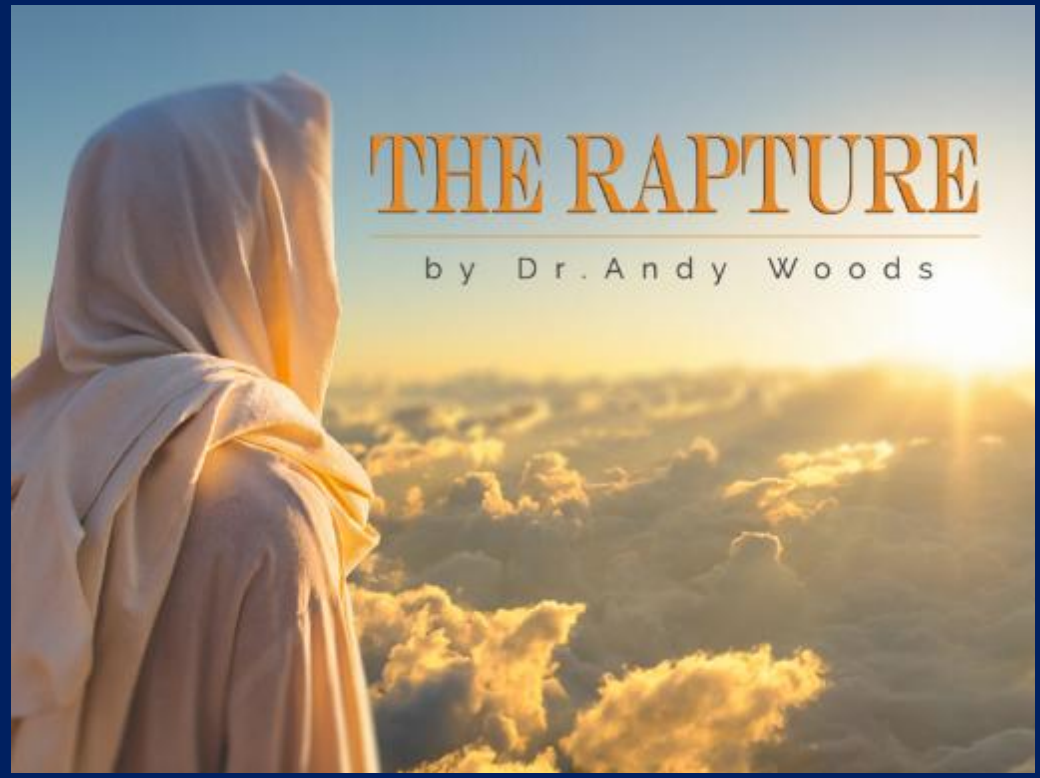
THE RAPTURE

What and When? – Part 54





Andrew Marshall Woods, Th.M., JD., PhD.

Sr. Pastor, Sugar Land Bible Church

The Rapture

Course Overview

I. What is the Rapture?

II. When is the Rapture?

III. Strengthening the Pre-Tribulational case

IV. The opposing views

V. One second after the Rapture



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What is the Rapture?



1. An important doctrine
2. Distinct from the Second Advent
3. Catching away of all living believers (1 Thess 4:17)
4. Reunion (1 Thess 4:14-16)
5. Resurrection (1 Cor 15:50-54)
6. Exemption from death (1 Cor 15:51, 54-56)
7. Instantaneous (1 Cor 15:52)
8. Mystery (1 Cor 15:51)
9. Imminent (1 Cor 15:51; 1 Thess 4:15)
10. Traditional doctrine now being recovered

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When is the Rapture?

7 Arguments Favoring the Pre-Tribulation View

1. Tribulation's purpose concerns Israel (Jer 30:7; Dan 9:24)
2. No biblical reference to the church on earth during the Tribulation period (Rev 4-22)
3. Church is promised an exemption from divine wrath (1 Thess 1:10; 5:9; Rom 5:9; Rev 3:10; 6:17)
4. Rapture is imminent (1 Cor 15:51; 1 Thess 4:15)
5. Rapture is a comfort (1 Thess 4:18)
6. Antichrist cannot come to power until the restrainer is removed (2 Thess 2:6-7)
7. Symbolic parallels (2 Peter 2:5-9)

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Strengthening the Pre-Tribulation Case

1. John 14:1-4
2. Revelation 3:10
3. First Thessalonians 4–5
4. Second Thessalonians 2:3a
5. Matthew 24–25



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When Will the Rapture Take Place Relative to the Tribulation Period?

- Pre-tribulation rapture theory
- Mid-tribulation rapture theory
- Post-tribulation rapture theory
- Pre-wrath rapture theory
- **Partial rapture theory**



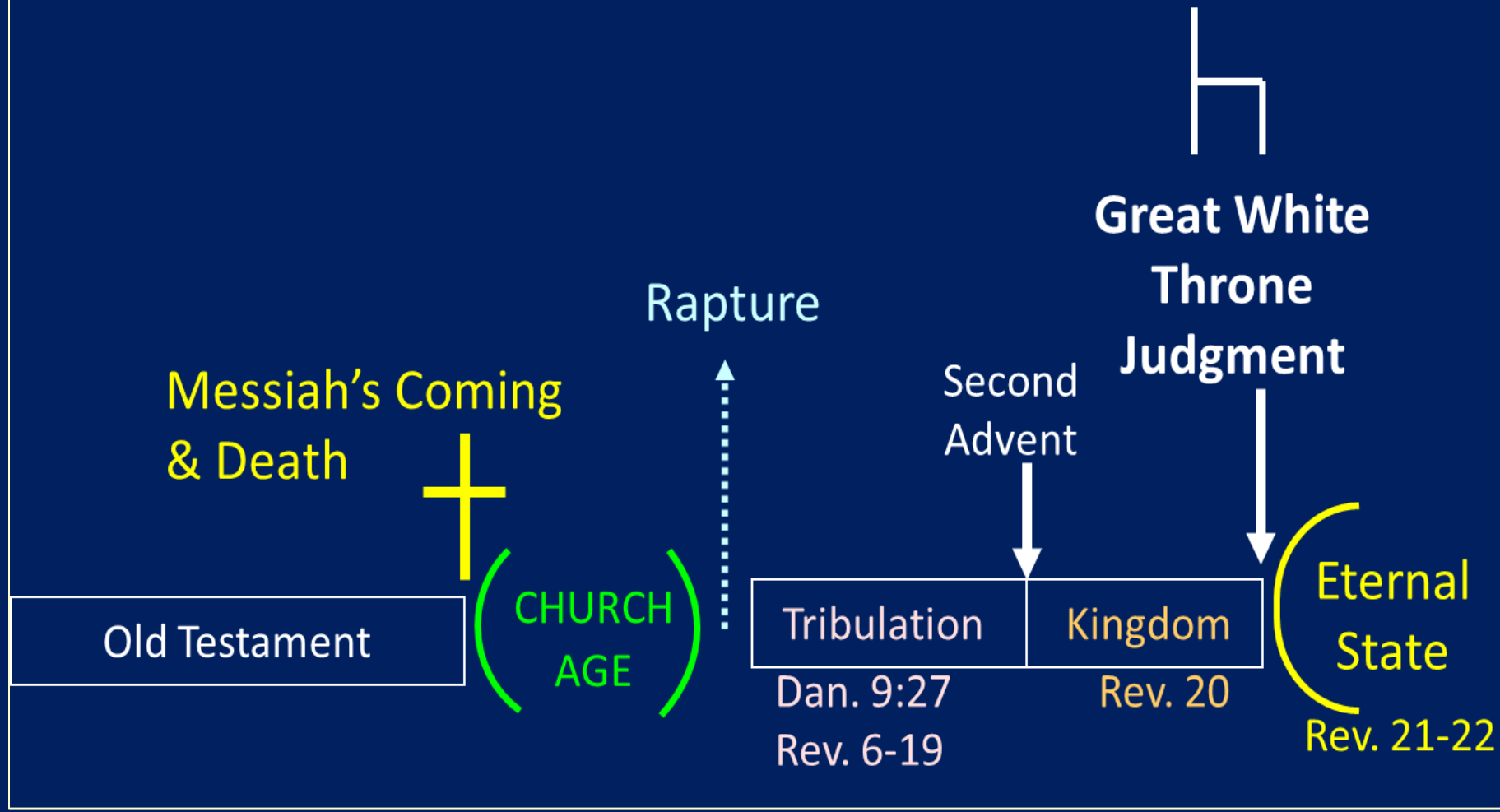
Problems with Partial Rapturism?

1. Every divine blessing (Grace Package) is given on the basis of His grace and not human effort (Eph. 2:8-9; Rom. 12:6)
2. Symbolic parallels mandate that carnal as well as sanctified Christians will be taken up in the rapture (Gen. 19:22)
3. The promise of the rapture is mentioned in Paul's letter to the carnal Corinthian church (1 Cor. 15:51)
4. A partial rapture would sever Christ's body (1 Cor 12:12-14)
5. The partial rapture view subjects believers to God's wrath (Thess 1:10)

Problems with Partial Rapturism?

6. Partial rapturism makes the Bema Seat Judgment unnecessary (1 Cor. 3:10-15)
7. Partial rapturists never objectively quantify the exact degree of faithfulness or spiritual maturity that is necessary to participate in the rapture
8. Partial rapturists appear individually biased
9. Partial rapturists dispensationally misapply Bible passages (Matt. 25:1-13)
10. **Partial rapturists misapply passages promising a reward to faithful believers (Rev. 3:11)**

Prophecy Panorama



Why?

- **Not** to judge sin (John 19:30)
- **Not** to determine salvation (John 5:24)
- **But** rather to give or not give rewards



Scripture's Five Crowns

(Rev 4:10: 3:11; 2 John 8)

SCRIPTURE	CROWN	PURPOSE
1 Cor. 9:24-27	**Incorruptible**	Gaining mastery over the flesh
1 Thess. 2:19-20	**Rejoicing**	Soul winning
Jas. 1:12; Rev. 2:10	**Life**	Enduring trials
1 Pet. 5:2-4	**Glory**	Shepherding God's people
2 Tim. 4:8	**Righteousness**	Longing for His appearing

1 Corinthians 3:15

"If any man's (carnal believer's) work is burned up, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire."



1 Corinthians 9:24-27

“[24] Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but *only* one receives **the prize**? Run in such a way that you may win. [25] Everyone who competes in the games exercises self-control in all things. They then *do it* to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. [26] Therefore I run in such a way, as not without aim; I box in such a way, as not beating the air; [27] but **I discipline my body and make it my slave, so that, after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified**.”



2 John 8

"Watch yourselves, that you do not lose what we have accomplished, but that you may receive a full reward."



Revelation 3:11

“I am coming quickly; hold fast what you have, so that no one will take your crown.”





Samuel Hoyt

"The Judgment Seat of Christ in Theological Perspective,"
Part 2, *Bibliotheca Sacra*, electronic media.

"The judgment seat of Christ might be compared to a commencement ceremony. At graduation there is some measure of disappointment and remorse that one did not do better and work harder. However, at such an event the overwhelming emotion is joy, not remorse. The graduates do not leave the auditorium weeping because they did not earn better grades. Rather, they are thankful that they have been graduated, and they are grateful for what they did achieve. **To overdo the sorrow aspect of the judgment seat of Christ is to make heaven hell. To under do the sorrow aspect is to make faithfulness inconsequential**" (underlining mine).

Inheritance vs. Reward

Distinctive?	**GIFT**	**REWARD**
Received by?	**All believers**	**Some believers**
Basis?	**God's child**	**Faithfulness**
Example?	**Inheritance**	**Crown**
Scripture?	**Colossians 1:12**	**1 Cor. 3:15** **1 Cor. 9:24-27** **2 John 8** **Rev. 3:11**

Dennis Rokser, UNRAVELING A CONFUSING VERSE: ANOTHER LOOK AT "INHERITING THE KINGDOM OF GOD, p. 4.

2 Timothy 4:8

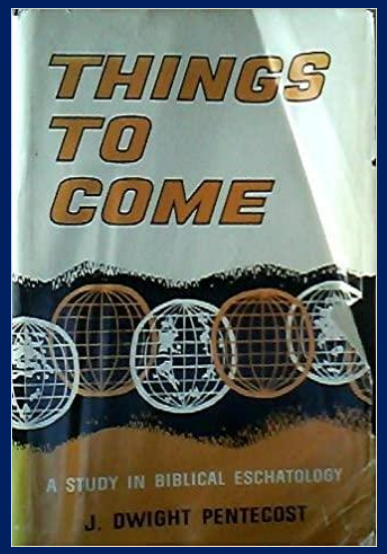
"In the future there is laid up for me the **crown** of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me **on that day**; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved **His appearing**."





J. Dwight Pentecost

Things to Come, Page 163



“This [2 Tim. 4:8] is used by the adherents of this position to show that the rapture must be a partial one. However, it is to be noticed that the subject of the translation is not in view in this passage, but rather the question of reward. The Second Advent was intended by God to be a purifying hope (1 John 3:3). Because of such purifying a new life is produced because of the expectancy of the Lord's return. Therefore, those that truly ‘love his appearing’ will experience a new kind of life which will bring a reward.”

Problems with Partial Rapturism?

1. Every divine blessing is given on the basis of His grace and not human effort (Eph. 2:8-9; Rom. 12:6)
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Revelation 2–3

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The 7 Churches in Revelation
Rev. 1: 11
BLACK SEA
BITHYNIA
MYSIA
AEGEAN SEA
ASIA
Pergamum
Thyatira
Smyrna
Philadelphia
PHRYGIA
Ephesus
Laodicea
Patmos
CARIA
LYCIA

Revelation 3:10

‘Because you have kept the word of My perseverance, I also will keep you from the hour of testing, that hour which is about to come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.



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Problems with Beginning the Sentence in Rev. 3:10 with "Because"

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4. Thus, it becomes cause for participating the Rapture and not a cause for their enemies to worship before their feet.
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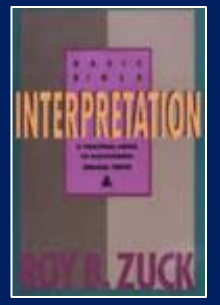
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Dr. Roy B. Zuck

Basic Bible Interpretation, p. 43.



"**Stephen Langton (ca. 1155–1228)**, Archbishop of Canterbury, held that spiritual interpretation is superior to literal interpretation. Therefore in the Book of Ruth, the field is the Bible, Ruth represents students, and the reapers are the teachers. **Langton is the one who made chapter divisions in the Vulgate Bible**."

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Revelation 3:9-10

9 ‘Behold, I will cause *those* of the synagogue of Satan, who say that they are Jews and are not, but lie—I will make them come and bow down at your feet, and *make them* know that I have loved **you.** 10 **‘Because you have kept the word of My perseverance**, I also will keep you from the hour of testing, that *hour* which is about to come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.



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MacDonald's Idiomatic Translation (MIT)

"[9] I would put at your disposal those from the synagogue of Satan who call themselves Jews but are not; they are lying. See: I will make them come and bow down before your feet, and they will know that I loved you [10] because you kept my enduring word. I also will keep you from the time of trial that is about to come..."



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PHRYGIA
Ephesus
Laodicea
Patmos
CARIA
LYCIA
By: Gabriel Morris

Revelation 2:22

“Behold, I will throw her on a bed of sickness, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of her deeds.”



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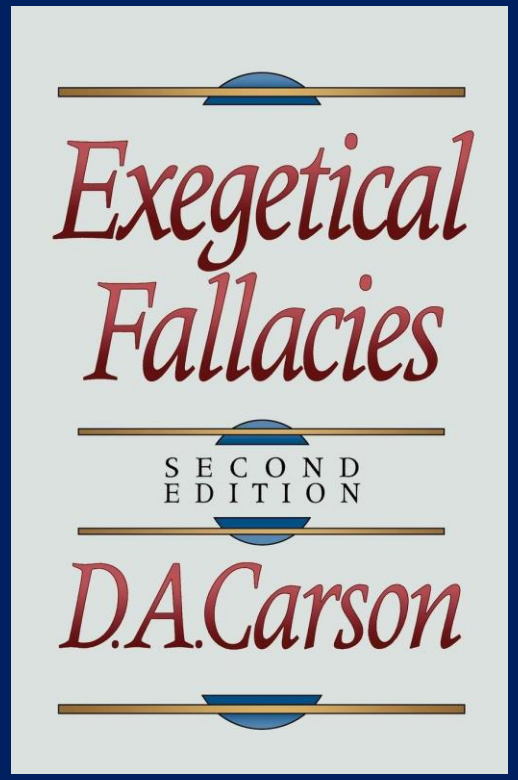
Revelation 7:13-14

“13 Then one of the elders responded, saying to me, ‘These who are clothed in the white robes, who are they, and where have they come from?’ 14 I said to him, ‘My lord, you know.’ And he said to me, ‘These are the ones who come out of **the great tribulation**, and they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.’”



Illegitimate Totality Transfer

D. A. Carson, *Exegetical Fallacies*, 2nd ed. (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 1996), 60-61.



"Unwarranted adoption of an expanded semantic field: The fallacy in this instance lies in the supposition that the meaning of a word in a specific context is much broader than the context itself allows and may bring with it the word's entire semantic range. This step is sometimes called **illegitimate totality transfer**."

George Gunn

John 14:1-3 – The Father's House: Are We There Yet?, 30. www.pre-trib.org

"I ***ran*** out of ingredients for the salad, so I decided to make a quick ***run*** down to the store. While at the store, I left the car engine ***running*** while I made my purchase, thinking that I would be right out again. However, while I was in the store, I ***ran*** into my good friend Edward who was ***running*** for county supervisor. This resulted in my having to endure a somewhat long-winded ***run***down on how his campaign was ***running***. Finally, fearing that my car would ***run*** out of gas, I ***ran*** with great haste out to the parking lot and returned home with the car surely ***running*** only on fumes."

CONCLUSION

The Rapture

Course Overview

I. What is the Rapture?

II. When is the Rapture?

III. Strengthening the Pre-Tribulational case

IV. The opposing views

V. <u>One second after the Rapture</u>

