

The Rapture

Review:

- Herman-who?
- The Church Age
- Signs of the End of the Church Age

Another 'setting the stage' sign: The Image of the Antichrist

Revelation 13:15

The second beast was given power to give breath to the image of the first beast, so that the image could speak and cause all who refused to worship the image to be killed.

Ground rules!

#1 This is a non-essential! Therefore conversation, not controversy; discussion, not debate!

#2 Remember your 'Herman-who'! Rapture is distinctly different depending on Herman.

What is the Rapture?

The rapture consists of:

1. Resurrection of the bodies of Saints who have died and are in heaven
2. Catching up of those Saints who are alive
3. Glorification of the Saints' mortal bodies into eternal bodies

Argument: "The word 'Rapture' is not in the Bible!"

Correct, but neither is the word 'Trinity'! But the concepts are!

1 Th 4:15-17 ESV

For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be 'caught up' together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord.

'Caught up' is '*harpazo*' in Greek: steal, carry off, snatch away.

Translated in the Latin Vulgate to '*rapere*'. Sound familiar?

2 Thess 2:1 ESV

Now concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to him, we ask you, brothers

1 Cor 15:51-53 ESV

Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality.

1 Cor 15:42-44 ESV

So is it with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable; what is raised is **imperishable**. It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in **glory**. It is sown in weakness; it is raised in **power**. It is sown a natural body; it is raised a **spiritual** body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body.

In Glorification, your eternal body will be:

- Imperishable – lacking the capacity to decay or break down; immortal
- Glorious – honor, dignity, beauty, majestic, bright; immensely valuable
- Powerful – abundance of might, strength; miraculous power
- Spiritual – supernatural; the realm of the spirit / divine

The 3 Stages of Salvation

I	Justification	Freed from the <u>penalty</u> of sin
II	Sanctification	Freed from the <u>power</u> of sin
III	Glorification	Freed from the <u>presence</u> of sin

When does the Rapture occur?

The occurrence of the rapture is explicit in scripture; the timing is not!

Thus the question is not: “Is there a rapture”; the question is: “When is it”?

- 1) **Pre-Trib**: Prior to the Tribulation
- 2) **Mid-Trib** / Pre-Wrath: The middle of the Tribulation or prior to the wrath
- 3) **Post-Trib**: Post (After) the Tribulation

Why I believe in a “Pre-Trib” Rapture?

#1) The Sheep and Goat Judgment

Matt 25:31-32

When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.

Who are the sheep if the Christians were just raptured and glorified?

#2) The ‘Wedding Language’ of Jesus

Description of a Jewish Wedding.

- 1) Marriage Covenant: Dowry and Pledge
- 2) Preparing a Home: Building on the Father's estate
- 3) Bridegroom Parade: Collecting the Bride
- 4) Marriage Supper: A feast with invited guests. Many believe was at the Father's home.

John 14:2-3 NIV

My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you?

And if I go and prepare a place for you, **I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am**

Note: what the verse doesn't say: "I will bring your place to you"... to be with me that you also

Matt 24:36 NIV

But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.

The Return / Coming of Christ consists of 2 parts...

For His Saints = The Rapture: Jesus as Bridegroom. **Unknown** day or hour

With His Saints = The Second Coming: Jesus as King. **Known** day

#3) The "Doctrine of Imminence": Jesus can return at any time so we must be ready.

Matt 24:36, 44, 50

But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.

So **you also must be ready**, because the Son of Man **will come at an hour when you do not expect** him.

The master of that servant **will come on a day when he does not expect** him and at an hour he is not aware of.

Mk 13:33

Be on guard! Be alert! **You do not know when that time will come**.

Jesus's 2nd Coming is:

- 7 years after the Antichrist makes a covenant with Israel
- 3.5 years after the Abomination of Desolation. Example texts:

Daniel 9:27

He will confirm a covenant with many for one 'seven.' In the middle of the 'seven' he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And at the temple he will set up an abomination that causes desolation, until the end that is decreed is poured out on him.

Rev 13:5

The beast was given a mouth to utter proud words and blasphemies and to exercise its authority for forty-two months.

#4) Primary purpose of the Tribulation? Refine a Remnant of Israel

Dan 9:24 "Seventy weeks have been decreed for **your people** and your holy city...."

Dan 12:1 "....Then there will be a time of anguish greater than any since nations first came into existence. But at that time every one of **your people** whose name is written in the book will be rescued.

Hosea 5:15 I will return again to my place, until they acknowledge their guilt and seek my face, and in their distress earnestly seek me.

Matt 23:39 For I tell you, you will not see me again, until you say, 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.'"

- The 'Church' is mentioned 19X in Revelation 1-3, then not again until Rev 22:16 in final message. Why is the church never mentioned during the tribulation?
- God move His vehicle for the Great Commission from the Church to 144,000 elect Jews and 2 Witnesses. Why switch to the Jewish people?

#5) When do we see it in Revelation?

After the church age of Revelation 2-3!!

Revelation 4:1

After these things I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven, and the first voice which I had heard, like the sound of a trumpet speaking with me, said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after these things."

Revelation 11:11-12

But after the three and a half days, the breath of life from God came into them, and they stood on their feet; and great fear fell upon those who were watching them. And they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, "Come up here." Then they went up into heaven in the cloud, and their enemies watched them.

Why Study End Times?

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

- We have a hope!
- We need not fear death!
- Be encouraged!

Philippians 3:20-21

But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.