists make the mistake of trying to correct the King James Bible in *2 Thessalonians 2:2* because the phrase “the Day of Christ” creates some difficult issues for the pretribulationists. The apostate Independent Baptists will try to substitute the phrase “the Day of the Lord” which occurs in every English Bible but the King James Bible. The problem is that, once again, the King James Bible is right and all the English perversions are wrong.
29. Many Posttribulationists also turn to their Greek god to make an argument for their cause based upon their “technical interpretation” of the Greek words “parousia” (coming), “apokalupsis” (revelation), and “epiphaneia” (appearing). Beware when they appeal to the Greek because they have turned to double-speak.
30. Most Posttribulationists also turn to the parables in *Matthew 13* in an attempt to use them to support a post tribulation rapture. The posttribulationists have erred again in that they have pulled the teaching of the Jews by the Lord Jesus Christ out its Jewish context and attempted to apply it to “the church” which has not even been mentioned to this point and will not be mentioned until *Matthew 16:18*. It is also obvious that the audience of the Lord Jesus Christ was Jewish. Therefore the Lord Jesus Christ was not applying this teaching to the church. Most Posttribulationists would erroneously tell you that the church was not even formed until Pentecost Day, but we do not agree with that. We also believe that the taking of the tares describes the same event in *Matthew 24:28* and *Luke 17:34-37*. The tares are equivalent to the carrion in these two passages. We will deal with this issue in greater depth in a detailed analysis of *Matthew 13*.

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31. Another error of the Posttribulationists is to take the phrase “the end” and try to apply it exclusively to The Revelation of Jesus Christ (Here again the biblical term “The Revelation of Jesus Christ is used instead of the theological term “the Second Coming).
32. Most Posttribulationists avoid an in depth exposition of the three main Rapture passages including *John 14:1-3*, *1 Corinthians 15:51-58*, and *1 Thessalonians 4:13-18*.
33. Many Posttribulationists take the passage in *John 14:1-3* to mean that Christ receiving the believer unto Himself is the death of the Christian to his sin nature and not the Rapture.
34. Many Posttribulationists will try to equate the Gog and Magog of *Revelation 20:7-10* with the Gog and Magog of Ezekiel 38 and 39. As we will see, there are too many conflicting details for that to be true. One is a premillennial event and the other is a postmillennial event. A close examination of the details describing the events of Gog and Magog in Ezekiel 38 and 39 and *Revelation 20:7-10* will show a stark contrast. Note our comments concerning this issue:

Posttribulationists use *Revelation 20:7-10* in a vain attempt to “prove?!?” that Gog and Magog of Ezekiel 38 and 39 do not take place until after the Millennium. The Gog and Magog wars of *Revelation chapter 20:7-10* and Ezekiel 38 and 39 are two entirely different wars. Let us look at the facts:

- (A) The leader of the Gog and Magog revolt in Revelation 20 is Satan (*Revelation 20:7-10*). The leader of the Gog and Magog battle in Ezekiel 38 and 39 is Gog (*Ezekiel 38:2*)**

<sup>7</sup>And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, <sup>8</sup>And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea. <sup>9</sup>And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them. <sup>10</sup>And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever. *Revelation 20:7-10*

<sup>2</sup> Son of man, set thy face against Gog, the land of Magog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal, and prophesy against him, *Ezekiel 38:2*

- (B) In *Revelation 20:8*, the attack comes from Satan’s armies that are gathered from the four quarters of the earth (*Revelation 20:8*). In Ezekiel 38 and 39 the attack comes from Gog’s armies that come from the north (*Ezekiel 38:15*).**

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<sup>8</sup> And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea. *Revelation 20:8*

<sup>15</sup> And thou shalt come from thy place out of the north parts, thou, and many people with thee, all of them riding upon horses, a great company, and a mighty army: *Ezekiel 38:15*

We believe that this army out of the north parts is the very one that God forces to withdraw from Israel in *Joel 2:18-20* which reads:

<sup>18</sup> Then will the LORD be jealous for his land, and pity his people. <sup>19</sup> Yea, the LORD will answer and say unto his people, Behold, I will send you corn, and wine, and oil, and ye shall be satisfied therewith: and I will no more make you a reproach among the heathen: <sup>20</sup> But I will remove far off from you the northern army, and will drive him into a land barren and desolate, with his face toward the east sea, and his hinder part toward the utmost sea, and his stink shall come up, and his ill savour shall come up, because he hath done great things. *Joel 2:18-20*

The context of Joel chapter 2 is the Great Tribulation and it describes events leading to the battle of Armageddon. *Joel 3:13* also ties the book of Joel to *Revelation 14:14-20* where the blood of the dead is said to rise up to the horses bridles.

**(C) In *Revelation 20:8* no nations are specifically identified. In *Ezekiel 38* and *39* the nations including Persia, Ethiopia, Libya, Gomer and Togarmah are identified as the source of the attack (*Ezekiel 38:5-6*)**

<sup>8</sup> And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea. *Revelation 20:8*

<sup>5</sup> Persia, Ethiopia, and Libya with them; all of them with shield and helmet: <sup>6</sup> Gomer, and all his bands; the house of Togarmah of the north quarters, and all his bands: and many people with thee. *Ezekiel 38:5-6*

**(D) In *Revelation 20:9* the armies are killed by fire from God. In *Ezekiel 38* and *39*, the armies are killed by the sword (*Ezekiel 38:2-4, 21*).**

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<sup>9</sup> And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them. *Revelation 20:9*

<sup>2</sup> Son of man, set thy face against Gog, the land of Magog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal, and prophesy against him, <sup>3</sup> And say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I am against thee, O Gog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal: <sup>4</sup> And I will turn thee back, and put hooks into thy jaws, and I will bring thee forth, and all thine army, horses and horsemen, all of them clothed with all sorts of armour, even a great company with bucklers and shields, all of them handling swords: *Ezekiel 38:2-4*

- (E) In Revelation 20:9 the armies come against Jerusalem, the beloved city. In Ezekiel 38:8 and Ezekiel 39:2-4, the armies come against the mountains of Israel.**

<sup>9</sup> And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them. *Revelation 20:9*

<sup>2</sup> And I will turn thee back, and leave but the sixth part of thee, and will cause thee to come up from the north parts, and will bring thee upon the mountains of Israel: <sup>3</sup> And I will smite thy bow out of thy left hand, and will cause thine arrows to fall out of thy right hand. <sup>4</sup> Thou shalt fall upon the mountains of Israel, thou, and all thy bands, and the people that is with thee: I will give thee unto the ravenous birds of every sort, and to the beasts of the field to be devoured. *Ezekiel 39:2-4*

- (F) In Revelation 20:9 all the armies are devoured. In Ezekiel 39:2 one-sixth of the army is left.**

See Scripture Above.

- (G) In Revelation 20:9 the bodies are devoured with fire. In Ezekiel 39:11-16 the people of the land spend seven months BURYING the bodies.**

<sup>9</sup> And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them. *Revelation 20:9*

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<sup>11</sup> And it shall come to pass in that day, that I will give unto Gog a place there of graves in Israel, the valley of the passengers on the east of the sea: and it shall stop the noses of the passengers: and there shall they bury Gog and all his multitude: and they shall call it The valley of Hamongog. <sup>12</sup> And seven months shall the house of Israel be burying of them, that they may cleanse the land. <sup>13</sup> Yea, all the people of the land shall bury them; and it shall be to them a renown the day that I shall be glorified, saith the Lord GOD. <sup>14</sup> And they shall sever out men of continual employment, passing through the land to bury with the passengers those that remain upon the face of the earth, to cleanse it: after the end of seven months shall they search. <sup>15</sup> And the passengers that pass through the land, when any seeth a man's bone, then shall he set up a sign by it, till the buriers have buried it in the valley of Hamongog. <sup>16</sup> And also the name of the city shall be Hamonah. Thus shall they cleanse the land. *Ezekiel 39:11-16*

**(H) In Revelation 20:7-10 there is no feast for the fowls of the air. In Ezekiel 39:4, 17-20 the fowls of the air are called to feast upon the dead flesh.**

<sup>4</sup> Thou shalt fall upon the mountains of Israel, thou, and all thy bands, and the people that is with thee: I will give thee unto the ravenous birds of every sort, and to the beasts of the field to be devoured. *Ezekiel 39:4*

<sup>17</sup> And, thou son of man, thus saith the Lord GOD; Speak unto every feathered fowl, and to every beast of the field, Assemble yourselves, and come; gather yourselves on every side to my sacrifice that I do sacrifice for you, even a great sacrifice upon the mountains of Israel, that ye may eat flesh, and drink blood. <sup>18</sup> Ye shall eat the flesh of the mighty, and drink the blood of the princes of the earth, of rams, of lambs, and of goats, of bullocks, all of them fatlings of Bashan. <sup>19</sup> And ye shall eat fat till ye be full, and drink blood till ye be drunken, of my sacrifice which I have sacrificed for you. <sup>20</sup> Thus ye shall be filled at my table with horses and chariots, with mighty men, and with all men of war, saith the Lord GOD. *Ezekiel 39:17-20*

The carrion feast is yet another link that ties Ezekiel 38 and 39 to the tribulation and not to the period following the millennium. This fowl feast is also referred to in *Matthew 24:28, Luke 17:37, and Revelation 19:17-21* which state:

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<sup>28</sup> For wheresoever the carcase is, there will the eagles be gathered together. *Matthew 24:28*

<sup>37</sup> And they answered and said unto him, Where, Lord? And he said unto them, Wheresoever the body is, thither will the eagles be gathered together. *Luke 17:37*

<sup>17</sup> And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God; <sup>18</sup> That ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses, and of them that sit on them, and the flesh of all men, both free and bond, both small and great. <sup>19</sup> And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army. <sup>20</sup> And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone. <sup>21</sup> And the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceeded out of his mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh. *Revelation 19:17-21*

**(I) In *Revelation 20:7-10*, there are no earthquakes. In *Ezekiel 38:19-20*, there is a huge earthquake.**

<sup>7</sup> And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, <sup>8</sup> And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom *is* as the sand of the sea. <sup>9</sup> And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them. <sup>10</sup> And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet *are*, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever. *Revelation 20:7-10*

<sup>19</sup> For in my jealousy and in the fire of my wrath have I spoken, Surely in that day there shall be a great shaking in the land of Israel; <sup>20</sup> So that the fishes of the sea, and the fowls of the heaven, and the beasts

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of the field, and all creeping things that creep upon the earth, and all the men that are upon the face of the earth, shall shake at my presence, and the mountains shall be thrown down, and the steep places shall fall, and every wall shall fall to the ground. *Ezekiel 38:19-20*

*Zechariah 14:4, Matthew 24:7, Mark 13:8, Luke 21:11, Revelation 6:12, Revelation 8:5, Revelation 11:13, Revelation 11:19, and Revelation 16:18* all mention earthquakes that will be taking place during the tribulation

<sup>4</sup> 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. *Zechariah 14:4*

<sup>7</sup> For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. *Matthew 24:7*

<sup>8</sup> For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be earthquakes in divers places, and there shall be famines and troubles: these are the beginnings of sorrows. *Mark 13:8*

<sup>11</sup> And great earthquakes shall be in divers places, and famines, and pestilences; and fearful sights and great signs shall there be from heaven. *Luke 21:11*

<sup>12</sup> And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood; *Revelation 6:12*

<sup>5</sup> And the angel took the censer, and filled it with fire of the altar, and cast it into the earth: and there were voices, and thunderings, and lightnings, and an earthquake. *Revelation 8:5*

<sup>13</sup> And the same hour was there a great earthquake, and the tenth part of the city fell, and in the earthquake were slain of men seven thousand: and the remnant were affrighted, and gave glory to the God of heaven. *Revelation 11:13*

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<sup>19</sup> And the temple of God was opened in heaven, and there was seen in his temple the ark of his testament: and there were lightnings, and voices, and thunderings, and an earthquake, and great hail. *Revelation 11:19*

<sup>18</sup> And there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great. *Revelation 16:18*

**(J) In *Revelation 20:7-10*, there is no pestilence, no blood, no hailstones, and no brimstone. In *Ezekiel 38:22* there is pestilence, blood, hailstones, and brimstone.**

<sup>22</sup> And I will plead against him with pestilence and with blood; and I will rain upon him, and upon his bands, and upon the many people that are with him, an overflowing rain, and great hailstones, fire, and brimstone. *Ezekiel 38:22*

We have just proved that the Gog and Magog battles of Ezekiel 38-39 and Revelation 20 are not the same battles. For any post tribulationist to claim that these are identical wars, is one of the most blind and incredibly amazing exaggerations we have ever seen. While there is much disagreement among pretribulationists as to exactly when the war of Ezekiel 38 and 39 will take place — start of THE tribulation, middle of THE tribulation, or end of THE tribulation — they are all agreed that it takes place before the Millennium. We believe that they will take place either right before or during the Battle of Armageddon near the end of the tribulation.