

THE COMING RAPTURE

A SERIES ON END OF THE WORLD EVENTS – PART II

“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.”

~ 1 Thessalonians 4:17

1. Review

- a. End times study concerns when Christ returns and Prophecy will be fulfilled
- b. Chronologically, the rapture is first, but in your study the kingdom will be learned first
- c. The rapture doctrine is a consequence of the revelation of the mystery
- d. The real issue in eschatology is not rapture, tribulation, translation, but right division

2. The Rapture

- a. A word not in your Bible unless you speak Latin in 1 Thess 4:17
- b. It is a resurrection, but not only, it is also a change and relocation – 1 Cor 15:51-52
- c. Paul mentions the appearing in Titus 2:13, Col 3:4
- d. Paul teaches the church’s deliverance from wrath – Rom 5:9, 1Th 1:10, 5:9

3. The Controversy

- a. It is mocked and ridiculed by poor presentations in movies and books (Left Behind)
- b. The controversy among believers is when the “rapture” happens
- c. There are pre-tribulation, mid-trib, post-trib, and recently pre-wrath positions
- d. It is a strange event. So is... Gen 5:24, 2Ki 2:11, Act 1:9, 8:39, 2Co 12:2, Rev 11:12
- e. There are people who get to heaven during the tribulation – Rev 7:9, 14:1-3, 14:16
- f. Some say it is after the tribulation according to Matt 24:31, 24:36-44, 13:36-40
- g. Will the church be a part of the tribulation? (Next week)

4. Separating Prophecy from Mystery

- a. The strongest defense of a pre-trib rapture is rightly dividing Prophecy/Mystery
- b. The rapture is secret because of how it was revealed – Rom 16:25
- c. The church is not mentioned at all in Prophecy, so neither is it’s catching away
- d. God’s operation/doctrine today is different than it will be during Dan 70th week
- e. The gospel is different – Rev 14:6-7 vs. Gal 1:6-8, Rev 12:17, 14:12
- f. The ministry is different – 2 Cor 5:18-19, Eph 6:15 vs. Rev 19:10
- g. Israel must resume standing with God (not just a nation) – Rev 7:4 vs. Rom 11:32
- h. It is a different time – we are not of the night or of the darkness - 1 Thess 5:1-8

5. What This Means?

- a. The next thing God will do is return for His church
- b. The rapture of the church is not even a prophetic end time event
- c. There are no signs of this mystery return, all signs are for his prophetic return
- d. The rapture of the church could happen at any moment, no intervening events
- e. We are not even close to the end, we are always at least 1,007 years away