THE TESTIMONY OF JESUS IN THE BOOK OF REVELATION

Bereans Adult Bible Fellowship
Placerita Baptist Church
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)
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 that 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)

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<th>John 17:15</th>
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<td>From evil</td>
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<td>In the midst of evil already</td>
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<td>Moral realm of the evil one</td>
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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?”
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.