

ARE YOU STRONG ENOUGH TO BE RAPTURED?

“WATCH YE THEREFORE, AND PRAY ALWAYS, THAT YE MAY BE ACCOUNTED WORTHY TO ESCAPE ALL THESE THINGS THAT SHALL COME TO PASS, AND TO STAND BEFORE THE SON OF MAN.” - LUKE 21:36 KJV

I. LUKE 21:36

- A. This verse is part of the Olivet Discourse, which Dispensationalists say is for “the Jews” and “not for the Church.” It follows that it should not be used as a supporting passage for pretribulational-dispensationalists.
- 1) many dispensationalists will say that, while [Matthew 24](#) is futuristic, [Luke 21](#) is talking about 70 AD – even though they are both part of the Olivet Discourse
 - a) [Matthew 24:15](#) “when you see standing in the holy place ‘the abomination that causes desolation,’...then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains”
 - b) [Luke 21:20-21](#) “when you see Jerusalem being surrounded by armies, you will know that its desolation is near. Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains”
 - i. both are the same sermon
 - ii. if [Luke 21](#) was about 70 AD, Jesus would likely have told them to flee when they saw armies coming from the north, not wait until Jerusalem was surrounded
 1. read Josephus’s account of 70 AD for more historical context
 - c) the armies surrounding Jerusalem will coincide with the abomination that causes desolation
- B. Some pretribbers say [Luke 21:36](#) is exhorting us to pray that we will be worthy or strong enough to be raptured.
- 1) “But be alert at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are going to take place and to stand before the Son of Man.” ([Luke 21:36 CSB](#)) and “But keep on the alert at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are about to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.” ([Luke 21:36 NASB](#))
 - a) [κατ'ισχύω](#) (katischyō): to be completely capable of



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doing or experiencing something - to be completely able, to be fully able.' - Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament: Based on Semantic Domains (New York: United Bible Societies, 1996), 675.

- 2) from a Gospel perspective, must we be capable or strong enough to be saved or is salvation something we receive by faith
 - a) being raptured is not something you need to be strong enough for; you must simply be in Christ
- C. The post-trib or pre-wrath view says [Luke 21:36](#) is exhorting us to pray that we will be strong enough to make it through the Tribulation with our salvation, without denying Christ.
 - 1) "How are you going to be worthy? The only thing that will make me worthy is my position in Christ. Therefore, I have trusted Him as my Savior, and I have committed my way to Him, so that if I am alive at the time of the Rapture, I'll be going to meet Him in the air by the grace of God." - J. Vernon McGee
 - 2) [1 Corinthians 15:51-52](#) "but we will all be changed"
 - a) there is no scriptural basis for a partial rapture; the rapture will be for all believers, not just a select group
- D. We must look at the surrounding context of this verse ([Luke 21:34-36](#))
 - 1) "and that day will not come on you suddenly like a trap"
 - a) since we know from scripture that all believers will be raptured, how could this be a trap? Well, if you backslid and are suddenly facing the greatest trial of your life, that could be a problem, a trap
 - 2) "for it will come upon all those who dwell on the face of all the earth"
 - a) our pretrib brothers and sisters say this passage is for believers, yet they do not believe we will be here for the Great Tribulation
 - 3) "praying that you may have strength to escape" strength to endure without apostatizing ([Matthew 24:10](#))
- E. What are the "things" we should pray we have strength enough to escape with our souls?
 - 1) [Luke 21:12-19](#) "they will put some of you to death...but not a hair of your head will perish"
 - i. often, when Jesus spoke about escaping certain times, He wasn't saying we would not see them but rather that we can get through it with our souls ([Matthew 10:28](#))