

Differences between The Rapture and The 2nd Coming

We believe that much of the confusion about the Rapture is caused by a lack of understanding that Christ comes first for believers, and then comes later in what is properly called the Second Coming, or His Glorious Return as King of Kings. Here are some of the differences between these two events.

The Rapture
Christ comes for His own 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
Believers taken to Father's House John 14:3
Seen only by believers 1 Corinthians 15:52, 19:11-16;
No reference to Satan
Earth not judged
A Mystery 1 Corinthians 15:51

The 2nd Coming
Christ return with His own Revelation 19:14
Believers come to Earth Matthew 24:30
Every eye will see Him Revelation 1:7 Matthew 24:30
Satan bound Revelation 20:1-3
Earth judged Revelation 20:4-5
Foretold in Old Testament Dan. 12:1-3; Zech. 12:10; 14:4

One way to better understand the clear distinction between The Rapture and the Second Coming in glory can be seen by carefully considering the different Greek words used for these two events.

The Church is Missing From The Tribulation - Revelation 4-19

In the first three chapters of Revelation, there are constant references to the church and to the Seven Churches. However, starting at chapter 4, verse 1, where John is told to "come up here," the church is obviously absent throughout the Tribulation period. The expression "come up here" does mean leaving the earth in Revelation 11:12 where the translation of the Two Witnesses takes place. (We are not suggesting that the Rapture takes place in chapter 11, only that the same expression, used there, does mean virtually the same thing for the Two Witnesses that the Rapture does to the church.)

There are numerous references to believers in these chapters, but they are not called the church. What might be called the church on the earth during this time is the apostate shell of nominal Christianity, which has lost its true believers, and has joined with other religions of the world to become a "United Religion," which, in turn will give its power to Antichrist. This apostate church is pictured as a prostitute riding the beast in Revelation 18.

For more information please go to our website at <http://christ-education.blogspot.com.au>

The Rapture of the Church

The rapture of the church, described mainly in I Corinthians 15:50-55 and I Thessalonians 4:13-18, states there will come a time when the Lord will descend from heaven and remove all Christians from the earth in the moment in the twinkling of an eye. From that day forward Christians will forever be with the Lord.

"Rapture" comes from the words "caught up". In the Greek the word is "harpazo" means to "seize upon by force" or "to snatch up".

The Bible says this snatching up or catching away could take place at any moment, but it will only happen to those who know the Lord as Saviour. At this point in time, it is believed that once the rapture takes place, God will pour out His wrath upon mankind in a time period called the seven-year tribulation period.

The Bible says this seven- year period will be the most horrible time in history (Luke 21:25-26).

Who Will Be Taken?

And Enoch lived sixty and five years, and begat Methuselah: And Enoch walked with God after he begat Methuselah three hundred years, and begat sons and daughters: And all the days of Enoch were three hundred sixty and five years: And Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him (Genesis 5:21-24).

In the Book of Genesis, we find a man named Enoch, of the line of Seth, that the Bible specifically points out as being a man that walked with God. But there's more! He was also taken by God.

Many Bible scholars have attributed this mysterious disappearance (taking) as a picture of the future rapture of the church. Later, in the Book of Jude, this same Enoch would give us a glimpse of what will take place at the second coming of Christ:

And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints, to execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him. These are murmurers, complainers, walking after their own lusts; and their mouth speaketh great swelling words, having men's persons in admiration because of advantage.

But, beloved, remember ye the words which were spoken before of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ; How that they told you there should be mockers in the last time, who should walk after their own ungodly lusts. These be they who separate themselves, sensual, having not the Spirit (Jude 14-19).

In Genesis 5:24, an important characteristic of Enoch's relationship with God is emphasized in that "Enoch walked with God". If this is indeed a picture of the rapture, and I believe it is, is it possible that the same criteria to be taken in the future rapture will be determined by whether or not we are walking with God?

This is a sobering thought in light of today's liberal so-called Christian churches. I'm afraid many church members are going to be shocked when they find themselves left behind to go through the most horrible time in world history.

Neighbour, it's time to determine if you are truly walking with God! Certainly, the Lord is at hand and if you expect to go with Him when He raptures the church, you will have to be walking with Him. And you'll have to be ready before He comes or you won't go!

You may say, what is the criterion for going? I'm glad you asked that question...here it is. You're going to have to have a personal relationship (walk) with the Lord just as Enoch did if you expect to be taken during the rapture.

That relationship has been given various names over the years, but the truth is, if you don't have Jesus as Lord of your life you will not go when the trumpet blasts. On that day, it won't matter what religious affiliation you may have, only those who hear His voice will go.

Today is the day to examine your heart and determine if you truly are living for the Lord.

You may say, "I'm not sure if I would go if the trumpet sounded...but I'd like to settle that today." Well, you can solve that problem right now by praying this simple prayer, repenting of your sins, and turning your life over to the Lord from this day forward. If you would like to accept Jesus as Lord, please pray with me right now:

Father, I know that I am a sinner and cannot obtain salvation in and of myself. I come to You in the name of Jesus asking that You forgive me of my sins, and to cleanse me from all unrighteousness and guilt. I trust and believe that Jesus died and rose again to pay my sin penalty. I accept this free gift of salvation, and from this day forward, turn my life completely over to the Lord. I thank You and praise You God for giving me a new life in Christ. Amen.

If you prayed this prayer and meant every word you are now a Christian and on your way to heaven. From this day forward, life will never be the same. It is possible you may have to die for your belief in Christ. Stand strong and be of good courage and the Lord will strengthen and guide you to come out victorious even in the face of death. Commit your life to Jesus today before it's too late!

