

Sunday, July 23, 2023
SECOND COMING OF CHRIST
PART 2: IS THERE A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE RAPTURE AND THE
SECOND COMING?

The topic that we are learning today is the Second Coming of Christ. A logical question is: is there a difference between what is called the Rapture and the Second Coming? What is the Rapture? The word “rapture” does not appear in Scripture. Rapture was used in the Latin version of the Scriptures to describe the Greek term:

Harpadzo: to seize with a sudden, overwhelming force.

The word “harpadzo” is used in:

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 (NKJV)

Many believe that this “catching away” or rapture occurs during or after the Second Coming of Christ. But, the weight of Scripture leads us to believe that the Rapture occurs before what is called The Tribulation. What is the Tribulation? *The outpouring of God’s wrath upon the earth.*

Revelation 6:9-17 (NKJV)

SCRIPTURES THAT POINT TO A PRETRIBULATION RAPTURE:

Jesus told us that no one knows the day or hour of His coming – only the Father (Matt. 24:36). Yet, here are some things He did say about timing:

1. God promises the saints that they are not appointed to wrath but has delivered them from the wrath to come.
 - a. 1 Thessalonians 5:9 (NKJV)
2. To those who keep His commandments, God has promised to keep them from the hour of trial coming on the whole world.
 - a. Revelation 3:10 (NKJV)
3. Jesus said to pray always to escape the Tribulation period that He described to the disciples.
 - a. Luke 21:36 (NKJV)
4. God’s example that He will not destroy the righteous with the wicked.
 - a. Genesis 18:25 (NKJV)
5. Biblical examples of God’s deliverance – Noah and Lot.
 - a. 2 Peter 2:4-10 (NKJV)

The Rapture occurs when Jesus returns for His church. The Second Coming is when Jesus returns *with the church* to defeat the Antichrist, overthrow evil, and establish His 1000 year reign.

Rapture: 1 Corinthians 15:51-52 (NKJV)

Second Coming: Revelation 19:11-16 (NKJV)

What needs to happen biblically before the Rapture occurs? *According to most bible scholars, there is nothing yet to be fulfilled before the Rapture can occur.* The one event that had to occur before the Rapture was the rebirth of the nation of Israel. This occurred in 1948 – 75 years ago this year. The Rapture can occur at any time and will not be preceded by any type of *warning*.

1 Thessalonians 5:2-6 (NKJV)

Next time: what happens at the Second Coming?

Today's Scriptures:

- 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 (NKJV)
- Revelation 6:9-17 (NKJV)
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- Revelation 3:10 (NKJV)
- Luke 21:36 (NKJV)
- Genesis 18:25 (NKJV)
- 2 Peter 2:4-10 (NKJV)
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