



WHY THE *Rapture?*

Our Hope & Comfort

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The Rapture of the Church: Outline (1/2)

- Interpretive approach leads to differences
- Jesus' personal promise
- The catching away of believers
- The translation of our bodies
- The rapture is imminent
- The rapture is not the second coming
- We are never subject to God's wrath
- We are never subject to God's wrath

The Rapture of the Church: Outline (2/2)

- “Church” conspicuously absent after Revelation 3
- Restrainer must be removed
- God’s loving pattern to rescue His people

The Rapture of the Church: Outline (1/2)

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The Rapture of the Church: Outline (2/2)

- “Church” conspicuously absent after Revelation 3
- Restrainer must be removed
- God’s loving pattern to rescue His people
- Practical implications

Why do we differ?

Interpretive method (hermeneutic) is different:

Consistent application of a literal, grammatical, historical, and contextual method across all Scripture, including prophecy. (*dispensational approach*)

- Seeks plain, normal, ordinary meaning of text
- Considers grammar, historical setting, and context
- Accounts for figurative/symbolic meaning when context demands it

“And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world—he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.”

REVELATION 12:9 (ESV)

The Rapture of the Church: Outline (1/2)

- Interpretive approach leads to differences
 - Israel and the Church are always distinct
 - Literal fulfilment of promises/prophecy
 - Timeline of future events

“Now the LORD said to Abram, ‘Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. (2)And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. (3)I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.’”

GENESIS 12:1–3 (ESV)

“There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”

GALATIANS 3:28 (ESV)

“Give no offense to Jews or to Greeks or to the church of
God”

1 CORINTHIANS 10:32 (ESV)

“I ask, then, has God rejected His people? By no means! For I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham... (25)...I do not want you to be unaware of this mystery, brothers: a partial hardening has come upon Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. (26)And in this way all Israel will be saved...”

ROMANS 11:1,25-26

Promise	Scripture	Description
Full Possession of the Promised Land	Genesis 15:18-21	The promise specifies a geographical territory from the river of Egypt to the Euphrates, intended for an ethnic group, not a spiritual entity like the church.
Eternal Davidic Kingdom on Earth	2 Samuel 7:12-16	Requires a literal throne in Jerusalem for a Davidic king to rule over Israel, distinct from the church's spiritual relationship with Christ as head.
National Salvation of Israel	Jeremiah 31:31-34	Designates a future national conversion and forgiveness for Israel, beyond the church's current participation in the New Covenant's spiritual blessings.
Regathering of Israel to Their Land	Ezekiel 36:24	Involves the physical return of the Jewish people to their ancestral land, not applicable to the church, which is not tied to a specific territory.
Rebuilding of the Temple in Jerusalem	Ezekiel 40-48	Envisions a physical temple with detailed rituals for Jewish worship, whereas the church worships spiritually without a physical temple (John 4:24).
Israel's Prominence Among Nations	Isaiah 2:2-4	Positions Jerusalem as the global center of worship and governance, a role not assigned to the church, which is universal and not location-specific.



BIBLICAL EVENTS TIMELINE

FIRST COMING
OF CHRIST

RAPTURE

SECOND COMING
OF CHRIST



“Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in Me. (2)In My Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? (3)And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to Myself, that where I am you may be also.”

JOHN 14:1–3 (ESV)

“But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. (14)For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep. (15)For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep.

1 THESSALONIANS 4:13–15 (ESV)

For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. (17)Then we who are alive, who are left, will be 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."

1 THESSALONIANS 4:16-18

Parallels between Jesus and Paul regarding the Rapture

John 14:1-3			1 Thes. 4:13-18	
trouble	verse 1		sorrow	verse 13
believe	verse 1		believe	verse 14
God, me	verse 1		Jesus, God	verse 14
told you	verse 2		say to you	verse 15
come again	verse 3		coming of the Lord	verse 15
receive you	verse 3		caught up	verse 17
to myself	verse 3		to meet the Lord	verse 17
be where I am	verse 3		ever be with the Lord	verse 17

“Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, (52)in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. (53)For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality.”

1 CORINTHIANS 15:51–53 (ESV)

“looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ.”

TITUS 2:13 (ESV)

Contrasting the Rapture with the Second Coming

Rapture/Translation	2nd Coming/ Estab. Kingdom
1. Translation of all believers	1. No translation at all
2. Translated saints go to heaven	2. Translated saints return to earth
3. Earth not judged	3. Earth judged & righteousness established
4. Imminent, any-moment, signless	4. Follows definite predicted signs including tribulation
5. Not in the Old Testament	5. Predicted often in Old Testament
6. Believers only	6. Affects all men
7. Before the day of wrath	7. Concluding the day of wrath
8. No reference to Satan	8. Satan bound
9. Christ comes for His own	9. Christ comes with His own
10. He comes in the air	10. He comes to the earth
11. He claims His bride	11. He comes with His bride
12. Only His own see Him	12. Every eye shall see Him
13. Tribulation begins	13. Millennial Kingdom begins

Feature	The Rapture (e.g., 1 Thess. 4:13-18; John 14:1-3; 1 Cor. 15:50-54)	Christ's Second Coming (e.g., Rev. 19:11-21; Zech. 14:1-5; Matt. 24:29-31)
Christ's Arrival	Christ comes for His saints to gather them to Himself	Christ returns with His saints (and angels) to the earth
Meeting Place	Saints meet the Lord "in the air"	Christ descends to the earth, specifically the Mount of Olives [Zech. 14:4]
Believers' State	Living believers are translated (changed); dead in Christ are resurrected with glorified bodies	Saints return with Christ, already in their glorified bodies
Focus/Purpose	Removal of the Church from earth to the Father's house (heaven) [John 14:3]	Judgment of the nations, defeat of Antichrist, establishment of the earthly Millennial Kingdom
Visibility	Primarily an event for believers; described as a "mystery" revealed [1 Cor. 15:51]	A public, global event where "every eye will see Him"
Associated Events	Believers are delivered "from the wrath to come"	Execution of God's wrath upon unbelievers and the armies of the Antichrist

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Timing Relative to Signs	Imminent, can occur at any moment, no preceding signs required for the Church	Follows specific, prophesied signs including the Great Tribulation and cosmic disturbances [Matt. 24:29-30]
Old Testament Prophecy	Not explicitly detailed in the Old Testament (considered part of the "mystery" of the Church) 27	Extensively prophesied in the Old Testament (e.g., Zechariah 14, Isaiah 63) 27
Satan's Status	No direct mention of Satan being bound at this event	Satan is bound for a thousand years27
Earth's Judgment	Earth is not judged at this point	Earth undergoes judgment, and righteousness is established 27
Destination of Saints	Translated saints go to heaven ("Father's house") [John 14:2-3]	Saints return to the earth with Christ 27

“and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.”

1 THESSALONIANS 1:10 (ESV)

“For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ”

1 THESSALONIANS 5:9 (ESV)

“Because you have kept My word about patient endurance, I will keep you from the hour of trial that is coming on the whole world, to try those who dwell on the earth.”

REVELATION 3:10 (ESV)

“[do] not be quickly shaken from your composure or be disturbed either by a spirit or a message or a letter as if from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come.”

2 THESSALONIANS 2:2 (NASB95)

“Let no one in any way deceive you, for it will not come unless the apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction”

2 THESSALONIANS 2:3 (NASB95)

“And you know what restrains him now, so that in his time he will be revealed. (7)For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only he who now restrains will do so until he is taken out of the way.”

2 THESSALONIANS 2:6–7 (NASB95)

“if He did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a herald of righteousness, with seven others, when He brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly; (6)if by turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to ashes He condemned them to extinction, making them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly; (7)and if He rescued righteous Lot, greatly distressed by the sensual conduct of the wicked (8)(for as that righteous man lived among them day after day, he was tormenting his righteous soul over their lawless deeds that he saw and heard); (9)then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment until the day of judgment”

2 PETER 2:5–9 (ESV)

“Escape quickly, for I can do nothing till you arrive there.”

GENESIS 19:22 (ESV)