

Rapture: The Blessed Hope of Believers

Bible Study #2 – May 13, 2021

Introduction

1. The _____ of Eschatology
2. It's all about God's _____ for us!

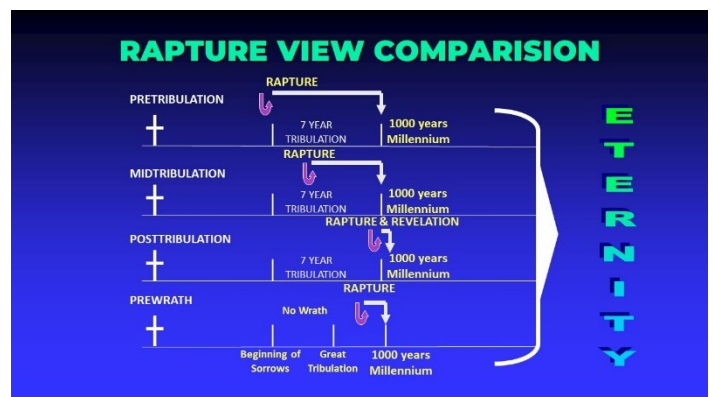


What is the Rapture?

1. An important doctrine
2. A mystery or sacred secret (1 Cor. 15:51)
3. A distinct event from the Second Coming of Christ
4. A conclusion to the church age
5. A catching away (Rapturo, harpazo) of all living believers
6. A receiving of a glorified body (1 Thess. 4:16)
7. A promised return of Jesus for his bride (John 14:1-3) to escort her to heaven
8. A resurrection for those who are dead in Christ (1 Cor. 15:52; 1 Thess. 4:16)
9. An imminent event (1 Cor. 15:51; 1 Thess. 4:15)
10. An instantaneous event (1 Cor. 15:51-52a)
11. A traditional doctrine of the church that is now being recovered
12. A truth that brings comfort to believers (1 Thess. 4:18)

_____ the Rapture going to take place?

1. Pre-tribulation Rapture view
2. Mid-tribulation Rapture view
3. Post-tribulation Rapture view
4. Partial Rapture view
5. Pre-wrath Rapture view



Reasons to trust in the Pre-Tribulation Rapture of the church

1. The tribulation's _____ concerns Israel (Jer. 30:7; Dan. 9:24)
 2. It best explains the _____ between the Rapture and the Second Coming
 3. There is no biblical reference to the church on earth during the Tribulation (Rev. 4-22)
 4. The church is exempt from God's wrath (Rev. 3:10; 6:17; Rom. 5:9; 1 Thess. 1:10; 5:9)
 5. The Rapture is imminent (1 Cor. 15:51; 1 Thess. 4:15)
 6. The Rapture is a comfort (1 Thess. 4:18)
 7. The Antichrist cannot come to power until the restrainer is removed (2 Thess. 2:6-7)
 8. The symbolic parallels (2 Peter 2:5-9)
- ➡ All of these taken _____ provide a very convincing case!

The Tribulation's purpose concerns Israel rather than the church

1. God has two distinct programs; one for Israel and another for the church (Dan. 12:7)
2. "The essence of Dispensationalism, then, is the distinction between Israel and the church." (Charles Ryrie, May/June 2007 article in Israel My Glory magazine)
3. Jeremiah 30:7
4. Daniel 9:24-27
5. Ephesians 3:9
6. Dispensation comes from the Greek word ***oikonomia*** and is translated "a plan," "a stewardship," or a "dispensation." The lexical meaning is "the process of managing or supervising the affairs of another or of a house." (Biblegateway article on dispensation)

The distinctions between the Rapture and the Second Coming (see chart)

Favorite Resources

1. The End; Mark Hitchcock
2. Dispensationalism; Charles Ryrie
3. Amir Tsarfati teachings and books; Beholdisrael.org, Israel and the Church
4. The Rapture Question; John F. Walvoord
5. The Popular Handbook on the Rapture; Tim LaHaye, Thomas Ice, Ed Hindson
6. "Before the Wrath" Ingenuity Films, Narrated by Kevin Sorbo, Jack Hibbs, etc. (Amazon Prime)

Discussion questions

1. What do you know about "dispensationalism?"
2. What questions do you have about Dispensationalism?
3. How would you describe the differences between Israel & the Church? Why is this key?
4. What questions did our study today raise in your mind?