

WHEN WILL WE BE GATHERED TO JESUS?

This study is to provide a DIY study of the rapture to see what the Word of God clearly and literally teaches about the timing of the rapture.

My intent is to make a study where students of the Bible can follow the Scriptures themselves and connect the dots to what the Scripture clearly and literally teaches.

DOES IT MATTER WHETHER THERE IS A PRE-TRIB OR LATE TRIB RAPTURE? AFTER ALL, THIS IS NOT A SALVATION ISSUE.

- 1) The beast of Revelation 13 will be given power to make war against the saints on the earth at the time of the great tribulation and conquer them (**Rev. 13:7-10; Daniel 7:23,25**). Scripture leads us to understand that this will be a time unlike any other time the earth has ever known. At that time, Satan will pour out his wrath on the saints and will be virtually unrestrained by God in what he is allowed to do to them. If we are gathered to Christ before the beast is in power, we've no worry. However, if the saints have to endure his onslaught until Jesus returns, being prepared is vital.
 - a) If the saints must endure the tribulation, our generation and every subsequent generation need to be conditioned and prepared to suffer for the Name of Jesus at the hands of the man of lawlessness.
- 2) Will we be exempt of the suffering saints in the tribulation or will we have to endure it? This is a vital question and the Word of God answers it clearly.

THE "RAPTURE"

- 1) **1 Thes. 4:17** is the predominant verse the average Christian uses to describe the catching up of the saints up to Christ. The most popular word the church uses to describe this event is the "rapture". It comes from the Latin word rapio translated rapture and is used to describe the event in place of the Greek harpazo which means to be forcefully caught up or snatched away. There are multiple Scriptures and words that describe our being snatched away to meet Jesus in the clouds. Using all of these words adds great meaning to the event. I prefer the phrase, "being gathered to Him."
- 2) Other Scriptures that speak of our being caught up to be with Jesus.
 - a) **Matt. 24:29-31; Mark 13:24-27; Luke 21:25-28; 1 Cor. 15:51-52; 1 Thes. 4:15-17; 2 Thes. 1:6-8; 2 Thes. 2:1-8; Rev. 14:14-16**
- 3) For further study
 - a) In **1 Thes. 4:17** The original Greek is the word harpazo. It is used also in the following New Testament Scriptures. Seeing how the word is used in other Scriptures and contexts will help you understand it's meaning.
 - i) **Matt. 11:12; 12:29; 13:19; John 6:15; 10:12; 10:28; 10:29; Acts 8:39; 23:10; 2 Cor. 12:2; 12:4; 1 Thes. 4:17; Jude 1:23; Rev. 12:5.**

THE "PAROUSIA" (par-oo-see'-ah)

The Parousia is the second coming of Jesus to dwell on earth.

The word "Parousia" describes both an "arrival" and a consequent presence with. So, when Parousia is used of Jesus' coming it cannot be understood as Jesus coming to earth and

quickly leaving again such as in a Pre-Trib model of Jesus coming to snatch us away.

Parousia says He will come to earth and stay on earth for a period of time just as He did when He came to earth the first time.

Following is an exhaustive list of the uses of the word Parousia as it pertains to Jesus' second coming to earth.

Study these passages.

- 1) Study the joining verses before and after the listed verse to ...
 - a) ... see the context and subject.
 - b) ... see what events clearly take place at His Parousia.
 - c) ... see other events and actions of Jesus at His coming.
 - d) ... see what it will be like. What are the words that describe the coming of Jesus?
 - e) ... who will see Him in the clouds at His Parousia?
- 2) This is a list of all of the references of Parousia in the New Testament. ***Matt. 24:3, 27, 37, 39; 1 Cor. 15:23; 16:17; 2 Cor. 7:6, 7; 10:10; Phil. 1:26; 2:12; 1 Thes. 2:19; 3:13; 4:15; 5:23; 2 Thes. 2:1, 8, 9; James 5:7, 8; 2 Pet. 1:16; 3:4, 12; 1 John 2:28***

SCRIPTURES THAT CLEARLY PLACE THE TIMING OF THE HARVEST AT THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST JESUS

Matt. 24:30-31, 37-42; Mark 13:24-27; Luke 21:25-28; 1 Cor. 15:22-24; 1 Thes. 4:14-17; 5:23; 2 Thes. 1:6-8; 2:1-3, 8; James 5:7-9, 1 John 2:28; Rev. 14:14-16;

SEQUENTIAL ORDER OF THE OLIVET DISCOURSE

The Olivet Discourse is Jesus' personal teaching on the time of the end of life on earth as we know it. The teaching is recorded in ***Matthew 24 & 25; Mark 13*** and ***Luke 21***.

- 1) Note the sequence by the word "***then***". The use of the word then demonstrates that Jesus is telling what will happen in a sequential order of events.
- 2) Note the phrase, "***when you see***." Jesus is clearly preparing the saints that if they are alive at the time being described, they will see these things with their eyes.
- 3) What else do you see and understand from what Jesus has shared with us?
- 4) Read ***Matthew 24-25*** in tandem with ***Revelation***, Paul's and Peter's writings of the time of the end. The beauty of their harmony with one another will thrill your spirit as you continually discover more and see the wonder of how God brought such a puzzle together using these different authors.

2 THESSALONIANS 2:1-8

- 1) (v:1) Paul is talking about two events. What are they?
- 2) (v:3) What two events must happen first before the events in chapter 1? How strong is His language?
- 3) (v:8) When will the man of lawlessness be revealed?
- 4) Put the pieces together.

THE TIMING OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE SAINTS

The dead in Christ are resurrected immediately before the saints are snatched away, therefore, if we can determine the timing of the resurrection, we can also determine the timing of the snatching away. (***1 Thessalonians 4:15-17***) "***the dead in Christ will rise first***"

Study these resurrection Scriptures.

- 1) How many resurrections do these Scriptures tell us there are?
- 2) When does the resurrection of the Saints take place?
- 3) What are the other events taking place at the same time? Before or after the resurrection?

Job 14:12; Isaiah 26:19-21; Ezekiel 37:12-14; Daniel 12:1-3; 11-13; Matthew 24:29-31; Mark 13:24-27; Luke 21:25-28; John 5:25-29; 6:39-40, 44, 54; 11:23-24; Acts 24:15; 1 Corinthians 15:20-24, 50-52; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18;; Revelation 20:4-6, 11-15;

THE END OF THE AGE

The age spoken of in the Scriptures is the perpetual existence of mankind on this earth as we know it in its entirety. There are not “ages” of man, but one age. There may be many eras but there is one age. There are spaces or spans of time but only one age. There are eons and generations that measure time, but only one age.

“END OF THE AGE” = LITERALLY means the end of days. When time, mankind and life on this planet as we know it, comes to an end.

Scripture references to **“END OF THE AGE”**

Daniel 12:13, Matthew 13:39, 40, 49; 24:3; 28:20, Heb. 9:26

Other Scriptures that speak of the time of the end of time, life and mankind as we know it.

Daniel 8:17, 19; 11:27, 35, 40; 12:4, 6, 9; Hab. 2:3; Matt. 10:22; Matt. 24:6; Matt. 24:13; Matt. 24:14; Matt. 24:31; Mark 13:7; Mark 13:13; Luke 21:9; 1 Cor. 1:8; 1 Cor. 15:24; 1 Peter 4:7; Rev. 2:26

THE 5TH SEAL OF REVELATION 6:9-11; 7:9-17;

- 1) Who are those under the altar?
- 2) What were they requesting of the Lord?
- 3) What did the Lord tell them they needed to wait for?
- 4) We're now at the 5th Seal in Revelation. The first four Seals clearly have been opened so there will still be saints being martyred for the Word of God and their testimony of Jesus. Scripture is clear as to how long this will be happening but it requires further and broader study to see.

WILL THE CHURCH/SAINTS BE HERE DURING THE RULE OF THE BEAST/ANTI-CHRIST?

- 1) ***2 Thes. 2:1-8; Rev. 13:7-10;***
- 2) A wordsearch on Saints in Revelation is inciteful. How many times and in what context are they mentioned in Revelation?
- 3) ***Rev.5:8; 8:3; 8:4; 11:18; 13:7; 13:10; 14:12; 16:6; 17:6; 18:20; 18:24; 19:8; 20:9.***
- 4) What are these Saints instructed to do?

THE BEAST OF REVELATION AND THE ABOMINATION THAT CAUSES DESOLATION CLEARLY SHOWS US THE TIMING OF THE RAPTURE

- 1) ***Daniel 9:27*** says ... that an abomination will take place **“in the middle”** of the seven tribulation years

- 2) As you study these Scriptures, take note of whenever it gives time periods, when it speaks of sequential order such “after” and “before”, “in the middle of” etc. You can put some of the pieces of the puzzle in the right places.
- 3) **Matthew 24:15, Mark 13:14, Luke 21** both say “**when you see” the abomination of desolation**. What does that tell us?
- 4) **2 Thessalonians 2:1-10** seems to be speaking of the same event as Daniels. Verse 1 speaks of our being gathered to Him.
 - a) When will we be gathered to Jesus? Before or after the man of lawlessness is revealed?
 - b) When will the man of lawlessness be revealed according to this passage?
 - c) This man is clearly the beast of **Revelation 13:1-9**
 - i) V:5 ... he is given authority on the earth for 42 months. (3.5 years)
 - ii) He will also be given power to make war on the saints and to overcome them. (v:7) also in **Daniel 7:21**.
- 5) More Scriptures to add insight.
 - a) **Daniel 12:9-13;**
 - b) **Daniel 9:24-27** allude to the 7-Year period at the end of time which includes the Great Tribulation and the time of God’s wrath at the end.
- 6) The beast/ant-christ is also spoken of in **Daniel 7:7-8, 7:19-27; Daniel 11:1-45;**

THE EARLY CHURCH LEADERS’ TEACHINGS.

- 1) Do a google search on “early church fathers on “anti-christ” “man of lawlessness” “beast” etc. to see for yourself what they said about the church/saints and the beast.

THE TIMING OF THE WRATH OF GOD

The common assumption is that since we, the saints will not suffer the wrath of God (**1 Thes. 1:10; 5:9**), that we will not go through any part of the tribulation because we assume that the entirety of the 7-year period is God’s wrath.

The very first mention and expression of God’s wrath is in Revelation 16 with the Bowls of Wrath being poured out on the earth.

Is this consistent with what we have seen so far?

THE BLESSED HOPE OF THE CHURCH

It is commonly said that the blessed hope of the church in **Titus 2:13** is the Pre-Trib rapture of the church. No such reference exists. Possible explanations are as follows.

- ... **1 Thessalonians 5:8 ... the hope of salvation.**
- ... **Romans 5:2 ... hope of the glory of God.**
- ... **Galatians 5:5 ... hope of righteousness.**
- ... **Titus 2:13 ... the return of Jesus itself**
- ... **Titus 3:7 ... hope of eternal life.**
- ... **1 Timothy 1:1 ... Jesus Christ who is our hope**

CONCERNING THE PRE-TRIBULATION RAPTURE TEACHING

- 1) When you hear their teaching on the subject, examine the Scriptures for yourself. You need to examine the Scriptures for yourself. Would you, by looking at the verse they present, come up with the same conclusion of what it says looking only at that verse. Here is some help to see what the Scripture actually says.

- a) Look at the context. What is the actual subject that is being spoken of? Is it the rapture, the coming, the end of the age, day of the Lord, etc.?
- b) Are there verses or words that speak of the timing of what is being said?
- c) Is there a sequence such as, “before this”, “after these things” etc?
- d) What does it really say? DO NOT look at the Scripture with a predisposed opinion (this is a difficult task), but simply take away ONLY what it actually says. Use all of the Scriptures on the subject to come to the truth of the subject.

PHRASES, AND IDEAOLOGIES THAT PRE-TRIBBERS TEACH AND USE.

Note the phrases those who believe in and promote the Pre-Tribulation Rapture say. Again, examine the Scriptures they use yourself using the criteria in the last section. Ask yourself ...

- 1) Are they injecting their thoughts into the text or simply taking the text literally?
- 2) With these phrases, note the Scriptures they use and examine them to see the context, subject and simply is the Scripture talking about the rapture or another part of the tribulation period such as the coming or day of the Lord?

HERE IS WHAT THEY SAY ...

- 1) “The rapture is imminent”. This means that Jesus could rapture us at any moment without any warning. In the pre-trib rapture view, this would begin the 7-year tribulation.
- 2) The “entire 7-year tribulation is God’s wrath being poured out.”
- 3) “The Holy Spirit in the church is the one who restrains the anti-christ.”
- 4) “The rapture is the next eschatological event on God’s calendar.”
- 5) The idea of being “left behind.”
- 6) “The disappearing/rapture” that will bring chaos to the world in a Pre-Trib scenario.
- 7) “There are two comings in the Scripture. One when Jesus comes to rapture us at the beginning of the tribulation and one when He returns to reign”
- 8) “The rapture will happen like a thief in the night” (as if it will be a surprise to the church). (1 Thes. 5:1-11) (What does it actually say?)
- 9) The “mystery” Paul speaks of throughout the New Testament is the Pre-Tribulation Rapture of the church.
- 10) Search the Scriptures yourself to see if they say these things.

PRE-TRIBBERS SAY

Since the church is not mentioned after Revelation 4, that must mean that the church is no longer on the earth at that time. I SAY ... since the wrath of God is not mentioned until the Bowls of wrath in Revelation 16, the wrath of God is not there until then.

OTHER PROBLEMS WITH THE PRE-TRIB RAPTURE VIEW

- 1) The church from the time of the Apostles proclaimed that the church would suffer under the anti-christ. You find little teachings on the rapture at all as they were all looking in hope for the return (Parousia) of Jesus. The Pre-trib rapture doctrine began around 1830 when John Nelson Darby introduced it and the idea spread like the modern-day Word of Faith movement.