

**One Hundred
Reasons
for the
Pre-Trib Rapture**

**by
Milburn Cockrell**

Copyright © 1976
Milburn Cockrell
Third Printing 2007

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced in any form, except for the inclusion of brief quotations in a review, without permission in writing from the author or publisher.

ISBN 978-1-932879-02-5

Published by the
Berea Baptist Church
PO Box 39
Mantachie, Mississippi 38855-0039 U.S.A.
(662) 282-7794
www.bereabaptistchurch.org

Cover design by Christopher Cockrell

Printed in the U.S.A. by
InstantPublisher.com
P.O. Box 985, Collierville, TN 38027
1-800-259-2592

Table of Contents

Introduction	v
Acknowledgements	vii
Preface.....	ix
Chapter One	
Some Post-Trib Men and Their Books	11
Chapter Two	
The Believable Origin of Post-Tribulationism	15
Chapter Three	
The Strange Bedfellows of Post-Tribers	19
Chapter Four	
Arguments From History	23
Chapter Five	
Arguments From A Literal Interpretation	26
Chapter Six	
Arguments From The Tribulation	28
Chapter Seven	
Arguments From The Church	30
Chapter Eight	
Arguments From The Book Of Revelation	36
Chapter Nine	
Arguments From An Imminent Coming	39
Chapter Ten	
Arguments From The Thessalonian Epistles	42
Chapter Eleven	
Arguments From Typology	49
Chapter Twelve	
Arguments From The Second Coming	50
Chapter Thirteen	
A List Of Pre-Trib Scholars	55

Other books available by the author...

The Gospel in Isaiah
Here Comes the Bride!
Death and the Hereafter
The Ten Commandments
Wine, Worship, and the Word
Salvation (Sermons to Sinners)
Backsliding Baptists
The Doctrine of Hell
Scriptural Church Organization
Why Be A Church Member?
The Veiled Woman
The Tithe is the Lord's
John the Baptist
In Search of the Universal, Invisible Church
An Exposition of Matthew 24
Spiritual Growth
The Veiled Woman
100 Reasons for the Pre-Trib Rapture
The Providence of God
The Seventy Weeks
Sacerdotalism and the Baptists
The Second Coming of Christ
The Song of Solomon
The Purpose of the Death of Christ
The Fear of God
The Heroes of Faith in Hebrews 11
Gardens of the Bible
A Biblical Study of the Cross of Jesus Christ

Introduction

“Buy the truth, and sell it not; also wisdom, and instruction, and understanding” (Pro. 23:23).

It was an honor to be asked to write an introduction for this booklet. I had known of Bro. Cockrell for several years before I really met him and became acquainted with him. I was privileged to spend almost two weeks with him in 1994, when we traveled together to the Philippines to organize a new church there, by the authority of the Dessie Baptist Church, Clem, WV.

During this time, I was able to observe him, his preaching, and his life. I found him to be a man, who not only preached and penned the truth, but even more importantly, a man who lived what he preached. He was a man of humility, honesty, and integrity; who loved the Lord, His Word, and His church. It can truly be said, that by the grace of God, he spent his life for the gospel. He did it gladly, not for filthy lucre’s sake, but desiring only that His Lord be glorified in the spreading of the gospel truth. It was a privilege to know this man of God. I say not these things to heap honor upon him, for then would I be undermining the very reason for all his labor. I say what I have said concerning this man, so that Christ would be exalted.

The Lord was pleased to use Bro. Cockrell to promote His glorious truths. The Lord gave him a wonderful gift, not only of preaching the Word, but also of penning the truth. He gave him a depth of understanding and ability to express his convictions that has been matched by few in our day. It was not easy, for during the period of time he lived, was a time when many were falling away from the truth, and many new-lite (heresies) doctrines were either being introduced, or were once again being actively promoted. The Lord used the influence of this man, in his preaching and writings, to shine the light on much error, and contend for the faith once delivered. Many hated him for it, while he was beloved by many because of it.

It is the same with this booklet. The Lord used it to battle much of the error of our day, and to encourage folks to do what Christ had commanded Himself: **“Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come”** (Matt. 24:42). In a day of Mid-Trib,

Post-Trib, and A-Mill, positions, we praise God that He moved Bro. Cockrell to write this in answer to these errors.

It is my prayer as I write this, that God will continue to use this treatise to help those who are seeking the truth to find it, to help those who may be on the verge of leaving this truth to remain steadfast in this truth, and that those in error be brought to truth through the scriptural evidence contained herein.

I do, in memory of this beloved Brother, whom the Lord used in a mighty way, highly recommend this booklet, *One Hundred Reasons For The Pre-Trib Rapture*. It should be on the shelf of everyone who loves and believes the truth (Matthew 24:45-46).

Elder Mark C. Minney
June 1, 2004

Acknowledgements

Grateful appreciation is extended to the publishers of Christian books. Especially, I would like to thank Logos International, William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, Kregel Publications, Creation House, Moody Press, Judson Press, and Zondervan Publishing House for their kind permission to quote from copyrighted books. These are given a proper credit line in the following pages.

My thanks are extended to Brother John A. Witmer, librarian of Dallas Theological Seminary, and to Brother Rolland D. McCune, professor of the Central Baptist Theological Seminary of Minneapolis, for assisting me in putting together the list of pre-trib scholars.

A debt of gratitude is also due to Brother Oscar Mink, Crestline, Ohio, and Brother James Hobbs, McDermott, Ohio, for reading the manuscript of this book and giving helpful suggestions. My very deepest gratitude is expressed to brethren who have given in a financial way to make this book possible.

Milburn Cockrell, editor
The Baptist Examiner
Ashland, Kentucky
February 27, 1976

NOTE

Brother Dave MacPherson's two books have been edited and re-issued under the title of *The Incredible Cover-Up* by Logos International, Plainfield, N. J. I have quoted from the two books as they were originally printed. These two books are now put into one book.



“For as the lightening cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be” (Matt. 24:27).

Preface

The blessed hope of the return of Jesus Christ for His own has been the expectation of believers since the days of the New Testament churches. Christians have not always agreed on the manner, time, and purpose of His coming. Christendom has been debating pre-millennialism and a-millennialism since the third century. In the last hundred years there has arisen no small stir among pre-millennialists as to the finer points of their system of interpreting the prophecies of the Bible. There prevail four different schools of thought among pre-millennarians today.

PARTIAL RAPTURE THEORY

This view is held by only a few pre-millennialists. It seems to have originated in the works of Robert Govett in the 1800's. These people contend that the saints will be raptured in groups during the tribulation period as they are prepared to go. They assert the frequent exhortations in the Bible to be faithful, to be ready, and to watch, all suggest that translation is a reward for faithfulness. These people are called "split-rapturists."

MID-TRIBULATIONISM

Those who hold to mid-tribulationism are called "mid-tribers." These people believe that the church is translated at the middle of the seven years before the Great Tribulation takes place. This school of thinking is of modern origin with Norman B. Harrison as its greatest defender. It has never been accepted by a large number of pre-millennialists and is losing ground each year.

POST-TRIBULATIONISM

Those who contend for post-tribulationism are called "post-tribers." They believe the church will pass through the period of tribulation and be translated when the tribulation ends. In its broadest definition this is the common view of Christendom. It is held by a-millennialists and post-millennialists. Even Catholics and modern liberals take this position.

Post-tribers appeal at length to the writings of the church fathers to vindicate their position. This is because they have far more history to prove their contention than Scriptures. A second thing they do is

to cast doubt on the great pre-trib texts. This is very evident in Ladd's *The Blessed Hope*.

Post-tribers also play down the Old Testament by what they call "the superior hermeneutics of the New Testament." It seems never to occur to them that the progressive revelation of the Old Testament is never contradictory to the New Testament. Post-tribers freely use the non-literal interpretation of prophecy when it suits their purpose. This is the same hermeneutics of a-millennialists and modern liberals.

There are really two basic groups within the post-trib camp. The "classic" post-tribers hold that the entire age is the tribulation. These bear a greater resemblance to the church fathers, yet they generally reject the imminency of Christ's return, while the church fathers believed it. The "new-lite" post-tribers believe the tribulation will occur at the end of this present age. This group is of very modern origin, although they claim great antiquity.

Post-tribulationism in many ways harmonizes more with a-millennialism and post-millennialism than with pre-millennialism. This will be demonstrated in the following pages of this book.

PRE-TRIBULATIONISM

Those who hold to pre-tribulationism are called "pre-tribers." This view maintains that no part of the church will enter the tribulation since it will be raptured before the tribulation begins. The majority of all pre-millenarians hold to a pre-trib rapture of the church, notwithstanding a resurgence of post-tribulationism at the present time. Pre-tribulationism is the only view, which can be reconciled successfully with a literal interpretation of prophecy.

Since the time of my spiritual birth, I have held to a pre-trib rapture of the saints. Although I have listened attentively to the other schools of thought, I remain more convinced than ever that the pre-trib rapture of the church and saints is the only tenable school of thought. I offer the following one hundred reasons for my view, not in the spirit of controversy, but in loving defense of my position.

I make no claim for originality for these arguments. Some have been long ago mentioned in various books. Others I have come to see through personal study and, to my knowledge, these have never appeared in any book. Since the arguments for pre-tribulationism come from the Bible, I feel safe in saying that they are thousands of years old and originated with the Holy Spirit who inspired the Holy Bible.
