

“... on the day that Lot went out from Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all. “It will be just the same on the day that the Son of Man is revealed ...” (Luke 17:29&30).

“The rain fell upon the earth for forty days and forty nights. On the very same day Noah and Shem and Ham and Japheth, the sons of Noah, and Noah’s wife and the three wives of his sons with them, entered the ark ...” (Genesis 7:12&13).

Tribulation then Rescue then Wrath – – Part ONE

“just as it happened in the days of Noah”

The old joke of a ragged prophet holding a sign proclaiming “THE END IS NEAR” is no longer a joke for some people who are now saying “the end is HERE.” If a ship is sinking, it would be a good thing to find clearly marked signs to the lifeboats. Where are the clearly marked signs pointing out a rescue (or rapture as it is commonly called) at the end of this perilous age?

Pre-trib? Mid-trib? Post-trib? Pre-wrath?

It’s confusing with signs pointing in different directions but Jesus promised that His Holy Spirit would lead us into all truth so there IS hope ([John 16:13](#)).

Why do so many tribulation rapture theories exist when Jesus already gave the simplest most straightforward explanation in no uncertain terms? When asked by His disciples “what will be the signs of your coming and of the end of the age?” Jesus listed several warning signs: spiritual deception, false Christs and many other important signs including “... just as it happened in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man...” ([Luke 17:26-37 NASB](#)). We should pay attention to the emphasis “just as it happened” in the days of Noah which means that keen attention should be given to every detail of the Noah and Lot narratives ([Luke 17:29-30](#)). There’s a lot happening: “eating, drinking, marrying and giving in marriage” (preoccupation with temporal activities), violence and sexual depravity – all of which are relevant – but for the purpose of this study, the pattern of tribulation, rescue and wrath need careful attention. A careful and prayerful reading of the Noah and Lot

Bible narratives will show that this order of events holds true because God doesn't change ([Malachi 3:6](#); [Hebrews 13:8](#)) and He has held this pattern true from creation until now and in the future when he will snatch His faithful ones away from danger "immediately after the tribulation of those days..." ([Matthew 24:29-30](#); [Matthew 24:31](#)).

Study chart (types and shadows) below.



PRE-EXODUS: sons of Jacob (children of Israel) were afflicted with heavy burdens (Exodus 1:12).	RESCUE: By the power of God, the children of Israel walked through the Red Sea on dry ground (Exodus 14:21).	WRATH of God: Just after rescue, the Red Sea swallowed Pharaoh's army (Exodus 14:28,29).
BABYLONIAN CAPTIVITY: Brutally afflicted by the Babylonians by the sword, by fire and destruction (2 Chronicles 36:17,18,19,20,21).	RESCUE where God sent a warning to His people through Jeremiah to get out of Babylon before it is destroyed (Jeremiah 51:6).	WRATH of God on Babylon who severely afflicted God's people (Daniel 5:27,28).
ESTHER: Distress among the persecuted Jews .. "great mourning ...fasting, weeping and wailing ..." (Esther 4:3).	RESCUE where king Ahasuerus gave Jews the right to defend themselves (Esther 8:11).	WRATH: "... Jews struck all their enemies with the sword..." Haman's family hung on the gallows (Esther 9:5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14,15,16).
DANIEL: under pressure in the lion's den while his king is "deeply distressed " and " troubled " (Daniel 6:14,15,16,17,18,19,20,21,22,23).	RESCUE where God sent his angel to shut the lion's mouths until morning when Darius freed Daniel (Daniel 6:21,22).	WRATH: Those who accused Daniel along with their children and wives are killed in the lion's den (Daniel 6:24).

NOAH: - "violence filled the earth" ... only 8 souls are saved (Genesis 6:10, 11).	RESCUE where God told Noah to build an ark for him and his family to be saved from the flood (Genesis 6:13,14).	WRATH where the flood began the "very same day" Noah and his family entered the ark (Genesis 7:11,12,13).
LOT: Oppressed by the wickedness of Sodom and Gomorrah (2 Peter 2:7).	RESCUE where the angels snatched Lot and his family to safety just in time (Genesis 19:16).	WRATH: fiery judgement on God's enemies even while the rescue is still underway (Luke 17:29).

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Strong's Concordance #2347: thlipsis (pronounced thlip'-sis)

from 2346; **pressure** (literally or figuratively):--**afflicted(-tion), anguish, burdened, persecution, tribulation, trouble.**

Thayer's Greek Lexicon: thlipsis

1) a pressing, pressing together, **pressure**

2) metaphorically **oppression, affliction, tribulation, distress**, straits

Part of Speech: noun feminine - Relation: from G2346 - Citing in TDNT: 3:139,334

JUST AS IT HAPPENED

In the days of Noah: "... violence filled the earth" ([Genesis 6:11,12](#)) and God rescued (raptured) Noah with his family just in time while the wrath of God was already beginning to pour out on the whole earth ([Genesis 7:12,13,14,15,16](#)). In the days of Lot: "He rescued [raptured] righteous Lot, oppressed by the sensual conduct of unprincipled men" ([2Peter 2:7](#)). It was rescue when the angels firmly took Lot's family by the hand and snatched them to safety just in time, then wrath while Lot's wife looked back to see that fire and brimstone was already pouring down on Sodom and Gomorrah.

Next page - "JUST IN TIME RESCUE ... "

JUST IN TIME RESCUE

The future rescue/rapture (from the Greek word *harpazo* "snatching away") of God's people will be just in time before His wrath is fully poured out on His enemies. This is clearly seen in the Noah/Lot examples and is prefigured in many types and shadows from Genesis to Revelation. For example the prophet Daniel speaks of "a time of distress such as never occurred since there was a nation until that time; and at that time your people, everyone who is found written in the book, will be rescued" ([Daniel 12:1](#)). Collectively, all these biblical examples bear witness to the following two verses where Jesus explicitly stated that "... In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world" ([John 16:33 NASB](#)) and where Paul the Apostle stated that "... God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ" ([1 Thessalonians 5:9 NIV](#)). In plain language, God's people can expect tribulation but His people will not suffer His wrath. This comes more into focus with New Testament examples in Part 2.

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For the sake of argument all those words in red (on the chart above) are accurate descriptions of the tribulations suffered by the Hebrews can with equal accuracy be translated back to the Greek word "thlipsis." Interestingly, the word *thlipsis* often appears in the Greek Septuagint version of the Old Testament when describing such states of pressure, affliction, tribulation etc.

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