

Theology 2
The Rapture & The Tribulation
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The Rapture

- The rapture is the event when all Christians, living and dead, will be **raised up** into the sky to meet Jesus and remain with Him forever.
- Though the word “rapture” is not in the Bible it comes from the Latin term *rapio* which the Latin Scriptures (Vulgate) used in 1 Thess. 4:17 – “we who are alive and remain will be *caught up* in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air.”
- The Certainty of the Rapture – John 14:1-3, 1 Cor. 15:51-52, Matt. 24:40-41
- No One Knows the Day or the Hour – Matt. 24:36, 42, 44, 25:13, Mark 13:32-35, Acts 1:7
- The Sequence of Events – 1 Thess. 4:13-18
 - **Christ will descend** from heaven with a shout accompanied by the spirits of all those who have died in Christ.
 - The voice of an **archangel** and a **trumpet** blast will be heard.
 - **The spirits** of the dead will be rejoined with their new, incorruptible bodies.
 - **The living** will be transformed from mortal to immortal to meet the Lord in the air.
 - Thus, dead and living believers shall be **joined to the Lord forever**.
- When will the rapture occur? **Three main views**:
 - **Before** the Tribulation (Pre-tribulation)
 - **During** the Tribulation (Mid-tribulation)
 - **After** the Tribulation (Post-tribulation)

The Tribulation

- The Tribulation is a seven-year period that clearly marks the beginning of the end of the world as we currently know it. (see Rev. 6-19)
- **Signs** that the Tribulation is close at hand (see Matt. 24:1-22, Mark 13:3-23, and Luke 21:5-28)
 - Wars, rumors of wars, revolutions, famines, earthquakes, epidemics, strange natural disasters, unpredictable oceanic events, worldwide proclamation of the Gospel, persecution of Christians, and rampant immorality
- When will the Tribulation begin? According to Daniel’s Seventy Weeks Prophecy (Daniel 9:24-27), the Tribulation will begin when Antichrist brings peace between Israel and her enemies.
 - **69 weeks** (483 years) of the prophecy have been completed – from the decree of Persian King Artaxerxes on March 5, 444 B.C. to the entrance of Christ into Jerusalem on March 30, A.D. 33. **The last week** (seven remaining years) are reserved for the Tribulation.
- Will the church have to suffer the Tribulation? Depends on who you ask.
- Will anyone be saved during the Tribulation? Revelation 7 seems to say yes.