

The Rapture

Lesson #5

Revelation 3:10, 4:1

Introduction

The Rapture in Relations to the Tribulation?

1. When will it happen?
 - A. It is the fulfillment of Daniel 9:27
 - 1) Daniel's 70th 7.

Three major views on the topic of Rapture.

Pre-Tribulation – The church will be removed before the Tribulation.

Mid-Tribulation – The church will experience the first 3 ½ years of the Tribulation.

Post-Tribulation – The church will remain the entire 7 years of the Tribulation.

Question – If the Tribulation is for the nation of Israel why would the church need to be on the earth during that time?

The Tribulation is God purifying His people, Israel.

Two things to note

Tribulation is a judgement of God upon Israel's disobedience

Ezekiel 20:37–38

37 And I will cause you to pass under the rod, and I will bring you into the bond of the covenant: 38 And I will purge out from among you the rebels, and them that transgress against me: I will bring them forth out of the country where they sojourn, and they shall not enter into the land of Israel: and ye shall know that I am the LORD.

Tribulation is a judgement upon evil and wicked people.

Isaiah 13:11

11 And I will punish the world for their evil, and the wicked for their iniquity; and I will cause the arrogancy of the proud to cease, and will lay low the haughtiness of the terrible.

God's promise to the believers (church). Revelation 3:10

God promised those who believe in Jesus' salvation not wrath. 1 Thess. 5:9

God removes the church from the earth. Revelation 4:1

One would conclude the Rapture takes place before the Tribulation.

1. The events described in Revelation following Ch. 4-5 describe the destruction that will come.

The Rapture includes all Believers. 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Two clear truths revealed in 1 Thessalonians 4 show what the Rapture is not.

First – It is not the death of believers.

- ***Believers are assured of hope that reaches beyond this life and the grave. Vs. 14***
- ***Those who believe in Christ and are still living will not die; they will be transformed. Vs. 17***

Second – The Rapture is NOT the Second Coming of Christ. Vs. 16-17

What Is the Purpose of the Rapture?

First – To receive His own.

John 14:3

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.

Second – To Judge and reward His own.

2 Corinthians 5:10

10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.

1. Scripture gives no clear timing for this event.
 - A. It is believed this will take place during the Tribulation period on earth.
 - B. Two scriptures to look at.

2 Timothy 4:1

1 I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom;

Revelation 22:12

12 And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.

2. Let's clarify some things.
 - A. This is not an event to confirm or resent salvation.
3. This is an evaluation of the believers;
4. 1 Cor. 3:11-15 – describes a testing by fire.

Third – To remove the Hinderer (the Holy Spirit).

1. Turn to 2 Thessalonians 2:1-8.

“The Challenge the Rapture Presents to Believers”

1. ***To win souls.***
2. ***Be faithful to our church attendance.***
3. ***Observe the Lord's table.***
4. ***Live a life set apart for God.***
5. ***Make the Word a priority and proclaim it in our actions and speech.***
6. ***Remain faithful.***