

Lesson 9

Eschatology

A look at The Pre-tribulation Rapture

Argument # 1

Nowhere in the Bible, can you find the word "rapture"

Some question the validity of the rapture, simply because the word "rapture" doesn't appear in the Bible.

**16For 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:
17Then 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.
18Wherefore comfort one another with these words. 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18**

The scripture in 1 Thessalonians gives to us such a clear description of the rapture, Some say that the word Rapture is absent from this Biblical text therefore it is not speaking of the Rapture but if you use the word Catching Away or Rapture it does not change the meaning of what this verse is speaking of. The Latin word "rapturo" means "catching away" and this is where we get the English word Rapture from. So to say Rapture is not in the Bible is simply wrong. Also, God's Word was originally written in Hebrew and Greek, one could truthfully say that no English words are in the Bible.

"rapture" The English word from the Latin word "rapturo," is found in 1 Thes 4:17. You can call it the pre-trib rapture, the pre-trib rapturo, or the pre-trib caught up--it's all the same thing.

Argument #2

Nowhere in the Bible does it directly say that the Church will be raptured before the tribulation.

The Fact is that Nowhere in the Bible does it directly say the Church will go through the tribulation, either.

What the Bible does say is

44Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh. Matthew 24:44

If Jesus were to come mid. Tribulation as some say. We would know about the time He would come when the temple is rebuilt and the Anti-Christ exults himself as God that would be the middle of the seven year tribulation period so we would have a pretty good idea that at that moment Ant-Christ exults himself as God, Jesus would appear for the mid-trib rapture.

For those who believe in a post-trib Rapture we would have even a more precise time line for Christs return. The moment Anti-Christ sits in the Holy temple and declares himself God From that moment the final 3 1/2 years of tribulation would have begun. And we could predict to the very minute the Rapture and Return of Christ because it would occur, exactly 3 ½ years from that moment.

Only in a Pre-Tribulation scenario would the time of the Rapture not be known by those of us who are expecting Christ's soon return.

Argument # 3

The MacDonald Theory of 1830

Some critics of the pre-tribulation Rapture claim that this theory came about by a girl named Margaret Macdonald around 1830 who then passed her vision to John Darby who made the pre-trib Theory very popular. It has been said that prior to 1830 the pre-Trib was never taught thus it is a new and false theory. That is false.

Pre-trib scholars have discovered a host of rapture writings that predate Margaret MacDonald's 1830 vision. **Epharaem the Syrian** said, in **373 AD**, "For all the saints and Elect of God are gathered, prior to the tribulation that is to come, and are taken to

the Lord lest they see the confusion that is to overwhelm the world because of our sins." One post-trib author offered a monetary reward to anyone who could find a quote that predated The 1830 MacDonald vision. He had to quickly pay the money when someone identified a scholar who wrote about the pre-trib rapture several years before 1830.

Argument # 4

The Last Trumpet Theory

52In 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.

1 Corinthians 15:52

16For 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:

1 Thessalonians 4:16

According to the above two verses The Apostle Paul said believers would be raptured at the sounding of a trump, But many folks have tried to make it appear that the rapture trumps are the same trumpets found in Revelation 11:15-18, Joel 2:1, and Mat 24:31--which all occur during the tribulation.

15And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever. 16And the four and twenty elders, which sat before God on their seats, fell upon their faces, and worshiped God, 17Saying, We give thee thanks, O LORD God Almighty, which art, and wast, and art to come; because thou hast taken to thee thy great power, and hast reigned. 18And the nations were angry, and thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that thou shouldest give reward unto thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear thy name, small and great; and shouldest destroy them which destroy the earth. Revelation 11:15-18

1Blow ye the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in my holy mountain: let all the inhabitants of the land tremble: for the day of the LORD cometh, for it is nigh at hand; Joel 2:1

**31And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.
Matthew 24:31**

To be able to make the claim that the tribulation trumpet soundings are the same as the rapture trumps, you would need a direct statement saying this is the case.

Many believe that the Seventh Trumpet blown in Rev 11:15-18 is the same last trump Paul spoke of in 1 Cor 15:52. However, they fail to take into account the fact that John wrote Revelation 40 years after Paul wrote his first epistle to the Corinthians. How could Paul refer to something that was not yet revealed?

Post-tribbers use a trumpet sounding in Joel 2:1,15 as evidence for a post-trib rapture on the Day of the Lord. That theory makes no sense because with Joel 2:1,15 Joel clearly says that the purpose for blowing the trumpet in Joel 2 is to

"sound an alarm."

"warn the day of the Lord is at hand"

"calls us to fast and gather together for a solemn assembly"

And yet According to 1 Cor 15:52, the rapture is something that occurs in the twinkling of an eye.

**52In 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.
1 Corinthians 15:52**

The Rapture takes place in a moment in the twinkling of an eye Joel's trumpet clearly requires time to warn, to let people know the day of the lord is at hand, and time to fast and assemble together. These two trumpets are clearly separate and have two very different purposes apart from one another. The fact that there is another trumpet being

sounded in Joel 2:15 further clouds the possibility that these trumpets could have anything to do with the rapture.

When Paul was writing to the Corinthians, he specifically said "the" last trump. During the Feast of Trumpets, the Jews blow short trumpet blasts. They end the feast with a long blast from what is called the last trump, which is blown the longest. Judaism has traditionally connected this last trump with the resurrection of the dead. Paul also made the connection. For many Christians, the association between the rapture and the Feast of Trumpets is so strong, they look for the rapture to someday occur on this feast.

Argument # 5

The Day of the Lord & The Rapture, one in the same ?

"And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time. For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way. And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming." 2Thessalonians 2:6-8

9For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ, 1 Thessalonians 5:9

10Because 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. Revelation 3:10

Some suppose that the Rapture and the day of the Lord are the same. I submit to you **they are not**. The day of the Lord can not be revealed until we the church are taken out of the earth . You and I are the only thing keeping this from taking place further more God's wrath is not for His saints but for the wicked therefore we can not be here to partake of the wrath of God because we have no part in it. The Rapture will take place first, second the great tribulation period, third the day of the Lord where all who have followed Anti Christ will be destroyed by Jesus Christ and we shall accompany Christ in that day.

We See this clarity revealed in the scripture below.

The Day of the Lord

10But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the **heavens shall pass away** with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, **the earth also** and the works that are therein **shall be burned up**. 11Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, 12Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? 13Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for **new heavens** and a **new earth**, wherein dwelleth righteousness. 2 Peter 3:10-13

The Rapture

51Behold, **I shew you a mystery**; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, 52In 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.
1 Corinthians 15:51-52

16For 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: 17Then 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 4:16-17

Day of the Lord The RAPTURE

Comes (as) a thief in the night (unexpected) This mystery is revealed to us (expected)
Is not instantaneous takes some time Takes place in one single moment
Both Earth and Heaven are Destroyed wicked left on Earth Saints Taken to Heaven
When is the last time you were expecting a thief to come rob you ? Never, no one ever expects to be robbed. The day of the Lord will come **AS** a thief in the night the wicked will not be looking nor expecting the day of the Lord. But we do expect to be Raptured because we have been given that promise in God's Word. We may not know the day but we are told to live prepared for His eminent return and that He will come when we least expect it. To expect something the least (amount) you first must expect it (some amount) first. Finally The day of the Lord brings about the Fiery Destruction of Earth and Heaven and the New Earth and New Heaven Revealed. This can not happen at the time

of the Rapture because the wicked are left in this Earth to experience God's tribulation. And the saints are Taken up into heaven for seven years to have the marriage supper of the Lamb. So we see here, the events that take place in the day of the Lord could not possibly take place until sometime after the Rapture, seven years after to be exact.
15Alas for the day! for the day of the LORD is at hand, and as a destruction from the Almighty shall it come. Joel 1:15

31The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and terrible day of the LORD come. Joel 2:31

14Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision: for the day of the LORD is near in the valley of decision. Joel 3:14

18Woe unto you that desire the day of the LORD! to what end is it for you? the day of the LORD is darkness, and not light. Amos 5:18

15For the day of the LORD is near upon all the heathen: as thou hast done, it shall be done unto thee: thy reward shall return upon thine own head. Obadiah 1:15

9 The Lord isn't really being slow about his promise, as some people think. No, he is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to be destroyed, but wants everyone to repent. 10 But the day of the Lord will come as unexpectedly as a thief. Then the heavens will pass away with a terrible noise, and the very elements themselves will disappear in fire, and the earth and everything on it will be found to deserve judgment.11 Since everything around us is going to be destroyed like this, what holy and godly lives you should live, 2 Peter 3:9-11(New Living Translation)

"See, the Lord is coming **with** thousands upon thousands of **his holy ones**
Jude 1:14 (New International Version)

when Jesus Returns, to bring about the day of the Lord. His Holy ones come with Him. For this to happen, as the scripture says, His Holy ones will have had to already arrive in Heaven before Christ's Return. (Thus, The Rapture)

11 And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. 12 His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. 13 And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. 14 And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean.... 19 And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army. 20 And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshiped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.

Revelation 19-11-14, 19-20

My friends, you can so clearly see from Revelation that we the saints of God shall come back with Christ who sits on his white horse. We shall be clothed in fine linen white and clean. And Anti-Christ and his armies will gather to make war against Christ and his saints who come with him but the beast and all his followers will be cast down into Hell. You see we must be Raptured first for Christ to return and implement the Day of the Lord. Amen The day of the Lord will usher in the Thousand year earthly reign of Jesus Christ !

1 And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. 2 And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, 3 And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season. 4 And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshiped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years. Revelation 20:1-4

1. **Satan** Thrown into bottomless pit for 1,000 years

2. **Jesus Christ** seated as King of All the Earth

3.Throws and they that sat upon them = These are The Saints who were Raptured
judgment was given unto them (To Rule with Christ on Earth 1,000 years, Delegated Authority)

**4. the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus,
and for the word of God, and which had not worshiped the beast, neither his image,
neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands**

(These are those left behind during the Tribulation but who turned to God and did not worship the beast.)

We will rule and reign with Christ for 1,000 years on Earth and Satan will be loosed for a season to deceive the Nations once more and some will follow him and they will try one last time to destroy God's people and the holy city but God will destroy them once and for all and we shall be with Christ forevermore and Satan will be never again seen.

Satan's Last stand

5But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. 6Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years. 7And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, 8And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog, and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea. 9And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them. 10And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever. Revelation 20:5-10

And All Things Are Become New

1And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. 2And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the

tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. 4And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. Revelation 21:1-4