

THE TESTIMONY OF JESUS IN THE Book OF REVELATION

**Bereans Adult Bible Fellowship
Placerita Baptist Church**

Place in the Book of Revelation

- I. What you have seen (Rev 1).
- II. What is now (Rev 2–3)—the seven churches of Asia Minor.
 - A. Ephesus (2:1–7)
 - B. Smyrna (2:8–11)
 - C. Pergamum (2:12–17)
 - D. Thyatira (2:18–29)
 - E. Sardis (3:1–6)

F. Philadelphia (3:7–13)

6. Commitment of Christ (vv. 9–10, 12)
 - He will preserve them from the time of a great worldwide tribulation.

Background

- John writes about the coming of Christ elsewhere:
 - John 14:1–3. Jesus is coming again for believers.
 - 1 John 2:28. Jesus is coming and believers must be ready
 - 1 John 3:2–3. Believers who place their hope on seeing Jesus when he comes, purify themselves.

Question

- Does Revelation 3:10–11 speak of the rapture of the church?
 - Preserving believers *from* the time of worldwide tribulation?
 - Preserving believers *through* the time of worldwide tribulation?

Definitions

- “Rapture” = “caught up” (Greek, *harpazō*),
1 Thessalonians 4:17. Four views:
 - Pre-tribulation = *before* the Tribulation
 - Mid-tribulation = *in the middle of* the Tribulation
 - Pre-wrath = *just before* the final judgments in the final months of the Tribulation
 - Post-tribulation = *after* the Tribulation

Key Passages

- **Regarding the Tribulation Period:**
 - Daniel 12:1
 - Zephaniah 1 (cp. 2:3)
 - Matthew 24:15–24
 - 2 Thessalonians 2:1–12

Key Passages

- Regarding the departure of living believers:
 - 1 Corinthians 15:51–52
 - 1 Thessalonians 1:10 (cp. 5:9; Revelation 6:17)
 - 1 Thessalonians 4:16–18

Revelation 3:10

Because you have kept the word of My
perseverance,

I also will keep you
from the hour of testing,
that *hour*

which is about to come



upon the whole world,
to test those who dwell on
the earth.

Revelation 3:11

I am coming quickly;
hold fast what you have,
so that no one will take your crown.

Revelation 3:10–11

- **Philadelphians have already endured.**
- **Christ's promise is not yet—it is future.**
- **His keeping must be more perfect than their keeping.**
- **The future time is for “testing.”**
- **That testing will be brief (“hour”).**

Revelation 3:10–11

- That testing will affect “the whole world.”
- Christ identifies earth dwellers as those who will be tested.
- Implies a contrast between the Philadelphian believers and the earth dwellers.
- Christ’s coming is imminent.

“Keep from” (only 2x in the New Testament)

John 17:15	Revelation 3:10
From evil	From testing/judgment
In the midst of evil already	Testing still future
Spiritual realm of the evil one	Moral realm of the evil one

Revelation 6:9–11

9 When the Lamb broke the fifth seal, I saw underneath the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God, and because of the testimony which they had maintained; 10 and they cried out with a loud voice, saying, “How long, O Lord, holy and true, will You refrain from judging and avenging our blood on those who dwell on the earth?”

Revelation 6:9–11

11 And there was given to each of them a white robe; and they were told that they should rest for a little while longer, until *the number of their fellow servants and their brethren who were to be killed even as they had been, would be completed also.*

Conclusion

- Revelation 3:10–11 does not speak directly about the Rapture of the church.
- Revelation 3:10–11 fits well with texts speaking directly about the Rapture.
- The Rapture is our blessed (Titus 2:13) and purifying (1 John 3:3) hope.