

they had tremendous tribulation! During the first century Christians were burned in Nero's gardens! Christians were mistreated terribly. Certainly, if you mean after tribulation, there have been many of them and there will be many more. Who knows?

But all of these statements say that we have no right to say, This must happen before He comes. There is no predicted event that did not happen in the first century A.D. of which we can say, Until that comes I don't need to think about whether Christ is going to come back. There is no predicted event or else all these commands to watch and be ready and find you ready when He comes, are absolutely meaningless.

So if by post tribulation rapture, you mean after there have been some tribulation, there have been many of them. But if you mean by it there is one great tribulation which is going to come and we will recognize it when it comes and until that we don't need to bother about His return because He won't return until after that, why you are contradicting all these statements in Scripture.

So a discussion of whether it is going to come after a great tribulation that can be recognized seems to me to be completely erroneous. There may be great tribulations. It is an awful mistake to think Christians won't go through tribulations. What greater tribulations can you have than what the Chinese were having up until about 10 years ago--the Chinese Christians. Terrible persecutions. Terrible treatment. What worse can you have than has been happening in communist countries in Eastern Europe today? What worse than is happening to Christians in Ethiopia where communists were determined to kill as many of them as possible? Tribulations we will have abundantly, but a tribulation we can recognize and be that which is predicted in the future and Christ won't come until after that tribulation has come, contradicts not one statement of Christ but repeated number of statements of Christ. It contradicts that which is stressed in book after book in the NT.

Now if ~~you~~ you take this term mid as Archer does in this book, i.e. the mid-70th week rapture position, I would say, Well, I don't know maybe the 70th week is already here! Maybe we are getting the middle of it! If we will not recognize the beginning of the 70th week, then what importance is it to us whether it happens at the beginning of it, or the middle of it, or before? But certainly we cannot say, No He cannot come back until that 70th week comes. ~~We~~ He won't come back until that tribulation comes in the middle of it, you negate all of these commands. It isn't a matter of changing our idea of what is going to happen in the future, it is a matter of dealing with vital commands of the Lord as to the importance this should have in our lives, and the vital statements of Paul as to what importance it had had in his life.