

The Rapture of the Church (part 1)

1) What is it?

2) Is it real?

3) Why is it important?

4) 3 Most popular beliefs?

5) What does the Bible teach, and what did The Lord teach in the Olivet Discourse?

What is it, and is it real?

- The Greek word for “rapture” is **“HARPARZO”**. We get the word “rapture” from the Latin word- **raptos, raptum, or rapere.**
- - to seize, to catch away/up, pluck, pull, or take by force.

Biblical usage

- Matt 13:19- “...the wicked one comes and **SNATCHES AWAY** what was sown.”
- John 10:29- “...and no one is able to **SNATCH** them out of My Fathers hand.”
- Acts 8:39- “... The Spirit of The Lord **CAUGHT PHILIP AWAY**, so that the eunuch saw him no more.”
- 1 Thess 4:17- “ Then we who are alive and remain shall be **CAUGHT UP** together with them...”

- 2 Corinthians 12:4- “ how he was **CAUGHT UP** into Paradise and hears inexpressible words...”
- Revelation 12:5- “ She bore a male Child who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron. And her Child was **CAUGHT UP** to God and His throne.”

NOTEWORTHY:

this is the ONLY usage of the word

HARPARZO IN THE BOOK OF REVELATION

Why is it important?

- 1) It's important to remember that The Lord raises the dead and remembers and raises the living as well! **1 Thess 4:15**
- It's important to know as much as **POSSIBLE** regarding the timing of this event so as to not confuse ourselves if and when we see "the man of sin" revealed.
- It's important to remember that God has not appointed us to HIS WRATH. But not to be confused with God's wrath and the wrath of the devil.

3 Most common beliefs

- **Pre-Tribulational**- Pre-mil, dispensational, brought to main stream by John Nelson Darby. The church is raptured before the “7 year tribulation” and it kicks off the Day Of The Lord.
- **Post Tribulational**- The belief that The Church goes through **ALL** of Daniels 70th week to be raptured at the end, believing that the wrath of God is poured out at the end of the “week”. Non-dispensational, and it’s what most of the church believed throughout church history.

- **Pre-Wrath rapture** Very much premillennial, and moderately “dispensational”. Its the belief that The Church (jew and gentile alike) will experience most of Daniels 70th week, with those days “being shortened” (Matt 24:22) as Christ steps on to the world stage with **NO** secret FIRST-“second” coming.
- **NOTEWORTHY:** This particular doctrine is the NEWEST/YOUNGEST of the three doctrines presented.
- **ALSO NOTEWORTHY:** None of these 3 doctrines believe that WE the Church will have to withstand the Wrath Of God on any level.

Scriptures that
directly mention the
Rapture, and
Scriptures that use
rapture language.

The only place to directly mention *“harparzo”* in reference to the church before “The Day of The Lord” is....

- 1 Thessalonians 4:17

Everywhere else it's mentioned it's in a completely different context.

- 13 times in the Bible that word is used.
- 12 other times it refers to something completely different.
- Paul caught up to 3rd heaven in **2 Cor 12:2,4**
- Phillip caught away from Ethiopian eunuch **Acts 8:39**

Rapture “Language”

*Where else is the
rapture of the church
mentioned
directly????*

Arguably only 1 or maybe 2 places

- **1st Corinthians 15:51,52**
- **2 Thessalonians 2:1** (read)

The Thessalonians

- Rapture language- *Harpazo* and *Episynagoge*
- Harparzo- Snatching away. (1Thess 4:17)
- 2 Thess 2:1 uses: *Episynagoge*- Assembling together in one place. This version used only on one other place; Hebrews 10:25 "... not forsaking the ASSEMBLING..."
- However, there is a variant that The Lord uses in one other place that means the same thing.

Matthew 24:29-31

- “²⁹ Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ³⁰ Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. ³¹ And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will **gather together** His ^{elect} elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.
- **EPISYNAGO-** literally to GATHER TOGETHER (**rapture language!**)

So what does that mean?

- It means that we are building a proper “Hermeneutic” and rapture language is being used in the Olivet Discourse of Matt 24.
- It also means that those of us who “are alive and remain” **will see** the **antichrist** and see the coming of The Lord according to **Matthew 24 and 2 Thessalonians 2.**
- **“But what about...**

the “restrainer”???

- 2 Thessalonians 2:7- **For the mystery of the lawless one is already at work; only He who now restrains will do so until He is taken out of the way.**

- **No where** in the grammar does it allow for interpreters to make that a big “H” for he.
- Why? Because Paul is speaking directly about the **antichrist** from verse 3-12.
- **No where** in the **CONTEXT** does Paul mention the Holy Spirit.
- **In fact The Holy Spirit isn't mentioned AT ALL in the ENTIRE LETTER!**

The WORD for WORD translation is:

- verse 6 - “And now ye know what *withholdeth* (katecho) that he might be revealed in his time.
- verse 7- “ For the mystery of iniquity doth already work; only now (arti) restrains (katecho) until (heos) he comes into existence (ginomai) from (ek) the midst (mesos).

- **Ginomai** - Comes into existence, comes to pass, arise, appear in history, come upon a stage, or of men appearing in public.
- ek- of
- **Mesos- the midst of or amongst, between.**
(matthew 10:16 ...Sheep **AMONG** wolves.) (1 Corinthians 5:2 "... that he who has done this deed might be taken away from **AMONG** you.)