

## Revelation – The Return

### When will the Rapture happen??

Clarification :At the rapture, only those who have died in Christ will be resurrected and those alive in Christ will be transformed.

#### The sequence of the end times

There are at least three views of the timing of the rapture held by Christians.

- Pre-Tribulation holds that the rapture occurs before the Tribulation.
  - Pre-Tribbers believe that because God won't pour out His wrath on Christians, Jesus will remove them before the Tribulation.
    - Revelation 3:10 Read AMPC
    - Isa. 52:5 Read AMPC Who did God pour His wrath on? \_\_\_\_\_
    - 1 Thessalonians 1:9-10 Read AMPC
- Post-Tribulation holds that rapture occurs after the Tribulation.
  - Post-Tribbers believe that Jesus will return to rapture Christians who'll immediately return to earth to be with Christ at Armageddon.
    - Mark 13:24-27
- Mid-Tribulation/Pre-Wrath holds that Jesus will return sometime during the Tribulation to deliver Christians from God's most severe judgments of wrath.
  - 1 Thessalonians 4:16

#### Truths about the rapture

What we believe about the rapture isn't going to change God's plan.

- No one knows when Jesus will return to rapture His followers.
  - Mark 13:32 Only the Father
  - Dave's Baby sitting example
  - If you knew for sure, how would you respond?

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The timing of the rapture is not an essential of the faith **but belief that Jesus will return is. John 14: 1-3 I go to prepare a place for you>>>>**

- Christians don't have to agree on the sequence of the end times in order to be brothers and sisters in Christ.

Most importantly, we must be ready for Jesus' return.

- We must be on guard against deception and false teachings.
  - Mark 13:5
    - Deception is Satan's primary weapon against Christians.
    - How have you been deceived and how do you prevent it from happening again? \_\_\_\_\_
    - We protect ourselves against deception by knowing God and God's Word.
      - Matthew 24:24 False teachers will try to lead astray even Christians.
      - 1 John 4:3 Read below spirit of antichrist.
- We must be watching for the signs of Jesus' return.
  - Matthew 24:6-8
    - Wars and natural disasters will become more frequent and will intensify as we near Jesus' return.
    - There will be greater persecution and apostasy as we near Jesus' return.
      - Matthew 24:9-13
      - Matthew 24:21 during the Great Tribulation it will be the worst of times.
    - The founding of the nation of Israel was necessary for the fulfillment of many end times prophecies. In 1948 after 2000 yrs.
    - We don't know the day or time but we can see the signs of the season.
      - Mark 13:28-32 below
      - 1 Thessalonians 5:1-4 below
- Christians long for Jesus' return.
  - 2 Timothy 4:8
- We can only be made ready for Jesus' return by faith in Him.

John 11:25-26<sup>25</sup> Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; <sup>26</sup> and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?"  
Do you and are you ready? \_\_\_\_\_

#### Action Steps

- Study these Scriptures so you are ready for Jesus' return.
- Share the good news of Jesus with someone this week.
- Invite someone to join us next week.

## 2 Timothy 4:8

Now there is in store 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 longed for His appearing.

Revelations 3:10 AMPC Because you have guarded *and* kept My word of patient endurance [have held fast the <sup>1a</sup>lesson of My patience with the <sup>1b</sup>expectant endurance that I give you], I also will keep you [safe] from the hour of trial (testing) which is coming on the whole world to try those who dwell upon the earth.

Isa. 52:5 AMPC<sup>5</sup> But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our guilt *and* iniquities; the chastisement [needful to obtain] peace *and* well-being for us was upon Him, and with the stripes [that wounded] Him we are healed *and* made whole.

1Thess.1:9-10 AMPC<sup>9</sup> For they themselves volunteer testimony concerning us, telling what an entrance we had among you, and how you turned to God from [your] idols to serve a God Who is alive and true *and* genuine,<sup>10</sup> And [how you] look forward to *and* await the coming of His Son from heaven, Whom He raised from the dead—Jesus, Who personally rescues *and* delivers us out of *and* from the wrath [bringing punishment] which is coming [upon the impenitent] *and* <sup>1a</sup>draws us to Himself [<sup>1b</sup>investing us with all the privileges and rewards of the new life in Christ, the Messiah].

Mark 13:24-32 NIV<sup>24</sup> "But in those days, following that distress," 'the sun will be darkened,  
and the moon will not give its light;  
<sup>25</sup> the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be

shaken.<sup>26</sup> "At that time people will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. <sup>27</sup> And he will send his angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of the heavens.<sup>28</sup> Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. <sup>29</sup> Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that it<sup>1b</sup> is near, right at the door. <sup>30</sup> Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. <sup>31</sup> Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will never pass away.<sup>32</sup> "But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.

1 Thess.4:16-17 NIV<sup>16</sup> For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. <sup>17</sup> After that, we who are still alive and 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 forever.

1 John 4:2-3 NIV<sup>2</sup> This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, <sup>3</sup> but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world.

1 Thess. 5:1-4 NIV Now, brothers and sisters, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, <sup>2</sup> for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. <sup>3</sup> While people are saying, "Peace and safety," destruction will come on them suddenly, as labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.<sup>4</sup> But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief.

