

Revelation 3:10

**“I will keep you from the hour of trial that
is coming upon the whole world”**

**Does Revelation 3:10 teach a
Pretribulational Rapture?**

“Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come on the whole world to test the inhabitants of the earth.”

(Revelation 3:10)

**The first problem for the
Pretibulation interpretation is
that the promise is conditional:**

“Since (or because) you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come on the whole world to test the inhabitants of the earth.”

(Revelation 3:10)

**If this passage is speaking of the rapture,
then it is speaking of a partial rapture; only
those who are holy enough will be raptured,
whereas those who are unworthy will be left
behind.**

The second problem for the Pretribulational interpretation is the simple context of the passage. This promise was first and foremost given to one particular Church in the 1st century—not to all Christians universally.

“And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write,
‘These things says He who is holy, He who is true...

Because you have kept My command to persevere, I
also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall
come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell
on the earth. Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast
what you have, that no one may take your crown.”

(Revelation 3:7–11)

The Seven Churches of Revelation



A map of the Aegean region in Turkey, showing the locations of the Seven Churches of Revelation. A light gray line traces a path through the region, connecting the cities. The cities are marked with dots: Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia (highlighted with a red dot), Smyrna, Ephesus, and Laodicea. The map shows the Aegean Sea to the west and the Taurus mountains to the east.

Pergamum • Thyatira • Sardis • Philadelphia • Smyrna • Ephesus • Laodicea •

The original context is to the first century church of Philadelphia. But no one in the 1st century church of Philadelphia was raptured to heaven! This is because the verse does not promise to rapture anyone. Rather it promises to keep or preserve the faithful from the destructive effects of tribulations.

Canned foods “keep” or
are “preserved” through
the Winter, but still pass
through it.

“keep”
tēréō:

“to watch over, to guard”



The Goshen Pattern:

**“But I will not treat the Israelites the same as the Egyptians. There will not be any flies in Goshen, where my people live. In this way you will know that I, the Lord, am in this land.”
(Exodus 8:22)**

The third major problem for the Pretibulation interpretation is that consistency demands that if Revelation 3:10 applies to all Christians, then all of the other verses also apply too. Pretribbers however, never use a consistent hermeneutic here.

“Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and for ten days you will have tribulation. Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. The one who conquers will not be hurt by the second death.”

(Revelation 2:8–11)



The fourth problem with the Pretribulational interpretation is that it violates the words of Jesus in His High Priestly prayer.

“I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you *keep* them from the evil one... I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word...”

(John 17:15–20)