

On November 19, 2022, Joel Richardson wrote:

Hi Amir,

I hope you are doing well. Joel Richardson here. I am writing to see if you would be willing to have a formal debate concerning the timing of the rapture? Of course, I would take a posttribulational stance. If you are open to such I am sure we could find any number of excellent venues. I think it would gather much attention and greatly benefit many people.

Blessings to you!
Joel

On Nov 20, 2022, Mike Golay wrote:

Joel,

Amir and I share lots of the email, so I'm responding.

Thank you for the invite to debate. However, all of our teachings on the pre-tribulation rapture are readily available on YouTube, which include reasons for it and why we believe it is the most convincing. We respectfully decline and say "let everyone be convinced in his own mind" after watching our teachings and the teachings of others.

Blessings,
Mike Golay
Behold Israel Ministries

On Nov 20, 2022, Joel Richardson wrote:

Hi Mike,

Thank you for responding. I understand that when cross-examined, giving a solid defense of the pre-tribulational rapture is essentially impossible. This is why, as you may know, a couple of comprehensive polls over the past decade have shown that belief in the pre-tribulational rapture is very quickly losing ground among committed Christians. With the information revolution, Christians are quickly turning back to the orthodox post-tribulational or pre-wrath perspectives. Obviously, I would highly encourage Amir to reconsider this opportunity. If he ever decides that he is up to defend the views of Behold Israel publicly, please let me know.

Many blessings to you!
Joel Richardson

On Nov 28, 2022, Joel Richardson wrote:

Hi Mike,

I hope you are doing great. I'm working on doing a series soon regarding the rapture and the eschatology of the early Church. In one of your recent sermons, The Rapture According to the Early Church, you claimed that Irenaeus taught pretribulationism:

"Now, to be fair, the Church always viewed itself as being in the end-times, but the early church also said that there will be an acceleration of these kinds of events, which is really what Irenaeus is saying. If you read the entire book, you'll see that he's saying there's an acceleration of this nonsense of the world. And if you persevere in that nonsense, and you're a believer, and you don't tuck tail and run or cave in, you'll escape the great Tribulation."

I'm curious as to how you can claim he was pre-trib when he made the following clear comments:

"And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings, who have received no kingdom as yet, but shall receive power as if kings one hour with the beast"... And they shall lay Babylon waste, and burn her with fire, and shall give their kingdom to the beast, and put the Church to flight. After that they shall be destroyed by the coming of our Lord. (Against Heresies, V, 26, 1)

It is therefore more certain, and less hazardous, to await the fulfillment of the prophecy [concerning the revealing of the Antichrist], than to be making surmises, and casting about for any names that may present themselves, inasmuch as many names can be found possessing the number mentioned; and the same question will, after all, remain unsolved. . . . But he indicates the number of the name now, so that when this man comes WE may avoid him, being aware who he is. (Against Heresies, V, 30, 3, 4)

"For all these and other words were unquestionably spoken in reference to the resurrection of the just, which takes place after the coming of Antichrist, and the destruction of all nations under his rule; in which the righteous shall reign in the earth, waxing stronger by the sight of the Lord" (Against Heresies, V, 35, 1)

I want to be fair with you, as we all make mistakes. Until recent claims made by Lee Brainard, it was pretty well universally accepted that Irenaeus and every early Church writer expected the Church to face the Antichrist and were all post-trib, especially Irenaeus. As Tommy Ice, director of the Pre-Trib research Center has said: "When taken within the context of all of Irenaeus' writings, it appears that he was not teaching pretribulationism."

Thank you for your time and reply, Mike.

Blessings!

On Dec 7, 2022, at 14:51, Joel Richardson wrote:

Hi Mike,

I hope you are doing well. I just wanted to make sure you didn't forget my inquiry below. Thank you so much for your reply.

Blessings!
Joel Richardson

On Dec 7, 2022, at 7:28 AM, Mike Golay wrote:

Joel,

I'm presently in Israel leading a tour and will be occupied the entire month. I did get your email. I will look into what you said when I have time.

On December 31, Joel Richardson wrote:

Hi Mike,

Just circling back to see if you had a moment to respond to my inquiry. I wanted to make sure you had ample opportunity to respond.

Blessings to you!
Joel Richardson

On January 13, Joel Richardson wrote:

Hi Mike,

Circling back again to see if you'd a moment to respond to my inquiry. I wanted to make sure to give you ample opportunity to respond. I will be recording a session on this soon. Below is a simple list demonstrating the post-tribulationism of the early Church. In your video you stated that all of the early Church writers were pre-trib. If you simply say, "I need to look into this more. I may be wrong etc" that's fine. I'm not here to corner you or misrepresent you in any way. But some of what you said in the video on the rapture in the early Church was really, really wrong. As I said, I just want to give you a fair chance to respond if you want to.

<https://joelstrumpet.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Early-Church-PostTrib-Statements.pdf>

<https://joelstrumpet.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Brainard-Debunked-Part-1-4.pdf>

Blessings!!
Joel Richardson

To date, Mike Golay has not responded.