

2009

Eschatology -- Rapture

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Recommended Citation

Fanning, Don, "Eschatology -- Rapture" (2009). *Bible Doctrines*. 11.
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The Rapture of the Church

A study to put life into perspective

Coming Events



Rapture

Rise of Antichrist
3 1/2 years

Rule of Antichrist
3 1/2 years

**Return
Of Christ**



Events of the first half

1. Antichrist gain power in the Roman Confederation in a peaceful conquest
2. Unbelieving Israel returns to the land
3. Israel is protected under the authority of the Antichrist
4. Temple and sacrifices are reconstituted
5. The World Church dominates religions
6. War, starvation and death (2nd –4th seals),
7. World evangelism and martyrs through preaching of 144,000 (5th seal)
8. Calamities and convulsions of the earth with fear of wrath (6th seal)

Events of the 2nd part

1. The “*Great Tribulation*” begins
2. Antichrist reigns with the support of the Western Federation
3. False prophet supports the Antichrist worshipped by the nations and unbelieving Israel
4. Jerusalem taken over by Gentiles
5. 144,000 Continue the preaching, but become martyrs
6. Mark of the beast obligated to show loyalty to the Antichrist
7. Multitudes are converted and martyred
8. Israel persecuted by Antichrist
9. Judgment of the trumpets and cups poured out
10. Blasphemy increases

Following events:

1. 75 days of Daniel 12:12
2. Gathering of Israel
3. Conversion of Israel
4. Judgment of living Israel
5. Judgment of living Gentiles
6. Satan tied in the abyss
7. OT saints resurrected
8. Tribulation saints resurrected
9. Daniel 9:24 fulfilled
10. Supper of the Lamb
11. Christ reigns on earth

Preliminary Events

1. Return of Jews to Israel
2. Removal of protection
3. Technology advances
4. World opinion against Jews
5. Global plague potential

Events at the Beginning

1. Antichrist appears as the *small horn* and the man of sin
2. Antichrist makes a covenant with Israel
3. 144,000 are saved and sealed
4. Two witnesses begin their ministry

Events in the Middle

1. Satan thrown from heaven and takes possession of the Antichrist
2. Russia and Egypt invade Israel
3. Russia destroyed by God
4. Antichrist enters Palestine and defeats Egypt, Libya y Ethiopia
5. Antichrist breaks the covenant with Israel, ends the sacrifices in Temple
6. Antichrist destroys Ecumenical Church
7. The Image of the Antichrist is raised for worship
8. Two witnesses are killed
9. Israel dispersed due to hatred of Satan/Antichrist

Concluding Events

1. Commercial Babylonia destroyed
2. Kings of the North and East invade Israel
3. Jerusalem is destroyed with 66% killed
4. Christ returns with the army of saints
5. Jews flee from Jerusalem
6. Armies of the world meet in Armageddon against Christ
7. Destruction of the armies
8. The Beast and False Prophet thrown into the Lake of Fire

Two Passages about the Rapture

- ^{NET} **1 Corinthians 15:51** Listen, I will tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed—⁵² in a moment, in the blinking of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.⁵³ For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality.
- ^{NET} **1 Thessalonians 4:13** Now we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who are asleep, so that you will not grieve like the rest who have no hope.¹⁴ For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, so also we believe that God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep as Christians.¹⁵ For we tell you this by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will surely not go ahead of those who have fallen asleep.¹⁶ For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a shout of command, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.¹⁷ Then we who are alive, who are left, will be suddenly 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.

False Perspectives concerning the Rapture

- It is the same as the Second Coming (Rev 19:11-16)
- Includes only the “spiritual”, and leaves behind the “carnal” (1 Cor 15:51)
- Does not occur until the middle of the Tribulation (Rev 3:10)
- Will not occur until the end of the Tribulation (1 Thes 5:9)

There is no reference to the Church in Rev 4-19

Two “types” of the Raptuer

- Enoch — “he disappeared because God took him away” (^{NET}Gen 5:24)
- Lot — was taken from Sodoma before the judgment of “brimstone and fire” (Gen 19:22-24)

The Challenge of the Rapture

- We should attend the congregational meetings of the church/believers

NET Hebrews 10:25 not abandoning our own meetings, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging each other, and even more so because you see the day drawing near.

- The Lord's Supper announces the Rapture

NET 1 Corinthians 11:26 For every time you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

- We should love one another because of His Coming

NET 1 Thessalonians 3:12 And may the Lord cause you to increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we do for you, ¹³ so that your hearts are strengthened in holiness to be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

- We should be patient and persevering

NET James 5:8 You also be patient and strengthen your hearts, for the Lord's return is near.

The Challenge of the Rapture

- We should live a separated lifestyle

NET Titus 2:12-13 It trains us to reject godless ways and worldly desires and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, ¹³ Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;

- We should resist judging/criticizing others

NET 1 Corinthians 4:5 So then, do not judge anything before the time. Wait until the Lord comes. He will bring to light the hidden things of darkness and reveal the motives of hearts. Then each will receive recognition from God.

- We should faithfully preach the gospel to lost

NET 1 Peter 5:2-4 Give a shepherd's care to God's flock among you, ...³ And do not lord it over those entrusted to you, but be examples to the flock. ⁴ Then when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that never fades away

- We should win souls

NET Jude 1:21 maintain yourselves in the love of God, while anticipating the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that brings eternal life. ²² And have mercy on those who waver; ²³ save others by snatching them out of the fire; have mercy on others, coupled with a fear of God, hating even the clothes stained by the flesh.