

# FAQ VOL II

A WORK IN PROGRESS

**J.K. McKee**

**MESSIANIC APOLOGETICS**

[messianicapologetics.net](http://messianicapologetics.net)

# Frequently Asked Questions

VOLUME II

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latest update 08 November, 2024

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A planned resource by Messianic Apologetics, a division of Outreach Israel Ministries

P.O. Box 516

McKinney, Texas 75070

(407) 933-2002

[outreachisrael.net](http://outreachisrael.net) / [outreachisrael.blog](http://outreachisrael.blog)

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***Frequently Asked Questions, Volume II is a multi-year work in progress. Please note how the text may be corrected, updated, or amended, before final publication. Page numbers are also likely to be altered.***

# Abbreviations and Special Terms

The following is a list of abbreviations for reference works and special terms which are used in publications by Outreach Israel Ministries and Messianic Apologetics. Please familiarize yourself with them as the text may reference a Bible version, i.e., RSV for the Revised Standard Version, or a source such as *TWOT* for the *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament*, solely by its abbreviation. Detailed listings of these sources are provided in the Bibliography.

- ABD: *Anchor Bible Dictionary*  
AMG: *Complete Word Study Dictionary: Old Testament, New Testament*  
ANE: Ancient Near East(ern)  
Apostolic Scriptures/Writings: the New Testament  
Ara: Aramaic  
ASV: American Standard Version (1901)  
ATS: ArtScroll Tanach (1996)  
b. Babylonian Talmud (*Talmud Bavli*)  
B.C.E.: Before Common Era or B.C.  
BDAG: *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature* (Bauer, Danker, Arndt, Gingrich)  
BDB: *Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew and English Lexicon*  
C.E.: Common Era or A.D.  
CGEDNT: *Concise Greek-English Dictionary of New Testament Words* (Barclay M. Newman)  
CGL: *Cambridge Greek Lexicon* (2021)  
CHALOT: *Concise Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament* (Holladay)  
CJB: Complete Jewish Bible (1998)  
CJSB: Complete Jewish Study Bible (2016)  
DRA: Douay-Rheims American Edition  
DSS: Dead Sea Scrolls  
EDB: *Eerdmans Dictionary of the Bible*  
EJ: *Encyclopaedia Judaica*  
ESV: English Standard Version (2001)  
Ger: German  
GNT: Greek New Testament  
Grk: Greek  
HALOT: *Hebrew & Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament* (Koehler and Baumgartner)  
HCSB: Holman Christian Standard Bible (2004)  
Heb: Hebrew  
HNV: Hebrew Names Version of the World English Bible  
IDB: *Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible*  
IDBSup: *Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible Supplement*  
ISBE: *International Standard Bible Encyclopedia*  
IVPBBC: *IVP Bible Background Commentary (Old & New Testament)*  
Jastrow: *Dictionary of the Targumim, Talmud Bavli, Talmud Yerushalmi, and Midrashic Literature* (Marcus Jastrow)  
JBK: New Jerusalem Bible-Koren (2000)  
JETS: *Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society*  
KJV: King James Version  
Lattimore: *The New Testament* by Richmond Lattimore (1996)  
LITV: *Literal Translation of the Holy Bible* by Jay P. Green (1986)  
LES: *Lexham English Septuagint* (2019)  
LS: *An Intermediate Greek-English Lexicon* (Liddell-Scott)  
LSJM: *Greek-English Lexicon* (Liddell-Scott-Jones-McKenzie)  
LXE: *Septuagint with Apocrypha* by Sir L.C.L. Brenton (1851)  
LXX: Septuagint  
m. Mishnah  
MT: Masoretic Text  
NASB: New American Standard Bible (1977)  
NASU: New American Standard Update (1995)  
NBCR: *New Bible Commentary: Revised*  
NEB: New English Bible (1970)  
Nelson: *Nelson's Expository Dictionary of Old Testament Words*  
NETS: New English Translation of the Septuagint (2007)  
NIB: *New Interpreter's Bible*  
NIDB: *New International Dictionary of the Bible*  
NIV: New International Version (1984)  
NJB: New Jerusalem Bible-Catholic (1985)  
NJPS: Tanakh, A New Translation of the Holy Scriptures (1999)  
NKJV: New King James Version (1982)  
NRSV: New Revised Standard Version (1989)  
NLT: New Living Translation (1996)  
NT: New Testament

OT: Old Testament

REB: Revised English Bible (1989)

RSV: Revised Standard Version (1952)

t. Tosefta

Tanach (Tanakh): the Old Testament

Thayer: *Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament*

TDNT: *Theological Dictionary of the New Testament*

TLV: Messianic Jewish Family Bible—Tree of Life Version (2014)

TNIV: Today's New International Version (2005)

TWOT: *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament*

UBSHNT: United Bible Societies' 1991 Hebrew New Testament revised edition

v(s). verse(s)

Vine: *Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words*

Vul: Latin Vulgate

YLT: Young's Literal Translation (1862/1898)

WMB: World Messianic Bible (2020)

# Pre-Wrath Rapture

**Can you help me to understand some of the differences between the pre-wrath rapture, and a post-tribulation rapture?**

The doctrine of the pre-wrath rapture, can be widely accredited to the 1990 book by Marvin Rosenthal, appropriately titled *The Pre-Wrath Rapture of the Church*.<sup>1</sup> It offered a major alternative to the popular, imminent pre-tribulation rapture, but also tried to seriously take into account the thrust of 1 Thessalonians 5:9:

“For God has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Thessalonians 5:9, NASU).

The pre-wrath rapture largely advocates that at the point of Revelation 6:17, “for the great day of their wrath has come, and who is able to stand?” (NASU), Believers will be spared from the Tribulation judgments, which they classify as “wrath,” mainly the trumpet and vial/bowl judgments of Revelation chs. 7-16. In some ways, the pre-wrath rapture is a modified version of the mid-tribulation rapture, as it tends to place the gathering of the saints about two-thirds through the Tribulation period. The effects of the pre-wrath rapture, on contemporary eschatology, are very real—to the point that the second edition of Zondervan’s *Three Views on the Rapture* offers the pre-wrath rapture as an option, but no longer the mid-tribulation rapture.<sup>2</sup>

Post-tribulationists have generally looked at pre-wrath rapture advocates as allies against pre-tribulationism. The pre-wrath view, as originally espoused by Rosenthal, to be sure, was often rooted within many dispensational presuppositions. But, like post-tribulationism, it directly takes on the widespread, popular view, that Believers are to be removed from Planet Earth, before the start of the Seventieth Week of Daniel. This means, that unlike pre-tribulationism’s major selling point, one of an escape from all of the difficulties of the Tribulation—a pre-wrath rapture would require Believers to remain on

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<sup>1</sup> Marvin Rosenthal, *The Pre-Wrath Rapture of the Church* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1990).

Other resources released subsequent to Rosenthal, include: Robert Van Kampen, *The Sign* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 1999); H.L. Nigro, *Before God’s Wrath* (Lancaster, PA: Strong Tower Publishing, 2002).

<sup>2</sup> Alan Hultberg, “A Case for the Prewrath Rapture,” in Alan Hultberg, ed., *Three Views on the Rapture*, Second Edition (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2010), pp 109-154.

Earth for the majority of the Tribulation. A pre-wrath rapture stands at odds with pre-tribulationism.

Both the pre-wrathers and post-tribulationists advocate that Believers are to be spared from God's wrath—but they may be seen to have some disagreements involving specifics. The customary pre-wrath Tribulation scenario, as originally advocated by those like Rosenthal, may be seen to support a strictly sequential approach to the Book of Revelation, not too different than many pre-tribulation rapture charts. This may be a reason why, in the pre-wrath model, the trumpet and vial/bowl judgments of Revelation chs. 7-16 compose the "wrath" of God. Post-tribulationists such as this writer may be seen, instead, to advocate more of a symphonic presentation of the seal, trumpet, and vial/bowl judgments of Revelation. This is not unlike various prophetic depictions from the Tanach (OT), where prophecies are not always seen to be delivered in a linear manner. For a post-tribulationist, this allows those judgments specifically classified to be as *orgē* or "wrath," to be limited to a much shorter space of time, in a post-tribulational window.

The only times *orgē* appears in the Book of Revelation are in a post-tribulational context (Revelation 6:16, 17; 11:18; 14:10; 16:19; 19:15). It is used after the sixth seal (Revelation 6:16-17), the seventh or the last trumpet (Revelation 11:18), the seventh vial/bowl (Revelation 16:19), and is most importantly used to describe the eternal punishment of the condemned (Revelation 14:10).

On the whole, there are more areas of agreement than disagreement, which post-tribulationists have, with advocates of a pre-wrath rapture. This writer chooses to look at such differences as points of further collaboration and investigation, not unnecessary division and rivalry.