

THE GET READY SERIES

AT CALVARY CHAPEL CHINO HILLS SERIES EXAMINING THE EVENTS AND TEACHINGS
OF ESCHATOLOGY AND HOW IT RELATES TO US TODAY.

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THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

Why There Must Be A Pre-tribulation Rapture Of The Church

REDISCOVERING THE BIBLICAL PROMISE OF THE BLESSED HOPE.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. **:14** For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus. **:15** For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive *and* remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. **:16** For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. **:17** Then we who are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. **:18** **Therefore comfort one another with these words.**

Why There Must Be A Pre-tribulation Rapture Of The Church.

Right Up Front – Lets Deal With The Issue of Debate.

(No New Testament church or Christian denies that there will be a Rapture; the debate arises as to when the Rapture will take place)

The confusion comes from those who (#1) do not see a difference between the church age saints and the tribulation saints to come.

(#2) miss the very requirement or the “must” for the Tribulation Period to be fulfilled which is a time that God has determined upon His people the Jews and His nation Israel. This is the fundamental key to The Last Days events – The 7 year tribulation period is 100% devoted to the fulfillment of great portions of the Old testament and New testament teachings of the Last Days.

The Biblical Revelation of the Rapture Event

It was a first century doctrine revealed by the Apostle Paul just 20 years after the Ascension of Jesus Christ to the Thessalonians in 51 A.D.

It was a first century doctrine revealed by Jesus Himself.

**WHEN WE TALK ABOUT
“THE SECOND COMING OF JESUS CHRIST”
We Must Understand That We Are Talking About
A Two Aspect, Two Phase Event.
There Are Two “Appointments” To His Coming.**

There is what is referred to as His Appearing
and there is the reference to His Return.

Both His “Appearing” and His “Return” are Described in the Bible
as being His “Coming”

**His “Appearing” and His “Return” is Described in the Bible
as being an Atmospheric (or heavens as the sky) in Nature while His
“Return” is Geographically Limited and a Bodily or Physical Arrival
(returning to Jerusalem, Israel).**

Why There Must Be A Pre-Tribulation Rapture Of The Church

1.) The Rapture: It is a Biblical doctrine

Contrary to a growing voice of opposition to Christ’s Imminent return, the Bible has always taught that Jesus Christ could return in the atmosphere to take possession of His church - at any time. The Apostles themselves awaited the return of Jesus Christ in their lifetimes. The early church fathers taught the Imminent or sudden appearing of Jesus Christ to receive His church to Himself.

The Rapture - a Biblical Doctrine

1a.) **A foundational doctrine** in the New Testament?

Titus 2:13

Looking for the **blessed hope** and **glorious appearing** of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,

1 Thessalonians 1:10a

“..**wait** for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, *even* Jesus who delivers us from **the wrath to come**.”

The Bible Says In 1 Thessalonians 4:17-18

:17 Then we who are alive *and* remain shall be **caught up** together with them **in the clouds** to meet the Lord **in the air**. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. **:18** **Therefore comfort one another with these words.**

Caught Up

Grk: Harpazo; to seize or to extract by force. To pull up and away from. To catch up, to snatch away suddenly.

At this point a good Bible student would ask:

“what’s the why for?”

The Rapture is a Biblical doctrine

1b.) **Why** does the Rapture need to happen?

There are many reasons as to “why” the rapture has to happen in light of the Bible, but a couple of reasons are these:

#1 – Jesus Welcomes The Church Into Heaven

John 14:1-3

“Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. **:2** In **My Father’s house** are many **mansions**; if *it were* not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. (In the Father’s house):**3** And if I go and prepare a **place** for you, **I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.**”

The Bible Says In Revelation 4:1

After these things **I John** (never again views the events from earth) looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven. And the first voice which I John heard was like a trumpet speaking with me, saying, **“Come up here,** and I will show

you things which must take place **after** this.” (from this point on, the church is never again seen on earth, only in heaven)

#2 – The Holy Spirit Finishes His Work Through the Church

The Bible Says In Jude 1:24-25

Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, And to present you faultless Before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy, 25 To God our Savior, Who alone is wise, Be glory and majesty, Dominion and power, Both now and forever. Amen.

The Rapture of the Church Brings The Work of The Holy Spirit
in the church to its absolute end / completion.

There Will be a Domino Effect

Just How Soon after the Rapture will the Anti-Christ Regime
Appear? No man knows. But we do know that the Rapture tips a domino that begins the final countdown sequence to Christ’s Second Coming to Earth?

#3 – Only Then Will the Anti-Christ Be Revealed.

The Bible Says In 2 Thessalonians 2:6-8

:6 And now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time. :7 For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains *will do so* until He is taken out of the way.
:8 And then the lawless one will be revealed,

The Rapture is a Biblical doctrine

1c.) **What** purpose does the Rapture serve?

The purposes are numerous. I will mention a few.

It’s an Exhortation to be Alert.

The Bible Says In Revelation 3:10

Because you have kept My command to **persevere**, (to keep moving forward. press on, to stay at it) I also will **keep you from** the hour of trial **which shall come upon the whole world**, to **test those** who dwell on the earth.

It’s a Consummation of The Church on Earth.

The Bible Says In 1 Thessalonians 2:19

For **what is our hope**, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? *Is it* not even you in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming?

The Bible Says In Hebrews 9:28

Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who *eagerly wait* for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, **FOR SALVATION**

It Fulfills God's Promise to Deliver His Church from His Wrath

The Bible Says In Revelation 3:7

"And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia... **Rev. 3:10** Because you have kept My command to persevere, **I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world**, to test those who dwell on the earth.

The Bible Says In 1 Thessalonians 1:10

"..wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus who *delivers us FROM THE WRATH to come.*

The Bible Says In 1 Thessalonians 2:19

For what *is* our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? *Is it* not even **you IN THE PRESENCE OF our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming?**

The Bible Says In 1 Thessalonians 3:13

so that He may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father **AT THE COMING of our Lord Jesus Christ with all His saints.**

The Bible Says In 1 Thessalonians 4:17a

:17 Then (2) we who are alive *and* remain **shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to MEET THE LORD IN THE AIR.**

The Bible Says In 1 Thessalonians 5:9

For God did not APPOINT US TO WRATH,
but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,

Like Enoch of old, who "**Walked with God**", so there will be a **generation of church age believers** that will be spared from what's coming upon the earth and **that shall be caught up.**

The Bible Says In Luke 21:36

Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy **to escape all these things that will come to pass**, and to stand before the Son of Man."

Why There Must Be A Pre-Tribulation Rapture Of The Church

2.) What will be the characteristics of the Rapture?

Often overlooked is the fact that The Rapture is the final act in the “**redemption doctrines**” of the Bible. It not only has it’s purpose - but it is essential to the completion of God’s salvation promise given to the church.

The Bible Says In Colossians 3:4
When Christ - who is our life appears,
then you also will appear with Him in glory.

What Will Be The Characteristics of The Rapture?

2a. How will the Rapture happen?

According to the Bible the Rapture will happen in a way that can only be described as a nuclear second or a Nano second. The bible describes this event as taking place in less than 18 thousandths of second.

The Bible Says In 1 Corinthians 15:51-52
:51 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be
changed - :52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye,

1 Thessalonians 4:16
For **the Lord Himself** will descend from heaven **with a shout**, with the **voice of an archangel**, and with **the trumpet of God**. And the dead in Christ will rise first. **:17 Then we who are alive** and remain shall be **caught up** together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air.

What Will Be The Characteristics of The Rapture?

2b. What will happen to those left behind?

Bible Scholars and Students are Not Sure About This

*Those having missed the Rapture appear to be the ones **who knew the way of eternal life but rejected it while they had opportunity like those in Noah’s day missed the Ark.** They will be subjected to great deception and strong delusion. They will suffer a special wrath of God that takes place at the front-end or at the first 3 ½ years of the 7-year Tribulation. They will have to face the Great Tribulation Period.*

The Bible Says In 2 Thessalonians 2:11

And for this reason God will send **them** strong delusion, that **they** should believe the lie, :**12** that **they all** may be condemned **who** did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

What Will Be The Characteristics of The Rapture?

2c. Will the Rapture hurt?

The Bible Says In 1 Thessalonians 4:17

Then we who are alive and remain shall be **caught up**

The Bible Says In Philippians 3:20-21

For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also **eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, :21 who will transform our lowly body** that it may be **conformed to His glorious body,**

The Bible Says In 1 Corinthians 15:50-53

Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. :**51** Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be **changed** - :**52** in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be **changed**. :**53** For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.

Why There Must Be

A Pre-Tribulation Rapture Of The Church

3.) How close is the Rapture?

As of today - - the Rapture is closer than it ever!

How Close is The Rapture?

3a. Will there be any warning before the Rapture?

Theologically - NO, none whatsoever, thus the doctrine of immanency!

The Bible clearly teaches that there is **no precursor or warning** prior to the Rapture taking place. **Unlike the Second Coming of Christ**, the Rapture is His appearing. The Second Coming of Christ is to earth and it is preceded by literally hundreds of prophetic events that must take place first.

How Close is The Rapture?

3b. How should we be living prior to the Rapture?

We're to be living "Rapture Ready Lives" (Our First Love Relationship)

The Bible Says In 1 Thessalonians 5:1-9

But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. :2 For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. :3 For when they say, "Peace and safety!" then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape. :4 But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief. :5 You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness. :6 Therefore let us not sleep, as others *do*, but let us watch and be sober. :7 For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night. :8 But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation. :9 For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,

Seek those things that are above where Christ is...

The Bible Says In Colossians 3:16

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. :17 And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

Know for Yourself Why You Should Be Excited

Titus 2:13

(be) Looking for the **blessed hope** and **glorious appearing** of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,

How Close is The Rapture?

3c. Why you should know the difference

The Biblical Differences Between The Rapture & The Second Coming

The Rapture	The Second Coming
Christ appears in the air for His church.	Christ returns to earth with His church.
The catching up of all believers takes place.	No one is caught up anywhere.
The Church age Believers are taken to the Father's House in Heaven.	Believers are not taken to the Father's House in Heaven.
There is no Judgment on earth that takes place.	Christ judges all the inhabitants of the earth.
The Church is physically gathered together to Jesus.	Jesus Christ gathers the nations on earth to judge.
Only the Rapture is taught as being imminent.	The Second Coming happens at least 7 years later.
There are no signs preceding it.	There are 100's of signs preceding the 2nd. Coming.
The Rapture will involve only the believers.	The Second Coming affects all of humanity.
It is a time of great joy and rejoicing.	The Second Coming it is a time of violence and fear.
The Rapture happens before the Tribulation period.	It happens immediately after the Tribulation period.
There is no mention of Satan.	Satan is bound for a thousand years.
Only those looking for Him will see Him.	Then every eye will see Him.
The Tribulation begins.	The Tribulation ends.
The Rapture takes us to the Marriage of the Lamb & His Bride.	Jesus Christ and the bride are seen descending.
There is a metamorphous to all believers.	There is no metamorphous described at all.

1 John 3:2-3

Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. :3 ***And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.***

RE dedicate Your Life to Jesus Today

The End

Is Just The Beginning for Us

End of Study

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