

# THE RAPTURE OF THE CHURCH

What, Who, When, Where, How, Why?

## I. What is the "Rapture?"

The word "RAPTURE" does not appear in Scripture. There are however a variety of words that are used to describe the Lord's coming for the church:

- "His appearing" .....2 Timothy 1:10 (parousia = his coming, arrival)
- "His coming" .....1 Corinthians 1:7 (apokalypsis = means revelation)
- "Our Gathering" .....2 Thessalonians 2:1 (episunagoge = gathering in one place)
- "Maranatha" .....1 Corinthians 16:22 (Aramaic = meaning our Lord comes!)
- "Blessed Hope" .....Titus 2:13 (literally = happy hope)

## II. Who Will Be Raptured?

There are Three Descriptive Passages:

- Matthew 24:27,30-31,40-41
- I Corinthians 15:51-54
- I Thessalonians 4:15-18
- 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12

## III. How Will The Rapture Come?

Careful study of these verses reveal the following concerning the RAPTURE:

1. It is His appearing (Himself as he is)
2. It is with His angels
3. It will be for the gathering of His elect
4. It will be at the shout of the archangel
5. It will be with the trumpet of God
8. It will be rapid as a eye twinkle (rhipto-a hurled javelin)
6. It will be in/with the clouds
7. It will in the air (not on the ground)
9. It will draw dead out of their graves.
- 10 It will effect immediate physical change
11. It will be permanent residence with Jesus.
12. It will be eternal separation from friends left behind.

## IV. When Will Be His Coming?

Pre-Tribulation Theory - church will escape persecution (tribulation)

Mid-Tribulation Theory - church will escape wrath of God

Post-Tribulation Theory - church will escape none until He comes

- Let's Look at the Biblical Evidence

*Signs Preceding - Rapture events - Wrath of God - Second Coming - Millenium - The End*

# CHRONOLOGICAL MOSAIC

(Great Mystery Unfolds - Events preceding the Rapture)

## Beginning of Sorrows

Many come saying I am Christ - Mt 24:5  
Wars and rumors of wars - Mt 24:6  
Nation rises against nation - Mt 24:7  
Famine, Pestilence, Earthquakes - Mt 24:7  
These are beginning of sorrows - Mt 24:8

## Israel Becomes a Nation - Ezekiel 36:24-32 | Ezek 11:17-20

Hated of all nations - Mt 24:9  
Afflicted and persecuted - Mt 24:9  
Brother betrays and hates brother - Mt 24:10

## Northern Enemy attacks Israel - Ezekiel 38

Many Jews become believers - Ezekiel 39:9-10 | Zechariah 12:10  
Worldwide Depression - Rev 6:5-6  
10 Nation Confederacy - Daniel 11:19-23 | Rev 17:12

## World Leader of Peace appears (AntiChrist)- Rev 13 | Daniel 7:19-25

Treaty with Israel - Daniel 9:27  
False prophets - Mt 24:11  
Iniquity abounds - Mt 24:12  
Love waxes cold - Mt 24:12  
Gospel preached in all world - Mt 24:14

## Reconstruction of the Temple (evidently) - Mt 24:15

Abomination of desolation - Mt 24:15  
\*Adoration of the Beast - Mt 24:15 | Rev 13:11  
Flee to the Mountains - Mt 24:15-20  
Persecution of saints - Mt 24:21 | Rev 12:17 | Rev 13:7

## Two Jewish Testimonies arise - Rev 11 | Jer. 11:6 | Zech 4:13

(1260 days (42 months))

## Great Tribulation - Mt 24:21

False Christs and false prophets - Mt 24:24  
Great signs and wonders deceive - Mt 24:24 (matches Beast)  
False Prophet - Mt 24:24 | Rev 13:11  
Wounded in head and recovers - Rev 13:3  
People say he has come in secret - Mt 24:26  
Makes war against the saints: Sword and death for Christians - Rev 6:9-11 | Rev. 13:5-10

## Image of the Beast - Rev 13:14

All earth worships the Beast - Rev 13:15  
Second Beast appears - powers and wonders - Rev 13:11-14  
Gives life to image of beast - Rev 13:15  
Mark of the Beast (666) - Rev 13:16-17  
Economic Control - Rev 13:16  
Two Testimonies die in streets of Sodom - Rev 11:8  
World Watches Celebration - Rev 11:9-10

\*\*\*\*\* **HERE HE COMES !** \*\*\*\*\*

Two Witnesses Resurrected after 3 days - Rev 11:11-13  
(ascend in cloud - earthquake and 7000 die)

## **RAPTURE OF THE CHURCH**

Sudden as lightning He comes - Mt 24:27

Gathering together - Mt 24:28  
After Tribulation - sun darkened - Mt 24:29  
Stars fall from heaven - Mt 24:29  
Powers of heavens shaken - Mt 24:29

Sign of the Son of Man - Mt 24:30  
\* Sky rolls back - Mt 24:30 | Rev 6:14  
Tribes of earth see Son in clouds - Mt 24:30  
Tribes of earth mourn - Mt 24:30

Angels gather elect - Mt 24:31

Angels descend with trumpet - Mt 24:31  
Angel gathers the elect - Mt 24:31  
Earthquake in Jerusalem - Rev 11:13  
144,000 Jews Sealed in foreheads - Rev 7:3-8  
Innumerable host in heaven - Rev 7:9-17 (out of tribul.)  
Hidden in caves miraculously - Rev 12:13  
Babylon fallen - come out of her my people - Rev 18:4  
Voice of Bride and Bridegroom heard no more - Rev 18:23

Silence in Heaven - Rev 8:1-5

Multitude in Heaven which none could number - Rev 7:9-16  
Trumpet and Mystery unfolded - I Cor 15:32-58  
Marriage Supper of Lamb - Rev 19:7  
Judgement Seat of Christ - I Cor 3:9-15 | 2 Cor 5:10

### After the Rapture

After the affliction - Mt 24:29-31  
A Sign in Heaven - Rev 6:14  
144,000 Sealed - Rev 7:3-8  
Multitude in Heaven - Rev 7:9-16  
Angel with Sickle - Mt 24:31/Rev 14:14  
Every eye will see Him - Rev 1:7  
The Secret of God - Rev 10:6-7  
The Trumpet Mystery - I Cor 15:32-58

### The Second Coming

Brings Israel back to God - Zech 12:10  
Restores the fortunes of Is.  
Defeats all enemies  
Judges the nations

## **RAPTURE & THE TRIBULATION**

(THE CLEAREST PASSAGE ON THE)

2 Thessalonians 2:1-12

Paul writes to the church in Thessalonica to erase any false hopes or fears that were being circulated regarding the immanency of Christ's coming. There evidently were in the church those who believed Jesus was to appear at any moment therefore they concluded that all preparations for tomorrow, including work, were useless enterprises.

He elucidates these points:

1. THE DAY OF THE LORD IS "NOT AT HAND"
2. THAT THERE WILL BE A "FALLING AWAY FIRST"
3. THE ANTI-CHRIST WILL BE REVEALED FIRST