

THE RAPTURE FORESHADOWED:

The foreshadowing of the Rapture is seen in the life of **Enoch**, who was taken from the world before the flood. (**Genesis 5:24**)

The foreshadowing of the Rapture is seen in the life **Lot**, who was taken from Sodom before the fire of God's judgment fell. (**Genesis 19:22-24**)

In both examples you will notice that God delivered His people before His judgment fell.

My greatest hope is that we stop procrastinating and instead, we get busy doing that which God has tasked us with. People get ready, then get busy!

Make way, make way, **THE KING IS COMING!!!**

THIS BLESSED HOPE

Reference: **John 14:1-3**

Pastor Daniel Flynn

The angelic messengers informed the disciples on the day of Jesus return to the Father. (**Acts 1:11**)

The Apostle Paul stated that the unsaved world will be oblivious to the times of the last days; but that Christians who are discerning the signs of the times can know when that day is near. (**1 Thessalonians 5:1-10**)

Times - This is the root word for the modern term “chronology” which means the science that deals with the determination of dates and the sequence of events; the arrangement of events in time.

Seasons - This word means due measure; a measure of time, a fixed and definite time; the time when things are brought to crisis; the decisive epoch waited for.

Paul is saying, we can understand the chronology or sequence of events that are going to take place in the future and we can know the measure of those times. (**Matthew 24:36**)

We conclude then that there is a specific time when Christ is to return, but God has chosen not to reveal that to us. We can know and should understand the “*signs of the times*.” We should also “*Therefore encourage one another with these words*.” (**1 Thessalonians 4:18**). We should also be looking forward to His coming with great anticipation. (**2 Timothy 4:8**)

THE RAPTURE

The Meaning of the Term “Rapture”:

The word “Rapture” does not appear in the Bible; but, neither are the words Trinity, demon, grandfather or Bible. However, we do know that these exist and are found in the Word of God. These are English words based on biblical truths. The word Rapture has a Latin origin which means “caught up.” The Greek word from which the Latin word comes is *harpazo* found in **1 Thessalonians 4:17**.

First Mention of the Rapture: **John 14:1-3**

Additional references: **1 Corinthians 1:7; Philippians 3:20; Titus 2:13; Hebrews 9:28**

The Rapture Described:

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

- A Realization (**v. 13**)
- A Repose (**v. 14**) Note: This passage does not teach souls sleep. That false doctrine is refuted in **Matthew 17:3** and **Revelation 6:9-11**.

- A Revelation (v. 15)
- A Return (v. 16a)
- A Resurrection (v. 16b) Note: Every time it is recorded in the Word of God that Christ shouted, there was or is a resurrection (John 11:43,44; Matthew 27:50-53).
- A Rapture (v. 17a)
- A Reunion (v. 17b)
- A Reassurance (v. 18)

1 Corinthians 15:51-58

"I tell you a mystery" Millions of Christians will someday reach heaven without dying! The mystery of the Rapture has been revealed.

"we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye..."
The rapture is an event that will take place quickly and is inclusive of all the redeemed.

"For the trumpet shall sound..." In at least three passages concerning the Rapture the sounding of a trumpet is mentioned.
(1 Cor. 15:52; 1 Thess. 4:16; Rev. 4:1)

Philippians 3:20-21 (KJV)

FALSE VIEWS OF THE RAPTURE:

False View #1: The Rapture and the Second Coming are the same event.

They are closely related, but are not the same event. One introduces the Tribulation while the other concludes it. What distinguishes one from the other?

The Rapture –

1. Christ comes in the air for His saints. (1 Thess. 4:16-17)
2. Is a mystery that was unknown in the Old Testament.
3. Is not preceded by signs in the heavens.
4. Is identified with the day of Christ. (1 Cor. 1:8; 2 Cor. 1:14; Phil. 1:6, 10)
5. Is associated with a time of blessing. (1 Thess. 4:18)
6. Is for the church. (John 14:1-3; 1 Cor. 15:51-58; 1 Thess. 4:13-18)

The Revelation –

1. Jesus comes with His saints. (Zech. 14:4; 1 Thess. 3:13; Jude 14)
2. Was foretold in the Old Testament. (Ps. 72; Isa. 11; Zech. 14)
3. Emphasizes judgment. (2 Thess. 2:8-12)
4. Will be visible worldwide. (Matt 24:27; Rev 1:7)
5. Involves Israel and the Gentile nations. (Matt 24:1; 25:46)

False View #2: The Rapture will only involve spiritual Christians.

This is known as the Partial Rapture Theory. This theory comes about as a result of failing to recognize the difference between the Church and Israel; and the difference between the Rapture and the Revelation.

Three reasons to reject the partial rapture theory.

1. It confuses grace with rewards.
2. It divides the bride of Christ (the church).
3. It ignores clear scriptural teaching to the contrary.
(1 Thess. 1:9-10; 2:19; 4:14-16; 5:4-11)

False View #3: The Rapture will not occur until the middle of The Tribulation.

This theory is called Mid-tribulationism. (Mid-Trib.) The Bible teaches clearly that the rapture will take place before The Tribulation begins.

(1 Thess. 1:10; Romans 5:9; Revelation 4)

Arguments in favor of the Pre-Tribulation Rapture of the Church:

1. It is the only view that allows a literal interpretation of the Old and New Testament passages on the great tribulation.
2. It distinguishes clearly between Israel and the church.
3. The church is not appointed to wrath.
4. It is typical of the way God has worked in previous generations where He has delivered believers from judgment (Examples: Noah, Lot, Israel).

THE CHALLENGES OF THE RAPTURE: Because of this glorious coming event the child of God is instructed to do many things.

1. He is to attend church regularly. (Hebrews 10:25)
2. He is to observe the Lord's supper with anticipation of His coming.
(1 Corinthians 11:26)
3. He is to express the love of God towards fellow believer's and lost men.
(1 Thess. 3:12-13)
4. He is to live a separated life. (Titus 2:12-13)
5. He is to preach the Word. (2 Timothy 4:1-2)

THE EFFECTS OF THE RAPTURE: What will be the reaction of a sin-sick society when millions of people suddenly disappear?

It is highly probable that when God took Enoch to glory that many persons sought for him but could not find him. (Hebrews 11:5)

When Elijah was raptured the citizens of Jericho asked Elisha about the disappearance of his master. (2 Kings 2:16-17)

How much more confusion and alarm will come from the sudden and mysterious disappearance of literally millions of men and women, boys and girls? **What does the Bible say?** (2 Thessalonians 2:11-12)