



The Rapture of the Church - Mid-Tribulation View

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The Rapture of the church

The meaning of the word rapture – Actually, the word rapture is from rapere, found in the expression “caught up” in the Latin translation of:

1 Thessalonians 4:17 (NIV)

17 After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.

However, if one so desires, the rapture could be scripturally referred to as the harpazo, which is the Greek word translated “caught up” in **1 Thessalonians 4:17**.

The identical phrase is found in **Acts 8:39**, where Philip was caught away by the Holy Spirit, and in **2 Corinthians 12:2, 4**, when Paul was caught up into the third heaven.

Acts 8:39 (NIV)

39 When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him again, but went on his way rejoicing.

2 Corinthians 12:2, 4,

2 I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven. Whether it was in the body or out of the body I do not know—God knows.

4 was caught up to paradise and heard inexpressible things, things that no one is permitted to tell.

Or, if you'd rather, the rapture could be known as the allasso, from the Greek translation.

1 Corinthians 15:51-52:

51 Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed

52 in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.

Allasso is used in describing the final renewal and transformation of the heavens and the earth.

Heb. 1:12:

12

You will roll them up like a robe;
like a garment they will be changed.
But you remain the same,
and your years will never end.”
So then, use whatever name suits your fancy.

Of course, the important thing is not what you name it, but rather, can you claim it?

That is, will you participate in it?

Thus, the next scheduled 33 event predicted in the Word of God will take place when the Savior himself appears in the air to catch up his own.

The first mention of the Rapture is found in:

John 14:1-3: (NIV)

14 “Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me.

2 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?

3 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.

While the Old Testament prophets spoke in glowing terms of the Messiah’s eventual return to earth and the establishment of his perfect kingdom upon the earth:

Isa. 2:2-5 (NIV)

2 In the last days

the mountain of the Lord's temple will be established
as the highest of the mountains;
it will be exalted above the hills,
and all nations will stream to it.

3 Many peoples will come and say,

“Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,
to the temple of the God of Jacob.

He will teach us his ways,
so that we may walk in his paths.”

The law will go out from Zion,
the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

4

He will judge between the nations
and will settle disputes for many peoples.

They will beat their swords into plowshares
and their spears into pruning hooks.

Nation will not take up sword against nation,
nor will they train for war anymore.

5

Come, descendants of Jacob,
let us walk in the light of the Lord.

Isaiah 9:6-7 (NIV)

6

For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders.
And he will be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

7

Of the greatness of his government and peace
there will be no end.
He will reign on David's throne
and over his kingdom,
establishing and upholding it
with justice and righteousness
from that time on and forever.
The zeal of the Lord Almighty
will accomplish this.

11:1-16 (NIV)

The Branch From Jesse

1

A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse;
from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.

2

The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him—
the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and of might,
the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the Lord—

3

and he will delight in the fear of the Lord.
He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes,
or decide by what he hears with his ears;

4

but with righteousness he will judge the needy,
with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth.
He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth;
with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked.

5

Righteousness will be his belt
and faithfulness the sash around his waist.

6

The wolf will live with the lamb,
the leopard will lie down with the goat,
the calf and the lion and the yearling[a] together;
and a little child will lead them.

7

The cow will feed with the bear,
their young will lie down together,
and the lion will eat straw like the ox.

8

The infant will play near the cobra's den,
and the young child will put its hand into the viper's nest.

9

They will neither harm nor destroy
on all my holy mountain,
for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the Lord
as the waters cover the sea.

10 In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples; the nations will rally to him, and his resting place will be glorious.

11 In that day the Lord will reach out his hand a second time to reclaim the surviving remnant of his people from Assyria, from Lower Egypt, from Upper Egypt, from Cush, from Elam, from Babylonia, from Hamath and from the islands of the Mediterranean.

12

He will raise a banner for the nations
and gather the exiles of Israel;
he will assemble the scattered people of Judah
from the four quarters of the earth.

13

Ephraim's jealousy will vanish,
and Judah's enemies[d] will be destroyed;
Ephraim will not be jealous of Judah,
nor Judah hostile toward Ephraim.

14

They will swoop down on the slopes of Philistia to the west;
together they will plunder the people to the east.
They will subdue Edom and Moab,
and the Ammonites will be subject to them.

15

The Lord will dry up
the gulf of the Egyptian sea;
with a scorching wind he will sweep his hand
over the Euphrates River.
He will break it up into seven streams
so that anyone can cross over in sandals.

16

There will be a highway for the remnant of his people
that is left from Assyria,
as there was for Israel
when they came up from Egypt.

The Kingdom of Righteousness

32:1 (NIV)

See, a king will reign in righteousness
and rulers will rule with justice.

Joy of the Redeemed

35:1-10 (NIV)

1

The desert and the parched land will be glad;
the wilderness will rejoice and blossom.
Like the crocus,

2 it will burst into bloom;
it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy.
The glory of Lebanon will be given to it,
the splendor of Carmel and Sharon;
they will see the glory of the Lord,
the splendor of our God.

3

Strengthen the feeble hands,
steady the knees that give way;

4

say to those with fearful hearts,
 “Be strong, do not fear;
your God will come,
 he will come with vengeance;
with divine retribution
 he will come to save you.”

5

Then will the eyes of the blind be opened
 and the ears of the deaf unstopped.

6

Then will the lame leap like a deer,
 and the mute tongue shout for joy.
Water will gush forth in the wilderness
 and streams in the desert.

7

The burning sand will become a pool,
 the thirsty ground bubbling springs.
In the haunts where jackals once lay,
 grass and reeds and papyrus will grow.

8

And a highway will be there;
 it will be called the Way of Holiness;
 it will be for those who walk on that Way.
The unclean will not journey on it;
 wicked fools will not go about on it.

9

No lion will be there,
nor any ravenous beast;
they will not be found there.
But only the redeemed will walk there,

10

and those the Lord has rescued will return.
They will enter Zion with singing;
everlasting joy will crown their heads.
Gladness and joy will overtake them,
and sorrow and sighing will flee away.

etc.:

They knew absolutely nothing of that event whereby God himself would (for a brief period of time) remove his people from the earth.

The participants of the Rapture – For whom will Jesus come?

It is the view of this theological summary that Christ will come again for his church, which is composed of all saved people from Pentecost up to the Rapture itself.

Two descriptions of the Rapture:

The two most important passages describing the Rapture are found in:

1 Thessalonians 4 (Please Read the Entire Chapter)

1 Corinthians 15 (Please Read the Entire Chapter)

Let us briefly examine these two passages.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18:

In this great passage Paul answers a question that had bothered the Thessalonians.

When he was among them (Acts 17), they had doubtless learned many precious truths about the glorious return of Christ to earth someday and the establishing of his kingdom.

In fact, to some this all seemed to be just around the corner.

But since the apostle's departure, a number of believers had died, They obviously then would not be on earth at the time of Christ's return.

Did this mean they would miss everything?

This then is the background to the great Rapture passage before us here in chapter 4.

These six verses thus present for us:

A realization:

“But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope” **1 Thessalonians 4:13 (KJV)**

A revelation:

“For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent [precede] them which are asleep” **(4:15).**

Note Paul’s usage of the pronoun “we.”

The apostle apparently hoped at this time to be here when Christ came.

He would later know otherwise.

2 Tim. 4:6:

6 For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time for my departure is near.

The Rapture will not occur until the middle of the tribulation, thus forcing the entire church to go through the first three and a half years of God's wrath.

This theory is called mid-tribulationism.

However, this seems to be refuted by:

1 Thessalonians 5:9 (NIV)

9 For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.

The New Testament pictures the church as the body and bride of Christ.

If the mid-tribulation or post-tribulation view were correct, then a part of his body would suffer amputation, and a section of the bride would be left behind.

In addition to this, one would be forced to conclude that all bodies of carnal departed Christians would likewise be left in the grave. This simply is not the clear teaching of the Word of God.

The Bible teaches clearly that the Rapture is pre-tribulation in nature and includes all believers:

1 Thess. 1:10 (NIV)

10 and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.

Rom. 5:9 (NIV)

9 Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him!

Perhaps the strongest proof of this statement is the fact that up to chapter 6 of Revelation the church is mentioned many times, but from chapter 6 to chapter 19 (the period of the tribulation) there is no mention whatsoever of the church on earth.

In fact, the only godly group Satan can find to persecute is the nation Israel: **(See Rev. 12.)**

In Revelation 4:1:

The Throne in Heaven

4 After this I looked, and there before me was a door standing open in heaven.

And the voice I had first heard speaking to me like a trumpet said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this."

We are told that Christians are God's ambassadors on earth:

2 Cor. 5:20 (NIV)

20 We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us.

We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.

And that he will someday declare war on this earth.

The first thing a king or president does after he declares war on another country is to call his ambassadors home.

Thus, we conclude that the church will escape the tribulation.

In closing our study on the Rapture, let us consider the words of

German theologian Erich Sauer:

The present age is Easter time.

It begins with the resurrection of the Redeemer (Matt. 28), and ends with the resurrection of the redeemed (**1 Thess. 4; 1 Cor. 15**).

Between lies the spiritual “resurrection” of those called into life

(Rom. 6:4-11) NIV

4 We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

5 For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his. **6** For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with,^[a] that we should no longer be slaves to sin — **7** because anyone who has died has been set free from sin.

8 Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. **9** For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. **10** The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God.

11 In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

(Col. 3:1) NIV

Living as Those Made Alive in Christ

3 Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

So we live between two Easters, as those who have been raised between two resurrections, as burning and shining lights....

And in the power of the First Easter we go to meet the Last Easter.

The resurrection of the Head guarantees the resurrection of the members.

The tree of life of the resurrection bears fully ripe fruit.

(The Triumph of the Crucified, p. 101)

Forgiveness of Sin:

How do we get right with God, regardless of our individual sins?

Just say this Prayer and all of your sins will be forgotten, and you will have Eternal life, with Christ Jesus, in Heaven:

Lord Jesus, I repent of all my sins, and I ask you to come into my life and be my Lord and Savior.

Friends, if you prayed that prayer, I believe that you are born again, and you have everlasting life, get in a good bible teaching church, and may you keep growing, in the Lord, and help save many souls for His Kingdom !

In Jesus Mighty Name,
Rev. Jesus Del Rio ED

