

"The Rapture of the Church" – week #5

Revelation 4:1

Resurrections in history

There are 2 categories of resurrections in history ...

"The First Resurrection" of all saved

1. Jesus Christ – I Corinthians 15:20-23
2. Selected Old Testament Saints – Matthew 27:51-54
3. Rapture of the Church Saints – I Thessalonians 4:13-18
4. Tribulation Martyrs – Revelation 20:4-6
5. Old Testament Saints – Daniel 12:1-2

"The Second Resurrection" of all unsaved (the lost)

1. Wicked of all generations – Revelation 20:11-15

Pre-trib, mid-trib or post-trib

Doctrine of the Pre-Tribulation Rapture – Jesus is coming to take His Church home *BEFORE* the Tribulation – this is based on literal interpretation of Scripture ...

1. Taking the Bible as it's written – literally!
2. Bible verses that promise deliverance "ek" kept from, not through the wrath to come – I Thessalonians 1:10, Revelation 3:10, I Thessalonians 5:9
3. The Church has nothing to do with the purpose of the Tribulation; it's Israel – Daniel 9:24-27
4. The Church is never mentioned in the Tribulation chapters of Revelation!
5. The Rapture is called the "Blessed Hope" – Hope = 3 ½ years of hell first as a requirement?
6. Goes with the natural flow and order of Revelation AND ALL of Scripture!
7. The Rapture and Second Coming are distinguished in Scripture – Rapture = Jesus coming to save believers, Second Coming = Jesus coming to judge the people on the earth

Doctrine of the Mid-Tribulation Rapture – Jesus is coming *DURING* the Tribulation – this is assumed from Matthew 24:22 "elect", I Thessalonians 1:10 "seal & trumpet judgments" are not wrath?, 2 witnesses "symbolic of the Church being resurrected after the Antichrist kills them" in Revelation 11

Doctrine of the Post-Tribulation Rapture – Jesus is coming to 'rapture' the Church *AFTER* the Tribulation period & then bring us back down immediately for the Second Coming. This view is derived from Jesus & John both using the word 'tribulation' (same as the Greek word used for the actual Tribulation). Was the Tribulation around during Jesus' earthly ministry? "Context is king!" also, believed as a result of "The First Resurrection" mentioned in Revelation 20 "did not mean first in time, but rather first in kind." – John Walvoord ... Lastly, we need witnesses to save the lost during the Tribulation AND it will help us to grow in sanctification ... They have the 2 Witnesses, the 144,000 Jewish Evangelists, Flying Eagles proclaiming the Gospel ... Christ's death is enough to sanctify us!

The Doctrine of *Imminence*

What about a '*partial rapture*'?

“The Rapture of the Church – part II”

Rapture vs. Second Coming

Rapture = Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ in the clouds to gather His people to go home **before** the Tribulation period begins. This will be a bodily resurrection of the Church Age believers (AD.33 - ?) and could occur anytime without the necessity of signs. In other words, it's imminent – Revelation 22:20!

Second Coming = Second part of Jesus' return to judge the people of the earth. This will occur **after** the Tribulation period is complete. This return is preceded by many signs – Matthew 24:29-31!

RAPTURE VS SECOND COMING

1. R = Jesus comes into the air *for His own*///SC = Jesus comes *with His own* to the earth
2. R = Church taken into heaven///SC = Kingdom set up on earth
3. R = could happen at any time///SC= will happen at the end of the Tribulation period
4. R = no signs accompany it///SC = many signs accompany it
5. R= for believers only///SC = affects all humanity
6. R = time of joy///SC = time of mourning
7. R = no mention of Satan///SC = Satan is bound for 1,000 years
8. R = Judgment Seat of Christ follows///SC = Millennium follows
9. R = only His own will see Him///SC = everyone will see Him
10. R = leaving to get married///SC = returning as the Bride of Christ (wedding reception)

The Stages of the Rapture

1. Jesus will descend from His Father's house – John 14:1-3, I Thess. 4:16
2. He will resurrect deceased believers in Christ – I Thess. 4:14-15, I Cor. 15:51-52
3. This will occur in the 'twinkling of an eye' – I Cor. 15:52
4. The trumpet call of God will sound to summons us – I Thess. 4:16, I Cor. 15:52, Rev. 4:1
5. We who are alive will join the 'dead in Christ' in the air – I Thess. 4:17, I Cor. 15:51, 53
6. We will all get new, glorified bodies – I Cor. 15:52-55
7. We will meet in the clouds & be with the Lord FOREVER – I Thess. 4:17

Multiple choice – Rapture or Second Coming??

1. Philippians 1:6
2. Colossians 3:4
3. Jude 1:14-15
4. II Thessalonians 2:8
5. Philippians 3:20-21
6. Mark 14:62
7. II Timothy 4:7-8

***Next week we will look at the Judgment Seat of Christ!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!