The Rapture

End Times Primer Series

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End Times Primer Series

An elementary text or teaching that serves as an introduction to an area of study

End Times Fear?

We like control and fear the unknown

Matthew 24: 36, But concerning that day and hour, no one knows, not even the Angels in heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only.

End Times Fear?

Satan attacks our spiritual comfort with consternation.

1st Thessalonians 4: 13, But we do not want you to be uniformed brothers about those who have died, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope.

End Times Faith!

We trust in the Lord and His Word

Jeremiah 29: 11, For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.

Rapture

The word rapture is not in the Bible!

Greek word *harpazo*: “caught up”

1st Thessalonians 4:17, Then we who are alive, will be **caught up** together into the clouds with them who remain, to meet the Lord in the air…

NT into Latin, used word *raptura*

Other Greek Definitions of Harpazo

To seize – to take without permission

To carry off by force

To claim for oneself eagerly

4 Previous Individual Raptures in Scripture

Enoch **Genesis 5: 23 – 24**, …so all the days of Enoch were 365 years. And Enoch walked with God; and he was not, for **God took him**.

Elijah **2nd Kings 2: 11 – 12**, And as they still went on and talked, behold, chariots of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them. And Elijah **went up by a whirlwind** into heaven.

4 Previous Individual Raptures in Scripture

Jesus **Acts 1: 9**, Now when Jesus had spoken these things, while they watched, **He was taken up**, and a cloud received Him out of their sight.

Paul **2nd Corinthians 12: 2 - 3**, I know a man in Christ who 14 years ago was **caught up** to the third heaven…and I know this man was caught up into paradise.

The Rapture of the Church

The Church (the people who are believers in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior) will be caught up in the air to go be with Jesus in Heaven.

John 14: 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.

2 Main Purposes of the Church Rapture

1. To End the Church Age

2. To Begin the Tribulation

Matthew 24:21, There will be a great tribulation, such as has not been seen since the beginning of the world until this time…

3 Possible Timings of Church Rapture

Pre-Tribulation

1st Thessalonians 1: 10, And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

Revelation 3: 10, 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.

3 Possible Timings of Church Rapture

Mid-Tribulation

Daniel 9:27, And he shall make a strong covenant with many for one week, and for half the week he shall put an end to sacrifice and offering.

Revelation 11: 2 – 3, …for it is given over to the nations, and they will trample the holy city for 42 months. And I will grant authority to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for 1,260 days…

3 Possible Timings of Church Rapture

Post-Tribulation

Matthew 24: 9, Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and put you to death, and you will be hated by all nations for my name's sake.

Revelation 13: 7, Also it was allowed to make war on the saints and to conquer them.

The Rapture Sequence: 5 Stages

1. The 1st Return

1st Thess 4: 16, The Lord Himself will descend from Heaven with a shout, and the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God.

2 Returns of Jesus in End Times

The Rapture Return: Church caught up into Heaven to Jesus

The 2nd Coming Return: Jesus comes back to reign as King

Revelation 1: 7, Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him…

Revelation 19: 14, And the armies in heaven, clothed in fire linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses.

Differences Between the 2 Returns

Rapture	2nd Coming
Jesus in the air waiting	Jesus on the Mount of Olives
Only believers see Him	Everyone will see Him
Saints into Heaven	Some Saints return for Millenium
Happens at any moment	Happens at end of Tribulation
No signs preceding it	Many signs preceding it
Lord comes as Groom	Lord comes as King

The Rapture Sequence: 5 Stages

2. The Resurrection

1st Thess 4: 16, And the dead in Christ will rise first

The Resurrection of the Saints - Part 1

Matthew 27: 51 – 53, And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And the earth shook, and the rocks were split. The tombs also were opened. And many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised, and coming out of the tombs after His resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many.

The Resurrection of the Saints – Part 2

1st Corinthians 15: 51 – 52,
… we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed 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.

The Rapture Sequence: 5 Stages

3. The Rapture

1st Thess 4:17, Then we who are alive, will be **caught up** together into the clouds with them who remain, to meet the Lord in the air…

The Rapture

Hebrews 9: 27, And just as it has been appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment, so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.

The Rapture Sequence: 5 Stages

4. The Redemption

1st Corinthians 15: 51, We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed.

Redemption of Our Bodies / Creation

Philippians 3: 20 – 21, But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await as Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body…

Romans 8: 20 – 21, For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.

The Rapture Sequence: 5 Stages

5. The Reunion

1st Thess 4: 17, Then we who are alive shall be caught up **<u>together with them</u>** in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air.

The Reunion in the Rapture

Matthew 8: 11, Many will come from the east and the west, and will take their places at the feast with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven.

Luke 20: 36, For they cannot die anymore, because they are equal to angels and are children of God, being children of the resurrection.

5 Stages Review

The 1st Return

The Resurrection

The Rapture

The Redemption

The Reunion

Being Rapture Ready

Our role is to be ready!

Matthew 24: 44, Therefore, you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

Being Rapture Ready

Our role is to be ready, not right about the end times.

Titus 3: 9, But avoid foolish controversies, genealogies, dissensions, and quarrels about the law, for they are unprofitable and worthless.

2nd Timothy 2: 14, Warn them before God against quarreling about words; it is of no value and only ruins those who listen.

Being Rapture Ready

Our role is to encourage each other

1st Thessalonians 4: 17, Therefore, encourage one another with these words.

1st Thessalonians 5: 11, Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.