

# The Rapture - When? 18

## Signs of the End of the Age AND COUNTING

### WE AGREE ON THIS: KINGDOM—TRIBULATION — PATIENT ENDURANCE

\*There are many different views with scholarly believers on all sides but the bottom line is this that they can agree on. Jesus is coming back. He will come for his followers. There will be a horrible tribulation period. He will ultimately win and judge the world. And His followers will enjoy their rewards in heaven forever.

### PROMISED SCOFFERS

\*Scoffers then even more now but nothing has changed.  
\*God's time is different than ours—2 Peter 3:8

### RAPTURE OF THE CHURCH

\*Clearly taught that it will happen & highly debated as to when. 1 Thessalonians 4:15-18  
\* The Latin term 'rapio', which means to "snatch away" or "carry off," is the source of the English word.  
\*There are 321 references in the New Testament of Jesus coming for His Church. This makes it the second most prominent doctrine after salvation.

### THREE MAIN APPROACHES

\***Pre-tribulation** view Christ raptures the church before any part of the seven-year tribulation begins. Upon Christ's coming in the air, which is distinct from and that precedes His coming to the earth, believers will be "caught up together ... in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air." In this view believers are delivered "from the coming wrath" by being taken out of the world. Daniel 9:24-27, Matthew 24:3-28, Revelations 11:2, 12:14, 1 Thessalonians 4:17, 1:10, Revelations 3:10.

\***Mid-tribulation** view also sees the rapture as a distinct event that precedes Christ's second coming and delivers believers from the last half of the seven-year period, the "great tribulation". Matthew 24:15-28, Revelation 16-18.

\***Post-tribulation** view holds that the rapture and the second coming occur at the same time. Therefore, the church remains on earth during "the time of Jacob's distress". Unlike the world, however, believers who go through the tribulation will be protected from the devastating outpouring of God's wrath and judgment. Jeremiah 30:7, 1 Thessalonians 5:9

### THINGS TO CONSIDER

\*It will not be Silent

- Noisy—shouting and trumpets—1 Thessalonians 4:16, 1 Corinthians 15:52

#### 2 Peter 3:3-4 (NIV)

<sup>(3)</sup> First of all, you must understand that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires. <sup>(4)</sup> They will say, "Where is this 'coming' he promised? Ever since our fathers died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation."

#### 1 Thessalonians 4:15-18

<sup>(15)</sup> According to the Lord's own word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left till the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. <sup>(16)</sup> For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. <sup>(17)</sup> After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. <sup>(18)</sup> Therefore encourage each other with these words.

\*It will be Fast

-In a flash—twinkling of an eye (1/6,000,000,000th of a second)  
-1 Corinthians 15:52

\*It will be Unexpected and people will not be ready

-Like the times of Noah—Matthew 24:37-39  
-The Ten Virgins—Matthew 25:1-13  
-A thief in the night—2 Peter 3:9-12, 1 Thessalonians 5:2

\*It will be a time of delusion and apostasy

-They will refuse to love and believe the lie—2 Thessalonians 2:9-12  
-They will flee from the truth—2 Timothy 4:3-4

\*There will be a different body

-A new body for those who died and for those who are alive  
-1 Corinthians 15:52-57

\*There will be a different Address

-Father's House—John 14:1-3  
-New Heavens and New Earth—2 Peter 3:5-7, 10

\*There will be no second chances

-Patience of God not wanting anyone to miss the party—2 Peter 3:9

#### 2 Peter 3:5-14 (NIV)

<sup>(5)</sup> But they deliberately forget that long ago by God's word the heavens existed and the earth was formed out of water and by water. <sup>(6)</sup> By these waters also the world of that time was deluged and destroyed. <sup>(7)</sup> By the same word the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men. <sup>(8)</sup> But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. <sup>(9)</sup> The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. <sup>(10)</sup> But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare. <sup>(11)</sup> Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives <sup>(12)</sup> as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. <sup>(13)</sup> But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness. <sup>(14)</sup> So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him.

### SO, WHAT KIND OF PEOPLE SHOULD WE BE?

\*Live holy and godly lives—2 Peter 3:11

-Holy—set apart—different  
-Godly—living a life that demands an explanation—people will see by our lifestyle, or decisions, our conversation that we take our orders from someone else.

\*Be found spotless, blameless and at peace with God—2 Peter 3:14

-that we live life in such a way that fingers can not be pointed at us for not living up to our beliefs.  
-living a life of contentment because we know exactly where we stand with God.

### NOTES: