

**Pseudo-Ephraim:
Correcting the False Claims of
Pretribulationists**

A couple decades ago, Grant Jeffrey, a well known prophecy teacher, claims to have discovered a pretrib statement in Pseudo-Ephraim's *Latin Sermon On the Last Times, the Antichrist, and the End of the World.*

In more recent years, author and Bible teacher Lee Brainard claims to have discovered several “Chrystal-clear Pre-trib rapture passages” in the writings of Pseudo-Ephraim. One, from the Greek “*Sermon on Repentance and Judgment and the Separation of Soul and Body*” is essentially identical to the comment found by Grant Jeffrey.

**Here is the first statement from
Pseudo-Ephraim's Latin sermon:
*On the Last Times, the Antichrist, and
the End of the World.***

“See to it that this sentence be not fulfilled among you of the prophet who declares: ‘Woe to those who desire to see the day of the Lord!’ *For all the saints and elect of God are gathered, prior to the tribulation that is to come, and are taken to the Lord lest they see the confusion that is to overwhelm the world because of our sins.*”

In order to demonstrate how many have believed these false claims, let's begin by considering a statement from Pseudo-Ephraim:

“Blessed are you for you were borne away and hence you escaped from the afflictions!”

— Pseudo-Ephraim

Does this sound like a pretrib statement?

Here is the full statement:

“People will flee to cemeteries and hide themselves among the dead, *pronouncing the good fortune of the deceased who had avoided the calamity: 'Blessed are you for you were borne away and hence you escaped from the afflictions!'*”

— Pseudo-Ephraim

Obviously, this is not talking about a rapture. It is speaking of dying before the tribulation and thus escaping it. Both statements are simply speaking of dying before the tribulation. That's it.

Here is the quote that Brainard claims is speaking of a Pretrib rapture:

“For the elect shall be gathered prior to the tribulation, so they shall not see the confusion and the great tribulation coming upon the unrighteous world.”

—Pseudo Ephraim

First, we must note that this is Brainard's translation. The Greek phrase which he translates as "shall be" is not technically in the future tense. A more accurate translation is presented by Roger Pearse:

"The elect are gathered together before the tribulation so that they do not see the confusion and the great suffering to come over the whole world."

Just like the previous comment about death, so also is this statement simply talking about those saints who died and have been gathered to the Lord, and thus will not see the great tribulation.

First, note the title of the sermon and the context of the sermon:

“Repentance and Judgment and the Separation of Soul and Body.”

Next, let’s consider the subject matter of the sermon:

“Blessed is the one who finds grace at the time of separation, when the soul is separated from its own body; for the Angels come to take the soul, and when it is separated from the body.”

If one simply reads the sermon in context, it is clear that Ephraim is simply saying that the saints that have already died have been gathered by the angels to the Lord and will thus not see the coming great tribulation. That's it. It was nothing to do with any Pretribulation rapture.

In conclusion, whether we are speaking of Pseudo-Ephraim's statement in the Greek "*Sermon on Repentance and Judgment and the Separation of Soul and Body*" or the Latin "*Sermon On the Last Times, the Antichrist, and the End of the World*" both are referring to those elect saints who died and were gathered to the Lord prior to the tribulation, thus escaping its horrors. Neither text has anything to do with a Pretribulational rapture, a concept that was entirely unknown in the Church for close to two thousand years.