

Making Sure You're Not Left Behind: Part 2

Series: Future Ending

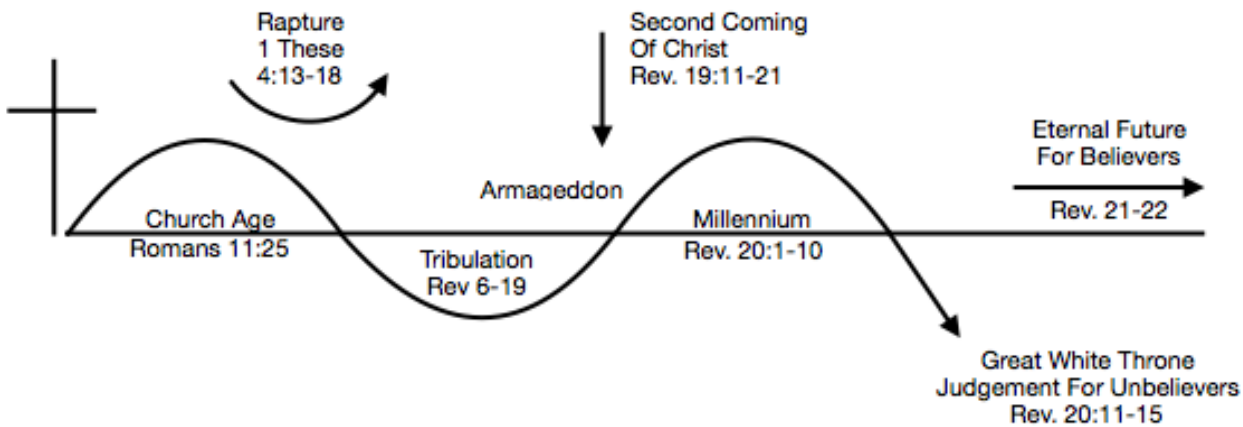
Selected Scriptures

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I. Summary From Part 1 - The Rapture In Perspective

A. DEFINITION: The rapture is the snatching away to Heaven of all Christians before the beginning of the Tribulation.

B. By Context



For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own

*opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. **Romans 11:25***

II. The Rapture Described

*But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus. For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words. For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words. **1 Thessalonians 4:13-18***

A. The Descent of Christ

For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. 1 Thessalonians 4:16

B. The Resurrection of The Dead In Christ

For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. 1 Thessalonians 4:16

C. The Removal of All Living Christians

Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. 1 Thessalonians 4:17

D. The Transformation of Our Bodies

Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed— in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. 1 Corinthians 15:51-53

For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. 1 Thessalonians 4:16

In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. 1 Corinthians 15:52

III. Different Views of The Rapture

A. The Post-Tribulation Rapture View

DEFINITION: The church will endure the seven years of the Tribulation which will precede the Second Coming of Christ.

And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. Revelation 19:14

B. The Mid-Tribulation Rapture View

DEFINITION: The rapture will occur after the first three and one-half years of the seven year Tribulation.

Problems With This Viewpoint:

1. Revelation 5-6 teaches that these beginning seal judgements are God's judgement against the earth, and it is the Lamb of God (Jesus Christ) who breaks the seals. open

*And I looked, and behold, a white horse. He who sat on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him, and he went out conquering and to conquer. **Revelation 6:2***

2. If the church is present on earth to interpret these seal judgements, why is the church not mentioned in Revelation 6?

3. Daniel 9 views the entire Tribulation as lasting seven years, not just three and one-half years.

C. The Pre-Tribulation Rapture View

DEFINITION: The Rapture will occur before the beginning of the seven year Tribulation period.

IV. Four Reasons For A Pre-Tribulation Rapture

A. The Purpose of The Tribulation

B. The Lack of Reference To The Church In Revelation 6-18.

C. The Teaching of Revelation 3:10

*Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth. **Revelation 3:10***

D. The Promise of God That Believers Will Be Spared His Condemnation

*They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented — of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth. **Hebrews 11:37-38***

*These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world. **John 16:33***

*There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. **Romans 8:1***

*And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment. **Hebrews 9:27***