

# Revelation Study Guide

## Chapter 3 - Rapture



**1 Th 4:15-17 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 them which are asleep. (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.**

With these words, Paul details the Rapture for us. He tells us when it will happen and how it will happen. The Rapture will happen at Jesus coming. In simple terms believers dead and living are changed the dead are resurrected and the living are rendered immortal. Both, however, are caught up into the heavens where they will meet the Lord. In this section we want to take the time to study this very important Bible Doctrine. Despite the fact that the Doctrine of the Rapture is fully supported by the Bible, there is much controversy concerning it. Some would go as far as rejecting it together, while others would rearrange the timing of the rapture.



The rapture is a part of God's order for the future. It will happen somewhere in future time of the exact moment no one knows. That knowledge is held in reserve by God the Father. What is revealed to us is its relationship to other prophetic events. The climatic event of our age will be the Seven-Year Tribulation; the rapture of the Church will happen before the Tribulation. When we consider the awfulness of the Tribulation, this is a very comforting thought, it is no wonder that Paul after revealing the Rapture to the Thessalonians wrote these words, **"1Th 4:18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words."** There are some who would try to steal that comfort away from us. That was just exactly what would happen to the Thessalonians, a deceiver would come to them and try to convince them that the Tribulation had already started and that they were in it. In response to this Paul wrote **II Thessalonians** chapter **2**, in which he told them not to let anyone deceive them concerning the order of events that consisted of Rapture and Tribulation.

***2 Thes. 2:1-3 Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him, (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;***

Notice the subject of the passage, ***"by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him,"*** it is about the coming of the Lord and the Rapture, ***"the gathering."*** He commands them to not allow any man to deceive them concerning the order of these events and then lays out the order of events. The ***"day of Christ"*** is the Tribulation. Paul states that it cannot come unless two things take place first. The first thing that must take place is the ***"falling away."*** This term here means to fall away from the earth. It is to leave one place and to go to another. Remember that the subject is the coming of the Lord and our gathering unto him. Falling away from the earth is what happens to the believers as they are Raptured. Paul wants to make sure that this is perfectly clear. The second thing that must happen is the ***"Man of Sin,"*** the Antichrist must come forth, and until he comes there can be no Tribulation.



It is with Paul's command ("let no man deceive you") that we have prepared this section. It is our desire to strengthen your understanding of this vital Biblical Doctrine. It is my prayer that you will be comforted by reading this section.

## I. THE RAPTURE: THE MEANING OF THE WORD.

**A.** This word "rapture" means taking up, and it designates the Lord's deliverance of his saints from the great tribulation. It comes from the Latin *rapio*, which means to be caught up. In light of this, rapture is the name we give to the event we know as the catching away of the Saints by Jesus.

**1.** RAPTURE The catching up of believers by Christ at the time of His return. The word came into use by way of the Latin *rapio* used to translate the Greek term of **1 Thessalonians 4:17**, *harpagesometha*. Living believers are said to be "caught up" to meet the Lord at His coming.

\*Holman Bible Dictionary

**2.** In the first case, we need to recognize that "the Bible" has changed form over time. Originally, the Bible was written in Hebrew and Greek. But for most of the history of the Church, the Bible used by the majority of people was not in these original languages. Instead, people used a translation in their native language, just as we use an English translation today. And for the greater part of the history of the Church, the translation used by most in the West was the Latin Vulgate. This was "the Bible" for more than a thousand years--and dominated Bible study and doctrine for a period far longer than any other translation. It reigned supreme in the West until the time of the Reformation when men began to return to study the original language texts and translate them into the vulgar tongues (e.g., German, English).

The term rapture means "to seize" and "to carry off," and is taken from the phrase "caught up" in **1Th-4:17** in the Latin Vulgate which reads: *Deinde nos, qui vivimus, qui relinquimur, simul rapiemur cum illis in nubibus obviam Christo in aera, et sic sempe cum Domino erimus.* [**Then we, who are alive, who remain, together will be caught up with them in the clouds to meet Christ in the air, and so always with the Lord we will be.**] [Emphasis added]





So we see that the term "rapture" is in the Bible--it just depends which Bible you are talking about! If you mean one of the recent translations which have only been on the scene for decades, or even the KJV which is hundreds of years old, then you won't find the term. But if you are talking about the Grand Daddy of all Bibles which ruled for a millennium (the Vulgate), then the term is indeed there!

Even if we could not find the actual term "rapture" in a Bible, it would not indicate that the doctrine of the Rapture is not taught within Scripture. After all, we don't find the terms Trinity, Omnipresence, Omniscience, or Incarnation in Scripture, but these doctrines are clearly taught by Scripture. So all that is necessary to establish the truth of a teaching is whether the concept is found in Scripture. Here too, the Rapture passes the test.

\*Norman L. Geisler, and William E. Nix, A General Introduction to the Bible (Chicago, IL: Moody Press 1986), 26.

3. If we go back to the original language of the New Testament, we find the rapiemur of **1 Th 4:17** in the Vulgate to be a translation of the Greek term ἀρπαγησθεθα [harpagēsometha] which is the 1st person, plural, future tense, passive voice, indicative mood form of the verb ἄρπάζω [harpazō] meaning to "snatch, seize, i.e., take suddenly and vehemently" and which can denote "rescue from a threatening danger." Danker, A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature, 109

a. That is what the Rapture is, it is a "rescue from threatening danger."

**II. IT IS AN IMPORTANT BIBLICAL DOCTRINE.**

A. Jesus taught it.



1. **Mat 24:27-29** For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. (28) For wheresoever the carcass is, there will the eagles be gathered together. (29) Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken:

- a. His body is the carcass and the eagles are the raptured Saints.
- b. It happens like lightening and immediately after the Tribulation begins.

2. **Luke 21:34-36** And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and [so] that day come upon you unawares. (35) For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth. (36) Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.

a. In the verses proceeding **Luke 21:34 - 36**, the terribleness of the Tribulation is revealed. Now Jesus warns His people not to be distracted by the business of life until they are caught off guard by the Tribulation. He, in this scripture, warns that the tribulation will involve the whole earth. Then he holds out the hope of escaping the event, **“pray . . . that ye may be accounted worthy to escape.”** If the Tribulation is going to cover the whole of the world then it stands to reason that one must leave the planet to escape the Tribulation. That is what Jesus is referring to when he says, **“to stand before the Son of Man.”** Since he is in Heaven, the believer must be taken there before the Tribulation.

B. Paul taught it.

1. **1 Cor. 15:51-55** 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. (53) For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal [must] put on immortality. (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. (55) O death, where [is] thy sting? O grave, where [is] thy victory?



a. It is to the Rapture that Paul is referring to in this passage. The rapture is an event that happens like lightning, a trumpet is sounded and the dead are released from the power of the grave and the living are changed from mortal too immortal. He gives us the dynamics of the Rapture.



***2. 1 Th 4:14-18 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 them which are asleep. (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. (18) Wherefore comfort one another with these words.***



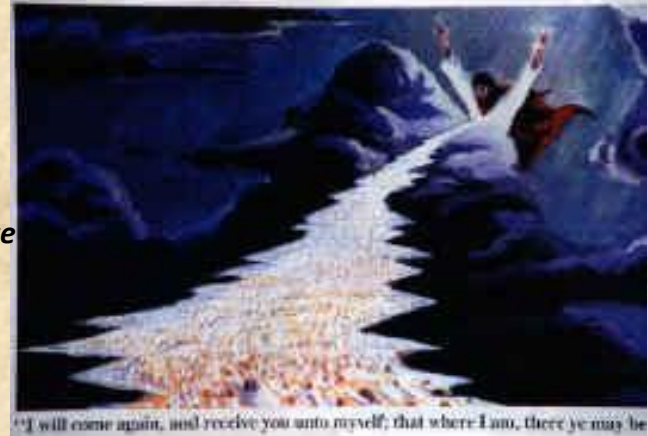


a. There can be no doubt as to what Paul is talking about here the Dead and the living Saints are caught up together to meet Jesus in the Air. They are Raptured!

C. John taught it.

**1. 1 Jo 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.**

a. John believed in the Rapture. He expected Jesus to appear; He expected the believers to be changed to be like Jesus. This is the same change Paul talked about, and it is the same event.



D. The Book of Revelation teaches it.

**1. The Church of Sardis is warned they could miss it. Rev 3:3-4 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. (4) Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy.**

a. To the church of Sardis Jesus gives a warning that if they don't watch out they will miss the Rapture, it will happen like a thief coming in the night. The thief will come and take what is valuable and leave behind a sense of loss. It appears that only a few of the members of that church will be ready for the Rapture.

**2. The Church of Philadelphia is promised the Rapture. Rev 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. 11 Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown. 12 Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name.**





a. Jesus has promised to do something for the church in relationship to something they have done. What did they do **“kept the word of my patience.”** What that means is very important to us, for in doing that we will be kept from the “hour of temptation.”

b. The word patience comes from the Greek word *hupomone*. Persevere is *ὑπομονή* ? [*hypomonē?s*], which may include the idea of expectation related to the promise to be kept from the hour: the word *hupomone* sometimes meant '(patient) expectation.

c. The word patient can be seen in two directions. The first, this Church has been patiently waiting for the promise of the Rapture. It was and is a major doctrine of this church. The other direction is from Jesus' point of view. He has been waiting a long time to come and get his bride. Jesus said it was his patience. Because they longed for and wanted him to come for them he was going to do just that.

d. Jesus will Rapture the church before the Tribulation. There are those who teach that the church must go through the Tribulation. This is a false notion. When the word **“hour”** is factored into the conversation, it becomes clear that the promise identifies with the “time of trial” and not its effects.

e. This verse does not say that the Church will be merely kept safe during the trial, but it will be kept from the very hour of trial, that is, from the very time of it. This requires a removal from the earth before the Tribulation ever occurs.

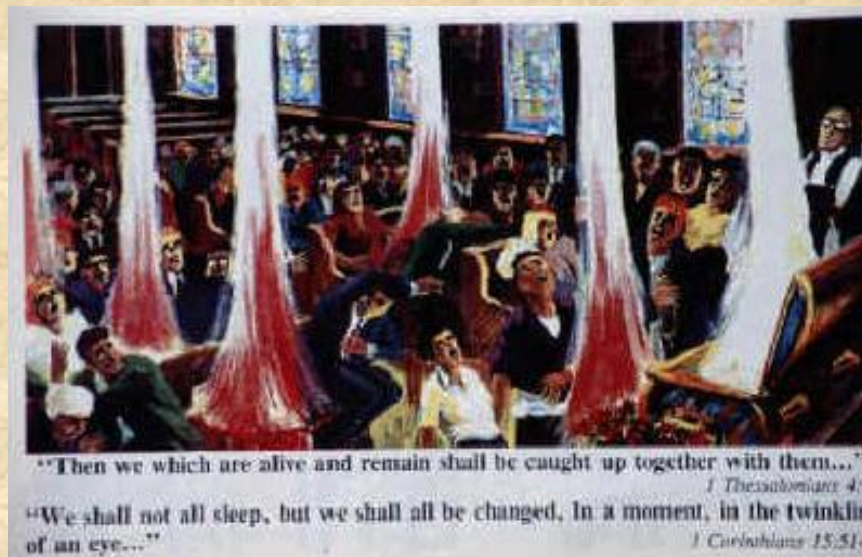
f. **“I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.”** The word hour is a unit word. It not only stands for a certain period of time, sixty minutes but it can also stand for an event. To say the hour of is to say the time while a certain thing is going on. In this case it is the Seven-Year Tribulation. The church will be kept from the hour, the whole hour.

Since the **“hour of temptation”** will try them that dwell on the whole of the earth then for Jesus to keep the church from this trial he must remove the church from the earth before the hour can begin. This is what happens with the Rapture.

g. **Rev 3:11 “Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.”** The promise is here in relationship to his promise to keep them from the Tribulation. So he is promising the Philadelphia Church that he is coming for them.

They are to be careful to not let a man take their crown. This is a warning that there will be a threat to the Philadelphian church going in the Rapture and being rewarded at the Judgement Seat of Christ. The threat is the pastor of the Laodicea Church with his wealth getting schemes. This pastor is said to be lukewarm. To fellowship with him is to risk catching his disease. He that is the Laodicean pastor is said to be blind and naked. The implication to Philadelphian Pastor is that just before the Rapture of the church he will face a tempter. He must resist him at all cost. He must hold on to the worship, faith, doctrine and service that have brought the approval of Jesus Christ.

The changes that are coming to many churches in their doctrine and worship is not being influenced by the Holy Ghost. We were warned about the coming changes by Paul, **1Tim. 4:1-2** ***“Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; (2) Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron”;*** The Holy Ghost wants us to understand that demon spirits would be busy in Laodicea. They would craft doctrines of change, which would lead believers into a terrible stage.



***h. Rev 3:12 Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name.***

We are now informed just where the church will be taken at the Rapture. They will be taken to New Jerusalem.

***Rev 3:12 Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name.***

**3. Revelation 4:1 - 2** shows us when the Rapture takes place. The church finished at the end of the third chapter, chapter four opens up with John being caught up to Heaven. He is Raptured.

We will not see the church again on earth until Jesus returns to the earth at the end of the Tribulation. John is a topological Christian and he is Raptured into Heaven. In these verses we are taught how the Rapture will happen, we are taught when it will happen.

**Rev 4:1-2** *After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter. (2) And immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne.*



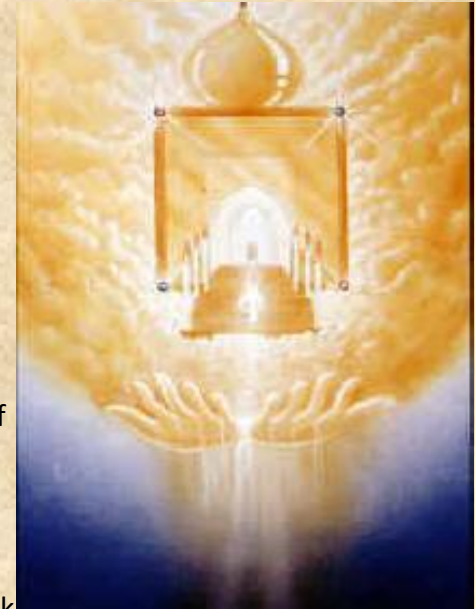
a. John's experience is exactly like Paul described it - **1 Th 4:16-17** *For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: (17) Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.*

5. Revelation chapter five will give us additional proof that the Rapture has taken place before the Tribulation as begun. The opening scene of chapter five envisions God the Father setting on a throne. In

his hand he has a seven-sealed book. A strong angel cries with a loud voice who is worthy to take and open the book. After a search is made, Jesus is brought forth and he takes the book. After taking the book two things happen that help us to understand that the Rapture has taken place and the Tribulation has not yet begun.

a. The prayers of the saints are offered before Jesus. **Rev 5:8** *And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints.*

b. The Judgment Seat of Christ took place during the time of Chapter four. We see crowns on the heads of the twenty-four elders. These elders are representing of Old & New Testament Believers. This group is the church. The rapture must have happened for the elders to have crowns and be able to cast them before God. The works of the church have been tried by fire, only the pure testimony of the church remains. They must be offered at this time as a witness that God had warned mankind of the impending judgment. No one can rightly charge they were not warned. God has provided a witness in the form of the church. Without the Rapture no one would be at the Judgment Seat of Christ. One would have had their works tried and comfort as gold. There would be nothing and one to offer up to the Lord at this time. This must happen before the Tribulation can begin. If there is no Rapture, there will be no Tribulation.



c. The second thing we see is a very large group of people in heaven before the throne. We watch as they worship Jesus Christ in song.

***Rev 5:9-14 And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; (10) And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth. (11) And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands; (12) Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing. (13) And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever. (14) And the four beasts said, Amen. And the four and twenty elders fell down and worshipped him that liveth for ever and ever.***

d. The details of the their song reveals who this very large group of people are.

**(1)** They are redeemed men and women. They have been redeemed by the blood of Jesus Christ.

**(2)** This number has come from every type of people, language, and nation. They are from the earth.

**(3)** They have been to the Judgment Seat of Christ and been appointed awards. Jesus has made them kings and priests. They already know that they will reign with Jesus in the Kingdom of God on this earth. This can be no one but the Raptured Church.

e. If they are not there to sing this song then things will progress no further. The Rapture is a must. Without it Jesus will not break the first seal.

6. Chapter 7 of Revelation is a proof text of the Rapture. In order to fully understand chapter seven we must understand what kind of chapter it is, Revelation has three kinds of chapters, Chronological, parenthetical and for a want of a better term we will call the rest "laminated." The chart below will aid in understanding how this works.

## Three Kinds of Chapters

- 1. Chronological - Arrange in order to the time of occurrence. Chapter 1 through 6 are chronological.**
- 2. Parenthetical - They are like a parenthesis in the middle of a sentence adding extra information. These chapters, which chapter 7 is one, do not follow in chronological order. They parallel other chapters in time.**
- 3. Laminated - Chapter 10-14 happen at the same time, all of them give us information concerning the middle of the Tribulation. We have to look through all of them to get a full understanding of all that happens in middle in the middle of the Tribulation.**

a. Chapter seven does not follow chapter six in order of events. It parallels six in time. In the opening scene four angels are commanded to hold back the winds that would hurt the earth. In this chapter the earth has not yet been damaged. In the close of chapter six the earth receives severe damage. Chapter seven is a parenthetical chapter. It is meant to give us some important information that could not be given in a chronological fashion. Here we will their positioning in time. What is about to happen to both groups is to happen before the Tribulation begins.

**b. The first group - *Rev 7:1- 4 And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree. (2) And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea, (3) Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads. (4) And I heard the number of them which were sealed: and there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel.***

c. Here we have 144,000 Jews. Until they are sealed, the angels cannot allow the winds to blow. With the Church being Raptured at this time the light would be removed from the world. God always has a witness in the world. The church has been his light in the world. Israel and the church have been used as his representative. It does not seem that he uses them at the same time. When the church was born, Israel as a nation was no longer for shortly after the birth of the Christian church Rome destroyed the nation of Israel, Jerusalem and the Temple. It is now the church that becomes God's light in the world. With the Rapture removing the church, God turns back to Israel as his light in the world. Since Israel will not accept Jesus Christ until the middle of the Tribulation, the 144,000 Jews become representative of the whole nation of Israel. While their number is symbolic, it is also literal. These are real people who live real lives.

In Chapter 14 we are told that they are removed from the earth - ***Rev 14:1-5 And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him an hundred forty and four thousand, having his Father's name written in their foreheads. (2) And I heard a voice from heaven, as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of a great thunder: and I heard the voice of harpers harping with their harps: (3) And they sung as it were a new song before the throne, and before the four beasts, and the elders: and no man could learn that song but the hundred and forty and four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth. (4) These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were redeemed from among men, being the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb. (5) And in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God.***

d. They lived pure lives. They are a living testimonies that even in "***the Tribulation***" a man who desires to may live for God. They are redeemed at this time because the nation of Israel has in total turned to Jesus Christ. Israel the nation is finally playing the role that God has intended for it to play.

## “Who are these?”

8 (Rev 7:13 KJV) And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they?

Questions - What are they & where did they come from?

### “Three Theories”

1. A great company of Gentiles saved in The Tribulation?
2. The Church going through the Tribulation?
3. Proof that the Church goes in the Rapture!

### Facts

1. This group is in Heaven before the Tribulation begins, so they cannot be Gentiles saved in the Tribulation. This would eliminate the church going through the Tribulation.
2. Problem - (Rev 7:14 KJV) . . . And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb - *This group came out of great tribulation.*
3. Solution - (Rev 1:9 KJV) I John, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation, . . . for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ - *John tells the Church he is their companion in tribulation. Neither John nor the churches of the past could have gone through the “Seven Year Tribulation” but they did experience tribulations and therefore came out of them.*

*are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them. (16) They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat. (17) For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.*

f. The identity of this group is very important. In the visual below we answer the question.

g. The identity of second group of people is clear. It is the Raptured church. When John’s attention is turned from the 144,000, he sees before the throne of God this very large group of people. They are not on the earth. They are in heaven. There are those who want to say that these are the converts of the 144,000. There is nothing in this chapter that points to this. The only connection that the two have is they are in the same chapter. The reason they are in the same chapter is to establish timing. The 144,000 are seen sealed before the Tribulation begins and the large group has arrived in heaven at the same time. It tells us what time the Rapture takes place, it is before the Tribulation can begin.

e. Now we turn to the second group of people in the seventh chapter - *Rev 7:9-17 After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands; (10) And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb. (11) And all the angels stood round about the throne, and about the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God, (12) Saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen. (13) And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they? (14) And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. (15) Therefore*

7. Chapter 19 is a proof text for the Rapture happening before the Tribulation.

***Rev 19:1-9 And after these things I heard a great voice of much people in heaven, saying, Alleluia; Salvation, and glory, and honour, and power, unto the Lord our God: (2) For true and righteous are his judgments: for he hath judged the great whore, which did corrupt the earth with her fornication, and hath avenged the blood of his servants at her hand. (3) And again they said, Alleluia. And her smoke rose up for ever and ever. (4) And the four and twenty elders and the four beasts fell down and worshipped God that sat on the throne, saying, Amen; Alleluia. (5) And a voice came out of the throne, saying, Praise our God, all ye his servants, and ye that fear him, both small and great. (6) And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunders, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth. (7) Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. (8) And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints. (9) And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God.***

a. In Revelation 17 & 18 We meet the great whore and we see judgment. She is destroyed by the ten Kings in the Middle of the Tribulation. The first few verses of chapter 19 tell us that the news of her destruction reaches the saints of God, as they are praising God, the announcement of the Marriage Supper of the Lamb comes. Since we know that the great whore is judged in the middle of the Tribulation we also know the timing for the Marriage Supper of the Lamb. It also must take place in the middle of the Tribulation. This would require the church to be in Heaven since she is the bride of Christ.

b. We are told that the ***“Bride has made herself ready.”*** This would require the church to have been to the Judgment Seat of Christ, which happens before the Tribulation can begin.

### **III. THE PATTERN OF SCRIPTURE TEACHES THE RAPTURE.**

***Isa. 46:10 Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure:***

A. **The Law of First Mention** - Scripture reveals certain principles needed for the proper and faithful interpretation of the Bible. These principles have to be recognized as Bible students seek to properly understand the Word. One of those is “The Law of First Mention.”

1. The "law of first-mention" is the principle in the interpretation of Scripture which states that the first mention or occurrence of a subject in Scripture establishes an unchangeable pattern, with that subject remaining unchanged in its usage throughout Scripture.



2. "the first-mention principle." This principle has to do with unchangeableness, and it centers around an unchangeable structure of the Word given by the unchangeable God. Because of the inherent nature of the Word, the first time a subject is mentioned in Scripture, a pattern, a mold is established at that point which remains unchanged throughout the remainder of Scripture. Arlen Chitwood: Theopneustos

3. The law of first-mention shows that God's truth doesn't fluctuate, but that His truth is an evidence of His own steadfastness. I believe God wants us to know what to expect from him and he wants us to know what he expects of us.

a. God does not change. His plan does not change. **Mal. 3:6 KJV "For I am the LORD, I change not; . . ."**

b. That is what we have in the following verse - **Isa. 46:10 KJV "Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure":** This the "Law of First Mention." The way God uses something in Genesis will be the way it is used all the way to Revelation.

c. Here is an example of Rapture before Tribulation - **Gen 5:21-24 KJV And Enoch lived sixty and five years, and begat Methuselah: (22) And Enoch walked with God after he begat Methuselah three hundred years, and begat sons and daughters: (23) And all the days of Enoch were three hundred sixty and five years: (24) And Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him.**



The Flood is coming but before it comes Enoch is raptured, This sets a pattern that will continue to the Book of Revelation. Enoch is in the beginning of the pattern, and because of the "Law of First Mention," we know what will happen before the Tribulation, as Enoch was raptured, the Church will be raptured before the Tribulation.

**B.** This is the pattern throughout Scripture. The Rapture is always before Tribulation. When it comes to Biblical doctrine, God always works in a predictable pattern. Scripture is a harmony. It is a weave revealing Jesus Christ. No Scripture is in conflict with another.

That is what Peter meant when he wrote **2 Pet. 1:20 "Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation."** If ever Scripture seems to be in conflict then one or more of the verses that seem in conflict must have been taken out of its natural setting or context, it is then given a different meaning than the author of the words intended for it to have. That will lead to a faulty interruption. This is often done in order to prove a personal doctrinal view point. When all texts are taken in their natural context, all Scriptures will harmonize into one Vision of Jesus Christ.

C. While other places in Scriptures give us events, it is the book of Revelation that organizes the events into a logical time line. The Book of Revelation, while it has some “parenthetical” chapters it is a chronological book revealing events in their proper order. God gives us the outline of the book of Revelation in *Rev 1:19* “**Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter**”;

# God's Outline Of The Book Of Revelation

Revelation 1:19 Write the things which thou hast seen,  
and the things which are,  
and the things which shall be hereafter;

A. Has Seen - John's Vision - Chapter 1

B. Things Which Are - The Church - Chapters 2 & 3

C. Things Which Shall Be Hereafter - Chapters 4 to 22

Church - Rapture - Tribulation - Millennial Kingdom - Eternity

1. What he has seen is the vision of Jesus among the candle sticks. That will be covered by Revelation chapter one.
2. “The things which are” deal with the seven churches. They collectively cover the church age. Chapters two and three deal with the church.
3. “**The things which shall be here after**” cover everything after chapter four of Revelation. The church comes to its earthly end at the close of chapter three and in chapter four we have the Rapture of the church and the Tribulation begins at the beginning of chapter six.

4. This is the pattern that is followed throughout the Bible. Believers removed from dangers, tribulation to follow and then the Kingdom begins.

D. Jesus tells us that events will follow a pattern, ***Luke 17:26-32 And as it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man. (27) They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all. (28) Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; (29) But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all. (30) Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed. (31) In that day, he which shall be upon the housetop, and his stuff in the house, let him not come down to take it away: and he that is in the field, let him likewise not return back. (32) Remember Lot's wife.***

1. The pattern of Noah and the flood. The Flood would be a world wide tribulation. There would be a rapture before it would begin. There would be three people who must be removed from the earth before the flood can cover the earth.

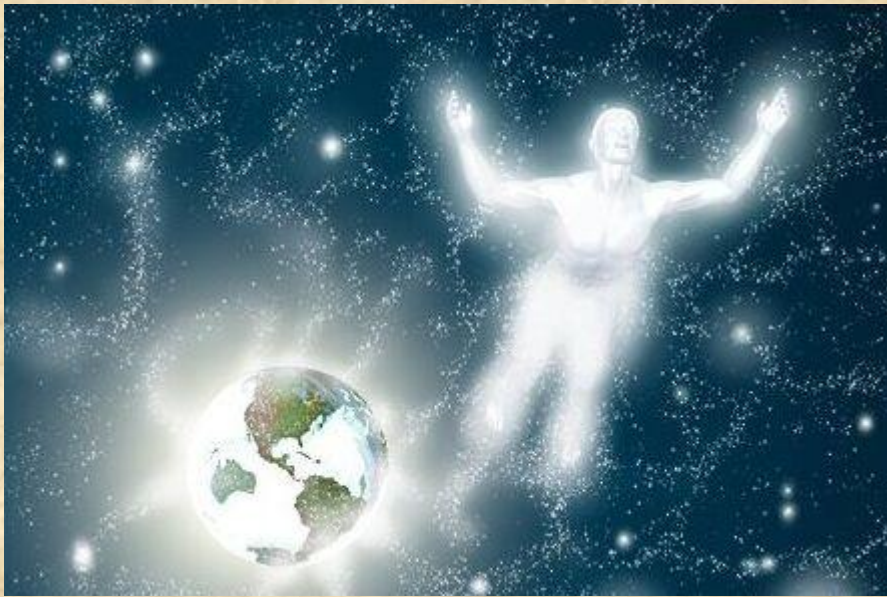
2. The first is Enoch -***Gen 5:21-24 And Enoch lived sixty and five years, and begat Methuselah: (22) And Enoch walked with God after he begat Methuselah three hundred years, and begat sons and daughters: (23) And all the days of Enoch were three hundred sixty and five years: (24) And Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him.***

***Heb. 11:5-6 By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God. (6) But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.***

a. Enoch knew about the Tribulation. He preached about judgment to come. He declared it by naming his son Methuselah, meaning “when he is gone it shall come.” Enoch knew after his son’s death the flood would come.

b. God translated him before the flood, he took him or better said Enoch was raptured before the flood.





**3.** The second is Methuselah -The presents of Methuselah held back the flood. It could only come after he is gone. He is like the church in the sense as long as the church the Tribulation cannot come.

**a.** Methuselah knew about the flood for he named his son Lamech. It is from this word that we get our world lamentations. Methuselah knew what was facing his son when he named him. He knew that when he left he would be leaving behind a son who would face the tribulation

**4.** The final of the three would be Noah. His father gave him a name that meant rest. Lamech knew that there would be something after the flood. He knew through Noah the human race would continue.

***Heb 11:7 By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith.***

Jesus said his coming would be like the days of Noah. Noah would go into an Ark that had been prepared for the saving of his family from the coming Flood or the Tribulation. It would lift him off of the earth and bring him back to the earth after the flood or tribulation. In this we see the pattern again, rapture has been prepared for us that will lift us off of the earth and Jesus will return us to this earth with his return at the end of the Tribulation.

**5.** So we see in the flood a pattern, believers are removed before the tribulation can come. The future Rapture will also follow the pattern. It will be a Rapture before Tribulation.

**6.** We also have the pattern of Lot and Sodom's destruction - ***Luke 17:(28) Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; (29) But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all. (30) Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed.***



**Gen. 19:15-26** *And when the morning arose, then the angels hastened Lot, saying, Arise, take thy wife, and thy two daughters, which are here; lest thou be consumed in the iniquity of the city. (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. (17) And it came to pass, when they had brought them forth abroad, that he said, Escape for thy life; look not behind thee, neither stay thou in all the plain; escape to the mountain, lest thou be consumed. (18) And Lot said unto them, Oh, not so, my Lord: (19) Behold now, thy servant hath found grace in thy sight, and thou hast magnified thy mercy, which thou hast shewed unto me in saving my life; and I cannot escape to the mountain, lest some evil take me, and I die: (20) Behold now, this city is near to flee unto, and it is a little one: Oh, let me escape thither, (is it not a little one?) and my soul shall live. (21) And he said unto him, See, I have accepted thee concerning this thing also, that I will not overthrow this city, for the which thou hast spoken. (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. (23) The sun was risen upon the earth when Lot entered into Zoar. (24) Then the LORD rained upon Sodom and upon Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the LORD out of heaven; (25) And he overthrew those cities, and all the plain, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and that which grew upon the ground. (26) But his wife looked back from behind him, and she became a pillar of salt.*

a. The story of Lot would be a pattern for the Lord's return. What we see here is a Tribulation coming on Sodom and Gomorrah but before it can happen there must be a Rapture of Lot out of the city. "**(22) Haste thee, escape thither; for I cannot do any thing till thou be come thither.**" The angel tells Lot that he cannot destroy the city until he is removed from there. The Tribulation cannot begin until the church is taken from the world.

b. Lot was Raptured. The Angels took he and his family by the hand and set them outside of the city. "**(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.**"

The angels brought him forth and set him outside of the city. Lot becomes a type of Raptured saint. He must be set outside of the city before Sodom's Tribulation can begin. The church must be set outside of the world before the Tribulation can begin. Jesus said it would be the same pattern for when he returns.

#### **IV. THE PATTERN IS SEEN IN THE PROPHETS.**

A. In the last book of the Old Testament there is a reference to the Rapture. **Mal 3:16-18** *Then they that feared the LORD spake often one to another: and the LORD hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon his name. (17) And they shall be mine, saith the LORD of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him. (18) Then shall ye return, and discern between the righteous and the wicked, between him that serveth God and him that serveth him not.*

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1. The beginning of the third chapter of Malachi God is rebuking Israel for the way they have treated him and for robbing him of his rightful tithes. He promises them blessings if they will honor him. Then he talks about a different group of people **“they that feared the Lord”** The “Lord” is a reference to Jesus Christ. If you fear the “Lord” then your name is written in the Lamb’s book of Life. This is the book of remembrance. If you are in the book of remembrance, you belong to God.

2. Now we have a reference to the Rapture, **(17) “And they shall be mine, saith the LORD of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him.”**

Making up the Jewels reminds us off the Judgment Seat of Christ where the works of the believer is tried by fire.

**1 Cor. 3:11-13** *For other*

*foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. (12) Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; (13)Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is.*

When he makes up his Jewels and spares them he is talking about keeping them from the Tribulation and taking them to New Jerusalem. We see a direct reference to that in the description of New Jerusalem in Revelation 21.



**Rev 21:9-14** *And there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues, and talked with me, saying, Come hither, I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb's wife. (10) And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, (11) Having the glory of God: and her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal; (12) And had a wall great and high, and had twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and names written thereon, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel: (13) On the east three gates; on the north three gates; on the south three gates; and on the west three gates. (14) And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and in them the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.*

a. On the twelve foundations of New Jerusalem are the names of the twelve apostles of Jesus. They are the foundation of the Christian Church and Jesus Christ is the chief corner stone. In Revelation chapter twenty-one, verses twenty-one and twenty-two we see a list of jewels that will

make up the foundation of the New Jerusalem that lets us see the connection of the church with the jewels. New Jerusalem is called the Bride of Christ. The Bride of Christ is the Raptured Church.

b. The Raptured Saints are the Jewels that are being spared here.

c. It is after the Rapture that the Jewish people turn to Jesus Christ. **(18)** *“Then shall ye return, and discern between the righteous and the wicked, between him that serveth God and him that serveth him not.”*

3. Chapter four of Malachi deals with the Tribulation that follows.

**Mal 4:1-6** *For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the LORD of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch. (2) But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall. (3) And ye shall tread down the wicked; for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet in the day that I shall do this, saith the LORD of hosts. (4) Remember ye the law of Moses my servant, which I commanded unto him in Horeb for all Israel, with the statutes and judgments. (5) Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD: (6) And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.*

The above verses are talking about the Tribulation. Elijah will be one of the two witnesses of chapter twelve of Revelation and Moses will be the other. Fire plays a big part in the judgment of the Tribulation.

4. The pattern of Rapture, Tribulation and return of Jesus Christ to this earth to begin his Kingdom on Earth is clearly seen.

B. The Rapture, Tribulation and the Return of Jesus Christ to this earth are also seen in the Book of Isaiah.

***Isa 26:17-21 Like as a woman with child, that draweth near the time of her delivery, is in pain, and crieth out in her pangs; so have we been in thy sight, O LORD. (18) We have been with child, we have been in pain, we have as it were brought forth wind; we have not wrought any deliverance in the earth; neither have the inhabitants of the world fallen. (19) Thy dead men shall live, together with my dead body shall they arise. Awake and sing, ye that dwell in dust: for thy dew is as the dew of herbs, and the earth shall cast out the dead. (20) Come, my people, enter thou into thy chambers, and shut thy doors about thee: hide thyself as it were for a little moment, until the indignation be overpast. (21) For, behold, the LORD cometh out of his place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity: the earth also shall disclose her blood, and shall no more cover her slain.***

1. ***Isaiah 26:17-21*** gives us a pattern of events that when taken event by event it takes us from Israel expecting Jesus to be born of a virgin to the return of Jesus to this earth.

2. Event number one - The virgin birth of Jesus - ***“Like as a woman with child, that draweth near the time of her delivery, is in pain, and crieth out in her pangs; so have we been in thy sight, O LORD. (18) We have been with child, we have been in pain,”***

a. It is Israel speaking in this passage. She says she is like a woman with child.

b. This reminds us of ***Rev 12:1-5 And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars: (2) And she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered. (3) And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads. (4) And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born. (5) And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne.***

This symbolism of this passage is of Israel being pregnant with the promise of Jesus. From the beginning of the nation there was the promise of Jesus being born through a virgin of Israel. So this becomes Israel's symbol.



c. **Isa 7:14** *Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.*

d. **Mat 1:20-25** *But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. (21) And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins. (22) Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, (23) Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us. (24) Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife: (25) And knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name JESUS.*

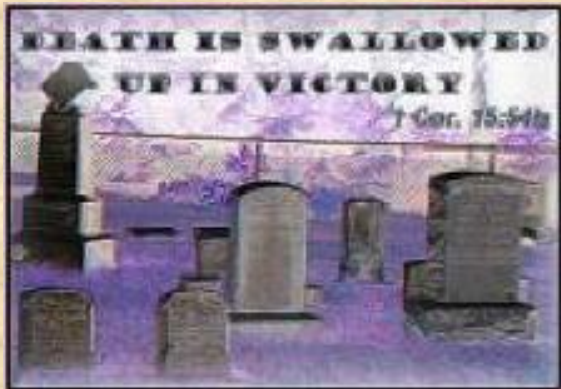
3. Event number two - ***“we have as it were brought forth wind; we have not wrought any deliverance in the earth; neither have the inhabitants of the world fallen.”*** This is Israel’s rejection of Jesus.

a. **John 1:11-12** *He came unto his own, and his own received him not. (12) But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:*

4. Event number three - ***“(19) Thy dead men shall live, together with my dead body shall they arise.”*** This is now the voice of Jesus. He tells Israel that her dead shall rise with his dead body. What is referred to here is the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus. At the time that Jesus rose from the dead there were others that were resurrected in Israel.

a. **Mat 27:50-53** *Jesus, when he had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the ghost. (51) And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the*

*rocks rent; (52) And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose, (53) And came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many.*



5. Event number four - ***“Awake and sing, ye that dwell in dust: for thy dew is as the dew of herbs, and the earth shall cast out the dead. (20) Come, my people, enter thou into thy chambers, and shut thy doors about thee: hide thyself as it were for a little moment, until the indignation be overpast.”*** Together with the Old Testament Believers that were raised from the dead at Jesus’ Resurrection are Raptured. Dead in Christ with the living are taken from the earth.

a. ***1 Thess. 4:16-17 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.***

b. ***“enter thou into thy chambers,”*** - The chambers referred to here are New Jerusalem, the place Jesus has prepared for the Bride of Christ.

c. ***John 14:1-3 Let not your heart be troubled: ye 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. (3) And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.***

d. ***Rev 21:9-10 And there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues, and talked with me, saying, Come hither, I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb's wife. (10) And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God,***

6. Event number five - ***“Come, my people, enter thou into thy chambers, and shut thy doors about thee: hide thyself as it were for a little moment, until the indignation be overpast.”*** The “indignation” is the Seven-Year Tribulation. Jesus has told his people to enter their chambers and stay until the “indignation” pass. This is clearly proof that the Church is Raptured off of the earth and enters into New Jerusalem and stays until it is time for the Tribulation to end.

7. Event number six - ***“(21) For, behold, the LORD cometh out of his place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity: the earth also shall disclose her blood, and shall no more cover her slain.”*** This is Jesus returning to the earth for the battle of Armageddon. He is coming to begin his Kingdom.



a. **Zec 14:4-5** *And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south. (5) And ye shall flee to the valley of the mountains; for the valley of the mountains shall reach unto Azal: yea, ye shall flee, like as ye fled from before the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah: and the LORD my God shall come, and all the saints with thee.*

b. **Jude 1:14-15** *And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints, (15) To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him.*

8. The pattern stands out for us in a very clear manner, Rapture, Tribulation, Second Coming of Jesus to the earth to end the Tribulation and begin the Kingdom of God on this earth.



**CON. I AM SURE SOME WHO READ THESE WORDS WONDER WHY GOD WOULD ESTABLISH THE RAPTURE THE WAY HE HAS.**

A. It has a purifying effect on the believer.

1. **1 John 3:2-3 KJV** *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.*

2. **2 Pe 3:14 KJV** *Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless.*

3. Giving up on the soon return of Jesus Christ has a corrupting effect - **Mat 24:48-51 KJV** *But and if that evil servant shall say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming; (49) And shall begin to smite his fellow servants, and to eat and drink with the drunken; (50) The lord of that servant shall come in a day when he looketh not for him, and in an hour that he is not aware of, (51) And shall cut him asunder, and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.*

a. When the servant thought he has plenty of time he became evil. While he thought he might come unexpectedly he was a good servant.



B. It has a comforting effect on those who see the troubling future.

**1.1 Th 4:15-18 KJV** 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 them which are asleep. (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. (18) Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

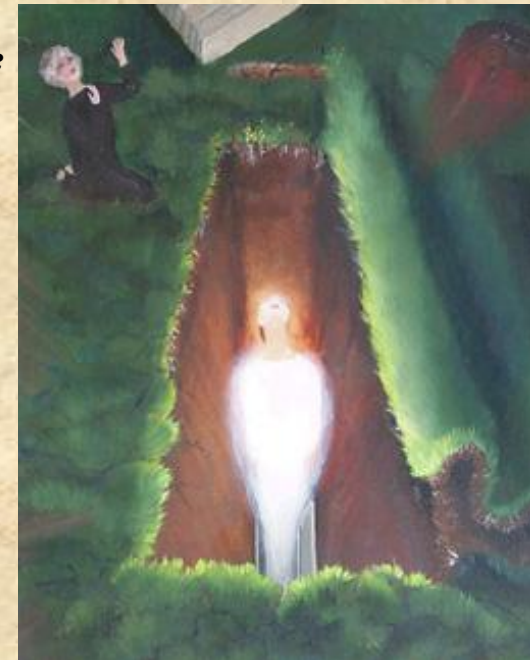
C. The hope of the Rapture gives the believer an endurance quality to his faith. **Mat 24:12-13 KJV** And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. (13) But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.

D. It can be a deciding factor in helping a person to finally make up his mind to be saved. Often men want to put off getting saved just one more day. The warning that Jesus is going to come in an unexpected time can cause a person to not delay giving their life over to the will of God.

**1. Mat 24:42-44 KJV** Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come. (43) But know this, that if the goodman of

*the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up. (44) Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.*

**2. Mark 13:32-37 KJV** But of that day and that hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father. (33) Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is. (34) For the Son of man is as a man taking a far journey, who left his house, and gave authority to his servants, and to every man his work, and commanded the porter to watch. (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: (36) Lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping. (37) And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch.





## Time is at Hand

Revelation 1:3

36"x48" Oil on Panel

Peter Olsen, Artist

Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.