

## Rapture Theories

<sup>13</sup> But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. <sup>14</sup> For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus. <sup>15</sup> For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive *and* remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. <sup>16</sup> **For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. <sup>17</sup> Then we who are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.** <sup>18</sup> **Therefore comfort one another** with these words. 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 (NKJV)

<sup>1</sup> But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. <sup>2</sup> For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. <sup>3</sup> For when they say, "Peace and safety!" then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape. <sup>4</sup> But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief. <sup>5</sup> You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness. <sup>6</sup> Therefore let us not sleep, as others *do*, but let us watch and be sober. <sup>7</sup> For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night. <sup>8</sup> But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and *as* a helmet the hope of salvation. <sup>9</sup> **For God did not appoint us to wrath**, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>10</sup> who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him. <sup>11</sup> **Therefore comfort each other** and edify one another, just as you also are doing. 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 (NKJV)

<sup>1</sup> Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you, <sup>2</sup> not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come. <sup>3</sup> Let no one deceive you by any means; **for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition,** <sup>4</sup> who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God. <sup>5</sup> Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things? <sup>6</sup> And now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time. <sup>7</sup> 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.** <sup>8</sup> And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming. <sup>9</sup> The coming of the *lawless one* is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, <sup>10</sup> and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. <sup>11</sup> And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, <sup>12</sup> that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness. 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12 (NKJV)

<sup>14</sup>Then I looked, and behold, a white cloud, and on the cloud sat *One* like the Son of Man, having on His head a golden crown, and in His hand a sharp sickle. <sup>15</sup>And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to Him who sat on the cloud, **“Thrust in Your sickle and reap, for the time has come for You to reap, for the harvest of the earth is ripe.”** <sup>16</sup>**So He who sat on the cloud thrust in His sickle on the earth, and the earth was reaped.** Revelation 14:14-16 (NKJV)

## Rapture Views

The Rapture is the event mentioned in the scripture references above. It is the time when the believers who are alive at Christ's return are immediately physically transformed rather than passing through death and ascend to meet Christ coming down from heaven to meet the Lord in the clouds. There have been various propositions as to when this occurs in the sequence of events associated with the end times.

- **Pre-Trib Rapture:** This is the theory that the rapture occurs before the believers go through the tribulation period. This theory is relatively new having been developed in the 1830's. It is popular among Evangelicals today being also popularized by the "Left Behind" series.
- **Mid-Trib Rapture:** Revelation seems to indicate that the seven years of the anti-Christ's rule are divided in half. The first half he is persecuting Christians, and the second half focusses on God's wrath being poured out. The Mid-Tribers theorize that since believers aren't subject to God's wrath, they will be raptured midway through the seven years.
- **Post-Trib Rapture:** And, as the name indicates, this is the theory that the Rapture occurs at the end of the seven years, when Christ makes his return, descending from the clouds.
- **Partial Rapture:** There are those like Robert Govett and Watchman Nee who divide the Christian community into "over comers" and "non-over comers". Both are redeemed, but while the over comers - an elite group of Christians - enter the Millennial Kingdom and reign with Christ for 1000 years, the non-over comers - Christians who have demonstrated a sub-standard performance - end up in a sort of purgatorial scenario. With respect to the rapture, the over comers are raptured either mid-trib or pre-trib and the dead over comers are raised and join them. The non-over comers remain until the end of the tribulation when they are raptured, and the dead non-over comers are raised and join them.
- **Pan-Trib Rapture:** These are those who sick and tired of people arguing over when the Rapture takes place and just believe it's all going to all "pan out" in the end!

### Why I believe that Jesus will come again!

<sup>1</sup>“Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. <sup>2</sup>In My Father’s house are many mansions; if *it were* not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. <sup>3</sup>And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, *there* you may be also. John 14:1-3 (NKJV)

**It is a clear teaching of the New Testament.**