

There's NO Contradiction Here!

The following is taken from *The Final Trumpet Rapture Gathering: An Introduction* (2009).

Regarding the Church **not** incurring God's wrath as a result of the final trumpet rapture gathering:

"Our point in all this is: When possible options exist[↓] as to the meaning of a word or phrase, it's wise to honestly consider the strengths and weaknesses of each interpretation proposed.

[↓] Note: We do not include mystical interpretations as viable options given their faulty starting point concerning the intent of the written Word of God. God's intent is to communicate to us concerning Himself and His ways. As we do not make God into our image, neither do we twist His Word into what we want it to say. A what-does-the-text-actually-say hermeneutic is presumed, for it really is the only way to faithfully glean from GOD's Word." (page 17)

"Immediately after the days of the great tribulation, the sun and the moon will be darkened and the stars will fall from heaven. 'Then' another sign will take place: the sign of the Son of Man in the sky will occur. In response, **the world** will mourn, literally crying out to the rocks and the mountains, 'Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?' Keep in mind the Rapture event has not yet happened according to I Corinthians 15 ('final trumpet'), Matthew 24:31 and according to the very order of events included in Revelation, a book which records the event of the scrolling apart of the heavens. Revelation 11 & 14 then go on to describe the Rapture Gathering event, an event which occurs **after** the events of Revelation 6." (pages 25, 26)

"According to the Word of God, the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven. As the sky scrolls apart, the entire world will behold the event. In response, they will mourn. As they discern what they have done and realize Creator God is angry, they will actually say to the mountains and rocks, 'Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?' **Wow!** (Important: Please see footnote.)[↓]

[↓] In getting back to the importance of 'observing the text,' did you discern a difficulty the Final Trumpet Rapture Gathering position has with this event – the one described in Rev. 6:14-17? If not, please give it some further thought. If you did note a discrepancy, **good for you** ... way to go (**observe**)! Is there a possible resolution to this real problem? Yes there is. Read on for our suggested answer." (pages 62, 63)

"Some have suggested Rev. 6:16, 17 invalidates the Final Trumpet Rapture Gathering position due to the 'wrath of God' beginning at this juncture. This is a fair and most valid concern. As a result, we have presented an extended answer at www.finaltrumpet.org (FAQs # 6 & 10). Given the content of our posted response, we continue to thank God for His revelation concerning our days as opposed to the speculations of man and for the viability of – even the strength of – the Final Trumpet Rapture Gathering position.

[the quote continues on the next or back page]

“In summary response to this concern about the wrath of God beginning at the sixth seal, we simply ask this question: **Who** is it who is making these statements? These are the people of the earth who respond as they do. In **contrast**, it is the elders in heaven who, in Revelation 11, say the wrath of God has come, and they declare this **after** the final trumpet is blown. We believe this: The recorded statements of Revelation 6:16, 17 are just that – actual statements of those who witness the scrolling apart of the sky. It is not a heavenly sanctioned announcement that the wrath of God [*] has come but simply a recorded response of the earth dwellers who realize they’ve been wrong about God, Jesus Christ and His people. It’s the heavenly elders who bring exact insight as to the timing of the Bowls of God’s wrath – wrath which comes **after** the blowing of the final trumpet. Interesting! On what clear explicit grounds would one reject this possibility (for some have done so, but without justification)?” (pages 150, 151)

The best means to *discuss* this resolution with the author is by emailing Dr. Jon Swanson at: email@therapturegathering.org.

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the author gives permission to photocopy this handout as is/in its entirety.

* Due to misrepresentation of the material above, we need to bring
further clarification regarding our point on *the wrath of God* :

Note the paragraph above. In this paragraph you find,
“It is not a heavenly sanctioned announcement that the wrath of God has come
but simply a recorded response of the earth dwellers who realize they’ve been wrong ...”

In light of our further developed teaching position on *God’s wrath*, and
in light of misrepresentations of our past statements concerning the wrath of God
over past decades, we are now adjusting the sentence immediately above to read :

“It is not a heavenly sanctioned announcement that the
full extent of the wrath of God has come but simply a recorded
response of the earth dwellers who realize they’ve been wrong ...”

Thank you for your understanding as we
engage those who express questions needing
further clarification.

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