

## SESSION 3: NOT A SINGLE BIBLE VERSE TEACHES A PRE-TRIBULATION RAPTURE

### I. THE RAPTURE IN THE BIBLE

There are many passages in the Bible about Jesus' resurrection and return, but very few passages that cover the rapture (only 4). The key difference being that "resurrection" refers to being raised from the dead and "rapture" refers to being taken up to Jesus while still alive.

- A. The New Testament lays out a clear framework:
  - 1. Jesus comes back (once)
  - 2. He resurrects the dead (once)
  - 3. He raptures the living (once)

### II. RAPTURE PASSAGE 1: MATTHEW

29 "Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. 30 Then will appear in heaven the sign of the Son of Man, 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 out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other. ([Matthew 24:29-31](#))

- A. This is the only time that Jesus mentions the gathering of the elect ([v. 31](#))
  - 1. Happens by resurrecting the dead and catching up (rapturing) the living
  - 2. Happens after the tribulation
- B. There is no biblical mention of a different rapture happening before this

### III. RAPTURE PASSAGE 2: 2 THESSALONIANS

Now concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to him, we ask you, brothers,[a] 2 not to be quickly shaken in mind or alarmed, either by a spirit or a spoken word, or a letter seeming to be from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come. 3 Let no one deceive you in any way. For that day will not come, unless the rebellion comes first, and the man of lawlessness[b] is revealed, the son of destruction,[c] 4 who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God. 5 Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things? 6 And you know what is restraining him now so that he may be revealed in his time. 7 For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work. Only he who now restrains it will do so until he is out of the way. 8 And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will kill with the breath of his mouth and bring to nothing by the appearance of his coming. 9 The coming of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan with all power and false signs and wonders, 10 and with all wicked deception for those who are perishing, because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. 11 Therefore God sends them a strong delusion, so that they may believe what is false, 12 in order that all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness. (2 Thessalonians 2:1-12)

- A. Paul ties together three events: the coming of the Lord, the Gathering of the Saints, is the Day of the Lord (v. 1-2)
- B. The Day of the Lord, the Coming of the Lord, the Day of Judgment are the same day
- C. To move the timing of the Day of the Lord and the rapture is deception (v. 3)
- D. The Day of the Lord and the Gathering of the Saints will not come until the great falling away and the revealing of the antichrist
- E. "Taken out of the way" (v. 7) refers to Satan (not the saints)
- F. Mystery of iniquity correlates to 1 Timothy 3:16, mystery of godliness
- G. Satan restrains the revealing of his antichrist

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**IV. RAPTURE PASSAGE 3: 1 CORINTHIANS**

50 I tell you this, brothers: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. 51 Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. 53 For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. 54 When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written:

“Death is swallowed up in victory.”  
55 “O death, where is your victory?  
O death, where is your sting?”  
(1 Corinthians 15:50-55)

- A. Primarily refers to the resurrection, not rapture
- B. The hope of the New Testament is the resurrection
- C. The victory over death happens at the last trumpet

**V. RAPTURE PASSAGE 4: 1 THESSALONIANS**

But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. 14 For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. 15 For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord,[a] that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. 16 For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore encourage one another with these words. (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18)

- A. Again, primarily refers to the resurrection
- B. Ignorance and deception are connected to a false-rapture teaching
- C. Those who are alive will not precede those who have died, it happens at the same time (v. 14, v. 17)
- D. The Lord will descend from heaven, then those who are dead will be resurrected, then those who are still alive will be caught up together with them
- E. The salvation of Israel at the end of the age is connected to the return of Jesus and the resurrection of the dead

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**VI. TWO ADDITIONAL PASSAGES**

A. [2 Thessalonians 1:5](#)

1. If you are suffering, retribution is coming on the day of fire
2. There is not an additional, secret coming

B. [Titus 2:11-13](#)

1. Our blessed hope is that we will see Jesus when He returns, not a secret rapture