

## The Rapture

comes from the Latin word *rapare* which means "seize", "snatch" or "take away."

**The Rapture described** - 1 Thess 4:13-18 - 13 Brothers, **we do not want you to be ignorant about those who fall asleep, or to grieve like the rest of men, who have no hope.** 14 We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those **who have fallen asleep IN HIM.** 15 According to the Lord's own word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left till the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. 16 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. 17 **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 be with the Lord forever.** 18 Therefore encourage each other with these words.

**Though the concept of the Rapture is clear, there is a difference in tribulation time beliefs**

**Pretribulation:** This is to occur before any of Tribulation happens (Rev 4). It says Christ will first come and Rapture his Saints. This is called the first stage of Christ's coming and the second stage is called the Revelation. Main emphasis is placed on the Church not experiencing God's Wrath. (You will also hear that the church is no longer mentioned after Rev 4)

*Core verse:* 1 Thess 1:10 and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead — **Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.**

**Partial Rapture:** Only believers who are watching and waiting for the Lord will be raptured at various times before the 7-year tribulation. Only those that are spiritually mature, both dead and living.

*Core verse:* 1 Thess 4:13-18 (see above)

**Prewrath & Midtribulation:** Tribulation is divided into three stages found in the Olivet Discourse: (1) **beginning of sorrows** (Mt 24:8), (2) **The Great Tribulation** (Mt 24:21), and (3) **The day of the Lord** (which is the wrath of God) (Mt24:30-31). The Rapture takes place between the Great Tribulation and the Day of the Lord.

*Core selection1:* \*Matt 24:29-31 - 29"**Immediately after the distress of those days**" "the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken. 30 "**AT THAT TIME** the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and all the nations of the earth will mourn. They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky, with power and great glory. 31 And he will send **his angels with a loud trumpet call**, and **THEY WILL GATHER HIS ELECT FROM THE FOUR WINDS**, from one end of the heavens to the other.

*Core selection2:* 2 Thess 2:1-4 - **Concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered to him**, we ask you, brothers, 2 not to become easily unsettled or alarmed by some prophecy, report or letter supposed to have come from us, saying that the day of the Lord has already come. 3 Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction. 4 He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God. (**\*Rev 13 is when this man is finally revealed**)

**Post Tribulation:** Living believers will be Raptured at the second coming of Christ at the end of the Tribulation.

*Core selection:* Rev 20:4-6 - 4 I saw thrones on which were seated those who had been given authority to judge. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony for Jesus and because of the word of God. **They had not worshiped the beast or his image and had not received his mark** on their foreheads or their hands. **They came to life and reigned with Christ a thousand years.** 5 (The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended.) **THIS IS THE FIRST RESURRECTION.** 6 **Blessed and holy** are those who have part in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them, but **they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him for a thousand years.**

**No Matter when the Rapture happens it's clear what will happen when it happens**

**There is an order to resurrection** - 1 Cor 15:20-26 - 20 But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. 21 For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. 22 For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. 23 But **each in his own turn**: *Christ, the firstfruits; THEN, when he comes, those who belong to him.* 24 **THEN the end will come**, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power. 25 For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. 26 The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

**True Christians are changed from flesh to Spiritual** - 1 Cor 15:42-52 - 42 So will it be with the **resurrection of the dead**. The **body that is sown is perishable**, it is **raised imperishable**; 43 it is **sown in dishonor**, it is **raised in glory**; it is **sown in weakness**, it is **raised in power**; 44 it is **sown a natural body**, it is **raised a spiritual body**. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body. 45 So it is written: "The first man Adam became a living being"; the **last Adam, a life-giving spirit**. 46 **The spiritual did not come first, but the natural, and after that the spiritual.** →

→47 The first man was of the dust of the earth, the second man from heaven. 48 As was the earthly man, so are those who are of the earth; and as is the man from heaven, so also are those who are of heaven. 49 And just as we have borne the likeness of the earthly man, so shall we bear the likeness of the man from heaven. 50 I declare to you, brothers, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. 51 Listen, I tell you a mystery: **We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed**— 52 in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and **we will be changed**.

Is there any validity to being “left behind”?

(Matt 24, Mk 13, Lk 17 gives overviews of Revelations, Matthew and Luke is where you will find support to being left behind)  
It will be when Jesus is seen returning and His angels gather the elect – see (Matt 24:30-31 above) –

Like the days of Noah, people will be living their lives until the event - Matt 24:37-41 - 37 **As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man**. 38 For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; 39 and **they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away**. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. 40 Two men will be in the field; **one will be taken and the other left**. 41 Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; **one will be taken and the other left**.

It will also be like the days of Lot people will be living their lives until the event happens - Luke 17:28-37 - 28 "It was the same in the days of Lot. People were eating and drinking, buying and selling, planting and building. 29 But the day Lot left Sodom, fire and sulfur rained down from heaven and destroyed them all. 30 **"It will be just like this on the day the Son of Man is revealed**. 31 On that day no one who is on the roof of his house, with his goods inside, should go down to get them. Likewise, no one in the field should go back for anything. 32 Remember Lot's wife! 33 **Whoever tries to keep his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life will preserve it**. 34 I tell you, on that night two people will be in one bed; **one will be taken and the other left**. 35 Two women will be grinding grain together; **one will be taken and the other left**." 37 "Where, Lord?" they asked. He replied, "Where there is a dead body, there the vultures will gather."