

## The Rapture

- I) References on the rapture.  
[I Thess. 4:13-17; II Thess. 2:1-3, 6, 7;  
I Cor. 15:51-55; Rev. 3:10; Rev. 4:1]

A. The word, "rapture," does not appear in the bible, but the definition of the word rapture, does. See I Thess. 4:17 "be caught up." Just like the word, "trinity," does not appear in the bible but the definition of the word, "trinity," does. See I John 5:7 "the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost, and these three are one".

### I) The Rapture Described

**1 Thess. 4:13** 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.

**14** For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.

**15** 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.

*Note: "prevent" (5348-7 times- come; hath attained; have already attained)(def. precede)*

**16** For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

**17** Then we which are alive [and] remain shall **be caught up** together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

*Note: "caught up" (726-13 times- take by force; catcheth away; to pluck)*

**1 Corinthians 15:51** Behold, I shew 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 trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

*Note: "moment" (823- 1 time- def. indivisible time)*

*Note: "twinkling" (4493- 1 time- def. throw; stroke; beat)*

*Note: "incorruptible" (862- 7 times- 6 times 'incorruptible' or 'not corruptible' and 1 as "immortal")*

**53** For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal [must] put on immortality.

*Note: "incorruption" (861- 8 times- 'immortality', 'incorruption', 'sincerity')*

**54** So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.

*Note: "swallowed" (2666- 7 times- 'drowned', 'devour', 'swallowed')*

**55** O death, where [is] thy sting? O grave, where [is] thy victory?

*Note: "grave" (86- 11 times- 10 times as "hell")[def. the underworld.]*

**2 Thessalonians 2:1** Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and [by] our **gathering together unto him**,

*Note: "gathering together"(1997-2 times- assembling together-Heb. 10:25)*

**2** That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand.

**3** Let no man deceive you by any means: for [that day shall not come], except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;

*Note: "falling away" (646-2 times- forsake-Acts 21:21)*

**2 Thessalonians 2:6** And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time.

*Note: "withholdeth" (2722-19 times- seize on; stayed; keep; hold; possessed; hold fast; retain)*

**7** For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth (*withholds*) [will let (*withhold*)], until **he be taken out of the way**.

## **II) Why the Rapture and when it occurs?**

### **1) We are promised not to go into the Tribulation**

**Revelation 3:10** Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.

**I Thess. 5:9** For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ.

### **2) Because God removes the saved from the lost before he judges the lost.**

**Example: II PET. 2:5-9; GEN. 18:23, 25; 19:16, 22)**

#### *Noah Saved From The Flood*

**2 Peter 2:5** And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth [person], a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly;

#### *Lot Removed from Sodom and Gomorrah before judgment*

**2 Peter 2:6** And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrha into ashes condemned [them] with an overthrow, making [them] an ensample unto those that after should live ungodly;

**7** And **delivered just Lot**, vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked:

**8** (For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed [his] righteous soul from day to day with [their] unlawful deeds;)

#### *The General Promise Of Deliverance*

**9** The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the

unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished:

**Genesis 18:23** And Abraham drew near, and said, **Wilt thou also destroy the righteous with the wicked?**

**25** That be far from thee to do after this manner, to slay the righteous with the wicked: and that the righteous should be as the wicked, that be far from thee: Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?

*Removing Lot out of Sodom*

**Genesis 19:16** And while he lingered, the men laid hold upon his hand, and upon the hand of his wife, and upon the hand of his two daughters; the LORD being merciful unto him: and they brought him forth, and set him without the city.

**22** Haste thee, escape thither; for **I cannot do any thing till thou be come thither.** Therefore the name of the city was called Zoar.

**3) Because God will not break the seal of the Holy Spirit occupied by New Testament believers.**

*First we must see an explanation of a difference between Old and New Testament believers in reference to the Holy Spirit. Old Testaments saints got saved just like us in the New Testament times but the Old Testaments saints were not indwelt or sealed with the Holy Spirit like we are today. This Holy Spirit sealing only occurred in New Testament times between the 69<sup>th</sup> and 70<sup>th</sup> week of Daniel.*

***The Seven Year Tribulation is the 70th week of Daniel***

**Daniel 9:24** Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy.

**25** Know therefore and understand, [that] from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince [shall be] seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times.

**26** And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof [shall be] with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined.

**27** And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make [it] desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.

*Week Defined As Seven Years*

**Genesis 29:27** Fulfil her week, and we will give thee this also for the service which thou shalt serve with me yet seven other years.

*Note: 70 weeks x 7 years = 490 years from Neh. 2:5-8 "the command to restore and rebuild Jerusalem" to the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ = 483 years*

with 1 week or 7 years left which is the Tribulation Period.

*The Seal of N.T. Believers:*

**Ephesians 1:12** That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ.

**13** In whom ye also [trusted], after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,

**Ephesians 4:30** And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.

*The Start of the Seal in Time Would be at Christ death and Resurrection*

**John 7:38** He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.

**39** (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet [given]; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)

**John 20:22** And when he had said this, he breathed on [them], and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost:

*Note: From the resurrection and glorification of Christ every believer is indwelt and sealed with the Holy Spirit upon salvation: At the beginning of the final week of Daniel or the Tribulation (7 year) period the Holy Spirit will resume his ministry back the way it was in the Old Testament times: (II Thess. 2:7 ...until he be taken out of the way.)*

*In order for the seal of the Holy Spirit not to be broken, every believer has to be removed to heaven along with the end of this type of ministry of the Holy Spirit before the Holy Spirit will resume His ministry like it was in Old Testament times in the 70<sup>th</sup> week or the 7 year tribulation.*

*The "grace period" or "time of the gentiles" or "the church age" is a parenthetical injection of time between the 69th week and the 70th week of Daniel. It is an unknown amount of time in which we presently live.*

**Romans 11:25** For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in.

### **III. None of our Possessions will go with us**

**1 Timothy 6:7** For we brought nothing into [this] world, [and it is] certain we can carry nothing out.

### **IV. No one Knows when the Rapture will come other than before the Tribulation**

**Matthew 24:42** Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.

**Matthew 25:13** Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.

**Mark 13:33** Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is.

**Mark 13:35** Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning:

**Luke 12:40** Be ye therefore ready also: for the Son of man cometh at an hour when ye think not.

**Acts 1:7** And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power.

**Revelation 3:3** Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee.

#### **V. Commands that Pertain to us and the Rapture:**

- 1) Watch. [Matt. 24:42 ; 25:13 ; Mark 13:33, 35, 37 ; Rev. 3:3]
- 2) Be ready. [2092][17 times][prepared][Matt. 24:44 ; Luke 12:40]
- 3) Occupy. [Luke 19:13]
- 4) Pray. [Mark 13:33]
- 5) Abide in him. [I John 2:28]

#### **VI. The Results of the Expectation of his Coming.**

**1 John 3:2** Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

**3** And every man that hath this hope in him **purifieth himself**, even as he is pure.