

2 more important things to highlight regarding the 70th Week:

1. Citing the similarities of Noah & Lot, Jesus taught the Day of the LORD will begin on the very same day as, and just immediately after, the Rapture ([Luke 17:27, 29](#)).
2. **Armageddon** occurs at the end of the 70th Week, at the 7th Bowl judgment ([Rev 16:16-21](#) [[19:19-21](#)]).

History: The early Church correctly believed the following (“Pre-Wrath”) Biblical teachings:

- Pre-millennialism ([Rev 20](#)) – the 2nd Coming events listed below occur **before** the Millennium begins.
- The Great Tribulation would come **after** the “Beginning of Sorrows” ([Matt 24:9,21](#))
- “Cosmic Disturbance” would occur **after** the Great Tribulation, but **before** the Day of the LORD ([Matt 24:29-30](#); [Joel 2:31](#); [Acts 2:19-20](#))
- The Day of the LORD will come **after** a great Apostasy & the Man of Sin is revealed ([2 Thes 2:1-4](#))
- The Rapture would occur **after** cosmic Disturbance, but **before** the Day of the LORD ([Matt 24:29-31](#); [Rev 7:1,9-17](#) [*Day of the LORD = God’s Wrath*] – [Job 20](#) & [1 Thes 5:9](#))

Historical Background & Eschatological Evolution leading to the Pre-Tribulation Rapture View:

- **3rd C.** theologian **Origen** of Alexandria, introduced to the Church the allegorical interpretation of Biblical prophecy. The allegorical view sees almost all Biblical prophecy as figurative language, and not literal.
- By the **4th C.**, Biblical eschatological prophecies became difficult to interpret, viewed as “dark” & mysterious.
- **5th C.** theologian **Augustine** of Hippo (*greatly influenced by Origen*) introduced “Amillennialism,” the view that the 1,000-yr reign of Christ on the earth after the 70th Week is figurative, and not a literal 1,000 years.
- The **16th C. Reformers** properly prioritized correcting the doctrine of “justification by faith,” but not wanting to add controversy to their important task, left eschatology alone and did not address Amillennialism.
- Despite the theological evolution listed here, there remained some theologians and well-known authors that generally held to the “early Church” eschatological views described in the “History” paragraph above. Some of these were: *John & Charles Wesley, Charles Spurgeon, Matthew Henry, John Knox, John Hus, William Carey, John Calvin, Isaac Newton, George Whitfield, AB Simpson, George Meuller, John Newton, Jonathan Edwards, John Wycliffe, John Bunyan...*
- It wasn’t until the **19th C.** that eschatological prophecy began to again arouse the interest of theologians, and **Pre-Millennialism** was restored by much of the (*Protestant*) Evangelical Church. But what remained obscure was their understanding of the “70th Week,” which began to be referred to as a “7-yr Tribulation.”
- The **19th C.** influencers that led to what became the popular **Pre-tribulation Rapture** view, were:
 - **Margaret MacDonald** – a 15-yr old Scottish girl (*died at age 25*) who claimed to see visions of Christ’s return occurring in two comings. Many attribute MacDonald’s visions as the seed that led to the Pretribulation-Rapture view, while most **Cessationists*** disavow MacDonald’s contributing connection.
* **Cessationism** = Doctrine stating the Church’s manifestational gifts of the Spirit ceased after the 1st C.
 - **John Darby** (*Plymouth Brethren*) embraced & developed the 2-stage eschatology view of Jesus’ return.
 - The **Plymouth Brethren** imported this 2-stage eschatological view (*Rapture + 2nd Coming*) to the U.S. from Europe in the later 1800s, which became to be widely known as the Pretribulation-Rapture view.
 - The early 1900s **Scotfield Reference Bible** (*1917 ed.*) codified the doctrines of **Pretribulationism**,** **Imminence**,*** and **Dispensationalism****** throughout its commentary notes.
** **Pretribulationism** = Rapture occurs before the 70th Week, referred to as God’s 7-yr wrath Tribulation.
*** **Imminence** = Jesus returns at any moment as a “thief in the night” with no prophetic precursors.
**** **Dispensationalism** = The Church-Age is a “pause” from God’s dealing with Israel until post-rapture.
 - **Pretribulationism** became enormously popular in the **20th C.** expansion of U.S. churches & seminaries.
 - The **KJV - Scotfield Bibles** became viewed by some conservative church denominations (*esp. IFBC*) as the only legitimately “inspired” Bible version. Many viewed Scotfield’s commentary as equally infallible.

- **Pretribulation-Rapture** early authors & theologians were: *Arno Gaebelein, Harry Ironside, James Gray, Ruben Torrey, Louis Sperry Chafer...* More recent Pretribulation-Rapture authors, professors & theologians are: *Charles Feinberg, John Walvoord, Charles Ryrie, Dwight Pentecost, Robert Gundry, Renald Showers, Richard Mayhue, Arnold Fruchtenbaum, Craig Blaising, John Hart...*
- **Post-Tribulation Rapture** author: "*The Approaching Advent of Christ*," by Alexander Reese (1937)
- **Mid-Tribulation Rapture** proponents: *Norman B Harrison, J Oliver Buswell, Gleason Archer, Harold J Ockenga...*
- **Pre-Wrath Rapture** authors: *Robert Van Kampen, Marvin Rosenthal, Alan Kurschner...*

Recommended resources:

- **Recommended book:** "*The Pre-Wrath Rapture of the Church*," by Marvin Rosenthal (1990)
- **Recommended video study:** "*Seven Pretrib Problems and the Prewrath Rapture*," by Alan Kurschner (2020)