

“Rapture”

Greg Wendschlag August 5, 2018

*“According to the Lord’s word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until **the coming of the Lord**, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. 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. Therefore encourage one another with these words. Now, brothers and sisters, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. While people are saying, “Peace and safety,” destruction will come on them suddenly, as labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.” 1 Thess. 4:15 – 5:3*

The word “rapture” is not in the Bible

- Parousia – The “coming” of Jesus
- Harpazo – “to seize snatch” (1 Thess. 4:17)
- Rapere – Latin from which our word “rapture” comes

Is the rapture different than Christ’s second coming?

1 Thess. 4:13-18	Revelation 19:11-16
Jesus appears	Jesus returns
Jesus appears for the church	Returns with His church
A Deliver from the earth	A Conqueror of the earth
In Grace	In Wrath
A Bridegroom	A King

When will the rapture happen?

1. Before Daniel’s 70th week – **pre-trib**
Imminent return of Jesus
Requires the departure of the Holy Spirit before the Anti-Christ is revealed (2 Thess. 2:5-7)
2. In the middle of Daniel’s 70th week – **mid-trib**
The church will suffer the wrath of Satan but not the wrath of God. (Matt. 24)
3. At the end of Daniel’s 70th week – **post-trib**
The rapture and the second coming are one event. The church is caught up and immediately returns with Jesus to rule. (Rev. 19)

These things must happen before the 2nd Coming of Christ

1. Seven years of tribulation
2. Rebuilding of the Temple
3. Anti-Christ empowered
4. Building of the 3rd Temple and the Abomination of Desolation
5. Two witnesses martyred and resurrected
6. Mark of the Beast
7. The Gospel will be preached to all nations

Therefore we should be watching for the birth pains of these things.

The 7 Feasts of Israel have predicted all the major events of prophecy

Spring Feasts

Passover/Feast of Unleavened Bread – Fulfilled with the Death of Jesus

Feast of First Fruits – Fulfilled with the Resurrection of Jesus

Summer Feasts

Feast of Weeks or Pentecost – Fulfilled when the Holy Spirit births the church

Fall Feasts

Feast of Trumpets – Gathering of the people?

Day of Atonement - Judgment?

Feast of Booths – Welcome to eternity?

The picture of a Jewish wedding

1. The Father of the groom arranges the marriage. The groom travels to the home of the bride and pays the purchase price for her thus establishing the marriage covenant.
2. The groom returns to his father's house and remains separate from his bride during which time he prepares the living accommodations for her in his father's house.
3. The groom comes for his bride at a time not known exactly to her; she lives in expectation until he surprises her on his return.
4. The groom returns with her to the father's house for the wedding ceremony, to consummate the marriage and celebrate the wedding feast for the next seven days. During this time the bride is kept in her bridal chamber.

"No one knows about the day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father."

Mt. 24:36

Discussion Starters for Your Groups InCommon

1. What “birth pains” do feel are the most clear today?
2. Do you have thoughts on the timing of the rapture; pre, mid or post trib?
3. Knowing the rapture could happen any time, how does that effect the way you live?
4. Knowing the rapture could happen any time, how does that effect your outreach?